

The Drosty Shop
131 High Street Phone 4641
GRAHAMSTOWN

Rhodeo

STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF RHODES UNIVERSITY

Specialists in University
Text Books and Stationery
**The University
Publishers &
Booksellers**
(Pty.) Ltd.
Booksellers and Stationers
129 High St. Tel. 3549
GRAHAMSTOWN

Vol. 24

No. 6

GRAHAMSTOWN, THURSDAY, MAY 7, 1970

Price 5 cents

Rennie to retire

PROFESSOR J. V. L. RENNIE, the University's Vice-Principal, recently announced his intention to retire at the end of the year.

When Rhodes University College became an independent university in 1951 Professor Rennie was appointed its first Vice-Principal. In 1964 he became the first full-time Vice-Principal.

He was born at Newlands, Cape, and after obtaining his B.A. and M.A. degrees in Geography at the University of Cape Town, he won a scholarship to Cambridge, where he obtained his Ph.D.

On his return to South Africa Prof. Rennie lectured at U.C.T. for two years. He joined the Rhodes University staff as a lecturer in Geology and in 1937 was placed in charge of the newly-formed Geography Department. He was appointed to the chair of Geography in 1944.

TROUBLES

Last year the activities of Prof. Rennie caused considerable discontent on the campus. His handling of the sit-in in the Council Chamber, the dismissal of Mr. David Tucker, the confiscation of letters sent to members of staff by the S.R.C. his refusal of the use of the Old Provost building by the Free University, made him a controversial and, at times, unpopular figure. Also three students were rusticated for five years while he was Acting Principal.

Prof. Rennie has been a fellow of the Royal Society of

South Africa for the past 40 years. He is a member of the Prime Minister's Scientific Advisory Council and also a member of the National Monument's Council.

Prof. Rennie is also the Chairman of the Albany Museum Committee, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Albany Museum and Vice-Chairman of the 1820 Settlers Memorial Foundation.

After his retirement Prof. Rennie and his wife — a former Mayor of Grahamstown and at present a City Councillor — will remain on various committees.

SUCCESSOR

There are three likely candidates to succeed Prof. Rennie. They are: Professor R. K. J. Antonissen, Head of the Department of Afrikaans and Nederlands; Professor J. A. Gledhill, Head of the Department of Physics; Prof. S. G. Shuttleworth, Director of the Leather Industries Research Institute and Deputy Mayor of Grahamstown.

The S.R.C. is to press for students of the University to nominate the new Vice-Principal. Students of the University of Natal were last year allowed to nominate the new Principal of their university after the resignation of Mr. O. P. F. Horwood. B. Comm.



So I said to Jean, I really must show that Nelson girl my branching tree.

SRC may reject Abe Bailey

THE S.R.C. may refuse to nominate candidates for the Abe Bailey Scholarship if it is confirmed that this scholarship is open to White students only. This matter was raised at a meeting of the S.R.C. last Sunday, but a final decision will not be made until full details of the Scholarship are obtained from the trustees.

Last year Mr. Duncan Innes, President of Nusas, was severely criticised by Black students for accepting an Abe Bailey Scholarship, which, they claimed was a segregated one.

V.C. nudged by press

IT took an editorial in the Eastern Province Herald to remind Dr. Hyslop that in an otherwise "refreshing" graduation address on the true function of a university, he had omitted to mention one important thing — "the right of students to be heard" — even student rebels. The gentle criticism, published on April 14, is reprinted here:

"All who are conversant with the mixture of genuine scholarship and dotty self-importance to be found in some universities will heartily subscribe to the refreshing views on the true function of a university expressed by the Vice-Chancellor of Rhodes University. Dr. J. M. Hyslop. As he put it, universities in the modern world bear a considerable responsibility for meeting the needs of society for professional men and women. But as Dr. Hyslop rightly pointed out, the primary fundamental task of a university is the advancement of knowledge or, as he worded it, to further the aims of pure scholarship.

Dr. G. R. Bozzoli, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Witwatersrand, in his graduation address echoed Dr. Hyslop in almost every respect, while adding the not less important thought that it is the function

of a university not to demand supine conformity from its students but to help them sharpen their critical faculties. As an enlightened overseas university administrator put it: "What do they (the students) come to a university for, it is not to have their concepts challenged?"

"Implicit in what all of these men have had to say is the thought that the real long-term threat to universities is "philistine administrators and productivity-minded bureaucrats" rather than student rebels. Provided students do not permit their critical attitude towards the "establishment" to degenerate from a peaceful expression of opinion into a violent affray, they have as much right as their elders to make themselves heard. It would be tragic indeed if the universities were to try to force them into docile acceptance of a political status quo that has little except tradition to commend it.

It all boils down to this: a university is, or ought to be, a community of scholars searching for truth in a welter of differing opinions. It is not a regiment of conformists, and to attempt to turn it into such is a crime against the human spirit."

SCRAP SRC URGES DURBAN

SEVERAL CALLS were made last week for the SRC at the University of Natal, Durban, to resign at the first meeting of "Happening Week".

"Happening Week" had been organised by the SRC to close the gap between the student body and its selected representatives and to examine such topics as the education system, campus planning and student

grievances.

Mr. Paul Pretorius of the SRC, promised to scrap his council if a suitable replacement could be suggested.

It was suggested that an action committee or "loosely

structured student groups" be formed to solve the problems under discussion.

Mr. Pretorius said the students wanted to run their own affairs. At the moment the SRC had to ask permission before many activities could take place. — Daily News, SANSPA.

RHODEO

MAY 7th 1970

OPEN LETTER TO NEW FORT HARE HEAD

DEAR PROFESSOR GERBER,

We feel that not enough people are aware of your recent appointment as chairman of the Fort Hare Council. We cannot understand the stony silence with which your colleagues have greeted your new status. Why, sir, one almost gets the feeling that you are an embarrassment to them.

Just in case you don't care to recall, let us remind you of the noble traditions of the institution you now preside over:

The freedom of discussion, of critical examination and open-minded appraisal are not only absent, but actively discouraged at Fort Hare. By a mass of rules and regulations, by the perpetual threat of expulsion or refusal to be re-admitted, freedom of discussion, the basis of Academic Freedom is ruled out.

At Fort Hare, no meetings may be held on the campus without the prior permission of the rector, no magazine or pamphlet may be distributed without the rector's permission, no statement may be given to the press by or on behalf of the students without the rector's permission.

Permission

Students at Fort Hare have consistently refused to vote in an SRC on the grounds that they would be intimidated and if they opposed any of the official views, were likely to be suspended, as has indeed happened.

No Fort Hare student may visit any other institution without the permission of the rector, and then only on such conditions as may be determined. Nor may any visitor enter the Fort Hare grounds without similar permission.

At Fort Hare, it is estimated that one in three students is a police informer. And, dear Professor, what we wish to stress is: True education can only take place when:

- The Minister decides who may make donations to the funds.
- The Minister decides what stores and equipment may be bought.
- The Minister appoints the rector (principal).
- The entire council of the University is appointed by the State President.
- When the only African say in the running of the University is through an Advisory Council — also appointed by the State President.

Appointment

- The Senate has members from other universities on it — appointed by the Minister in conjunction with the council.
- If the Minister so decided, he may appoint a body to advise the Senate.
- The Minister has vast powers in the appointment of staff and their removal to other places where they may be required.
- Any person not a Xhosa may, with the permission of the Minister, study at the institution.
- The council may refuse to admit or re-admit any student without giving any reasons.

Certainly, we reject utterly those who claim that your college is no more than a glorified high school and that Fort Hare is based on the figments of the imaginations of the apartheid theorists.

We also deny that because it lacks the very basis of Academic Freedom and University Autonomy, it can never be regarded as a "university".

And, in conclusion, dear Sir, we cannot agree with those nasty left-wing academics who say you have no place in this "liberal" establishment.

Oh, one more thing, if you succeed Professor Morton as Dean of the Faculty of Education, we wonder who will be the first group in our South African society to welcome your promotion to that position.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Nongogo review criticized

SIR, — I would like to disagree with the review of Athol Fugard's Nongogo in your issue of April 9.

May I also suggest that all reviews, favourable or unfavourable, should be signed?

Your reviewer seems distressed:

1. That this is a play about pollution.

2. That the White liberals of Grahamstown appeared to enjoy it.

I see no reason for writers to avoid the theme of pollution. Pollution and ritual cleansing are of deep concern both to primitive and sophisticated societies, and are themes powerfully present both in Aeschylus and Shakespeare. Why should Mr. Fugard not explore them? I was not aware that Methodists were specially interested in pollution but I thought that human beings in general were.

As regards the audience, it seems irrelevant to the quality of Mr. Fugard's outstanding play that your reviewer might prefer to see them dying on the revolutionary barricades (or possibly suspended from appropriate lamp-posts) rather than depositing their degrading R1 notes in a glass pot.

William Branford

RHODES IS NOT LIBERAL

SIR, — I thought that Rhodes was a liberal university. It is not.

I thought that Rhodes students respected human rights. They do not.

The student audience at the Rag Film Premiere seemed to think that the sight of a black-skinned human doing a responsible job of work called for laughter, and his indulging in recreation called for jeers.

The gormless guitar group that followed the film was received in respectfully profound silence. They were WHITE, and had therefore, presumably, to be taken seriously.

But if the African is swaying to a swingin' song, laugh. If he's boxing, crow. If he's reading the news in Swahili, split your sides. When Radio Bantu is mentioned, collapse — we all know that the words "Radio Bantu" signify a joke in any context, don't we?

However, I realise that I'm being unfair. A good number of the audience who laughed were in no frame of mind to appreciate an artistic film on African culture, for they were most uncivilisedly drunk. I'm sorry.

Gwen Jones.

P.S. I thought Hitchcock was a real artist. He is not.

Abortion, Pot, Crime; U.S. student views

EVERY YEAR for the past four years a nationwide poll has been taken in the United States to determine the backgrounds, attitudes and opinions of college freshmen (first years).

The most complete survey of any dealing with U.S. college students, it provides a clear profile of a group of some 1,640,000 youths — most of them 18 years old — who will help set the tone of campus life in America for years to come.

ate faculty members.

Seventy-six per cent thought abortions should be legalized, and 47 per cent wanted divorce laws liberalised.

Fifty-eight per cent read poetry for personal enjoyment.

POLITICS

Thirty per cent called themselves "liberal" and 21 per cent "conservative". Forty-four per cent said they were in-between or "middle of the road". Interestingly, 15 per cent of the latter thought four years of college would change their political orientations, nine per cent to the right, six per cent to the left.

Among questions that were asked the year before, there were marked increases in the percentages of students agreeing that "marijuana should be legalized" (up from 19 to 26 per cent); that "only volunteers should serve in the armed forces" (up from 37 to 53 per cent) and that "most college officials have been too lax on student protest" (up from 55 to 60 per cent).

Fifty-seven per cent of the freshmen are men, the same percentage as the year before. Six per cent are Negro and one per cent are foreign.

Male and female students agreed on most questions of attitudes and opinions, but on a few, significant differences appeared. Six out of 10 women, for example, thought the Government should control firearms; only four out of 10 men did. Far more men than women thought the army should be voluntary, that the major benefit of college is monetary, that courts over-protect the criminal and that divorce laws should be liberalized.

Nine out of every 10 thought the Federal Government should combat pollution. Only one in four thought that the Government should move to eliminate violence in television programmes. Eighty-eight per cent thought the Government should help fight crime and 78 per cent wanted it to help eliminate poverty.

Nine out of 10 thought students should design their own curriculum and 68 per cent thought students should evaluate

MANDARIN BALL



Arrange your parties
for the Mandarin Ball

NOW

- 6 couples per table -

23 May, 1970.

R.U. CHINESE SOCIETY

It's been a rag of a week



Deputy-Mayor Shuttleworth congratulates a radiant Heather Nelson while the City Hall yawns in the spirit of Rag.

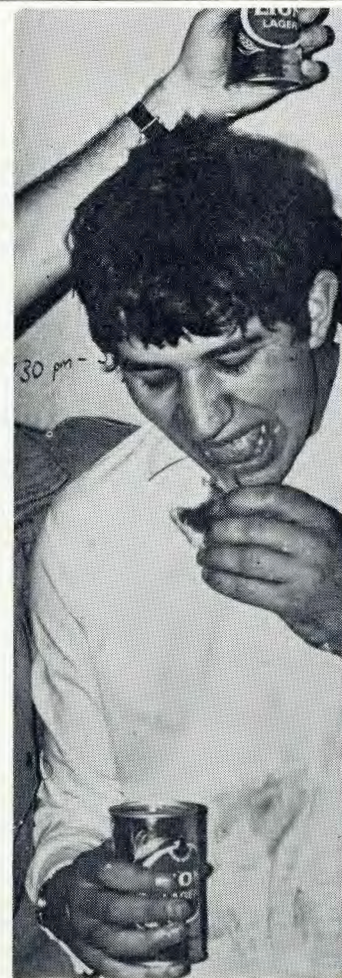


Is this Rhideo I see before me, its lens towards my breast? Get thee hence foul knave lest I run thee through from thy gaggle to thy zatch.

BARON MALTE VON DER LANCKEN TOOK THE PICTURES



Laden with merry-makers, one of the floats in last Saturday's Rag procession winds its way along High Street. This year Pharmacy's float won for the fourth time running and as one disgruntled, hung-over fellow remarked, "Of course, they won again: they're allowed to build their float during Chemistry practicals . . ."



Some, of course, just don't enjoy it — especially when that hamburger won't go down in one mouthful. Maybe another swig of beer would help . . . to forget Rag, maybe.

SEX has in many cases caused unnecessary unhappiness and dissatisfaction. This results from a lack of education on the subject which in turn breeds bad attitudes towards sex. Old myths still linger.

These can be eradicated only by frank and sensible enlightenment. On the other hand, because of inadequate contraceptive techniques, irresponsible medical advice, human error and other causes, a critically high percentage of women are becoming pregnant against their will.

Many women are still frighteningly ignorant about birth control and use methods such as rhythm and withdrawal when they are able to use other more effective contraceptive devices. If a smoker deserves a warning on a cigarette package, a woman has a right to know the gamble she incurs with every contraceptive.

WITHDRAWAL

One way of preventing the sperm from entering the woman even without the use of a condom, is for the man to withdraw his penis from the vagina just before he ejaculates. A survey once showed that 44% of couples interviewed in Britain had practised withdrawal (or coitus interruptus) at times and that for somewhere around a fifth to a third of these it was still the only method ever used. In the United States it has been less popular — used at times by only 18% of couples and, as the only method, by fewer than five couples in a hundred.

Withdrawal is not a particularly effective technique. One reason is that fluid from the gland lining the genital tract of the male may contain sperm and deposit them in the woman even before orgasm. Another is that the slightest mistake in timing permits a certain amount of semen to be deposited before withdrawal. Even a drop is sufficient to cause pregnancy, especially since the first drops of semen expelled by the man contains unusually high concentrations of sperm.

Among every 100 couples who practise withdrawal for a full year, one survey has shown, 18 women are likely to become pregnant. Withdrawal is useful only as an emergency measure which can be used when no better method is available. Withdrawal is also highly unsatisfactory from the point of view of sexual pleasure.

CONDOMS

The condom (also called French letter, sheath, prophylactic, frog), is probably second to the pill as the most commonly used contraceptive device. Condoms are made of very thin rubber latex. They cover the penis to stop sperm from entering the vagina. They are meant to be used only once. The condom is about eight inches long and about two inches wide when laid flat. They are cylindrical in shape with one end closed and generally have a teat or pocket at the end to hold the

BIRTHCONTROL

sperm after it has been ejaculated

The condom is almost always sold rolled up but, if flat, it must be rolled up before it can be put on to the penis. The penis must be erect before the condom can be unrolled upon it since the condom should be a tight fit so that it cannot come off accidentally.

To be effective, the condom must obviously not have any holes. Even the best brands are not altogether free from holes, so, to guard against small leaks, it is wise for the woman to use a chemical contraceptive in the vagina as well. The chemical contraceptive has the advantage of also acting as a lubricant.

With a condom, some form of lubrication is necessary. Both penis and vagina secrete natural lubricating fluids when intercourse appears imminent but the condom reduces this effect. If the vagina is dry, there will be great difficulty in inserting the penis, and the condom could be torn. A chemical contraceptive, which offers added protection, would be a better lubricant than greasy substances such as vaseline. This can be smeared on the end of the condom.

To reduce the risk of bursting, care should be taken with the teat-end type condom to ensure that the teat is empty of air or with the plain-end type to leave a good half inch at the end (empty of air) after the condom has been rolled on to the penis. The thrusting during intercourse will then be less likely to stretch the condom unduly.

The first in a series of articles on "Sex and the Student", this feature was adapted from an article in **VARISITY**, the UCT newspaper.

When the sperm is ejected, most of it goes into the rocket at the tip, but some is forced back along the shaft of the penis. As soon as the man's orgasm is over, his penis begins to get smaller, leaving the condom a loose fit that may easily slip off. Even if it does not, sperm is squeezed back along the shaft of the penis and a little may escape at the entrance of the vagina. It is most important, therefore, that immediately his orgasm is over, the man should withdraw his penis, holding on to the condom securely as he does so.

However much care is taken, condoms do occasionally burst and this is another reason for using a chemical contraceptive in the vagina.

RHYTHM METHOD

This is the only form of birth control approved by the Catholic Church. It is a difficult method to use, and, because of this is one of the least effective methods. The rhythm is based on the fact that, ordinarily, only once a month does a woman produce a ripe egg which can be fertilised by the male sperm and then develop into a baby.

There is a period of no more than 24 hours during which

the ripe egg remains alive and can be fertilised. If fertilisation does not occur in the 24 hour period, the egg breaks apart and disappears. The rhythm method must also take into account the fact that sperm can remain alive in the uterus and Fallopian tubes for about two and a half days after intercourse, and still be able to fertilise an egg. So there are about three and a half days in each cycle when intercourse may result in pregnancy.

Ordinarily a woman produces a ripe egg about 14 days before the start of menstruation. However, even in a woman whose menstrual periods are always completely regular, invariably occurring 28 days apart the ripe egg may be released at any time from the 16th to the 12th day before menstruation begins. There is no way of predicting, in any given month, whether this will occur on the 16th day, the 12th day, or one of the days in between. A very few women experience some pain or minor bleeding at the time the egg is released, but most have no sign at all.

To be on the safe side, the woman with completely regular periods could not have intercourse from the 18th day before menstruation — for sperm deposited on that day will still be alive two days later which may be when the egg is released. Nor should she resume having intercourse until after the 11th day before menstruation — for the egg may not have been released until late on the preceding day and may therefore still be in a position to be fertilised. So, for women with an in-

variably regular cycle, there is a period of eight days out of each month during which she must not have intercourse (a period lasting from the 18th day before menstruation to the 11th day before..

Most women, of course, do not have completely regular cycles. The menstrual cycle can be more irregular than most women realise. Sickness, anxiety and fatigue can all contribute to this irregularity. It is not especially unusual for menstruation to occur at intervals as short as 21 days or as long as 38 days. For women whose cycles are irregular, there is a great deal more uncertainty as to when the ripe egg will be released.

To use the rhythm method effectively, a woman must keep a record of her menstrual periods for a full year. Counting the day menstruation begins as Day 1, she must note the length of the shortest period before menstruation starts again as well as the longest period.

Some women have such irregular menstrual cycles that they cannot use a rhythm chart at all. Perhaps 15 women out of every 100 are in this category. The system cannot be used by any woman immediately after childbirth, for the first few menstrual cycles are usually extremely irregular, and the appearance of the egg cannot be predicted with any accuracy at all.

The chief disadvantage of the rhythm method is that it requires abstinence from intercourse over an extended number of days each month. There is also the psychological problem for some, of "programmed sex" — of deciding in advance the days on which intercourse can or cannot be practised.

But the main disadvantage is that the rhythm method is by no means 100 per cent effective. It is estimated that out of every 100 women who have used the rhythm method for a full year, 24 will become pregnant. This is a higher failure rate than any method except the douche.

DIAPHRAGMS, CAPS AND SPONGES

Several types of mechanical barriers are available to place in the vagina to prevent sperm from entering the uterus. Discussed here are diaphragms, cervical caps, vault caps and sponges.

A diaphragm consists of a soft rubber dome with a circular metal spring enclosed in its rim. It is inserted by squeezing it sideways and sliding it along the back wall of the vagina until it rests behind the neck of the uterus. The front is then pushed up behind the pelvic bone, and the expanding ring keeps it in place. A check that the cervix is covered can be made by feeling this structure through the dome with the index finger. Some women, particularly those who cannot reach the cervix with their fingers, will prefer to use a plastic applicator for insertion.

Diaphragms may be purchased without a prescription, but because the size and shape of female structures vary

METHOD	EFFECTIVENESS (No. of likely pregnancies among 100 women using this method for one year)	POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS	DOCTOR'S VISIT REQUIRED
STERILISATION	0.003	None (except possible psychological effects)	Operation performed by a physician
THE PILL	0.3	Weight gain, nausea, usually ending after several months.	Must be prescribed by a doctor
INTRAUTERINE DEVICES	5	Irregular bleeding, discomfort in beginning	Must be inserted by doctor or nurse; yearly check-up advised
DIAPHRAGM OR CAP (with jelly)	12	Jelly may cause minor irritation	Fitted by doctor
CONDOM	14 (increased effectiveness with chemical contraceptive.)	None	No
WITHDRAWAL	18	Psychological effect	No
CHEMICAL SPERMICIDES	20	Minor irritation	No
RHYTHM	24 (use of thermometer greatly increases effectiveness)		Doctor could assist in determining safe days.
DOUCHE	31	None	No



widely, it is essential that the type and size of diaphragm should be selected in the first place by a doctor or nurse with the relevant knowledge. The doctor will normally fit the diaphragm, instruct the woman in its insertion and removal, check that she can do this efficiently, and instruct her in its care. The fitting should be re-checked each year, and after any marked change in weight (say ten pounds) or after any pregnancy or abdominal operation.

Cervical and vault caps are much smaller than diaphragms and fit over the neck of the uterus. They are more difficult to fit correctly but should be effective when used with a spermicidal preparation. As with a diaphragm, it is essential to have a doctor decide whether this method is suitable and take the necessary measurements.

Once in place it can be left undisturbed from the end of one menstruation to just before the start of the next. But it is difficult to insert properly and some women find the task impossible.

Sponges have been used for centuries. A small piece of sea sponge or foam plastic can be impregnated with a spermicide and placed in the upper vagina to cover the entrance to the womb and prevent sperm from entering. Sometimes the sponge is encased in a net with a thread attached to make it easy to remove.

The sponge is bulky and messy to use. It is difficult to clean thoroughly after use and has only fair effectiveness.

CHEMICAL SPERMICIDES

There are several chemical compounds which in low concentrations can quickly immobilise sperm beyond recovery yet do not cause irritation of the vagina or other structures. Preparations made from these compounds are placed in the vagina before intercourse and should prevent the sperm from

entering the cervix and fertilising the egg.

A safe and effective spermicide should be non-irritant to either partner. It should be used with a mechanical barrier, eg, a diaphragm, cap, or condom.

There are three types of spermicidal contraceptives available: jellies, pastes and creams in tubes, foaming tablets, and soluble pessaries.

THE DOUCHE

Flooding the vagina with water or a solution of a spermicide is a method that has been used for centuries to wash away the semen after intercourse. Various devices are made for this purpose.

It is true that the douche, used as soon after intercourse as possible, has the effect of removing some of the semen and therefore reduces the chances that the sperm will find their way to the egg. The effectiveness of the douche is, however, very low. It scores lowest on any contraceptive effectiveness rating. The man's ejaculation often discharges semen directly into the opening of the womb and even sperm not deposited in this way often reach the womb in a matter of minutes. Once in the womb, the sperm cannot be washed away.

The type of solution used for a douche makes little difference. Water alone is about as good as anything else — and water at body temperature, which is the most comfortable, is as effective as hot or cold water. Chemicals sold for this purpose are no more effective than two tablespoonfuls of vinegar or lemonjuice dissolved in a quart of water.

About the best that can be said for douche is that it is better than nothing at all, but not much. Its only value would be for a couple practising withdrawal who have reason to suspect that semen has entered the vagina. But it should be remembered that these are

FEATURE

two of the least effective methods and a combination of them is still far from safe.

INTRAUTERINE DEVICES

Intrauterine devices (or IUD's) are inserted into the uterus or the womb to prevent conception. They come in many shapes and materials, but plastic is today the most desirable material. They measure about one inch in diameter but are compressible. Any of the plastic devices can be compressed and pushed through a small tube inserted in the cervix. Once inside they spring back into their original shape. The process is simple and ordinarily painless. Only with a metal ring must anaesthetic be used. A doctor experienced in their use would insert or remove them and test them annually. Once in position, a plastic IUD can remain for many years or can be removed at any time the woman wants a baby. There appears to be no effect on future pregnancies after the removal of an IUD. Insertion of an IUD is easier for women who have already given birth and is easy just after menstruation.

Although possible to insert for all women, the IUD is not satisfactory for all women. An American survey showed that only two out of three women could use it successfully. Some 5-15% of women expel the device from the womb, particularly at menstruation time. Others complain of cramps or excess bleeding. Occasionally, more serious complications develop.

These devices are effective in preventing conception, but how they do it is not understood. One theory is that they set up muscular movements which force the egg into the womb before it is ready to be implanted there. Or, the devices may somehow prevent the walls of the womb from accepting the egg. Thus, even if fertilisation has occurred, the egg cannot develop in the womb.

The effectiveness of these devices varies by shape and size but never reaches 100%. The best available statistics show that, of women fitted with a spiral, 1.8 in 100 have become pregnant by the end of the year, with a loop about 2.4 in 100; with a bow, 5.7 in 100 and with a ring, 7.5 in 100. Some of the pregnancies occurred because the device had been expelled without the woman's knowledge. But others occurred while the device was still in place in the womb. When this happens, the device does not interfere with the normal growth of the unborn child or with delivery. It is usually expelled, harmlessly at the time of birth.

Research is continually being made into the side-effects and the potential for accidental loss of IUD's and at present the loop seems the most satisfactory.

The great advantage of intrauterine devices is that they are easy and cheap to acquire, and that, once in place they require no further attention (although a yearly check-up is advisable).

Surgical sterilisation is virtually permanent and is only for people who are dissatisfied with other methods of contraception and are fully convinced that they have no desire for future children.

STERILISATION

Sterilisation may be performed on either man or woman. It does not reduce desire as neither testes nor the ovaries are removed and so physiological processes are not altered. In the man, the only difference is that the semen no longer contains sperm. In the woman menstruation continues but no eggs pass down the Fallopian tubes.

For a man, sterilisation involves only a minor operation. A small incision is made on either side of the scrotum to expose the vas deferens. These ducts are either tied or more commonly tied and cut. The whole operation takes only a few minutes and does not call for entry into a hospital.

As it takes about 60 days for the ejaculate to become free of sperm, some other method of contraception has to be used during this time.

Sterilisation for a woman is more involved as it is necessary to open the abdomen. Each Fallopian tube is tied and cut.

THE PILL

Once a woman becomes pregnant, conception cannot occur again until the pregnancy has run its course. How this happens is still not known in all its details, but it has been known for many years that the pituitary gland controls the release of eggs from the ovary and that the ovary in turn regulates the pituitary by a delicate feed-back mechanism. It is known too that the action of the pituitary can be restrained by injections of progesterone or oestrogens, two hormones which can be extracted from the ovaries.

Since 1953 it has been possible to make synthetic progestogens (similar to the natural hormone progesterone) and oestrogens, which have the same effect as the natural hormones, even when taken by mouth. Soon after this discovery tablets were compounded containing the synthetic hormones. These are oral contraceptives ("the pill").

If one of these tablets is taken daily for 20 or 21 days out of 28 days of a menstrual cycle, they will prevent conception.

Recently a variation, known as sequential therapy, has been evolved. It consists of taking the oestrogen alone for 15 or 16 days, followed by a combination of progestogen and oestrogen for five days. This is claimed to resemble more closely the natural cycle.

The exact mechanism of these treatments is still subject to controversy, but oral contraception has been shown to be the most effective but reversible method available. The only known failures are the result of omission to take these preparations regularly or of taking an inadequate dose. Much of the effectiveness of the method appears to be because it is simple.

Oral contraceptives have some side effects. These vary greatly from one woman to another. The most common seems to be nausea during the

first few days. Other side effects which sometimes occur are slight bleeding in the middle of the cycle, increase or decrease in weight, headaches, and rarely breast tenderness, depression and irritability. However, if these symptoms occur, most of them disappear during later cycles. Subsequently, many women experience a sense of well-being, reduced pre-menstrual tension, decreased menstrual flow, and freedom from anxiety. There have been reports too, of improved fertility after stopping the treatment among women whose fertility was previously low.

It is necessary to be sure that a woman is not already pregnant when oral contraceptives are prescribed. This is important because some oral progestogens may cause female foetuses to develop masculine characteristics if taken during the first 13 weeks of pregnancy.

Normally this presents no risk, since the treatment does not begin until after five days of menstrual flow. However, after the birth of a child there may be some months without menstruation. At this time particular care should be taken that the woman is not pregnant. It may be necessary to wait until the first cycle or carry out tests.

The newer tablets, which contain a smaller dose of progestogen, do not appear to reduce the flow of milk if taken during lactation.

Because there are several unsolved problems, the pill should not be taken by adolescents and some young women until it is certain that they are physically mature. If taken by middle-aged women, they may mask the onset of menopause, although they may be beneficial by relieving some of the symptoms associated with that change. It has been said that these preparations should not be used if there is a family history of breast or genital cancer nor if the woman has uterine fibroids.

Warnings have also been given that women with liver or vascular disease should not take oral contraceptives. Certainly, where pregnancy would be a serious hazard to health, oral contraception is the method to be preferred because of its reliability.

In the U.S.A. the Food and Drug Administration still recommends that the method should not be used for more than four consecutive years. This is probably a wise precaution until more is known about the long-term effects.

It has been suggested that the use of oral contraceptives for many years may upset the endocrine system, delay the menopause, or even cause cancer. So far there has been no evidence to substantiate these suggestions, and some claims of protective action against some cancers have recently been reported. However, the facts may not be beyond dispute for a further two or three decades.

Oral contraceptives are obtainable only on prescription. This means that in addition to the cost of the contraceptives it is necessary to pay the doctor's fee for an examination before starting the course. However this is a wise precaution. It prevents some women from taking the pill when they cannot safely tolerate it.



The producer, cast, and backstage workers — with other drunkards — on the set of Scope-Nite during the finale on Friday night.

Scope-Nite success in true Rag Spirit

SCOPE-NITE does not set out to be great theatre — which is just as well with an all-inebriated cast — rather, it is all a big laugh, and all in a true Rag spirit. There is little point in writing a critique of Scope-Nite, because the theatrical element of a Scope Nite just doesn't go that far. Nevertheless, there is something to be said, and, in the Rhodeo "spirit of dedication" which we found out about in the show, I will give a few of my impressions.

Tony Peake shows himself to be a writer with a very warm sense of humour, yet not so gentle that it did not provoke hoots of laughter as the laughable things that happened and happen are picked apart without malice. The script was not faultless, but who wants a faultless script in a show like this anyway?, and some of the irrelevancies were even funnier than the plot. (What plot?). What mattered was that the audience was waiting for the next laugh all the time — shows that the play was working very well.

CRIMINALS

Considering also, that Tony was working with a largely inexperienced cast, he deserves very high praise indeed for the way in which he managed to get this bunch of criminals to create a really pleasing, amusing atmosphere, and to do all their corny burlesquish movements as if they really thought that this was IT.

Roland Paver took the show along with him without faltering, despite the odd unexpected turns of events here and there; Mr. Paver seems specially suited to this type of role, but he flatly denies that he was using Scope-Nite as a vehicle. Seriously, though, to say that I enjoyed the show is to say that Roly Paver took it from the stage and gave it to us to enjoy. His contact with the audience was very strong, and highly satisfying. Clive Keegan's send-up of a Senate Chairman deserves to be remembered especially for two things — his efforts to tame a rather hysterical chair, and his absolutely brilliant dance solo in what I believe was a ballet. To say that Barry Brinton would make a good tragic actor is not entirely true, despite the fact that his acting is tragic. Actually, so well did he live his part, that I was inclined to agree with the compère that he needed medical attention. A very amusing performance came from Keith Kynoch, as the lugubrious sex-maniac, who never let his characterisation sag in a part

which called for a lot of stamina.

THANKS

There is not enough space to mention everybody by name, but Tessa van der Walt deserves a big hand, so to speak, for being not much more than her charming self. Mention must also be made of Jacky Tarica for constantly stealing

the scene with ridiculous actions that brought the house down.

I believe that Tony Peake would be the first to say that much of the credit must go to other people for helping him create the show, and making it swing the way it did. Especially such people as Bertie Wicks, who was responsible for the rather pleasant music, Penny Torr, in charge of the singing and choreography, and in particular, Dorothy Clark, for the time and help she must have given Tony.

In fact, this show was, and deserves to be hailed as, what it was meant to be — a hell of a lot of funny rubbish.

P.T.

ON SCREEN IN THE CITY

HIS MAJESTY'S:

Friday 8 — Saturday 9: "Carry On Up The Khyber".
Monday 11 — Tuesday 12: "The Subject Was Roses".
Wednesday 13 — Thursday 14: "The Green Slime".

THE ODEON:

Friday 8 — Saturday 9: "The Undefeated".
Monday 11 — Wednesday 13: "Pepe".

Cultural items

• **THE FILM SOCIETY** is screening "Throne of Blood" tonight at 8.00 p.m. in the G.L.T. "Throne of Blood" is a Japanese version of "Macbeth" and is the work of Akira Kurosawa, whose "Yojimbo" inspired "A Fistful of Dollars."

• A creative Writing group has been formed under the auspices of the Literary Society. This group meets every fortnight to discuss poems, short-stories etc., written by students, under

a curtain of anonymity. So far the response has been extremely encouraging and already a cross-section of styles, themes and, of course, quality has been discovered. This Creative Writing group has been warmly welcomed by Prof. Butler, who sees as a very encouraging sign the fact that creativity is being fostered by the students themselves. Anybody interested is urged to contact Peter Terry, c/o Literary Society in Old Kaif.

PEER GYNT: POWERFUL BUT UNEVEN

UNEVEN

"COMMENDABLE" is not an adjective one can apply to the Speech and Drama Department's production of Ibsen's "Peer Gynt". The word suggests determination; talent was rather apparent in this presentation.

The show was uneven, but had moments of great strength. "Peer Gynt" is a play of enormous scope and variety, which jumps from concept to concept with bewildering speed. The cutting in this production did not always help the continuity — the abrupt appearance of the Troll Princess, for example, but Dugald Thompson, in the title role, very skilfully maintained an overall unity, especially between the second and third acts.

THE BEGINNING

The first scene, Peer and his mother (Nan Gray) operate against an all too familiar set of stairs and uneven levels and their playing, likewise rose and fell most unevenly. Perhaps Nan Gray should have been more senile in her role; playing as a fairly sharp woman she had to effect a great number of abrupt changes of mood, which distorted the evenness of the scene. But there were a number of touching moments and Peer's initial speeches were delivered with a confidence which showed great promise.

Felicity Downes as Solveig was, from the start, disappoint-

ing. Her delivery was embarrassingly flat, and she didn't manage to convey a single flicker of emotion — not even distaste for the rough, drunken Peer. It was hard to believe that this was the woman who was to inspire Peer's boyish idealism.

The Troll section, always gripping, was, at times, horribly chilling. The Troll Princess, played by Lois Butlin, was so disgustingly sexual and vengeful that one's stomach turned. Her performance was one of the first to show any degree of confidence.

The Troll King, played by Chris Weare, was equally good. This is a most demanding part: the balance between comedy, pathos and evil is a delicate one. His was a strangely compelling and lightly controlled portrayal. His use of his voice, alone, provoked repulsion and humour.

YOUTHFULNESS

The Troll scene was neatly played, striking just the right note. It was followed by one of Dugald Thompson's loveliest moments — his scene with Solveig — in which he brought out all his sweetness and youthfulness.

The act ended with the death of Peer's mother, one of the finest scenes in the play: but in this production, one of the least effective. Dugald Thompson was unable to express his love for his mother as he had for Solveig. The act thus ended on a flat note. It had started on one note, had

risen to a very high level, and had then fallen again.

The second act struck an uneasy balance between farce and seriousness. The sets formed too great a contrast to those of the first act. The mood was entirely broken, almost as if a new play had begun.

Notable in the businessmen scene were Colin Steyn, hilariously pathetic as the Frenchman and Tony Akerman (delightfully precise as the Prussian).

The business of the two robbers was out of key. It strayed too far from reality. The satire implicit in the script works far better in a realistic setting. Fantasy has already been fairly fully explored in the first act.

DECAY

It is really only in the scene with Anitra (Nan Melville) that one becomes aware that Peer is now "a dirty old man". Dugald Thompson managed the transition from youth to course middle age so subtly that it only dawned on one gradually, hardly noticing it as first and then, when one did, accepting it fully. From this point, Dugald Thompson's performance never looked back; the unevenness of the first act vanished, the portrayal a convincingly realised progression.

John Burch as Begriffenfeldt displayed a masterly use of vocal range, great precision and economy of gesture. He is an actor who is an absolute

joy to watch; he never moves unnecessarily or inelegantly.

However, he wasn't nearly compelling enough; he was too precise to be truly, chillingly mad. He relied too much, perhaps, on his almost flawless technique for dramatic effect.

The lunatics, notably Peter Terry, were very good and the climax of the scene was quite shattering. It was a pity, though, that initially the scene was too distracting — it was almost impossible for Dugald Thompson and John Burch to act against it.

The third act opened with a scenically brilliant storm which drew one immediately into the action. From there on the play progressed smoothly and movingly towards its end. Dugald as the elderly Peer was disturbingly brilliant in the onion scene, and, for the rest of the play he acted with a sort of broken humour that provided a skilful link with the second act.

The only disappointments in the third act were Ian Walters as the Button Moulder (he wasn't the least bit foreboding) and Chris Weare as the elderly Troll King: the latter did not control his scene here as he had his first.

As the curtain fell, one was left impressed, and, more than that, moved. And one remembered with particular pleasure the performance of Dugald Thompson, Lois Burlin, and Christopher Weare.

T.P.

RADICAL GROUP IN U.K.

FOR THE FIRST TIME in more than a decade, representatives of the radical left have gained representation on the National Executive of the National Union of Students in Great Britain. The National Union held its annual conference in Bradford last week.

UNITY

To the surprise of certain observers the student left has come out solidly in favour of unity within the National Union and has endorsed the principle of non-violence in student direct action. Mr. Digby Jacks, a communist and founder of the Radical Students' Alliance, who was elected secretary of the Executive, said if the principle of non-violence was modified, it would be used by the Union's enemies to convince people that students were firmly in favour of violent action.

Mr. Jacks said "I do not think political positions matter that much within the context of NUS. The most important thing for the student movement over the next few years is unity, and this means united action on social and educational issues." He hoped NUS would go further towards supporting militancy by giving individual constituent unions detailed advice on the methods and tactics of direct action, instead of just verbal support.

APARTHEID

In a turbulent debate on South Africa, the conference resolved to build up fighting funds to influence public opinion against apartheid and to provide money both for the victims of racialism and for the liberation movements.

The students now believe they are powerful enough to overthrow the old concept of a respectable and responsible NUS, carefully courting the establishment. They believe that vice-chancellors, education authorities, Government Ministers, and even cricketers, who plan to meet South Africans will have to take note of what they say, whether they like it or not.



Rag Premiere — Hitchcocks 'Topaz' disappointing

MUCH credit must go to Mark Develin for arranging a Rag Premiere with such interesting and varied entertainment. It was unfortunate that the show took so long to start, but this was not due to lack of organisation.

The first movie, a documentary from the Department of Information, despite its having a strong propaganda element, must have surprised most of us to see how much is being done for the Bantu people in the radio field — to see that there is a lot of radio activity among the Bantu and in a wide sphere. The photography was outstanding — without a doubt the most artistic and beautiful I have ever seen.

MAGIC?

It seems that wherever there is a show there have to be

folk-singers. This seems to be considered a worthwhile attraction — and is, if the folk-singers are good. Kapepee or Denziltini or whatever kept the crowds amused with a display of antics which were in keeping with the Rag Spirit. Unfortunately it was difficult to hear a lot of what he said, but his acrobatics — his fire-eating was somewhat spectacular — were enough to keep the audience in a state of advanced mirth, and when he left the stage he left behind him one hell of a mess and a clear insight into the ancient mystic arts of the Pappegaaipokkiespoort Magic Club.

But the highlight of the whole evening was Tony Akerman's rendering of "Alice's Restaurant," with outstanding accompaniment by Martin Enoch, who must be one of the best guitarists on the campus. Tony's timing is brilliant, and he delivered the piece without faltering; he fully deserves the very warm ovation he got for his tremendous performance.

"TOPAZ"

Hitchcock again proved himself to be a director with the power of instilling a very high tension in a movie which not many people seem to have enjoyed. Perhaps it was something of a hackneyed story but it was so well done that I was on the edge of my seat to see what was and what wasn't going to develop.

Hitchcock has changed his "type" of tension since the days of "The Birds" and "Strangers on a Train," and has concentrated on a far more psychological and mental tension. The effect that "Topaz" had was to inspire a feeling akin to nausea at the political, greedy intrigue which goes on among leaders of countries to further their own ends.

P.T

Academic freedom lecture

ALAN PATON

May 13

Great Hall

8 p.m.

Smalls

ANYONE who lost a wallet on Rag Day, containing a sum of money, please contact "Monkey" Edwards at Botha House.

Church Square comes to life as students, among them one of dubious gender, stage the gala premiere of their revolutionary water ballet.

Photo by D. Goddin.

after action.. satisfaction



Lexington

TOASTED

FILTER

DOMESTIC & IMPORTED TOBACCOS

alive with flavor

TWO GIANTS TEAM UP
TO BRING YOU

A
WINNER



Saambou
National Building
Society

Head Office: 13 Church Square, Pretoria.
Represented by branches and agencies throughout the country.

GAINSFORD VISITS RHODES

JOHN GAINSFORD, 31 years old and a veteran of 33 rugby test matches paid a visit to Rhodes last term. The evening he arrived was spent talking to a small representation of the rugby club in the top lounge of the "Vic" and he was present at the Tuesday and Wednesday evening practices, casting a watchful and perceptive eye over the early season for the rugby club.

Mr. Gainsford is a director of a Company with a string of Sports stores and he still writes a weekly column for the Argus, as well as coaching the Villagers Under 20 side. In talking of the present condition of South African Rugby, he referred back to the recent tour of the United Kingdom and spoke of our chances against the New Zealand side this winter.

BRITAIN

As far as the British were concerned, he felt that the pressure and well-organised demonstrations proved an obstacle that not even such a well-led side could ignore. From the rugby-playing point of view, he felt the vast difference in the playing surfaces of British fields as opposed to South African fields, as well as the more serious and disciplined approach of the rugby players and their coaches in Britain led to some disappointing results.

The players he felt had emerged were: H. O. de Villiers, Dawie de Villiers, Syd Nomis, Johann van der Merwe, Mike Lawless, Hannes Marais, and Piet Greyling. He mentioned especially the leadership and behaviour of Dawie de Villiers, adding that "No praise was too high" for his performance on and off the field.

DEMONSTRATIONS

On the matter of demonstrations, he commented that this was a natural expression of the wave of student unrest in Europe and although he recog-

nised the democratic right of people to protest, he felt that many of the protesters did not appreciate what they were objecting against. He felt that in this country there was an active rugby playing fraternity amongst the non-white groups, noticeably the Coloured, and that in fact they held their annual inter-provincial tournament. He commented that the S.A.R.U. had offered federation affiliation to the potential body but that this had been turned down.

ALL-BLACKS

Looking forward to the All Black Tour, he commented optimistically on the Springboks' chances, saying once again that he felt the grounds in this country being much harder than the heavier New Zealand grounds, our loose forwards might well have the all-important edge. He sounded a warning shot about the New Zealanders mentioning such names as Meads, Laidlaw, Goring, McCormack, and Kirkpatrick. For the South Africans, he expressed faith in the old guard of men like Frik du Preez, and confidence in our younger players, especially Van der Merwe whom he considered the best of the U.K. form. It was hoped that Piet Visagie would regain his kicking touch, which would inevitably improve his all-round form.

*PLEASE
SUPPORT
OUR
ADVERTISERS*



No, she isn't running the wrong way, she's only playing at women's rugby, where even the mascot joins in.

SPORT SPORT SPORT

Fencing prosperes at Rhodes

THE ART OF DUELLING, once a matter of life or death, was developed as a science in the era of King Louis XIII. Those were the days when men's reputations were built or destroyed by their skill with the sword. This age saw the rise of men such as le Chevalier d'Andrieu, who is reputed to have slain seventy-two victims before he was thirty. In more modern times, fencing is less bloody, but the skill, the celebrity and the quickness of eye remain.

The Rhodes University Fencing Club is a small but vigorous one. Those members who persist in the tough task of acquiring proficiency as a fencer appreciate the satisfaction, exercise and pleasure gained from dedication to this sport.

During the April vacation the club visited Cape Town, where fencers participated in a total of 4 matches.

Rhodes lost against the larger and more experienced U.C.T. club, but made good this defeat by winning their match against Stellenbosch. Matches against the Southern Sword Club and the Clifton Sword Club were also lost.

In the Cape Competition four Rhodes fencers fought their way into the finals of the men's foil, and one into the finals of the women's foil. James Heaton and J. Jello won these two events respectively.

Those beginners on the tour gained useful experience, and chances for the intervarsity competition appear excellent.

Intervarsity

THE INTERVARSITY against U.P.E. will be held at Rhodes on the 15th and 16th of May. Events taking place on Friday 15, include Golf and Basketball. Most of the other sports will be held on Saturday, the main rugby match beginning at 4.00 p.m.

A beer garden for spectators and players will be provided. The Intervarsity Ball will be held in the Great Hall on Saturday evening.

This week will see the beginning of a spate of Sing-Songs. In the past sing-songs have not been one of Rhodes students' strong features. The cheerleaders this year are appealing to all students to support the sing-songs so that Rhodes can hold its own against U.P.E. in this regard. U.P.E. have certainly outsung us in the past. Priority seating on the main grandstand will be given to those students who do attend the sing-songs.

In the meanwhile the 1st XV are hard at practice, under the control of Spartan-like Mr. Albert. The 1st XV have an unbeaten record in the Border League, having beaten both Hamiltons and Transkei.

FOR SALE

PSYCHIATRY PSYCHIATRY PSYCHIATRY

100-page sets of typed psychiatry notes, produced originally for UCT medical students, now available for wider distribution, include sections on:

Ego development.

Child psychiatry.

Adolescence.

Psychiatric disorders (including naroses, personality disorders, psychophysiological disorders, psychoses, organic causes of mental disorder, sex disorders).

Mental deficiency.

Treatment in psychiatry.

American Psychiatric Association
Classificatory Scheme of Psychiatric disorder.

PRICE (including insured postage): R2.00 cash with order. Crossed cheques payable to the Stein Darlison Coy. Pty. Ltd., Weymouth House, 4 Upper Orange Street, Cape Town.

**HEWITT &
PALMER**

Your Sports Dealer

**EASTERN PROVINCE GUARDIAN LOAN AND
INVESTMENT COMPANY**

(Established 1861)

— MEMBER OF THE SYFRET GROUP —

**LEADING ESTATE
AGENTS**

Telephone 2721

Guardian Buildings, High Street
GRAHAMSTOWN

P.O. Box 43

**Harrison's
Pharmacy**

Telephone 4211
95 HIGH STREET
GRAHAMSTOWN

Printed by East London Daily
Dispatch (Pty) Ltd on behalf of
Council who publish at the
Students Union, Rhodes Uni-
versity, Grahamstown.

BG CONTINENTALS

Another New Star to the side! Black Hoggrain with streamlined White Softee leather trim, Blue injection moulded sole. Priced at only R6 per pair!

TEENMAN DEPARTMENT

BIRCH'S

