



Who is the War Memorial?

by Albert le Roux

AT the Wreath-laying ceremony in September, several people asked who was represented by the War Memorial. The old Joan of Arc story was trotted out and disputed, but nobody seemed to know much about the statue.

After asking around for a couple of days, *Rhodos* visited the Cory Library and discovered the following on consulting *The Rhodian*, Vol 8 no.1 (1923)

"It is a matter for satisfaction that the War Memorial Committee has decided on the form to be taken by the College War Memorial. A bronze figure is to be erected on a site to be chosen immediately, and the work has been entrusted to Alfred Drury, RA; the artist has definitely promised that the figure will be delivered in Grahamstown well before Foundation Day, and it is suggested that an unveiling of a private nature, confined to the College, should form part of the celebrations of the day. A description of the figure will doubtless be of interest. It is supplied by Mr Christie Smith, for whose advice and help in the selection of a suitable memorial the Committee are deeply grateful.

The Knight in Armour is the work of Alfred Drury, RA, one of the leading sculptors in Britain, he was a pupil of Dalon, a great French sculptor who fled Paris during the Commune and became Professor of Sculpture at the Royal College of Art, South Kensington. Drury rapidly became prominent after his studentship and has been responsible for many notable works of an idealistic character.

The Knight in Armour is an imposing figure in Bronze, seven feet high, bearing armour of the finest gothic period (about 1450).

He is resting on his sword and the drooping head symbolises the



grief of a people over the death in battle of those who responded to the call of country in the dark days of war. The wreath which encircles the hilt of the sword is a tribute to their sacrifice. The whole figure in character and execution is indicative of the simple dignified work of a skilled craftsman and a great artist."

Thanks for your response

WE are most grateful to those who responded to the survey questionnaire sent out and later analyzed by Catherine Ensor and Shane Marais, as part of their Journalism course. About 400 copies were distributed and about 110 completed copies were returned.

Most responses came from academic departments followed by "admin" workers, researchers and retired staff members.

The largest age-group represented was between 36 - 45, which wasn't too surprising.

Most people said that they received a copy of *Rhodos* regularly. However, as the questionnaire was distributed in the same way as *Rhodos*, it may have missed out on some departments.

Most respondents (91) felt that *Rhodos* addressed their interests.

Thumbs up for ...

When asked what they would like to read more about in *Rhodos*, most expressed an interest in departmental news, which would keep them up to date with what their colleagues in other departments were doing. It was also suggested that staff could contribute more on matters of general interest, as *Rhodos* is, after all, a staff newspaper. One respondent suggested that if departments submitted articles related to their fields of activity, a better atmosphere and understanding could be created.

Another area where people wanted more information was that of "admin" activities, developments and policy decisions, responses to staff grievances and debates regarding staff working conditions, employment benefits etc., as well as comparisons of conditions at Rhodes with those at other universities.

May people asked for profiles on the different fields of research at Rhodes, and new research ideas.

Several people wanted to see the "What's On" column beefed up so that it could provide a better service.

Many said that they enjoyed the humour in *Rhodos*. Others asked for book reviews, a limerick competition, more photographs, a history of Rhodes, news of building renovations, the whereabouts of retired staff members, a buyer's guide and even more gossip!

As regards language, most people felt that as English is the common language at Rhodes, *Rhodos* should appear in that language. The size of the print seemed acceptable to most people.

The negative aspects: many felt that coverage is superficial, lightweight and not controversial enough. Others felt that *Rhodos* should take itself more seriously as it is a valuable asset to staff.

Some selected comments

- "Rhodos is a valuable communication medium - it should not be afraid to pull its punches when addressing the interests of the Rhodes staff community."
- "A newspaper is only as good as the community makes it."
- "Rhodos needs to be far more controversial, far more provocative. At the moment it is often dull. We also need more humour, more satire versus the University's holy cows."
- "Perhaps more challenging debate about the future of the University - new demands, courses, emphases etc."
- "I realize a newsletter is as good as its contributors, so am aware that without being willing/finding time to contribute myself, I cannot be critical."

Staff

On the whole, the results of the survey confirmed much of what we have been thinking. *Rhodos* should be more comprehensive in its coverage. At present it is produced by one-and-a-half people at breakneck speed at the last minute, usually

Congratulations ...

... to PeterJohn and Rensie Cloete on the birth of their daughter, Rosemary Yvonne, on September 12.

CUP notes

Subsidies

RESULTING from dissatisfaction with the general level of subsidies awarded to universities for 1991 and the subsidy levels of some universities in particular, coupled with the government's failure to make money available for the implementation of the home owner allowance scheme, a Committee of University Principals (CUP) delegation went to see the Minister of National Education

The delegation reported with some optimism that money would be forthcoming to help finance the increasing cost of the home owner allowance scheme which was implemented on January 1 for all public servants. The scheme has been implemented at some universities, based on promises made by the Department of National Education. The delegation was less optimistic over the prospect of obtaining additional funds to raise the general subsidy levels.

DNE/CUP model for university financing.

Insufficient funds have made it impossible to introduce the model as planned. The main thrust was to reduce admissions to universities of students who do not stand a reasonable chance to complete their studies successfully. It seems unlikely, given the present economic climate, that the model will ever be implemented.

The CUP's finance committee has, after consultations with the DNE, constituted a steering committee to revise some crucial aspects of the existing subsidy formula. The aim is to address problem areas in the formula and incorporate significant cost factors which have either been disregarded, or have gained importance since the introduction of the formula in 1984. Some of the aspects being covered

include a reflection of the real cost structure of universities, creating more categories of students according to cost of training, provision of subsidy for academic support etc.

The CUP decided to make a special appeal to the Minister, as an interim measure, to be allowed to make inputs into his Department's budgetary process for 1992, so as to prevent a recurrence of the most unfortunate 1991 subsidy events.

Investigations into the AIPF

The CUP has noted with concern the poor financial position of the AIPF and the huge actuarial deficit. A specialist ad hoc committee has been investigating the matter.

The main question which could not be answered, was whether government was willing to accept a moral responsibility towards making up the deficit. A meeting was held with the Deputy Director-General of the Department of Finance to discuss a long list of questions. During the meeting it came to light that the government had commissioned an investigation into all five government-managed pension funds and that enabling legislation was to be passed by parliament soon.

This was substantiated by the passing of the Financial Institutions Second Amendment Act in June, from which it is clear that the state is committed to contribute towards eradicating some of the shortfall. As was the case last year, another R1 000 million was made available through the Finance Act, which will be divided between the AIPF, the GSPF and the TEPF.

Regarding the establishment of boards of trustees for the pension funds and related issues, the CUP stated that steps should be taken to ensure that the CUP will be approached in time to comment on any proposed regulations and on the compilation of the board.

Rhodos survey page 1

working overtime. For eight months we had some help from Albert le Roux, our Technikon student assistant, but he could not be expected to produce the kind of material people would like to see, particularly as reporting for *Rhodos* was only one of his many duties. Ideally, *Rhodos* should have at least one full-time member of staff. It is unlikely that this will ever happen, so we need contribu-

tions from all sections of the University community.

I find it hard to believe that staff members, particularly academics, cannot find the time to write short articles (maximum 500 words) on topics in their fields of interest that could be of interest to other members of staff.

What's On?

I recently had a call from an aggrieved member of staff complaining that nothing had appeared in *Rhodos* about an event he was or-

RUSA NEWS

by Mary C Allen, Chairperson

THE UNIVERSITY is considering the introduction of an identification system on campus where all staff members will be issued with a card.

Mr Bruce Smith, Director of Personnel, approached RUSA for comment on this. It is not envisaged that the identification card will be required to be worn pinned to clothing, but will be of a size which can be accommodated in an average wallet or purse.

The RUSA executive at its last meeting approved, in principle, the implementation of such a system and recognizes the need for ready identification at Rhodes. Students, by virtue of their student cards, are easily identifiable and are expected to present their student cards, if requested, by officials of the University.

The University buildings are easily accessible to the public, particularly during the day, and some form of control is deemed necessary. It is well known that large corporations as well as smaller businesses have for some years required employees to carry staff identification and in many instances such identification provides access to facilities in the workplace.

RUSA welcomes comment from staff members, the communication of which may be forwarded in writing to the Chairperson.

University Awards

In April RUSA received a letter from Mr R L Tilney querying his eligibility for an Alty Award. He was informed that this award was only available for full-time academic staff. Mr Tilney is a contract researcher and graduated at Rhodes with a PhD in the Department of Ichthyology and Fisheries Science in April.

Mr Tilney asked RUSA to investigate the inclusion of contract researchers because:

- government subsidies accrue to the University on the strength of their publications,
- they are frequently called upon to assist and advise both undergraduate and graduate students at Rhodes
- they represent the University at conferences and symposia and in their dealings with the press
- their activities are essentially similar to those of full-time Research officers at Rhodes. The fact that they are eligible for Alty Awards by virtue of their academic status would imply that lecturing is not a prerequisite for eligibility.

RUSA took the matter up with the University administration and the success in extending the eligibility of the Alty Awards is evidenced by the following letter, addressed to the past Chairperson of RUSA.

Dear Mr Eller,

I would like to thank you very much for supporting my application for the Thomas Alty Award. I am most grateful to you and to RUSA. I was encouraged to read that administrative staff are now also eligible for an award and look forward to the day when the academic endeavours of service staff are similarly recognized. Keep up the good work!

Yours sincerely,

R L Tilney

(The Thomas Alty Award is made to staff members who complete Masters or Doctoral degrees or their equivalents. The Vice-Chancellor's Award is made not only to administrative staff, but to all non-academic staff who have improved their professional qualifications - Ed)

ganizing. He was quite taken aback when I pointed out that he had not told us about it. "What's On" should include every event organized at Rhodes, but it cannot if YOU don't tell us!

Censorship

One survey respondent made a statement that requires an answer: "The fact that some letters written to it (*Rhodos*) are not published. The implication is that censorship occurs." All letters sent to *Rhodos* are published if they are signed.

Noms de plume are accepted, as long as the Editor has a signed copy of the letter. No newspaper publishes anonymous letters, and *Rhodos* is no exception.

Legal advice

On one occasion we took legal advice on the contents of a letter, but consulted the writer of the letter on the necessary amendments before they were made. On occasion we have shortened letters - again a practice common to all newspapers.

Racism, sexism, sexual harassment?

by Daryl McLean

At the UDUSA national conference held in Durban during July, a resolution was passed calling on all branches of UDUSA to set up committees to monitor racism and sexism (including sexual harassment) at universities. The RUSA committee at Rhodes, as an affiliate of UDUSA, feels that setting up such a committee would be an important step in addressing racism and sexism; however, we feel that we need clarity on a number of issues:

- what would count as an instance of racism or sexism (or sexual harassment)?
 - how would this committee monitor such practices?
 - what would the committee do when it encounters racism or sexism?
 - how would the committee relate to UDUSA/RUSA, to NEHAWU, to student organizations or the administration?
 - who would be represented on the committee (academics, clerical and technical staff, workers, students, the administration, the community)?
- The RUSA committee feels that a committee such as has been proposed cannot be set up until these questions have been addressed. To this end, we propose setting up a working group which would have the responsibility of:
- investigating how other universities are addressing this issue.
 - consulting as widely as possible around setting up such a committee at Rhodes.
 - calling a public meeting to discuss the proposal.
 - working towards the establishment of this committee, should the proposal be favourably endorsed during the consultative process.
- If you would like to be part of this working group, or would like to nominate somebody to be part of the group, please contact the RUSA secretary, Kathy Holten, at 2 6743 (w) or 23228 (h) or speak to any member of the RUSA executive.

- In addition, if you have any ideas which you would like the working group to take into consideration, please send these to Kathy (in writing) c/o Anthony Ware, Department of Zoology & Entomology.

Education Renewal Strategy flawed

by Gary Norton

FEEDBACK Report: On a panel discussion, hosted by the RUSA working group on UDUSA affairs, on Wednesday October 2, convened to discuss reaction to the Education Renewal Strategy recently released by the government for comment. Panellists were Professor Terry Marsh (Dean of Education), Professor Pat Irwin (Education department HOD) and Professor Ray Tunmer (also of the Education department). Peter Glover chaired the session.

So where's the renewal in the strategy?

The ERS has been widely rejected by organisations to both the political right and left. The Education department at Rhodes has drawn up its own comprehensive response to the report, finding the ERS flawed in many respects. During the panel discussion, key aspects of the response formulated by the Education department were presented and are summarised here:

Unveiling ERS to the public

Pat Irwin described the ERS as ham-handed, impractical and devoid of any clearly stated philosophy or ideology. He said that the document failed to address why education in South Africa is in its present parlous state, and thus omitted to make recommendations within that context. He added that one of the strongest objections to the strategy was its top-down nature; answers needed to be sought through much wider debate, such as in a National Convention. In terms of the ERS, the State sought to play down its responsibility in the education process, yet according to the UN Charter on Human Rights, a government has an obligation to provide fair and just education for all.

Terry Marsh noted that there was a discrepancy between media reports on the ERS and actual content of the strategy. He cited the example of seven years of free and compulsory schooling reported in the press, whereas the ERS contains only vague references to the status of education, with no prescription on compulsion. Moreover, government action in closing of colleges and "underutilised" schools, has been at odds with the ERS proposals.

Distance Education

Pat Irwin suggested that recommendations concerning distance education, however unclearly expressed in the ERS, had merit, but that any such policy must be implemented on educational grounds,

and not simply for budgetary reasons alone. The ERS proposal that distance education be considered for pre-primary children was strongly criticised by the panellists as wholly inappropriate.

School Curricula

Pat Irwin said that implicit in the report was the assumption that the present curriculum is sound; he found this disturbing. The report consequently failed to address recommendations concerning major reform of the syllabus and curriculum, especially life skills education. He said that it was essential to have all stakeholders, especially parents and teachers, involved in the process of reforming syllabi and in the selection of textbooks, which should be both readable and affordable. He added that it was essential to improve the teaching of Maths, to re-examine the role of English and the importance of environmental education and ethics.

Primary and Teacher Education

Pat Irwin stressed the need to emphasise a learner-centred approach to primary education, which needs to be formative education, not vocational.

Panellists expressed their disappointment at the absence of imagination displayed in the report concerning teacher training, especially as far as professional growth was concerned.

Tertiary Education

Ray Tunmer noted that Technikons are growing at 17 percent a year, compared with five percent in Universities; a government policy clearly aimed at fostering the growth of Technikons at the expense of Universities. With the University:Technikon student ratio of 7:2, some action was clearly appropriate, but he expressed the concern that the present approach may

reinforce a thought-curtain between the institutions, resulting in Universities becoming more elitist.

He criticized the present system of terminal assessments, at all levels of education, stressing the need for a far more flexible approach. He also commented sternly on the JMB-based view of secondary education, which he doubted had undergone much change since its inception in 1916. Ray Tunmer spoke of the merit of introducing an intervening year between school and university, a so-called EDUCON, providing such an initiative was obligatory for all and was used as a resource-building environment, rather than a system harbouring those who are "second-best".

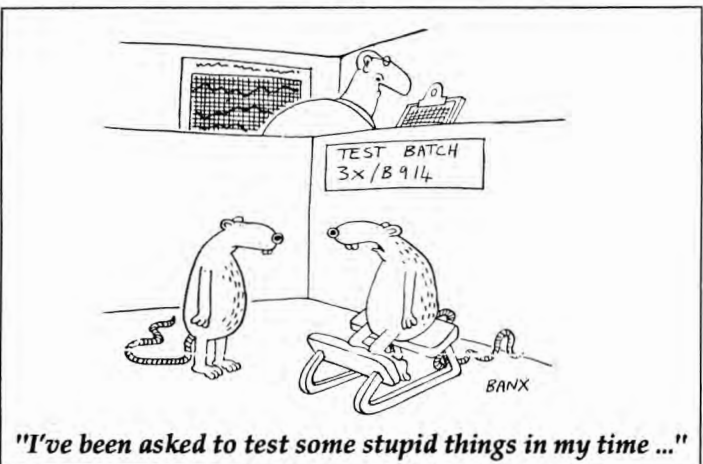
Is there merit in the ERS?

Terry Marsh noted that while the ERS was gravely flawed, he found the initiative significant, in that the proposals were, for the first time, not structured on race; it envisaged a devolution of power; there was an expressed commitment to compulsory schooling; and there was some support given to rationalisation of the curriculum.

During the ensuing discussion, Pat Irwin stressed the need for urgent rationalisation at all levels. He suggested that universities might be reduced to five or six, with one university in each envisaged Federal State. Thus there could be a University of the Eastern Cape, with a number of campuses, offering part-time diplomas in addition to existing courses.

The assembly agreed that there was a dire need to offer more flexible entry requirements at university-level, while keeping exit requirements tight; although the "revolving door" syndrome would also have to be avoided.

The possibility of developing a Mission statement for Rhodes was discussed.



A summer visit to China 登

by Prof Doug Rivett

THIS year is the 700th anniversary of Marco Polo's departure from China after a stay of 17 years. Although our party of 12 which had gathered in Hong-Kong on August 17 spent less than that number of days there, this was our most fascinating tour ever. A three and a half hour train-ride from Hong-Kong (soft-seat class) took us to Guangzhou (Canton) where we met our young guide, Ellen, who accompanied us throughout our tour, although in the other cities we also had a local guide.

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Dim Sum and Double Happiness

In Guangzhou we experienced Cantonese cuisine (Ellen said it was the best!) when we had a dim sum lunch in the First Lotus Flower restaurant, near the Chen Clan Classical Learning Academy. This was followed by a visit to the temple of the Six Banyan Trees with its three large copper Buddhas.

It is worth emphasizing that throughout our stay, we stayed in most sumptuous hotels. Thus, the White Swan in Guangzhou is reputedly one of the best in Asia and had photographs of amongst others, Queen Elizabeth and Richard Nixon staying there. Excepting for a western breakfast in the hotel all our meals were Chinese and in different restaurants.

The meals came in 9, 12, 15 and even 18 dishes and most of us persisted in using chopsticks, even if it took longer to eat! The light beer - a popular brand called Double Happiness - was consumed in quantity! By the way, toilets are known as Happy Rooms, an apt description.

Guangzhou, a harbour city on the Pearl river, some 60km from the sea, is densely populated and we walked in the narrow streets, teeming with people and bicycles, fascinated by the exotic foods, fishes in bowls, shops selling only tea, etc.

The city was the home of Dr Sun Yat Sen, the father of modern China and has a large statue of him in front of a Memorial Hall. Interestingly, he is revered in both China and Taiwan, unlike Mao Zedong or Chiang Kai-shek.

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Glorious silk

The following day we drove to Foshan, an attractive city, by air-

conditioned minibus - we had one at our disposal throughout China - along a toll-road, reputedly one of the finest in the country. We visited a cloisonne factory where we followed the seven stages of manufacture, starting with the inner copper vessel and ending with the intricate enamelled painting usually of dragons. In another factory we saw silk being spun and woven. This is partly a home industry with the farmers growing the mulberry trees, raising the silkworms and sending the cocoons to the factory. Then on to a jade carving factory where some articles take months to complete. One of the joys of a visit to China is that goods are cheap, even for the weak Rand, and our party, especially the ladies, revelled in the bargain price shopping. A silk tie, for instance, cost R10 and an excellent cotton shirt R20.

A two and a half hour jet-ride took us northwards to Xi'an in Shaanxi province, the capital of China for nine centuries. Here the Silk Road dating from Roman times, began. The city has a large Muslim community and as we drove from the airport that evening we saw and smelt the mutton braais. It is very noticeable that everywhere families and friends gather on the side-walks at night for meals and company, doubtless because of the heat and the fact that their homes are so cramped. Street-lighting is virtually absent and you have to rely on the occasional light from a house or shop.

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Terracotta warriors

Xi'an is now full of tourists because of the terracotta warriors discovered there almost 20 years ago. This and the Great Wall must surely be the greatest attraction for the visitor. Well before his death in 210 BC, the emperor Qin Shi Huangdi conscripted hundreds of thousands of his subjects to build a tomb under an artificial hill nearby, as yet unexcavated. This was guarded by thousands of pottery soldiers and their horses, slightly larger than life-size, which now lie buried under an arched structure resembling an aircraft hanger. From walkways one can see the crumbled state of the figures in the excavated trenches. Hundreds have been put together and stand in ranks, each an individual with varying headdress, moustache or beard or a different look

about the eyes. The Big Wild Goose Pagoda was another attraction.

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Daily carpet change

Then on to Beijing which has only one airport, now being enlarged, for its 10m inhabitants. We stayed in the fabulous Kunlun hotel (978 rooms, eight restaurants) in the new eastern part of the city. The carpets in the lifts were changed daily at midnight to tell what day it was in English and Chinese!

Beijing is a huge, modern, spacious city with tree-lined streets and many places of interest.

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Hall of Supreme Harmony

On Tiananmen square, said to be large enough to hold a million people, there is a most imposing obelisk with an inscription in Mao's own handwriting "Eternal glory to the people's heroes" where young people clad in red and white stand on guard. It is also a popular place for flying kites. The Forbidden City is exquisite, with many beautiful buildings. One of these is the Hall of Supreme Harmony where the Son of Heaven sat on his Dragon Throne. Leading down one side is a 16 metre-long stone carving (John Major appeared here on TV recently) of interlacing lotuses and dragons. The Summer Palace is another attraction. Set in a large park it has a shallow lake on which dragon-prowed boats were cruising but in the winter, we were told, this is a skating area.

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Great Wall: highlight

The Great Wall, a one and a half hour bus-ride to the north of Beijing, was certainly the highlight of our tour. The three kilometre restored stretch at Badaling was teeming with visitors, so we chose to take the cable car to the summit and walk down to avoid the crowds. The wall, which winds over the mountain tops and down into the valleys, is still well preserved but the paving in the distance was obviously overgrown with weeds. You could continue walking west until you reached the Gobi Desert. The stalls at Badaling had the finest selection of tourist goods, from T-shirts to solar-powered cooling fans on peaked caps, we came across in China. On

our way home we visited the Ming Tombs where 13 of the 16 emperors are buried. The kilometre long Avenue of the Animals lined with massive statues of real and mythical animals, down which the funeral corteges passed, is very impressive.

From Beijing we flew to beautiful Guilin, where we had a four-hour cruise down the Li river. The limestone formation or karst wooded peaks are a photographer's dream. Water-buffalo fed on the river-weed and one saw fishermen with captive cormorants with rings around their necks to prevent them swallowing the fish they had caught. Because of their shapes the peaks have beautiful descriptive names such as Elephant Trunk Hill, Camel Hill, Thousand Buddha Cliff. We visited the Reed Flute Cave with its many formations of stalagmites and stalactites.

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Bicycles galore

Finally a few comments. There are virtually no private cars in China but everyone seems to have a bicycle. Filling stations are few and unobtrusive, tucked away off the road. Taxis and buses are Japanese-manufactured but the many heavy trucks are Chinese. Our guide, Ellen, smiled when I told of my surprise at not seeing people in Mao-jackets and said these disappeared about 10 years ago. People wore Western-style clothing, sandals were common and many men were in shorts. There were surprisingly few American tourists, most of those around us being Italians. China has a unique two-tier currency system, the FEC (foreign exchange currency) and the standard RMB (renminbi or peoples money). The abacus is used in shops and adds as fast as a calculator.

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Spoilt little emperors

We were told that the government's population control measures whereby families are limited to a single child are well-enforced in urban areas, but were less successful in rural areas. Of an evening one often saw a parent taking junior for a bicycle ride. Not surprisingly, these children are very spoilt by parents and grandparents and have come to be known as the "Little Emperors"!

LETTERBOX



Making contact

JENNIFER Goodfellow, an old Rhodian now living in the United Kingdom, would like to hear from old friends at Rhodes and in Grahamstown.

Her address is: 107 Hull Road, Yorkshire, YO3JU, United Kingdom.

THE EDITOR

NOTICE-BOARDS on the Rhodes campus are a disgrace! The glassed boards used for official notices in the central area of the campus frequently have out-of-date information and quite often the notices have spelling and grammatical errors. The 'non-official' boards are even worse - old, tatty windswept notices, notices stuck on top of notices, etc. Surely someone at Rhodes must be responsible for seeing that the notice-boards serve their proper purpose - to inform staff and students of forthcoming events and remind them of deadlines? I shudder to think what visitors to Rhodes think of us.

Tidy-minded

THE EDITOR

IS Dr Buijs serious or has she written her letter of condemnation with tongue-in-cheek? I thought the lighthearted "Ode to a single man" extremely funny and not without a certain element of truth! I hardly think, as a relative newcomer to Grahamstown, that Dr Buijs is in any position to comment on the morals of the Grahamstown community.

Old Timer

THE EDITOR

FOR the first time I have heard the cuckoo's call in September - on the 30th at 7 am. I think this is remarkable considering that the bird is known locally as "Christmas box" - indicating its usual visiting time to be nearer the end of the year. Do you or your readers think patterns of nature are changing?

By the way, I saw my first swallow this year on October 3. Is this earlier than usual?

Richard Buckland

The odder the better

UNIDENTIFIED flying omelettes that are hot off the press. Lesbian vampires, talking tortoises and levitating nuns are nothing special to the editors of the *Fortean Times*.

The latest issue of their magazine, sub-titled the *Journal of Strange Phenomena*, also includes an interview with a woman who drilled a hole in her head to stimulate mental activity. She later stood unsuccessfully for parliament to try to have the technique made available free in British hospitals.

Once bought by only 1 800 mail-order subscribers, the *Fortean Times* now has a new publisher who this month distributed 45 000 copies to bookstalls around Britain.

The editors Bob Rickard and Paul Sieveking, who produce the *Fortean Times* from a small house in London, have thrown in their lot with John Brown who made his name as a publisher when he boosted sales of the cult comic *Viz* to one million.

"We've always known we had a wider appeal," Rickard said in an interview. "What everybody is interested in is a sensible discussion of

these odd phenomena - not simply dismissive."

Their magazine is named after Charles Fort, an iconoclastic American philosopher who believed that mainstream scientists ignored things they could not explain.

Since the *Fortean Times* was founded 18 years ago, the editors have published plenty of things they cannot, and do not, seek to explain.

A woman in the Philippines claimed to have given birth to mud-fish. In China people queue up to be diagnosed by Zheng Xiangling, known as the walking X-ray machine because she can see through her patients.

Californian firemen were non-plussed when a parrot they were trying to rescue from a tree taunted them with the words: "I can talk. Can you fly?"

An English bull terrier puppy called Megan dialled 999, the emergency number for police, ambulance or the fire brigade, with her nose while her owners were out.

Elsewhere in Britain, a school was the target of UFOs - unidentified flying omelettes. Children scram-

MORE ON VAT

by Liz Leiper

WE ARE still awaiting clarification from the Receiver of Revenue regarding the University's liability for VAT.

There are certain areas, however, where this tax will be payable. These are outlined below and Departments, Divisions, etc. should check to see whether any of their activities fall within these areas. In certain instances, accounts maintained on behalf of individual staff members will also attract VAT. All staff should be aware of the liability for the tax on future funds received for the following accounts:

- Outside Consultancy
- Contract Research - where the researcher is approached to do a specific piece of research
- Subcontracts from other Institutions to perform a specific task in a research programme
- Conferences and Workshops open to members of the public who are not employed in an academic position at other universities or Research Institutions
- Courses held for members of the public which do not form part of the formal instruction curriculum
- Sales of livestock, fish, etc.
- Sales to members of staff of stock held for resale to students
- Any service supplied to members of the public, staff or other Institutions i.e. PLATO charges, computer repairs, etc.

- Sale of Theatre tickets
- Hire of University facilities or premises by members of the public

In addition, sales of books, publications, musical instruments, etc., to members of staff or to the public (NOT students) will attract VAT. GST paid on stock acquired after March 25, 1991 will be reclaimable when items are sold. Please forward stock sheets listing such items, showing date of acquisition, cost price excluding GST, and GST paid, to Finance Division, for my attention. When items are sold, Finance should be advised of the sale, the amount of VAT collected and the GST to be claimed. Once these stocks are exhausted, sales and purchases will revert to the normal system then in force for VAT accounting. Should any of the foregoing areas be applicable to your Department or staff, please ensure that all invoices, etc. for payment, and sales proceeds or requests for Tax Invoices are sent to Mrs Leiper, Finance Division, in envelopes which are prominently marked "VAT."

Should a Tax Invoice not be issued where applicable, and VAT not be recovered from the purchaser of goods or services, the necessary amount will have to be deducted from the proceeds received. It is therefore essential that Tax Invoices be requested from the Finance Division, quoting the details outlined in our Circular Letter 14/1991.

Rhodes historians to the fore

THE RHODES History Department had a particularly strong presence at a conference on the 'mfecane' held at Wits early in September.

The conference grew out of ideas developed by Dr Julian Cobbing, senior lecturer in History at Rhodes, during the past ten years. Dr Cobbing delivered the opening keynote address, in addition to two other papers, at the con-

ference. Six current or former Rhodes history students delivered papers; and Professor Paul Maylam, head of department, was a member of the wrap-up panel.

Professor Pat McAllister, ISER Director, and Ms Marian Lacey, lecturer in Political Studies, also attended the conference.

Former Rhodes historian, Professor Jeff Peires, tabled a paper in absentia.

bled for cover as eggs fell out of the sky. The *Fortean Times* quoted a mother as saying: "They must drop from high up because they make a terrific noise when they hit the ground."

Under the headline "Mass Elk Death," the magazine recounted how 61 of the animals met their end together after falling from a cliff in the mountains of Colorado.

Behind the magazine's penchant for the bizarre and perplexing, lies a

serious purpose. "Philosophically we feel we're on safe ground in discussing the way people think about these phenomena, so we feel quite justified in publishing a completely preposterous story," Rickard said.

"It involves all sorts of questions about the nature of reality and what we are prepared to accept in the way of evidence of unusual behaviour or phenomena."

Will the bucket simply get bigger?

by Keith Coman - Department of Business Administration

GST was introduced in July 1978 at a rate of 4 per cent. On April 7 of the same year, the Financial Mail published an interview with the then Inland Revenue Secretary. Some (ironic) extracts:

"The ideal is that there will be no escalation of GST."

"No provision has been made for exemption of staple foodstuffs. Rather the policy is to hold down the price of basic foods through subsidy."

"It won't be easy to find loopholes in GST. Unlike a multi-stage tax such as VAT, it also should avoid price escalation effects through the manufacturing and distribution process, as well as multi-collection difficulties."

"Inland Revenue will employ a 400-man staff to administer GST. Most will be pure administrators. But these inspectors will, initially at least, be educators helping momma-and-poppa shops solve their reporting problems."

"The mere existence of all these new inspectors could scare fully into the tax net the thousands of businesses which traditionally have

Bask with a Botsbasket

by Robyn Riddle

With the introduction of "Botsbaskets" at the Provost Craft Shop, staff members will now be able to indulge their appetites for teatime treats and tasty lunches.

This new venture offers Grahamstonians the chance to collect an elegantly packed tea or lunch basket from the shop and enjoy a picnic in the Botanical Gardens. (While you wait, take some time to view the wonderful collection of home-made clothing, jewellery, pottery and gifts in the Craft Shop)

The service is offered every weekday from 10.00am - 1.00pm and 2.00pm - 5.00pm and also on Saturdays and Sundays from 3.00pm - 5.00pm. The "Botsbasket-ers" would be very happy to supply freshly-baked muffins, carrot cake

and chocolate cake for staff teas. These could be ordered in advance and collected when needed. Smaller orders are available at all times, when three types of tea, coffee, fruit juices and home-baked goods are available at the cost of R2 - R3 per head, depending on your choices.

Lunch baskets need to be ordered in advance. Lunches are light and customers can choose from a small menu of patés, quiches and filled rolls.

It is hoped that this venture will encourage staff, students and the general public to use and appreciate the Botanical Gardens. So, come and indulge - and help to bring "Bots" alive again. Enquiries and orders - phone: 22312 and ask for The Provost.

SNIPPETS & SNIP

Anatomy Mystery

A STUDY has revealed that one in 20 people think that their brain is the size of a broad bean.

When Dr Ally Rashid quizzed 1 000 patients in Leicester, he was amazed that their knowledge of anatomy was so appalling.

He also found people were convinced the heart was situated in the neck area and many who did not know where their kidneys and lungs were.

"It worries me," he said.

"How can you talk to patients about their symptoms?"

Did you know?

- Human failure was found to contribute to 90.6 per cent of traffic collisions investigated by the National Road Safety Council (NRSC).
- South Africa's first motoring legislation, banned the country's first car from the road!
- American studies show that up to 20 per cent of traffic accidents are caused by motorists falling asleep behind the wheel.
- About 1 800 schools, involving some 27 000 pupils, are concerned with scholars' patrols
- A new kind of taxi is being planned for South Africa. The 'Taximan' will have a larger and more comfortable interior with a lower luggage compartment. It is designed for stability, accessibility and better ventilation.

The good ol' days

WHILST delving into old files recently, Jean McPherson, of the Public Relations Division, found some interesting figures. On May 4, 1922,

a dinner was held in the College House Dining Hall to mark the opening of the Arts Block.

The costs of the dinner were as follows:

Mineral Water	13/3
Drinks, etc.	2-10/0
Vegetables, fruit, cheese, groceries	2-11/6
2 dozen flowers	3-0/0
3 lbs bacon	4/6
Rolls	8/4
Hire Wine Glasses	2/3
Fish	1-0/0
Meat	1-6/9
Total	11-16/7
2 Waiters	15/0
Washing up women	10/0
Total	13-1/7

The account for the celebratory tea party (presumably held on the afternoon of the same day) was:

Abbots account cakes	19/9
Smiths account rolls and cakes	12/7
Alexanders account flowers	3/0
1 gal. milk (O'Brien)	1/0
half lb tea (Reed and Mansfield)	1/3
5 lbs sugar (Reed and Mansfield)	1/5
one and a half lbs butter (Tweespruit)	1/9
Fichats account sandwich paste	6/0
Total	2-7/0

Itchy?

You may not have heard, but the university now has another department - The Department of Itchology. On a recent vehicle licence renewal form, the address of the owner was given as Itchology Department. Now you know where to go during the mosquito season.

Library Journal Subscriptions

by Brian Paterson, University Librarian

IN spite of a careful cancellation exercise carried out in consultation with Fort Hare and UPE in 1988, we again face a situation where the cost of journals is making serious inroads into funds. A number of new subscriptions have been placed over the past few years. The cost of these has risen inexorably, in some cases by very large amounts.

The poor use made of some titles which we buy, is also a cause for concern. Obviously a research collection of repute cannot consist only of a handful of the most "popular" titles. However, we need to consider at what point it becomes more cost-effective to make use of inter-library loans for the small number of articles which are consulted from some more specialized titles.

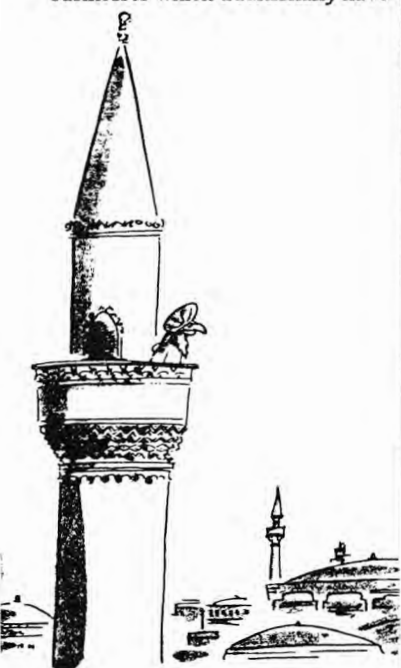
The library is setting out to improve the access to journal articles as far as possible through the medium of indexes available on compact disc. These resources have already had a visible impact on the use made of titles which are well-indexed.

Clearly, the availability of efficient indexing must become an important factor when considering buying new titles in future, or when evaluating which existing titles to retain. Good indexes also enable us to locate useful information in titles not held in our own library.

Preparations will be made soon for consultations regarding possible cancellations of subscriptions during 1992 for 1993. We are all aware of how important it is not to make mistakes which will present us with problems in later years, so the process must be careful and reasoned.

In future, when you submit a recommendation for a new periodical subscription, would you please attach a motivation for the purchase to the recommendation card (green card). Such a motivation should indicate whether the title is seen as primarily a teaching or research source, or whether or whether it will be used for both. What aspect of your discipline will be covered by the journal and how will it fit into the collection already maintained by the University library? What volume of use is envisaged for the proposed new title? This information will facilitate decision-making regarding the proposed new journal titles.

Financial circumstances dictate that we must seek to derive the maximum possible benefit from the funds which we have available. Your co-operation in this matter is therefore greatly appreciated.



"OK, while you're on your knees, let's try a few simple exercises to tone up those flabby tummy muscles."

Applications are invited for the following posts

■ System's Administrator: Rhodes University Library Computer System

The University has recently installed the URICA Integrated System in its Library. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day administration of the system, including such tasks as making back-ups and print-outs, liaison between the Library departments which use the system, and contact with suppliers and maintenance contractors for both hardware and software to ensure that the system operates efficiently. Experience in a comparable computerized Library environment or a formal qualification in either Librarianship and Information Science or Computer Science would be a recommendation, but is not a requirement.

Closing date: October 23

■ Warden of Hobson Hall (either full-time or part-time)

The successful candidate will be responsible for the general administration of the three houses in Hobson Hall and for the overall care for the women students in the Hall.

The post may be filled on either a full- or part-time basis and candidates are asked to indicate their preference. If the post is filled part-time, the successful candidate will be provided with mornings-only secretarial assistance.

Benefits include free accommodation, electricity and water throughout the year, and free meals and laundry during University terms and when available during vacations.

Closing date: October 25, 1991

Application forms can be obtained from Mrs S Stephenson, Personnel Division, or ext 115.

Accommodation for postgrad students

Heads of Departments are asked to inform the Registrar of the names of any research students completing a thesis who might need University accommodation in December 1991 and early January 1992.

It would be appreciated if this information could be submitted by October 10, 1991.

Help cut fax costs

THE PRINTING and Stationery Unit have supplies of Post-it Telefax notes, which can be used to replace fax cover-sheets, thus cutting the time taken transmitting faxes and reducing the costs.

FAX	TO: _____
FAX NO: _____	PAGE: _____ OF: _____
ATTENTION OF: _____	
FROM: _____	DATE: _____
COMPANY: _____	
FAX NO: _____	Post-It Notes from 3M

Answer to the bottle problem

ALL returnable bottles and non-returnable liquor and wine bottles, excepting dumpies, very small wine bottles and 2L Valley bottles are accepted by Peter Gordon, who runs Ekowise. You can deliver them to Ekowise at 24 Seymour Street, or, if you have a reasonable number of bottles,

telephone 2 4415 and they will be collected.

Ekowise will also collect cardboard, paper and plastic. They would prefer the material to be sorted into these categories, but will collect 'mixed' bundles of material, as they employ sorters.

• SMALLS •

• ADVERTISING RATES •

Block ads: R2,00 per col cm, double for back and front pages.

Classifieds: R0,10 per word. Advertising is run on a strictly cash basis. Please take your copy to the Public Relations Division.

• PROPERTY •

AMROSE ESTATES For buying, selling and renting of residential property, farms and smallholdings, please contact one of our dynamic team who will go all out to help you. Rose Calmeyer, Louise Lithgow, Angie Parsotam and Lizo Zake at Tel: 22695

BEAUMONT AND TATHAM Estate agents for professional service in the buying and selling of houses and smallholdings. Contact us first. Office 311289. Dorothy, after hours 23104.

• SECURITY •

HI-TEC Security Home and car burglar alarms at competitive prices. Less 10% for students. Phone Andrew at 24528 (all hours)

• SHOE REPAIRS •

Supersole Shoe and Leather Repairs We guarantee high quality repairs at the lowest prices in town. Rhodes staff and students get a further 10% discount. We are at the SBDC complex (opp. OK furniture store).

• ACCOMMODATION •

Young family seeks accommodation for 1992/93. 2-3 bedroom house/flat. Tel: 25600 (evenings). Contact: Chantelle

• FOR SALE •

DOCTORAL GOWN, hat, etc. for sale. Tel 24770

AUTOVILLA VW 2L 1982 under 50 000km, very good condition, incl. rally awning, radio, gun safe. R32 500 onco. No Vat. Phone Dave, ext 147, or 24814.

Birch's 100% texturized polyester **ACADEMIC GOWN** size L50, price negotiable. Contact Keith Morkel, Oakdene or phone 2 2005. Also English Department.

• MUSICIAN WANTED •

Andrew Tracey's Steelband needs a bright musician to play Cello Pans, one of the inside parts. Fun, rhythmic, involving music. Full on-the-job training for the right person. Phone Andrew Tracey, day: 2 2023, ext 557

Settler— Properties

For Real Service

Church Square (next to Clicks) Buying or selling a property? For a professional efficient and friendly service contact Laraine Haydock ... not at the Printing Unit but at Settler Properties. Tel: 25448 (w) or 22938 (h).

- R40 000 Central Bachelor flat
- R85 000 Central 2-bedroom flat
- R85 000 3 bedrooms - nice kitchen & bathroom - Sunnyside
- R80 000 Between Graeme & Kingswood. 3 bedrooms with bics. Garage & carport. **SOLE AGENTS**

- R130 000 45ha smallholding 20 kms from town. Irrigation. Ample water. 4 bedroom home.
- R140 000 Near Kingswood & Graeme. 3 bedroom home plus 3 outside bedrooms. Double garage. Lovely garden.
- R149 000 Modern 3 bedroom home plus study. 1 bathroom. Close to Rhodes & DSG.
- R153 000 Oatlands. Facebrick. 4 bedrooms plus study. 2 bathrooms. Flat potential.
- R175 000 Stoneshill. 3 000m. Fantastic view! 4 bedroom home. 3 bathrooms. Pool.
- R180 000 Oatlands. Character-filled Settler home. Delightful entertainment/pub area opening onto beautiful secluded garden with pool.
- R200 000 Smallholding. 24ha 15 mins from town. 4 bedroom 2 bathroom house. Lovely pastures, river frontage. Plenty water.
- R213 000 Executive facebrick home. Cottage windows. 4 bedrooms. Beautiful study. Fantastic entertainment area at pool. Lovely view. In Hills View.
- R220 000 Westhill. Large gracious executive home. Quality with charm.

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- Bathurst Street R275 000 Income R3 700pm
- High Street R445 000 Income R4 800pm
- Bathurst Street R190 000 Income R2 900pm

Plus many more.

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You snooze, you lose! Advertise in Rhodos!

WHAT'S ON

?

Thursday, October 17

Public Lecture: "Laws of Nature - or are they" by Professor Christoph Leubner

- Physics Upper Lecture Theatre, 7.30pm

Saturday, October 19

CRICKET

RU 1 vs Omega

- Great Field

RU 2 vs Sevenfountains

- Away

Rhodes University Women's Association Dinner Dance.

Tickets R45 double

- Rhodes Club 8.00pm

Sunday, October 20

CRICKET

RU 1 vs Omega

- Great Field

RU 2 vs Salem

- Prospect

WATERPOLO

RU 2 vs Uitenhage 2

- Uitenhage 2pm

RU 1 vs Uitenhage 1

- Uitenhage 4.45pm

RU 2 vs UPE 2

- Uitenhage 3.30pm

RU 1 vs UPE 1

- Uitenhage 4.15pm

Monday, October 21

Swot Week begins

Monday, October 28

Exams begin

Monday, November 4, 1991

AGM: Royal Society of South Africa (East Cape Centre)

- Tea room, Department of Zoology & Entomology 7.00pm

Schonland Memorial Lecture of the Royal Society of South Africa (East Cape Centre): *The Life and Works of Michael Faraday*. Professor Peter Ford of the School of Physics, Bath University, England

- Lecture Theatre 02, Department of Zoology & Entomology 7.30pm

Monday, November 21

Medicaid Clinic

- Personnel 9.00 am - 12 noon

SOME OF US ARE TOUGH

by Ros Parker

WITH dread in our hearts after listening to the weather report we set off for the Groendal Nature Reserve recently in the "Blue Bomber" and the "Yellow Peril," to complete a hike which has been reopened to the public after three years. Our first stop was in Uitenhage to ask directions at the friendly "Wors Champion," a local butcher, who obviously makes the best wors! ("Sweetcorn's" theory is: ask a butcher for directions - he always knows!)

The forest station was a short slide down a dirt road on the Reserve and after checking in and being joined by a local Boetie who needed a party of at least eight to get into the Reserve, we set off for the 'Begin punt' which happened to be across a slow-flowing river. After an hour of unsuccessful hunting for the trail the whole team decided to drive to the finish of the hike and walk the wrong-way-round.

Beautiful countryside met our eyes at the top of the first steep climb - acre after acre of colourful fynbos and brilliant green protea bushes in bud. The hike was uneventful until six of us decided to have a short tea-break and rested our weary bones in the shade of a small tree. The three leaders got a bit worried at our non-appearance and "Compass" came back to check on us and lead us to the others, but after collecting his brood of missing chicks, he took the wrong fork in the rather overgrown path and led us in the wrong direction! We bravely fought our way through thorn bushes, heading towards the sound of the others calling us (most of us being emotionally scarred for life by

such a harrowing experience!) We found them at the top of the last down-climb leading into the valley of the Groendal Dam. This climb was horrendous and we slid down, narrowly escaping death by avoiding toppling over and over our heavy back-packs to land in the vicious rocks below us! The scene that greeted us at the bottom was worth the risk - a grove of trees nestled along the dry river bed and we walked across a carpet of dried leaves to find the perfect camp-site.

The camp was set up and before dark overtook us we prepared supper. Different smells filled the air, the most appetizing being corned beef, onions and Smash. An hilarious evening next to the campfire followed - drinking 'OBs' decanted into an empty Listerine bottle is quite an experience.

After much giggling and joking things settled down. The night was filled with strange sounds - animals going walkabout and the camp's cacophony of snores, grunts and other unmentionables.

Morning comes early in the mountains and, after a quick breakfast and wash-up, we loaded our packs and set off to find the trail but alas, no luck - after two hours of hunting for a path, we had to walk back to our previous camp site and climb up the route we had come down the day before. What a climb! With trembling knees we made the summit and finished a very stiff hike early in the afternoon. Till the next time chaps - 'Obees' and 'Rubbish' promise to sleep well away from the main body and promise not to laugh so much only if Zippy lays off the beans for dinner!

A new award for teaching

THE UNIVERSITY Council, on the recommendation of the Teaching/Learning Support Committee and Senate, has approved the introduction of the Vice-Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award. One award will be made each year.

Any member of the academic staff may nominate another member of staff for the award, or staff may apply for the award. Nominees have the right to decline nomination.

Nominations or applications must be motivated and include a detailed curriculum vitae of the nominee or applicant and the names and addresses of not more than three referees.

The Selection Committee may call for further information from Deans, Heads of departments or Faculty Councils.

As the activities associated with good teaching are so varied, the Committee will weigh the nominations or applications in whatever way it deems appropriate.

First-time nominees or applicants who are unsuccessful will have their names automatically entered in the award scheme for the following year, unless they indicate otherwise.

The Award will not be given to the same person more than once in any ten year period.

• **Nominations or applications should be submitted to the Personnel Division by October 31, 1991.**

• RHODOS STAFF •

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Rhodos is produced twice a month by the Public Relations Division, Rhodes University, Grahamstown. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the Editor, Rhodos Staff, or the University.

RHODOS DEADLINES

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18 Nov	28 Nov



'You won your Appeal then?'