



# RHODOS



Thursday, 1 July 1993

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## Commitment to SASCO honoured

In terms of an assurance given by the University administration last term, to officials of the South African Students' Congress, SASCO representatives were granted the opportunity to address Council, on 24 June, on matters of concern to their organisation. Furthermore, also as agreed, a summit meeting to be attended by interested parties has now been scheduled for August 21 at a place and time to be advised.

SASCO's address to Council was presented by Messrs Vuio Kahla and Bruno Jubase and Ms Kim Jurgensen. It included the following points:

SASCO believe that apartheid laws, which are seen by many as having great disregard for values of morality, have established racially based and constituted municipalities as well as city and town councils. These laws have ensured good living standards for whites but have 'ghettoised' blacks. They feel that, because of this, such educational institutions as Wits, the Universities of Natal and Cape Town and Rhodes itself, have found themselves in the uncomfortable position of having to claim a rejection of racial and sexual discrimination, while at times claiming to be equal opportunity institutions, yet having in the highest structures of governance like Council, representatives of white-only municipalities and/or city and town councils, as well as representatives of the white-only Ministry of Education and Culture.

This situation, SASCO feels, is in conflict with Rhodes' mission statement and its clear rejection of apartheid. SASCO sees in this an opportunity for a joint initiative and asks that the University's authorities join its call for the resignation from Council of appointees of white-only municipalities and/or city and town councils.

Says SASCO: "Having had a chance of exchanging views with whites in general and those serving in apartheid infested institutions in particular, we have gathered the

impression that many of them, though having a feeling of patriotism, and a commitment to a united, non-racial, non-sexist and democratic society are of the opinion that they are however, powerless and incapable of effecting change, but this is not the case". They point to the example of the University of Stellenbosch, which last year made changes to its act to ensure that there won't be any government interference in its academic activities.

"We suggest that this Council adopt a more proactive stance. Is this not the opportune moment for us to have a Rhodes University (Private) Amendment Act of 1993?", they ask.

Instead of hoping to react to the inevitable national changes, Rhodes should, they suggest, flex its muscle and provoke change. SASCO stresses that it has no wish to render the University Council incapacitated in its governance of the University. Rather they see it becoming more effective and able to ensure its accountability, not only to state and capital interests, but also to the broader Eastern Cape and Grahamstown communities.

SASCO proposes that the vacancies that may be created by the resignations called for, should, in the interim be filled through joint decision-making by these white-only municipalities and/or city and town councils with the South African National Civics Organisation (SANCO) of the Eastern Cape region.

"We are of the opinion that immediate change is possible if members of Council have the will to effect change. Statutory change is not a problem and has never been. In the best interest of our university and the broader Eastern Cape community, we urge Council to have the will."

The Chairman of Council, Mr L S Dorrington, thanked the trio for their participation and assured them that their presentation would be considered very seriously at the next Council meeting and at the proposed University Summit.

## Grahamstown "appropriate" for new Book launch



Prof Gavin Stewart (left) and Harvey Tyson at the launch of Mr Tyson's new book entitled *Editors under Fire*.

The launch took the form of a function at The Eastern Star Museum and was hosted jointly by the publishers and the Department of Journalism and Media Studies

Mr Harvey Tyson, former editor-in-chief of the Argus Group's flagship publication, *The Star*, returned to a spiritual and temporary physical home (he is a Rhodes graduate) when he visited Grahamstown for the launch of his book, *Editors Under Fire*.

The launch was held in the Eastern Star Museum building. Mr Tyson said it was a most appropriate venue, it being in Grahamstown where the English Press began and established the broad values which have now lived for 170 years.

"Grahamstown is also of extreme importance to all South Africa, not least because it continues as a significant breeding ground for journalists," he said.

Mr Tyson started writing the book but thought his efforts didactic and boring. He therefore decided "to let the story tell itself", and he allowed "the journalists write the story. We now have a number of perspectives as to how journalists perceived their role and how they handled it."

"We are now in an open window enjoying freedom, the like of which we have not enjoyed since the 1930s. But the window could close," he warned. Every government would try and manipulate the Press if journalists allowed them to do it.

The Eastern Star (Grahamstown) was the original birthplace of what became the Johannesburg *Star*.

## Service staff opt for stayaway route

In anticipation of service staff demands for the opportunity to respond to Thursday's call for mass action, the University made a compromise offer through the NAEWU shop stewards.

The offer was designed to allow service staff the necessary time off from a normal, paid working day, to attend whatever commitments and meetings were being held in town. This would allow those wishing to show their solidarity to still record their attendance at work.

The offer was not accepted by the union and Rhodes experienced a 100 percent stay-away of service staff.

This in contrast to other workplaces in Grahamstown, where, according to information supplied by *Grocott's Mail* as *RHODOS* was going to print, 100 percent attendance was experienced.





*Professor Eddie Baart, Head of the Physics Department at Rhodes University, recently opened an exhibition of Radio Astronomy in the Rhodes Museum. Entitled, "The Hiss of the Universe", the exhibition was set up for the Sasol National School Science Convention and the Rhodesfest. The exhibition is the result of collaboration between the Rhodes Museum and the Physics Department and displays the newly developed radio telescope, designed and built by Mr Justin Jonas, a research officer in the Physics Department. Professor Baart is seen standing next to the new radio telescope.*

## Medical Aid increases

There will be a slight increase in Unimed and Economed subscriptions from July 1.

According to Meddent Medical Scheme, the increase in VAT has had the effect of increasing the cost of all benefits, as well as other costs borne by the Scheme, by 3,64 percent.

It was hoped that medical expenses would be zero rated or that VAT would be maintained at 10 percent. However, the rate was increased to 14 percent and members have been burdened with increased costs.

The increase which Meddent has been obliged to introduce approximates 4,2 percent. The additional amount will help recover some of the expenses incurred between April 7, when VAT was increased, and now.

Members of staff are reminded that when proceeding overseas for periods of one calendar month or longer it is possible to suspend membership of your medical aid scheme. This applies, of course, if

the entire family is absent at the same time.

Unfortunately, your medical aid does not provide adequate cover whilst you are overseas. It covers the South African equivalent of the treatment (up to Scale of Benefits) and will not reimburse outside of South Africa. As a result, you have the rate of exchange and higher medical costs to contend with and you will be out of pocket meeting medical expenses.

It has always been recommended that staff members purchase a travel insurance with medical cover and the University is prepared to assist in this regard.

It will pay to the member of staff its contributions to Meddent (50 percent of Unimed and 60 percent of Economed respectively) provided this is used to purchase medical insurance. Proof of purchase will be required.

Enquiries may be directed to Patrick Phillips in the Personnel Division, ext 166.

Mrs Thelma Henderson, Director of the CSD and six other members of the Bernard van Leer Pre-school South African Network spent 12 days in Kenya in May as guests of the Kenya Institute of Education.

They were warmly received and treated to a programme which included seminars and discussions with top educationists, field visits and trips to the Masai Mara Game Reserve on the Serengeti Plains and Mombasa on the Coast.

Mrs Henderson found some very positive aspects in Kenya, including the fact that if people want something they will do it themselves. They do not wait for the government or local authority to build a school or build houses, they get on with it and do it together as a community exercise. "We saw many pre-schools in the field, all built by the local communities", she said

The atmosphere wherever one went was friendly and welcoming. The South African tensions with which we live are simply not there.

Women's groups at all levels are very organised and strong. All women are being encouraged to take their rightful place in society and to do something about the

problems they encounter.

The structures of society are well organised and reach from the highest government office all the way down to grass roots level. They embrace education, housing, job creation, clinics and hospitals, roads and transportation.

The informal sector flourishes. The streets in the urban and rural areas are lined with vendors and hawkers and informal markets are found wherever there is a village or town.

The game, the game lodges and the scenery are outstanding. Kenya is truly "Out of Africa" country and will soon become a favourite destination for South Africans.

All the people they met wanted to strengthen their ties with the new South Africa. They were enormously impressed by a recent Trade Fair in Nairobi and are anxious to establish solid trading links.

They were very well informed about South African affairs and listen regularly to our local news broadcasts. Many people also enquired about the possibility of their children coming to Rhodes University.



*You can tell that this picture was taken before the lunch and not afterwards! It shows some of about 40 Grahamstown businessmen, Rhodes staff members and farmers who chartered a coach and, after lunch at the Cathcart Arms, attended the touring French rugby team's first match, against Eastern Province, in Port Elizabeth. A good time was had by all, we are assured, with the possible exception of the Eastern Province team. Their admittedly brave effort saw them on second place at the final whistle.*

## Constitutional Changes

Certain changes to the constitution of the Rhodes University Club have been approved. Among these are:

- 1) All students aged 18 years and over will be eligible for membership without having to find a proposer and a seconder;
- 2) students' representatives on the committee will change after the SRC elections; and
- 3) Council will be required to appoint alternative Council representatives on the Club committee to cater for those occasions where nominees are not able to attend business and other Club meetings.



## First for Afrikaans en Nederlands

One of the cabarets to be staged on the Festival Fringe this year is *Songs my Lover Stole*, a bilingual cabaret workshopped by the Creative Writing Class of the Department of Afrikaans & Nederlands. It has been described as, "a lusty, lively cabaret about love, loss, angst and living in the global village".

Five postgraduate students wrote the script under the guidance of Professor Etienne van Heerden, and workshopped the cabaret during breaks from the Fiction Writing course.

This is the first year that Creative Writing has been offered at Rhodes. "The students adapted remarkably well to a genre which was new to them and took to the many hours of brainstorming with great enthusiasm," said Professor Van Heerden. "The exercise taught them how to work creatively within a group, how to absorb criticism and murder their darlings. Most of all, the long sessions served to demystify the concept of creative writing."

"Our script is now in the capable hands of director Dion van Niekerk and we are most pleased to have some of Rhodes Drama Department's foremost actors on the boards, namely: Adrian Poulsen, Niqui Cloete, Lanon

## Second book complements the first

A second book on labour law by Prof John Grogan, published recently, deals with the labour courts' approach to collective bargaining, dispute-resolution, strikes and mass dismissals in the employment sector.

The new book, *Collective Labour Law*, is a companion volume to the second edition of *Rieker's Basic Employment Law*, which was re-written by Professor Grogan.

"My aim was to put between the covers of two books all the basic guidelines on employer-employee and management-union relations which have been evolved by the labour courts in the last decade", Professor Grogan said.

"Experience has shown that many employers and employees are in the dark about what is required of them by law, and that many needless disputes arise because of this."

"My hope is that these two books will provide a general understanding for the beginner and a useful reference for those who are having particular problems."

Professor Grogan pointed out that

the principles explained in the books will apply to farm labourers and domestic workers when labour legislation is extended to them.

*Collective Labour Law* has chapters on the rights and duties of trade unions and employers' organisations, industrial councils and conciliation boards, the duty to bargain and recognition and substantive agreements. It also deals in detail with strike procedures, dismissals and lock-outs, and contains specimen agreements.

Professor Grogan, who holds a PhD in administrative law, is also an advocate of the Supreme Court, a consultant in labour law, and has sat as an assessor on the Labour Appeal Court. He has published widely on labour and public law in various academic journals.

## Memorial bursary established

A memorial fund to provide a bursary to Rhodes has been established in memory of Ally Weakley, killed tragically at Siangwana in the Transkei in mid-April.

This represents the coming to fruition of an initiative by a group of Ally's friends. The Sports Union will administer the bursary.

The bursary award will be made annually to an individual who, in the opinion of the Selection Committee, will make a significant contribution to the spirit and achievements of the Rhodes University Rugby Football Club. It will be tenable for one year at a time and may be re-awarded.

## Registered students

In order to qualify for consideration a candidate for the bursary must be registered as a full-time or part-time student at Rhodes. Consideration may be given as well to whether or not the candidate intends pursuing legal studies and is from the Border region. The bursar will be expected to be active in the Rugby Club insofar as practices, leagues, tournaments and other competitions are concerned.

Interested students should apply to the convenor of the selection committee at the University's Bursaries office, before 31 October annually.

## Invitation to University Summit

The RHODES UNIVERSITY SUMMIT is to be held on Saturday 21st August. Its objective is to provide interested persons or organisations with an opportunity to discuss issues which may shape the future of Rhodes University.

Participation is open to the general public and the Rhodes University Summit Organising Committee invites all interested

persons or organisations to submit proposals for inclusion in the agenda.

Anyone who wishes to speak or to nominate topics for discussion or agenda inclusion is advised to inform the organisers, in writing, before 30 July. The advice should be addressed to: The Convenor, Rhodes University Summit, P. O. Box 94, 6140 Grahamstown.

## PERSONAL PROMOTIONS FROM 1 JULY 1993

### ACADEMIC

#### Senior Lecturer to Associate Professor

Dr S Daya: Biochemistry & Microbiology; Dr R W A Brooke: Psychology; Dr A N Hodgson: Zoology & Entomology; Dr P D Rose: Biochemistry & Microbiology; Dr P A Scott: Human Movement Studies.

#### Lecturer to Senior Lecturer

Mr M H Burton: Mathematics (Pure & Applied); Dr J A Claughton; African Languages; Mr G Coutourvidis: Fine Art; Dr T J M Dovey: English, East London Division; Mr M V Leibbrandt: Economics & Economic History.

### NON-ACADEMIC

Mrs R Breitenbach Management - Administrative Assistant, Grade 8; Mr Z M Dude: Biochemistry & Microbiology - Technical Officer, Grade 7; Miss Z Mbotshelwa: Catering Section Chief Cook,

Grade R4; Mr Z K Mfabana - Mail Room Senior Mail Room Assistant, Grade 4; Mrs M van Hille - Bursaries Office Administrative Assistant, Grade 8; Mr P Vena - Printing Unit: Technical Assistant, Grade 6.

### UPGRADING OF POSTS FROM 1 JULY

Miss P N Faku - School of Pharmaceutical Sciences Senior Laboratory Assistant, Grade 4; Mr D Meyers - Printing Unit: Senior Printing Assistant, Grade 5; Mr P G Moli - Library: Senior Stack Attendant, Grade 4; Mr L Mtswalo - Catering & Housekeeping: Senior Driver, Grade 4; Mr M Ralo - Catering & Housekeeping: Senior Driver, Grade 4; Mr S Toni - Printing Unit: Senior Printing Assistant, Grade 5; Mr Gibson Yapi - Catering & Housekeeping: Senior Driver, Grade 4

## All you ever wanted to know about the coelacanth

A comprehensive booklet, aimed at the general reader, on the famous living coelacanth fish is available from the JLB Smith Institute of Ichthyology.

Titled *Latimeria Chalumnae - The Living Coelacanth*, the book was written by Dr Humphrey Greenwood, former Deputy Chief Scientific Officer of the Natural History Museum of London, who is now an Honorary Research Associate at the Institute.

It covers almost every aspect of this fascinating fish often referred to as a "living fossil".

While the fossil record of coelacanths stretches back about 400 million years, it was not until December 1938 that the first living coelacanth was caught off the East London coast, bringing to an abrupt end the belief in its extinction.

In 1952, a second living

coelacanth was caught in the Comores and since then more than 180 have been caught.

The 20-page book deals with the discovery of the first two living coelacanths and discusses its biology, anatomy and reproductive habits, as well as various theories about the relationship of the coelacanth to land-living vertebrate animals.

"Anatomically it appears that coelacanths have not changed significantly over the 400 million years of their history," said Dr Greenwood.

The book also discusses possible threats to the continued existence of the living coelacanth and the need for careful conservation of it and its habitat. Published by Ichthos, its 20 pages are illustrated with black and white photographs and drawings. It's yours for R 10,00.



## SMALLS

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Phone 024-554213 or contact Dr Robin English, Chemistry Department.

### WHAT'S ON? July 1st - July 14th

#### July

*The Hiss of the Universe.* An exhibition of Radio Astronomy by the Rhodes Museum in conjunction with the Department of Physics

• Rhodes Museum

#### July 3rd - 11th

Rhodesfest. Rhodes University extramural week. Full details and programme specifics obtainable from the School of Fine Art in Somerset Street.

### Mr H Butterworth

Mr Harry ("Tich") Butterworth, former Senior Technical Officer in the Department of Chemistry (1969 - 1982) and father of Mr Terry Butterworth of the Department of Zoology and Entomology, died on 13th June aged 72 years.

Tich joined the Chemistry Department with very little formal background in Chemistry and amazed his colleagues with the dedicated and determined way in which he set about learning the Chemistry required to supervise the undergraduate laboratories. Everything needed was carefully noted in his "Recipe Book". When recipes failed, he did not rest until he had an answer and the answer was carefully recorded. It was marvellous having such a reliable and conscientious person in the Department. His characteristic response to long lists of requirements of chemicals and apparatus for practicals was, "OK, but not before this afternoon".

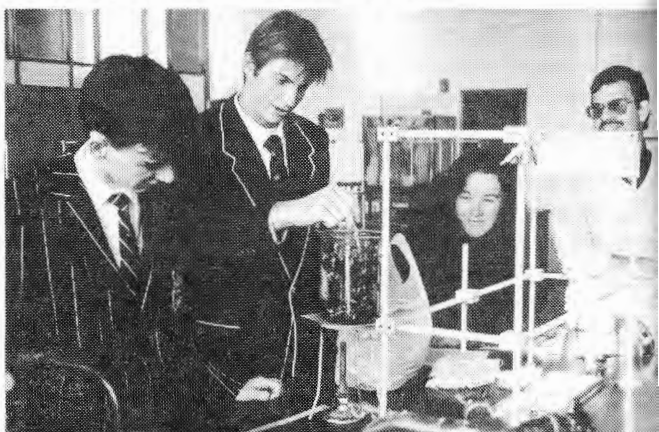
Being in so much contact with students in the laboratories, he had many amusing stories of the strange antics and comments of students under the extreme stress of practicals. These stories provided much entertainment at tea breaks in the Chemistry Common Room.

In 1982 Tich's health deteriorated and he retired. Colleagues in the Department looked forward to his occasional visits from retirement in Port Alfred.

The nickname "Tich" obviously referred to his small build, but was not appropriate to his other qualities. We remember him with affection for his quiet friendliness, total reliability and integrity and his gentle sense of humour. MB

## Budding young scientists on campus

The SASOL National School Science Convention, held at Rhodes from June 21 to 25, was attended by more than 400 pupils, representing schools from all over the country. Workshops presented by scientists from South African universities, research institutes and museums offered pupils hands-on experience in science.



Pupils attending the Natural Dyeing workshop used onion skins, licorice, khakibos and cochineal to dye commercial hand-knitting wool.



The Glassblowing workshop, presented by Mr Andre Adriaan of the Chemistry Department at Rhodes, was very popular. The "Glass Clowns" in the photograph, while showing a healthy respect for the flame, enjoyed their first attempts at mixing creativity with science.

### Grahamstown Publicity Association

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### RHODOS STAFF

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*RHODOS is produced twice a month by the Public Relations and Development Division of Rhodes University, Grahamstown. Views expressed are not necessarily those of the Editor, Rhodos staff or the University*

### RHODOS DEADLINES

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