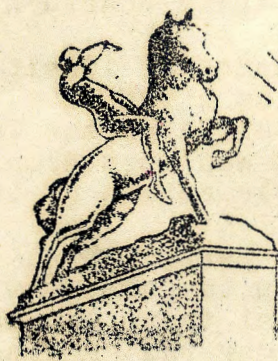


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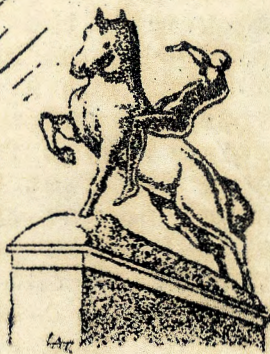
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FOR SOUND —
SATISFACTION



THEATRE

PROGRAMME
ON PAGE 2.

"UNITED ARTISTS RELEASES"

EDITORIAL.

The Editors of a Rhodes paper which has consistently cried for a more truly representative form of local government than we have in the College at the moment, sometimes wonder sadly whether they are not voices crying in a wilderness even more desolate than they thought. In fact, all those who believe, however staunchly, that the students of the College, taken as a whole, are fit to govern their own affairs, must have had their confidence sadly shaken by the last two General Meetings.

We say, with no hesitation, that Rhodes ought to be ashamed of itself. About a fortnight ago, there was a General Meeting, with, as chief item on the agenda, a motion of very considerable importance. In spite of the fact that voting in its favour was almost unanimous, the motion was lost simply because of the fact that more than one-third of the eligible voters of the College was not at the Meeting.

Considering the position, we thought that the fault lay rather in the Constitution, framed by the ancients of yesteryear, than in the students of the College. We consoled ourselves with the reflection that there were hardly ever more than 200 senior members of the College at a General Meeting. Those who had failed to attend the one Meeting would hardly absent themselves again, we deluded ourselves, especially as they could not fail to realize how important it was that there should be a House numerically large enough to ensure the passing of a constitutional motion.

We were wrong. Last Monday's meeting was nothing less than disgraceful. At 5/15 p.m. the House did not contain more than a mere handful of eligible voters. A press-gang campaign was organized - the necessity for which was in itself a sad reflection on the Rhodes idea of responsibility. Even then, the members did not come up to the requirements of the Constitution, and, but for a bold and entirely praiseworthy step taken by the chairman, we should have seen Rhodes having to call three General Meetings to decide the same question.

Viewed dispassionately, this makes pretty sorry reading. But this was not all. There were four items on the Agenda. Three of them - motions to change the constitution - were passed within ten minutes. The fourth item dealt with the affairs of N.U.S.A.S., a body around which such controversy has raged, and whose affairs touch Rhodes so intimately, that one might have supposed that its doings were worth the College's attention. But no. After the three constitutional motions had been passed - after the meeting had been in progress for about ten minutes, that is - there was a general exodus. Apart from the fact that this was a barefaced insult to the N.U.S.A.S. Councilor, who had just begun to outline to the House the functions of the body she represents, and who could hardly be heard above the stamping and cheerful chatter of those public-spirited citizens who were rushing to their showers, this was a piece of selfishness of the type that the experiences of the past fortnight show that we can expect from the Rhodes electorate. A motion vying in importance with those changing the constitution under which the S.R.C. works, had to be postponed, not because there were less than two thirds of the eligible voters present, but because less than half were there. Less than half! A pretty thought!

It cannot be too strongly emphasised that anyone who is in the slightest degree interested in the workings of the College of which he/she is a member should make a point of going to every General Meeting. It is at these Meetings that the temper of the College most exactly manifests itself. It is at these Meetings, rather than in the recesses of the S.R.C. Committee Room, that the decisions determining student government are taken. It is at these Meetings that the S.R.C., the representatives of the College, render account of their stewardship. We pride ourselves on the fact that no-one has more strongly upheld the view that the S.R.C. are the representatives of the views of the majority of the students - neither more nor less than that they are an executive body, that their task is to carry out what the House wishes, not to decide on behalf of the House what shall be done. We have upheld the view that it is the House - the general assembly of students - that is the genuine governing body. But after these two successive displays of apathy and irresponsibility, if the S.R.C. should now decide to dispense with General Meetings, to suspend the constitution, and to take the government of the College entirely into its own hands, without reference to the House, we could not feel justified in opposing that step. By its behaviour this term, the House has given clear proof that it is not interested in its own affairs. The logical inference is that it is not fit to govern them. Let us hope that this hyperindifferent attitude will pass, and that the remaining General Meetings will be truly representative of the College. If they are not, if there is a recurrence of the displays.... / cont. page 1.

- 1 -

THE TALE OF THE DISMAL SURD

The dismal Surd is a lonely bird,
Though he wabbers far at eve,
And his eyes are droopy and dreary and sad,
As he sings the Scobal Screeve
Yet, when he walks, in his high black boots,
Down the forest aisles, through the Mango roots,
Then all the timid Rooland Tahs
(Who all live in screw-topped glass jam-jars)
All crowd together, and chant, "The Surd!"
The Last of the Seven Surds!"

There was a time, when his feathers grew
All soft and sleek, and his beak was new,
When he said to himself, "I will not stay here".
I'll sail away to the Luxar Mere,
In my tea-pot I'll sail away!
In my beautiful Teapot, (there's plenty of room,)
I'll pack a large onion, a Mouse and a Broom, -
And swiftly I'll sail away!"

So he took out his Teapot, (its colour was blue,)
And he blocked up the spout, because draughts gave him 'flu,
And he sailed away, and away out to sea,
And he sang, "It's extremely pleasant to be
A fearless Sailor Surd!"

And really there wasn't much to do,
Save serve the Mouse with Onion stew,
Till he came one day to a pleasant shore,
With History Books, quite twenty or more,
All shaving themselves in the dew.
And there he lives, in his porcelain house,
And when he is home, his adviser, the Mouse,
Sings him staves from a Treatise on Glue.
Yet, when he walks, in his high black boots,
Down the forest aisles, Through the Mango roots,
Then all the timid Rooland Tahs,
(Who all live in screw-topped glass jam-jars)
All crowd together, and chant, "The Surd!"
The Last of the Seven Surds!"

* * * * *

N.U.S.A.S.

The NUSAS Committee has decided to carry on with the series of talks on Race Relations which was started last year. It will however endeavour to broaden the scope of these talks and not confine them to relations in this country between the European and Non-European. Projected talks are on the question of India's dominion status, relations between the Jews and other races, and the attitude of the Dutch Reformed Church to the native.

The first of these talks was given by Mr Neil Maisels, entitled:
"Why the Jew has kept his religion."

Mr Maisels outlined the main characteristics of the Jewish religion, and pointed out that as it was largely traditional, it acted as a unifying force for the Jews scattered throughout the world. There was some discussion on New Zionism and anti-Semitic tendencies even outside Nazi territory. Mr Hilson pointed out that a large percentage of Nobel Prize Winners are Jews and that the Jew is a useful and industrious member of a community. He deplored the fact that Jews could be used as international scapegoats because they have no consular representation.

It was altogether a very interesting and instructive discussion and it is hoped that these talks will continue to be supported. At the time of going to press the date of the next one is not known but it will be held as before at 5.15 in the Junior Common Room.

Editorial. (Cont)..... displays of the last fortnight, then we seriously suggest to the S.R.C. that they introduce legislation depriving the House of the rights of government that it at present, highly undeservedly, enjoys.

* * * * *

Oh Christendom ! What have we here,
What prodigy that doth appear
Demure and poised, with heavy grace,
A placid scorn upon its face
Of all the ogling human race.
Whence this monstrosity, this wart,
This emblem of a heathen art?
Is it a spare pagodal part?
Could it be Eddystone built anew
To light our passage through the stew?
The salient promontory that
Proclaimed the peak of Ararat?
Still more it apes a furnace stack
Transplanted from the Lettle Brak.
But wait! I see a mark upon
This pillar of the Parthenon.
Its pallid torso rudely sports
A tattooed theme or crest of sorts.
Oh Perfidy! Oh Mockery!
These lowly states it usurps not
But poseth as a Pepper-pot -
A Rhodian of Crockery.

And lewdly lurking, couchant, squat
Behold an alien Mustard-pot!
(Dedicated to St. Mary's Hall Catering Committee.)
"Unus*ex Septem".

* * * * *
TOBERMORY AGAIN

I met Jasper in the Arts Block the other day, intimidating Binks. He
accused him of alienating the students' affection.
"Who from?" I said suspiciously.
"Me, of course" he said. "Who did you think?"
"Never mind that" I said, "Anyhow, I shouldn't worry. All his affection is
run on a strictly business basis. Cut off the cakes and ale and where are
you."
I could see him starting to ask where, but I cut him off. "Come here, my
boy," I said, "and tell me what I can write for the Rhodeo".

.....
"The trouble is," said Jasper, "that people don't realise just how easy it
is to turn out stuff for the Rhodeo."
"Yes?" I said. "Go on, please."
He went. "You see, you choose a fairly common literary form, such as the
clerihew or the skit, and it positively writes itself. This, for instance.

Some of the boys
Have poise:
But compared with Louey
They're dewy.

"I don't think much of that," I said. "Hilson or Madden?"
"Oh, either," he replied "that's half the fun of the Rhodeo, don't you
think? (No, not one of my best, I admit.) Now this line of thing requires
a more concentrated effort.

I have no need to push and shove
In crowds.
I always keep my head above
The clouds.

One day I hope to be a don, /and so.... (Cont. page 3.)
x x x x x x x x x x

GRAND THEATRE PROGRAMME.

Thurs.14 Fri.15 Sat.16.

"Slightly Honoorable" featuring Pat O'Brien & Edward
Arnold.

Mon.18 Tues.19.

"Tailspin" featuring Alice Faye, Constance Bennett & Nancy
Kelly.....

Wed.20 Thurs. 21 Fri.22.

"They Shall Have Music" with Jascha Heifetz & Joel
Mc Crea.

Sat.23 to Wed.27. "AYANK IN THE R.A.F. " featuring Tyrone Power, Betty Grable,
& John Sutton.

And so
I never see what's going on
Below.
This man who's got us in the lurch,
This louse,
I will not let him stop my search
For Nous.
This ruffian who's such a bore
Adolf,
I will not let him come before
My golf.
And tho' I'd never miss my mid-
Day food,
I even try to find some hid-
Den Good.
And hanging all the things I've won
In frames
I have no time for idle fun
And games.

"Now prose is different," he went on. "The criterion for prose is this: what would you like to read if you were recovering from a long and debilitating nervous illness?"

"Tolstoy," I said. "That is, P.G. Wodehouse."

"Exactly," he said. "P.G. Wodehouse. But I'll keep him for next time. I've got to see a dog about another dog." And as he disappeared down the drain-pipe, I distinctly heard him murmur "Old Fruit".

* * * * *

THE MAN ABOUT KAIF.

Students of linguistics will be glad to hear that the young lady from U.C.T. has embarked on a correspondence course in the art of propaganda and salesmanship.

* * * *

With one eye on the coming bi-annual marathon I have been re-investigating my Shelly, Percy Bysshe. There is an occasional comment uncannily perceptive of local politics:

Inkettes:

"The flower that smiles today
Tomorrow dies." [R****P*****?]

To Drostdy Hall Inhabitants:

"Hast thou forgotten one who watches thee?"

And talking of Wyndy and his pals, I have received the following news heading: APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY I: SENATE CONTROLS MOB VIOLENCE: LECTS BOLSHIEVIK LEADER SUB-WARDEN.

* * * * *

So Daniel has been in Lion's Den again?

* * *

Were you the Inkette who asked Mr Witherden who ran the Rhodeo? If not, with whom do you sympathise?

* * *

My correspondent from Drostdy Hall, Scandal-Scooper Ted Boozin, has been on the prowl:-

Peace and quiet almost reigns in Drostdy Hall nowadays - now that Clayton and During have been able to find time for reading outside meal hours. And even our lone "Wolf" has confessed that he hired his belt from African Consolidated Theatres at 10/6 a week. (advt.)

It is rumoured that many members of the Staff are subscribing to the Rhodeo this year, with a view, no doubt, of using the "smalls" column for keeping in touch with pupils past and present. I can imagine:

"LOST: One male student answering to name of _____. Last seen staggering in the general direction of Kaif. If located, please return to Doc. Sm***, Chemistry Dept., R.U.C.

NO REWARD!

Or perhaps:

FOUND: One female student, name unknown, in precincts of Music Department. Evidently member of Geography faculty, as she keeps repeating "London Fog".

Apply X.Y.Zee this office.

Cont. page 4

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(Cont. from page 3.)

Well, Spring is in the air on the Eastern Front, so all the boys in Drostdy are preparing for their big push. Even Ronnie Philip is to be seen wearing his tie inside his pull-over.

* * *

I hied me over to "Glenlyn" the other day, and was promptly grabbed by Basil "Small-Change" Rubin who wanted to show me his new bath. His only squeal was that the other boys have a habit of using it for warming their shaving water. By the bye, I'm told that if any of you want some real dope on "Glenly" ask the J.K. girls.

* * *

The following hunk of metrified prose is suitable only for this column, - I mean in subject matter.

The Greatest Love.

The wonderful love of a beautiful maid;
The love of a staunch true man;
The love of a baby, unafraid -
Have existed since time began.

But the greatest love: the love of all loves,
Even greater than that of a mother,
Is the infinite, passionate, tender love,
Of one poor drunk for another.

* * *

Further aspects of Rhodes life in verse:

SOME LITTLE BIOGRAPHIES.

Introductory Remarks.

The Art of Biography
Is different from Geography.
Geography is about Maps,
But Biography is about Chaps.
(E.C. Bentley).

MR. J.D. PETER.

Mr. J.D. Peter
Said "It makes life sweeter
To think that my clothes
Are the envy of Rhodes."

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Sweets for "Inks."

Catering for Everyone

CHURCH SQUARE

PHONE 97.

Louis.

Louis Hilson thinks
There should be an S.P.C. Inks.
But this seems to embarrass
His old friend Doc. Harris.

English v. History

Miss Muriel Gedling
Said "I hate meddling
Or disturbing the self-possession
Of the lecturing profession.

The Genius.

Copper Le May
Said to Jean one day:
"Wouldn't it have been extraordinary
If I'd been born ordinary".

The Colonial Spirit.

Miss Anderson (of Kenya)
Said "It's but a term I've been here,
But the fellows at Rhodes
Have been a lot of toads.

Übermensch.

Mr. Superman Pelser
Never woos - he just fells her.
He said "That will teach her.
The essentials of Nietzsche."

* * *

Miss Skillicorn's exhibition on Sunday night, showed us that although
"Manners makyth man," "Money breakyth Woman",

We feel that Miss Ballantine has been misjudged - After all she does
look like an intellectual.

We hear that Miss Towy-Thomas finds the R.A.F. here not so attentive
as in Bloemfontein. Miss Prentice is at any rate patriotic - she enter-
tains S.A.A.F.

Did Miss van der Vyver really meet so many Air Force men at the
Kowie? We wonder.

Perhaps Miss Gearing is not so distant as before. We feel the play
boy has played his Ace of Trumps.

Mr D. Parkin seems to suffer under a delusion that any woman is pre-
pared to play Juliet to his Romeo.

We feel that Mr Peter's badges and ribbons show him to be "a fully
qualified soldier".

CASSIODORUS.

Creon and the Chorus Girls.

That the Dramatic Society's first excursion into classical drama was,
on the whole, appreciatively received by a representative Rhodian audience
is perhaps a hopeful sign. It is not, however, very surprising: for the
play (Sophocles' "Antigone") was both well read and well presented. The
set was severe in its design, the costumes colourful; and the acting,
though not reduced to a golden mean of stylisation, quite adequate for the
purposes of the production.

Professor White, naturally enough, seemed to be most at home in the rat-
her rarified atmosphere of the play. He read his part with conviction and
dignity. Miss Laver was a good Antigone, and Mr Rogers made much of the
beauty of his short part. Other players should be complimented also for
their interpretations. It was good to see that Mr Lange was not afraid of
the burlesque element in his lines, and the Chorus deserve special commen-
dation for struggling so manfully with two scripts only.

Disregarding such obvious blemishes in production as the corpse's en-
tails remaining behind after it had been borne off, and the dead-Queen-
cum-sliding-panel effort, any criticism which is to be made should be di-
rected against the audience rather than the players. Possibly if more of
them had attended Professor White's introductory lecture on Classical
Drama there would have been less stifled giggling in the auditorium.

The misplaced sense of humour of the few was, however, amply condoned
by the obvious appreciation of the many. Even a member of Staff slept
happily through the later scenes.

"Tiresias".

.6-

Sir Joseph Porter, K.C.B., and Sir J***P****. S.R.C.

Ink.

When I was a lad I came to College
Aspiring after legal knowledge.
But law they mocked. They said I'd learn
That a marble more would serve my turn.
I polished up that marble so successfuller
That now I am the Chairman of the S.R.C.

I left my law and became such an ink,
That seniors taught me how to drink.
But "I knew my place;" I was quite safe
In greeting graduates in Kaif.

I went on greeting so successfuller
That now I am the Chairman of the S.R.C.

2nd Year.

I wrote such verse and wore such ties
That I won the Heather Drummond Prize.
Which showed I'd brains: that I "wasn't sound",
So I took my muse and had her drowned.
If I hadn't behaved so intellectuallee,
I'd have climbed up sooner to the S...R.C.

3rd Year

But after that I behaved so well
That my "unsound" reputation fell.
And Cassiodorus said I'd rise
Because I'd learnt how to be wise.
Since when I showed such stupiditee
That now I am the Ruler of the Varsity

4th Year.

So first-years all, whoever you may be,
If you want to get to the top of our tree,
Just have no views and show no brains;
You'll be rewarded for your pains*
Your "public spirit" as with me,
May make you all Chairman of the S.R.C.

* * *

*[To ascribe "pains" to the majority of aspirants is just poetic license, of course.]

CORRESPONDENCE

The Editor,
The Rhodéo.

Dear Sir,

All those who were present at the lecture in the Junior Common Room at 12 p.m. on Saturday May 9th, will remember Marda Vanne's advice to the Rhodes Dramatic Society. She said that she chose plays to suit the available players. In the course of the discussion the Chairman of the Dramatic Society agreeing with Miss Vanne, murmured, (I cannot quote his exact words, but this was the unmistakable gist of them) that the Committee has some difficulty in finding plays to suit the actors here at Rhodes. This is where I come to my point. Marda Vanne has a limited number of actors at her disposal - namely, only the members of the company, and therefore she is forced to choose plays for those players. Rhodes, on the other hand, has enough material to make almost any choice of play possible. That remark of the Chairman's is very significant. How is it that the Committee has such difficulty in choosing plays? Surely auditions would provide a sufficient variety of persons to play almost any part in any play. Therefore, it should be comparatively simple to choose a play, unless the Committee has decided beforehand just what persons are to take part in the term's dramatic production: - in that case difficulties would arise.

Whether this be the case, or not, auditions at present are nothing but a farce. They are held in something of the following manner. I quote from personal experience. Those who attend them are (in turn) given parts to read from some play which as a rule they have never read before. No explanation is proffered as to what the play is about, nor what type of character is being portrayed. Then, after a few lines have been read the persons are dismissed without so much as a second chance in another type of part. Some students have not been given the opportunity to read at all, but have been told that it was not necessary as their capabilities for acting were already known. Not only is this an unfair way to conduct an audition, but it is downright inefficient. How can any new and hidden talent be brought to light by these means?

Members of the Society might argue that as the attendance at auditions is somewhat poor and very conservative there is thus little scope for fresh choice. This is due partly to the lack of encouragement to attend them. I do not suggest that students are to be "spoonfed" and led gently by the hand, but a little private encouragement would go a long way. More interest could be infused by some judicious propaganda, while more than one audition ought to be held for each play. Instead, I gather (from the Chairman's remark) that plays are being selected for an already chosen few; so apparently auditions merely provide for an extra part here and there. Am I correct?

Yours, etc.,
K.H.

(Editorial Note. By the terms of the Dramatic Society Constitution (formulated at the fusion of the Dram Club and Dram. Soc. at the end of last year) the first-term production (one-act plays) shall be given over to the discovery of new talent. In effect therefore, the one-act plays shall not endeavour to attain any particularly high standard. In the first term this year, fourteen new performers were given an opportunity to show their abilities in a full stage performance.

There are frequent play-readings throughout the year, in which a very large number of new performers also appear. And on the results of these play readings, and also on those of the one-act plays, memoranda are drawn up. When casting second and third term productions, which, the constitution decrees, shall endeavour to attain as high a standard as possible, reference is made to these memoranda.

The one-act plays and the play-readings constitute, in fact, as frequent and as efficient a form of audition as is possible, when the limited time and limited possibilities of everything that goes to make up the Dramatic Society are considered.

It is a mistake to assume that Rhodes has unlimited material. In the words of K.H. there are a very large number of people at the College, but this "sufficient variety of persons" must not be assumed synonymous with "A sufficient variety of actors and actresses." A play is therefore cast with a view to the performers that are available. A very excellent play, Charles Morgan's The Flashing Stream was rejected as a possibility for this term's production on the grounds that it could not be cast in such a manner as to make its performance worthwhile. To the best of the Society's knowledge of its actors and actresses (and its accumulated lists

of same, amount to a considerable number) there were none who could make this play come up to the standard that the society considers desirable in its three-act plays. This does not mean that the Flashing Stream can never be performed. It might have been cast last year had the play been considered; it might be cast next year.

The method of audition, rightly referred to in the above letter as clumsy, invidious and inefficient, is obsolete; though be it said that in its day it was not run on quite the scale that K.H. describes it. A notice was always posted to the effect that there would be an audition and that such-and-such a play would be read at that audition. Also: from personal experience we can say that help was more often than not given with regard to the type of part that the reader was required to portray.

The present play already under way for production on June 12th and 13th, was cast without an audition; and the Dramatic Society will probably continue to cast its plays without reference to the old audition formula. That is to say, its major plays, though for the one-acts and for the play-readings auditions will probably be needed.

As has been said before, the one-act plays and the various play-readings form a very frequent and efficient substitute for the audition; those major requisites and attributes of the actor (amateur and professional) - intelligence and audibility of articulation and inflection are easily discernible in these productions. Anyone attending the Antigone can immediately appreciate this point. There were performers there whose voices (in quality, and in lack of power) and whose general lack of dramatic nous must immediately disqualify them from appearing in anything that is attempting to attain a fairly decent standard.

It must be regarded as inevitable that disappointments will be experienced and that perhaps ability (real - not self-styled, imaginary, subjective) will sometimes be overlooked because the limits of the society, mostly as regards time, may mean that not everyone who is interested will get the opportunity to show his or her capabilities - though it seems extremely unlikely that such a thing should continue for the entire time that the aspirant remained at Rhodes.

In short, we should say that K.H. is a long way from being correct.)

* * * * *

EFFICIENCY OR KUDOS?

Dear Sir,

At the S.R.C. meeting on Sunday 3rd, inst., the Chairman called for nominations for the position of Secretary. All who were nominated withdrew in turn. In desperation the meeting was made informal to give the members an opportunity, presumably, to persuade nominees to change their minds. During the informal half-hour, the women members all pleaded pressure of work, some urging that outside interests (NUSAS, etc.,) fully occupied all their time. Some of the men also pleaded pressure of work; others said that while they were prepared to stand, they felt that it was not fair that some should be allowed to withdraw as the amount of work one had to do depended not on the course one was taking, but on the conscientiousness of the individual concerned.

I feel that the students expect their representatives on the S.R.C. to be prepared to do the work of the Council as well as having the honour of being a member of that Council. All members should be prepared to give the necessary time and put the S.R.C. before all other outside interests. They should do any section of the work which is given to them, and in fact, The person considered by the majority of the Council to be most competent should be elected, and not be allowed to withdraw. This procedure is followed by many committees, and should be an unwritten law of the S.R.C.

At a General Meeting, two women members of the S.R.C. argued in favour of equal representation on the grounds that women had proved themselves competent to hold executive positions; yet in this case they were not prepared to take the responsibility.

As the S.R.C. now has a secretary, the matter itself is at an end, but I intend this criticism to ensure that a similar farcical position does not occur again. If it does, it merely makes the Council ridiculous.

Yours, etc.,

W.W.W.