

RHODEO

Rhodes' freshest paper

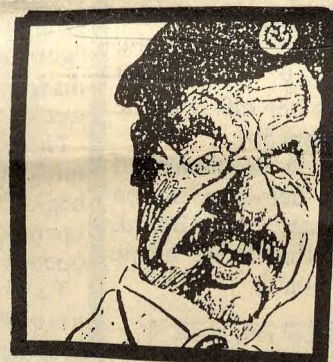
No. 1 Feb 1991



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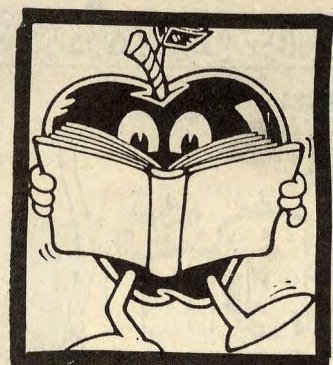


**FRESHER'S
A-Z** page 8



**GULF
WAR**

page 11



**EDUCATION
CATASTROPHE**

page 7

A SASPU AFFILIATE

Oppie info

ARE you an Oppie? No, no, not an Organically Processed Prune nor a Horrible Pimpley person, the question is: are you an Oppidan? If so, read on.

The 1991 Oppie Board welcomes you to Grimstown. "What the hell is the Oppie Board?" you ask, scanning the article for some cartoons, no doubt. The Oppie Board consists of a group of caring, competent and cuddly people whose task it is to make oppies' problems disappear.

We offer a variety of student services, with a special emphasis on helping oppies find accommodation during the first term. Up-to-date lists of available digs can be obtained, free of charge, from the Oppie secretary. These lists include details about rent etc. Lease Guidebooks are also obtainable and we are currently having a standardised, basic lease contract drawn up for oppies to use. We also produce a directory of all oppie addresses and phone numbers every year.

What else do we do? Well, the list is endless...We offer a garden equipment hire service (which consists of a lawnmower, rakes etc) and we also hire out a vacuum cleaner for a minimal fee. We co-ordinate oppie sports, organise craft markets, Cheese and Wine evenings, videos on Sunday nights and we offer free coffee/tea every morning in the Oppie Common Room. Any oppie who has financial hassles (are there any without?!!) can apply for a Oppie Board book bursary.

For more information on the Board oppies can contact the Oppie secretary, Lesley, at tel.23459 or visit her office in the S.U. Building (room 5b).

So if you have a problem, and no-one else can help you, maybe you should call ...the Oppie Board. (fade out with the theme music from "The A-Team".)



Vice-Chancellor's welcoming message to new students

OVER the Christmas period, many Grahamstown businesses put up "gone fishing" signs and their staff disappear to the coast for a few weeks.

The city begins to awaken in mid-January when the schools begin their academic year, but only opens its eyes fully when Rhodes opens.

This is because the main industry here is education. This lays a responsibility on the university, because we have a high profile in the local community, which takes a great interest in Rhodes and its students.

It also gives you the opportunity to make your mark in an environment in which you will not be lost in the crowd, as you might be in a larger university in a larger city. You will find many advantages in the

experience that a small university provides. I hope that you will make the most of these opportunities.

Your academic work here is important - do not get into the habit of skipping lectures and tutorials - but you need more than a degree certificate to make your stay here worthwhile. Join clubs or societies which interest you, mix with students who are reading courses that differ from yours. Take advantage of the cultural and social events both at Rhodes and in Grahamstown.

Welcome to Rhodes. I hope your time here will enrich you and help you develop your full potential. This year promises to be as full of changes and surprises as 1990 was. We all need to be alert and aware.

Dr Derek Henderson
— Vice Chancellor.

300 Journalism I students to face an uphill battle this year — says Journ Department head

Rhodo Reporter

ONE of Rhodes' main attractions is that it is home to the country's only English language journalism department.

According to Head of Department, Professor Gavin Stewart, over 300 new students have applied to brave the doubtful joys of Grahamstown existence in return for the possibility of becoming the Pete Arnetts and Cliff Saunders of tomorrow.

However, prospective first year journalism students are in for a bit of a shock. Only 80 of them will be allowed into Journalism II at the end of this year, and of those, only 40 will be able carry on with the four year Bachelor of Journalism degree.

The large number of applicants is despite the fact that the admission requirements for Journalism have been raised from 27 to 30 matric points.

Of the lucky 80 who manage to get into second year journalism, only twenty will be allowed to take the popular television and film option in their third and fourth years.

But for those Journalism I students who are just concerned with gaining entrance into Journalism II, Professor Stewart explained that while academic performance was important, a students' interest and dedication to media work (Hint: Join Rhodo), would count greatly towards deciding who would be allowed to continue into second year.

Kaif acquires new murals

Rhodo Reporter

FOR those of you first years who thought that the paintings in Kaif have been arty fixtures in the daily lives of Rhodes students for years its time for the explosion of a few myths.

They were painted over the December vac by Nigel Mullins, who was a final year Fine Art student then.

Mr Reynolds, the Deputy Registrar, said that the idea was to

give Kaif, which is the focal point of daily campus life, some colour.

Apparently the first painting is meant to be a conversation point for the individual to read what they want into it.

The second painting is a landscape of the Kanton area.

The third painting is an abstract work.

So, first years, get 'conversing' about the paintings. Remember, before this year they were blank walls.

SRC concert set for Feb 22

Rhodo Reporter

BANDS including Tananas and Big Sky are set to head the bill at a concert on campus this month.

The concert has been organised by the SRC, BSM and Rag and should take place on the February 22 at around 6pm on Prospect field.

The concert was originally set for the 15th but had to be postponed

after the cancellations of participants such as Mango Groove and Bright Blue.

The administration who already gave permission for a Free Peoples Concert last year recently rescinded on their decision.

At the time of going to press SRC representatives were still negotiating with the administration.

We wait in anticipation.

Library to go hi-tech soon

Rhodo Reporter

THE Rhodes Library has some interesting things in store for Orientation Week.

The introduction of a new computerised catalog will be appreciated by all students as locating books will now become as easy as pressing a button.

Another advantage is that if one punches in the subject one is looking for, a list of books related to that subject appears on the screen.

There will be five terminals on the ground floor and at least one on each of the other floors of the library.

By mid-year the issuing system will also be computerised.

Library Week (7-13 Feb) sees various activities happening aimed at easing first years into academia.

They include guided tours of the library, four exhibitions, a second-hand book sale, a book raffle and the sale of library posters and t-shirts.

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2:00 - 5:00

NO SALES TAX!

This is Rhodeo...

RHODEO, the official student newspaper on campus, is not your average overcommercialised scandalsheet.

Rhodeo is an organisation centred around bringing out a quality student newspaper that provides a service and sometimes is a watchdog for the entire Rhodes community including students, academics and workers.

We at Rhodeo believe that students have a vital role to play in the construction of the 'New South Africa', a place that's still terribly difficult to find on a map.

After all, students have the time, energy and necessary idealism, which is unfettered by traditional ways of thinking and doing things, to start building a society which is unified, at peace and is committed to righting the wrongs of the past 339 years.

And at Rhodeo it is the students of South Africa who combine their individual talents and creative faculties into the dynamic campus newspaper organisation that Rhodeo is.

Rhodeo has been around for decades and its staffers over the years include people who have assumed prominent places in the worlds of journalism, politics, sport and academia.

But wait a minute, a couple of Rhodeo-types have just breezed in so let them tell you in their own words: here is an exclusive interview with the real thing.

What is your role on campus?

We are a student newspaper, primarily for students but also of interest to the broader campus community, which provides mostly exclusive information about students, campus life as well as life in South Africa (not the New or Old one but the Real one).

The paper is run totally by students, drawn from all walks of life and with very different backgrounds, who do everything from writing to photography and layout. So we are a student paper in every sense.

Who can join and what can they expect to learn?

Well we go on an all out drive to sign up as many people at the start of each year. Everybody is welcome to join and unlike most other newspapers no skills whatsoever are required.

See at Rhodeo we are committed to training students from scratch on the ins and outs of bringing out a progressive publication.

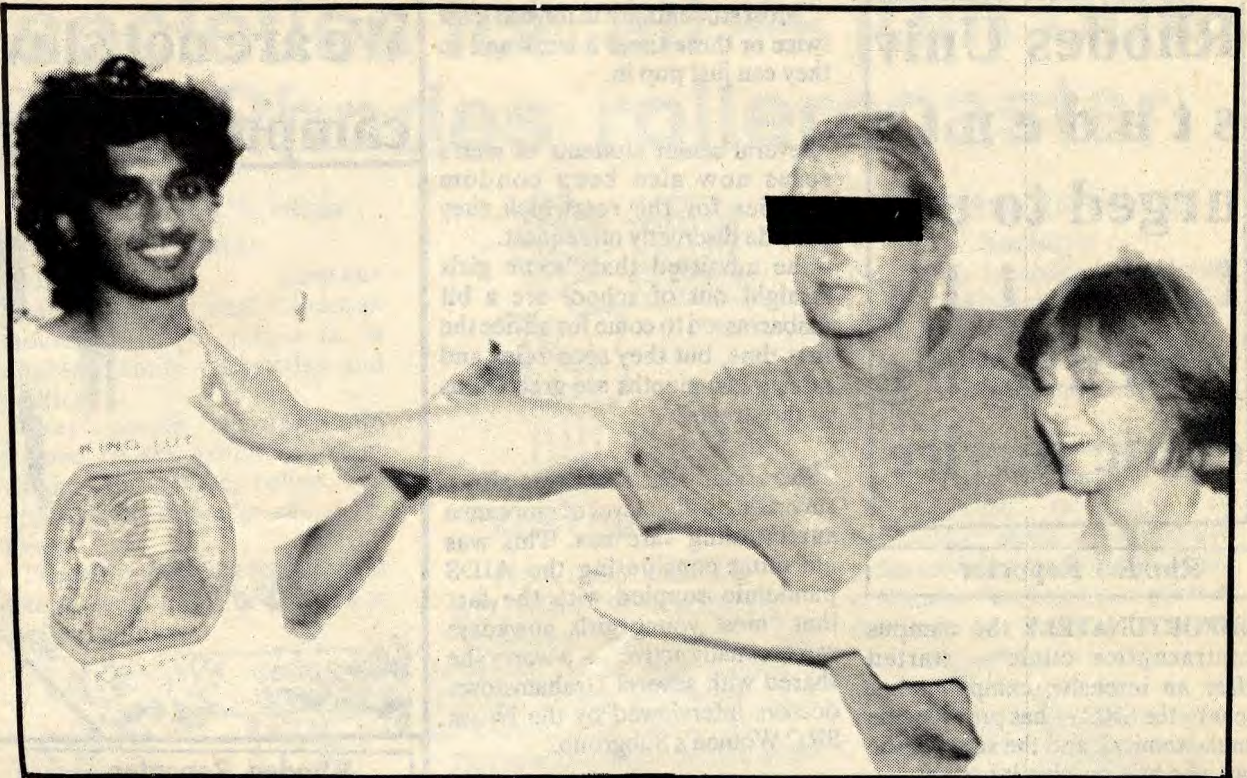
By joining Rhodeo students will not only broaden their outlook and the outlook of their readers but will also learn valuable skills such as:-

How to interview people and to investigate stories

How to write a variety of stories from news to features to culture to sport and satire

How to typeset, design and layout a newspaper, and

How to take and develop photographs.



RHODEO staff members performing to an unknown audience, they will remain anonymous for ethical reasons.

Rhodeo claims to be part of the progressive press, does that mean you are militant politicians?

No, far from that, we are progressive in the sense that we actively subscribe to the principles of non-racialism, non-sexism and democracy and try to implement these principles as much as we can in our newspaper.

However we are not neutral and firmly believe in opposing

apartheid whilst fighting for democracy and peace in our country.

Is it fun to work at Rhodeo?

Definitely, Rhodeo is an 'all work and all play organisation'. The staff really know how to relax and rave. We also organise lots of weekends away, seminars and suppers. People with large appetites and insomniacs will fit in well.

Who funds Rhodeo?

Well, we get a budget from the SRC but have complete editorial autonomy from them. The editor is appointed by the staff and all decisions are made collectively with staffers. We aim to encourage participatory decision-making.

Where can new students sign up?

OK, see you at our table outside the Rhodes Union during Orientation Week.

Getting orientated

RHODES HAS the reputation for holding one of the most exciting, interesting and raving university orientation week programmes - and this year things are looking even better.

The NUSAS SRC has ensured that in between all the bureaucratic hassle of opening lecture talks and registration (just you wait!) - if you are sober enough to get to them - a fantastic rave should be had by all.

The week starts off on Wednesday the 6th with walking tours of the Varsity so that you don't get lost when walking home to res after a night of debauchery somewhere (learn how elsewhere

in Rhodeo). Just in case you have any problems with anything during orientation week there are Hassle Bureaux dotted around campus, staffed by friendly (Okay - at least they aren't mass murderers) Orientation Committee members.

On Monday evening there are the various Hall Cheese-and-Wines so that you can meet the people you are going to have to live with for the rest of the year. After this you can wander off to see a free film ("A Fish Called Wanda") in Arts Major - if you can find the place.

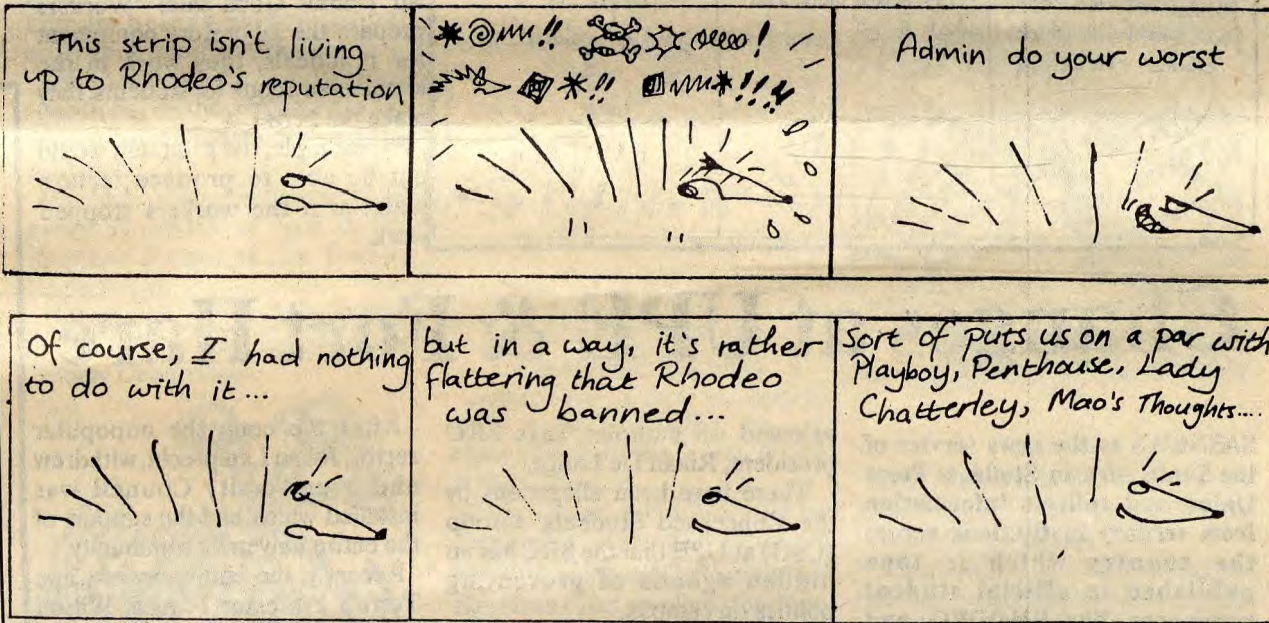
On Thursday night the viewing gets much more serious when "Cry Freedom" is shown (another freebie!), while all the culture vultures will have to wait until Friday night at 9:30pm when Ian Fraser, hero of last years Arts Festival, will performing in the Box Theatre.

But Saturday is when the jorl really happens: In the morning there are societies tables and a craft market on Kaif lawns (with Rhodes Music Radio providing the music) and a free lunch afterwards, which you can work off playing inter-res volleyball. The day culminates with a big rave in the Great Hall at 8pm, where popular local band "Gramsci Beat" and "Underground Press" from Durban will be performing.

In between all the jorling, don't forget to attend the SRC talk at 8:30 on Friday morning, where you will be told about student travel, student representation, student discounts - in fact, everything that is going to affect your life.



Mike Carklin, the SRC vice-President keeping things on an even keel during orientation week planning.



120 campuses to be united by July

SOUTH AFRICA'S two largest tertiary student organisations, the National Union of South African Students (Nusas) and the South African National Student's Congress (Sansco) have agreed to unite by July this year.

The merger will see the formation of a "super" student organisation based on over 120 campuses countrywide and a national workshop to facilitate the merger is planned for April.

This historic decision was taken at a joint sitting of the annual Nusas and Sansco congresses which were held at the University of Natal (Durban) last December.

At the moment Nusas organises mostly white students on mainly the English and Afrikaans language universities while Sansco organises black students at most tertiary institutions (which includes universities, training colleges and technikons) in South Africa.

Both Nusas and Sansco have a proud record of opposition to apartheid and both organisations are committed to transforming tertiary education to suit the needs of a democratic society.

It was decided that the new student organisation would be committed to the principles of non-racialism, non-sexism and democracy.

The joint sitting of the congresses with over 500 delegates from tertiary institutions nationwide was also addressed by African National Congress deputy-president, Mr Nelsom Mandela.

Mr Mandela told students that the ANC noted the attempts to forge genuine student unity at the level of ordinary students and not only between national student leaders.

He said success in forging student unity would be a major contribution to the national unity that was cherished by all

democratically minded South Africans.

However he called for discipline and political tolerance.

"We must recognise the right of all political movements to act freely and we should win over our positions through argument and if we fail we should also consider re-examining some of our own views," he said.

He added that unity was a careful process of asserting demands and listening to the demands of others.

Mandela ended his address on an emotional note to thunderous applause when he said: "I can now sleep permanently in peace knowing that my people are on the verge of freedom as our cause is supported by so many young leaders of thought. Once we have received the support of university students who can think independently and clearly I know that our organisation will never die."

Rhodes Univ students urged to use family planning clinic service

Rhodes Reporter

UNFORTUNATELY the campus contraception clinic — started after an intensive campaign last year by the SRC — has proved to be uneconomical, and the sister at the san who was running it has left.

Sister Wilson of the Grahamstown Family Planning Clinic has however urged students to continue attending the regular clinic in Anglo-African Street (before Cardies off High Street).

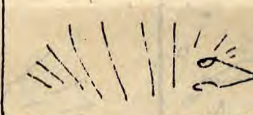
Many students are walking up and down this quick shortcut and so people won't necessarily know where they are going", she said.

Service and advice is completely confidential — one's parents and lover do not need to know — and all methods, including condoms, are provided free of charge.

Rhodes has one vital flaw, one fault which taints everything...

...I've finally worked out what it is...

...Purple is a yech colour



"Most students are in town at least twice or three times a week and so they can just pop in.

Several senior students of men's reses now also keep condom supplies for the res which they provide discreetly on request.

She admitted that "some girls straight out of school are a bit embarrassed to come for advice the first time, but they soon relax and after a few months are greeting us in the streets".

She added that there was also a surprisingly high level of ignorance surrounding safe sex. This was alarming considering the AIDS pandemic coupled with the fact that "most young girls nowadays were sexually active" — a worry she shared with several Grahamstown doctors interviewed by the Nusas SRC Women's Subgroup.

She expressed her concern at Rhodes' large number of unwanted student pregnancies, particularly among first year women, and attributed much of this to "girls fresh out of school who are unused to drinking so much and then experimenting."

She urged first year students to attend the clinic (which is open from 7.30 am to 4.00 pm weekdays) "for advice or methods rather than getting into trouble. We're here to help".

We are not slaves for Rhodes University says campus worker who earns R340 a month



Rhodes Reporter

THE first worker that you are likely to meet on campus will probably be one of the women who work in the res kitchens.

Pretty soon you will become used to them feeding and cleaning up after you and will become annoyed if they don't prepare tasty food or keep the carpets clean.

Workers are overlooked by the other sections of the university, but are nevertheless integral to its operation.

A senior shop steward in the local trade union for campus workers, Mr Dennis Goba said: "Workers prepare the laboratory equipment for practicals, they work in the kitchens and cook for students, they make the beds.

For example, the print unit would not be able to produce lecture material if the workers stopped work.

Worker issues are campus issues and affect the whole campus community."

Cynthia Yaka is a typical residence worker, who earns R340 a month (after pension deductions) and works five days a week plus alternate Saturdays.

She starts work early every morning and only gets home after six o'clock. On this salary she also has to pay rent, transport to and from work, and feed and clothe her family.

Cynthia described how the university occasionally deducted money from the worker's pay for items such as uniforms without even telling them why this was being done.

She said: "They make us slaves here...we are not slaves for Rhodes University."

Rhodes' workers wages are grossly under the Human Sciences Research Council's basic living wage which is somewhere between R700 and R800 a month.

It is in even starker contrast to the wage of R1004 a month given by the University of Cape Town to their lowest paid workers who work a 39 hour week.

So next time you complain about the taste of your res supper — think about the situation of the workers toiling away in the kitchens for a wage that can best be described as "peanuts".

Your incomplete guide to Rhodes' mysterious reses



THIS is a handy guide to Rhodes' informative side is going to come out of reading this article. Well, ample supply of residences. you're in for a surprise.

Amaze your friends with trivial knowledge. Cut out and post copies away to family back home or relatives overseas to pad out otherwise meagre letters.

The socially conscious may also find this a cannot-live-without-aid to fashionable institutions.

No doubt before this little passionate outburst gets out of hand we should delve into the vast hoard of information just waiting to be discovered.

Beit House was named after Sir Alfred B (1853-1906), a rather generous diamond digger who gave a lump sum of cash to the university in his will. If you want to know more about the place go and ask a friendly librarian.

Botha House is named after one of the many by that name.

Milner House — we don't know who this place was named after, but can tell you it was built in 1926 (and they still probably haven't repainted).

College House — rather a handy place to live especially due to its proximity to Kaif. Other than that you can give it a miss — unless you happen to stay there of course.

By this stage you should've realised that not much on the

Jan Smuts Hall was named after the one and only "Statesman", soldier and philosopher". Look in any unreliable school text book for more facts.

Oriel House, the first woman's residence was opened in May 1915.

Oakdene House, now a post-grad res, used to be known as "smokedene" because of its inhabitants' back-garden horticultural activities.

The res Thomas Pringle was named after a poet, philanthropist, secretary of the anti-slave society and journalist.

Sure there are more reses to look into. No you were not incorrect when you feverishly looked for yours and it was't here. It's not a mistake I can assure you. Before long you'll be moving into digs and won't be the least bit interested. But...

If you do want to know more about your local res heritage go and read it up in the Rhodes promotion pamphlets, visit the local museum or library. Ignore the strange looks you may get during your investigation.

Changes at UPE & Fort Hare

SASNEWS is the news service of the South African Students Press Union and collects information from tertiary institutions across the country which is then published in official student newspapers, like RHODEO, and other Saspu affiliated publications.

SASNEWS provides mostly exclusive news on the events, trends, research and even outrages on campuses countrywide.

As an introduction to RHODEO'S SASNEWS round-up page we focus on two campuses, the University of Port Elizabeth and the University of Fort Hare which both seem to be on the verge of exciting changes.

THE University of Port Elizabeth, Rhodes' Intersarsity partner and just over 120 km from Grahamstown, is a very unusual university.

The campus, recently declared a nature reserve, is the only bilingual university in South Africa. It is also said to be financially the strongest university in the country and will never turn a student away for lack of funds.

It is also the country's only apolitical university with no political organisations allowed to operate on campus, students cannot hold public meetings or give out literature.

However moves are underway to hold a referendum to "let students decide" if politics should be

allowed on campus, says SRC president, Riaan De Lange.

There have been allegations by the Concerned Students' Group (CSG) at UPE that the SRC has an hidden agenda of preventing politics on campus.

These allegations have been given substance by the SRC's insistence that they oversee the process of introducing politics onto campus.

But whatever the SRC's commitment to allowing students to choose whether the campus should be opened to politics, the likelihood is that UPE's 5 000 students will decide to change the face of the campus irrevocably.

THINGS are changing fast at the University of Fort Hare, once an affiliated campus of Rhodes until it was assigned to the government in 1960.

Fort Hare, just 70 km down the road from Grahamstown on the way to Alice, looks very much like Rhodes, only it's prettier.

It also has a very illustrious history having produced many black leaders of the calibre of Nelson Mandela, Oliver Tambo, and Robert Mugabe amongst others.

But that was before Verwoerd's grand plan for Bantu Education which effectively destroyed Fort Hare as a university of any repute.

However things seem to be looking up now especially after last year's coup in the Ciskei when president Lennox Sebe was toppled.

After the coup the unpopular rector, Johan Lamprecht, withdrew and a university Council was installed which had the support of the entire university community.

Recently, the University of Cape Town's Professor Francis Wilson was appointed chair of Council, a move that has ushered in a new age at Fort Hare.

The buzzwords around campus are "transformation" and "people's university". According to senior economics lecturer, Shepherd Mayatula, the installation of the new Council was a result of pressure from students, staff and workers.

They also had a major say in the appointment of Acting-Rector, Prof John Gardner.

The students who have long protested for changes at Fort Hare are now in a position to make them along with the administration and academics.

He added that Fort Hare's academic quality needed to be improved and the course curricula needed to be thoroughly revised.

At the moment the local Sansco branch is setting up research committees to investigate existing courses and to recommend new ones.

But whatever happens the mini-transformation at Fort Hare is a sure start to creating a democratic institution which serves the needs of the Eastern Cape community.

A tale of two cities within G'town

FOR MOST of Grahamstown's residents life is tough, with the unemployment rate at nearly 70 percent, adult illiteracy topping 50 percent, a massive housing shortage and overflowing classrooms.

In recent years little has been done to address the problems of local township residents, some of whom are resorting to crime in a desperate bid to survive.

However, things came to a head last week when the Grahamstown Civic Association (Graca), an organisation of township residents, gave the City Council seven days to respond to a list of demands aimed at improving the living conditions in the local townships.

The General Secretary of Graca, Mr Dan Sandi, said the situation was fast reaching crisis proportions.

"If the City Council does not take the necessary steps to address our grievances this week, we will be forced to take drastic action to win our demands," he warned.

Some of Graca's demands are the immediate building of 4000 homes at an estimated total cost of R60 million and the erection of at least three primary and three secondary schools.

Mr Sandi said the government could use the money it was wasting on the homeland system and on Unita and Renamo rebels in Angola and Mozambique to address the poverty facing most of Grahamstown's residents.

Newcomers to Grahamstown would have already noticed that it is definitely a tale of two contrasting cities. On the one hand there are the impoverished townships with nearly 80 000 people and on the other there is the relatively plush town and suburbs including Rhodes with less than 20 000 residents.



With a shortage of 4000 homes in Grahamstown's townships, old cars are useful places of refuge.

Mr Sandi said that despite numerous pleas and meetings over the years absolutely nothing was being done to improve conditions in the townships whilst "the other side of Grahamstown" was being beautified.

He said as long as apartheid existed there would be no solution to the problems in the townships as the government, including President De Klerk, was still talking about reforming and not destroying the system.

"It's been a year since President De Klerk promised all a 'new South Africa' but for Grahamstown's township residents nothing has changed, it's hardly any different from the PW Botha era," Mr Sandi said.

In fact the conditions on the ground have probably worsened in recent times as more people flock to the townships from the neighbouring farms which are in the grip of a severe drought.

Mr Sandi described the townships as "mental hospital

areas". There are few flush toilets - the majority of residents are forced to use the unhygienic 'bucket system'.

There are also no public health care and welfare facilities, no indoor sports centres, few tarred roads and certain areas hadn't had street lights for many years.

He said it was common for eight people to sleep in one room using it as both a kitchen, lounge and bedroom.

"The unemployment rate is very high and those who have jobs earn a drop in the ocean. There are no factories or industries, no teacher training colleges, no training hospitals for nurses and no technical colleges," he said.

But one of the most pressing problems is the housing shortage which Graca is currently organising intensively around.

Mr Sandi said many homeless people were resorting to simply occupying unoccupied land and he said the number of people doing so was increasing.

Mr Sandi said some people simply gave up hope and were forced to reside on the graves of their parents and grandparents.

He said Ndancama and Silvertown, with its zinc houses which froze in winter and boiled in summer, were unfit for human habitation and called on the authorities to provide alternative accommodation.

Another pressing problem facing community leaders at the moment is the over 2 000 children who were turned away from local schools recently because of a shortage of classrooms.

However, he said it was good that Rhodes students were back on campus as they could play a role in helping high school pupils with their exam preparations.

More information on how students can get involved in community work in Grahamstown will be available from the SRC soon.

New one year English course option now offered

A NEW English course has been introduced this year which will cater for those students who wish to take English as a one year credit.

The course, Alternative English, is a variation of English 1, the major difference being that it will exclude the poetry paper.

Poetry will be replaced by the loosely termed "Analysis of Writing" which involves further study of the literature period study component.

Professor Malvern van Wyk Smith, head of the English Department, explained that tutorials would fall away and be replaced by classes of 20 students who would have an extra lecture period allocated to them.

The course is limited to 60 students who will be lectured by Prof MacLennan, Prof Van Wyk Smith and Christo Doherty.

Rhodes' pass rate improves greatly

ACCORDING TO the preliminary figures there was an improvement in the 1990 exam results when compared to the previous year.

The figures, which exclude this year's supplementaries and aegrotats, show that 84 percent of the 1990 first years passed at least two subjects whereas 81 percent of the 1989 first years achieved this.

Six percent of the 1990 first years failed all four subjects compared to the nine percent failure rate in 1989.

The breakdown of black and white results revealed a marked improvement in the black results.

The 1989 figure of 54% of black first year students who passed two subjects jumped to 72% in 1990.

Dr Keith Hunt, the Registrar, said that the reason for the improvement was the pushing up of admissions criteria.

He said by improving the selection process one creates a "culture of success" which decreases failures.

He added that the University was allowed to grow only 1% per annum as set down by the Minister of Education.

Further information on the increase in student admissions for 1991 and on the growth of Rhodes' black student numbers will be available soon.

Last year about 20 percent of Rhodes students were black and the number did not show any marked increase from previous years.

Meanwhile two of South Africa's largest student organisations, Nusas and Sansco have called upon university administrations to take "affirmative action" in increasing their black student numbers which are currently 15 times less per 1000 of the population than white student numbers.

SRC Vice-President's message to newcomers to Rhodes University

ON BEHALF of the NUSAS-SRC and the 1991 Orientation Committee, I would like to welcome you to Rhodes and to wish you all the best for your university career.

A lot of work has gone into preparation for this year's Orientation Week which has been designed to help you find your way around campus, meet new people, make decisions regarding your academic courses, and to enjoy yourself whilst doing it all.

Besides the lectures, which I'm sure you'll find stimulating and helpful, there are also walking tours of campus, movies, drama, a "rave" with live bands and a disco, speakers, sport, a craft market,...and more. Make the most of this week!

The SRC consists of 16 students elected by you the student body, to represent your interests in the university, and to make life on

campus more enjoyable and fulfilling for you.

We do this through our representation on a number of university committees, through a range of benefits and services (discounts, lift scheme, media facilities, binding, etc), through entertainment events (film festivals, music concerts, "jorls", etc), through speakers, debates and lectures, and through SRC sub-committees - political, environment, education, women's group - which you can become actively involved in.

The SRC also regularly issues an exciting newsletter, The SRscene, to keep you up to date on what we are doing.

There are also over 50 SRC affiliated student societies on campus, giving you the opportunity to involve yourself in numerous different aspects of campus life, and to allow you to contribute to

making our campus a vibrant and exciting one.

These include cultural, religious, political, academic and unclassifiable societies.

The NUSAS-SRC believes that a university education involves more than simply achieving a degree.

Particularly in South Africa where education is a privilege denied to many, we as students have been granted a unique opportunity to develop skills which should be used to the advantage of all members of our society.

South Africa is presently undergoing rapid political and social transformation, and it is important that we, as students are considering alternatives to what we have for so long taken for granted. We need to think critically, and to get involved, for this will contribute to making university a truly exciting, stimulating and useful experience. Get involved in

building your future!

Finally, let me remind you that the SRC is always here to deal with any problems you may have. Speak to your Hall Rep, or come and see us at the SRC offices which are upstairs in the Student Union building. We look forward to meeting you.

Best wishes
MIKE CARLIN
NUSAS-SRC VICE-PRESIDENT
SRC ORIENTATION WEEK
CHAIRPERSON

A BA degree can get you much further than you think

Janet Howse spoke to the Dean of Arts, Professor Michael Whisson, who presented a case for the much maligned Bachelor of Arts degree.

THE BA degree is often attacked as an easy option at university - a "Bugger All" degree or a "BA Mansoek".

Does it really ensure employment after years of painfully expensive study for the most highly educated and privileged of society's youth?

And most importantly, is it relevant to a developing South Africa so lacking in practical skills?

WHAT IS the B.A. degree actually worth to anyone? Professor Michael Whisson, the Dean Of Arts, vehemently argued to Rhodens that it was still worth quite a bit.

"First, neither you nor I can predict what the market in skilled and professional people will be in ten or twenty years time - but I am prepared to bet that the leisure industry will be growing, and that the demand for people to entertain, interest, challenge and educate in the broadest sense will be strong. Also, problems in technology seem to be much more readily solved than problems in human relations - which suggests a need (if not necessarily a strong commercial demand yet) for people who have good communication skills.

To take my discipline, Anthropology, for example (although almost any Arts credit would suffice), there are several things that I would tell a senior personnel officer considering me for for a job:

Firstly, my Social Anthropology Major has taught me literacy - not just to read and write but to collect data from interviews, observation and reading, and formulate it into reports of reasonable length.

Secondly, it has taught me numeracy through research that requires reasonably advanced computer skills and how to assess the reflectiveness of statistics.

Continually comparing a number of different theories in study has taught me that when I have a problem, I am prepared to try any number of approaches and learn from others' experience.

Anthropology encourages the development of the imagination by breaking down ethnocentrism and also fosters oral communication skills through seminar reportbacks and talking to a range of people during research.

Now, if you were to hand that list of skills to the chief personnel officer of a large company and ask him what the list was about, he would probably say that it was an outline of a senior management training course, or maybe a list of the qualities which his assistants look for in finding recruits for his company.

Most of the larger employers are looking for people who have trained minds, a streak of originality and independence, and proven competence. If they see a person who has dragged himself through a programme drawn up by a careers adviser on grounds of relevance, they will know they have somebody very ordinary in front of them. If they see somebody who has done his own thing, and done it well (we generally do our own things better than what we are compelled to do), then they will be interested in him. Most large firms have their own training programmes for graduates, so prefer to have trainees who enjoy learning rather than trainees who have to unlearn a lot first.

If you want some supporting evidence, check what the leaders of our society, in business, commerce, politics and the professions did as their first degrees. The relatively lowly journey men in the business world probably went for the B.Comm - the high flyers got educated first".



A fresher's nightmare - if you look like this you are trying too hard to 'fit in'

SO, YOU managed to get out of school and into varsity. Big deal. Maybe you should have rethought the move.

Don't be so shocked, just think of your position last year: many actually cared about your plight. No doubt you remember the silly little dreams of the future you were expected to regurgitate ad nauseam to unknown aunties and uncles.

Before I go completely off the point: this is what it is. Now that you're a novice out here in the Big Scary World, its advisable to try and fit in.

Yes, this is a kind Help-U from the friendly Rhodens staff on how not to look and act like a first year. One of the most important lessons is not to be eager about anything (naturally excluding Rhodens).

Before you go grabbing at things that you think will make you look like a seasoned student, take our advice. Sit back from your unassuming position under a table in Kaif and observe the mannerisms, speech defects and uniforms of the hardened Rhodents.

Must haves for those who want to slip quietly into style is the relevant garb:

Matric '84 sweater for those who have't been able to get into the Vic yet.

Nusas '86 (a good revolutionary

How to avoid looking like a sweet, little innocent, fresher

Lauren Shear

vintage) T-shirt for those aspiring Lefties.

NSF/LSD Ray Bans for those aspiring Far Righties (and confused acid head freshers).

Definite no-no's in the fashion stakes for all those would be trendies is anything that shouts high designer wear. One of the worst mistakes to make is obviousness of any type.

Your personal demeanour and expression are the most vital parts of the 2nd year look. Firstly, always carry a painfull expression due to too much alcohol or drugs - this expression is very difficult to imitate so the best idea is to go and overdo either of the above. Demeanour is very easy to master. 2nd-years are always pissed off because they have essay to hand in

within the hour and they not yet started on it, they have run out of booze money, the photostat machine has eaten their card for the third time that day, or simply because the sun has come up. However, beware - this pissed off attitude should not be too obvious, as all varsity veterans know that reality is just a figment of our imaginations and should not be taken too seriously.

One of the biggest give-aways of the first year status is attending lectures regularly. Most Rhodents repeating first year credits can be separated from the mob by the incredibly small amounts of time they clock in at lectures.

Another tip is to take down no more than half a page of notes for each period, as most first years usually start with a minimum of about six.

It's not easy acting so completely unnatural 24 hours a day so sleep as much as possible - if those irritating rays of sunlight peep through the windows, close the curtains.

Whilst your constantly picking up information on how not to look like a fresher, time will certainly pass. You may even get to enjoy yourself every now and then. A miracle may occur and you could be back as a second year seasoned students, but then thats a long, long time away...

SRC looks to improving the quality of residence life

SO, YOU'VE only just arrived in res and already you loathe it? The food is poisonous, the room is crawling with crawly things and the warden and seniors are victimising you!? What can you do?

Speak to your SRC Hall Representative, says Mike Carlin, SRC Vice-President, now moving into his sixth year of res life.

Carlin explained that the SRC takes a keen interest in all residence matters, particularly as nine of the sixteen SRC members are hall representatives.

Last year the SRC held a campuswide referendum on a number of student issues in which over 80% of res students participated and in which most proposals received overwhelming support.

For the first time ever fresher women will be granted permanent keys this year - although 3am is still the women's curfew. This latter

restriction, criticised as being unnecessarily sexist, will be discussed by the SRC this year.

An electronic res locking system which would restrict access for safety and cheaper replacement costs was agreed on by several reses and different systems are being investigated at present.

Six of Rhodes' eight halls voted in favour of a meal card system that charges only for the meals eaten. The Finance Committee has decided that Drostdy Hall is probably to be the trial diningroom although money will probably not be refunded during the first six months.

If the experiment is as successful as it has proved at five other universities, another one or two halls will change to the system every year.

And the cost? R25000 for the whole system which amounts to R25 per student per year "but the

saving on res food will far outweigh this. It is a step to bringing res fees down", Carlin said. He stressed that the system was not considered in the recent massive res fees hike.

The SRC is working hard on redefining the res fining system which has tended to be open to abuse in the past. It has set up "Disciplinary Aid" which consists of law students who work with the organisation Lawyers for Human Rights to help students know their legal rights and represent them before the Disciplinary Council.

This SRC service that operates from the Counselling Centre in the Student Union, had much success last year and is at present drawing up a simplified version of the complex Disciplinary Code for all residences as well as looking at the possibility of maximum fines.

Carlin encouraged res students to post disciplinary complaints or queries into the Disciplinary Aid

box next to the Second-hand Bookshop in Kaif or contact the director, Calum Stephenson, at the Counselling Centre as soon as they are fined.

The SRC convenes the Campus Leadership Forum consisting of the SRC and all Head Students to orchestrate res campaigns. This co-operation with House Committees is vital, Carlin said, to ensure that the SRC is in touch at every level.

One priority of the forum this year is to discuss the first non-racial house committees at Rhodes. This will be "a representative system that will at last be acceptable to everyone" including students who did not participate in house comms previously.

With the proposed unity of SANSCO and NUSAS, the BSM is reconsidering its strategy of non-participation which was part

of a campaign to highlight and address, rather than ignore, the inequalities in our society.

"With the rapidly-changing political climate however, we have now reached the stage where its relevance needs to be re-assessed," Carlin said.

"Things are moving very fast in our country right now and it is up to everyone, not just leadership, to start building non-racialism at every level. At a residential university like Rhodes it is made so much easier to build it on the ground. It is vital for our future to develop it in as many places and as quickly as possible."

Carlin urged new res students to get to know their hall reps who will be hosting and addressing Hall Cheese-'n-Wines this week, writing hall newsletters and who are available anytime for queries, complaints or suggestions.

New student congress soon

NUSAS AND Sansco have been organising separately for the past 22 years and these two national student organisations have recently decided that the conditions are ripe for them to unite.

This strategy of mobilising black and white students into different organisations was because of the very different conditions that faced black and white students at universities.

Black students were relatively few in number, were affected by a whole host of financial, accommodation and educational problems that were a direct result of the apartheid system that discriminated against them.

However both Nusas and Sansco adopted the Freedom Charter which commits them to strive for a

unified, non-racial South Africa.

At Rhodes, the Nusas/Sansco alliance is definitely a force to be reckoned with, organising students to actively strive for a democratic campus.

Students join Nusas through the SRC's affiliation to it and can participate in one of its many sub-committees which range from Projects to the Women's Group to the Education sub-committee amongst others.

See the Nusas tables during Orientation Week. Sansco meanwhile consists of branches on different campuses.

The Rhodes branch has hundreds of signed-up members who also

participate in Sansco's campaigns and sub-committees which range from Media to Labour to Political Education.

Both Nusas and Sansco, even in the heyday of separate organisation, still subscribed to the principle on non-racialism.

However Nusas national president, Steve Silver, warned that non-racialism should not be confused with multi-racialism.

"Multi-racialism is simply bringing blacks and whites together socially. However these friendships break down quite quickly because of the differences caused by apartheid.

"Non-racialism on the other hand

recognises the political divisions of our society and includes the notion that people can only be united on the basis of sharing an anti-apartheid sentiment and a common vision of the future."

Sansco's General Secretary, James Maseko said separate organisations had been a strategy and not a principle and the new situation in South Africa demanded that students organise under a unified body.

"In the past conditions were very different for black students who had to fight issues like racist lecturers, the bad quality of food and the occupation of black campuses by the SADF whereas

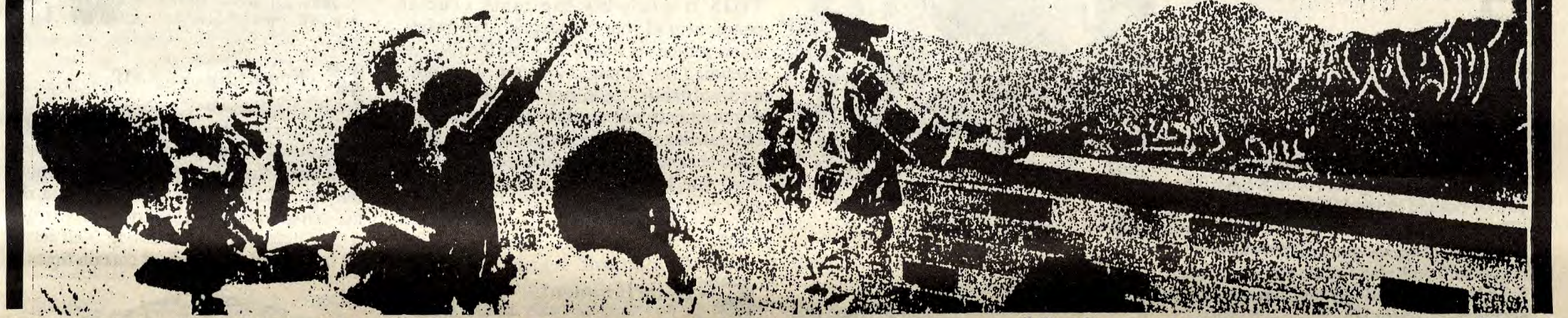
white students were fighting the lack of adequate parking and for the representation of students at all levels of the university," he said.

Unity amongst students at a tertiary level is definitely on the cards and students are urged to join either Sansco or Nusas during Orientation Week and become part of the force for change in South Africa, Silver said.

He added that students needed to look to the future after apartheid and had to start laying the foundations for a non-racial, democratic South Africa.

"For us students this mean one student organisation which can reflect and respond to the needs, aspirations and hopes of all students, black and white," he added.

Catastrophe looming in SA education system



WITH MORE than 2000 children being turned away from local schools in Grahamstown recently because there simply isn't any space for them it seems the national crisis in education is set to reach catastrophic proportions... unless drastic action is taken soon.

And simply allowing white schools to open their doors on the Model B scheme is definitely not what anyone will call drastic action.

As the recently appointed head of the ANC's education department, John Samuel said, the Model B scheme although opening up white schools does not really change their colour at all.

South Africa cannot afford the luxury of the Minister of National Education, Piet Clase, toying around with models that will have to be scrapped in the near future anyway.

Soon it might be too late, says Samuel, who describes the state of education in South Africa as a "national catastrophe".

"Although schooling continues in many areas, when you look inside the classrooms and see what is happening in the name of education in this country coupled with a whole range of inequalities and the erosion of the learning culture, then you have a national disaster," he said.

And it is the erosion of that learning culture especially amongst the deeply alienated youth which he feels is the most devastating effect of apartheid.

What is needed immediately is the scrapping of all racially based education departments and the setting up of a single education authority in South Africa.

The ANC together with the National Education Co-ordinating Committee and most other educational organisations have all endorsed this call.

But calling for one education department and for all children to go back to school will not solve the problem in itself, Samuel said.

He said young people needed to be given a social purpose, they needed to participate in very direct ways in the process of transforming learning.

There also needed to be a massive reallocation of resources with the emphasis placed on effective pre-primary and primary education.

Last year's black matric results were the worst in history with only 36 percent passing and under 10 percent obtaining university exemptions.

The fact that so few candidates can get into university explains why the current ratio of 15 times as many white university students per 1000 of the population compared to Africans does not seem to be changing in the least.

Rhodes University, a so-called liberal campus is still composed of roughly 80 percent white students. This figure is hopelessly out of touch with the demographic realities of South Africa.

But the problem of dropping standards to allow students in is a very real one say university administrators.

Therefore the problem needs to be effectively tackled at its root, the racially segregated schooling system which produces badly educated black pupils and produces white pupils who don't really seem to care anyway.

Every educationist will tell you that DET matric results are not a useful guide to assessing a student's ability to succeed at university.

At the University of Natal their alternative admissions programme, Teach-Test-Teach, discovered a student who had just 9 matric points but was judged to

be more than capable of handling a university degree.

The simple fact of the matter is that a coherent plan needs to be thrashed out between university administrators and student and education organisations nationally as to who will be doing what to get black students into universities.

In the mean time the situation that exists in Grahamstown's schools is unacceptable. The conditions are not conducive to any constructive learning and seem to be a repeat of last year's disaster.

There is a shortage of nearly 50 teachers in local schools according to NECC estimates, and add that to the insufficient number of textbooks, stationery and classrooms and the scale of the problem becomes evident.

A recent study by Market Research Africa found that 3 million black children were out of school. Poverty caused 660 000 to drop out and 25 percent of those dropped out at Sub A level.

If all black pupils continued from Sub A to matric the current number of teachers and schools would only be sufficient to cater for 20 percent of the pupils.

There are presently 180 000 teachers in South Africa. We will need nearly 500 000 by the year 2000.

Last year there were nearly 200 000 vacancies at white schools while there was an official shortage of 160 000 places at black schools according to Janet Heard of Johannesburg's Star newspaper.

However there is a glimmer of hope on the educational horizon. All interest groups concerned are now very aware of the task ahead. To rebuild a learning culture and to get students off the streets and out of the gangs and into the classrooms.

Give students a way out, a sense of purpose, make it a national

responsibility for them to be at school.

However conditions at schools need to improve drastically and immediately if students are likely to stay motivated to learn.

For a start "simple things" like staffing schools properly, effective distribution of textbooks and improving the school's physical conditions need to be done as a matter of urgency.

Secondly, education has to be placed on the negotiations agenda and the debate over a future education policy needs to happen now.

Thirdly, universities need to get involved in solving the mess, together with big business who need to make massive investments in the education sector. Universities should commit

themselves to concrete affirmative action programmes in the short term to help address the problems of underprepared DET graduates.

If they don't do it now, they will be forced to sometime in the future as South Africa's "third world" catches up with the first.

Finally students on campus can start campaigning for the transformation of tertiary education together with administrators and academics. What the education industry in South Africa needs now is concrete alternatives to address the mess.

Whatever happens in 1991 it seems that education is finally being taken seriously because without a functioning schooling system the 'new South Africa' could very easily be stillborn.

Academic Skills Programme to receive university funding

Llewellyn Roderick

THE ACADEMIC Skills Programme (ASP) will be partially funded by the university for the first time since its inception.

This contribution from the university reflects its recognition of the invaluable role ASP has been playing in providing academic support for students.

As part of their ongoing effort in assisting students to develop their academic skills, ASP has trained 30 tutors who will work in the Arts, Social Sciences and Divinity faculties, running tutorials according to the specific needs of their disciplines, students and departments.

Though ASP is aimed at students who have had a DET education and are seriously lacking in the necessary skills to meet up to their lecturers expectations, it is also

open to all Rhodes students who feel the need to acquire skills such as essay writing, critical reasoning and better note taking.

Charlotte Jefferay, the Arts and Social Sciences co-ordinator says that there is still a "stigma" attached to ASP and as a result those students who need it most do not make use of it.

She adds that first year students should "find their feet" in their subjects instead of rushing into an ASP programme.

She points out that they are increasing their attempts at staff development: providing workshops for the tutors deans and professors. By building the tutors understanding and personal skills, they hope to provide the students with a more intensive and beneficial service.

Llewelyn Roderick

A Academic Skills Programme (ASP)

THIS service is a private concern attached to the university that provides academic support for all students. They provide tutorials and lectures in all subjects. It is located behind the sanatorium at the top end of Rhodes Avenue.

Academics.

THIS word is a bit of a misnomer. Students sometimes use it very casually. For instance, if you wake up with a splitting headache (say after RAG) you might say: "My academics is really getting me down".

This will be understood by most. Traditionally used to describe the occupants of ivory towers, however, Rhodes academics inhabit something similar to the Tower of Babel. They are very helpful on a one-to-one level and must not be seen as part of the woodwork.

Anarchist - SEE STEREOTYPES.

B - Bank robbers.

THIS word will be in the newspaper headlines after your father has robbed a financial institution to pay your university fees.

Books.

YOU will find these quite indispensable in completing any degree, (even a BA). They can be bought at the UPB in High Street.

There is also the SRC second hand book shop in Kaif where you can buy prescribed books and sell yours after you have failed the likes of psychology and have not been accepted to Journ II.

Many prescribed books are used very infrequently and the required reading can be photostated at the library.

YOUR A to Z GUIDE TO RHODES, THE UNIVERSE AND OTHER UNLIKELY PLACES...



discounts, so if you are a real budget freak, join.

DP Certificates.

THIS is probably the most crucial component of your "academic" well-being. Each student is issued one (in theory) for attending the required amount of lectures and tutorials. Failing to meet these requirements will result in you receiving a DP warning (this does happen!) which gives you a chance to turn over a fresh leaf. If you don't you lose your DP and cannot write your end-of-year exams.

Counselling.

IF you feel down and your friends don't know what is wrong with you (obviously you don't) and going to the Vic does not solve the problem then try the Rhodes Counselling Centre upstairs in the Kaif building (otherwise known as the Students Union). They will provide confidential counselling until midnight each day. If your problems are more "academic" then try the Student Advisor in the main administration building.

D - Dawnie.

This rather colloquial sounding word is not what it sounds like. It refers to the first lecture of the day which means you have to get up at the crack of dawn.

Digs.

"Private lodgings", but 'dump' rhymes better and best describes where a third of our fellow students (oppies) go with the good intentions of saving their parents money. Also the site of some of the better parties that you might attend this year.

Disciplinary Aid.

THIS is a service offered jointly by your Nusas SRC and Students for Human Rights, which is aimed at helping you with any problems you might have with the university's incomprehensible disciplinary code. Speak to the SRC secretary.

Discount Schemes.

THE SRC is providing a booklet with names and places offering student discounts. A number of shops and restaurants offer student discounts. AEISEC also offers

Essays.

ESSAYS go well with books and "academics". If you can keep all three in one box you should manage. Oh, by the way, take your essay DEADLINES seriously and if you have any problems see your subject tutor or an ASP tutor.

Exams.

THIS word is not a four letter word (it is a five letter word) and the sooner one comes to realize the unavoidable nature of exams the better.

Just a little explanation on a term that is often associated with exams - "spotting". This un-acne related term describes the game of "academic" Russian Roulette we all tend to play, ie. learning a careful selection of your work (based on calculated guesses and educated rumours) hoping that you will be asked to answer only on those bits. Beware.



F - Food. SEE also KAIF

FOR those who cannot resign themselves to Res cuisine or need sustenance between meal times there is a wide choice (about a one-and-a-half minute walk) between day kaif, situated in the GLT courtyard or Kaif in the Students Union building. Kaif serves hot meals and fast foods at certain times.



E - Entertainment.

THERE is a suprising amount of it in Grahamstown. In fact, the SRC had planned a whole week of it for you (assuming that this article is speaking metaphorically) to the first-years.

Otherwise you can go to one of the two cinemas in town, the Odeon or the Majestic (real period pieces). Or if you prefer company there are almost more bars than



churches in Grahamstown, and that is saying something - I'm not quite sure what though.

Environment.

IF you are concerned about the greenness of your campus, the universe and other unlikely places... you can join Earthlife Africa, an off-campus group. See elsewhere in this edition for more info.

G - Grahamstown.

SORRY, not much here but will try to get some more info. Oh, by the way, did you know that Grahamstown is a CITY? Any settlement with a cathedral is a city.

H - Hippy.

THIS is an old word with a new meaning. A hippy is a Happy Yuppy. (See if anybody will believe that one.)

L - Lectures.

LECTURES are where you get reams of information that you write into reams of notes which end up being illegible by the time you have to learn for exams. Not all lectures are compulsory, but you will find it helpful, if not essential, in your overall "academic" effort.

Lefty - SEE STEREOTYPES.

Legal Problems.

BUSTED? Sued? Libelled? Detained? Don't phone your parents, run to the Legal



Bugger - SEE STEREOTYPES.

Bungi - also SEE STEREOTYPES.

Bust - SEE NARC.

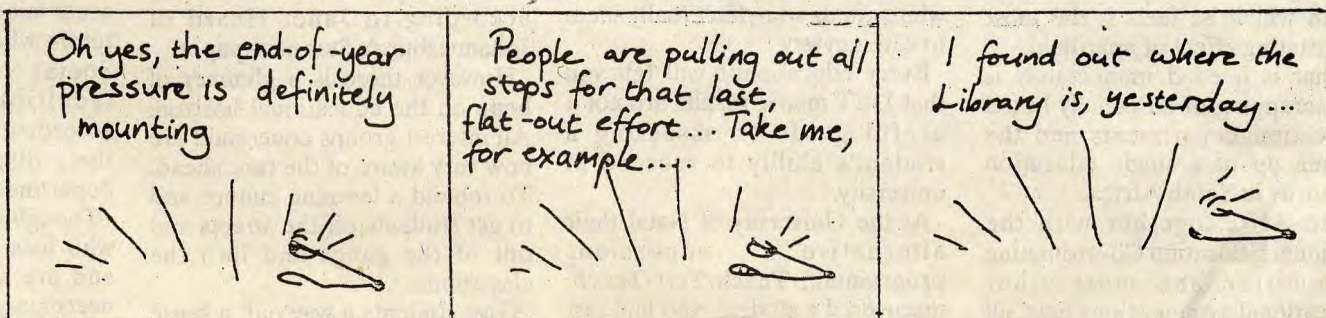
C - Coffin kids. SEE STEREOTYPES

Clubs and Societies.

THIS does not necessarily mean "hobbies" (know what I mean monty python etc.); by joining a club or society you can do crazy things like climb mountains, actually taste the wine you would normally consume, and maybe expand your mind (in a socially acceptable way of course). See this edition of RHODEO for further information on some of these and get to Societies Evening later in February.

Condoms.

SORRY, not available on campus, at least not in those snazzy machines that look like paper towel dispensers. You can get contraception at the Sanatorium and it's wiser to be embarrassed and safe than shy and mmmmmmm!



Aid Clinic behind the Black Sash offices in Bathurst street.

Incidentally, if you get convicted you will most probably face rustication by the University. This will obviously impair your "academic" effort, which might or might not be a reason to avoid legal problems.

Library.

THERE is one Library on campus and if you are really serious about your "academics" you will make a point of being seen at least once a day either in the short loan section or just in the foyer perusing the new books.

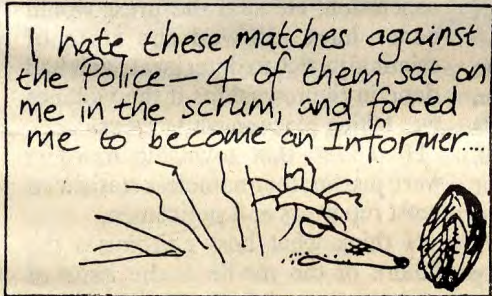
The Library has a new computer cataloging system available to all students. There is also an elaborate anti-theft system designed to embarrass unsuspecting students who have forgotten to check out their books. (remember, the student is always right).

There is also a comprehensive periodical section downstairs with daily newspapers and topical magazines.

M - Money.

IF you already have it you can withdraw it and spend it all under one roof. There are two autotellers outside of Kaif and if you have to bank with your bank (because they "really care") you can take the 5 minute walk downtown, or should that be city.

If you need money the university grants scholarships and bursaries for "academic" achievement and financial need and also grants loans on good terms. For more information pay a visit (tea not included) to the Bursars Office in the main Admin block.



N - Narc.

THE official term is Narcotics Officer from the South African Narcotics Bureau (Sanab). Narcs are supposed to "bust" people who are spending too much time on their agricultural produce and not enough on their "academics".

Nusas SRC- also SEE POLITICS.

OUR SRC with all the others on liberal campuses form the National Union of South African Students (Nusas).



P - Politics.

THIS remains a contentious issue on campus. Many think that the isolated nature of student life at Rhodes should extend to all spheres of life, which should include little more than socialising and "academics" (in that order).

But, if one takes into consideration that we are in Grahamstown it is understandable where they come from.

However, the rest believe that university life should offer one an opportunity to address questions and issues that confront us as "potential" adults in a South Africa that doesn't know if it's new, old, coming or going. Societies like the Projects Committee allow one to broaden one's horizons and play an active role in building non-racialism on campus.

Q - ??

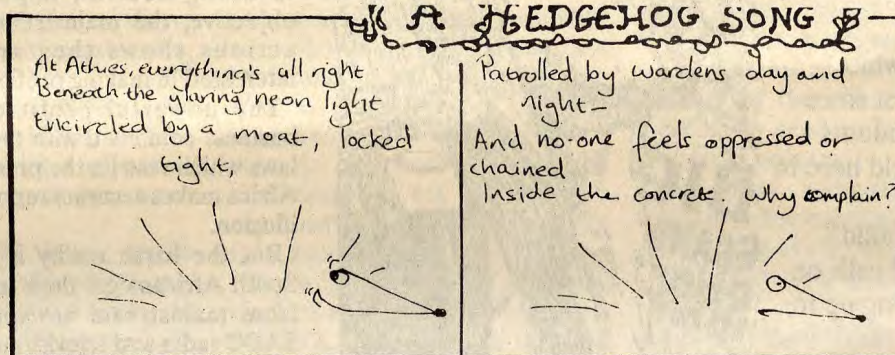
Q is one of those letters with which very few interesting words begin and I cannot think of any of those right now.

R - Religion.

ALL the "mainstream" religions are represented on campus by a variety of clubs and societies. See the societies article in this issue for more information.

Reses.

BY now are in one and it is too late to change so adapt or disappear. The reses all have distinctive characters: in the men's reses this is often determined by the per capita alcohol consumption. Most reses are integrated to larger or lesser degrees so enjoy what will for most of you be your first personal contact with people from different backgrounds



RHODEO.

THIS is the official student newspaper. It is published about once every three weeks and is distributed free on campus. It is an unending source of news, features, alternative arts, clubs, culture, jorls,



O - Oppies.

THESE are students who have, for various reasons (you will soon know what they are), decided to leave the "sanctity" of res to take their chances in the wide world Grahamstown has to offer. This includes digs, burglaries, not necessarily better food, and nobody to tell them what to do.

advertisements, letters and sports.

Our offices are often found on the first floor of the Students Union. If you want to say something you think is worthwhile write a letter and post it into the RHODEO box that can usually be found next to our office. RHODEO is run for and by students, so if you would like to find out more see us at our Orientation Week table (if you can find it!) or upstairs in the SU.

RMR.

RHODES Music Radio is the best campus radio station in the country and produced the national campus DJ of the year for '90.

They try, with sometimes alarming results, to move the Kaif floor and can be picked up on radio in the reses. If you are interested in becoming a DJ go to the RMR offices downstairs in the SU and audition if you dare.

S - Security

IF you have to walk back to res or somewhere else on campus alone at night it might be smart to phone Campus Security and they will send someone to escort you. This way you will never have to use your nifty mace keyring spray.



Student Card.

BY now you should have one. If your mug shot bears any resemblance to the real thing you have a problem, unfortunately there is nobody or any crisis center that can help you.

This is a crucial bit of plastic, always keep it with you especially when you go home and need a student discount at the movies or similar haunts.

Transport.

IF you can not walk you are in serious (fill in your own expletive please). Grahamstown was specially designed to accommodate a student population without cars and who don't like to ride on bicycles.

However, nobody expects you to walk if you want to travel outside of Grahamstown. The South African Students' Travel Service on the 1st floor of the Students Union will arrange travel bookings all over the world including International Student Travel Cards.

U - Union, The.

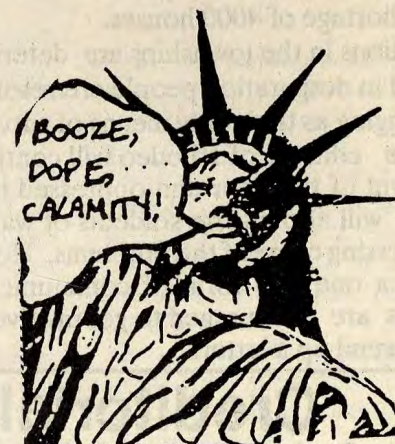
THIS is Rhodes' own pub which boasts the

Sex.

DON'T all rush. But you will and in that case the Sanatorium provides free health care and contraception, also be on the look out for the new condom vending machines in the Students Union and The Union's bathrooms - see toilet doors in the library - all sexual preferences are catered for.

Stereotypes - SEE FOR YOURSELF, (sorry, didn't mean to be rude)

cheapest drinks in town. A good place to start off the evening with a great view of the rugby fields. You have to be a paid-up member to get in, no exceptions are made. Also note the dress regulations, they are stickv about those.



V, W, X, Y, Z

THESE are the last four letters of the alphabet and do not particularly interest me at the moment of writing (note the moment of writing is 12:45 am).

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the Eastern Cape to those of you who have travelled from afar. You have certainly come to one of the most beautiful regions in the country.

The Eastern Cape, apart from being the convergence zone of four different climates also has a rich history dating way beyond the first meetings between the European settlers and the indigenous Xhosa people.

We at RHODEO wish you well during your stay at Rhodes and we hope you enjoy it as much as we do.

Orientation Week

However coming to university for the first time can be a daunting experience. Especially since Rhodes is a residential campus with new students feeling hopelessly lost and on their own.

Don't despair, the SRC has organised a comprehensive Orientation programme that is sure to put any newcomer at ease.

Anyway, once you have gotten over the orientation blues you will realise that there is more to your stay on campus than simply striving to obtain a degree.

A university offers the ideal environment for young people to get involved in the pressing tasks of rebuilding South African society.

There are organisations on campus which are actively striving to right the wrongs of apartheid and are busy grappling with the remnants of that unjust system.

These organisations, be they political, sporting, religious, cultural and environmental are all striving to build a South Africa that is non-racial, non-sexist and democratic.

Rhodeo as the official student newspaper at Rhodes sees itself as one of those organisations.

Student unity

Of note is the recent announcement by the National Union of South African Students (Nusas) and the South African National Students Congress (Sansco) that they will unite to form a single student organisation by July this year.

It will be the first time that both black and white students organise together under one banner since the late Steve Biko led a walkout of black students from the 1969 Nusas Congress which was held here in the Rhodes Great Hall.

RHODEO commends this bold attempt to build genuine non-racialism amongst students and calls on all students to participate in the events leading up to the launch of the new organisation.

Poverty in Grahamstown

Most first year students would have already noticed the children begging in High Street. Some of you may have got annoyed with them but those kids are merely victims of the gross imbalances in wealth caused by apartheid.

Grahamstown has an unemployment rate of over 60 percent, an adult illiteracy rate of over 50 percent, and a shortage of 4000 houses.

Conditions in the townships are deteriorating every day and in desperation people are resorting to crime and begging as their only means of survival.

Future editions of Rhodeo will continue to highlight the plight of the poor and oppressed in Grahamstown and we will also inform students of ways they can help in addressing some of the problems. However, Rhodeo is not a one way form of communication, and all students are encouraged to get involved in Rhodeo or at least send up a letter.

Creditorial

Ibrahim Seedat(ed), Lewellyn Roderick(Sasnews), Lauren Shear(photography), Andrew Dorer, Gillian Moodie, Janet Howse(advertising).

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RHODEO IS an affiliate of the South African Students' Press Union (Saspu) which is a progressive press union committed to the principles of non-racialism, non-sexism and democracy.

Saspu sees itself as part of the progressive press in South Africa and believes the media has a vital role to play in informing people about the true nature of life in our country.

Along with other progressive publications like the Weekly Mail and New Nation, Saspu's affiliates countrywide aim to provide an alternative source of information to what is currently churned out in the established commercial press and on SABC.

But we all get our information from the ever-present newspapers and SABC and none of us noticed anything irregular...or did we...read on.

While the love affair between Erica Adams and Willem de Klerk may be cute does it really justify front page headlines and massive colour pictures for weeks on end?

What about the mystical 'black on black' violence that is reported in the country's mainstream media?

Can the violence that has left thousands dead in South Africa over the past five years be dismissed as



Reading between the lines of South Africa's newspapers

Ibrahim Seedat

blacks killing blacks because they are inhuman savages?

By the same logic was World War II 'white on white' violence only on a much larger scale, and fought out by bigger savages?

The above examples are only a few which can be used to illustrate the stranglehold on information that presently exists in South Africa.

The SABC has almost total control of the airwaves and the print media is owned by four media conglomerates: Argus, controlled by the Anglo American Corporation; Times Media Limited, also controlled by Anglo American; Perskor, controlled by the Rembrandt Group and Volkskas and Naspers which is controlled by Sanlam.

In fact the South African mass media is one of the most highly monopolised in the world and South Africans are probably the most under-informed people on the planet, especially about our own country.

The 'big four' companies control almost 90 percent of all daily and weekly newspapers sold as well as half of all registered magazines.

They also have controlling interests in the Mondli/Sappi paper production cartel and in CNA and Gallo Records and own 90 percent of M-Net as well.

Whilst mouthing their commitment to being neutral, impartial and objective, the mainstream media's actions shows they are mostly interested in making profits.

The powerful profit motive of business combined with the over 100 laws which restrict the press in South Africa makes accurate reporting a sad illusion.

But the harsh reality is that most South Africans get their information from mainstream newspapers and SABC radio and television.

It is clear that the mass media, an important shaper of opinion in society, will have to alter its focus slightly in order to play a constructive role in building a democratic society.

Currently most of the subtle propaganda, misinformation and selective reporting in the press is unnoticed by the average accepting

South African. That's why it's so dangerous because it portrays a certain outlook, mostly white, male and middle class, as being natural and unquestionable.

But sometimes it does become easier to see through the distortions and false emphases of the mass media. One such case is the violence in Natal which has left over 4000 dead since 1985 and has gone on largely unnoticed by the press who reserve their sense of outrage for more important things like beach overcrowding and love affairs across the colour lines.

Fred Kockott, a reporter who spent five years covering the violence in Natal's strife-torn townships recently wrote in the Rhodes Journalism Review that the story of the war in Natal remained largely untold by the papers there.

He said the press had merely resorted to 'body-count journalism', simply quoting that 'five more died' or 'families flee violence' all taken from carefully doctored police reports.

Kockott wrote that few stories relating to the conflict were fully investigated and taken to their conclusion. He said the press would never have allowed the state of criminal justice to deteriorate as it had done in the townships if the violence was taking place in white areas.

He added that township murders were just another nameless statistic to most reporters and policemen.

"I think what best epitomises the failure of the media is the issue of names, names of the people killed. There have been more than 4000 people killed in Natal yet, fewer than five percent have received the posthumous privilege of their names appearing in print...Khumalos and Ndlovus were not important enough to have their names published," Kockott said.

He went on: "Until the media acknowledges that it failed to tell the Natal story, it will never improve. Newsmen must accept that the press is an integral part of the abnormality of South African society, and just as the schools need to open to all races, the doors of the media need to open so that reporting accurately reflects the society we live in."

Dear Rhodeo...

Dear Readers

Why "Dear Readers" instead of "Dear Rhodeo"? Because you have not sent us any letters yet, have you?! OK, OK, so you've only just arrived and haven't even heard of Rhodes' most exciting, on the button, relevant and totally awesome newspaper. But sies man, that's still not much of an excuse, is it?

Seriously though, this is YOUR page to sound off, rave, ramble or jabber on about alles en nogmeer.

We get the whole of the paper and you only get the Letters Page - serves you right for not joining organisations that will change your society/attitude/sanity.

This is normally our most popular page, the one students turn to first before studiously reading every other article. It is where you hear what your friends have to say and where YOU tell us exactly what you feel about life in Grimstown. Missing mummy and home-cooking already? Finding the lecturers deathly and your res mates worse? Think the way black and white students relate isn't that hot? Can't find an image? Have any mind-boggling and earth-shattering revelations to share, or any angst to wallow in? Well then, this is your page.

It is Rhodeo's most controversial and talked-about page and students do actually take it pretty seriously. A

Word of Warning though: Please no letters filled with swearwords or total defamation (shucks here comes the Publications Board!) and we're too broke to be sued for you.

Your opinions are important to us, especially regarding Rhodeo, so please do spill all. We will only publish your nom de plume if requested but the editor is legally bound to know your real name and address in confidence. Our letterbox stands on that round noticeboard in Kaif; alternatively drop your letter in our SRC box or outside our door upstairs in the Student Union.

We wait in eager anticipation.
Rhodeo

EVEN IF President De Klerk scrapped all apartheid legislation including the Land Act and the Population Registration Act in his February 1 speech, it would still be early days on the road to a new South Africa says the head of Economics at Stellenbosch University, Prof Sampie Terreblanche.

In an exclusive interview with RHODEO, Prof Terreblanche, a prominent international political analyst, said South Africa's short to medium term prospects were very poor.

"There will be long torn-out political negotiations accompanied by relative economic stagnation, low growth and massive social instability.

He said the name of the political game was power and it was clear from his recent utterances that De Klerk did not intend to relinquish power but wanted to share it with others with no party allowed to dominate.

"That kind of nonsense belongs more to the PW Botha/Chris Heunis era. If no party is allowed to dominate then you are paralysing politics...it's just not politics," Prof Terreblanche said.

He said a lasting settlement in South Africa would take at least a decade. "Everytime negotiations break down the media will blame the ANC and the Nats will stay in power and play for time."

Prof Terreblanche said negotiations will take so long simply because it had not dawned upon the Nats that there was a need for different power relations in South Africa.

"There's been no confession of the wrongs of the past coming from De Klerk or the National Party. There does not seem to be a sense of the apartheid debt that has accrued and which must be paid back by those who benefitted for so long."

Just last month President De Klerk assured Free State farmers that property

Hardship will face us all in the new South Africa

The 'New South Africa' is a myth created by the mass media. It's time to come down to earth and face the reality that building a democratic society will be no negotiated picnic, argues a prominent Stellenbosch University academic.

rights would remain intact. But something has to be done about the unequal distribution of land and it doesn't seem like the government is willing to fundamentally address the problem, he said.

Presently the Afrikaner community was split roughly in the middle when it came to supporting De Klerk. However of note was that over 70 percent of English speaking whites were now avid National Party supporters.

This figure is in stark contrast to the 25 percent support English speaking whites gave a reform minded PW Botha in 1981.

Prof Terreblanche said South Africa needed a transition period in which negotiations about the change to a democratic system could occur.

During that transition period the structural problems of apartheid had to be addressed. And it is the economic inequalities that would have to be addressed immediately in order for democracy to have a chance.

South Africa had the most unequal income distribution in the world when measured on the internationally accepted Gini Coefficient.



Living below the breadline -the trolleys will remain empty even in the new SA.

50 percent of all South Africans live below the breadline including two-thirds of black South Africans and 80 percent of homeland residents.

Then there was also the inequality in social service spending with R12 billion spent on five million whites and roughly the same amount spent on 28 million blacks.

Also just 10 conglomerates controlled nearly 90 percent of the shares on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange. Just 300 board members controlled all South Africa's major companies and 98 percent of them were white.

It was because of these gross economic imbalances that Prof Terreblanche felt it

would be sheer luck if a lasting political solution was agreed upon before the end of the decade.

We still need to create a new society free of apartheid, ethnicity, poverty and separatism. At the moment there was no such thing as a South African society.

It was still an apartheid society as nothing much had changed in people's daily living conditions.

And that is exactly why the ANC's call for mass action to dismantle apartheid was proving so effective. People were marching for concrete solutions to pressing community problems like the lack of water, housing and electricity.

In addition it was the first time in decades that the ANC had the opportunity for social mobilisation and it had to be done through mass action as only white South Africans could register their demands through the ballot box.

But Prof Terreblanche's main criticism was reserved for the mass media which was really spreading "De Klerk euphoria" in which there were only winners and no losers in the "New South Africa".

"This is both unrealistic and dangerous," he said, because the harsh reality is that South Africa is a poor country and will remain so even if sanctions were lifted.

South Africa would need an influx of over 10 billion dollars annually to achieve a 5.5 percent growth rate which was necessary to achieve prosperity. That amount of foreign investment is very unlikely, Prof Terreblanche said.

At the moment the most important thing to do would be to scale down both white and black expectations which were both too high.

South Africans needed to be prepared for the long road ahead instead of being told optimistic fairy tales by the mass media.

There is no right side in the Gulf war of hypocrisy

Andrew Dorer

GRAHAMSTOWN IS as far away from the Persian Gulf as you can get. No Scud missiles will rain down on the clock tower and we will never see an M1 tank rolling up High street.

However, the Gulf conflict, perhaps unfortunately, but almost inevitably, has become an international event which has wide ranging implications that affect everyone - even first year students jolling at the Vic.



Sadly, the whole issue has become confused by emotional propagandising. Saddam Hussien is described as "terrorist", while the United States is seen as an "imperialist aggressor".

It is vital that students equip themselves with a clear and unemotional analysis of what exactly has happened in Kuwait, what is happening now and what needs to be done to achieve a real and lasting peace in the Middle East. We need to avoid seeing the Gulf conflict through what Rhodes Journalism head, Professor Gavin Stewart described as "the soda-straw view of reality", as presented by CNN international.

The origins of the Gulf conflict are deep rooted and complex. Ever since the rise of Islam, the Middle East and North Africa have been united under a common religion, language and supra-national identity.

While political divisions existed these were less important than a broader Arab identity, and they changed regularly. However, during the 19th century the Middle East, like much of the rest of the globe found itself divided up between the colonial powers into an arbitrary set of political units.

Kuwait itself was a creation of Britain who took the area from Iraq during 1900 and set up a local family as 'Emir' rulers of Kuwait. A similar situation existed throughout the Middle East following the withdrawal of the colonial powers.

Imaginary lines were drawn across the empty desert dividing

the region into a set of artificially created monarchies which are characterised by too many petro-dollars and too little democracy. The Jewish reoccupation of Palestine and the United Nations creation of Israel provided a focus for Arab anger and resentment.

This historical background explains why the Middle East has been one of the world's most conflict ridden areas since World War Two.

It also helps us understand the broader motivation behind Saddam Hussein's military buildup and the invasion of Kuwait. Hussein sees himself as the person who will unite the Arab world against western domination and imperialism.

Iraq's invasion of Kuwait was immediately motivated by the illegal pumping of Iraqi oil by the Kuwaitis.

The New York Times of September 23, 1990 revealed that Kuwait which only owns 10 percent of the Rumaila Oilfield that lies in both Kuwait and Iraq was actually pumping 50 percent of the oil from it together with British Petroleum.

However it is clear that Hussein's invasion of Kuwait was also part of his wider territorial ambitions.

Clearly, the invasion is a unjustified act of military aggression against a sovereign state and has been universally condemned as such.

However, at the same time there is broad opposition to US military involvement, especially amongst the Arab population and throughout the world.

The slogan of US anti-war

protestors emphasises the reasons for this: "Hey no! We won't go! We won't fight for Texaco!" (A US oil company). It is quite clear that Bush is not acting out of a sense of moral outrage, but rather to protect the undemocratic regimes that keep the US supplied with cheap oil.

It is in fact common knowledge that US spy satellites played a major role in feeding the Iraqis vital information during the Iran-Iraq war. Put simply, the solution to the gulf conflict does not lie in the destruction of the Iraqi forces entrenched in Kuwait with the accompanying loss of life and social and environmental destruction.

Furthermore the war effort is costing somewhere in the region of between \$50-80 billion per month. When one considers that last year's education budget for South Africa was R5 billion you can see what a total waste of money it is.

Essentially, the conflict is rooted in the the undemocratic and exploitative socio-economic order in the Middle East and the problems engendered by the "Palestinian question".

The war has produced two very hypocritical protagonists in George Bush and Saddam Hussein. Bush's army did not hesitate to invade Granada and Panama in recent times and also sponsored the Contra rebels in Nicaragua and unita in Angola.

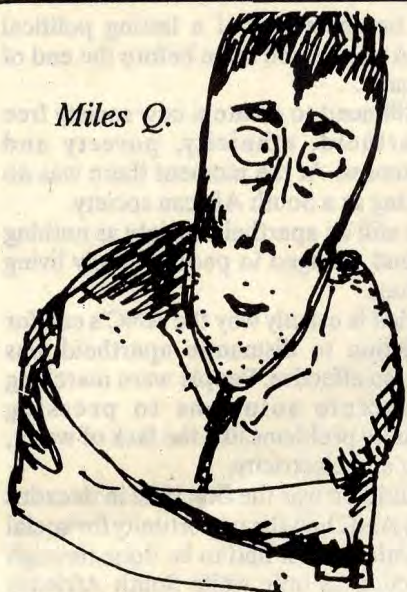
Hussein has been involved in a bloody battle with Iran for ten years and has also used force, including chemical weapons against Kurdish rebels in Iraq.

Both sides need to stop justifying their war efforts as backed by the will of God. Both should pull their armies out and get on with solving

the entire Middle East question.

However badly motivated, Hussein's call for a conference to address these issues is the right option. An end to hostilities, and a concerted attempt to solve the problems of the region as a whole offers the only possibility of a genuine, long-term peaceful settlement.





Miles Q. is a slightly deranged Journalism student with more than just a few problems. Read on and find out what these are... and see

Miles Q. UNBOUND

COMING BACK to Grahamstown at the beginning of every year is...how shall I put it?...nasty. I suffer from this morbid fear that somehow, subtly, everything will have changed.

Nothing will be obvious, nobody will say anything, but it will become painfully clear to me that I no longer fit in here...

Ah well, I'm sure everyone goes through that. (Don't they?) I suppose it's worse for people coming to Rhodes for the first time. Not that there is an official pecking order or anything, its just that in this world where knowledge is power, a desperate struggle for information, intellectual experience and academic territory ensues, giving the victor the ability to intimidate the piss out of people.

Grahamstown itself never seems to change, of course. It seems it grows by one building a year. Last year it was the new Checkers Centre. This year, on the property next door, we'll apparently be getting a new police station and morgue (rumour has it that for convenience sake they're putting in a connecting door).

Surprisingly, I was pleased to see my digs mates, Ted and Barbara Rabbit, when I got back. (I gave them the nickname because of their insatiable sexual appetites. They're not actually married of course, but they're virtually inseparable. And sometimes literally).

Last year they had to call me into their room several times to separate them from some particularly contorted positions.

It was a tricky business, but armed with a shoe horn and lots of KY Jelly I managed to pry them apart eventually. They have a few

idiosyncrasies, but they're a sweet couple.

Ted Rabbit is a pathological TV addict. Moving our things out of storage and back into our digs went smoothly until the TV was unpacked. I found Ted glued to the set minutes later.

"What's on?" I asked.

"Hey, it's like...this new mini-series called 'War in the Gulf.' Behind the CNN logo was the stock footage of a Baghdad air raid. Green fluorescent flashes drifted soundlessly across the screen. "Wow," said Ted, "What a rush!"

Barbara Rabbit appeared, carrying a chair. She sat down on it next to Ted. A picture of Saddam Hussein flashed on the screen. "Hey," said Ted, "This is the bad guy, man. Boo. Hiss."

"Bullshit, Ted" said Barbara. "They're all bad guys. Where do a few individuals get off acting on the world's behalf? They must be sexually frustrated or something."

You know what I think? Speaking from a Marxist feminist perspective, I think all world leaders are just a bunch of fat, ugly men who can't get any women." Barbara, once involved in student politics, has now joined the ranks of the Dissillusioned Left.

She now considers herself critical of all sides. In other words she's one of those people who adds "HOVIES" on to the end of "Viva ANC" (to make it "Viva ANCHOVIES"), or spraypaints "Viva Cassata" on the walls of Italian Ice-cream Palours.

As I stood there everything came flooding back to me. Yes, This was the Grahamstown I remembered. All that was missing now was a reunion with my therapist, Sheila. Returning to Grahamstown may have been daunting, But staying away would have been unthinkable. The vac was agony. Imagine - almost three months without therapy! I 'phoned Sheila immediately:

M: Sheila! My God, how I've missed you!

S: Oh, hello Miles. Are the three months over already? How was the vac? Did you find God?

M: No, no, I'm not hung up on God anymore. As Ted would say - "hey, he's just this guy, you know."

S: Ah yes, how are Ted and Barbara?

M: Oh, you know, same as usual. Practically joined at the crotch. Ha! Get it?

I'm looking forward to our first session. Things are settling back into place, yet I've been back a week and I can't help thinking that I haven't had any fun yet. Why aren't I enjoying myself? Of course, I don't know why I thought that life might be fun. There's never really been any evidence to support such an outrageous claim.

All dressed up and nowhere to go — a guide to the more refreshing sights of the town

MOST BIG city sophisticates get quite a shock when they arrive in Grahamstown for the first time - "it's a dorp" - and they're correct. Grahamstown is probably at the exact centre of nowhere in particular...BUT, if you make the effort, a good time can be had at...

The Student Union

Affectionally known as "the onion", the Student Union and Club above Kaif has been described as "the most pleasant airport waiting lounge in the world". Nevertheless, it has all the advantages of a typical student bar, the booze is cheap (about R1.50 a beer), the air unbreathable on Friday and Saturday nights and a clientele that covers an interesting cross-section of society.

Put simply, the Union is a good place to get sloshed cheaply until 10:30 when the doors close, and you stumble down New Street to...

The Vic

The Victoria Hotel is the stereotypical bugger jorl. Lots of beer, barbie dolls and very loud technotronic etc.

However, there are occasionally good live bands and the bar does stay open until 2am. Nevertheless, if you want to be seen in the 'right' social venues, then it's better to bypass the Vic and stagger up the stairs to...

The Albert

Named after Albert Einstein (good grief!), the Albert plays quieter (and better) music than the Vic, and the alcohol is slightly more expensive. This is the home of aspirant intellectuals and bungies who get together to be profound, stare into space in stoned contemplation or get quietly mothered in the corner. However, if you are of a even quieter disposition, and have more



Rhodes revellers engaging in their favourite pastime.

money to spare, jump in your car and drive across town to the...

Cathcart Arms

The Cathcart

The Cathcart was once the mecca of bungiedom, but has moved upmarket to hangout for older academics, local lawyer types and wealthy farmers from the surrounding district.

Still, it's very pleasant to have a quiet dop - especially around the fire in winter, and it does have the distinction of having the oldest existing liquor licence in South Africa and the best restaurant in Grahamstown.

When your budget begins to suffer after too many expensive drinks then it is time to move on to the cheaper alcohol and more social atmosphere of the...

Laughing Lobster

A popular bunge hangout with a good vibe and cheap booze, the 'hysterical crustacean' is rumoured to be on the rocks financially - so make the most of it while it's still going.

Other places where a good time can (possibly) be had include...

The Settlers Motel

Known as "The Mot", it is popular mainly because of regular specials on beer and a beautiful garden to go and get sick in afterwards.

The Goodwood Hotel

Is popular with those who enjoy the company of police people and railway workers - although it does have several pool tables in fairly decent condition and has been known to rave when Greeksoc holds a ouzo party.

The Grand Hotel

Is less notable for its pub - which is the sort of place where insurance salesmen try to chat up the bartender - than for its enormous wine cellar which is reputed to be the largest in the southern hemisphere and is definitely worth a visit.

Which makes the point about having a good time in Grahamstown - buy your own booze etc. and find out who is having a good rave at their digs.

The extremely laid-back Grimstown sounds

In his regular column, local musician, Chris Letcher explores the backyard musos

OK, SO you probably guessed, Grahamstown is not the centre of the country's music industry. You've also probably noticed that Mango Groove didn't even pass through Grahamstown on their national concert tour last month and, except for the annual National Arts Festival, none of the top jazz muzos ever just "pop-in" for a jam.

But, before you pack your bags, all is not lost: Grahamstown has a number of talented musicians to entertain you.

And, there is still time to enjoy them before the major record companies turn them into household names.

Strange Brew is a three-piece rock band deeply rooted in the music of the sixties. They would probably be labelled "middle-aged" (they were in their 20's when Woodstock was goin' down) but they must be the coolest dudes in town.

They play mostly rock classics and 60's covers but they put so much energy into them that they just about knock you down. Perhaps they're not exactly a tight band, but they sure can rock and roll.

If you've heard local guitarist, singer and songwriter, James

Ribbons, play in Cape Town, you'll agree that he is a brilliant solo performer.

He mixes his original songs and instrumentals with covers of classic folk and rock songs.

A major influence is Scottish guitarist/composer John Martyn, and you've got to hear James' version of Martyn's "May you Never".

Although he doesn't like playing around Grahamstown much, he quite often plays at weekends in pubs in town.

One of the strange things about Rhodes is that you often bump into your lecturers at pubs and jorls around town. What's even stranger is that you sometimes see your lecturers behind guitars on stage!

Socio lecturer, Monty Roodt, is the bass guitarist for Gramsci Beat, a five piece band that plays everything from Dollar Brand to Jimmy Hendrix.

Occasionally they play some of their own, but mostly it's very danceable cover versions and you can catch them at the Orientation Week jorl.

Larry Strelitz is a lecturer in the Journalism Department as well as a guitarist and composer.

Although he didn't play in Grahamstown last year he is planning great things for this year, including getting a band together to perform his own material as well as some blues standards.

If you're into "white noise" and dark corners you've got to go to at least one of their gigs. They've taken their brand of noise to Cape Town and East London and received quite a lot of national acclaim.

There is also the Mayibuye Marimba Band who you will probably hear at the Orientation Week gig and who are guaranteed to get your feet moving.

Besides all these there is often a visiting pub band at the Vic and occasionally a band like Tananas will stop by and surprise us. So you see, the Grahamstown music scene is not nearly as grim as you thought!

You know how people talked of the "Liverpool sound" in the Beatles' days when a whole lot of groups came out of Liverpool with a similar sound? Well I think there is definitely a "Grahamstown Sound" - it's kinda hippyish, folk-influenced, definitely rooted in Sub-Saharan Africa and very laid back!

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LEADER AND KRUMMECK

115B HIGH STREET

Societies for one, societies for all — join one and get moving on the Rhodes rollercoaster

RMR (RHODES MUSIC RADIO)

Reputed to be South Africa's best campus radio station, RMR broke the South African university record last year with their 336 hour broadcast marathon.

The infamous Kyle Hannan also walked off with the Camel Pyramid of Light Campus DJ competition held in Johannesburg last year.

So if you're a closet DJ or a budding Journ student join this inimitable DJ body or the Newsbeat team.

Auditions will be held early this term. If you're interested go along to the RMR room (down the corridor from Kaif) and talk to the DJ types.

This year is RMR's 10th birthday and to celebrate they maybe co-hosting a concert on the February. Watch campus media for details!



SAUJS (South African Union of Jewish Students)

SAUJS works towards Jewish orthodox principles and aims at giving its members a hell of a good time.

It caters for Shabbat and all other major festivals. Shul services are held every Friday night followed by dinner.

On Sunday nights there are videos, cake and coffee.

SAUJS is waiting for you to join the family.



AIIESEC

This is an international association for students interested in economics and the management process.

The society strives towards bridging the gap between students, academics and the business sector and promoting national and international understanding.

The committee is divided into five portfolios, those being marketing, projects, exchange, advertising and finance.

There is an International Exchange Traineeship Programme and a Community Assistance Programme.

Other activities include seminars, lectures, outings, sales training and rages such as the AEISEC Ball and cocktail parties.

If you are an open minded, go-getter achiever, AEISEC is the society for you.

YCS (Young Christian Students)

This is another inter-denominational Christian movement but is unique in its double identity - Christian and political.

They oppose the apartheid regime on the grounds that as children of God they believe that such a system cannot be allowed to exist.

They strive for a just South Africa free from all forms of oppression and exploitation.



EARTHLIFE AFRICA

The newly formed Grahamstown branch of Earthlife Africa will be pursuing its aims of protecting our natural environment and educating people as to the place of human beings in the global ecosystem vigorously this year.

The society will be concentrating specifically on the protection of the coastal environment and marine mammals.

Earthlife holds regular meetings every Thursday at 7pm in the Seminar Room at the Botany Department.

All those interested should contact Malcolm Logie at the Botany Department.



HSA (HELLENIC STUDENTS' SOCIETY)

"Greeksoc" is famous (or infamous) for its ouzo parties, a Taverna evening, wild weekends at the coast and the Greek Ball.

This year they hope to have more cultural activities such as Greek dancing and exploration of the rich Greek heritage.

They are affiliated to a national body which is involved with organising an annual trip to Greece by students.

Do you have to be Greek to join? No, but it helps.

For more info on these and many other slightly more elusive (to Rhodians that is) societies watch out for the tables during registration and at Societies Evening on Thursday February 21 at the Great Hall.



ANSOC (Anglican Students' Society)

ANSOC meets every Wednesday night at the Chaplaincy and has close links with the Youth Group at the Cathedral.

This year ANSOC will be developing closer ties with Saint Paul's Theological College and will therefore offer excellent teaching.

There are two chaplains available for counselling.

It's the members' needs that are important at ANSOC and this will determine its direction this year.

METHSOC (Methodist Society)

This is an interdenominational society which holds get-togethers on Wednesday nights.

Speakers are arranged from time to time and weekend aways occur twice a year.

Prayer groups and res fellowships can be arranged during the week.

METHSOC is made of friendships which are supportive to the everyday situations one faces at Rhodes that helps one grow in the Lord.



MSA (Muslim Students Society)

MSA aims at developing the character of the Muslim student and his or her Muslim identity, to promote the Islamic value system and to engender a spirit of brotherhood amongst students.

Activities include individual study, group study and organising campus activities.



GeogSoc

Not restricted to Geography students, GeogSoc specialises in outings and camps.

There will be an outing within the next three weeks and various guest speakers who will speak on topical, interesting subjects.

The first talk will be by Murray Biedler on his trip from "Cape to Cairo on Motorbike".

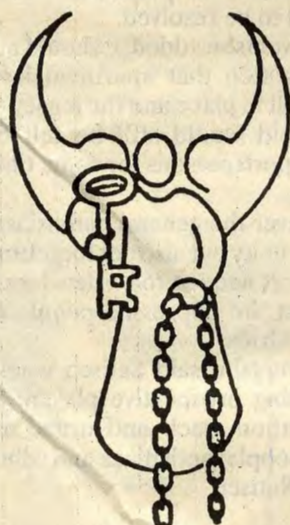
RFS (RHODES FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY)

RFS's activities range from debates, singing and camping to talks by speakers.

Their vision is to produce intellectuals that will serve God in their communities.

They do not side with any political group but believe that any government that does not allow God to lead will never please the nation.

For more information talk to Geoff Foster at Adamson House.



SCA (Students' Christian Association)

This is an inter-denominational fellowship which aims at deepening the spiritual life of Christians on campus and promoting an earnest study of the bible.

Join them on Thursday nights at 7pm in the SCA room below Drosdy Dining Hall.



LSD (Liberal Student Democrats)

This is an organisation committed to fighting apartheid and replacing it with individual freedom, the free market and limited government.

LSD produces its own newspaper and other publications, invites speakers to campus, contests the annual SRC elections and participates in national student meetings.

There is a range of activities to get involved in, provided you oppose apartheid and support liberal values.

LSD is part of the National Student Federation (NSF) which is present on 10 campuses nationally.

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PETER ANDREW, 31, is Rhodes' new head of Sports Administration after having taken over from John Donald who left for Cape Town at the end of last year.

Mr Andrew in fact obtained his BA in Physical Education here at Rhodes in 1984 and became the Assistant Sports officer during the same year.

However in 1989 he took up the post of Director of Administration at the Eastern Province Cricket Union and was involved to some extent in providing the back-up for the all conquering Eastern Province team under Kepler Wessels who won everything in sight in the 1989/90 season.

Peter Andrew plays a host of different sports ranging from windsurfing to hockey and golf but his favourite game is definitely cricket.

He represented the South African Universities cricket association at the recent cricket unity talks between the SA Cricket Board and the SA Cricket Union which was chaired by the ANC's Steve Tshwete.

Andrew said cricket unity was definitely on the cards this year and things were looking very positive.

He added that one of the most important aspects of the unity talks was the development of cricket in the townships, especially at the primary schools there.

Andrew is currently involved with the EP Cricket Union's coaching project which provides coaching for over 1000 children.

New sports admin head



The new head of Sports Admin, Peter Andrew

With regard to his term of office as head of Rhodes' Sports Admin, Andrew said the Sports Admin would continue to work towards unity amongst all campus sportspersons as well as making a drive to increase participation in sport amongst students, especially at a social level.

Also they aimed to encourage students to make full use of the

sports facilities on campus and Andrew called upon students and staff to use facilities especially during non-peak times.

Recently the Rhodes University Council gave a grant to the Sports Council to assist in uplifting standards on campus.

Andrew said the money would be used for sports bursaries, for coaching and also for subsistence when teams travelled.

CAMPUS SPORT SET-UP

SPORT AT Rhodes falls under the overall jurisdiction of the recently appointed Student Dean. However the Sports Council is responsible for the day to day sporting activities at Rhodes.

The Sports Council, established in 1905, consists of clubs affiliated to the SA Universities Sports Council and also the codes affiliated to Satisco (SA Tertiary Institutes Sports Council).

Satisco is an anti-apartheid sports organisation and abides by the principle of non-racialism. Satisco is affiliated to the National Olympic and Sports Congress (NOSC).

The clubs affiliated to SA Universities also affiliate to provincial bodies.

The head of Sports Admin is Peter Andrew with Steve Olivier the Senior Sports Officer and Paul

Davies the Sports Officer.

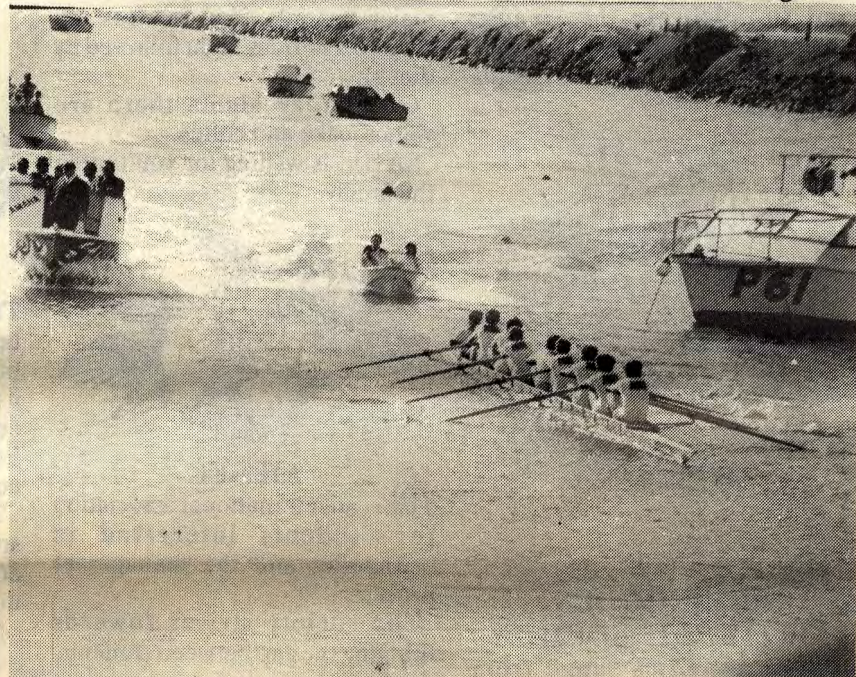
They see to the day to day running of sport on campus and can be contacted at their offices in the Old Mutual Pavillion.

Presently the SA Universities caters for 22 different sports including rowing, rifle, underwater, karate, aikido and canoeing amongst the other more traditional sports.

Satisco offers 10 codes of sport after having been in existence for only four years. Codes offered include cricket, soccer, swimming and softball.

Some of the sports facilities at Rhodes include a heated swimming pool, three floodlit rugby, cricket and soccer fields, a rowing tank, an athletics track and a rifle range as well.

All facilities are within easy walking distance of the residences and are available free of charge.



Rhodes rowers showing their worth at a regatta some time ago.

Non-racial sportspersons welcome unity initiatives

SATISCO, A national tertiary institutes sports organisation with branches on over 70 campuses, firmly believes that true non-racial sport entails taking a stand against apartheid.

This also included a commitment to correct the imbalances in sport as well as amongst the oppressed people of South Africa.

This emerged from an interview with Rhodes Satisco chairperson, Lungisa Magwentshu.

He called on students to join Satisco and play non-racial sport seriously.

The process toward unifying the different sports bodies was already well underway with Satisco set to merge with Satisa, which organises mainly Western Cape training colleges, this month.

Magwentshu wholeheartedly supported the plans to form one

soccer body on campus saying it was something that non-racial sportspersons had been struggling for, for decades.

However the unity process was not without its problems which needed to be resolved.

Magwentshu added, it should not be forgotten that apartheid laws were still in place and the legacy of apartheid would still be felt by black sportspersons for some time to come.

However the general enthusiasm was for unity but also not forgetting that sport needed to be developed amongst the oppressed people of South Africa.

Magwentshu said Satisco would be signing prospective players at Orientation week and urged all sportspeople, both black and white to join Satisco.

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Rhodes' water polo team showing that they are just as good under the water as they are above it. The somewhat inflated team in the picture came joint forth at SAU's summer tournament in December and also deserve a medal for their underwater photography

Rhodes tries valiantly but performs badly at SAU summer tournaments

ONCE AGAIN Rhodes teams did not fare all that well during the SA Universities summer tournaments which were held all around the country in December.

Rhodes cricketers came ninth out of 12 teams. However Steve Palfreman managed to make the SA Universities B team.

Rhodes men's tennis team came ninth out of ten and the women finished ninth out of nine.

However Rhodents seem to fare

much better in the water. The water polo team came joint fourth out of eight with Tim Jacobs and Gareth Tyler making the SAU B team.

In the swimming Rhodes were placed fifth out of eight with Avron Vides performing well to make the men's SAU team and Lauren Tiltman snatching a place in the women's SAU team.

But our sailors seemed to have hit stormy waters as they finished last out of five teams.

Rhodes soccer teams forge an historic unity in time for next season's kick-off

WITH SOCCER unity already signed and sealed at a national level and clubs gearing for the big kick-off in March, campus soccer clubs took an historic decision late last year to unite to form a single Rhodes soccer club.

The unified club will consist of players from both Satisco and SA Universities and will compete in the Eastern Province provincial league.

And depending on how they fare, the unified Rhodes team could slowly but surely blaze their way to the very top just as the more illustrious Wits University team.

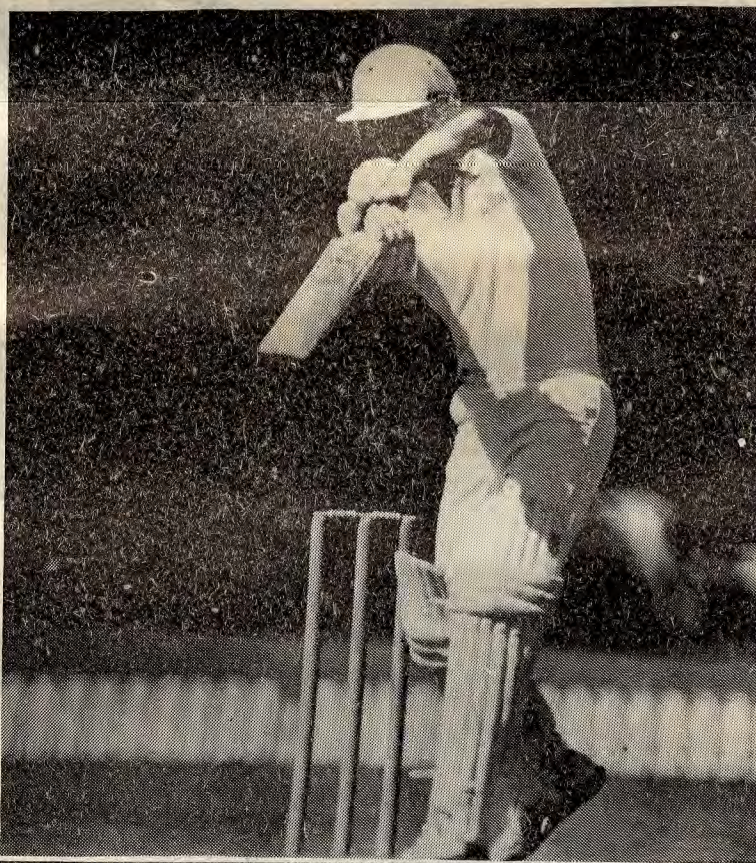
Head of Rhodes' Sport Administration Peter Andrew said unity was forged amongst soccer players on campus after the national soccer bodies had provided the initiative.

He said the unified team would be stronger than previous Rhodes teams and they would combine to form a powerful side.

The process from here is for SA Universities and Satisco to thrash out the remaining problems they had and to find an acceptable compromise.

Also coming up in the next season will be a unified internal soccer league at Rhodes. This league would consist of teams from Satisco's Thabiso Ratsomo League and from clubs who were playing in the Grahamstown Football association.

Andrew said soccer was providing an example to other codes in its successful attempt at forging unity. This could only lead to greater unity amongst the student population in general.

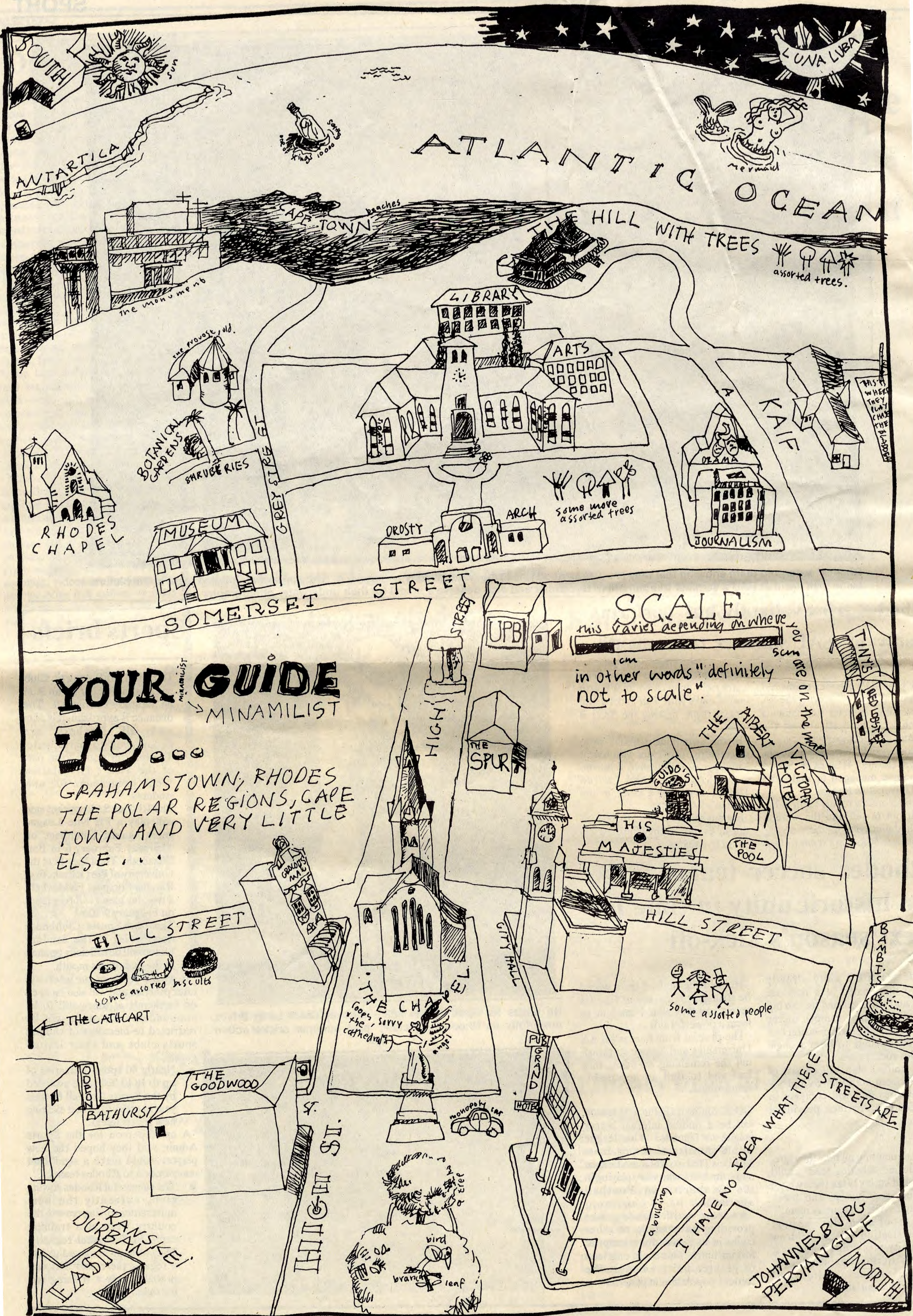


No prizes for spotting the ball - (above) Grant Long drives powerfully for Rhodes - (below) past summer cricket action



Sports briefs

- THE RHODES Athletic Club will host a Fresher's Fun Run on Saturday February 9. The distance is approximately 5km and all freshers are encouraged to participate. The fun-run would form part of the SRC's Orientation Week programme for new students.
- The Rhodes SAU cricket side will play a PE Nite League game against Uitenhage on Thursday February 6 in Port Elizabeth. Then they host the University of Port Elizabeth at Rhodes Porspect Field where a two day game will be played on February 9/10.
- The new Sports Clubhouse downstairs in the Student Union will be officially opened at the end of this month. It would be open on weekdays after practice and will also be open on weekends at times still to be announced. Entrance will be restricted to members of campus sports clubs and their invited guests.
- Nearly 40 sports bursaries of up to R 10 000 were awarded by the Sports Council for this year in order to attract exciting new sports talent. A spokesperson for the Sports Admin said they hoped the new players would make a significant contribution to Rhodes teams.
- The successful Rhodes rowing club, currently the best universities rowing crew in the country were at a training camp in Transvaal recently. They already managed to win a regatta there and that was probably only a training run for them.



YOUR GUIDE TO...

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