

rhodeo

Rhodes Student Newspaper

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what price university?

SMALL REJECTS 'BRUIN'

BLACK CONSCIOUSNESS — A PHILOSOPHY OF JOY

After 13 years at the Coloured University of the Western Cape - he has been there since it started - Adam Small, head of the department of philosophy, recently said that he would stick to his resignation.

"I was a fool to come to a place like this. I have been completely disillusioned," he says.

It's a damning indictment of the institution from a personality who has taken a leading role in Black Consciousness for Coloureds.

Many people remember the writer-poet-philosopher-lecturer, who opened the recent Arts and Science Festival at Rhodes, from his Afrikaner days and frankly don't believe he has changed. He's just put on a Black suit to be fashionable; he's still a "Coloured Boy" at heart, they say. A "bruin Afrikaner".

Mr Small, of course, will deny this all around town and re-articulate his Blackness almost on demand. Certainly he has a lot of explaining to do, for his newly acquired attitudes are a metamorphosis away from his former Afrikaner self to African, a Black man of the continent. Nor is this the end. Mr Small is the thinker, is still discovering himself, and his "bruin" and "black" periods might develop into a man of another colour.

His first book, "Die Eerste Steen", established him as a curiosity; a non-White writer. More than that, a kleurling who dedicated his books to "My people, the Afrikaners", who wrote as an Afrikaner calling for change in racial attitudes.

Now he has turned his back on the Afrikaner. They are no longer his people, and in his overthrow of Afrikanerskap he has found a new spirituality. For him Black Consciousness is a philosophy of joy. A beautiful,



ADAM SMALL

uplifting, emotional thing. It's the intellectual's outlet from despair.

Now, in 1973, he can "make the boast that I and my sort have discovered Africa to an extent that the White man who uses Afrikaans has not, and we are continuing thus to discover Africa. It is a matter of a certain spirit which is not spirit of despair. I choose Black as the colour of the future in so far as it is the colour most radically different from White. The symbolism ought to be clear. I choose black at this time as the colour of joy..."

"Something dynamic is needed to explode the logjam in South Africa and Black Power is the only thing that can do it," he said pragmatically. "But I don't have in mind power as thought of by Whites and White Government as the power of physical force. I'm thinking of it as a spiritual strength, the sort of courage to face the fact that as much as we want South Africa to be an open society and non-racial, it is just not that."

He said Black Consciousness was a form of racialism, but whereas White racialism was materialistic and bent on sustaining and maintaining its power base, Black Power had freedom as its base and an open society as its goal. Materialism did not come into it. It was more philosophical in its approach "and because of this it is of greater spiritual potential."

Into Africa and its inherent values, Small says for too long its rhythm

and emotion have been written off by Europeans bred in the virtues of reasonability and intellectual rationalisation. And so on to Senghor: "Emotion is not necessarily the negation of reason; it can be an accession to a higher intellectuality."

"The spiritual hegemony is ours", says Small. "But unlike you have done and are doing with your power, we want to share with you this spirituality."

With acknowledgements to Marshall Lee of the Rand Daily Mail.

SCHREINER WITCH - HUNT

RESIDENCE reform has lately taken a new turn on campus. In Olive Schreiner the Duty Panel now check women's rooms to see that they have not bunked out of Res for the night.

Another innovation in St. Mary's is that if a does not sign out after 8 o' clock, she is gated on a Friday night. This decision was taken independently by the St. Mary's Hall Committee, and due permission was obtained from the Warden.

It appeared that there were too many rooms to check on any one night, so the number has been whittled down to a list of suspects.

The head student of Oriel House, Wendy Nunn, commented on the new move in Schreiner: "I think it is horrifying and totally deplorable that a bunch of seniors should take it upon themselves to institute a witch-hunt of this sort. To me it seems perverted that a group of girls should go tearing up to these rooms as soon as the front door is locked to check up. I can only imagine that their lives are pretty empty of any excitement and that they take a vicarious pleasure in snooping around. However, I can say that if the kids of Schreiner are prepared to accept this type of authoritarian bitchiness, they fully deserve it."

United Kingdom.

Grown men are reduced, for all their physical bulk, to tears of frustration and women reach a peak of anxiety only little removed from blind panic, where wailing and crying they run hysterically from the object of their fear - the examination room.

One girl who has suffered this tension is typical of her kind:

"Two months ago, she took an overdose - 30 aspirin - and her friends in hall took her to casualty where she had a gastric washout. A psychiatrist observed that she was 'an obsessive personality frustrated by her inability to satisfy her academic standards'.

"A week before finals she slashed her left wrist with a razor blade but only two sutures were necessary to heal this gesture of defiance. On the first day of the examinations she walked out of the room and was brought to a health centre inconsolably crying and saying she could not write - her hands wouldn't do what she wanted.

Thereafter, she sat the papers under personal supervision with coffee, tea, walks in the fresh air, Librium and night-time sedation interrupting or aiding her progress. In all she took 23 consultations, two psychiatrists, and an extra day to finish her papers - she got a first."

An explanation of this case, and cases like it, lies in the epidemiology. A university student is someone to whom anxiety has been the spur to achievement. They are self-selected creatures from a system that has rejected those unable to show examination ability and any difficulties encountered at university are similar to those encountered before.

In order to find a cure, some have tried desensitisation techniques in psychiatric experiments; others do group work with a collection of those known to have suffered before, but this is cure after the disorder is healed. It only has a value in breeding confidence.

KINGSLEY RETREAD RADIALS

The humane have counselled the value of continuous assessment instead of the hurdling process of exams, but the withdrawal rates are relatively unaffected while the staff breakdown rates rises with strain. It would seem a Gordian knot without the simple answer of the conqueror's sword.

Certainly first aid is vital. To allow academic suicide is wasteful, tragic and unnecessary.

Similarly, part of the rescue operation is to ensure some way whereby the examiners can know that illness in advance.

Compassion must be exercised in advance, not with regret when it is too late, for all of us have known the tensions and the strains, and anyone can break.

"Examination nerves" are not a new disease; they are for many an inescapable occupational hazard, and they will inevitably be with us, in one form or another, for ever.

Alexander Gunn.
Medical Officer,
University of Reading.

Turkey.

Since 1971, over 1,000 books have been outlawed by the Government. A curious assortment of books have been consigned to the furnace, including "Plato's Republic", "The Kama Sutra", Albert Einstein's "A Theory of Relativity", and Hemmingway's "For whom the Bells Toll".

A major point of anxiety for many citizens is that a definitive list of banned publications has never been made public. Nobody can know for certain if his book is illegal or not. When a citizen attempts to inquire about banned publications, neither the martial law authorities, nor the Minister of the Interior, nor any court acknowledge being the responsible authority. If the inquiry happens to be official, it meets with a plea of ignorance of such a list.

Note: South Africans may take heart that Jannie Kruger and his lads have not yet achieved such a high level of eccentricity, but we must have patience!

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HELEN - FREEDOM CAMPAIGNER

No-one in 1952 could have guessed that the rich, pretty, golf-playing university lecturer from Houghton would become South Africa's most famous politician. Helen Suzman is today ranked together with such illustrious South Africans as Rhodes, Smuts and Hofmeyr, who also received honorary doctorates from Oxford University.

Joan of Arc or "communist bitch", Helen Suzman needs no introduction. Despite her tough inner resilience - "I've never cried about a political thing" - she is not all hard, but the most disarming institution of flesh and woman. And a most attractive one at that.

The lone Progressive Party member of Parliament for Houghton has been fondly referred to as "a Shadow Cabinet named Helen", "a tiresome majority of one", "the lone flame of liberty", a miracle, "an institution" and "a man against many".

But the love-affair does not end there. Cabinet ministers and Parliamentarians alike have the highest regard for this "cursed Jew", "Communist", "inciter of Black Blacks", and have proved her pluck and efficiency time and time agains.

The pledge of survival of her party, Helen has an emotive vocabulary of dissent. Comments such as "dispicable", "vindictive", "Nazi", "oppressive" and plain "unjust" have often been levelled at the policy-makers of this country.

And still this beautifully preserved campaigner for freedom is unafraid to admit "some of my best friends are Prime Ministers. But then, of course, it's mutual."

Interviewed the day after speaking at the Progressive Party meeting in Grahamstown last week, Helen Suzman is the sort of person you feel you've

known all your life. Without doubt an institution herself. Stern, yet compassionate, while talking, she generates courage and determination, and above all, eternal optimism.

It was politics, Rhodes University, her family, her life, and yes, even the weather. "After 25 years in Parliament, what I really need is a wife - someone to see that my household is running smoothly," she quipped.

But never call her Dr Suzman. She loathes it. "Every time someone says Dr Suzman, I look around for my husband, who is a physician," she mused without false modesty.

"My family are political animals: sometimes I think they are worse than I am," she grinned. "They have been a constant source of encouragement over the years, and luckily we've all enjoyed good physical health which makes things less complicated."

Perhaps Women's Liberation started in South Africa in 1952, for it was her husband who encouraged Helen to accept nomination for the United Party in Houghton. "You're just the sort of candidate we need," he urged, despite loud protestations against the break-up of their family life. But they reached a compromise. During the six-month Parliamentary session, Helen flies home to Johannesburg every week-end, or thereabouts.

Now after 21 years, this fiery MP with her lashing tongue is making no compromises: it's Civil Liberties and the Rule of Law all the way.

Outstanding is her faith in young South Africans. "The young are open to conviction and many of them worried about the obvious injustices in their society are beginning to question long accepted prejudices.

"Both English- and Afrikaans-speaking students have accepted that South Africa is a multi-racial country and see separate development as a bad thing. They see a sharing in the manifold opportunities in this country as advantageous, and so the Progressive Party has become a more viable alternative for them.

She expressed alarm at the Black Power movement but understood it as a manifestation of the growing hostilities between Black and White which, if it continued to grow, would bring about the final polarisation.

Mrs Suzman urged students to take part in contentious issues. "Tax-payers subsidize universities, and ratepayers are not the same thing as the State," she said. "It is the duty and privilege of students to involve themselves in the contentious issues of today, after all, it is they who will be living in the future and be feeling the effects of Acts implemented now."

SOCCER TEAM WALK OUT

THE ENTIRE Rhodes soccer team walked out of the Westview Club in Port Elizabeth on Saturday afternoon after a Chinese member of the team had been refused entry to the clubhouse.

When it was learnt that the Chinese student had been told by the club authorities that he would not be allowed to drink with his team mates in the club after the match, the Rhodes players excused themselves and walked out.

"It was a rather unfortunate and distasteful thing," captain Dan Smit said afterwards, "but the Rhodes chaps were not prepared to stay under those circumstances.

The Westview team were very apologetic and a little upset about it. I had just come from the change rooms after the match myself when I saw the Rhodes guys coming out. They were all adamant about it," he said.

TJOMMEL MET BERTUS

Ag nee wat, vandag weet ek nie wat om te skryf nie. In elk geval, ek het iets geskryf, maar die base hier wil dit nie druk nie. Waarom nie sal ek rêrig nie weet nie. Die ou ope brief wat ek aan daardie twee moraliste, Spicer en King gerig was, en nog steeds is, is nou wel taaklik direk en miskien te reguit gestel, maar dit verander nog nie die feit dat wat daarin gesê is die waarheid is nie.

Nou praat hulle hier van dinge soos naamskending en ek weet nie wat nog als nie. Gevolglik sal hulle nie my ou briefie te lese kry nie.

OK. Nou het ek klaar gestjommel (ek wonder nou nog wat die woor beteken) en sê dus totsiens tot 'n volgende keer.



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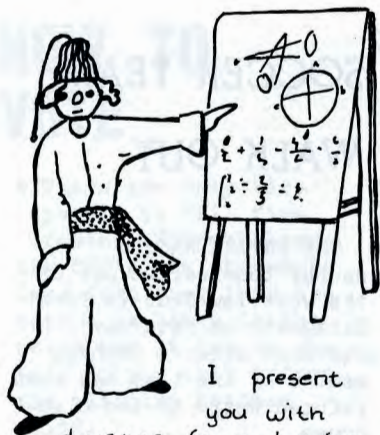
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P.J. Olivier.

'n Universiteit is 'n opvoedingsinrigting waar 'n student op selfgedissiplineerde wyse sy kennis in 'n bepaalde studierigting kan verbreed, beide deur onderrig te ontvang en gebruik te maak van sy eie ontwikkelende vermoëns; waar hy gestimuleer behoort te word tot eie en selfstandige denke en optrede binne die raamwerk van 'n geordende en gedissiplineerde samelewing; waar hy gelei behoort te word tot die bewustheid van sy eie belangrikheid in, en sy verantwoordelikheid teenoor sy land, van wie hy nie slegs kan ontvang nie, maar tot wie se heil en voorspoed hy as toegeruste en onderlegde persoon 'n positiewe bydrae sal moet lewer; waar hy behoort agter te kom dat hy in werklikheid nog veel meer sal moet leer as net dit waarvan hy op universiteit bewus geword het - kortom, dat hy na die verwerwing van sy graad of grade nog lank nie volledig is nie.



Victoria Girls High School,

On the purely practical side one expects the University to provide the student with the intellectual tools and know-how to enable him to succeed in his chosen profession or career.

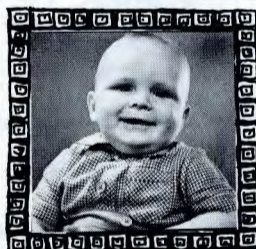
We expect the University to help students to develop those qualities which are an asset to a person not only in his work, but which help him to live a full life - above all, I think, a questioning mind; a mind interested enough to find out what it does not know; to question what is told, whether it be the accepted shibboleths or new ideas.

To teach the student that a questioning mind is not enough unless the student is taught the value of judgement - that when a questioning mind is combined with sound judgement then a person has a personality powerful enough to cope with most things in life.

The University should teach the value of real scholarship; combined with the humility that goes with genuine scholarship. The University should teach the student the pleasure of "thinking".

The University should enable students to get to know many types of person and to learn to rub shoulders with them.

Finally, I think those privileged to go to the University should learn that in some measure they owe something to the community as a whole; and should make a point of putting their talents to some use in the community.

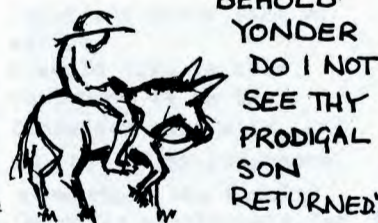


Nyaluza High School, Fingo Village.

It is commonly looked upon by many among the Africans as a place where one obtains the highest degree of guidance to selective, independent, positive and mature thinking whereby the foundation for future leadership is laid.

Together with the above general thought, some think of such a place as a purification resort. After attending a University they feel that they have pocketed the world and no one can teach them anything on earth.

Yet, the most amusing point, there are those of us who think of a university as a lawless, undisciplined institution for learning where education (pedagogically considered) is sacrificed for literary knowledge (think of the limited freedom in Primary schools, the little liberty in Secondary schools and the "self-acquired" freedom in universities). Adulthood is seldom reached and, if reached, only by a few.



The first difference that one notices between South African students and their counterparts is their appearance: there are fewer "hairy fellows", and on the whole they are in a significantly better state of repair. (Whether college food at Oxford is responsible for this I am unable to decide; certainly the very low maintenance grants are at least partially to blame for the bombed out appearance of a great many English students.)

But the differences go far further than that between frontiersman and refugee appearances, and involve a wide divergence of attitude towards a university and what it stands for.

It is of course true that both groups manifest about the same degree of maturity although in comparison with the naïveté of South African students (not, unfortunately, to be mistaken for innocence - it is too opinionated) the cynicism of inexperience among the English students appears more sophisticated.

But what does distinguish the two groups is the anti-intellectualism of South African students generally, who are in addition far less knowledgeable (not only of their own subject), articulate, interested in their chosen discipline, or culturally and socially aware.

The reasons for this state of affairs are so obvious that one feels a certain hesitation in mentioning them. Unlike their English counterparts, South African students are not encouraged to think ("to think for themselves" is tautologous) - indeed thought is actively discouraged in schools, where it could only be disruptive of the orderly face of smug ignorance that is maintained there.

This is quite the contrary of the vast majority of English schools, where pupils are encouraged to pursue their own interests even before the sixth form (and university candidates are required to have done "A" levels, one year after the ordinary school-leaving examination.) Nor does the Army, which turns boys into splendid healthy-minded fellows, do much to encourage incipient rationality. The traditional way of life does not require it.

Indeed, in South Africa the ruling class (or racial group) has for the most part inherited all the anti-intellectual prejudices of its working-class origins. There is not the strong tradition of an established intellectual group such as one finds in England, and this lack leads to a naïveté of cultural awareness which necessarily extends to university students.

The lower level of intelligence among South African students generally can be ascribed to the fact that a tiny fraction of the country's population is providing all the skills needed to run it, and is getting the lion's share of university places whether deserved or not.

Overseas, admission to a university is not automatic if one has the equivalent of a matric - it requires hard work and dedication for several years. The very bright students at South African universities are (allowing for the disadvantages of living in a society far less culturally orientated) as good as those at English universities; the rest should simply not be at a university at all, as they stand to get little profit if any from it.

A university is not what a visiting Oxford don called Wits - "a cross between a night school, a finishing school and a cram school". What is far more important than the facts imparted is the habit of free intellectual inquiry and clarity and rigour of thought, and one wonders how these can continue to be fostered when an institution has to accommodate itself to so many students who are unfitted to be there.

Arthur Morgan.

SCHOOL COMMENTS!



"Most students in the first year seem to fail. This is due to the social life. Therefore I will also fail."

"A university which I would like would be rather expensive to construct and keep in order. The rooms should have facilities for cooking and for ablution purposes. This would cut down on the numbers for meals and so less food will be bought."

"Sometimes I find it rather perturbing to think that I am still undecided upon what particular career I am going to pursue eventually. But, as Rome was not built in one day, I cannot decide upon my future in one day."

"In other words a university must not be totally academic in outlook, or for that matter simply a place for a gay social life."

"But what I think is more important, is that the University, and the University life in particular, will make out of me a full-grown, mature, sensible human being. That, I feel, is more important than any degree, and will mean so much to anybody, with or without a degree. People will accept him, like him, and he will get jobs laid on for him, all because of his friendliness and maturity, and his sensibility."

"In this world what counts is not what you know, but who you know."



"I expect a pleasant atmosphere at the university (as little mocking etc, as is possible)."

It is true that many people with degrees are complete idiots when compared to some people without degrees, it is the person with the degree that gets the better job and eventually gets further than the person without."

"I am sure that many of my friends (if I have any) will be studying for a variety of degrees."

"When I was younger, I was told I was to go to 'the University' to study further and become a learned person. As I grew up, I always associated the universities with 'brains' but couldn't understand why brains walked around with that 'awful long hair and beard, those denims and T-shirts'. I didn't want to go; I didn't want to look like that."

"I think all universities should be banned."



residence reform

Correct channels a dead end - Spicer

All attempts at residence reform through the "correct channels" have met with a dead end.

Head of the Senior Students Committee, Mike Spicer, said last week proposals for res reform instituted by the Senior Students Committee early this year "have passed from committee to committee and run on from month to month".

"There is no prospect of our obtaining any conclusive reforms until December sometime once both Senate and Council have come to some decision," he said.

The Senior Students Committee is the first step on the long ladder up towards the decision makers of the university. Proposals from here must go through to the Hall Wardens/Senior Students Committee, then the Hall Wardens Committee. From here proposals must go to the Residents' Superintendents' Committee who in turn wait for Senate and the Council to sit.

"It is clear if the system continues, we will have to wait a whole year to pass a single proposal through the correct channels," Spicer said.

The Senior Students Committee has put forward a number of proposals to cut out all the dead wood in the present "white book" of residence rules.

"Our chief aim was to cut out rules that everyone is ignoring anyway," he said. Other proposals for change are allowing students to have liquor in residence, reduction in the number of formal meals a week and women being permitted to visit men in their residences.

"All these proposals have been put forward subject to the discretion of the individual hall wardens," Spicer said.

"There is a possibility that there will be a clamp-down on rules," he said. "In that case I can only foresee a possibility for change if students themselves start doing something."

NEW MOVE FROM FIRST YEARS

Two first year girls have taken the initiative for res reform by launching a petition.

The petition calls for the "curfew hour" in women's residences to be extended at weekends and for women to be allowed to visit in men's residences.

Time to act

Linda Stone, a first year Journalism student, and Linda Meyer, who is doing first year Fine Art, initiated the petition "because we felt it was about time somebody did something now", said Linda Stone.

"We've met with a tremendous amount of opposition from Hall Wardens, Senior Students and their House Comms," she said. "One important point though, is that we are not trying to challenge the power of Senior Students and House Comms. We knew there was a Senate meeting last week and we planned to present the petition just to add some weight to the attempts at res reform being put through. We thought Senate might take more notice of these proposals if they realised most of the students supported them," she said.

"This plan fell through because most of the Hall Wardens refused to allow the petition to be sent around. We did not realize that we had to ask permission and say where the petition originated. By the time all the official channels were passed it was too late to have the signatures for the Senate meeting.

"Some Hall Wardens are still very much against the petition. We were told by one that we had no right to interfere and that none of the students had complained so she saw no reason in our petition.

"Another warden's attitude was simply 'silly first years' trying to cause trouble' - we were told persistently that rules encourage self discipline.

"But most House Comms saw us as some type of competition. Most of the senior students were at first too scared to allow us to put up the petitions."

The response from the student body has been good.

"We would like to organise a debate or something to focus attention on the question on res reform," said Linda Stone.

The two girls plan to take the petition to Senate when the body next meets in September.

NUSAS Regional Director, Karl Edwards, said last week he felt the proposals put forward by the girls were "too weak".

"The fact however that this came from students and not from NUSAS or the SRC shows the response that ought to be coming from students all the time. I feel such demands from students will help NUSAS and the SRC to define their roles more clearly," he said.

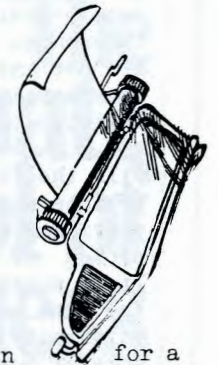
Mike Spicer, head of the Senior Students Committee said he viewed the petition extremely cynically. "If it's taken us this long to get nowhere, their chances of promoting change are minimal," he said.

Hi folks - just dropped in for a minute to say howzit my chommies. It's just a rumour that the Ed, who made this page up, didn't leave enough space for me. You see, the Ed's a good Lib and Libs never do nasty things like that.

I see the buggers at Matthews and Botha are playing cricket outside their houses already - get your cricket in early and avoid the exam rush. Like I failed my June exams to avoid the Christmas rush.

I'm starting a legal aid thing. So anyone who doesn't know what to do with the two cents change in his cigarette packet please drop it into the office to help pay for Giles and Woodstock's bail.

I feel like a continuity announcer on radio - there just to talk bullsh*t to fill in the spaces. I think I've succeeded, so cheers my mates. See you next week



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EDITORIAL

Farmer Bill ends on top

So Bill Deacon has come and gone. We promised him a confrontation but there's no doubt about it, our farmer friend came out on top. Certainly, the majority of students, when they left the GLT last week after a rather quiet meeting with the Albany MP, felt rather more sympathetic towards him and were entertaining grave doubts about whether there was in fact anything sinister about his investigation into Nusas.

Several factors contributed towards this:

Firstly, Deacon very successfully hid behind the "I'm sorry I can't say anything about that, the matter is sub-judice" syndrome. The grounds on which Deacon condemned the leadership of Nusas are still unknown to us, and that is the only aspect of his investigation that warrants any confrontation.

Secondly, too many students in the meeting were intent on "catching out" Deacon on how he was supposed to have "begged, borrowed and purloined" Nusas documents. That is irrelevant. Nusas has always prided itself on the fact that its documents are open for public inspection. We don't give a damn where he got his information. What that information was, and how he extrapolated all sorts of sinister sounding observations from it, is what concerns us.

And thirdly, we were tricked into assessing the words and actions of the now-banned Nusas leadership in terms of Deacon and U.P. set of values, instead of our own. We tend too often to regard "working within the system, democratic procedures and right channels" as ends in themselves. Radical change is what our leaders called for and what we should still be calling for.

Despite Deacon's successful defense of himself, the fact still remains that a man who sees it as important to warn the government (while still supporting the Bantu Labour Settlement of Disputes Act) that the Workers Committee system is similar to Lenin's system of workers' soviets and therefore needs to be treated with suspicion, is a man that lacks the fundamental powers of logic and reason to be able to judge the Nusas leadership.

SRC take heed

With the election of hall representatives for the SRC complete, despite the fact that three of the positions have not been filled, we now move into Phase 11 - the election of five general reps and the president by the student body as a whole. Only four people have stood for general reps and one for the Presidency.

Although the dearth of nominations for both phases in the elections are damning of the system in themselves, the fact that the present hall reps and the nominations for the general reps are in the main inexperienced students, bodes ill for the working of this SRC for the next year.

Although Rhodexo has made it quite clear in the past that we regard the Hall system a very poor apology for the Student Assembly, we are interested in seeing the new SRC performing their tasks to the best of their abilities, as limited as those abilities might be both in terms of their inexperience and the restrictions of the Rhodes system.

We would like, however, to offer the following advice: be prepared to go it alone in 90% of the issues you are faced with. Student cynicism is at its peak at this stage. Secondly, do not be taken in by the crude rationalisations offered by the Rhodes authorities for various high-handed actions taken by them. Rather, (and we say this from experience) regard every action of the Senate and the bureaucracy with the deepest scepticism and you will not leave your posts this time next year wondering why you were unable to accomplish any meaningful changes like your predecessors.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

STUDENTS PRAISED

Sir,

During the past week a number of members of both the academic and the administrative staff have strongly criticised the recent protest organised by the TRA. The main reasons offered were that students "should keep their noses in their books" and should not waste time "trying to stir up other students over matters no one cares a hoot about".

It was also suggested that the whole affair reflected badly on certain departments - namely those in which the leaders of the protest are students. I have during these discussions tried to make a number of points, which should perhaps be more widely aired and debated.

● It seems to me that any member of a society has a right to protest against the actions and decisions of those who are in authority over him. As the Vice-Chancellor himself has said on many occasions, students always have the right to protest against the actions and decisions of Senate, of Council and of any officer of the University.

● I would want to go further and maintain not only that there are occasions on which students have the right to protest, but that there are other occasions on which they should, and even more strongly, have a duty to, protest against the actions and decisions of Senate, Council and University officers. These would be occasions on which such actions or decisions impinge on the rights and interests of students, or of the University as a whole, without just cause. The University, including its student members must on such occasions welcome protests even though they come from only a few students.

● I have a further reason for arguing that the University must welcome protests from its student members. One of the main tasks of University teachers is to instil querying and challenging attitudes of mind in their students; to encourage them to continually question and challenge, amongst other things, the values of senior members of the University as well as the generally accepted ideas of what the University is

and how it should be run. A sign of a successful University is, therefore, that it has a student body which is not prepared to accept a decision simply because it comes from a higher authority such as the Senate or Council.

● Given these first three points I am left perplexed by the complaints raised against those Departments and their students. If students have a right and a duty to protest, the grounds of the complaint (as has been suggested) cannot lie in the mere fact that the students involved were protesting against a particular act or series of acts of Senate.

● It seems to me that there are only two grounds on which objections could be raised against the TRA's protest.

a) It might be argued that the issues were not ones which should have generated a protest. I would agree with this only so far as the question of Residence reform is concerned, since at the time of the protest no final decisions had been reached on the proposals initiated in the second term by the Senior Students. The University could not, then, justifiably be accused of ignoring the requests of the students. The second issue - that of Senate's imposing a constitution on the student body (even though this was at the request of the SRC) - it is not such a clear-cut matter. Here legitimate doubts arise about Senate's ignoring due constitutional procedures as well as a previous binding decision of a Student Body Meeting which was still binding on at least the SRC. I would contend that here protest was legitimate and necessary.

b) It might be argued that the means by which the protest was carried out were reprehensible. This objection would have had some force only if those involved broke the law or in some way committed breaches of the Students' Disciplinary Code. There do not appear to have been any such infringements during the protest.

cont. on page 7.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

cont. from page 6

That

I or any other person would not have conducted a protest in such a manner does not constitute a good reason for damning it.

● Having made these additional points, the perplexity with which I started still remains. Why should individual student members of some Departments as well as these Departments as a whole be condemned because of the recent protest? Given the circumstances, it seems to me that the students involved should be praised for their actions, and that their concern should reflect to the credit rather than to the discredit of these Departments.

Prof I.A. Bunting.
Department of
Philosophy.

HOMOSEXUALITY

Dear sir,

I was disturbed and deeply concerned to read Alan Robertson's letter. The obsession of some Christians with so-called "deviant" sexual behaviour and their condescending statements that "deviants" need "help" in such matters as homosexuality and masturbation sometimes become so strident or hysterical that I seriously wonder who has lost the sense of proportion which is one of the defining qualities of normality or sanity.

Certainly Alan Robertson is a typical male in one respect, by his own definition. He is dogmatic. However, I am not convinced that this is a virtue in what purports to be a serious discussion in a university context. I can detect no feeling in the tone or style of his letter that he accepts such views as:

● Individuals are remarkably different from one another. His generalised references to "man" and "woman" lead me to think he actually believes he is dealing with a homogeneous entity in each of the two categories.

● Our view of the roles of males and females is socially conditioned. Perfectly viable societies have existed in which non-aggressive males and "go-getting" females have played useful roles and were complementary.

● The qualities of gentleness, self-sacrifice and reserve were those of Christ. I believe a recent book by Hugh Montefiore has some interesting things to say about this.

Of course, it may come as no surprise to Mr Robertson if I come clean and say that as a rational agnostic I am not with him in some of what he has to say on the nature of mankind anyway.

But it is worth noting that eminent psychologists and psychiatrists both in and outside the Christian church have declared that homosexuality as both an individual and a social matter is a complicated question and pre-eminently that we are always dealing with a whole personality.

"Curing" a person of homosexuality may also involve "curing" him of the gentleness and sensitivity which enable him to use his talents in the service of society. Every case should be taken on its merits, with the full co-operation of the individual concerned. And certainly what comes through to me is the crying need for the re-education of society to an attitude of understanding, caring and acceptance.

The repetition of hollow dogma will get us nowhere. Dr Ashby's letter is so positive and constructive that I hope it will make a difference to all who think like Robertson.

David Carver.

MATURITY

Sir,

In "On Not Being Gay" (Rhodes, August 23), Mr Oliver displays admirable research, a hard-hitting factual style, and a command of his material that enables him to make the most of it. But I take the issue with one devastating remark he makes. I hope he said it only to clinch his argument. That I could almost forgive.

He quotes from "On Being Gay" the phrase "first mature freely-chosen homosexual experience and comments, in contemptuous parenthesis, "(as if the average 18-year-old can have but the vaguest notion of the concept of maturity in any case)".

Here is Mr Oliver repeating an hoary old line that Senate has been saying about students ever since the year dot. Mr Oliver, do you seek a sort of intellectual martyrdom by yielding up the right for a first-year student to say what he thinks and decide what he wants, since by definition (yours) he is old enough to vote but not old enough to think? Or do you feel that your slightly-above-average age allows you to take this superior attitude? (And we complain that the Senate is paternalistic!)

Or is it possible that you have been so convinced by the Christian National Education point-of-view that you really and honestly believe that no-one can think under the age of 25, and then only if he is a card-carrying member of the National Party?

Whatever your reasons, I find your slur on the maturity of first-years (not just immature, you say, but totally unable to comprehend the concept of maturity) highly insulting.

I should be the last person to deny that new students undergo massive changes in outlook, values and critical ability in their first year. One of these changes is the process described by the author of "On Being Gay" as "coming out": a process you stigmatize as evidence of immaturity. There would be something drastically wrong with the student who did not learn more, in his first year, in the time he spent out of lectures than in them. But the fact that university life is by far the quickest way to make young adults out of repressed schoolchildren (in spite of regulations) does not entitle you or anyone to claim that the average 18-year-old is so immature that his mind cannot even grasp the idea of maturity properly.

No, Mr Oliver, it will not do. I refuse to accept that my mind boggled before the ephemeral and elusive idea of being grown up until the middle of my second year. I refuse to accept also that I am not an "average student" (insofar as there is any such thing). You would perhaps put this down to immaturity: perhaps I still have no notion of what maturity is all about. But may I say, in all humility and contingent on your agreeing that I can in fact produce original thought, I don't think so.

Paul Keating.

PATERNALISM

Sir,

Your issue of August 23 is interesting reading, especially as regards the proposals of the TRA and two first-year students for res reform, on which I would like to comment.

I do agree that Rhodes is a paternalistic sort of University, the more so because I can compare it with Wits, where I finished a B.A. last year. But I think Wits is less paternalistic because it is less residential. The Rhodes res situation is not by any means ideal, because of the sexes; in fact I feel that eating and recreational facilities should be completely mixed,

and that inter-visiting under controlled conditions should be permitted at convenient times.

The paternalism, though, is justified where it seeks to make students think what they are doing, and where it follows rational, open-minded principles, as in the case of bans on sex and alcohol in res: casual sex leads i) to VD, which is not as easy to cure as we'd like to think, and which has certain high highly unpleasant effects on infants; ii) to unwanted pregnancies, of which Rhodes has several every year. Quite apart from any other factors, they ruin the mother's university career and the economic prospects of mother and child; iii) to a denial of the Biblical view that man and woman certainly do fulfil each other sexually, but only in a totally committed and permanent relationship (which, of course, cannot be entered upon until the rich variety of the opposite sex has been experienced - hence any comments on inter-visiting etc). Thus, what we do in our own rooms is not our own business at all, and it is this "universal principle" (sic) which the University quite rightly upholds.

It might seem that so many Rhodes students get drunk anyway, that the allowing of alcohol in rooms would not matter. But the student is responsible, not only for his girlfriend or child, but for himself. Getting drunk in public may be bad enough, but secret drinking to escape from university stress is much worse.

The argument that privacy is one of the essentials of freedom is specious and negates itself.

Privacy is only a small part of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, and one man's privacy may not be another's.

The TRA states that rules make students wonder whether their actions are immoral - this is an excellent reason for the rules' existence. Students should only be treated as adults when, like adults, they think about the results of their actions. Precisely because their moral sense and responsibility are blunted by original sin, they quite often don't.

D. Levey.
(English Honours)

ANSWER !

Sir,

As a student of this university I feel entitled to demand certain explanations from Mr. Lapinsky concerning the Students' Union, from which we, the students, are supposed to benefit.

1) To what extent are the facilities of the Rhodes Club allowed to be used by organisations not affiliated to this University I mention in particular a recent Round Table banquet, and other opulent receptions which show little connection with students. Another favourite with the Club is entertainment with full bar facilities, to which an open invitation is extended to town and gown alike.

2) How does he account for the unheard of luxury of the Orange Room and the deplorable state of the Students' Lounge? For those for whom the Students' Union has been planned, only can say they are getting a raw deal.

3) How does he account for the fact that the prices in Kaif, which is meant to be a non-profitable organisation, are much higher than those downtown? Once again, students are not (or should I say, no longer) benefiting from what should be their biggest facility on this campus.

4) How does he account for the fact that Oppidans, who probably use Kaif more than any other students, are having certain items on their menu phased out, like the cup of tea they used to have up until this term?

Please answer these questions Mr. Lapinsky -- a great number of students and staff members are asking them too.

Wendy Nunn.

HOW TO VOTE

- There are only five people to fill five posts. Nevertheless the SRC's new procedure lays down that this election is taken to the polls and it has to obtain 60 per cent before the election becomes valid.
- Voting for President: The same applies here. Even though there is only one person standing you shall have to vote on whether or not you want him as President. If the candidate does not get the required poll, the candidate will not be elected to the post by this election.
- There are five candidates to fill five posts. You do not have to vote for all five if you do not wish to.
- You may only cast your vote once.
- Only students who have been registered as full time students for at least two terms (or part time students who have been admitted to the Student Body and have been members thereof for at least two terms) are eligible to vote.
- There will be polling stations in all houses, at Kaif and in the Oppidan Common Room.
- Voting will be from 9 a.m. till 6 p.m. - or later if the minimum percentage poll has not been attained by 6 p.m.



ALISON GALLOWAY
STANDING FOR
GENERAL REP

Pen sketch:

B. Pharmacy IV

Manifesto:

If elected to the SRC I should like to see the work of establishing faculty councils continued and improvements made in society administration.

Attempts to obtain residential reform must be continued. I would like to see enquiries conducted into Oppidan rents and living conditions.

I would like to see established more comprehensive Arts and Science week every three years instead of the annual one as at present.

I support Nusas and any moves towards increased political, social and economic awareness among students.

PROPOSED: Arthur Ashton



LYNETTE LIEBENBERG

Pen sketch: GENERAL REP

B.A. II
1973 Nused chairman
1973 Rhodes delegate to Nusas congress.
1973 English II departmental committee.
1973 P.A. House com.
A.F.S.

Manifesto:

The SRC should start planning long term programmes to ensure continuity. I intend to introduce such a long term programme, with an aim to education reform, especially in student evaluation the lecture system, and inter-disciplinary courses. But the initial research which must form the basis for concrete suggestions will take at

least one whole term of office.

I would like to hold what used to be the Education portfolio, and as part of my programme, strengthen the Faculty Councils as channels for reform suggestions.

Nusas welfare and education projects are high on my list of priorities.

PROPOSED: Mike Spicer



DEON DELPORT

STANDING FOR GENERAL REP

Pen sketch:

B.A. I Majors - Legal Theory and Politics.
Then LLB.
Karate.

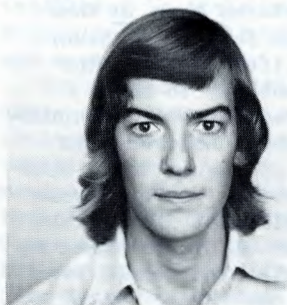
Manifesto:

Endeavour to close the generation gap between the university administration and students.

Promote student political awareness and use it as a lever against the university administration to get a relaxation of residence rules.

To promote as far as possible the interests and wishes of junior students at Rhodes.

PROPOSED: L. Liebenberg



PATRICK JACKSON

STANDING FOR GENERAL REP

Pen sketch:

B.A. Law II

Manifesto:

The experimental nature of the new constitution cannot guarantee a halt to student apathy and will not produce drastic changes. I accept the present situation and stand convinced of the need for an SRC.

I believe in a National Union of students and believe Nusas plays a valuable role in student contact, SRC links, welfare, and as a political conscience.

On internal matters I support Res. reform, through negotiation, not confrontation. The system of Departmental Committees and Faculty Councils should be preserved with. This and welfare are my main interests.

I am a Christian and hold to this manifesto by Christian principles.

PROPOSED: Garth Collins



ROBIN VAN DEVENTER

STANDING FOR GENERAL REP
AND PRESIDENT

Pen sketch:

Worked for a tyre company in Port Elizabeth and Johannesburg for 2½ years before coming to Rhodes in 1972. At present doing a B.A. Theology.

Manifesto:

This new constitution, a positive alternative to the present structure has every possible opportunity of succeeding - creating an SRC realistically representative of all students on this campus.

Completely in favour of residence reform. Channels

must be used first. If no results, then confrontation; based on cooperation, not conflict.

Nusas: SRC remain affiliated to Nusas.

Political policy: Acting for change both within the grounds of reason and law.

My aim: to get students interested in the SRC and vice versa. Senate can only be approached for representation and reforms once SRC has backing of whole campus.

PROPOSED: Mike King



CECIL JOHN

Pen sketch:

1951 BSc (Pharm) I
1952 BSc (Pharm) I (repeat)
1953 BSc (Pharm) I (repeat, repeat.)

1954
to ad nauseum
1973

Manifesto:

I, Cecil John, hereby pledge myself to strive unrelentlessly for the following major changes in the socio-economic-political-sexual-rugby-bugby system at Rhodes University for Better Sexual Experiences.

i) Prof. Price to replace Dr. Hisslop as Vice-Chancellor.

ii) The futherance of the ideals of G6 Liberation for which I will serve the student body as a whole.

iii) The removal of all women wardens and their replacement by final year Social Work students who believe that as much sex as possible is the only answer to exam tension.

iv) The systematic transplantation of the Victoria Hotel, brick by brick, to the Arts Quad. (This is one of those long-range programmes).

v) The D.T.'s replace D.P.'s as a requirement for final exams.

vi) Club 15 to replace Nusas.

vii) Fifty-two Rag weeks every year.

PROPOSED: Cecilia

CAMPAIGN ROSTER

	L	S	L	S	L	S	L	S	L	S	L	S
	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Tues	Wed	Thurs						
L—After Lunch. S—After Supper. Oppies Common room				B							AB	
Smuts	A	B										
Founders		A	B									
Drestdy/P.A.			A	B								
Struben/Livingstone				A	B							
Kimberley						A	B					
Oriel	B	A										
St. Marys		B	A									
Milner			B	A								
Atherstone				B	A							
Hobson						B	A					

VOTING FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 7

GRAZZLE SESSION THURSDAY 6

A

DELPORT 69
GALLOWAY 72
JACKSON 58

B

LIEBENBERG 34
VAN DEVENTER 16

art

john michell

ARMS AND THE MAN

RHODES MAJOR theatrical production of the year, George Bernard Shaw's 'Arms and the Man', directed by Frank Shelly, opens in the Great Hall on Monday night.

We welcome back Frank Shelly, who has for the past seven years been intimately connected with South African theatre. 'Arms and the Man' will be his third Shaw in Grahamstown: he played in 'Candia' four years ago, and the part of Shaw himself in 'Dear Liar'.

Shelly comments: "I simply love acting in Grahamstown. The audiences are among the very keenest I have found in the Republic. They seem to come to the theatre to enjoy themselves. In particular they have been the most perceptive Shaw audiences."

Shaw was 38 when he wrote this, his second play to be performed, which he described as "an anti-romantic comedy". Not a professional Profound Thinker, Shaw has toyed with ideas, with convention, attitudes, poses and defenses, and in neatly exposing the social double standards of the Late Victorian era, has assured the plays universal reception.

Raina (Jenny de Reuke) begins as the conventional heroine of romantic comedy and melodrama, but is sufficiently aware of social pretensions to embark on an adventure of self-discovery. Her final exasperated question to Bluntschli (Don McCleod) "How did you find me out?" is more than an expression of hurt pride. So, too, Bluntschli represents a warm humanity of common sense, good humour and a true concept of romantic love that he shares with Louka. His final verdict on himself as a man of

"an incurably romantic disposition" comes as no surprise to a reader or spectator who has noticed that Shaw is not as anti-romantic as he is often made out to be.

For ultimately the play is romantic - the two couples make matches of love rather than of expediency, and we are aware that in "real life" social expectations would have demanded of Serfius (Tony Peake) and Raina to make a marriage of convenience marked by 40 years of boredom and mutual infidelities, as expected by Raina's mother, Catherine (Sue Waddingham).

Shaw's mastery of comic, character, situation, dialogue and plot, with the mixed ingredients of the sauce of Shaw's lines like "My daughter, sir, is accustomed to a first-rate stable" gives us a play of Shaw's recipe, that is irresistible. N.D.

BRINK'S NEW NOVEL

Mr André P. Brink, the well-known Afrikaans writer and lecturer in the Afrikaans department, tells Rhodan about his latest novel and book of photography.

Tell us something about your novel

My latest novel "Kennis van die Aand" will be available at the end of September and it is the longest novel I have ever written. I have been working on it for eight years and I feel it is my best novel up to date.

The story is about a Coloured in Cape Town, who falls in love with a White girl. But more than the story about two people, I am trying to illustrate how the Coloured people have to pay the price of the White man's progress. I am also trying to analyse

the South African situation historically, and to take a deeper look at contemporary South African society.

What do you feel is the function of art in our society?

Art must be rebellion.

It must make people question all accepted things - norms, beliefs, everything. This must be the world over, but especially in South Africa. Art cannot be isolated from society.

Photography is a hobby of yours. Why did you decide to publish a book of your photographs?

I have always made use of words to express my feelings and using visual images is a new challenge.

What are you trying to express in this book?

The book is called "A Portrait of a Woman as a Young Girl". It is a visual essay of the woman. I started the book last year, and it will appear at the end of August. The photographs are in black and white and are mainly nude studies. Fortunately I have not had any trouble with the censorship board.

Many Afrikaans writers do not feel the Hertzog prize for literature is awarded on merit. How do you feel?

It would be an insult to me if I received the prize. Up to date the prize has been awarded mainly on literary merit, although I have not always agreed with the choice. But it is clear that the new committee of judges is not interested in the art of literature. The prize will be awarded on political grounds.

A work of poetry must receive the prize this year, and I predict that the most meritorious work will not receive the prize.

L.V.

WORKSHOP PLAYS

The surprising lack of students at the presentation of two extremely good plays proves yet again Rhodes' disgusting apathy toward all that does not concern hall balls or sport.

Those who missed the two one-act plays put on by the Speech and Drama Department in the theatre workshop deprived themselves of an evening of engrossing entertainment with serious, thought-provoking undertones.

In David Halliwell's "Muck from Three Angles", directed by Jane Osborne, comedy arises from the visit to two girls by a travelling salesman who, on behalf of his boss, God, tries to sell them old newspapers and chipped records to further the work of the Lord.

The blasphemy is thematically apt in a sick scene which is repeated three times, each with one of the characters observing the situation from his own point of view. The

result is an uncomfortably vivid picture of how we regard others in relation to ourselves, and vice versa. Third-years Vanessa Day, Beverly Pigott and Sean Dewar acted convincingly and competently.

Three starving ladies on a raft are characters Polish dramatist Marozek has used for his political satire, "Out at Sea", directed by Henry Goodman.

Faced with starvation, the genteel ladies elect, by devious political means, one of their number who is to be killed and eaten. The unfortunate victim of their calculated tactics, skillfully played by Beadle Dixie, is finally led to the silver- and anemone-decked dining table feebly repeating, "I have decided..."

Star of the evening was Rene de Beer (only God could love her for herself and not her golden hair!) who has the ability to characterise well. Patricia Fraser was impressive, but like Sean Dewar, she is the victim of type-casting - a fate all too common with promising young actors, and a mistake which the Department would do well to avoid in the future.

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RHODES TO LEAVE ALBANY LEAGUE ?

The Albany Hockey League represents a long and in many ways distinguished tradition of women's hockey in Grahamstown.

This season, however, it has become blatantly apparent that the Albany League satisfies a decorative rather than a functional role. It is now clear the Rhodes' continued affiliation to this league means that concessions will have to be made at the expense of hockey.

The purpose of a league is to provide healthy competition which will stimulate interest and keenness with a view to improving the overall standard of hockey.

The Albany League, comprising Rhodes (three teams) TC (three teams) and Grahamstown Town (one team), has about as much interest as a mud-prawn.

The fact that scores like 20-0 (Rhodes 2nds vs TC 3rds) can be recorded is not only laughable, but fairly disgusting.

So is the fact that league matches have to be shortened in some cases to prevent embarrassingly high scores.

So is the fact that forwards and backs have been known to switch positions to obviate the excruciatingly monotonous process of mechanical goal scoring.

With Rhodes and TC joining forces next year there promises to be an even greater bias in the "balance of power". Women's hockey at Rhodes clearly has a decidedly limited future in the Albany League.

The solution lies in Rhodes entering at least two teams in the vital EP League next year. Only by playing top-class hockey consistently - and not just once or twice a year at interprovincial and inter-variety - can women's hockey at Rhodes reach its full potential.

True, such a move will mean fewer provincial caps for Rhodes next year, but this will improve as the standard of hockey at Rhodes does/will. After all, UPE, whom Rhodes have trounced three times this year, have three EP players.

The Albany League has outlived its usefulness. The breakaway might be a sad one in some ways, but it must come - as a matter of priority.

BRIDGE FINALS

Illness of a player in the Oakdene team has meant a week's postponement of the Cory vs Oakdene House finals.

Cory beat Smuts A in the semi-finals by 13 IMP (International Match Points), and a swing to 19 IMP cost Graham their game against Oakdene.

Oakdene and Cory were the finalists last year, with Oakdene the victors. However, Cory is tipped to win this year.



POWERFUL LIFT

In a highly successful power lifting meeting on Saturday the 25th, Rhodes just managed to beat Natal University by two lifts to one.

One point was awarded for each pound lifted in excess of body weight. with the three best scores counting.

In the bench press Rhodes were outclassed, Natal winning by 138 points to 24. Nick Palmer of Natal was impressive with a press of 270 pounds.

In the squats Rhodes won comfortably by 453 points to 418, with Warwick Weedon recording the best lift of 340 pounds.

Rhodes and Natal thus each had one event to their credit at this stage, with the Dead Lift to be the deciding factor,

1st and 2nd hockey teams in action.

and which was won by Rhodes by 755 points to 720. Warwick Weedon was again the strongest lifter with a heave of 473 pounds.

BASKETBALL DEFEAT

The Rhodes men's basketball first team lost by 57 points to 92 to Blue Streaks of Port Elizabeth last weekend.

Rhodes was leading at the three-quarter stage, in a fast, high-scoring game, and both teams reflected the high standard of play expected in the first league.

**HEWITT
&
PALMER**

Your Sports Dealer

Highest individual scores were totalled by Graham Herbert (18) and Leigh Sonhing (14).

The women's team was also beaten in a game with an exciting finish. Rhodes led the game until the last two minutes when Blue Streaks scored to leave the final score standing at 22-24, a win by one basket.

HOCKEY

The recent decline of the Rhodes' men's hockey team was much in evidence on Saturday when they lost for the first time in their history to UPE.

UPE went ahead after about twenty minutes following a short corner. Dave Groom equalised with a penalty flick just before half-time. In the second half the standard of play, if anything, became worse, but in one of the few cohesive attacks of the game, UPE swept in the winner with ten minutes to go.



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