

Dismay - or conversations?

THE various cries of dismay over the red brick pathway from the Drosty Arch to the main block, prompted Dr Robin Palmer to remind us of the presentation of, and response to, the Singleton plan, as reported in the March 1986 edition of *RUSA Reporter*.

The plan was produced by Gareth and Sarah Singleton, a husband and wife team of professional landscape architects. The plan (a copy of which can be seen in the foyer of the main building) aims to reduce the penetration of the campus by the motor car and motor bike and increase the number of zones of pedestrian traffic.

As Robin Palmer suggested in his 1986 article, the plan provides an optimum solution in six or seven phases or priorities. It was not intended to be a one-off solution to all the University's landscaping problems, but rather a master plan for the gradual development of the campus, as time and means permit.

In the same 1986 issue of *RUSA Reporter*, the events around the development of the car park behind the ISER building were also outlined.

The interest and involvement of several academic staff working in the area prompted them to address their concerns

about the development to the Vice-Chancellor, who involved them in the planning of the new car park. The result was the salvation of a number of shade trees in the parking area, and the establishment of a garden in the previously paved quad of the Old Kaif building.

The article concludes: "There are two morals of this ... tale. First, it urges vigilance on all Rhodes staff who cherish their local environment. It is up to all of us to discover the implications [of the Singleton Plan] for the campus as a whole and for our favourite corners of it... The second moral of this tale is that it reveals the Administration in a particularly favourable light. It would have been easy, even natural, to regard ... our intervention as blatant interference in a matter that had nothing to do with them and to treat it as such ...

"The reponse was rather to waive protocol and hear all sides, with the agreeable outcome described above. Can there be more incentive to involve oneself more fully, whatever one's rank, in the going concern which is Rhodes?"

In the May 1986 issue of *RUSA Reporter*, a letter from Professor Jack Gledhill was



The Department of Botany recently made awards to students and staff for their achievements. Miss Giskin Day presented an award to Mr Jay Narsai, Senior Technical Officer in the department, on behalf of the third-year class.

printed, in which he expressed dismay at the thought of having to carry piles of heavy books, or pieces of equipment long distances once Artillery Road had been "pedestrianized". He also raised the problem of women staff and students having to walk longer distances to their cars at night. The then Registrar's reply explained that "Mr Singleton has stated that he believes that no-one can determine the long-term requirements of the University in any detail but the masterplan sets out to establish principles, which have to be flexible to accommodate change and will require periodic re-assessment.

"Before detailed design work is undertaken in respect of any part of the plan, interested

parties will be consulted and their comments taken into account."

Since then several people have raised the question of the problem of disabled students and staff: those in wheelchairs would probably benefit from "pedestrianization", but people who walk with difficulty could find that access to these parts of the campus is made more difficult.

Rhodos has asked to be used as a means of communicating future implementation of parts of the Singleton Plan.

HIV on campus rumour untrue

IT is being said around town that Rhodes has a high H.I.V. Positive population.

This is unfounded and untrue, according to Sr Win Simpson of the University Sanatorium. "After every Big Bleed there are always folk who receive letters telling them to see a doctor as they are not

acceptable as blood donors at that time.

"There are many reasons for this but most common are either low haemoglobin or that they are incubating a viral infection - usually a cold or flu and so need their own blood for recovery.

"Once the patient sees their

doctor, s/he will phone the Blood Donors Clinic and will be given the necessary information so that treatment can be started, without the expense of further tests. Anyone who has received one of these letters or is in doubt can visit the San where sisters will explain the situation.

DEADLINES

Copy date	Publication date
18 June	28 June
2 July	12 July
16 July	26 July
6 Aug	16 Aug
20 Aug	30 Aug
3 Sep	13 Sep
17 Sep	27 Sep
1 Oct	11 Oct
15 Oct	25 Oct
5 Nov	15 Nov
19 Nov	29 Nov

You have a tax breather

CALM down, those of you who have only recently received your IRP5 forms. The Commissioner of Inland Revenue has said that a considerable number of employers were having problems in issuing the forms to their employees before the deadline.

As these certificates are required for the submission of income tax returns, the Commissioner has decided that no steps will be taken before July 2, against those who have been unable to submit their returns by the due date - which was June 4.

If you are not in a position to submit your returns by July 2, you will have to reply in writing to the local Receiver of Revenue for an extension, otherwise you will face penalties.

By the way, have you heard that since the railways have become *Spoornet*, other Government Departments felt a bit left out and have also decided on a name change? Barend's lot will in future be known as *Vatnet*, while Mr Vlok's crew will answer to *Vangnet*.

Watch your possessions

by Mr Les Reynolds, Finance Division

THE University's insurers will cover staff members' personal effects, which are brought into the University's buildings as part of their duties, for damage by fire and flood only where there is no claim possible under the staff members' own insurance.

The personal effects of staff at Rhodes are NOT covered by the University's Insurance for accidental damage or theft. It is suggested that staff arrange suitable insurance cover or ascertain whether their existing insurance covers, for accident or theft, any personal effects which may be brought to the University.

ASloane Ranger and her poorer friend, searching for a cheap place to eat, happened on the trattoria Mille Pini.

"What about this?" the friend said "A thousand pines." Oh, no", the Sloane Ranger protested. "It can't be as expensive as all that!"

There's more good news

THE man in the street can look forward to a welcome mid-year bonanza.

Over-deductions from his pay packet in March, April, May and June will be credited to him in July, together with the tax benefits from the recent budget.

A leading tax expert, Anthony Chait, of Fisher Hoffman Stride, says it was not practical for the Receiver of Revenue to incorporate the Budget's lower rates into salary calculations from March 1.

"The new tables do not simply adjust for the new rate, but take into account the fact that too much tax has been deducted. Although it is difficult to quantify exact amounts, reductions will be a lot more than most expected."

Roughly, this is what is in store for taxpayers under 60:

- Married man, two children, income R40 000 - old deduction R749,54 a month; new deduction R600; overpayment R598,16; July tax R184.
- Married woman, income R25 000 - old deduction R445,33 a month; new deduction R358,33; overpayment R348; July tax R10,33.
- Unmarried person, income R50 000 old deduction R1 235,64; new deduction R1 141,67; July tax R765,79.

(Extracted from Sunday Star Finance supplement, May 27, 1990)

The path goes on and on...

by Mr Phil Murray

STAGE one of replacing the flagstone paving with brick paving from the Drosty Arch to the circular stone steps has been completed.

The lanterns on the present light standards are being replaced with fittings to match the lights at the main entrance to the University. The light standards will be re-positioned and the number will be increased to ten.

Stage two, replacing the semi-circular parking area in front of the main building with a brick path and garden area on both sides, is under construction.

Stage three will entail laying a brick path across Drosty Road to the main entrance steps. Work began on Monday, June 4. This means that there will be no through access for about two weeks.

The Business Affairs Division apologises to all motorists and pedestrians for the inconvenience caused during building operations.

Response to parking query poor

by John Eller

THERE was a poor response to the questionnaire which appeared in a recent issue of *Rhodos*.

Of the replies received:

- 57% would not pay for either reserved covered parking or reserved shady parking.
- 29% would pay for shady parking if it were near their offices.
- 14% would pay for covered parking.

Don't boil your pot plants

IN the last issue of *Rhodos*, you were advised in the gardening column to water your pot plants in cold weather with water at 180° C.



Mark Hazell has not gone entirely mad - a slip of the finger on the keyboard in the *Rhodos* office added a nought, which made the whole thing ridiculous. The Editor of *Rhodos* feels like a great steaming nit - 18° C would be about right.

RUSA NEWS

by John Eller

THE RUSA committee would like to thank you for your tremendous support. At the last count our signed up membership stood at 532. Your response has been most gratifying and is taken as an indication that we are at least doing something right. We will continue to draw to the attention of the powers that be, the injustices and the lack of progress, with particular reference to discrimination and conditions of service, which we have been pursuing with some success over the past months.

We take this opportunity to remind you that our AGM will be held towards the end of August or early September. If you want any burning issues discussed please let a member of the committee know. We have so far had one suggestion. It is that the Vice-Chancellor, or his nominee, should be asked to talk to staff members on "The Role of the Personnel Division as viewed by the University's Administration".

Meanwhile, a memorandum has been submitted to the Vice-Chancellor, for consideration by the Liaison Committee (RUSA/RULA and the University). Chief items for discussion are the Housing Subsidy for married women, medical aid and pension benefits for married women and part-time staff, child-care facilities and university accommodation for women post-graduate students.

You will also be pleased to know that at last progress has been made towards the introduction of a job evaluation system. A Core committee has been established and held its inaugural meeting on Monday, June 4. You will be kept informed of progress.

Please remember that letting us know what's on your mind helps us to be effective and to provide the representation you wish to have.



LETTERS

To: X P d'ieny

AS your letter was unsigned, we cannot consider publishing it. Please remember that although you may choose to use a *nom de plume*, your letters must be signed. It is best to have the courage of your convictions and sign your name to letters, but we realise that in some cases writers feel the need for anonymity. All anonymous letters will be consigned to the editor's paper recycling box.

We also received a letter which contained a personal attack on a member of staff. It is not Rhodes editorial policy to publish letters of this nature.

The Editor

MAY I be permitted space to answer a few points from Dr Van der Merwe's letter - if your scissors/space limitations preclude a fuller answer.

Rhodes and the Union agreed a Disciplinary Code in which is embodied, for certain first offences eg. theft, fraud, assault etc, the penalty of summary dismissal.

Given the definition (OED) of "summary", is it not those responsible for the agreement who are themselves authoritarian? Pro Lege merely echoes the agreed penalty.

It is to be hoped that the Industrial Court if nothing else, abides by accepted laws of evidence and does not establish its findings by admitting hearsay, the misrepresentation of fact and truth which are admitted in some hearings at this institution.

In conclusion, it must be made clear that the code, per se, is not considered risible, rather it is the outcome of some hearings under the code. Nor is it humorous when the outcome of a hearing sometimes leaves the Department concerned

holding an unwanted and even more recalcitrant baby.

Pro Lege

Perhaps it would be a good idea for Pro Lege to make an appointment with Dr Van der Merwe to discuss the cases which he/she finds troubling?

Comment

THE Autumn 1990 edition of *Comment* has been about for a while. *Comment* publishes short papers providing critical discussion of issues likely to be of interest to the academic community at Rhodes.

It is published by the Department of Philosophy and produced by the Department of Journalism and Media Studies.

For further details and subscriptions, contact the editors - Seamus Miller (ext 350) or Barry du Toit (ext 505)

The Editor

I am replying to the letter submitted by the RUSA Committee, published in Rhodes on page 7 of the May 31, 1990 issue.

I would just like to point out that the attitude of the RUSA Committee towards success is rather strange. For success one always needs a reference.

If the RUSA Committee would have to do nothing in regard to salary increases for so-called non-academics, one would expect that these groups of people would have received the same increases as other employees of Rhodes University. The fact that these increases were in magnitude less than a third of the increases granted to academic staff shows that RUSA has agreed to do LESS THAN NOTHING for the non-academic staff,

Heinz Jasson



"A land flowing with milk and honey? The cholesterol would kill me!"

The Editor

ISN'T it nice of *Just Wondering* to propose one tenth of my salary cheque for books and extensions to the library building? (Rhodos, Vol. 2, No. 7)

Such patent concern for the survival of academia is enough to move my very bowels. I fear however that, like all brainless schemes from carping cretins, *Just wondering's* is also doomed to failure. Academic salaries are so pitiable that even ten tenths thereof would hardly make any observable difference to our sadly deficient library resources.

Pawing, baying, and whiffing.

The Editor

I find it incredible that there is a sporadic influx of personally-addressed junk-mail into the University Internal Mail system.

One would imagine that the Staff Directory and Internal Mail system were for official University use only, not abuse by profiteering individuals.

I seem to be urged continually to partake of some economy-sized gastronomic adventure, the latest sales pitch being an invitation to join an exclusive club of ten (with the other nine customers?)

The main result of this type of advertising is sheer irritation and a belief that junk-mail = junk-food!

Dominic Thorburn

The Editor

PLEASE thank the RUSA Committee for their reply to my letter. I point out:

The 4% was gained by two non-academic women approaching RUSA on the issue;

- RUSA's academic members backed out twice before their chairman indicated the embarrassment they would suffer through not supporting a more than 400 signature petition (with many academic supporters). Nothing to be proud of there! All credit to John Eller.

- The car scheme: RUSA confuses "perks" with benefits. Benefits should benefit all, and not be "affordable" by a few. Viz. the increase in new vehicles, apparently all owned by academics, who alone can afford the car scheme;

- What long service recognition? For whom? After how long? First I've heard of it! Besides, I already have a watch.

- Leave: As I understood it, academic contracts stipulate: none, at the discretion of the Head of Department. Non-academics: a form is required, fair enough, for 24 days per annum (less Saturdays) + Christmas to New Year + 24 days every 5 years for a total of 48 weeks work, full day, per annum. Consider: an academic could work 27 weeks (+ say 1 marking), get 6 months long leave every 5 years + 6 months study leave (though I gather they could now be forfeited). So why, RUSA, worry about that? I don't think there are misunderstandings.

- How long have these stand-by negotiations been going on? Surely this is a simple decision? Debate has its place, but about one meeting could solve that one.

- The "harmonious non-confrontational" relationship between staff and employer would be better served if (I quote *Rhodos* 2:4) "...with Dr Henderson implying that he was not aware what constituency the committees represented" were not the case. Who did he think they represented? It's unforgivable and "smacks" of intractability. I'll bet he knows what constituency the black unions represent (to reiterate my point about unions and the VC's reported encouragements to form one so that he will presumably then be aware).

John Landman

STAFF SPORT

Golf

The match at the Fish River Sun versus Fort Hare and Port Elizabeth Technikon has been arranged for 25 August. A date in July or early August is being explored for the annual match against UPE.

Geography Challenge

As winners of the 1989 inaugural challenge - that no team could beat us in the Settler City Toyota half marathon - we thought we would make it easy for the opposition by changing the rules. Last year's system was based on position within race categories (open, veteran, master, male, female) and the trouncing of all other teams led to quite unfounded accusations that the handicapping had been rigged to favour us. This year's handicap was simple; each runner's score was the time taken to run to Salem, minus their age, and minus a further ten if they were female. The team's lowest four scores

were added and the team with the lowest aggregate was the winner.

The only problem with the handicapping was that we lost! Six teams took part in the challenge (ISER/English, Geology, Geography, Physics, Law, Economics) and so a total of 37 runners joined the field of over 200 pounding the tar down the hills to Salem. A very good time was had by all and even the novices enjoyed the cold beers afterwards; a case of the ecstasy following the agony.

John Haydock of Law was undoubtedly the star performer with the very low score of 39 but this was not enough to guarantee his 13-strong team the prize. The flying foursome of Arthur Webb (47), Murray Leibbrandt (56), Marc Weiderkehr (60) and Andrew Donaldson (61) gave Economics first place with 224 points. Second were Law with 243, third were Physics with 258, fourth were Geography with 278 (in spite of Mur-

ray Biedler entering as a woman), fifth were Geology with 287 and sixth were ISER/English with 293 points.

1991 will, of course, see Geography wrest back their title; and the case of beers that goes to the winners. Perhaps another look at the handicapping is in order.

Hockey

The hockey side lost to Occasionals, but had some key players missing. The second Squash side stretched their unbeaten run to 11 games, accounting for DSG in the most recent match. Comrades results are now available and Roger Brooke was the first Grahamstown runner to finish and the only staff member, in 7:58:45 which gave him 1 284th place.

Squash

Squash league placings : 1st league - Staff 5th
5th league : Staff 1st

SMALLS

House/Flat wanted

Lecturer and wife seek house of flat (2 bedrooms) to rent, preferably near University. Max rent R400. Please contact Martin Chee, ext 328, or 23011.

For sale:

Piano keyboard, Hohner PK 100, 61 keys, 60 voices, 20 rhythms, many special effects, MIDI-interface, incl. music stand, AC adapter. Hardly used. R1 400. Please contact Martin Chee, ext 328 or 23011

For Sale

Scrumptuous dressed guinea fowl: R10 to clear. Contact Uta Bradfield at Tick Research (ext 535)

Wildlife lecture

DR John Ledger, Director of the Endangered Wildlife Trust, will give a public lecture entitled "Biodiversity in the 21st century", on Monday, June 18, in the Rennie Wing of the Albany Museum, at 7:30 pm.

Advertising Rates

Block ads: R2/col cm, double for back and front pages.
Classifieds: R0,10 per word.
Advertising is run on a cash basis.
Take your copy to the PR Division

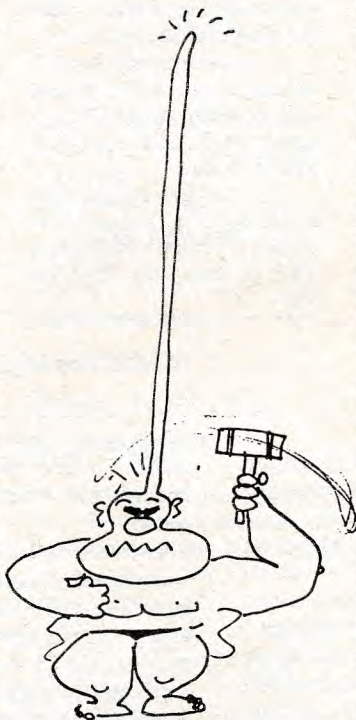
Secretary to Student Adviser

APPLICATIONS are invited for the post of Secretary to the Student Adviser.

The Student Adviser's office provides counselling and advice to students on career, educational and personal problems.

Salary particulars are available on request.

Application forms can be obtained from Mrs S Stephenson, Personnel Division, ext 115. Closing date for applications: June 22, 1990



A bump too far

A self-inflicted blow on the head took Shuhei Nagao into the ranks of Japan's mighty sumo wrestlers, two months after he was turned down for being too short.

At the March pre-tournament physical examination of the Japan Sumo Association he stood only 1,7m - 3cm below the minimum height.

Yet at the May medical check, a relieved Nagao was found to have grown 4cm in two months.

He reported afterwards that he beat the tape measure by intensive stretch exercises, topped off by a blow on the head just before the examination. The instant bump took his height over the limit.

Print Unit is getting there

by Don Williams

THE Printing Unit has gone through a bad patch over the past few months, and has not been able to satisfy your needs in the way that we would like.

The vast increase in the demands made on the Unit, and major breakdowns of machinery have been at the root of our problems.

Most of you have been understanding and patient with us during this period, for which we would like to express our gratitude.

We appreciate that some printing work requires a quick turnaround and we will do all we can to satisfy this need. However, sometimes it is impossible for us to get a job out on very short notice. This is especially so when all our machines are in

use, and I advise you to enquire whether or not the Unit can meet your requirements to complete a job quickly when time is of the essence.

With other work, we ask you to give us as much notice as possible - preferably not less than five working days, so that we can plan production.

Departmental requests for printing larger and larger handouts and publications for students (some of more than 300 pages) is putting a great strain on the Unit. Such jobs can take three or more days to print and a further two or three days to collate and staple. The machines doing such jobs are not available for urgent work which may be required by other departments, so the more time that we have to complete the work the better.

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