

RHODOS



RHODES UNIVERSITY STAFF NEW SLETTER

28 September 1995

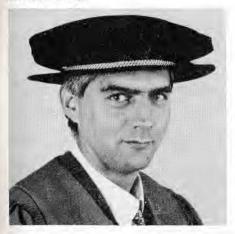
Vol 7 No 8

'Whither the Watchdog?'



amusing graphics with which Prof Guy
Berger illustrated his inaugural lecture.

Like it or not, the Internet heralds the
demise of newspapers as they are known
today, said Prof Guy Berger, Head of the
Department of Journalism and Media Studies,
during his well-attended inaugural lecture at
Rhodes last week.



He said that the Internet would provoke great changes to newspapers and their future role

Electronic newspapers, while currently only accessible to an elite, are much cheaper to produce and disseminate, Prof Berger said.

"Publishers, clearly, must be attracted to the option which bypasses the vast expenses inherent in newsprint but still delivers a newspaper", he added.

He does not believe, however, that the electronic "information highway" forecasts the end of either the craft of journalism or existing

Grahamstown's own community college?

If a democratic Community College system can be successfully established in South Africa, it has the potential to be an important agent of transformation, says Mrs Abeeda Holdstock, an executive member of the Community College Association of South Africa (CCASA).

She was addressing some 50 people who attended a public meeting in Grahamstown on September 16 which had been called to establish the extent of the need for a community college in Grahamstown. The meeting was chaired by Dr Clive Smith of Rhodes University's Education Department and had been convened by a self-appointed steering group. The meeting was attended by representatives of educational and community organisations, cultural associations, a member of Grahamstown's Junior City Council and interested individuals. It followed an East Cape provincial workshop held earlier this year and others held in all the other provinces.



Dr Clive Smith, from the Department of Education at Rhodes with Mrs Abeeda Holdstock of the Community College Association of South Africa.

Mrs Holdstock said that, while the concept of community colleges was not new in South Africa, it was only recently that the first ones had been established. She is Acting Director of Khanya College in Salt River.

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Holotropic Breathing - 'unsqueeze' yourself

Reduce the pressure on yourself and feel healing begin, says Prof Dave Edwards, of the Department of Psychology.

This leading South Africa figure in the field of transpersonal psychology, which focuses on the study of the states of consciousness, says that a technique called Holotropic Breathing provides a safe and wonderfully controlled release of pent-up energies. "It's like taking the lid off a box that has been squeezed too tightly. As you 'unsqueeze' yourself, incredible healing processes start to occur", he explains.

This is only one of a range of different approaches in psychological transformation and healing in which he is interested, he says.

titles. One must acknowledge, he said, the brand identities, pedigrees and characters already vested in exiting newspapers; "they bring this with them to the Internet", he believes.

"Like the paper version, the electronic product represents and editorial judgement about the comparative importance of information", Prof Berger said.

* The full text of Prof Berger's inaugural lecture may be found on the user group ru.announce. Holotropic breathing involves the induction of a mild altered state without the use of drugs. The altered state is achieved through deep breathing while listening to loud drumming music which seems to drive the brain waves in certain ways, Prof Edwards explained. "Pent-up energies which remain trapped give rise to emotional and psychosomatic symptoms such as depression, anxiety states and phobias, sexual problems, migraine headaches or asthma", he said.

He adds that doing holotropic breathwork on a regular basis can be a valuable adjunct to regular psychotherapy. He stresses that people who take part in a holotropic session are always fully in control since they never lose consciousness and are able to slow down the process and ease out of the altered state simply by resuming normal breathing. Prof Edwards has been using this technique in voluntary self-exploratory workshops with his fourth-year psychology students.

"There is a huge gulf between western medicine and the world of traditional healing. Holotropic breathing promises to be an area of bridging between the two systems which might not have seemed attainable in the past", he concluded.



Letters to The Editor

Sustainable Product Development The Editor,

I work for the United Nations Environment Programme's Working Group on Sustainable Product Development (UNEP-WG-SPD). This was established in January 1994 at the University of Amsterdam within the framework of the Cleaner Production Programme of the UNEP on Industry and Environment Office (UNEP-IE/PAC).

The aim of the UNEP-WG-SPD is to develop and promote the concept of Sustainable Product Development (SPD). This concept considers the intensity and optimisation of resource use for product design, and the development of product concepts within whole systems that provide a service or function to meet human needs. SPD considers the environmental impact which a product might have during its whole life cycle, even when it is at its development and design stage. In this way much potential environmental damage can be prevented at an early stage.

The research topics of the UNEP-WG-SPD include transportation, telecommunications,

Rhodos invites correspondence on matters of concern to the University community which will indicate the wide spectrum of views held and will promote further discussion.

A pseudonym is acceptable, but the writer must supply his or her full name and residential address to the editor, who will respect confidentiality.

cooling, heating, clothing, water and renewable resources.

We are building up an international network of contacts in order to promote the concept of SPD, to stimulate information exchange amongst network members and to cooperate with one another in collaborative research or other activities to further develop the SPD concept.

As a Network Coordinator for Africa. I am currently making an inventory of organisations (universities, research institutes, trade associations, governments, consultancies, private enterprises, etc.) which are involved in SPD and Eco-design activities or related areas in Algeria, Benin, Egypt, Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa.

Membership of the UNEP-WG-SPD International Network is free of charge. Members are kept informed on the latest developments on SPD in general and on the activities of the UNEP-WG-SPD itself and of the network members.

The information available at the UNEP-WG-SPD varies from names and addresses of organisations and their SPD related programmes and projects to policy documents; publications; articles; literature;

upcoming workshops and design contests; workshop proceedings; research activities worldwide; examples of sustainable products and so on.

I have only recently started with my network researching in the countries mentioned above and my contacts are still limited. I would therefore be grateful if any of your readers could inform me of any contacts or publications that are involved in SPD and Eco-design related activities in any of the African countries mentioned above. It may be sent to me by e-mail to Dominique@unep.frw.uva.nl, or care of UNEP-WG-SPD

J.H. van het Hoff Institute 3rd floor/Building B Nieuwe Achergracht 166 1018 WV Amsterdam The Netherlands Tel: 31-20-525-6268

Fax: 31-20-625-8843.

For more information you can contact our WWW-Gopher Home Page at URL: http://unep.frw.uva.nl/

Dominique Theunen Network Coordinator for Africa.

Commerce Foundation Programme Awards

Coopers and Lybrand Chartered
Accountants (East London) has been the major sponsor of the Commerce Foundation
Programme at Rhodes for the past two years.
As Chartered Accountants (C.A.s), the partners are aware of the fact that there is a general shortage of C.A.s in South Africa and that there is a particular need for qualified black
South Africans in this field. Apart from substantial sponsorships in the form of student bursaries, the firm also offers holiday jobs to students. In addition, a student of the 1994
Foundation group has signed a training contract with Coopers and Lybrand (East London).

Mr Andrew Carlin, the Human Resources
Partner, and Mr Craig Koekemoer, the Auditing
Manager, visited Rhodes recently where they
gave an informative talk to the students about the
C.A. profession. The Dean of Commerce and Mr
Carlin presented prizes to the students for their
achievements during the June 1995 examinations.



Seen here with Professor Van der Watt, the Dean of Commerce, Mr Sieberhagen, the Accounting Lecturer and Mrs Coetzee, the coordinator of the programme, are the prize winners: Salome Molala (top student - Accounting); Babelwa Qwesha (first class pass - Accounting); Misile Mfami (top student - Mathematics, first class pass - Accounting); Thabo Louw (first class passes - Accounting and English); Mpho Matshego (top student - English and first class pass - Accounting); Pindiswa Mlotana (first class pass - English).

Absent: Liza Tokwe (first class pass: Accounting)

Night time rain maker

Mr Andrew Hatting, Building Maintenance Manager at Rhodes is fast becoming an expert at rain making! An ornamental fish enthusiast, he is particularly proud of his cardinal fish who need simulated rainfall and floods before they will breed.

In their natural habitat, a change in the water level is the trigger which starts the cardinals' spawning season.

To make life even more difficult for the aspirant breeder of this species, the Cardinal Tetras, brightly coloured blue and red fish from South America, breed in almost distilled, de-ionized water and have an unusually specific mating schedule. They spawn for four hours only, between 22h00 and 02h00!

"The female chases the male or vice-versa", says Andrew. "They nudge each other in the flanks. The male then swims to her side and the two fish then press together and swim in circles releasing eggs as they go. They spawn at 10-15 minute intervals. In the wild, these fish have very little nutrition and have thus to be fed sparingly to bring them to optimum breeding condition", he explained.

Because cardinals dislike strong light, the bottom, sides and back of the aquarium are painted black. In the wild the fish are only found in tributaries of the Rio Negro in Brazil.



Andrew Hatting with finny friends in his office at Rhodes.

Also in one of his fish tanks is the Mbuna species which has several sub-species. These are known as mouth brooders. "These fish move the pebbles in the tank and create nests in which they lay one egg at a time. Once the eggs have been fertilized the female picks these up and rolls them around in her mouth until they hatch. She later spits the hatchlings

out", he explained.

"It is a challenge for me to breed different kinds of fish. The more difficult, the better the challenge", he concluded.

Mr Hatting conducted months of research at the JLB Smith Institute Library before embarking on his venture. He has a variety of fish in tanks in his office and at home.

Contrasting expectations - research into commerce students

White South African commerce students are significantly pessimistic about their future job opportunities, while black commerce students are optimistic. These are the initial results of a study being undertaken at Rhodes by a visiting scholar in the Department of Management.

Dr Richard Scott lectures at the Metropolitan State College of Denver, in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, which has a student population of 17 000. He has also lived and worked in France, Ethiopia, Belgium, Greece and Australia.

While at Rhodes on a Fulbright scholarship, Dr Richard Scott is involved in two research projects in collaboration with three other professors in Colorado and two Rhodes faculty members.

"The first focuses on the level of general knowledge in undergraduate students compared to students at the same level in the United States. This project is still in the data collection stage. In the second project, we are exploring how commerce students view their future opportunities in the workplace", Dr Scott explained.

"This study involved 400 commerce students at Rhodes and 300 commerce students in the United States. One of the findings is that white and black South Africans view the opportunities in the workplace significantly differently especially in terms of how South African-style affirmative action programmes will affect them as they seek employment after achieving their university degrees.

"Although the collected data set has to be fully analyzed, from a cursory view of the findings white South Africans are pessimistic about their job opportunities while black South Africans are optimistic", he said.

"My own students will now have the opportunity to be exposed to South Africa through my experiences and it is through the sharing of knowledge that we make one another aware; this in turn leads to peace and understanding", Dr Scott said.

"The scholarship allows me to provide a service; to teach, observe and learn", he said.

While at Rhodes, Dr Scott will also give lectures on personnel and strategic management, His major field of study is international business.

Yashica Haribhai

Correction: Interest rate reduction on home loans for RU staff

Rhodos apologises for the error in the last dedition which had the Standard Bank offering 25% off its interest rate on bond repayments by RU staff members. The effective discount is one-quarter of a percentage point and the figure published in the article should have been 0,25%.

It has also been pointed out to *Rhodos* by the Registrar: Finance's Division that there are several other financial institutions which offer

the same or similar benefits to Rhodes staff members.

These are sometimes conditional upon the individual staff member using the specific institution for all of his or her banking requirements and services.

For further details contact Mr R N Smuts, in the Finance Division (ext 8162).

Rhodos, 28 September 1995

Passenger train a popular bet

Rhodes students were quick to take
advantage of the months of lobbying by
the Grahamstown Job Creation Project and the
Grahamstown TLC when, a mere two days
before the vacation began, the long-standing
problems with the passenger train service to
Grahamstown were resolved. Some 65
students boarded the train for Johannesburg
and returned again at the beginning of the new
term.

The students are entitled to a 40% discount on published 2nd and 3rd class fares on the main line portion of the trip. This brings the cost of a 2nd class return ticket from Grahamstown to Johannesburg down to less than R 200,00.

In April this year Spoornet agreed to run the passenger service on a trial basis, for six months, as an RDP project. However, it was only a viable proposition on a one way basis because a transfer has to be made at Alicedale and this was only practical on the southbound service. Travelling in the other direction entailed a wait of more than 40 hours at Alicedale.

After months of lobbying by the two bodies, who persuaded senior managerial staff from Spoornet and Transnet to come to Grahamstown and took the matter to



Students at Grahamstown station at the start of the new term

ministerial level, the problem was resolved and the departure of the train from Grahamstown was made several hours later. Now the wait at Alicedale is of between 20 and 35 minutes only, in either direction, before travellers board or disembark from the Algoa Express which runs between Johannesburg and Port Elizabeth on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, although the schedule is due to be reviewed soon.

A community college for Grahamstown?

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"A community college must be able to offer, within a single institutional setting, the three key functions of post-compulsory education, tertiary programmes, job and career education and training and community education with primary emphasis on adult basic education and training.

The National Institute for Community Education is currently advocating a structure which allows for existing technical colleges to become "hubs" for community college activities.

After Mrs Holdstock's address, the delegates to the Grahamstown meeting broke into three work groups to identify the local education and training needs, to examine the extent of the existing infrastructure which could perhaps be used by a community college and to suggest tentative guiding principles and a structure.

Action committee members are, Clive Smith (facilitator), Zena Jacobson (GADRA), Edwin Prince, (Mary Waters Secondary School) Mary van der Riet (ACORD), Vuyo Kahla (FDTR), Johan Retief and Grieta Kuun (Grahamstown Technical College), Yvonne Valentine (ASSECA), Brian Basterman and Bhala Khayelethu (Khutliso Daniels Secondary School), Ken Lemmon-Ward (St Andrews College) Linda Nyarashe (Tantyi Primary School), Priscilla Hall (CIP), Ndileka Maziko (ASSECA / iKhonco) Shelle Grace and Harriet Mdyesha (Samuel Ntsiko Primary School) Theo Fulani (GRAFIS SRC) and Benjamin Moody (COSAS).

Further public meeting to be held

A further meeting to which any interested members of the public have been invited will be held on Saturday, 14 October, from 08h30 until 11h00, at the Assembly of God Church Hall, on the corner of Huntley and Hill streets.

Its purpose will be to review what happened at the first meeting and to see if anyone else would like to join the action committee. The action committee itself has been charged to see if any community college activity can be initiated at the start of 1996, no matter how small, and to administer a survey of education and training needs and providers in the Grahamstown area.

Save waste paper for collection

Rhodes staff are reminded that waste paper can be profitably recycled and sold for gain, says the Grahamstown Recycling Action Group.

Arrangements have been made with Grahamstown Recycling to buy paper for recycling from Rhodes. Everyone is encouraged to place uncrumpled, used paper in cardboard boxes. When sufficient paper has accumulated, it can be collated within Departments and packed in poly bags supplied by Janitoring Services. Arrangements for collection can be made with the Janitor, Mr Winter, on extension 8139. This simple action is not only beneficial to the environment but also earns the University money!

For the record, during July this year, 1 014 kg was collected; during August 1 778 kg and, over the first three weeks of September, a massive 3 168 kg. We currently receive about R 150 per ton for this waste.

The Grahamstown Recycling Action Group has recently produced a Grahamstown Recycling Guide which is packed with information on local recycling options for paper, cardboard, glass and other household wastes. The Guide costs only R 2,00 and is available from "Flower Power", at the corner of New St and Allen St, and other retail outlets in town.

People interested in becoming involved with other aspects of recycling in our community can contact a member of the Recycling Action Group. Members at Rhodes include Dave Edwards on extension 8500, Rehema White (8531) and Bronwyn Law-Viljoen (8400).

Rhodes Company should do well at Vita Awards

The prestigious FNB Vita Awards will be presented in Durban this year concurrently with the second FNB Vita Dance Shongololo at The Drama Theatre. The Playhouse, during the course of October.

The organisers say that amongst the highlights of the Dance Shongololo, five programmes comprising new choreography and innovative dance works, will be the performances by the award-winning First Physical Theatre Company from the Rhodes Drama Department of its work They dreamt of diving where fishes fly choreographed by Head of Department Prof Gary Gordon.

The Shongololo's programmes cover such varied styles as contemporary dance, Spanish, Pantsula, ballet, folk dance and gumboot. It also offers up and coming choreographers an opportunity to create new works, having free access to presenting them through the festival.

An added bonus to the Shongololo this year is the introduction to the FNB Vita-Awards for the Most Outstanding Choreographer, an award which must be well within the reach of Prof Gordon, and others for the Most Outstanding Performance by a Male and Female dancer and a 'Pick of the Fringe' award.

Other inclusions in the Dance Shongololo are workshops, lecture demonstrations as well as possible film screenings which should be on interest to all dance fans.

Any staff member planning on being in Durban during the performances should note that they are being held on October 8 from 10h00 and on October 12, 13, 14 & 15 at 19h30.

Mr Fred de Heer-Menlah, of the Computer
Based Education Unit with
Vice-Chancellor Dr Derek Henderson
(right), at the function held recently to
launch ADaPt, the new quarterly
newsletter of the Academic Development
Programme (ADP). ADaPt is being
published to keep the Rhodes Community
informed of teaching and research
activities undertaken by the ADP.
Picture: Karl Delport

New direction for Eastern Cape Geography

Re orientation, relevance and public perception were three of the recurrent themes discussed at a recent symposium organised by the Eastern Cape Branch of the Society of South African Geographers on Future Direction on Eastern Cape Geography.

The symposium was hosted by Rhodes East London and attracted more than 50 delegates from the universities of Transkei, Fort Hare, Port Elizabeth, Rhodes and Vista. The Transkei College of Education and the Butterworth College of Education were also represented at the meeting. Mr Evan Dollar, a lecturer in Geography at the Rhodes East London, organised the meeting on behalf of the society.

A variety of topics

Twenty-six papers were presented, relating to a variety of topics researched and taught by geographers at universities in the Eastern Cape, including the distribution of economic phenomena; urban and rural development; land reform; soil erosion and catchment management.

Prof Kevin Phillips-Howard opened the proceedings with a discussion of UNITRA's reorientation towards becoming an RDP resource. The university is developing strong links with stakeholders, encouraging user-orientated research and evaluating the relevance of teaching programmed to modern South Africa. The relevance of Geography to the new order was illustrated by talks by Prof Phillips-Howard's colleagues who are researching in rural Transkei.

Delegates learnt the importance of involving local people in development issues through participatory research, of the store of knowledge to be tapped among local subsistence farmers such as the use of ash to keep away fungus and of bat droppings as manure.

The potential application of Geographic Information Systems to the display and analysis of geographic data was presented by Dr Trevor Hill of Rhodes. He outlined the wide range of projects carried out by staff at Rhodes. Studies highlighted in the programme included research into economic problems in the Eastern Cape region and contributions to catchment management programmes through geomorphological studies.

Triangular relationship

Land reform and soil erosion were local issues addressed by Prof Simphiwe Mini and his colleagues from the University of Fort Hare.

The meeting was concluded on an international note with an address by Prof Denis Dwyer, who holds a research chair at the University of Keele in England and who spoke on the triangular relationship between Britain, China and Hong Kong, the history of the British Colony and the prospects for the region once the colony reverts to Chinese jurisdiction in 1997.

"The relevance of geographical studies to understanding the natural, social and economic environment of the Eastern Cape was clear from the papers presented at the symposium. Geographers have already grasped the opportunity to contribute to regional and national development through involvement in the RDP and related programmes", said Dr Kate Rowntree, a Senior Lecturer in Geography at Rhodes University.

"Geography is a dynamic subject that should excite the imagination of young people throughout the region; the East Cape branch of the Society for South African Geographers invites them to join in the adventure", she said.

ADP publication launched





Saturday 30 September

The Winch Mile. Charity see noticeboards event for details.

Monday, 2 October

The invention of the Marian Lacey nation, a joint seminar Seminar Room, presented by the 19h30
Departments of Political Studies/International Studies Unit and the Department of Sociology

Thursday, 12 October

LIRI Technologies: LIRI Technologies: Annual General Meeting 10h00



FLAT FOR SALE

Large, comfortable, three-bedroomed flat on sectional title in sought after block. Very secure and in pleasant surroundings, close to Rhodes. The main bedroom is very spacious indeed (now used as a study and fitted with air conditioning) and even the smallest can accommodate two beds. There is a large lounge with an enclosed porch. Three rooms have fitted carpets. Covered carport. Reasonable levies, kept low by vigilant Body Corporate. R 138 000 by private sale. Contact B M Nicholls, History Department, ext 8333.

ADVERTISING RATES

Display ads: R 2,50 per column centimetre; double for front and back pages.

Classifieds: 10 cents per word unless a bona fide staff member is advertising in his or her personal capacity, in which case no charge is levied. Advertising is run strictly on a cash back.

Copy, which is only accepted in writing, should be forwarded with payment to the Marketing and Communications Division.

WANTED

Antique double bed, preferably oak, in any condition. Tel: Shelley at ext 8570 or 2 7868 after hours.

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In Johannesburg's northern suburbs. Charming, newly furnished twin-bedded accommodation with own entrance; bathroom en suite, opens onto private patio, walking distance to shops and restaurants, 10 minutes from Wits, RAU and Wits Tech, metered phone, bar fridge, lock-up parking. Single: R 140,00; per person sharing: R 115,00. Phone (011) 442 8083.

RU man appointed to Invertebrate Reproduction post

Professor Alan Hodgson, during the course of a recent visit to the United States, was elected Vice President of the International Society of Invertebrate Reproduction and has been asked to consider organising an international congress in South Africa in six years time.

Prof Hodgson, of the Department of Zoology and Entomology spent time at the University of California, at Santa Cruz and at the University of Maine.

He first visited the Darling Marine Labs, part of the University of Maine, as the guest of the Director, Professor Kevin Eckelbarger. Prof Eckelbarger is a leading authority on invertebrate reproduction and Prof Hodgson was able to hold several discussions with him.

RHODOS STAFF

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RHODOS is produced fortnightlyly by the Marketing and Communications Division of Rhodes University, Grahamstown.

The views expressed are not necessarily those of the Editor, Rhodos staff, or the University.

The Editor welcomes all contributions but reserves the right to edit these.

This has resulted, in part, in the establishment of a cooperative research project to study aspects of the reproduction of deep-sea invertebrates.

Prof Hodgson then attended the 7th International Conference on Invertebrate Reproduction at the University of California, Santa Cruz which was attended by approximately 250 delegates. The conference, organised by the International Society of Invertebrate Reproduction, is held every three years. It was dominated, this year, by marine biological papers, although there was a strong presence of entomologists and endocrinologists.

"The standard of the talks was excellent and I was able to make good use of the social

Rhodos invites contributions from staff members and other readers.

Articles should be forwarded to the Editor, at the Marketing and Communications Division.

Articles are preferred on diskette in any of several common formats, including ASCII, Word Perfect and Xywrite. Text may also be e-mailed to *rhodos @.ru.ac.za*.

Photographs and line art are also welcome, either as stand-alone items or illustrative of articles. programme to renew old friendships and make new ones. The parallel sessions meant that I could only get to about 50% of the papers, and I therefore targeted most of the marine papers, as well as papers which dealt with patterns of reproduction. I participated in the sessions on deep sea reproduction and was able to present the first results on gametogenesis and gamete structure in a deep sea hydrothermal vent limpet. In addition I presented a plenary paper in a session which dealt with dichotomous spermatogenesis in invertebrates", says Prof Hodgson. "Both my papers were received well and have now been submitted for publication in the international journal, Invertebrate Reproduction and Development", he adds.

Finally, Prof Hodgson visited the Institute of Marine Sciences (Santa Cruz) as the guest of Professor John Pearse. "During my stay I made use of the excellent spring tides and had several collecting excursions in Monterey Bay. These trips enabled me to collect material which will help my ongoing comparative study on the structure of the spermatozoa of acmaeid limpets. The material collected greatly increases the data base", he says.

During his trip, Prof Hodgson was asked to referee several manuscripts for journals – which kept him nicely occupied, he claims!

DEADLINE DATES

Copy Date
9 October

Publication Date 16 October.