



## Trials and Tribulations in the Joburg Office

by Liz Hadwen

Rhodes University Public Relations has two staff members in Johannesburg - Liz Hadwen, the Schools Liaison Officer and Shelley Sher, the secretary.

Running an office 1000 kms away from "home" is not always easy, although it often has its lighter moments.

The acquisition of our new PC and the link to the Grahamstown mainframe which is in the pipeline will narrow the distance between the Johannesburg office and Grahamstown and will make the Johannesburg office far more effective.

The office deals with approximately 100 visitors and over 300 phone calls each month requiring information about the University, the courses offered etc.

Amongst the stranger requests we have had was for the University to organize transport to Phalaborwa.

Irate parents contact us to complain about the food in residence; little Johnny is in Kimberley Hall and by the time he walks "all the way up the hill" lunch is finished - could we please organize a reduction in residence fees?

People regularly ask to be put through to one of the residences or to speak to one of the professors - and they become very indignant when told it is impossible as they are 1000 kms away.

One also has to be an expert on the colour scheme of the furnishings in each residence, the amount of pocket money a student needs and all forms of accommodation within a 50km radius of the University.

The most bizarre request in the last few months was a phone call from Qwa Qwa from a parent who had found the number of the Johannesburg office on correspondence from the University and thinking that we were also an information bureau, requested the telephone number of a gynaecologist in Johannesburg.

It's all in a day's work and life in this office is very seldom monotonous. All staff members visiting Johannesburg are invited to "pop in" and visit us in the Mews, Rosebank.

A cup of tea is always available and it helps narrow that 1000 km gap.



*Two academics, Murray Leibbrandt and George Euvsard, casting their special votes at the Magistrate's Court before the election. They were protesting against 'the warped understanding of the Government and the SABC on what constitutes free and fair elections'. They were denied access to the Court House, but after much gesticulating the magistrate was called and they were allowed to enter and vote.*

## Tobias essay competition

IT'S time to put pen to paper if you intend to submit an entry in the third Phillip V Tobias Essay Competition, administered by the Institute for the Study of Man in Africa at Wits.

The essay competition was established in 1985 in honour of Professor Tobias, through whose efforts the Institute was established, and in recognition of his international standing as a scientist, academic leader and humanist.

The theme for 1989/1990 is HUMAN BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY IN AFRICA TODAY.

Submissions of approximately 6000 words are invited, and should reach the secretary of ISMA by April 20, 1990. These should be in English, and typed in double spacing. They should present the result of original research or of critical reappraisal, and should constitute a significant contribution to current debate on the topic.

A prize of \$1 000 (US dollars) will accompany the award, and the Institute will seek to facilitate publication of the winning essay in an appropriate journal.

The Institute reserves the right to withhold the award if no entry is of sufficient merit.

If you're interested in submitting an entry, send it to The Secretary, The Institute for the Study of Man in Africa, Room 2B10, University of the Witwatersrand Medical School, York Road, Parktown 2193, Johannesburg.

## RECIPE

THIS recipe, in the May/June issue of The Settler entitled Recipes from the Past, is one that cannot fail.

*Preserving Children*

### Ingredients

1 large grassy field or park, 6 children, 1 or 2 small dogs, 1 bubbling brook, with pebbles, 6 songbirds

### Method

Mix children and dogs together well, and let them loose in the field, stirring constantly. Pour brook over pebbles and add singing birds. Sprinkle field with flowers, spread over all a clear blue sky and bake in the warm sun. When brown, remove children. Set to cool in a bath, or, better still, in a lake or in the ocean.



## RUSA AGM

by Margot Beard

There was a reasonably good attendance and a very nice spread from a number of the Arts and Science departments. The meeting was initially chaired by the Vice-Chairman, Dr Robin Palmer, who was standing in for the chairman, Mr John Eller, who was involved in a car accident in mid-August. As Dr Palmer was struggling stoically against a heavy bout of bronchitis, Dr Georg Gruber relieved him half-way through the business of the meeting.

There was some discussion about the proportionally greater increase in subscription fees for the administrative and technical staff but the meeting voted to accept the proposed increases. The present committee was re-

elected for 1989/90 except for Mr Dennis Scott, the outgoing secretary, who could not stand for re-election.

The Vice-Chancellor, the Vice-Principal, the Registrar, the Director and Deputy-Director of Personnel, and the Director of Business Affairs then arrived to participate in the Vice-Chancellor's question time. The six questions submitted to the Vice-Chancellor all aroused a fair amount of discussion. Various views were expressed about mission statements, rationalization, conference funding. It would seem that the presence of so many from the top administration at the RUSA meeting is a sign that the administration recognizes the importance and potential of a body like RUSA on campus.

## Familiar faces in new places

ON the staff scene this month, we find new faces, and familiar faces in new places.

Recent newcomers to the Rhodes team include Mrs D Norton as Accounts Clerk in the Finance Division, and Mrs C J S Opie as part-time secretary in the Department of Classics.

Mrs P Callaghan has swapped her rather isolated office for one much closer to the hub of activity, as the Buying Officer in the Business Affairs Division.

Mr G Ngcobondwana, in the Department of Zoology and Entomology, has been promoted to Technical Officer. Several other promotions have also been announced by the Personnel Division, but more about those closer to the time of their implementation.

August was a sad month for many departments as farewells were said to colleagues, including Mrs L N Andrew (Classics), Mr P H Andrew (Senior Sports Officer), Mrs P M Burnett (Registrar's Assistant), Mr P Clayton (Economics and Economic History), Mrs C Foord (Assistant Salaries Officer), Mrs S Ford (Assistant Caterer, Hobson Hall), and Mr M P Hanley (Printing Unit).

## ISAZISO : Kuwo onke amalungu E-Service Staff

Intetha ngothetha-thethwano ngemivuzo

Amalungu e-Service Staff aziswa kwingxelo yam yomhla we 10ku Julayi 1989 ukuba uthetha-thethwano lonyaka lwemivuzo luqale ngomhla we 8 Juni 1989.

Emva kwentlanganiso ezintlanu, eyokugqibela kuzo ibingomhla we 6 Julayi 1989, i-Union yayikhaba i-Ofa yezemali ye-Yunivesithi enyusa imivuzo yeStafu esingekho kwi-Residences ukuya kutsho phakathi kwe R395 ne R1020 ngenyanga, elixa imivuzo yeStafu se-Residences ibiya kunyuka ukuya kutsho phakathi kwe R270 me R445 ngenyanga. Le-Ofa, nonyuso olwanikezelwa ukususela kumhla ka 1 Agasti 1988, lubonisa unyuso kwisincinane semivuzo kwiStafu esingekho kwi-Residences phantse nge 77%, ze kwiStafu esikwi-Residences ngange 60%; kwinyanga ezilishumi elinambini ezidlulileyo.

I-Yunivesithi yavuma ukugcina i-Ofa yayo ivulekile, nokunikeza uphicotho zincwadi kwi-Union ibonisa inkxaso efunyenwe kuRulumente engaphantsi kunesiqingatha kwimali ethi i-Yunivesithi iyihlawule iStafu ngohlobo lwemivuzo namalungelo. I-Union, nangona kunjalo, yafuna u-Mphicothi-zincwadi zemali okhethwe yiyo ukuba anike ingxelo. I-Yunivesithi iyaqonda ukuba umphicothi-zincwadi zemali uyingqinile le meko ichazwe ngentla apha. Inkcukacha ze-Ofa ye-Yunivesithi ziphindiwe kwakhona ngezantsi apha. IStafu seResidences

Greyidi R1 R270 ngenyanga; R2 R290 ngenyanga; R3 R360 ngenyanga; R4 R445 ngenyanga

Istafu esingekho kwiResidences

Greyidi I R395 ngenyanga; II R435 ngenyanga; III R500 ngenyanga; IV R560 ngenyanga; V R735 ngenyanga

IStafu esikwi-Greyidi III, IV naku V esifumana ngaphezulu komvuzo oqingqiweyo kwiGreyidi nganye, siyakufumana imali evumelekileyo elingana ne-5% yomvuzo waso wangoku.

U-Mphicothi-zincwadi zemali we-Union ubetyelele apha eYunivesithi ngomhla 3 Agasti 1989 - phantse. ithuba elingange nyanga emva kokuvumelana ukuveza inkcukacha ezithile zemali. I-Yunivesithi iye yabonisa ukuba ikulungele ukuqalisa uthetha-thethwano nanini na emva kokuba u-Mphicothi-zincwadi zemali enikezele ingxelo yakhe. Nangona kunjalo, i-Union ayifumanekanga ukuze kudityanwe de yangumhla we 18 Agasti 1989. Nangona iqela lothetha-thethwano le-Yunivesithi lahlanganisana ngalo mhla, aba-Mmeli be-Union zange bafike ngexesha ukwenzela ukuba uthetha-thethwano luqalise. I-Yunivesithi iyakhathazeka yile libazisa iqhubekayo, yaye ithemba ukuba uthetha-thethwano luya kuqhutywa nge 24 Agasti 1989 ukwenzela ukuba kuzokupheliswa kamsinya.

Dr R van der Merwe

VICE-PRINCIPAL

21 Agasti 1989

## Survey

As promised in our last issue, here are the results of the Ms or Mrs survey, and we thank all those staff members who bothered to answer our questionnaire.

43 people responded to the survey

1. Do you object to the appellation Ms?

Yes - 31 (72,1%)

No - 11 (25,6%)

(97,7% response)

2. Do you prefer Ms to Miss or Mrs?

Yes - 7 (16,3%)

No - 35 (81,4%)

(97,7% response)

3. If your answer to Question 2 is "Yes", do you suggest the University should refer to all female staff (except Doctors and Professors as applicable) as Ms?

Yes - 6 (14%)

No - 23 (53,5%)

(67,4% response)

4. Would you prefer that all female staff should choose an appropriate appellation?

Yes - 23 (53,5%)

No - 19 (44,2%)

(97,7% response)

5. Do you think the official University publications (Calendar, for example) should carry a statement to the effect that for convenience only the male or female description will be used, but that the other is equally applicable?

Yes - 5 (11,6%)

No - 27 (62,8%)

(74,4% response)

6. Do you think the University should avoid the use of either he or she whenever appropriate?

Yes - 10 (23,3%)

No - (74,4%)

(97,7% response)



## Hand over those unused drugs!

OLD and unused medicines taking up space in the medicine chest in your home could prove fatal.

Poison Centres in South Africa have data which indicates that hundreds of people are poisoned, often fatally, every month. While most of these cases involve adults poisoned with toxic substances like insecticides and contaminated foodstuffs, a substantial number involves children - and in many of these cases the hoarded residue of prescribed medicines has been responsible.

The School of Pharmaceutical Sciences has mounted a campaign to collect old and unused medicines, and dispose of them in a way which will do no harm to the environment.

Pharmacy students will call at homes in Grahamstown, collecting medication that is no longer being used. If they call at your home, please turn out your cupboards, and get rid of all those pills and potions you no longer require.

Mr Len Paton, a senior lecturer in Pharmaceutical Sciences, said

## How to get there more cheaply

GETTING from A to B within the country is a costly business these days, and travelling further afield is almost impossibly expensive.

However, there are ways to get to and from Grahamstown that work out fairly easy on the pocket.

If you're planning a trip within the country's borders, getting to where you want to go is as simple as catching a bus.

The Greyhound Citiliner - one of the most comfortable ways to travel - now includes Grahamstown on its Johannesburg to Port Elizabeth run, and a luxury bus departs from the Market Square every day except Saturday.

The fares are reasonable, and there are reductions for national servicemen, senior citizens, and children under the age of 12 years. There is also a family rate for families travelling together. Details of the Citiliner service can be obtained from the Central Reservations Office in Johannesburg, or from your travel agent.

If you're planning a trip abroad, then it pays to be a member of the 1820 Settlers' Association of South Africa, which now has an Eastern Cape branch based in Port Elizabeth.

Contrary to popular belief, the association is not just for immigrants and descendants of the 1820 settlers - membership is open to all, and offers members a variety of benefits, including travel concessions.

Because the association is aware of the need of the immigrant community to keep in touch with family and friends overseas, one of its priorities is subsidised travel.

At present the subsidies cover flights worldwide via Europe - the benefit being mainly for passengers flying to Europe, Britain and America, or people visiting Europe and then going on to Australia and the Far East.

Members of the association can also pay in South Africa for relatives from abroad to visit them here and qualify for a rebate on the fares.

For more information about the 1820 Settlers' Association, contact Mrs Hilda Allison in Port Elizabeth (telephone 553416).

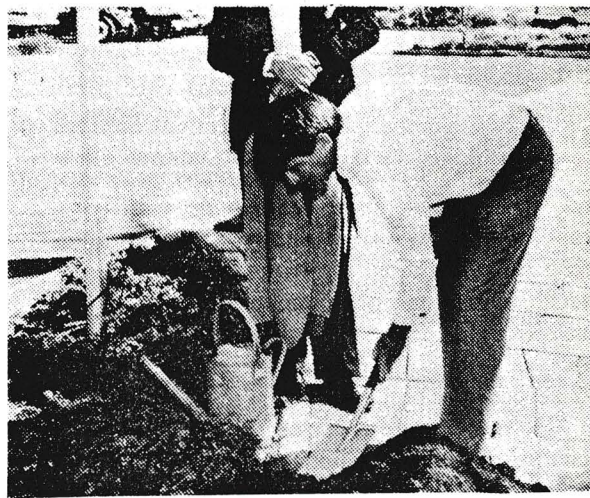
that even common medicines can cause problems when they have been stored for too long. "Aspirin is an example of this. With time, needle-like crystals of salicylic acid form on the tablets, and, even if this is not poisonous, it may cause a burning sensation in the stomach.

"Some antibiotics have a shelf-life of only a week, and others of a few years. Penicillins can cause particularly nasty allergic reactions," he said.

"Eyedrops also cause problems. They should not be used for more than one month after they are opened, or they lose their sterility. This could lead to potentially dangerous eye infections. This applies to all eyedrops, even those bought without a prescription," Mr Paton warned.

Many people get rid of unwanted medication by disposing of it down the loo. This practice is not recommended, as it can pose a threat to the environment.

Rather hand your unused medicines to the students when they knock on your door, or take them to your pharmacist, who will dispose of them responsibly and safely.



Professor Keith Black showing some muscle-power on Arbor Day, while a headless head gardener holds his jacket.

## Keep an eye out for comment

LOOK out for Comment - a new publication dealing with topics of interest to the academic community at Rhodes.

Comment will publish short papers providing critical discussion of issues of general concern.

Issues addressed may include the future of Rhodes; admissions policy; rationalization; the academic boycott, the changing student population, academic standards, community extension, staff associations, communicative competence, student assessment etc. Topics drawn from beyond the university will also

be acceptable if of general interest.

Comment will be published by the Department of Philosophy and articles for publication will be accepted at the discretion of the editors.

Contributions must be submitted on a floppy disc (which will be returned) in any of the following formats : WordPerfect, Wordstar and PC Write. The name and version of the software used must be indicated. Major articles should be approximately 3 000 words in length. Shorter articles, as well as brief responses to published papers will also be accepted, provided they are in keeping with the overall editorial policy of the publication.

## Annual RUWA Dance

Saturday 21 October: Rhodes Club at 8.00pm  
Rhodes Women's Association Annual Dinner Dance

Tickets: R35 double

Band: Country Express

Tickets available from Jenny Purdon in Public Relations.

## LOST

A silver Parker propelling pencil. Has Jenny Purdon, Dolphins 1989 engraved on it. Possibly removed from my desk in Public Relations.



## EDITORIAL

WE (the RHODOS team) know we can't please all the people all the time - but we try to produce a regular monthly newspaper which, we hope, is of interest to most of the staff.

So far, we haven't had too many brickbats, and most of those have been to do with typographical and proof-reading errors. The gremlins creep in to the most illustrious of publications, though, and, as only one member of our team is a qualified typist, the rest of us fumble our two (or three, or four)-fingered way across the QWERTY keyboard as best we can.

However, we've received our first real complaint. Unfortunately, an anonymous letter, so we can't print it on the Letters Page, but GRIPER complained that we wasted space in the August issue by reproducing a photo of a staff member in an unusual pose, instead of using it for something constructive, like sport, and also complained about the lack of sport on the back page.

GRIPER - this is for you - if you're reading this issue. Maybe you've given up on us in disgust and tossed your copy into File 13.

None of us know much about sport, and it seems to be one of those areas where a little knowledge is a dangerous thing - so we leave it to the experts to provide us with copy. Should our correspondents be ill, or out of town, or unable to contribute for any reason - we're stuck. Especially as the contributors' deadline is open for as long as possible, and by that stage we're already trying to make up the paper. So we fill the gap left by the lack of sport news with something else. (We'd hoped that the photo in question would raise a chuckle or two, in fact).

GRIPER - the success of this newspaper depends on you, as a member of staff. If you are a sports fundi - please write for us - we'd appreciate your help.

We would appreciate contributions from everyone, in fact. If there's something you'd particularly like to read about in RHODOS, or if you have an interesting snippet of news (and it need not be restricted to university-type topics), please let us know. We'd appreciate pictures and cartoons too!

THE EDITOR,  
If any good English dictionary is consulted, the words "public" and "public holiday" should be defined very clearly. Chambers (1976 reprint) defines "public" as "of or belonging to the people," or "shared in by, or open to all" or "open to members of a community as a whole". "Public holiday" is defined as a "general holiday" and "general"

is defined as "common" or "universal".

From the above it can be inferred that a public holiday is a general holiday, open to all, especially to members of a university if "university" in this case is applied in a narrower sense.

Rhodes University decision-makers either choose to ignore or disagree with this, or  
(cont. on p 5)

## Air your views in Rhodos

THE EDITOR,  
At the RUSA AGM held on 22 August 1989 the question of remuneration of Rhodes staff other than academic staff was raised by me. The Director of Personnel seemed to be under the impression that technical staff were leaving Rhodes mainly for personal reasons, a misconception that has serious consequences for the future of Rhodes University. On the other hand, I think that there is general interest in the fate of ex-Rhodes staff members and in their reasons for leaving. We should replace rumours and assumptions with hard facts.

I was able to contact several ex-staff and report back: Andy Scholz, ex-Ichthyology, is in Cape Town and working on his own. He left Rhodes for a variety of reasons and left a long letter. Copies are with Tom Hecht and Bruce Smith. Financial reasons, and the failure to pay for overtime worked, were mentioned among others. He has increased his income by approximately 50 percent.

David Mills, ex-Computer Science wants us to publish that he left entirely for financial reasons. He suffered a R500 drop in his salary when he started at Rhodes. The housing subsidy he received at a later stage partially compensated him for some time. As no significant wage increases materialized, he decided to leave. He is

now working in Pretoria, his salary being up by 47 percent. He will receive a further increase this year.

Owen Campbell, ex-Pharmaceutical Sciences, is now working in Pretoria as a Science Officer. Owen says, that it is "difficult to enjoy the same quality of life as in Grahamstown". He doubled his salary after leaving Rhodes and has received further increases. He has gained 150 percent to date. He also enjoys better benefits and a higher housing subsidy. Margie Campbell is working part-time as she did at Rhodes. She gained 130 percent until now. Owen and Margie have assumed higher responsibilities. They want to take this opportunity to send their greetings to all of you still at Rhodes.

Rene Martus, formally Rene Pretorius, ex-Computing Centre, passes on greetings to all her ex-colleagues. Rene is working in Johannesburg now. Her wages increased by 147 percent!! She also has free petrol, an entertainment allowance and will get a further increase before the end of 1989.

All ex-staff members investigated lost their housing subsidies (except Owen Campbell) and still gained financially.

Rhodes staff also gained, we received a general wage increase of 15 percent during the period of time investigated.

The University of Natal is advertising a

post for a Senior PC Technical Assistant with better fringe benefits and longer leave than Rhodes staff get at present. They are also not ashamed to publish their salary range : R38 933 - R45 197. We at Electronic Services have been trying to employ another qualified electronics technician on a permanent basis since April 1987. The job description published by the University of Natal in their advert describes the kind of technician we want here. Is anybody surprised that we keep on searching?

Heinz Jasson.

### THE EDITOR

I find myself in a difficult position regarding my salary, as I just am unable to make ends meet with the salary I earn.

My salary at present is R950,00 per month, my take home pay is R780,00.

1. I am married and have two children : ages 4 and 8 yrs old.

2. My expenses are R770,00 - this excludes food and clothing.

My wife's salary pays for the food etc.

I do not have my own transport.

When I joined Rhodes I was under the impression that with the housing subsidy, I would be able to purchase a house but unfortunately this is not the case. Would other staff members please let me know how to make ends meet on the above salary?

Poor and Needy



# MADAM EDITOR

Or should that read Ms Editor? It all becomes increasingly confusing when reading about the alleged sexist terminology used by Rhodes authorities.

Nether garments are tied up inextricably and the under collar temperature appears to be soaring in certain areas.

As a mere male, not a particularly hog-like chauvinist, I wonder what all the fuss is about. 'Miss' and 'Mrs' have been perfectly acceptable for centuries - even Emily Pankhurst accepted them - and she more than most feminists might have had cause to complain. Now we have this strong desire for 'Ms'.

At first glance one might be forgiven for thinking of the abbreviation for a manuscript. One's imagination can take flight when applying the abbreviation further - for example - and to hell with:

'A mss is as good as a mile', 'Hit or mss', 'A mssing link', 'Mssipi', 'Msshapen', 'Msspell'

One can sympathize with your correspondent in the August issue on receiving a notice of the election of a lecturer to senate with "nominations by at least two lecturers... and by the nominee under HIS acceptance ..." Presumably HIS/HER or, 'extracting the pith' even further, HS/HR, would be more acceptable.

I agree that the notice was perhaps circulated without forethought for your correspondent's feelings, but doubt that the use of 'insensitivity' and 'biased' is really called for?

George Bernard Shaw's Proposed English alphabet, I seem to recall, added certain letters and sounds. Had his idea taken hold, a revolution in written English would have been seen. Miss would become S877 and Ms - S7 (or similar). I suppose some of the Shavian views on feminism are anathema to our ladies today!

Perhaps some of our more mature ladies from a country north of here whose husbands had service connections will recall the wording of invitations to official functions in days gone by:

"Officers and their ladies, Warrant Officers and NCOs and their wives, other ranks and their women are asked to foregather at..." Now there was cause for complaint!

Apropos of the endearing lines from your anonymous poet, I enjoy the following story about the regal lady whose husband had employed a new chauffeur.

On the first day's outing, as she entered the Rolls she said "And what is your name, my good man?". "James, Madam (or Ms?)". "No! No! I never address my servants by their first name. What is your surname?" "Darling, Madam". "Drive on, James!"

And apropos of absolutely nothing may I commend to all readers a toast proposed in the wardrooms of the Royal Navy: 'Wives and Sweethearts! May they never meet!' Might I add 'Bless them all'.

Michael Taker

(from page 4) both, because we work on public holidays. This is what the annual circular we receive states when it (proudly) explains that public holidays falling in term time are not observed. What astounds one further is the fact that we seem to be the only university observing this peculiar work ethic.

Perhaps the response of a colleague of ours from a leading English university when she learned that we work on public holidays indicates the kind of reaction one would generally expect. She said "I'm glad I don't work for you." It makes one think, doesn't it?

One could expect that those supporting this practice (working on public holidays) will come up with good (for them) and other (for all to see) reasons why this peculiar practice should carry on.

There are several (invalid) reasons. The first could be that it is traditional. This one would not hold water because traditions change all the time, especially bad ones. We can add this one to the list, and forget about it. A second possibility is that it makes the academic year shorter, and so saves money, especially in the residences because it leaves less days on which meals must be prepared.

We sincerely hope that this one is not tried, because it would be a belief built on the proverbial sand. We only need to start about one week earlier to compensate for "time lost" if public holidays are taken.

Many students will use public holidays to go home, and they won't be in residence to consume any food.

If the healthy practice of other universities to give off the day falling between the public holiday and the week-end is followed, more money can be saved because it will give another four days on which money on food can be saved.

Another possibility is that it will give the University the opportunity to make the academic year shorter, thereby sending their academic staff on holiday earlier and letting them come back later. This dog would not hunt! We need higher salaries - not longer holidays.

A last possibility is that by working on public holidays we are setting an example to the others. This cannot be true, because we are isolated from the outside world on public holidays, because everyone else is on holiday. You cannot even telephone your colleague at other universities because they are at home. (This will also give The Boss a rest!)

So, we should not work on public holidays then. But, for the sake of those who believe we should, let us list a few advantages and (fringe) benefits (whatever they are?) of not working on public holidays.

Students will appreciate public holidays. It will give them a break from lectures and give them a chance to catch up on work and social activities.

Administrative staff will welcome the ges-

ture, because it will give them time off from the demands of the teaching staff.

Academic staff also need a break from lectures, and the occasional break provided by public holidays will do just that. There is often catching up to do on various tasks, and this can be done on a public holiday.

It will give everybody a chance to be with their families, many of whom are not employed by the University and are enjoying a day off. Businesses are closed on public holidays, which should keep the family at home.

Besides, why should we work on public holidays, considering their meaning and spirit? Why should we be so deviant as to work while the rest of the country does not work, apart from the essential services?

Rhodes thus SHOULD NOT be working on PUBLIC HOLIDAYS! We request that RHODOS conduct an opinion poll of staff members about working on public holidays, and that students ask the SRC to do the same among students. Perhaps that will put us in a position to approach the authorities with a legitimate request. Those who want to work on public holidays may do so, but there should not be lectures.

Bill Mitchell, Pedro Rankin, Penny Learmonth, Social Work Department (Well, what do you think? Let us know. This letter shortened - ED)



# The Demand Control System

Few people realize the cost benefits of the demand control system (power control), and the implications for the University's electricity bill if the system failed to operate as designed.. It is, without doubt, a necessary "evil".

Unlike the domestic consumer, who pays a fixed monthly basic charge based on the size of the main circuit breaker in his house, the University's basic charge is calculated at 75% of any previous maximum demand expected or reached, in KVA over a 3 year contract period, whether that demand is used or not! Also, as soon as the agreed upon demand limit is exceeded, the basic charge is calculated on the total of the latest maximum demand limit, and this is charged for the remainder of the contract period. (A 1000 watt heater requires 1 KVA or 1000 watts, and left on for 1 hour would consume 1 KVAH or 1 KiloWattHour).

We start a new 3-year contract in 1990. If we convince the Municipality that our demand limit will not exceed 75% of the last peak demand of, say, 1800 KVA, this will mean that Rhodes will be charged for 1350 KVA, whether we use it or not, until the end of the contract or until we exceed 1350 KVA. Each time a new demand limit is reached (by our inability to hold it down) the University is charged at this new demand limit for the remainder of the contract period. Currently, the basic charge is R28,00 per KVA of demand, but this is reviewed (upwards, of course) twice yearly.

Based on this example, TABLE 1 illustrates the basic charge paid month by month.

The first three months of the year are low demand periods, but once heaters are used in April, the demand climbs, reaching a peak in July and August.

Note that we are charged for 1350 KVA during January and February even though we used less than this, and that in the months following the peak demand (in August) we are charged for 75% of that maximum of 1930 KVA, whether we use it or not, or for the actual limit reached, should this be greater than 75% of the previous peak! For the rest of the contract period the University will continue to pay a minimum of 75% of the 1930 KVA peak demand incurred in August 1989, even though we may never again reach that value.

These figures relate only to the calculation of the basic charge, and not to charges for units of electricity used, which are added to the basic charge. The basic charge, however, is the greatest part of the electricity costs, being about 60% of the total bill.

There is sound reasoning behind the concept of a basic charge for peak demand. Electricity generating plants are expensive, and large plants are needed to cope with transient peaks in demand country-wide. Punitive basic charges provide motivation for large consumers to install load shedding systems to shift peaks to times coincident with low consumption. The Municipality does this by selectively switching off geysers, while the University has its control system to turn off heaters.

## The function of the Demand Control System

Since demand peaks occur only a few times a year, and then only two or three times a day for a couple of hours on cold days, it pays to try to spread consumption over the entire day, keeping fluctuations to a minimum and reducing the peak demand. If the demand can be spread over a longer period, more electricity (in units) could be consumed without affecting the demand limit, and therefore the basic charge!

The control system was not intended to cut the amount of electricity used, but to reduce large fluctuations which lead to peaks in demand. Electricity (in units) is relatively cheap, but the basic charge due to peaks in demand is not!

On a mild day few heaters are used and the University's electricity demand may fluctuate between a low of about 1200 KVA before 8 am, to maxima of above 1800 KVA between about 10 am and 1:30 pm and again from about 3 pm to 5 pm. These peaks coincide with tea times, and with times when the kitchens are preparing meals. On colder days more heaters are used while cold, wet days see the demand soar with practically all heaters and lights turned on, the highest demand levels are recorded and the punitive basic charges are incurred.

Placing all heaters and geysers under separate control allows the control system to turn them off incrementally to keep the power demand from reaching or exceeding the previous limit. If a satisfactory level of consumption is reached before all control circuits are turned off, power is rotated at two-minute intervals between circuits so that cuts are shared on an equitable basis. This does lead to circuits switching on and off at intervals throughout the day,

but we have tried to minimize inconvenience by ensuring that, wherever possible, only heaters and geysers are connected to the controlled circuits. To minimize the "disco lights" effect in residences, the University will install a second, uncontrolled, low amperage plug in every student room. Low current devices like lamps and radios will thus be unaffected by the demand control system.

To illustrate the efficacy of the demand control system: although 1975 saw the demand limit reach 1800 KVA, this level was not exceeded until 1988, 10 years after the development and installation of the demand control system. The system has effectively retarded the increase in demand (though not consumption!) for a decade. While there are many complicating factors in calculating the savings achieved, it is estimated that without the demand control system the University could pay as much as twice its current electricity bill each year (R743 681,00 in 1988). This made it possible to make available R750 000 for other uses within the present student fee structure.

**What you can do to minimize the effects**  
While there are several cold buildings on campus, there are undoubtedly many heaters used unnecessarily. I have often been into rooms and offices which are warm enough without heaters, and yet there are sometimes two or three heaters in operation. Try wearing warmer clothing and ask yourself whether it is necessary to have your heater on. Please don't change the plug on the heater in your office so that you can use an uncontrolled outlet. Also, don't bring in your own heater instead of using one supplied by the University. These are selfish actions which ensure that the demand control system has to turn off more circuits than necessary in order to achieve the desired level of control, thus depriving others of their heaters. When the demand control system operates correctly, everyone should get some power for heating during the day. At night the residences should have all the power they can use since, with other buildings using little current, the residences cannot consume enough to approach the demand limit.

A reasonable, selfless and tolerant attitude on everyone's part will ensure that the demand control system does its job with minimum inconvenience and maximum effect.

*Barry Guthrie,  
Electronic Services.  
Bill Mills,  
Business Affairs.*



Safety Programme

by Rick Heard

This is the final article on fire prevention for the year. I will begin by asking some questions:

In the event of fire: - Do you have a fire alarm in your building? Where is it? How does it work? What does it sound like? Who should notify the switchboard or fire brigade? What information should be given to the fire brigade? Are you able to operate the fire fighting equipment?

If your building is large, do you have a fire team?

Who is supposed to take charge of operations?

Have you been involved in a fire drill?

Are you aware of all possible escape routes? Not just the exit you use every day. In the case of evacuation - do you have an assembly point outside the building?

Who would know if anyone was missing?

Who is responsible for the roll call?

If your answer to these questions is "No" or "I don't know", then you, your colleagues and building are at risk. What can you do about it?

You probably have a head of department still dwelling in cloud cuckoo land. You should tactfully suggest that he or she come down to earth and institute a fire programme. Because in the event of fire you would like to know what steps to take other than long quick ones out of the building.

If this approach fails, please contact either the Campus Control Unit or myself and we will attempt to rectify the situation.

Rhodos is published each month from February to November by the Public Relations Division as a University Newspaper.

Contributions are gratefully received.. Please direct queries to: Editor: Shelagh Stow (ext 516, Mondays); Editorial Assistants: John Eller (ext 518) and Jenny Purdon (ext 516).

The views and opinions expressed in articles, interviews and letters in this publication do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Editor, the Staff Association, or the Editorial Board.

Thanks to Tony Walker for preventing neurosis

SPORT FIXTURES

Thursday 21 Sept  
CRICKET SATISCO

Friday 22 Sept  
CRICKET SATISCO

Saturday 23 Sept  
CRICKET SATISCO  
Rhodes, Manley Flats  
and Sevenfountains  
sea-side 9.00am

FOOTBALL  
Rhodes I vs PE City.  
Vic Park 3.30pm

Rhodes II vs PE  
Vic Park, 1.45pm

Friday 24 Sept  
CRICKET  
Rhodes I vs  
Hamstown Invita-  
tion. Great 10.30am

CRICKET  
SATISCO

Friday 25 Sept  
CRICKET

Rhodes I & II vs Durbanville Cricket Club.  
Great 10.30am

Friday 29 September  
ATHLETICS  
SATISCO.  
Prospect

Saturday 30 Sept  
CRICKET  
Rhodes I vs Pollocks.  
UPE

Rhodes II vs Southwell.  
Prospect  
9.30am

Sunday 1 Oct  
CRICKET  
Rhodes I vs Pollocks.  
UPE

Friday 6 Oct  
CRICKET  
Rhodes vs St Albans.  
Prospect  
10.30am

Saturday 7 Oct  
CRICKET  
Rhodes I vs Old Grey.  
Great

Rhodes II vs Manley Flats. Prospect

Sunday 8 Oct  
CRICKET  
Rhodes I vs Old Grey.  
Great

Saturday 14 October  
CRICKET  
Rhodes I vs Uitenhage. Great

Rhodes II vs Carlisle Bridge. Away  
9.30am

Sunday 15 Oct  
CRICKET  
Rhodes I vs Uitenhage. Great

WATERPOLO tournament. Rhodes Pool  
All day

From the potting bench

by Mark Hazell

SPRING is a good time to carry out your lawn renovation to improve quality and vitality.

Lawns, like shrubs and trees, get old and tired, and it is advisable to remove all the old growth - known as thatch. In nature this would be done by periodic fires. The new growth which results is lush and tender.

To achieve a similar result in the artificial environment of the garden, we need to remove this thatch mechanically.

The simplest way to do this is to set the height of cut on your lawn mower as low as possible to effectively shave off all the top growth to ground level.

Following this, remove all the clippings left on the ground. (This is good to use as soil mulch).

It may be necessary to repeat the cutting to ensure that all the old material is removed. Don't be perturbed by the white colour which appears, making it look as though the lawn is heavily frosted - this is a natural result

of exposing the lower surfaces of the lawn.

Having removed all the dry material, apply a good dressing of fertilizer such as 3:1:5 or Sulphate of Ammonia at the rate of 40g per square metre. Water in well after application. Repeat the watering at the rate of 1/ - 25mm per week until the growth is good.

Commence mowing as soon as the first signs of growth appear. This will ensure a tightly knit mat of fine lawn. Gradually raise the height of the cut until it reaches to between 15mm and 20mm.

For those of you who may have compacted problems, or would like to hear more about the value of aeration, please give me a call on extension 241.

Note: It is not advisable to carry out spring treatment if there is no guarantee of a good supply of water for follow-up treatment.

A dust mask could be a valuable investment in order to prevent hayfever.

Happy mowing!

TABLE 1. LIST OF DEMAND CONSUMPTION AND COST

	Actual KVA Demand Limit	KVA Paid for	Cost at R28,00 / KVA
JAN	1200	1350	R37800
FEB	1300	1350	R37800
MAR	1350	1350	R37800
APR	1550	1550	R43400
MAY	1650	1650	R46200
JUN	1750	1750	R49000
JUL	1800	1800	R50400
AUG	1930	1930	R54040
SEP	1750	1750	R49000
OCT	1550	1550	R43400
NOV	1400	1447	R40516
DEC	1350	1447	R40516



## STAFF SPORT

by Doug Coghlan

**Shooting** - Ian Dore will represent Eastern Province at the SA Air Rifle Championships on 16 Sept at Roodepoort.

**Cricket** - Jos Welman has taken on the chairmanship of the University Cricket Club. He succeeds Peter Andrew who has moved to PE. Stan Morgan will assist with coaching.

**Hockey** - Peter Andrew played hockey for the EP Country Districts team and went on to be selected for the SA Country Districts side.

The staff team finished in the top three in the local league. Stalwart Richard Buckland has retired from the team after almost 10 years service.

**Squash** - The local league has completed all fixtures with the RU Staff side finishing near the bottom of the log.

**Table Tennis** - Evergreen 'Izzy' Kanfer once again shocked the critics by winning the EP Open Singles Title and the SA Veterans Championship (over 40). He teamed up with Theresa Minnie of PE to win the SA Mixed Doubles event.

**Golf** - Staff golfers have a busy term ahead with a match against the Joburg ORs on Saturday 23 Sept and later the Staff Championships (Rivett Trophy) and the

inter-section match (Henderson trophy).

**Athletics** - Many staff continue to compete successfully in road-running events. Richard Foss equalled his personal best of 2hrs 31mins 50secs in the Ford Marathon in PE. Also in the recent Ford Marathon in PE Dr Roger Brooke reduced his personal best for the Marathon by 7 minutes from 2hrs 52 mins 10 secs to 2hrs 44 mins 59 secs.

## The wonderful world of finance

Another in a series of articles by Heinz Jasson on money matters.

IN this issue I want to explain the advantages of an ADVANCE STATUS on your bond - there are quite a few.

First, I have to tell you how an advance status is calculated. When you pay your normal instalment on your bond, you will never get an advance status and you will have your bond fully paid in 20 years (or in 25 years - check the arrangement you made with your building society or bank).

Should you decide to increase your repayment, the difference between the balance of your bond at normal repayment and your actual (lower) balance produces the amount of advance status.

Your bond could thus be paid off earlier.

The graph shows the advance status at an increased repayment of 10 and 5 percent above the normal repayment. If you want to know the amount of interest you save on your bond payment, tax free and without any risk, multiply the advance with the present inter-

est rate.

The second graph shows the result of accumulated interest savings.

If you have a Rhodes guarantee for the deposit on your bond, you can cancel this guarantee and a life insurance for this guarantee earlier, and save these expenses.

On a 10 percent higher repayment you can cancel the guarantee after 5 years, which you could normally only do after 12 years.

One very important thing we must not forget: Your credit-worthiness is established, and should you need

some money in a hurry, you can ask for a re-advance-ment on your bond.

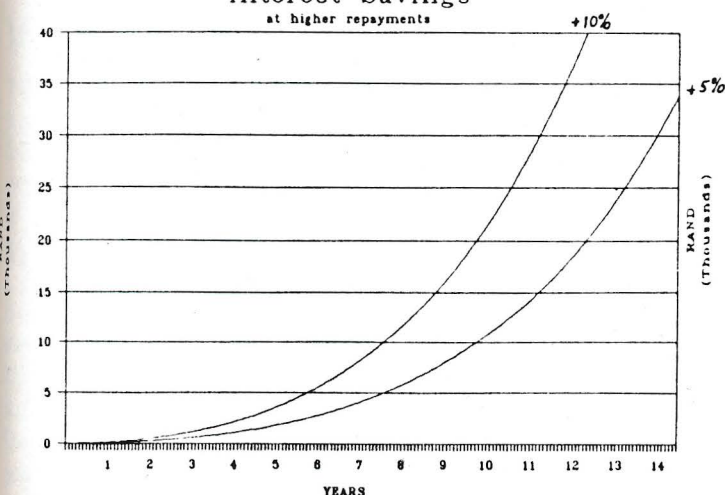
I did it recently when I purchased a car. The deal I got was better than borrowing money from a bank, and much better than the deal from the "Wheels Bank" in particular.

You also get your financial freedom back; if you want to sell your house and your bond balance is low, you keep a higher sum and can buy a nicer house at another place.

All calculations were based on a R50 000 Bond at the present interest rate of 19,75 percent.

Interest Savings

at higher repayments



ADVANCE STATUS of BOND

at higher repayments

