



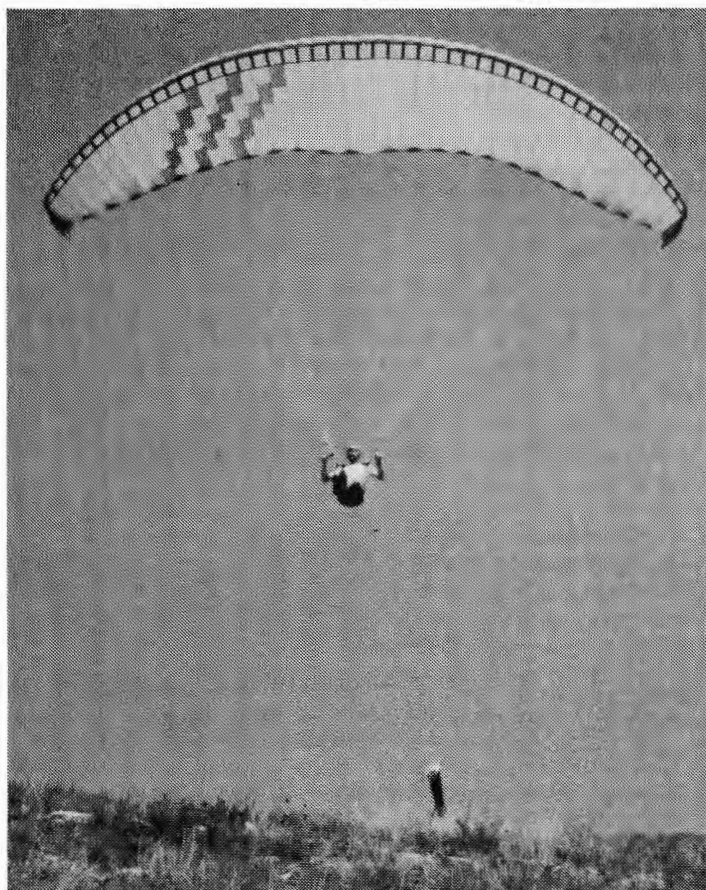
High praise for Rhodes paraglider

An article on paragliding, written by a physics lecturer, Richard Grant, has been praised by Richard Bach, well-known aviation enthusiast and acclaimed author of books such as *Jonathan Livingston Seagull*.

Mr Grant, the only person at Rhodes who pursues the exhilarating sport of paragliding, wrote an article entitled *Paragliders and Rowboats* which was published in the July edition of the American magazine *PARAGLIDE USA*. The article compared the qualities and frailties of the craft with a view to engendering greater safety in this rapidly growing aviation sport.

PARAGLIDE USA obviously has a wide readership, for the September issue of published a letter by Richard Bach commending Mr Grant's article:

"I had to write to say that Richard Grant's *Paragliders and Rowboats* (*PARAGLIDE USA*, July 1992) does a great service to us all. Paragliding is a judgement sport of the highest order, and his article gives us a fast, clear perspective to judge our next minute's flying, and our next year's. I'll be keeping his comparison in mind for a long time to come."



Up, up and away... Richard Grant paraglides from the top of Mountain Drive near Grahamstown.

Knysna's Old Gaol to house Angling Museum

by Gillian Redmond

The JLB Smith Institute of Ichthyology, has been given the go-ahead to establish the first Angling Museum in Africa in the coastal resort of Knysna.

The museum, which will be housed in Knysna's Old Gaol, will have displays on the history of angling, the variety of ways in which fish are caught and used by people, and the ambivalent attitude that people have towards catching fish without hurting them.

The displays will also feature a series of aquaria, where freshwater, estuarine and marine fishes will be

exhibited in the Aquarium room, as well as a special display on the coelacanth featuring a live specimen. There will be a computerized fish information centre, a children's museum, an outdoor tea room, and a museum shop.

Professor Mike Bruton, Director of the JLB Smith Institute, said the museum would extend the Institute's educational function by sensitizing people to the delicate nature of mankind's relation to fishes and aquatic environments and to encourage the sustained, long-term use of fishes and other renewable aquatic resources.

"Modern museums are moving away from displays of quaint historical artefacts towards exhibitions that are interactive, dynamic and cause viewers to reflect on their relationship with the natural and cultural world," he said.

"Knysna was chosen as the most

suitable venue because it is a major tourist and angling resort and there is no natural history museum or oceanarium there. The Institute also has historic links to Knysna as JLB Smith identified the first coelacanth there in 1939. We have received an enthusiastic and constructive response from the Curator of the Cultural History Museum and the Knysna Town Council which is renovating the Old Gaol to house the museum," said Prof Bruton.

Donations and loans of material for the Angling Museum can be left at local museums for collection by the Institute.

For further information contact the JLB Smith Institute of Ichthyology, Private Bag 1015, Grahamstown 6140 (tel 0461-27124, fax 0461-22403), or Mrs Margaret Blackstock at Millwood House, Knysna (tel 0445-22133).

Office Bearers and Shop Stewards elected

Members of the Service Staff recently elected the following Office Bearers and Shop Stewards to represent their respective constituencies in 1992/1993:

OFFICE BEARERS

Mr Norris Nojoko (Chairperson) - S R C Office

Mr Elijah Ntentile (Secretary) - Grounds and Gardens

Building Maintenance, Electrical, Engineering (including Boiler Attendants), Grounds and Gardens Section, Maintenance Store, Furniture Store and the Laundry:

Elijah Ntentile

Brian Kolweni

Ms Liliwe Mesani

Alternate: Dennis Goba

Central Administration (including Estates Headquarters, V-C and V-P's Office, Public Relations Division, Sports Office, Duplicating and Printing Section, Campus Protection Unit, Janitorial Section and Central Cleaning):

Mzwandile Katiya

Alternate: Nkosana Khuselo

Academic Departments and Institutes, the Office of the SRC and the Library:

Norris Nojoko

Sizwe Ntlokwana

Alternate: Chris Mzembe

Residences, including Catering Stores, Sewing Room, the Rhodes Union and Rhodes University Club and the Sanatorium:

Ms Patricia Manganya

Ms Lilian Zabo

Ms Nontle Seteni

Alternate: Ms Cynthia Yaka.

No Rainfall

Newspapers received this report from Sapa the other day:

Johannesburg Sep 5 Sapa

There will be no rainfall today due to problems at the weather bureau.

ASP vital in maintaining standards

by Gillian Redmond

The importance of the Academic Skills Program (ASP) in maintaining academic standards by providing all students with an equal chance to succeed at university level has not been given the recognition it deserves.

This is the view of ASP economics tutor, Mr Dinty Mather, who said that the many misconceptions regarding the role of ASP could exacerbate problems the ASP was attempting to address.

"Many departments either question the effectiveness of ASP or see it as a 'quick fix' solution for weak first year students.

"This could be due to the part-time and generally temporary nature of tutors which makes quantifying results difficult. Tutors are also often placed in the category of 'graduate assistant' which questions the seriousness of the programme by giving the impression that ASP tutors are secondary to the teaching process," he said.

Mr Mather emphasized the importance of ASP in maintaining academic standards.

"Universities are by their nature elitist institutions. The challenge facing South Africa at the moment, however, is to ensure that all individuals are given a fair chance to succeed in such institutions. In my opinion universities that adopt the policy of affirmative action without backing it up with an academic development program, will only succeed in lowering academic

standards," he said.

He added that it is essential that all individuals, especially those from disadvantaged educational backgrounds, are given the chance to succeed at university level. At the same time, academic standards must be maintained to preserve the integrity of the resultant degrees. The best way to achieve both is by a universal adoption of an academic development programme, he said.

"Such a programme would protect academic standards by providing the skills necessary to cope with academic disciplines, to assist with language development and bridging the gap between school and university.

"The formation of the Academic Development Program (ADP) and the appointment of specialist full-time lecturers next year should add legitimacy to this function. It is important, however, that the departments and lecturers involved realize the value of such a programme and work together to achieve shared goals," said Mr Mather.

"To my knowledge most departments, and in particular the Economics Department, have accommodated ASP. I hope that the formation of the ADP and the appointment of specialist lecturers next year will facilitate closer co-operation and communication between the various departments. This will help uphold the academic standards of Rhodes University to the benefit of all its students."

RUSA News

Home Improvement Loans

There is confusion regarding eligibility for home improvement loans allocated from the funds invested by RUSA.

At the Annual General Meeting, it was indicated that the Finance Division had asked that, for ease of administration, the criteria for allocation of funds now in operation be applied in distributing the RUSA funds. RUSA, however, felt that its funds should be limited to applicants who are members of RUSA but in all categories of employment. As a further safeguard to members, in particular those in the lower income group, RUSA placed an upper limit of R2 000 on any one

loan. This effectively prevents staff in the higher income bracket from draining the fund with a single loan equivalent to two month's salary, thereby maintaining a cash flow in the scheme to the advantage of members.

The confusion has arisen as staff seem to think that irrespective of the current criteria applied by the university in terms of home improvement loans (i.e. a loan granted on the basis of a maximum of two months salary, repayable over six months or one year maximum), that the R2 000 apply. This is not the case and the salary qualification still applies in processing of applications.

- Mary Allen, RUSA Chair

Limericks

There was a young fellow called
Cholmondley Colquhoun,
Who kept, as a pet, a babolquhoun.
His mother said Cholmondley,
Do you think it is colmondely
To feed your babolquhoun with a
spolquhoun?

There was a young fellow from
Clyde,
Who fell down a sewer and died.
The next day his brother
Fell into another,
So now they're interred side by
side.



Canterbury House recently celebrated its 85th anniversary with a tea party at Mother Cecile Hall. The House is part of Allan Webb Hall on the St Peter's Campus, formerly the Grahamstown Teachers' Training College, which was run by the Community of the Resurrection of Our Lord. Among the guests were sisters of the Community. Seen cutting the cake at the party is Mother Nonie, Superior of the Community, with Mrs Coral Waite, Warden of Allan Webb Hall.

New developments follow CUP meeting

New developments emerged at the Committee of University Principals (CUP) July 1992 meeting, as reported in the CUP September newsletter.

Matriculation Examination

The Joint Matriculation Board (JMB) is being newly constituted as a sub-committee of the CUP. Although it will continue its present examining function for a while to accommodate students preparing for a particular examination, this will be phased out as soon as possible. CUP's coordinated withdrawal is being discussed with executive officers of the Independent Examinations Board (IEB), an institution which has emerged over the past two years. The IEB will assume responsibility for largely the same group of schools dealt with by the JMB. 1992 might be the last year in which the JMB conducts examinations.

Admission requirements

The CUP, through the Matriculation Board, has assumed full responsibility for the function of University Admission require-

ments. It is expected that many of the premises on which admissions were based will be scrutinized and new policies formulated.

It is regarded as a task of high priority for the new Matriculation Board to re-evaluate the present system and advise the CUP. Meanwhile the debate on broad issues pertaining to access, equity and admissions continuing in various circles.

Recognition of a major subject towards a degree

The Joint Statutes of the universities compel a student to complete at least half of the required credits towards a bachelor's degree at a particular university before that institution may award a degree. Many universities also have a requirement that both major subjects be passed at that university before they award the degree.

Having considered representations, the CUP has asked universities to consider amending their regulations if these should contain a clause prohibiting the transfer and/or recognition of a major subject from another university.

The Editor

We seem to have had a spate of problems recently with delayed or missing parcels and mail that we have sent overseas. Some delays were more than 12 months! I would be interested to know if other Rhodes staff have had similar problems with our local post office.

Four parcels that were sent by registered air mail to the Smithsonian Institution in the USA in October and February 1991 arrived in September this year!

In the past few months I have had problems with delayed parcels that were sent by air mail to Rome and to Honolulu, Hawaii.

A packet sent air mail, small packet rate, on June 23 to Rome, and another posted on September 9, both arrived on October 13.

An envelope containing a drawing of a fish was sent air mail small packet rate to the Bishops Museum in Honolulu on September 7 - as of October 13, it has not yet arrived.

An air mail letter sent to the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History was posted on June 24 and arrived in September!

Yours sincerely
P C Heemstra

Curator of Marine Fishes
JLB Smith Institute of Ichthyology

Dear Person

The Piet-my-vrou, a Redchested cuckoo, has returned to our district. I heard it in the hills near the abandoned farm house just beyond the Tick Research Unit on Sunday, October 11, at 5.15pm. I have not heard it in town yet and wonder if any of your readers have.

It is later than usual and one wonders whether this relates to the delayed spring rains.

Yours faithfully
R H J Buckland

Dear Editor

I note the comments made by *Smilodon*. A pity he/she chooses to hide behind a pseudonym.

Smilodon has wholly mistaken the reason for my letter. Was I so abstruse? It was primarily to draw attention to the fact that there was a lack of consistency in the thinking of the Rhodes administration, and secondly to suggest that perhaps there was a need for this administration to think deeply on the speed with which it implements the principles recorded in the abridged mission statement.

One tenet of 'sound Public Relations practice' is that when an image is to be created, the method used should be consistently applied by all concerned on all reasonable occasions. It is not being dictatorial to require that all Rhodes departments

should show a particular crest and use purple ink on their letterheads. It is merely stating that as we are all part of a larger more illustrious institution, it would enhance that institution's image if we all used, for example, similar letterheads.

What is equally important is that one should distinguish between self-evident truths and make-believe.

It is plain for all to see, that Rhodes has a distinguished academic record. It is not so clear that we are the institution claimed in the statement. At this time of uncertainty and rapid change, it is surely good sense to declare unequivocally what we are and what we stand for. The fact that a number of other prestigious organizations do so should not deter us from doing so too.

What is unforgivable, however, is to claim to be something you are not. I do not infer that Rhodes deliberately behaves inadequately towards minority groups. I do say categorically, that it is tardy in its progress and that a careful study of the full mission statement, as recorded in the calendar, would identify the areas requiring attention.

Smilodon, to infer that I question the integrity of departments or require that any one of them should be answerable to me, is far-fetched unadulterated hogwash.

Have a nice day.

John Eller

The Editor

Despite the fact that the issue of smoking has been highlighted recently with an attempt to set up smoke-free areas, it was with some concern that I have noted that some smokers have a flagrant lack of consideration after what could be termed a 'soft-option' has been offered rather than a global 'ban' on smoking. This disregard for others was highlighted at the Rhodes Womens' Association dinner dance when some senior staff members were observed actually dancing and smoking at the same time. Apart from the fact that in terms of acceptable social norms, this could be categorized as indecorous behaviour, the likelihood of damaging someone's clothing during such activity is highly possible.

As an ex-smoker I have resisted to a degree the sanctimonious criticisms so common from the converted. However, apart from the fact that smoking whilst dancing is an act of disrespect to one's partner, one questions the necessity to pollute the dance floor with ash instead of the receptacles provided. Not surprising some call it a filthy habit! There are people who can be termed considerate smokers but unfortunately they are out-numbered by those who choose to be otherwise.

"Ex-smoker"

Scratch and pass!!

Chemistry professor Art Ellis at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, has devised a chemistry test format that uses the scratch-off paper technology common in instant-winner contests.

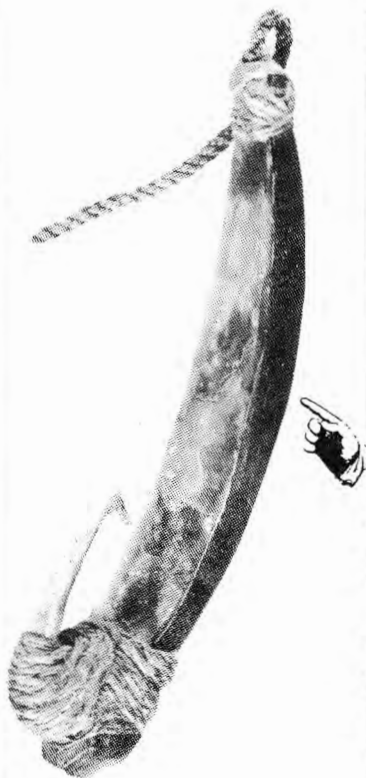
His dual goal is to ease test anxiety in introductory science courses and to make tests better teaching tools.

The student who is stuck on a test question that involves several steps can uncover a clue by using a coin to scratch grey strips from opaque white paper - the same silk-screened overlay used on lottery tickets. The student pays for the clue, however, with a specified fraction of the points to be awarded for the correct answer to the question.

Ellis thinks that the format offers a way to be more creative when writing a test. Students get nothing on essay questions, he notes, if they don't get the central theme. Similarly, they get nothing on multi-step problems if they don't get the first step. He thinks the scratch-off format is a reasonable way around such difficulties.

Ellis and his colleagues have experimented with the new format in an introductory chemistry course with about 250 students. Student evaluators pointed out some potential problems, but overwhelmingly favoured the approach. One pitfall, in the words of a student: "My fear was that I would scratch the thing and it would tell me something I already knew (thus blowing some points to no end). But I scratched it any way and it gave me a concept that, for whatever reason, I had not thought of before."

Source: *Chemical and Engineering News*, Vol 70, 1992.



"Smoking or non-smoking?"

A hand-made Maori sea bass fishing lure from North Island, New Zealand, is one of the more interesting donations made to the JLB Smith Institute of Ichthyology for the Angling Museum due to be established in the Old Gaol at Knysna next year.

The lure was donated by Mr John van Wijk of Hoekwil, and is believed to be about 100 years old. A Senior Technician of the JLB Smith Institute, Mr Robin Stobbs, said the lure was developed by the Maori to catch sea bass which they call Kahawai.

"As they are strong fighting fish, attaining a mass of up to 15kg, the lures made to catch them must be well-made and strong," he said.

RHODOS DEADLINES

Copy date	Publication date
2 Nov	12 Nov
16 Nov	26 Nov

RHODOS STAFF

Editor: Mary Burnett (ext 517)

Assistant Editor: Andrew Weldrick (ext 457).

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. Contributions from any member of the Rhodes community would be welcomed.

Official working hours

The director of Personnel, Mr Bruce Smith, has received queries about the official working hours for non-academic staff employed in Academic Departments, Institutes and the Administration.

A decision was taken by Council in 1976 when the hours of duty were laid down as follows: Mondays to Fridays, 8.30am to 12.45pm and 2.00pm to 5.00pm.

"Heads of Departments, Divisions and Institutes are requested to ensure that their offices are staffed during these hours.

"It is particularly important that someone is present at 8.30am and 2.00pm to receive visitors and answer the telephone as difficulties have been experienced in this regard," said Mr Smith.

HSRC visit to Europe could end research isolation

by Manelisi Wolela

The Head of the Department of Sociology and Industrial Sociology, Professor Jan Coetzee, left for three European countries last Friday, as part of a five-man Human Science Research Council (HSRC) delegation.

Professor Coetzee will deliver a paper entitled *Breaking the 40 year stranglehold: South Africa's democratization attempt*, in a joint symposium with the Centre Nationale de Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) of France in Paris. The seminar is on *Societies in transition*.

The two-week visit will include similar seminars in Copenhagen, Denmark and Bratislava, Czechoslovakia, with business people and academics.

The delegation includes two HSRC managing directors, its Deputy President Dr H C Marais, and Dr J Mouton, Professor Mala Singh from the University of Durban-Westville's Philosophy Department, and Professor Vincent Maphai from the University of the Western Cape's Political Studies Department.

The aim was to break the isolation of social science research, and to establish international contacts that will help South African researchers, Professor Coetzee said.

Professor Coetzee has been the Chairman of the HSRC advisory panel for research funding in sociology, demography, criminology, social work and anthropology since 1990.

He first became involved in a four-month project in Czechoslovakia following an exchange agreement between the HSRC and the Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAS), signed in May last year.

Their visit to Bratislava will strengthen the HSRC-SAS agreement, while their meeting with the CNRS, could result in a similar exchange agreement.



Laboratory peer pressure

WHAT'S ON ?

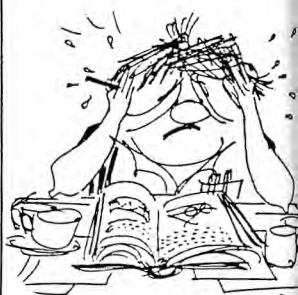
Thursday, October 29

Badminton:
RU vs Vets

• Alec Mullins, 7.00pm

Monday, November 2

Examinations begin - Good Luck!



Tuesday, November 24

RWA Gala Luncheon:
Speaker - Carole Charleywood
• Rhodes Club, 12.30pm

Friday, December 11

Term Ends

SMALLS

• ADVERTISING RATES

Block ads: R2,00 per col or double for back and front pages. Classifieds: R0,10 per word. Advertising is run on a strictly cash basis. Please take your copy to Public Relations Division.

TO LET

3 BEDROOMED furnished flat Newlands, Cape Town, Decem 1992 & January 1993. R350/week. Telephone Lorna 046-684031 (8.00am - 1.00pm); 046 - 684032 (afternoons and evenings).

FOR SALE

LIONS CHRISTMAS CAKES 1kg cakes filled with fruit are now available at R15 from: Debra Hughes (ext 334), Ros Dowse (ext 399) or Luc Marechal (ext 240/241).

PROBIKE system 1 000 exercise bike for sale. Phone Mary Burnett ext 517.

HOUSE-SITTER

HOUSE-SITTER for December. Dates: 16th - 26th. Phone Graham Hayman to enquire, ext 337/23900 (h)

WANTED KNOWN

PROFESSIONAL TYPING mini theses, papers etc. Telephone 29660/23073 (evenings).

WordPerfect Advanced Courses

All candidates for the following workshops must ensure that they are experienced WordPerfect users. If not, it is suggested that they attend the WordPerfect Introductory Course before attending any workshops.

All bookings are to be made through the Computing Centre Secretary on Extension 279.

The duration of each workshop is 1 1/2 hours unless stated otherwise.

WORKSHOP A

Paper sizes
Labels

WORKSHOP B

Tabulations
Page Numbering
Headers & Footers
Footnotes & Endnotes

WORKSHOP C

Printing
Fonts
Paper Sizes

WORKSHOP D

Text In / Text Out (Ctrl F5)
Line Draw

WORKSHOP E

Sorting
Mail merge
Labels

WORKSHOP F

Tabulations
Columns
Tables

WORKSHOP G

File Management:
List Files
Mark Files
Sub-directories
Initial Codes, Setup

WORKSHOP H

Macro's
Special characters

WORKSHOP I

Managing long documents
Thesis course

*The duration of this workshop is 3 hours (2 days, 1 1/2 hours each day) Cost is R10-00.

WORKSHOP J

Graphics

WORKSHOP K

Equations

WORKSHOP L

Advanced Macros

NAME:

DEPT:

STUDENT NO:

IDO NO / CASH:

TOTAL AMOUNT:

(Workshops are charged at R5 each)

Indicate the workshop you would like to attend:

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A | <input type="checkbox"/> G |
| <input type="checkbox"/> B | <input type="checkbox"/> H |
| <input type="checkbox"/> C | <input type="checkbox"/> I |
| <input type="checkbox"/> D | <input type="checkbox"/> J |
| <input type="checkbox"/> E | <input type="checkbox"/> K |
| <input type="checkbox"/> F | <input type="checkbox"/> L |

Are there any other topics that you would like covered:

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