

Address to New Students 13/2/79.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

My first, pleasant and most important task this afternoon is to offer you ^{all} a very hearty welcome to Rhodes University, more particularly since this is the 75th year of our founding. We are all very proud of our university, of its setting, of its history and traditions, of its scholarship ~~and~~ of its staff and of its students, past and present. In a very short time you will feel this sense of pride and of belonging, and you will be as zealous for its reputation and good name as any Rhodian of an elder vintage. Along with the vast majority of those who have gone before you you will want to contribute your share in full measure to everything that ~~makes~~ ^{gives links} Rhodes University with such a strong bond of affection and loyalty in the hearts and minds of those who have passed through its portals. A particular source of satisfaction ~~&~~ over the last few years is that we are quite rapidly becoming, in practice as well as in theory, more representative of a much wider spectrum of Southern African society.

My next task is to introduce ^{to} you formally the gentlemen up on the platform with me.

Professor Bromment

V-A

Pr. Aekens

Registrar

Pr. Best

Dean of Students

Pr. Schutte

Dean of Arts

Pr. Braae

Dean of Science

Pr. v.d. Walt

Dean of Commerce

Pr. Benthin

Dean of Law.

Prof Cook Dean of Divinity
 Prof Higgins Dean of Social Science
 Prof Noble Dean of Education
 Mr. Willett-Clarke Pres of S.R.C.

At least one, the Dean of your particular Faculty, you will have met at Registration. The Dean of students, or the staff of his office, have a great deal to do with helping ^{new} ~~new~~ students, and you probably have already had dealings with them. As President of your Representative Council you will come to know Mr. Nick Willett-Clarke very well. That leaves the V-P, the Registrar and myself. We unfortunately, do not always ^{meet} ~~deal~~ with a representative cross-section of students. The natural hazards of office tend to limit ^{our} ~~our~~ close knowledge of students ~~at~~ ^{to the} ~~the~~ ^{two} ~~opposite~~ ends of the scale: the ones who deserve particular congratulation for meritorious performance, and those who come to our attention for the opposite reasons. I am sure that this year in this distinguished gathering there will be very few of the latter. We are always making ^{conscientious endeavours} ~~conscientious~~ endeavours to get to know more typically representative students, and this is the year in which we really hope to succeed. In any event we have an open door policy for any student to come and ^{see} ~~see~~ us, whether or not he has a serious problem to discuss.

There has been a good deal of ~~public~~ discussion recently about the public accountability of universities. ^{It has become fashionable for} The government figures and other prominent people to call for a more detailed justification of the expenditure of public money on tertiary education, and to issue dictates on more effective teaching, better pass rates and more concentrated application on the part of students. In these respects, it is worth noting, Rhodes University has fared somewhat better than most, if not all, of its sister institutions.

The salient facts are easy to summarise. For each undergraduate at Rhodes the annual expenditure, in round figures, is approximately as follows

Academic fees	600
Residence	1000
Conservative fig for pocket money books, transport	400
For you or your sponsors	2000
Govt subsidies	2500
Giving a total of, with	4500

no account taken of loss of earnings because you might otherwise have been working.

For those of you who prefer more dramatic daily figures, 'if we made the simplistic assumption that all the work of the university is concentrated into the days when lectures are actually held, the cost per lecture-day per student is approaching R40, or approximately what it might cost you if you took up permanent residence at a classy five star hotel !!