

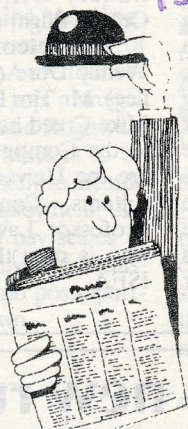


RHODOS



FEBRUARY 1990

VOL. 2 NO. 1



Editorial

WE have tried to make the first edition of *Rhodos* in 1990 informative for new members of staff. We hope that you will be happy at Rhodes, and will contribute to *Rhodos*, once you have settled in!

New staff have the consolation of seeing new students wandering around with puzzled looks on their faces - you are not alone in your bafflement, and will soon feel that you have been breaking stones in the hot sun for years!

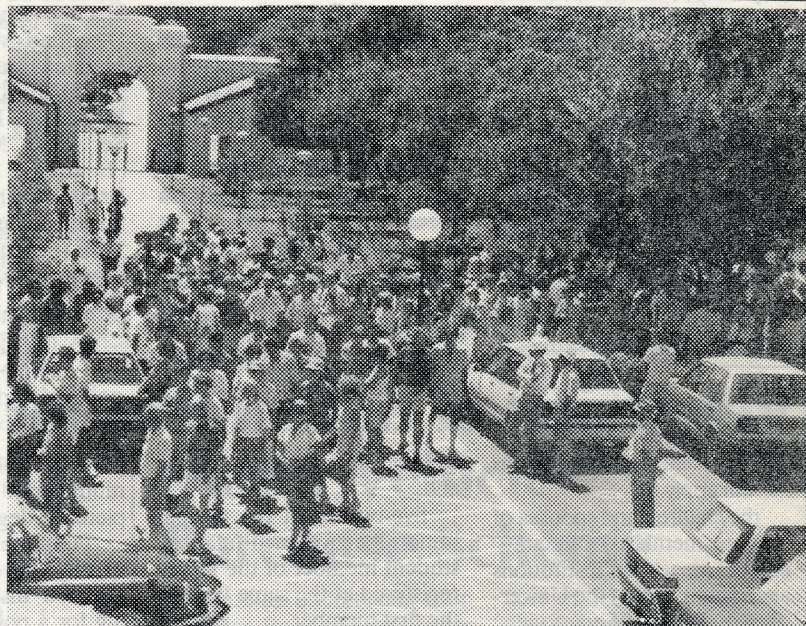
We welcome contributions to *Rhodos* - articles, news, letters, or comment. We'd be grateful if you could bring material on disk, so that we can copy it. If you do not have a word-processor, don't be put off - bring in your story anyway.

Last year we had lots of letters that provoked debate, and we hope that this will continue. Anonymous letters will not be published. Should you wish to use a nom de plume, state this at the top of your letter, and give your name and address. This will remain in confidence.

Some letters last year were extremely long. We wished to encourage correspondence, so we made only minimal cuts. This year, we ask you to keep them short, because we would like to include as many letters as possible. If you have a lot to say, perhaps it would be better to submit an article.

This year, *Rhodos* will provide classified and block advertising. This will be run on a strictly cash basis, as we do not have the staff to run a billing system.

To our faithful, regular contributors in 1989 - welcome back - happy deadlines!



Parents and new students get to know the campus on a conducted tour during Orientation Week.

Canadian contribution

THE Government of Canada has contributed over R238 000 for various projects at Rhodes University. Dr Roux van der Merwe has announced.

The largest amount in the package, R82 500, will be used by the Molteno Project at the Institute for the Study of English in Africa (ISEA). The Molteno Project produces material for teaching literacy in black primary schools, and has already reached over three million pupils in southern Africa. The money will be used to expand our 'training of trainers' programme, said Professor Paul Walters, Director of the Project.

"We are extremely grateful to the Canadian Government for the con-

fidence which they have shown in this Project", Professor Walters said.

A further R60 000 will be used for ten bursaries, mainly for graduate studies in the fields of education, linguistics and English language and journalism and media studies.

The Academic Skills Programme (ASP), which provides specialized assistance to all students, but particularly those who have had poor schooling experiences, will receive R57 000. "The funds will be used to provide for an increased number of co-ordinating and tutorial staff for the ASP, which will greatly improve the quality of the service which we will offer to students", said Dr George Carter, Director of the ASP.

The Department of Journalism and Media Studies will receive R39000, which will be used for bursary support for students.

"The University is most grateful for the generous support it has received from the Government of Canada. During a visit I made to Canada in 1989, I was able to meet a wide range of people, particularly those in the Canadian International Development Agency, I believe that the shared heritage of English-speaking South Africans and Canadians will promote strong relationships which will be mutually beneficial, particularly as the political climate in this country changes", said Dr van der Merwe.

Hello to new staff

WE welcome the following members of staff, and wish them a long, happy and fruitful association with Rhodes:

Prof Ralph Kirby (Biochem & Micro); Prof Richard Haines (Sociology); Dr David Gough (Linguistics); Miss Brenda O'Brien (Law); Mr Kerry Swift (Journalism); Revd Dr Sandi Baai (Divinity); Mr Gary Baines (History); Mr Hans-Martin Chee (German); Mr Etienne Nel (Geography); Ms Maxine Reitzes (Political Studies); Miss Rose Spanneberg (Education); Mr Alfredo Terzoli (Computer Science); Mr Leonard Bloom and Ms Glenda Morgan (Sociology); Miss Carmine Ohtman and Mr Frikkie van

Rooyen (Human Movement Studies); Mr Murray Biedler (Geography); Miss Lulu Khumalo and Ms Evadne du Preez (Drama); Miss Christine Bojarski (Zoology); Mrs Susan Burton (Pharmacy); Mrs Anne Collins (Fine Art); Mrs Heather Davies-Coleman (Zoology); Mr Shane Dollar (History); Mrs Janine Hackland and Mr Matthew Smith (Pharmacy); Mrs Zinia Baai and Miss Gloria Tyolwana (African Languages); Ms Michelle Crowley (Psychology); Miss Zena Jacobson (Social Work); Mrs Michelle Corsane (Faculty Office); Mrs Fleur Theophilus (Bursaries Office); Mrs Val Papenfus (Student Adviser's Office); Mr Dan Davel and Miss Tessa

Williams (Personnel); Mr Tony Long; Mrs Adriana Wasserman; Miss Marike Meyer; Mr Eric van Niekerk; Miss Leza van Niekerk; Mrs Wendy Stone (all of Finance); Mr Peter Chambers (Maintenance Stores); Mr Chris Allis (Printing Unit); Miss Cheryl Aspelung (Catering & Housekeeping); Mr Kevin Haelele (Rhodes Union); Mr Desmond Mardon (Building Maintenance); Mrs Maureen van Hille (Transport Office); Mr Leslie Evans (Cleaning Services); Mr Eric Tasmer (Botany); Mrs Rosalie Breitenbach (Business Administration); Mrs Margie Kent (Chemistry); Mrs Janice Sigamoney (Drama); Mrs Carol Esau (Economics); Mr

Andrew Murdoch (Hydrology); Mrs Roslind Parker (Human Movement Studies); Miss Claire Cameron (Mathematics); Mr Chris de Bruin and Mrs Penelope Bernard (Biopharmaceutics); Ms Penelope Scott and Ms Nicolette Kohly (Freshwater Studies); Mrs Jane Bursey (ISEA); Mrs Penny Silva (Dictionary Office) and Miss Cecelia Blight (Library).

We welcome back Mrs Wendy Dore (Dictionary Office). Mr Tim Bouwer and Mr Mike Creed have both moved to the Computer Centre and are the University's PC Consultants. Congratulations to Professor Lawrence Wright who is now the Director of ISEA.

Remission of tuition fees for staff - new rules

THE following regulations will apply to:

the children and spouses of full-time members of the staff and of associated institutions and of members of the University Council and of pensioners; and

The children of deceased members of staff who were employed full-time, and who retired on pension or died after completing completed at least ten years service:

the children of part-time members of staff employed in posts established by the Council of the University or the board of management of a research institute or an associated institution and who, for a minimum of five years, have received of a salary for at least nine months of each year.

The children and spouses of full-time members of staff and the children of deceased members of staff referred to above, receive a remission of seventy percent of the normal tuition fee for the first full-time student member of each family; and

five-sixths of the normal tuition fee will be granted for each full-time student member of a family registered at the same time as the first member.

For the children of part-time members of staff referred to above, a remission of:

one-third of the normal tuition fee for to the first full-time

student member of the family and;

five-twelfths of the normal tuition fee for each full-time student member of the family registered at the same time as the first member.

These remissions will normally be granted only for the prescribed period of the course, e.g.

Undergraduate diplomas - either two or three years;

Bachelor's degrees - either three or four years;

Postgraduate diplomas - one year;

Postgraduate Bachelor's degrees - either one or two years;

Honours degrees - one year
Master's degrees - two years;

PhD degrees - two years if taken after masters or three years in other cases

If a student requires one year more than the minimum period required to complete a degree, diploma or certificate, the amount of the normal tuition fee remitted for that extra year will be one-half of that remissible under the appropriate provisions.

Any further remission of fees will be at the discretion of the Vice-Chancellor.

If a student has taken part of a degree, diploma or certificate course at another university and has come to Rhodes to complete the course, fees will

be remissible for the minimum period required to complete the degree at Rhodes.

Full-time members of staff of the University and of Associated Institutions registering for a postgraduate course of study.

A remission of seventy percent of the normal tuition fee will be granted to full-time members of staff who, with the permission of their head of department or institution, register for a postgraduate course of study. The permission of the head of department or institution will be given only when he is satisfied that the work of the department or institution will not be adversely affected and that the course will be of value to the staff member in carrying out official duties.

Remissions for periods in excess of the minimum period will normally be as indicated above.

The following regulations will apply to:

(a) full-time members of staff and their spouses; and

(b) part-time members of staff who have been employed in posts established by the Council of the University or the board of management of a research institute or an associated institution and who, for a minimum of five years, have received of a salary for at least nine months of each year.

Persons defined above may attend one course free of tuition fees each year if they have obtained the prior approval of the Vice-Chancellor.

His permission will be given only if he is satisfied that the amenities available for the chosen course will not be strained, that the head of department offering the course agrees, and that, in the case of staff members:

(a) the course will be of benefit in their work; and

(b) they make up during the day any time taken off in attending classes.

Remission of tuition fees for more than one member of the same family registered at the same time (other than members of staff)

Where two or three members of the same family register on a full-time basis for a degree, diploma or a certificate course at the same time, a remission of one-half of the normal tuition fee will be granted to each member of the family after the first.

This remission will apply only to husbands, wives, fathers, mothers, and children. It will not apply to other family members.

Applications should be made by letter giving relevant details (course, full names, relationships etc) to the Registrar (Finance).

RUSA NEWS

SALARIES - is no news good news? When the chairman, John Eller, asked the Vice-Chancellor for a statement on salary increases Dr Henderson said that as he had not heard from Government, he could promise nothing. He said he would issue a statement as soon as he was able to.

RUSA/RULA Joint Meeting
THE executive committees of RUSA and RULA are to meet the University's top management (V-C, V-P and Registrar) early in March. Matters to be discussed seem likely to include conditions of employment, discrimination, and pay scales at Rhodes, the University's mission statement and post-apartheid Grahamstown.

RUSA Growth

RUSA would like to thank staff members for the surge of interest being shown in their association. Membership at the end of January stood at 218 an increase of over 50 percent on the figure of six months ago. Staff who have not yet joined are encouraged to do so to ensure that the needs of the staff are catered for. Application forms are available from RUSA committee members and from the Personnel Division.

Staff Statistics

RUSA has been asked to obtain statistics relating to the children of staff presently studying at universities, other than Rhodes, in South Africa and neighbouring states.

Please fill in the Questionnaire below and send it to Mrs

Jane Weaving, Finance Division.

Questionnaire

No: of children? _____

Degrees being studied?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Which university?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Retirement at 60 or 65?

RUSA has been asked by staff in one of the departments whether there are any advantages to retiring at age 60 as against age 65.

Mr Bruce Smith kindly gave these examples which enable staff to draw their own conclusions.

Examples

1. Member retires at age 60 after 25 years service - final salary R30 000

Gratuity : $6,72\% \times R30\,000 \times 25$
= R50 4000

Annuity : $1,818\% \times R30\,000 \times 25$
= R13 635 p.a.

2. Member retires (5 years later) at age 65 after 30 years service - final salary

(a) R30 000 (assuming no increases)

(b) R40 000 (assuming two increases of 15% or three of 10%)

Case (a)

Gratuity : $6,72\% \times R30\,000 \times 30$
= R60 480

Annuity : $1,818\% \times R30\,000 \times 30$
= R16 362 p.a.

Case (b)

Gratuity : $6,72\% \times R40\,000 \times 30$
= R80 640

Annuity : $1,818\% \times R40\,000 \times 30$
= R21 816 p.a.

RUSA COMMITTEE

Crucial issues to have firmer action

THE executive committee held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 6. It was agreed that RUSA should take firmer action in addressing crucial issues and should provide a forum for members to raise their grievances. The main topics under discussion, or to be acted upon, include the following:

Prestasi Insurance

OVER 60 staff members responded to the Chairman's letter and had meetings with Prestasi representatives on Wednesday 7 and Thursday 8 February. As more staff wish to review their insurance, further meetings with Prestasi will be arranged. Interested staff should contact John Eller (Ext. 518) or Georg Gruber (Ext. 456).

Meeting with University Executive

THE Vice-Chancellor, The Vice-Principal and the Registrar have agreed to meet the joint committees of RUSA and RULA in mid-March. The two committees

will prepare questions for the Executive covering such areas as conditions of employment, salaries and discrimination against women on the staff. In addition, a RUSA committee member is to formulate questions concerning the State's proposed move away from a unified salary structure for teachers and Rhodes' policy towards this; and another on whether the percentage salary increase for teaching staff would be the same for all, irrespective of the post held.

Long Service Awards

THE RUSA committee began discussion with the university nearly a year ago. Subsequently the university negotiated an arrangement with the Transport and General Workers Union for the benefit of service staff only. The committee feels that a "benefit" of this kind should be applicable to all staff members and will follow up on the issue. The committee is also considering the nature of the

Cont. p4

Motor Vehicle Purchase Scheme

UPE has an undertaking from Volkskas Bank to make funds available for their staff members to 'purchase' motor vehicles at an interest rate of 1/4 below prime, and an undertaking from certain motor car firms to offer their staff attractive discounts on the purchase price of their new cars. The discounts range from 14% (Delta) to about 7% (Mercedes). Details on the exact amounts have to be discussed with the dealer.

These two arrangements were made by UPE as part of a broad scheme aimed at improving the financial lot of University employees.

UPE has invited RUSA to participate in the car acquisition portion of the scheme. It is envisaged that eventually this and other schemes will be administered by a body representing all Universities and that this consortium will, through this powerful negotiating base, acquire many more attractive deals for its members.

For the time being, Rhodes will operate its own scheme and pay UPE an ex gratia contribution for initiating the project.

The scheme will be operated through a board of control set up by Rhodes comprising mem-

bers of RUSA, a member of Council and the Registrar of Finance. But the University as an entity will be the conduit through which a staff member will acquire a loan to buy a car.

Volkskas Bank will open an account in the name of Rhodes University (Carscheme). Rhodes will be entitled to draw on this account up to a maximum figure, which is still to be decided on, and will be charged interest on the amounts drawn, at the rate of one quarter percent below the official Volkskas Bank lending rate calculated monthly on daily balance. This will be, to all intents and purposes, an overdraft facility at the special rate.

Rhodes will lend money to its staff members from this account and charge them the same rate of interest. You will authorize Rhodes to deduct instalments to cover the capital redemption and interest for the period of the loan from your salary. Rhodes will, in turn, pay Volkskas from the amounts deducted.

The loan will be evidenced by an acknowledgement of debt signed by you, and secured by a cession of your ownership rights

Cont. p4

(Car Scheme from p3)
 in the vehicle to the University. In addition, as stated, Rhodes will set off the monthly instalments from your salary and will also be authorized by you to withhold from you any other payment due to you, e.g. pension benefits, pending full repayment of the loan, plus interest and collection charges, including legal fees. If, upon termination of your employment, the total payment due to you from the University, including pension, is not sufficient to meet the outstanding debit, then you will have to surrender the vehicle to Rhodes, or Rhodes will take legal steps to recover it as owner. You will have a period of one month from the date of the termination of your services within which to make full payment of all sums due in respect of the loan. If the debt is not paid within this period, Rhodes will sell the vehicle by public auction after due notification to you. Your only option remaining, if you wish to recover the vehicle, will be to bid for it at the auction or negotiate with Rhodes for its release from the auction upon payment in full, including wasted costs. You will be paid any excess over the debt realized by the sale.

Procedure

YOU will determine the maximum monthly payment you can afford. Whoever administers the scheme at Rhodes would be able to assist you to work out the total cash amount which could be borrowed (hypothetically) at that amount of monthly repayment over different loan periods. (See examples below)

Monthly repayments

Payment	4 years at 20,75%	4 years at 21,75%	6 years at 20,75%	6 years at 21,75%
200	6485	6378	8198	8012
250	8107	7973	10247	10015
300	9728	9568	12297	12019
350	11350	11162	14346	14022
400	12971	12757	16396	16025
500	16214	15946	20495	20031
600	19457	19136	24594	24038
700	22700	22325	28693	28044
800	25943	25514	32793	32051
900	29185	28704	36892	36057
1000	32428	31893	40991	40063

Having some idea of the amount you can afford to purchase for, including GST, you will select the appropriate vehicle and, without binding yourself, negotiate final price including discount for its possible acquisition advising the seller (if it is a new car) of the fact that he will be relying on the Rhodes scheme discount.

You will then formally apply for a loan from the University on the prescribed form.

The controlling committee will consider the application and you will be informed if you have been granted a loan in principle for the required amount or perhaps a lesser amount.

The successful applicant will take a letter of authority to the dealer/seller and a form onto which the seller will enter all the relevant details concerning the vehicle to be purchased. (If you are more or less certain that the loan you require will in fact be granted, this form could be completed on the initial visit).

You then take the form to the administrators of the scheme, sign the cession and acknowledgment of debt and, all documents being in order, you receive a cheque made out to the seller for the amount of the loan. At this stage you will either have satisfied the administrators of the scheme that the vehicle is insured comprehensively or will enter into an insurance agreement administered in conjunction with the scheme (which, incidentally, offers very good rates).

You wait until Volkskas has paid the Dealer, show the seller proof of insurance, if this has not already been done, and drive away trying not to look too self satisfied.

Rhodes Women's Association

by Christine Lawrie

THE Association is open to all women connected to Rhodes University, either as employees or by being married to an employee of the University.

The Association has a variety of interest groups, and will always fill a need if there is enough support. Our big-draw card is the monthly lunch. This is held on the second Tuesday of each month during term time. We enjoy a pleasant meal and good company and arrange for a speaker to address the gathering. Our first lunch in 1990 will be held on Tuesday March 13, at the Rhodes Club. We meet at 12.30 for 1.00pm.

Other functions include a

Bring and Braai at 'The Lodge', home of the Vice-Chancellor and Mrs Henderson, a Dinner/Dance during the last term and one or two outings to places of interest. A group of mothers and toddlers meet once a week at the home of a member to enjoy a cup of tea and a chat. This is especially useful for new folk, as it creates an opportunity to make friends and discuss where to buy..., what doctor or dentist to visit etc.

If you are interested in joining us, ring Christine Lawrie (Chairman) 27203 (W); 24324 (H) or Sally Terry (Secretary) 23719 (W); 24470 (H). Our AGM will be held on Tuesday 6 March at 7.45pm in the Senior Common Room - do come and join us!

(RUSA from p3)

recognition and has so far agreed on a personal letter of appreciation from the Vice-Chancellor as well as a certificate of acknowledgement. It has further agreed to canvass the opinion of academic staff on the question of these awards and to ask RULA to give its view on the award of R350 after 15 years' service, as negotiated with the Trade Union.

Conditions of Employment

A SUB-COMMITTEE has been appointed to investigate the appropriateness of present contracts of employment, with special reference to part-time employment, maternity leave and normal leave. A further group is collecting relevant information from other universities. The meeting agreed that exploitation of part-time workers at the university should be exposed, and that the plight of women doing piece-work in the Library at a very low hourly rate was particularly desperate and needed attention.

The Chairman reported that he had discussed the possible imminent salary increases with the Vice-Chancellor and had been given the assurance that staff at Rhodes would have the university's decision as soon as it was available.

RUSA Membership

COMMITTEE members responsible for this portfolio were congratulated on the growth of over 60% in membership. A further drive is to be planned for 1990.

UDUSA

A PAMPHLET covering the background and aims of UDUSA is to be sent to all staff. It was noted that membership of RUSA gives automatic membership of UDUSA. The attention of the committee was drawn to the fact that John Lewis, a historian at the University of Bophuthutswana had been deported for trying to organize a branch of UDUSA on that campus. A statement deploring this action had been sent to the University of Bophuthutswana on behalf of RUSA and UDUSA.

RHODOS STAFF

EDITOR: Mary Burnett (ext 517)

ASSISTANT EDITOR: Tony Walker (ext 516, 336)

REPORTER: Jenny Purdon (ext 516)

Rhodos is produced each month by the Public Relations Division, Rhodes University, Grahamstown

Lost and Found

LOST any false teeth lately? Campus Protection operates a Lost and Found Section of which staff may not be aware. A set of false teeth was handed in about a year ago and is still unclaimed!

To some people money is no object - a diamond pendant and a Kruger Rand are two rather expensive items to lose. No-one has contacted Campus Protection about them.

The most common items handed in are clothing, keys, wallets, umbrellas, bunches of keys, watches, small items of jewellery, tennis racquets, stationary. A number of prescription spectacles handed in are still unclaimed.

Obituary

PROFESSOR Leslie Hewson, a well-known figure both at Rhodes and in Grahamstown, died peacefully at his home on Saturday, February 3 at the age of 86. He was due to move to a Red cross retirement cottage at the end of the month.

Professor Hewson, who was also a Methodist minister, was born in 1907, and educated at King Edward VII school. He read for BA and Honours degrees at the University of the Witwatersrand before going on to Cambridge to read for an MA degree.

He was the Minister at the Rosebank Methodist Church from 1931 to 1942, and then became Superintendent Minister of the Bloemfontein Methodist Circuit for the next four years.

In 1947 the family moved to Grahamstown, where Professor Hewson was a part-time Lecturer in the Faculty of Divinity at Rhodes. In 1950 he was appointed as Temporary Lecturer and a year later became Lecturer in New Testament Studies. He became Professor of New Testament Studies in 1959, a position he held until his retirement in 1976.

Professor Hewson and his wife had three children. Their son, John, died six years ago. Glyn Hewson teaches in Cape Town, and Peter Hewson lectures at Madison University, Wisconsin. Mrs Mary Hewson died in 1979.



Two Goethe Institute scholarships were awarded to Miss Nicola Baillie and Miss Lee Ann Wynne Alfords of the Department of German at Rhodes, seen here with Professor Dieter Welz, Head of Department.

The Chapman Fountain

by Bill Mills

THE design of the fountain was selected by Professors Guy Butler, Eddie Baart and Robert Brooks, who form the Standing Sub-Committee of the Joint Planning Committee. Their decision was approved by the Joint Planning Committee, Senate and Council. The Registrar and Mr Mills were also party to the debates and decisions.

The original design was selected from trade literature and was confirmed when Professor Brooks visited the manufacturer's yard in the Reef.

The Standing Sub-Committee decided to introduce fish into the fountain. This needed the installation of a filter system, instead of a pump and reticulation system.

The fountain was built by the Building Maintenance section, who encountered an unexpected difficulty with foundations, caused by the dumping of the rubble from the Piet Retief Drosty when it was demolished in 1934/35 to make way for the Old Arts Block Main Front Wing. Instead of good, solid earth, there was a lot of un-compacted rubble, which meant that an additional layer of concrete had to be added to the foundation to ensure against subsidence.

The filtration plant was designed by Martin Davies of Ichthyology and is a copy of a

successful design which he uses for fish breeding and rearing.

The filtration plant and all the pumping works were installed by the Engineering Maintenance Section, who now have the job of ensuring that the mechanical aspects of the pumping are always functional.

Martin Davies is confident that within three months the system will be able to accommodate up to 20 kg of Koi carp. It is only after this period that the nitrifying bacteria populations in the biological filter will have stabilized to the extent that they can adequately break down the toxic ammonia that the fish produce. In any new system the unused nutrients in the water become available to biological activity and it is quite normal for a phytoplankton "bloom" to occur. It is this that makes the water green. It is therefore advisable to introduce desirable plant species, as these compete with the non-desirable algae species for this and any other nutrient input in a "natural" plant succession. This will then help maintain water clarity.

The biological filter system will not remove particles to any large extent. This is the function of the sedimentation tank and the sand pressure filter, working in conjunction with suitable plant species in the pond.

Martin Davies also advises that we shall have to brush off

the algae on the pink granite column and dishes of the Fountain periodically, otherwise it will become permanently established.

Unfortunately, algicide will harm the fish.

It is planned to put plants in the pond itself. Careful thought is now being given to the manner in which we can ensure that the plants remain firmly rooted and that the soil is not eroded, thus destroying the plants' growing medium and simultaneously clogging up the filter pumps and valves.

The fish that have been introduced are a temporary measure to get the biological filter going. When the water has clarified, the permanent occupants, Japanese Koi, will be introduced.

Our telephone operators have appointed themselves responsible for feeding the fish, and Martin Davies says that no other food should be offered to them. We would be grateful if staff and students refrained from adding their tit-bits.

Undoubtedly, the presently unattractive state of water will draw forth adverse comments, but all who have been involved in the selection, design, construction and operation of the Fountain hope that you will bear with us so that, in the long term, we can look proudly upon this memorial to a great Old Rhodian, Hugh James Chapman.

COMPUTERS

Extended support

By Ian Dore

PERSONAL computer support provided by the Computing Centre has been extended and will be handled by Tim Bouwer and Mike Creed.

Tim has studied Computer Science at Rhodes for the past two years and was formerly a teacher at a local school. He will deal with queries from more advanced users and will be involved in designing courses for PC users at all levels.

Mike has had extensive experience with packages used at Rhodes and will run courses in word processing, spreadsheets and data base tools. He will provide general PC support.

Tim can be reached at extension 281/282. He will be away on calls during most mornings, but you can leave a message (either at this extension or with the secretary (extension 279/280).

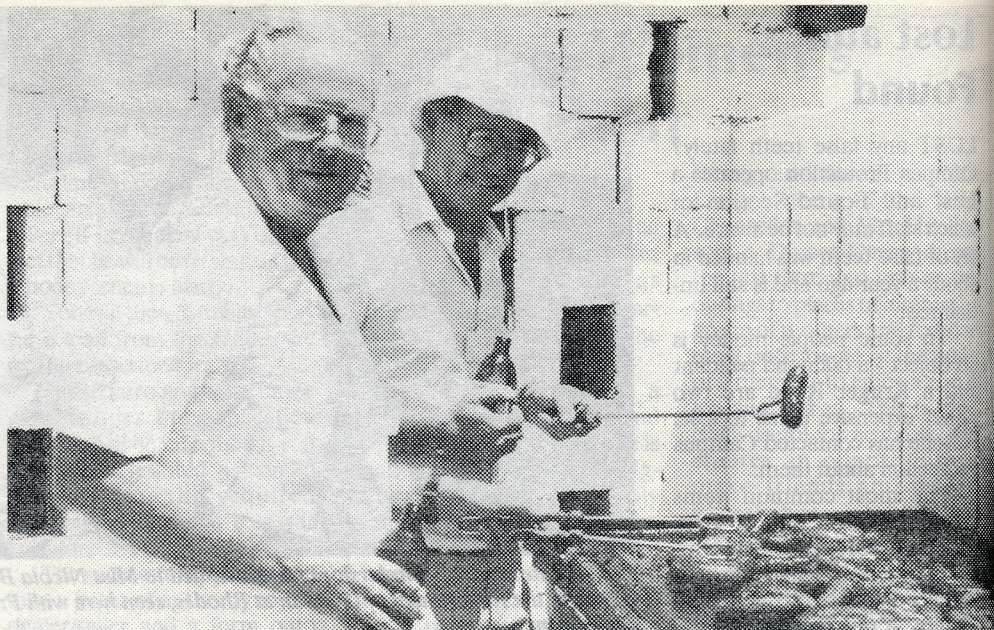
Full support will be provided for the following packages: WordPerfect, PCWrite, Lotus 123, PC Planner, PCFile.

Tim will be available for guidance if you need information on installing packages, or if you need help with a software package.

Please note that general purpose packages, that are not in common use at Rhodes will only be given limited support (if at all). Products that perform specialized functions (e.g. Ventura) will, however, be supported.

Courses will be run in January and February which will cover PC basics, basic DOS and an introduction to a word processor (both PC Write and WordPerfect will be offered independently). Circulars will be sent around when the dates are finalized.

PC support is offered to all staff members at Rhodes. Postgraduate students may also consult with Tim or Mike, but priority will be given to staff members where there is a time conflict.



Dr Brian La Trobe and Professor Trevor Letcher, convenors of the Methane from Landfill conference held at Rhodes University this week, left the theoretical side of the subject briefly during the conference to deal with the practical matter of providing about 200 delegates and guests with a braai lunch which was cooked using methane gas at the Grahamstown landfill site. The conference covered aspects of the production of methane gas from landfill sites, and was attended by academics, engineers and local authority representatives from all parts of the country.

Unsolicited

by "D.C."

They've done it again!

WHEN I arrived home the other day, the postman greeted me at the gate with a small bundle of letters. My thoughts turned immediately to the innumerable competitions entered with so much enthusiasm. This is it! The BIG one!

The first epistle was swiftly filed - in the waste paper basket. "Time Sharing" - about the tenth this year. The very thought of "Time Share" gives me the shudders, and despite the appetizers of a 'presentation', a free lunch and other frills, it was "Time out" for "Time Share".

The next, a little more interesting, perhaps, as it bore the logo of a large banking corporation! Not a corporation, I hasten to add, with which I had anything in common, not even an overdraft. Hopefully ripping the envelope open, I discovered a cheque in my name for R125 000. Rising hopes were soon dashed as the word 'facsimile' came into focus and the vision of overnight relative wealth faded. Skim reading - and how adept one gets with this sort of missive, it was soon apparent that my finances

were still at the level they had been before I opened it. The famous logo-ed envelope and contents swiftly followed "Time Share" into the WPB.

The last, and by no means least, in terms of bulk and gaudiness, seemed promising. From the riven wrapper, fell a car key. 'Bingo'. At last, we've won the Merc. All those contributions to the Association which, amongst other things, supplies water with miraculous healing qualities to large rugby players, have at long last come up trumps!

"Steady", a little voice whispers, as unfolding the contents, I saw a computer printout letter with 'The Name' at the head. 'The Name' of a publication: record circulation, a household name (except ours).

I had once taken out, in a moment of mental aberration, a subscription for one year at the end of which I had terminated it. Why? Because of all the junk mail it had generated! Now here they are again.

I might win the car which fitted the key I had already cast aside! Looking at the last set me to wondering about the cost to (a) the publisher and (b) the buyers of the publication which sends out multi-coloured blurbs, elaborate packaging and even a free stamp.

Fair enough, the publication had my name and address which should have been erased from their records, presumably they had passed it to the Banking Corporation. For a consideration? A Time Sharing scheme? How did they get my name and address? We're not in the directory. Who has my address? For that matter, who has your address? When you think of all the 'bodies' which have your address, it is hardly surprising that the veritable snowstorm of paper descends periodically on households - to quote but a few: The Receiver of Revenue, Motor Licensing Department, Municipality, Bank, Post Office, Motoring Association, TV Licensing ... the list goes on and on.

Perhaps you have heard the consumers' friend, Isabel Jones, on the radio. I recall hearing her quizzing a rather embarrassed member of the TV Licensing Authority who, in answer to her searching question, admitted that they sold their lists to certain organizations to keep down the cost of viewers' licence fees" (sic). Sick!

I wonder if I should withhold my licence fee this year and get them to offset it against my charges for the handing over of my address with gay abandon to all and sundry 'junksters'?

LETTERS

The Editor

I write to enquire whether any of your readers would be interested in forming a theatre/concert/film club. I notice with envy so many excellent happenings in Port Elizabeth and being rather a wet, miss out as I hate driving at night. The advantages of such a club would be sharing petrol expenses and possibly a reduction in block bookings. Anyone interested please contact me on extension 525.

Sally Guye

The Editor

May I appeal through your columns for a dishwashing machine for the Senior Common Room? This may seem far-fetched, but I believe that it would greatly reduce the incidence of coughs and colds among those who use the SCR.

Apparently the incidence of coughs and colds in the UK has been greatly reduced over the past few years. The results of a survey done in that country about a year ago discovered that many households in that country now have dish-

washing machines, and the researchers concerned believe that because crockery and cutlery was being washed at boiling temperatures, the bugs that cause the miseries were being eliminated far more effectively than by normal dishwashing.

I have quite often picked up a 'clean' cup washed in the SCR kitchen, only to find traces of lipstick on the rim.

Sniffles

FROM THE POTTING BENCH

Mulching reduces heat effects

by Mark Hazell

THE rains came down and the floods came up, the sun came out, eventually, and the grass went brown.

This seems to be the pattern of rainfall and growth in Grahamstown especially over these past few weeks. What with temperatures reading as high as 44°C it is not surprising that our lawns and our plants suffer and lose quality.

We can, however, reduce the effect of summer's scorching hot days and drying winds by applying a mulch to the soil.

This can be done in a number of ways.

- ☐ The most common is to apply a thick layer of compost +/- 75mm - 100mm to the surface of the soil - do not dig it in.
- ☐ Other means of achieving a similar result are by applying such materials as grass, newspaper or even

planting your plants through a plastic sheet covered with soil.

The advantages of applying a mulch are as follows:

- ☐ Greater water penetration due to loose surface.
- ☐ Greater water retention due to slowed evaporation.
- ☐ Reduced heat around roots due to absorption in the upper layer around mulch.

The mulch acts as a thermal blanket, regulating the temperature and reducing the effect of extremes. Much damage can be done to plants if their roots are subjected to too much extreme heat and drought.

When using grass clippings as a mulch it is necessary to loosen the grass, as it tends to compact and inhibit water penetration. Furthermore, a light application of a nitrogenous fertilizer will over-



come the effects of denitrification as the grass clippings decompose.

The best time to water in this heat is early in the morning and preferably around sunrise to allow satisfactory penetration of water before the sun's heat evaporates it, or scorches buds and flowers.

Disbud summer annuals to prolong their flowering time through all the lazy warm days of summer. This may be done by removing all dead or dying flowers and even a few pairs of leaves thus encouraging new growth and, therefore, another flush of flowers.

SMALLS

C Programme Users Group - first meeting 28 February at 4.00pm in the Computer Music Laboratory. All welcome. Enquiries: Andrew Murdoch, Ext 334.

To Rent

Kleinemonde - cottage for June/July vac. Sleeps seven. Contact Jenny Ext 516.

Weigh Less Classes. Masonic Hall, Hill Street. Wednesdays: 8am, 9am, 2pm, 4 & 5pm. Contact Pam Bowker 24359.

For Sale

Seedlings and Herb plants. Wide variety available. Contact Nicki Ext 141 or 26602 (A/H).

Guitar Tuition

All styles - classical, jazz, folk, rock etc. by Warwick Armstrong, FTCL, LRAM, LTCL, graduate Conservatoire de Osca Espla, Spain. T'phone 22447 lunchtimes and evenings.

THE LIBRARY

Smoother circulation

THE Library has modified its circulation regulations for both staff and undergraduate students to ensure a smoother circulation flow and to meet changing needs.

Undergraduate students will be able to take books out for a 14 day period instead of the previous seven days. Books will still be renewable unless required by other readers. The Library hopes the longer loan period will mean fewer renewals, overdue and fines. This loan period is experimental and the Librarians would welcome any comments.

University staff have a basic loan period of three months from date of issue. Books and other circulating material need no longer be returned at the end of term. Staff will be able to renew each loan once by telephone. (ext 463). The Library will remind staff when an item is due for renewal and before any fines are due. After six months, books will have to be brought into the Library but will be re-issued unless required by another reader. Bound periodicals will be lent out for two week periods.

The system of 48 hour loans for books in relatively high demand, which was introduced last year, has been working well. 48 hour volumes are kept on the normal open shelves and circulated from the main Circulation desk.

This has enabled students to gain greater familiarity with the open shelves and the main catalogues than they did under the previous system of confining all material in demand by students to the Short Loan Collection.

The 48 hour system also permits students and staff a freer access to such material than the very restricted loan periods from Short Loan allowed. Material in very high student demand is still circulated from short loan.

Teaching staff may ask for material to be placed on 48 hour or short loan in advance of student demand. 48 hour loans can easily be converted to normal loans after the demand has passed.

Staff Sport

by Doug Coghlan

MANY members of staff are interested in sport and physical recreation but are often unaware of the opportunities available to them at the University. So if you want to compete, jog, or just walk your dog, read on.

Who may participate?

ALL full-time members of staff are entitled to use the sports facilities, but there are various categories and restrictions.

Full-time staff may also represent university teams, but not in SA University or Inter-Varsity events.

Other persons who may use the facilities under certain conditions, but not represent teams, are:

Spouses of staff members, children of staff members 16 years and over, Old Rhodians and their spouses and spouses of students.

Facility Cards

IN order to use the facilities, a Facility Card must be obtained from the swimming pool offices. These are free for full-time staff members.

No other persons are entitled to use the facilities unless special permission has been granted by the Sports Administration.

What may you do?

THE Facility Card allows you to use the swimming pool, the squash courts, the tennis courts, the weights room and the fields. However, many of these facilities have restrictions attached.

Swimming Pool

DURING term time the pool is open to Facility Card holders at the following times:

Saturday and Sunday : 6.00am - 6.30pm

Monday to Friday : 2.00pm - 3.30pm

During the Christmas holidays there are special arrangements which are circulated by a notice.

Weights Room

THIS is reserved for club members daily from 4.00pm to 6.00pm.

Weights must be replaced.

Fields

THE fields may be used for jogging and walking. Staff who wish to play sport on the fields must either be a member of a university team or a staff team e.g. hockey, soccer.

Golf is restricted to particular areas, and to members of the staff golf group. Staff wishing to practice golf should make arrangements through Doug Coghlan. Thus, use of the fields for sport is limited to staff members.

Jogging and walking is encouraged and available to all Facility Card holders but:-

1. Do not jog on the inside lane of the track.

2. Dogs are not permitted on the Sports Fields. Please do not exercise dogs within the Great Field, King Field or Prospect Place areas.

When using any of the facilities, please do not interfere with team practices or workmen.

Staff Teams

SOME sports staff teams operate actively and regularly. The most popular sports in recent years have been hockey, soccer, squash, running and golf. The annual Keith Hunt Bowls Day has also become an enjoyable fixture.

Contact persons are :-

Hockey: Martin Hill, extension 525

Squash: Adrian Craig, 526

Golf: Doug Coghlan, 366

Running: Doug Coghlan, 366

Information about staff sport and physical recreation is obtainable from Doug Coghlan, who has retired from the Human Movement Studies Department, and is now Assistant Sports Officer in the Sports Administration (Tel 23358 or extension 366).

Staff News

BILLY Futter appears to have forsaken the Biathlon scene and is now directing his seemingly endless pursuit of punishment towards Triathlons. Billy is involved in the Ultraman, which requires performances in various long distance swimming, cycling and running events, including the Comrades Marathon. He will also contest one-day Triathlons, more par-

ticularly the Avis/Southern Suns event at Durban on 21 April. This comprises a 3,2 km swim, a 120 km cycle and a 32 km run. Billy is also involved in the latest craze, the team triathlon. Three people team up : one swims 800 metres; one cycles 20 km and one runs 5 km. Teams represent a family; a school; a university; a club etc.

At Queenstown, in November, Billy teamed up with Jeff Rowlands and Arthur Webb to win the Border Veteran's section of the National Perm/Radio 5 competition. They go forward to the national finals in Durban on 10 March.

Jeff Rowlands' wife, Robyn, with Trevor (16) and Bronwyn (13) won the Family section, while the Rhodes Women won their section and the men were second to UPE.

The Eastern Province section of the contest is at Port Elizabeth on 24 February and several local groups are already making plans to compete.

Richard Foss continues to run well, and has been selected to represent EP at the SA Marathon Championships in Port Elizabeth on 24 February. **NB.** The Sports Administration wishes to help staff. Please contact extension 366 for information.

Sport Fixtures

Tuesday 13 February

CRICKET

RU 1 vs Westview. Away. Night Series

Saturday 17 February

CRICKET

RU 1 vs VPPCC. Away
RU 2 vs Sidbury. Prospect. 9.30am
RU 3 vs Cuylerville. Away

Sunday 18 February

CRICKET

RU 1 vs VPPCC. Away

Wednesday 21 February

ATHLETICS

EP Senior Track Champs.

Away. UPE

WATERPOLO

RU 1 vs Uitenhage 1. Away. 8.00pm

RU 2 vs Tech 1. Away. 7.00pm

Saturday 24 February

RU 1 vs Defence. Great. 11.00am

RU 2 vs Addo. Away

RU 3 vs Carlisle Bridge. King. 9.30am

ATHLETICS

EP Junior Track Champs. Away. UPE

Sunday 25 February

CRICKET

RU 1 vs Defence. Great. 9.30am

Wednesday 28 February

WATERPOLO

EP League. Semi Final. 6.15pm

Saturday 3 March

CRICKET

RU 1 vs Westview. Away

RU 2 vs Salem. Away

RU 3 vs Defence 2. Prospect. 9.30am

Sunday 4 March

CRICKET

RU 1 vs Westview. Away

Wednesday 7 March

ROAD RUNNING

Rhodes 10km Nite Race.

Grahamstown City Hall 7.00pm

Saturday 10 March

CRICKET

RU 1 vs PECC. Great. 11.00am

RU 2 vs Port Alfred. Away

RU 3 vs Addo. Away

Sunday 11 March

CRICKET

RU 1 vs PECC. Great. 9.15am

Wednesday 14 March

WATERPOLO

EP League. Final. Away. 6.15pm

ADVERTISING RATES

Block Ads: R 2 per col cm, double for back and front pages

Classifieds: R0,10 per word

DEADLINES

Advertising deadlines for the next two editions: 1 March and 4 April. Copy deadlines: 5 March and 9 April.