

RIDES AGAIN



Power Politics?

Extracts from Wardens/Senior Students meetings - a farce in two acts.

Act 1.
Scene; A Privy Chamber.
Characters: Mr Chairman, miscellaneous warders of both sexes. Also several lackeys of the administration.

Scene 1.
Admin Lackey Lagrangovitch: Mr Chairman, I would like to suggest that we do away with the wearing of gowns at meals.
Mr Chairman: Think Ye Gods.
Rhodes students couldn't think like that. Rhodes students actually like to wear gowns. (Editor - note admin's pet agitation theory) Back to chairman. Somebody or some subversive undesirable group must have put them up to it. Was it:
NUSAS
Sprocas
The Albanian coffee-growing saddle-stitching society
Monty Python
Giles Hugo
Fidel Castro
Ian Smith
.....? (This last space is brought to you for your convenience - pick a name any name).
DELETE WHERE NOT APPLICABLE.

Mr Chairman: Says - Speaking not for the university but for myself I feel there is an undeniably good reason for this. All right thinking and intelligent men and women must agree that gowns are there for reasons of hygiene. Students look a great deal cleaner wearing gowns.
Lagrangovitch: (entirely stumped)
Thinks (I had thought of every reason but this. Expletive deleted).

Motley crew of warders and lackeys not wanting to be thought unintelligent: Yay, oh master.

Scene 2.
Admin lackey Higginsky: Mr Chairman, I would like to suggest women be allowed to visit men in their (Strangled gasps from warders followed by one minute's shocked silence)
Anonymous warder: I won't support this because I am dead scared for my men. The rules are designed for the sheer protection of the men.
Higginsky: At least they can't get into trouble.
Anonymous: Do you realise that at any given time of the day or night you can find women loitering with intent around the bedrooms of our men. (Lights fade to dull groans of wretched lackeys)

Scene 3.
Mr Chairman: There is a reference here to the introduction of a student counselling service. Who brought this up?

(Two hands are raised - both from different lackeys)
Mr Chairman: Thinks (There goes our trump card. Students in agreement - gadzooks. There must have been a caucus meeting.)
Mr Chairman: No money no money no money no money.
The record's stuck the record's stuck the record's stuck.

Melodramatic lackey Plymesky: Do we have to wait for another suicide before we do anything?
(All this accompanied by fierce waving of arms)
Mr Chairman: But there hasn't been a suicide for ten years. Thinks (Not a successful one at least).
Ed. - Readers are requested to note that the above conversation took place last term.
Mr Chairman: I must point out that there are not supposed to be caucus meetings. The university would prefer for you senior students not to get together and discuss things before a meeting. Thinks (This is an offer you can't refuse).
Mr Chairman: I hope nothing else is going to be brought up. We all want to get home to our supper.
Ed. - Readers are reminded that the wardens/senior students' council is the students' only vehicle of articulating their views.

Scene 5.
Mr Chairman: We have in front of us a proposal that the "Smuts System" be abolished. Those in favour raise their hands.
(Nine hands are raised)
Those against raise their hands.
(Not one is raised)
Lackeys now shuffle back into oblivion.

Act 11
Scene: a stereotype rook several weeks later.
Character: a faceless lackey.
(It opens an envelope marked confidential)
Lackey: Oh happy day - it's from the Residence Superintendants Committee.
Reads - It was decided that the Smuts System should remain.

Ed. - The Residence Superintendants Committee is the next step in the hierarchy.

The lackey, Di Plymen, who wrote this would like to emphasise that she is not against dialogue as such. It's the whole attitude of the admin towards the Warden/Senior Students meetings that bug her. Fine if it was meaningful dialogue.

Development

The opening of the Icythyolgy department in Somerset Street early next year will mark the end of the first phase of a ten-year building plan that has cost almost R5 million.

The programme which was started four years ago includes:

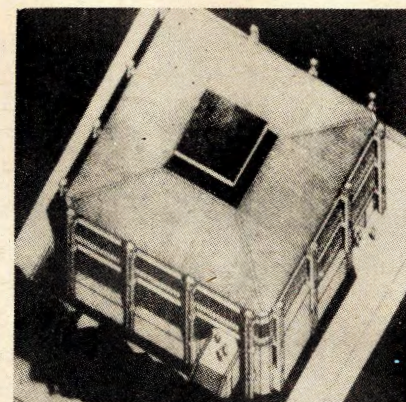
Rhodes Union	R60 000
Zoology and Entymology	R1,5 million
Kimberley Dining Hall and residences	R1 million
Hobson Dining Hall and Dingemans House	R½ million
Sports Fields	R150 000
Rhodes Theatre: new wing and alterations	R350 000
Icthyology	R360 000
Additions to Pharmacy	R400 000

Mr J. Papenfus, the first director of the recently combined departments of Public Relations and Development, said that after this first stage, there would be a lull in building.

"The main problem is to decide our priorities," he said.

He explained that the university authorities will have two principles in mind when deciding on any future building plans.

Firstly, they are trying to keep the academic buildings together, con-



sequently Graham House will definitely become an academic building.

Secondly, they want to "avoid" putting women's residences on the hill.

Mr Papenfus said this was purely for chivalrous reasons.

"They feel if it is raining it is the men who should have to walk," he said.

He said the university authorities were considering a new block for the earth sciences. There is also a possibility of an additional wing being built onto the Arts Quad. This might become the new Arts Block housing, for instance, philosophy and political science.

Mr Papenfus said although the university authorities are expanding the campus, they are determined not to let the number of students grow too large.

"We are determined to control growth. We will never let it grow at too rapid a pace so that it damages the Rhodes atmosphere," he added.

SRC: Made to measure

The lack of money is forcing students to take a new look at SRCs or rather the lack of the same.

Consequently three students, Lynette Liebenberg, Wouter Holleman and Graham Watts, have started a movement to introduce not necessarily an SRC but an administratively recognised body.

Lynette said that all three agree that there must be an administratively recognised body so that funds will be released.

"The problem is - how large should this body be?"

Lynette has proposed that a permanent administrative officer be appointed to distribute the funds and a five-member committee will dictate how much goes to each society.

The five members will come from the various societies, including NUSAS.

By having this kind of system, Lynette feels the type of person on the committee will be an active member of a society and not someone on an ego-trip.

Graham Watts reckoned that by having only representatives from societies on a student body some students would not be represented at all. He suggested therefore a body of 10 members. Three, the President, the Secretary and the Treasurer would be elected by the students and the rest chosen in the same way as Lynette suggested.

Graham said the lack of money was the main reason for him proposing an SRC because he was very concerned about NUSAS.

NUSAS is the only society this year, apart from those just set up, that has been given no money.

Wouter Holleman criticised Graham's proposal saying all he wants is an organisation to look after NUSAS interests.

Wouter said there was a need for the campus to talk to the administration. He wanted two members of the SRC to sit on the Residents Superintendants Committee.

His proposal is to reconstruct the Societies' Council. There are at the moment about 45 societies' chairmen. From these 10 would sit on the SRC-type body as well as two or three representatives from NUSAS, two representatives from the senior students and representatives from Rhodexo, Rhodent and Rhodian.

In the next few days Graham, Lynette and Wouter will be going around to all the residences telling students about their proposals.

The Old Rhodian Union is once again providing a low-cost return air fare to London for all present and past Rhodians.

It is departing Johannesburg on December 12 on British Airways Jumbo Jet 747 and returning to Johannesburg via Frankfurt on Lufthansa's Jumbo Jet on January 17.

The total number of seats are restricted to only 50 and bookings are progressing extremely well. The return air fare is only R349 and a travel now pay later scheme is available at very reasonable terms.

Numerous reduced optional tours are also available while overseas, but Tom Tits does warn that bookings are filling up rapidly.

Tom Tit's

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Sparks Fly at Press Debate

An extremely lively and interesting discussion on Press and the role of change in South Africa was held in the GLT on Friday, 23.

The panel consisted of Mrs Nancy Charton, senior lecturer in political studies, Senator Dennis Worrall, National Party, Prof Tony Giffard, head of the Rhodes Journalism Department and Mr Allister Sparks, Rand Daily Mail political editor. Mr Les Switzer, senior lecturer in Journalism, chaired the meeting.

It was obvious that three main factions existed. Mrs Charton felt that the press has a definite role to play as a vehicle for change, but unfortunately it was not fulfilling this role in the least.

Sen Worrall felt that there was no need for the press to attempt to bring about social change but that they should provide an objective platform for debate. He felt that the English

press was irresponsible and he attempted to justify the government's interference with the press by saying that there was no unreasonable amount of interference from the government and that any possible interference was in the good of the community.

Prof Giffard and Allister Sparks attempted to justify the present role that the press was fulfilling and condemned government interference with it.

The discussion often tended to slip into a personal attack between Mr Sparks and Sen Worrall who constantly squabbled over misquotes and invalid facts.

It was a pity to notice that both Prof Giffard and Mr Sparks did not display a great insight into the South African political situation by firstly posing the question "does the press have to promote change".

Both seemed to forget that if society is static and unchanging the

individual cultural, mental and socio-political development becomes impossible.

Mr Sparks, although realising the need for the press to bring about some sort of change, attempted to pass the blame of this unfulfilled role onto the government.

He failed to recognise that by complying with government pressure placed on them they were admitting their complete lack of power to be capable of promoting anything.

Sen Worrall's gift of oratory was the only factor that kept his defensive attitude slightly acceptable to some members of the audience. His extremely weak justification for the stand taken by the government was remarkably well covered up by his wit and obvious contempt for the views of the other members of the panel.

Mrs Charton gave the press a rather forceful and hardhitting criticism, emphasising the fact that the press was simply doing the wrong type of reporting and were using token black spokesmen for the black population.

The favourable conclusions that came out of the discussion was the fact that there was a definite need for the press to assess its role and to delve more fully into the real questions facing South Africa.

3 New Mini-Books

A MUST AND A REAL BOON TO SCIENCE STUDENTS:

An introduction to Organic Chem.
The Island System (Mechanics, Magnetism and Electricity)
Exponents and Logarithms.
R2.00 a copy. Obtainable at Ichthyology or from Rhodoo Office, Rhodes Union.

A student's prayer

by Mrs M. Smith
Department of Ichthyology

The answer to a student's prayer.

So said Durban students recently during rave reviews about one of the three mini-books produced by William Smith and the staff of Star Schools, Daily News Schools, Argus Schools and Herald Schools.

These are teach-yourself books: *An Introduction to Organic Chemistry* (using William Smith's ingenious methods of getting the subject into your head) - that is, of course, if this is your ambition or adds to your peace of mind, especially at this time of the year!

The Island System - a painless pictorial method of understanding mechanics, electricity and magnetism for would-be physicists and all the other poor wretches who need to pass Physics 1!

The third is by Clarence Dreyer. Its title - *Exponents and Logarithms - A guide to the simplification of expressions and solutions of equations* - is self-explanatory, and, believe it or not, makes fascinating reading! The reviewer read through the exponent part over one cup of coffee! All science students at some time or another come across that mysterious pH. As pH has to do with logarithms, this little book is a must for those, especially biologists, who have to look intelligent when pH's are being discussed.

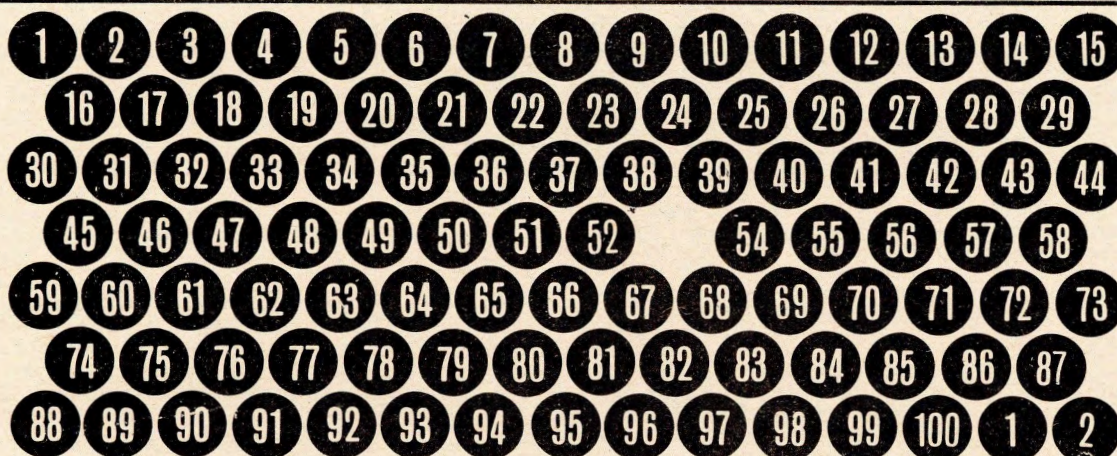
Not in this book, however, do we find the snakes who, with the other animals, were told by Noah after the flood to go forth and multiply. One pair said this was impossible as they were only adders. "Never mind," said Noah. "See what you can do". A few months later he came across the adders with numerous progeny. When asked how they had managed this, the adders said happily: "Oh, it was easy once we found a log!" The book does, however, explain the adder principle!

Each book is numbered, and the name and address of each purchaser recorded. As the introduction explains:

"When you buy this book, you are buying a system ... All sections of this book are copyright as the approach is unique."

The first three mini-books, published by Education Television (Pty) Ltd, are obtainable at a cost of R2 each from P.O. Box 31648, Braamfontein, 2017, or from the Rhodoo Offices, Rhodes University, or from the J.L.B. Smith Institute of Ichthyology, Rhodes University.

On the profit from each book sold in Grahamstown, 25 cents will be paid to local funds to help Black school children with fees and books. These mini-books are available for inspection at the Ichthyology Department.



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BITCH

"So you're leaving university?"

Dr J.P. Jessop of the Department of Botany will be going to Australia at the end of the year.

He leaves Rhodes where he has spent nearly eight years, for Adelaide where he will be working at the South Australian Government Herbarium. There he will continue in his speciality - taxonomy.

Before coming to Rhodes, Dr Jessop studied at UCT, where he obtained his M.Sc. He received his Ph.D. at Rhodes. His work here has been chiefly in taxonomy, although he has also been interested in African flora and ecology. Among his publications have been some writings on the biographies of botanists.

His latest publication is a chapter in a book on the Xhosa people of Southern Africa. This book is a new version of one originally written by Hammond-Tooke (former anthropologist at Rhodes).

Dr Jessop is also joint shareholder and founder of the Leopard Express bus service between Grahamstown and Port Elizabeth, although it is mainly his wife's business, he says. The two of them will be selling the business when they leave.

The teaching part of his work is something that Dr Jessop has enjoyed and he says he will miss the contact with students, but the socio-political system in this country is such that he feels he must leave.

At the end of the year, Dr H.G. Ruthrof, a senior lecturer in the Department of English, will be leaving Rhodes to join the staff of the new Murdoch University in Perth - the second university in Western Australia.

He will be in charge of a sub-department of the School of Human Communications, "World Literature". His work will comprise the designing of a syllabus with an emphasis on Anglo-American and "Terranglian World English", also on European Literature and Literary Theory, the development of substantial library holdings and the co-ordination of one of three inter-disciplinary "Trunk" courses. To be involved in the opening of a progressive university seems to him a very exciting prospect.

On the other hand, he and his family will be sorry to leave Rhodes and Grahamstown, where they have spent six very pleasant years. Dr Ruthrof offers special thanks to Prof Guy Butler and the English Department, and to colleagues in other fields for inter-departmental contact.

After receiving his undergraduate training at the universities of Erlangen, Nuremberg and Munich, Dr

Ruthrof spent 1965 at Rhodes on a student exchange scholarship. He received his M.A. and Ph.D. at Rhodes and has lectured mainly on the novel and short story.

Since 1970 he has given an Honours course on Literary Theory (which is something new). He has also administered and taught Special English for two years.

Dr Ruthrof has published in "Philosophy and Phenomenological Research", "Man and World: An International Philosophical Review" and UCT English Studies, and has articles forthcoming in *Studies in Short Fiction*, *The Journal of Narrative Technique*, and *The Journal of Aesthetic Education*.

From his experiences at other universities (including Cambridge University and the University of Victoria, B.C., Canada) Dr Ruthrof finds that Rhodes students are much the same as students anywhere in the world. The English Honours students especially are of very high standard compared to those, for example, in Canada.

Dr Ruthrof regards Rhodes as a wonderful campus with good facilities, but one which is severely limited by the society in which it exists and this is one of the reasons for his departure.

This column is for anybody to bitch about anything they want. It can be seen as a check on arbitrary injustices or simply as a pressure valve.

Now that another student has died of despair and loneliness, will Admin finally give us a student psychologist?

In 1971, after the May campaign, we were to be granted one, then it was forgotten.

Will we get one now or will more students die through lack of understanding and despondency?

A. J. Reynolds.

Do we need security guards? If we answer yes, we must ask whether they are here to safeguard our property or to pry into our private lives.

We can all see the benefits of having a force to protect our property.

But do we need snooping characters like Sherlock and Sarge and their black comrades-at-arms lurking in the bushes?

A. J. Knott.

The need is being felt that on campus some form of sex counselling service that would make itself available to both male and female students.

Topics such as male/female contraception and sexual problems peculiar to individuals could be dealt with.

I feel that contraceptive vending machines should be furnished for student use. This would certainly not contract student allowances as fast as purchasing from retail organisations would.

S.D. Frost.

Methods used by the security department on campus go against my, and I'm sure everyone's, sense of justice.

You might think young men and women who have come to university are old enough and mature enough to make their own decisions on certain matters, but this is not the case.

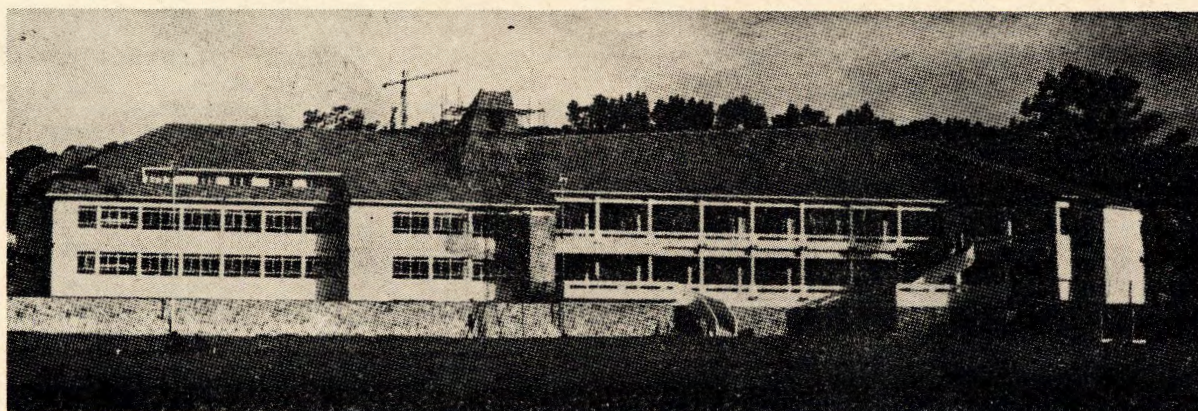
I am not referring to vandalism, but the mere fact that someone has had too much to drink. These sometimes go hand-in-hand, but not all the time.

A name may be taken without asking students for it, simply by 'recognition' in poor light, and on the grounds that he/she is not walking steadily.

I think the time has come for action against these harsh measures.

R. A. Stuart.

Tea, coffee and other troubles



In August, 1972, the Rhodes Club opened the top floor of a brand new Students' Union building on the Rhodes Campus.

With a large lounge and balcony overlooking the university playing fields, and several restaurants and bars, an ideal social meeting ground for staff and students of the University seemed set.

But the Club has not yet been granted a liquor licence and it looks as though it won't get one for some time. One's reaction to this is: "Well, what difference does that make? Rhodians could probably cut down on their alcohol intake!"

If a member wants to entertain in the Club, he or she always has to take his own liquor. Obviously the staff are reluctant to use the Club for entertainment because they first have to take their guests home for a drink and then home again after the meal, to finish off with a liquor. Students can't even do this because alcohol is not allowed on campus, definitely not in residence, and men and women may not enter each other's rooms. As a result the club is losing out.

Why, then, is there no licence? For a university club of this kind to get a licence, it must first be recommended by the Liquor Licensing

Board - a government body - and the final 'yes' be given by the Minister of Education.

Obviously many people feel that this is a political question. An English-speaking, liberal university like Rhodes getting a licence from our government? But how many people realize that all the white universities in the country, except Potchefstroom and Bloemfontein, have also applied for a liquor licence on campus and have been refused?

The government has now laid down, that if the matter is even to be considered, all the universities must make a joint application, with a unanimous recommendation from the heads of all the universities. One can only speculate on how many years it will take the University of the Orange Free State and the Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education to join their fellows in making an application. Until then, things seem to be at a dead end.

This is not the only problem facing the Club. When it was still in its embryonic stages, the planners firmly believed that they would be granted a licence very easily. As a result, a bar, a ladies' bar, and a lounge were planned with the two restaurants and coffee bar. These are hardly used now, unless a mem-

ber or another body hires the club for a special function, for which they can obtain a licence.

Where, then, can the club get its revenue? People are now reluctant to join anyway, and if fees rise, those who are members will probably not renew their membership. Under these circumstances it is becoming increasingly difficult to find a permanent manager.

To add to this problem, an architectural flaw now glares the management in the face. All the kitchen facilities are on the ground floor to serve Kaif (the student cafeteria) and the club orders have to be sent up by elevator. Since the manager cannot be on both floors at once, the outflow of food cannot be controlled, and pilfering is relatively easy.

With the large Rhodes population moving in and out of little Grahamstown, there are very few permanent entertainment facilities in the town.

With a liquor licence, the club would have been ideal for students to entertain each other in a civilised fashion, as well as to meet their professors and lecturers in a social atmosphere.

Without a liquor licence, the Club has become a complete white elephant.

SNAP

Does Rhodes need an SRC? Rhodeo did some snap interviews and here are the answers.

- * I don't know enough about it.
- * Yes - but I don't know what an SRC does.
- * Umm ... Well ... We've had Rag, Rhodeo is on its way, the only thing is that we need a voice against Admin if they do anything counter to student interest.
- * No - the way the admin took regard of the old SRC, an SRC is useless.
- * Of course we need one - I don't know why - but it is a good idea.
- * I really don't care.
- * Yes - I don't think students are getting as much representation as they should.
- * I haven't really thought about it.
- * Yes - to put forward certain views.
- * No - because we have been able to get by quite adequately without an SRC.

TIGHTENING THE SCREW

Contrary to current wisdom the Schlebusch (Le Grange) Commission did not begin on July 4, 1972, but has its roots going back some 300 years to the very beginnings of the story of white conquest.

For the first 200 years of this saga the pattern was relatively simple - the power dominance of the conqueror. But over the last century a more sophisticated technique has been developing.

As the dominator became a settler his first need was a large, cheap, subservient labour force which would raise his (the settler's) comfort and prosperity. The raising of this labour force was easily accomplished by the confiscation of land and the imposition of taxes. But these measures created a natural resistance from the indigenous population and a small pocket of white sympathisers. In order to muzzle this resistance the various white legislative bodies found it necessary to place restrictions on movement, the press and the right of assembly.

As we entered the present century the war which was to serve the purpose of uniting the white legislatures was drawing to a close and by 1910 the country was neatly parcelled into one unit with the white group fused into a

phalanx of sophisticated dominance.

From 1910 the complex web of legislation needed to preserve this dominance began to spin more tightly. In 1911 and 1913 laws were introduced to curb press freedom which were so powerful at closing the mouth of the opposition that little else was needed in this sphere for another 20 years. Similarly in the early years laws were enacted against assembly and the movement of blacks.

At the time of Union those few blacks who had the vote were allowed to retain it but their right to sit in Parliament was removed. This was the first of the representation decisions which was to remove all black representatives and franchise rights by the mid 1950's.

In 1911 the Native Labour Regulation Act reaffirmed that a breach of contract of service by an African was a criminal offence. Legislation of this sort with the more complex variants that were to be followed ensured the stable flow of labour to the white ruled economy. The desire to control the land occupation of Blacks was modernised under the 1913 Natives Land Act.

To continue to list the repressive, dominating legislation would be time-consuming for the legislation trickled through from time to time until 1948

at a steady rate. In 1948 a new interest group within the white body gained control and with the gaining of this control an even more brilliant and sophisticated form of dominance began to emerge. Loopholes in older legislation were closed and loopholes in dominance were blocked.

The population was divided into racial categories in the age-old plan of "divide and rule". Strong legislation backed this action such as the Population Registration Act, Prohibition of Mixed Marriages Act, Immorality Amendment Act, Separate Representation of Voters Act, Group Areas Act, Reservation of Separate Amenities Act, Native Labour Act (Settlement of Disputes) and so on.

As expected the legislation created further resistance and in order to stem the resistance, more sweeping legislation was needed. The legislation against resistance was vast - Suppression of Communism Act, Unlawful Organisation Act, General Laws Amendment Act, Terrorism Act, etc. Under this legislation persons and organisations could be detained, banned, prevented from speaking and generally disabled.

In the same period the dominant group saw fit to apply pressure against the rising protest of the academic community. The mixing of

racism at educational centres is seen as dangerous to the stability of dominance and thus in 1957 a Bill was passed to separate universities racially. Not only does the legislation of 1957 and 1958 segregate the universities but subject black universities to rigorous ministerial control.

At this stage the web of dominance has become so tight and complex that we must look specifically at one aspect of the dominance and that is control of the universities. In the years that followed the separation of the universities, forces began to work to silence this squeak of dissent. Over the next 14 years student leaders were banned, deported and refused passports. But according to Mr Vorster, there is "a cancer in the life of the nation" which must be removed. This cancer is NUSAS.

At first the pressure against NUSAS is through the university administrators who are told to "put their house in order". But this does not work and the National Union itself must be destroyed.

Over to you, Mr Schlebusch.



WHAT?

M. Kohl: No. 648365.

Cell No. 47. Max Sec.

- Q. If I do not believe in violence, murder, destruction or war, why should I serve in the army?
- A. If you do not fight, then you must sacrifice a democracy's greatest achievement, individual freedom. Surely it is worth dying to maintain freedom?
- Q. If a citizen of a country is displeased with the current government should he not be free to replace that government through the ballot box?
- A. Certainly. But we must, in the interests of national security, be discriminatory as to what constitutes a citizen.
- Q. What would happen if a Prime Minister were to fall in love with a member of another race?
- A. You mean like Jews or Catholics? Why, some of his best friends might be...
- Q. No, I should have said of a different skin-colour?
- A. There are two possible answers to this absurd question. He would either declare that racial group Honorary Whites, or he would close Parliament and declare a week of mourning.
- Q. Was the photo of B.J.V. dancing with Krazy Kenny's wife authentic?
- A. We have reason to believe that the picture was the work of a Communist inspired photographic guild, bent on undermining the stability, etc, etc, etc.
- Q. There have been allegations that the SABC is a government controlled propaganda machine. Have you any comment?
- A. The time on the stroke of the gong will be...
- Q. Do you think that the Afrikaans nation has a view to world domination?
- A. Nein!
- Q. South Africa is the last bastion of democracy in a rapidly decaying world. Where do you think we'll be in the year 2000?
- A. That is our children's problem.

- Q. Since the late 60's there has been a counter-culture arising in the free world based on all this idealistic nonsense. Has South Africa seen any manifestation of this movement?
- A. As a matter of fact, we have been keeping abreast of the times. We even have a number of centres where these people all congregate. There has also been a movement by the government to establish an agency to deal almost exclusively with these people and recognise their aims. It is called BOSS.
- Q. It has been said that there are special-branch agents on every campus. Why is this?
- A. To prevent unemployment.
- Q. Why is the Republic's censorship so rigorous?
- A. You and me can see undesirable work and remain aloof. But what of the poor person who does not have a secure or dubious cultural heritage on which to fall back on? Answer me that, hey?
- Q. Why were the Boks beaten by the Lions?
- A. Has the English Press been misleading you again?
- Q. Someone has said that the whole country is the Bantu's true homeland, not merely the territories allotted them. Have you any comments?
- A. Yes, what is his name, address, age, colour and occupation?

Thank-you, the man from the ministry.

I must stress that the answers written to this interview are purely fictitious, for no society could live with such inhuman, debasing, insensitive and unjust ethics as those portrayed in the interview, now could they?

P.S. In the interests of personal safety, I will both privately and publicly deny ever having said, seen or thought any of the above material.



"well...
that jus' about
wraps it all up"

THAT THING ON THE HILL



BUILDING IN PROGRESS: WHO WILL INHERIT IT?
Picture by Graeme Addison.

I mean if the State President's coming you've got to tart the place up a bit. So the fish 'n chips shop next to the station gets painted something horrible like kandy coloured and the next best thing to the Amazon jungle gets installed (courtesy local florists) in the station foyer, under whiteness flagdraped welcomings.

The orange white and blue buntings are out in the town too tragidecorative with the sense of history. This 1820 thing has turned into a festival of patriotism.

Well the White Train coasted down the hill past my house and even I gave it a wave which was returned with the best of royal humour by a steward in the dining car. The man in top hat and sash saw my children flagwaving him and bestowed on them his kindoleguy smile which was nice. Afterwards these offspring weaned on stories of the Russian Revolution believed they'd seen the Tsar. Which I corrected.

O what a monumental festival we had ourselves.

Whole robber tribes of the Press came drinking and whoring and looting through the town for news of the great cultural get-together. Everyone was here if you count the whites as who doesn't and the SABC had its TV gear busting out all over so if you missed something this July don't despair you'll see it all out of the can in '76. Don't think you'll get off lightly from this celebration of English-speakers' solidarity oh no.

All those speeches and plays and City Hall marchpasts of booted feet in our defence are destined to return with the insistence of was propaganda. Because you see we must fight to maintain we must learn to exult in (definition: rejoice exceedingly and senselessly in) our bloodripe English-

ness since that's all we have. Because you see like others in this joyous polecat land we are a tribal people reduced to our own drumbeat myths dead-beat traditions we are clinging to the past.

O says the Government you should be so happy apart with your own separate gods your own tribal ancestors to propitiate your own corpusclekin to care for.

Everybody has his identity crisis and July was ours. Oom Jim said we must stop talking about home as England in another time and place and of course he would be right if people still talked like that but they don't. He's an old man remembering but we're the now people with issues like blackphalluspower lowermost on our minds. Like I mean fear of the next 20 years sits in our gut like a heavy meal from Settlers Motel. Even Nusas drinks in the white lounge (ties after six) where waiters watch for their turn and would you let your daughter get served kingklip cardinale hot and saucy by that stallion headwaiter.

Up there on Gunfire Hill is where it's all at this money and race thing up there at the motel and the monument. First the tourists get processed with food then it's culture's turn in the shiplike building newly erected at a tribute of R5 million to the ancestors.

At evening the freeflow mist bothers consciousness as it washes masthigh over the monument blurring its lights much to the consternation of playgoers with sounddamped voices. Leaving their moneycars they lose themselves in darkness and cold stumbling and laughing till at the decaying walls of Fort Selwyn someone finds The Way with an expletive deleted. Under they go under Trafalgar cannons dripping and a lady wonders out loud if it's curtains yet to which her

Monumental — (expletive deleted)

soldiervoice husband replies with becoming assurance and touches her arse. These spirits of a different age passed by me (me taking a pee under same cannon) and I wondered what hope. The wind carries shouts of the umpteenth kaffir war predictable on the records of the past and inexorable as the hate of the location across the valley beside Makana's Kop. From there in 1818 (or was it 1918, 2018?) ten thousand screaming Xhosa warrior striker terrorists poured down on the town of 52 churches.

King Lear put on a spiffing good show for the spirits of Fort Selwyn entirely divorced from reality. Up there on the hill Shakespeare is defended for the elite by guns and money but does he want to be if he can write like this (and he can write you know):

You houseless poverty, ...
Poor naked wretches, wheresoe'er
you are.
That bide the pelting of this
pitiless storm,
How shall your houseless heads and
unfed sides,
Your looped and window'd raggedness,
defend you
From seasons such as these? O! I
have ta'en
Too little care of this. Take
physic, pomp;
Expose thyself to feel what wretches
feel...

Pathetic old guy by the time he said this he was out in the cold and nobody would listen. Actually if you can afford R3,50 per ticket for a good view of Lear you are unlikely to grasp the meaning of these words but no matter.

It's good moralizing stuff.

Anyway with the whole country sinking into the barracks of mentality of a military camp any form of culture is purely a bonus and mere entertainment. That's why the R5 million building on Gunfire Hill is only a mausoleum of culture (definition: permanent home for culture, magnificent tomb for the embalmed body thereof). It's nice for Grahamstown to have a 900-seat auditorium and the best conference facilities in the country and we'd really like to believe in the relevance of it all fat chance.

For the sake of clarity let's call the monument a shrine a temple a parthenon for the fitting worship of the ancestors. Best go up during the day when from the windows eastside you get a splendid theatrical view of poverty on the other side of the valley one of the most distressed areas in the Eastern Cape with 90 percent of the blacks living below the breadline. The R5 million temple of the ancestors has words for this situation as for every situation in the form of metal type set in stone saying *all may have life and have it more abundantly* which is a nice sentiment. Nice to think culture is the bread of the soul.

But a statistical birdie tells me that the money used to pay homage to the past could have provided 180 primary schools for 100,000 black kids or have fed housed and clothed 4,000 black families of six for a year or could have etcetera I won't go on. Don't have to take the birdie's perch to make the point. Anyhow it's true the money wouldn't have been forthcoming for the simple human necessities abovementioned.

Back to those words in metal type on the floor and walls of the monument

foyer. O man who chose them they're so forgettable. Pringle's verse escapes my mind thank God but the resounding fatuity of prophet Dugmore's take root or die suggests the facetious rejoinder I'd rather die. I mean rather than accept my Englishness in terms of separate development.

Professor Guy Butler priesthead of English identity has played right into Jolly John's hands with this monumental thing. We don't question your good faith and your liberal-mindedness Professor but fact is your philosophy has created the equivalent of the Voortrekker Monument and it can only make us more racially conscious and more culturally isolated from Africa than we already are. The Zulus want the Day of the Covenant to be known as Shaka Day so what'll we call it for ourselves? This is just the wrong time for us to be hiving off into separate nationhood with our own symbols and exclusive mythology of bygone heroism.

One and a half million whites plus two hundred thousand coloured plus an unknown quantity but evergrowing number of blacks speak English but at the festival there were pitifully few unwhite faces. Pity because the festival organisers had Government permission in the form of various bits of paper specifying this and idiotic that allowing for a great cultural fandango of the races. It didn't happen so something went wrong. I suspect the organisers didn't think too hard about their black linguistic brethren till far too late.

When the organisers realised they were heading for a shortfall on bookings for the 18 000 seats available during the festival they started offering block concessions at reduced prices to black organisations all round the country. Like Indian businessmen's associations and Soweto politicians. But too little too late. The festival committee had been running-in for two years before the event but publicity was pitched at whites until the bid was made for blacks in the last three weeks. This despite the fact that the organisers had *carte blanche* again in the form of various bits of Government paper to accommodate blacks at hotels in the town. In the end we saw a busload of visitors from Alice (being students and Fed Sem folks) and we saw a few other odds and sods. All tokens of multiracialism.

Culture was priced out of range of the people living in Fingo Village because if you earn R60 or less a month you don't budget to see Prokoviev or hear Vaughan Williams.

But who says the blacks wanted to come in large numbers you might ask. A close fascist friend of mine maintains blacks don't buy this culture gag.

As for the conference on English speaking South Africa why should blacks bother to attend a clubbish Anglo-Saxon ritual of affirmation consisting of backscratching and self-flagellation (definition: if it hurts only a bit it's OK). Some days before the opening the press announced that of 300 black dignitaries invited only 13 had accepted which you'll agree is an indication of monumental interest.

How pretty to imagine that English speaking South Africans could act as civilising catalysts of change by bringing people together. How far from the truth. If culture is communication we don't have it.

by Graeme Addison

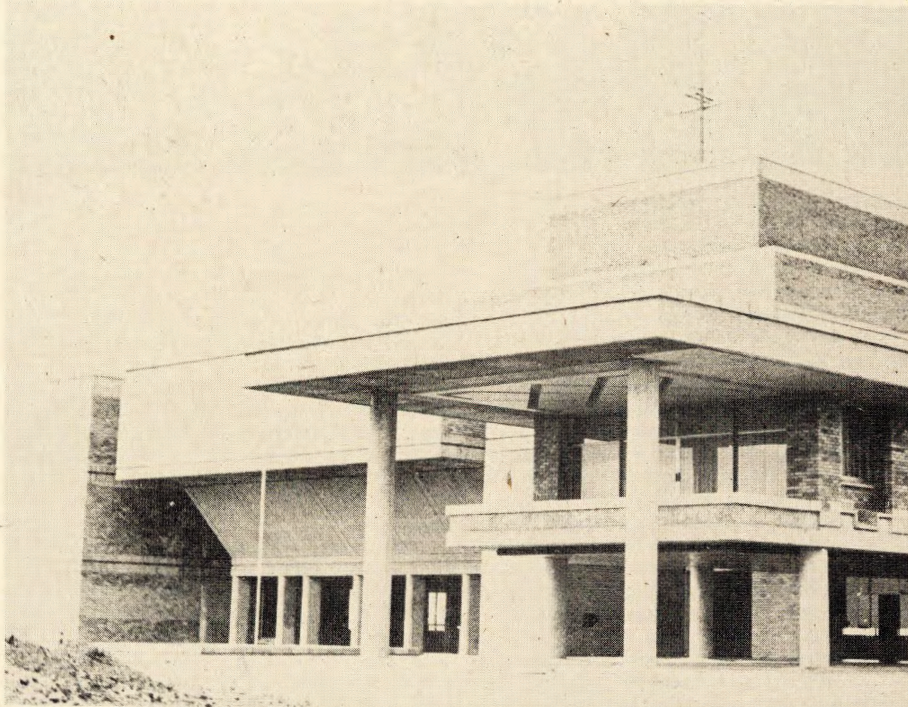
.....AFTERWARDS

In "Rhodian 73" Professor Brian Bradshaw gave his view on the monument-to-be. Here he takes a second look - at the monument that was.

So now it's happened!

The big moment has come and gone. And the millions have been spent. But not quite. And we are asked, in addition, to subscribe per annum or for life, in Ordinary or Special character to contribute towards an annual income of R100,000,00. And the city of Grahams-town has generously voted R1000,00 per annum, at least for the next five years of, presumably, rate-payers' money.

And to save this reading like the financial column let it be said, who can deny, that for what it was it was very expensive. And if what it was is any indication of what is going to keep coming! We'll spare the thought, even if we do have to pay for it.



And what was it?

For some, a brief moment of 'glory', including a visit by the State President, and umpteen other visitors by road, some coming by special bus at - what was it - R7 a time, or was that the accommodation fee charged for residence in University premises from which students were temporarily dis-lodged. And - well, rumours abound for financial researchers to explore. But for the ordinary man and the ordinary academic (including English speaking) it was all too much for so little.

What was it?

It seems that 'culture' was supplied mainly by town and gown - in restricted elements - of a kind which usually is to be seen in the ordinary course of events, and some of which has been seen, or heard of, before - in one of the other theatres that Grahamstown has.

How many are there, anyway, by now?

And what did that Director of drama say in the newspaper? Something about the way they had been designed. And wondering about how they were all going to function.

And to broaden the scope a little, they imported a piano. The same way others would send for a rose-bush or a box of grapes, without sampling it first, and then found it might have been better and in any case the accoustics were not all they were cracked up to be. Except for being positively Shakespearian.

But in any case money was no problem. And why should it be where culture is concerned. Was it not Lord Nelson (another English speaker) who said that money was trash, but then he was talking about his own.

However, let it be repeated, it was all for the sake of culture, or at least that is what some people called it.

And after the Culture came the Conference, or was this the same thing? Not quite, because this was when a bit of self-criticism crept in.

So you might call the Conference side

more cultural. More approximating to the real thing. Only approximate, mind you, because it didn't really lead anywhere, but then nobody expected it would.

It was all, we were told, for the sake of the English speaking in South Africa. (Ah, there was the rub - for the English speaking!)

There was also a special effects period when non-white English speakers were invited. Some actually to speak. But few accepted. Apparently one of them did, and was positively rude. Biting off the racial, I mean cultural, hand that was offered for feed.

Well, what did they expect?

It being a White Elephant, not a Black Elephant.

Is it true that white elephants use carpets for ash-trays?

And who pinched those flags? Was it the Scots, Irish, Welsh who consider for some reason that their respective flags are not English; or was it the Lions themselves who can't be expected to lend out the nation's colours for anyone to play with.

So after all was said and done, they shut up (for the time being), having

come away with a new title - ESA (extra-sensory something or other), and having been (of course) duly patted on their heads for volkspele activities, and everyone said it was a great day for unity. Everyone? Well everyone who has hold of the newsmidia. "Both English and Afrikaans newspapers were enthusiastic" said the report.

Bang on!

Meanwhile there is talk of others who want their own monument. Each with its own special cult. All slightly variable to a degree except in the area common to all where the standards of ideology are merely covers for ambitions. Afrikaans this, English speaking that, we have seen it all.

The rest of the world is taking them down, and here we are putting them up. Not just putting up, but putting up where they can't be missed. Maybe that's good commercial sense but it's a bit high and heavy-handed on the environment.

Perhaps someday Grahamstown will be known as the city of monuments. Each to his own.

Book your hill now.

Never mind inflation and the rising price of groceries.

Never mind social and health services.

Just grab your own cult.

And be damned to culture.

And be damned to art.

And be damned to good taste, and humility and all that jazz.

Make your own furrow.

And remember the 13th July the day when they opened it up.

Which is the day before the 14th July the day when they pulled one down.

ECOLOGY TALK..... ECO-POLITICS

by K.Z. EDWARDS

Ecology and what affects it.

Generally speaking, ecology may be defined as the study which deals with the inter-relationship of animals one to another in terms of their environment.

Now, ecological equilibrium can exist in both impoverished or enriched environments, and the ecology of an environment can thus change from a rich to a poor one, or vice versa. It is with this change in ecology, or this same change in the number of inter-relationships that occur in a given environment, that we are most interested in. In point of fact the ecology of our whole environment is changing for the worse, directly because of the influence of man.

Previously, man lived in direct harmony with his environment, but now exactly the reverse is true. And the result of this disharmony is going to affect man in every single way possible - it is going to affect his social, political, and economic organisation, as well as his future as a species.

Believing and noting that man is threatened by his own social system, the next logical step is to set about construing why this is so. Where this construction is accomplished, one can then formulate an idea of what society ought to be like and the method to use for accomplishing this new structure.

The 'Ecological Society'.

This is a new term that I have introduced for my own convenience. This society is probably my personal view of utopia.

The term suggests a new society with a different type of social, political and economic organisation.

It holds as its basic tenet a completely revolutionary educational system leading to such widespread changes as: population control; a toning down of industry and elimination of consumer and capitalist ideologies that lead to reckless exploitation; complete racial integration, if desired, and many changes that will lead to man living congruent to, and in harmony with, his environment.

Homeland Environments and the Political Link.

There is an overall degradation of the total environment in South Africa today, especially in the homelands.

The reasons for this are economic and social. Economically, South Africa is a large interacting unit. The idea put out by the South African government that homelands have, and can develop, separate economies is a com-

plete myth. By such laws as Influx Control Laws, Blacks are exploited to bolster the white dominated economy, and the Blacks are further inhibited by a lack of funds, education and the means to develop.

This is a white political imposition which stems from white political control for the advantage of whites.

The result of this imposition is that we have a large black population restricted to the homelands. This population is increasing rapidly.

The result of an increased population is greater pressure on the environment from such processes as overgrazing and agricultural mismanagement. The mismanagement is unavoidable, since the political impositions do not allow development and refined means of changing the state of affairs.

Finally, mismanagement leads to an irreversible impoverishment of the environment, and a breakdown in the pre-existing ecological patterns.

This process is taking place in the homelands today, and is a very real issue. The only way to allay it, is either from economic intervention by whites, or, more realistically, a social re-organisation by Blacks incorporating new political standards and goals.

The New Trends.

Whites are not committed to helping Blacks, such that if Blacks do not re-organise socially, environmental breakdown will continue unabated.

The environmental crisis is already creating dissatisfaction among rural Blacks. This dissatisfaction is taking a political form, and most homeland leaders and political entrepreneurs are already trying to solve their problems by political means e.g. through Black solidarity.

However, it is evident already that Black political agitation from the Homelands is not centred upon the actual problems within those areas. It is coalescing with the demands and dissatisfactions expressed by urban Africans.

A New Synthesis?

My solution, then, entails adopting an entirely new form of social, economic and political organisation that all people participate in. For an environmentally conscious society to exist, there is a need for a body politic that has an active interest in the problems that beset man.

Ecology Talk
will be run
as a regular
article in all
future Rhodios.

editorial

Rhodeo again

For the past seven months Rhodes has been without any effective communication. This has been due to the absence of an SRC with the result that there have been no funds or publishers for a newspaper of this sort.

An application for funds was thus made to the Admin on the basis of printing Rhodeo in the form of a society publication. Funds were ultimately granted on the condition that Rhodeo would once again fall under the jurisdiction of an SRC should one be formed.

The importance of a student newspaper only becomes valid once individual participation takes place.

In a community such as ours a large proportion of the so-called 'learning experience' is based on extra-curricular educational contact.

Thus the importance of people submitting articles and responding to the printed material becomes imperative. Only then can we begin to examine the validity of ourselves as students in a particular community.

Irritation

By the time you read this NUSAS will probably have been crippled by another attack from the National Party Government and their United Party colleagues.

A year and a half ago eight Nusas leaders, the so-called 'clique' were banned in order to cleanse the organisation. Well, Nusas has been cleansed - so why does it now have to be scrubbed out?

Are we to believe that another clique has taken over or is it, perhaps, that the clique the government wishes to wipe out is 27 000 strong?

The universities are an irritation to the power elite of South African society, but it is an irritation which has served as an extremely useful whipping boy. Now the power elite has made the fatal mistake of believing one of its own lies - the lie that Nusas is communist-inspired. Thus Nusas must die!

SRC plans

Attempts to form an SRC are once again off the ground. It seems that after experiencing the effect of having no SRC, students are beginning to realise the value of such a body.

The structural organisation problem of setting up an effective administrative body, still remains however.

The three proposals put forward by Graham Watts, Lynette Liebenberg and Wouter Holleman contain very different structural plans. It is now up to the students to decide whether they want an SRC or not, and if so, to decide what form it should take.

Through the sadly passed

by Duncan Simpson.

The year started off badly or so it seemed at first. Looking back now though the initial fears seem groundless.

Without an SRC it looked as though any student activity would not be able to get off the ground and clubs and societies looked forward to a bleak year without funds. Leadership on the campus was thin and most students were pessimistic about anything being done.

But then there was Freshers' Reception. This is usually organised by the SRC and without any SRC it looked as though there would be no organisation to help new students find their feet. But the

This was unusual for Rhodes which this year seems to have suffered more than ever from a lack of attendance at student meetings. Student interest in public matters was probably at its lowest ebb this year. One theory explains this by saying that students are more involved in private activities, but whatever the reason for this, Rhodes seems to have continued in its downward path to apathy.

The reaction to the Education Commission was small and the few who did react to it seem to have disappeared back to their rooms to engage in more private activities.

The Schlebusch Commission tabled its final report and a small group of students pitched up at the



leadership was there and without an SRC it was forced to develop.

Lynette Liebenberg took over the organisation of Freshers' Reception and the whole thing was handled well by her and a small group of helpers.

Another function which looked as though it would not get off the ground in 1974 was that yearly institution of drink and fun and some fund-raising - Rag. But thanks to Ben Parker et al things did get going. From the aspect of fund-raising this year's Rag was probably one of the most successful ever, and about R30 000 was raised while fun was had by many.

After the beginning of the year things for the student began to look up. Rag and Freshers' had gone ahead minus an SRC and the clubs and societies were functioning on grants from Admin. Of course at that time the famous student newspaper Rhodeo was still missing from the scene. Did anybody miss us?

TM hit the scene at Rhodes early this year and students seem to be generally following the oriental wisdom of going with the flow. Intervarsity came and went successfully and so far all the traditional institutions that one associates with Rhodes had been and gone; still without an SRC.

The vacuum left by the non-existent SRC had been filled, mainly one could say by the SRC Permanent Secretary and by now the familiar face of Lynette Liebenberg. Lynette of course appeared again to organise another of the SRC functions - Arts and Science Week.

Arts and Science Week is another of those institutions at Rhodes - one of those institutions which some say Rhodes would not be the same without (but don't forget the other more concrete institutions which have been lost such as the Oak Tree and Woodbourne).

One of the most stimulating debates of the year was held during Arts and Sciences when students were treated to the spectacle of the Rand Daily Mail's deputy editor, Alistair Sparks, fighting with the old Rhodian Nationalist Senator, Dennis Worrall, while Nancy Charton and Prof Giffard added to the sparks (no pun). Also this was probably one of the most well attended meetings of the year.

Great Hall to register their disapproval of the event and to fight about clauses and words and punctuation in motions put to the Student Body.

Of course, although most clubs and societies are functioning again without an SRC thanks to grants direct from Admin, Nusas suffered under Admin's policy of selective non-interference in student affairs. Nusas is at the moment is desperately short of funds because Admin would not release to them their usual grants.

Nusas though has managed to function fairly actively on this campus again this year, mainly it seems due to the leadership of Mike Stent who took over as chairman of Local Comm after Ben Parker's resignation. And at National Council Rhodes was well represented and was allowed to take part fully in the National Student Assembly, even though Rhodes was without an SRC.

And this brings us to the present and the resurrection of Rhodeo. Once again a small group of students managed to keep an institution at Rhodes going minus an SRC.

How successful Rhodeo will be remains to be seen, but at least it is going again.

And so that is the year. Not bad in some ways, but bad in other ways - a little bit of everything one could say.

The lack of an SRC seems to have been overcome by a development of leadership willing to get up and do something without just reacting. How long this can continue is difficult to say. Students have everything they seem to think they need.

This newspaper is published by the Editorial Board of Rhodeo at the Rhodes University Union, Grahamstown.

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General campus: Robin Law

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Nusas – new direction



by Mike Stent
NUSAS Vice-President.

Over the past few years the National Union of South African Students has definitely developed an action-oriented approach. This has entailed the development, on each campus, of fairly small specialised groups focussing their activity in specific areas. Wages Commissions are perhaps the most clear example of this.

However, much the same applied, perhaps to a lesser extent, to other project groups. One important consequence of this is that a small proportion of each student body was actively involved in the National Union's activities. Further, since these project groups' prime concern was with the implementation of their projects, their communication of what they were doing with the rest of the campus suffered.

However, the 1974 Congress introduced a new and exciting dimension into NUSAS's activities at a local and a National level. Our prime concern must be in developing a critical awareness of ourselves on our campuses in our society, an awareness that most certainly will find an active expression in project work. However, it has become a question of placing the horse firmly in front of the cart - initiating and participating in programmes that develop our awareness as students, and which might involve, as the out-working of learning, an active engagement in university and in the rest of society.

So far, I have continually linked the university and society. This requires clarification, as our understanding of this link must be the cornerstone of the National Union's approach.

Firstly, it is clear the University and the rest of society are not discrete entities. The price of the books we buy is determined beyond the walls of the university.

More important, admission to the university, the choice of who may be appointed as teachers in the university, the kinds of work that may be done by students on campuses - all these are limited, to some large degree or another, by legislation passed in Parliament.

Thirdly, and most important, labour, like raw materials, is a commodity that is bought and sold according to conditions that are determined beyond the campus. Students are potential labour, a commodity to be trained to fill certain positions demanded by society's production imperatives.

Therefore, if we talk about university freedom or bondage, and a concern about the quality of our education is a concern about the quality of the

society in which that education takes place. And so, as a university community I think there are two underlying problems which we must confront.

Firstly, we must be aware of the kind of pressures which society as a whole has upon us. Furthermore, we must decide about these pressures - do we approve or disapprove of them, will we encourage them or resist and attempt to change them.

Secondly, we must be aware of the ways in which the university acts upon the rest of society and of the way in which the university itself is organised. Again, a decision is involved, to accept and co-operate, or to reject and work for change in the university.

This then summarises the new emphasis in the National Union - within NUSAS Local Committees and SRC's themselves and out to the rest of campus.

We will work towards developing a more acutely critical and creative relation to the rest of our total environment, and to developing ways that can express, in action, our growing understanding.

Fine sentiments, you might say (again you might not) but how will this "programme of critical awareness" be undertaken in reality? How do you intend to involve more students in NUSAS's activities? Firstly, the Head Office Executive and structure at a local level has been considerably changed.

The affiliate organisations, NUSWEL, NUSED, and AQUARIUS will dissolve at the end of this year. The major reason for this is to assist in developing a cohesive and integrated approach within NUSAS focussed on campus and to break down the inter-affiliate competition which hampered this. Consequently, a considerable emphasis has been placed upon seminars and media. There is one member of the Head Office Executive who is Seminars Officer and one who is Media Officer. The other Head Office posts are those of President, Social Action Officer, Finance Officer and Secretary-General of the Aquarius project. This structure is more or less reflected at local level.

As regards seminars, the basic idea is to focus upon areas of interest in the student community to develop learning programmes which develop a greater understanding of these areas and of their relation to other issues. For example, the local people concerned with developing seminar programmes might get into contact with sociology students. An issue which might concern them could be the uses to which sociology is put prior to graduation.

Together a programme could be developed examining the assumptions

of the discipline and constructive proposals could emerge for altering the course or running a series of "parallel lectures" that explore aspects of sociology not covered in the curriculum. Or, there might be a concern about the destruction of the environment. The seminars group could then initiate a group's forming which studies the issues in detail and develop a programme which actively seeks to confront the problems. There are numerous possibilities, all of which involve students and all of which involve constructive decisions on the part of students in their running and in the activity which might arise from them.

The media programme backs this up and opens debate within the student body through publications, movies, slide tape shows and so on. An important thing which the media pro-

gramme should be geared to doing is improving communication about SRC and NUSAS local activities with the student body.

The re-direction of resources in implementing the new direction holds considerable promise for the National Union's functioning on both national and local levels. However, the point remains that neither SRC's or NUSAS can operate adequately (whatsoever its direction) unless we as students are prepared to involve ourselves intelligently in the activities which these leadership groups can offer. This involvement might well entail a realignment of priorities for individual students but there can be little doubt that such a realignment would be of considerable benefit for students in the university, and for society as a whole.

...and new executive

At the 51st NUSAS Congress, Mike Stent, a second year BA student at Rhodes was elected Vice-President of the National Union.

This is the first time a Rhodes student has made it to a senior post on the national executive in four years. Mike was also elected to the post of Seminars Officer, a newly-created post under NUSAS's new structure. Mike, who comes from Durban, first came to Rhodes in 1970 but left after first year to work as a research assistant. He returned to Rhodes this year and is doing Sociology, Theology and Philosophy. Mike became local chairman when Ben Parker resigned at the beginning of this year.

Other members of NUSAS's new executive are:

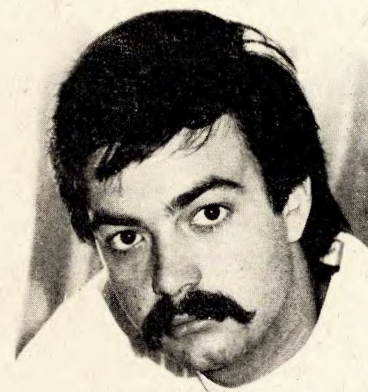
Karel Tip who has a BA (Hons) from Natal University, Durban. Prior to his first election to Nusas executive, Karel was studying for an LLB. In the previous executive Karel was Vice-President and Secretary-General of NUSWEL, the Social Action affiliate. He is now President-elect of the National Union.



Karel Tip

Paddy Lee-Thorpe the Secretary-General of Aquarius for the past two years, was elected Media Officer - responsible for publications, movies, etc. He is married and has a young son.

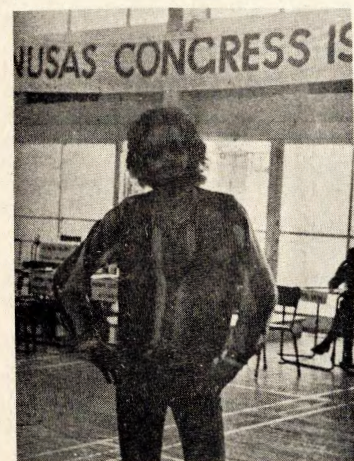
Gerry Mare, a graduate from Natal University, Durban, was elected as Social Action Officer. For the past year he has been the Deputy Secretary-General of NUSWEL.



Paddy Lee-Thorpe

Barry Gilder was elected Secretary-General of the Aquarius project. He is a graduate of Wits and was Deputy Secretary-General of Aquarius from July 1973 to July 1974. He is an accomplished jazz pianist with a wide-ranging interest in the arts. He is planning to get married later this year.

Craig Williamson, a third year student at Wits, was elected to the post of Finance Officer. He was the Honorary Treasurer of Wits SRC for the 1973-1974 term of office. He is also married.



Barry Gilder.

We Missed Dollar Brand

WHAT ...

Jazz 'n the S.A. scene

The Dollar Brand concert scheduled to take place at Rhodes University was cancelled: What does this mean to students here and, on a more general level, to the musical culture of South Africa?

First let us take a look at the jazz situation as it exists in South Africa today. As far as 'white jazz' is concerned, it is almost non-existent, whereas 'black jazz' is developing at an unbelievable rate. (Mankunku - sax, Pillay - piano, Sithole - sax, Magwaza - bass, Mabuza - drums, etc).

Unfortunately though, most of this jazz is unavailable to white audiences.

Three years ago, I was privileged to be able to play with Winston Mankunku's quartet at one of the few 'open' jazz sessions at Wits University. This concept in itself is donated to an 'aesthetic consciousness' so much lacking in this country. Many students become aware of a great art form, which had previously been denied them, because of political circumstances. There are numerous similar jazz groups in Soweto and other main centres, that are known to black audiences only.

Jazz started as an art form more than 60 years ago with the formation of *King Oliver and his Creole Jazz Band* in New Orleans. The idiom became infectious and a section of New Orleans, called "Storyville" was inhabited exclusively by jazzmen. (Names like J.J. Johnson, King Oliver, Louis Armstrong). Eventually, jazz, like its predecessor, Blues, spread through the United States, and more recently over to England and France. It is no more a 'type of music, but a field of music' including many forms of the idiom. Up until 1953 jazz had a very basic syncopation depending upon the traditional 4/4, 3/4 and occasional 2/4 tempos.

In the middle of the 50's, due to specifically to the work of Ornette Coleman, came the Jazz Renaissance. Coleman wrote pieces with 5/4, 6/8 and 9/4 tempos and started a revolutionally movement which became known as Progressive Jazz, featuring names like Miles Davies, John McLaughlin, Ornette Coleman, Charles Mingus, Cannonball Adderley, Lalo Schiffrin, Horace Silver.

If one surveys the jazz scene today one will find a number of stylistically different movements within it:

- * Progressive Jazz - e.g. Miles Davis
- * Traditional Jazz - e.g. Thelonious Monk.
- * Orchestral Jazz - e.g. Lalo Schiffrin.
- * Bach(et al) Restoration Jazz - Jacques Loussier
- * East Coast Jazz - e.g. Gerry Mulligan
- * West Coast Jazz - e.g. Freddie Hubbard
- * Experimental Jazz - e.g. Dave Brubeck
- * New Orleans Revival - various French Artists.

Within this structure also falls various other Jazzmen who have been able to affiliate the jazz they play, with their National life style.

This sort chronology shows the extent of jazz in the world. The reason for jazz's existence is due to the syncopated beat obtained from shuffling Negroes in chain gangs. This subsequently developed into one of the major art forms, which has progressed for the past 67 years and is still doing so.

In the same way, the political and social position of blacks in South Africa is conducive to a similar indigenous art form. This has in fact been the case, but due to the absolute disregard shown by the whites, there is not enough outlet for the average black musician.

Consequently musicians like Mankunku and Dollar Brand leave this country and are able to make it overseas. This suppression of jazz and blues also contributes to the standard of popular music produced by local artistes.

Below is a simplified chronology of the natural progression which has given rise to today's popular music.

- * 1890's Blues Origin
- * 1900's Birth of Jazz
- * 1950's Birth of Rock and Roll
- * 1960's Rhythm and Blues
- * Late 1960's & 1970's Rock Music

The same progression might have existed in South African music, had it been given a fair chance to develop.

The Blues resulted from the suppression of the black man in the Southern States of the USA



South Africa today has obviously parallel circumstances. South African popular music, however, is based on what remnants can be obtained from overseas and doesn't even reach the low standard of the more 'inferior' musicians from whom material is borrowed.

Where does Dollar Brand fit in? In the last five years Dollar Brand is the first black American jazzman to tour South Africa and to play to white audiences. This appearance would have meant a taste of pure, live jazz.

Dollar Brand is far from being the top pianist in America, but he represents a part of jazz that South Africans have not yet experienced. That is, the experience of being part of a traditional concert; being involved in the live syncopation, innovations and improvisations so essential to the jazz idiom.

Rhodes students missed this experience. If as few as five students had been interested in the idiom of either, follow it up in terms of 'aesthetic awareness', or to exploit it in terms of a possible musical career, it would have made Dollar Brand's appearance more than worthwhile.

by Colin Mandell

WHY ...

Admin's lame excuse

Monday evening:

"Hey, have you heard Dollar Brand's been cancelled?"

"Who's Dollar Brand?"

"That jazz show they were putting on. I heard the pigs were hassling Admin."

"Oh that! Never mind, there's a party on; we can get drunk."

Why was the Dollar Brand Jazz Show allowed to be staged on other South African university campuses without the permission of the Department of Community Development?

Aquarius sought legal advice and was assured that the show could be staged here within the normal restrictions. Since there have been no legal alterations to these already unjust restrictions, did the Rhodes

Administration act on their own initiative in creating these unnecessary difficulties that resulted in the cancellation of the concert?

Aquarius approached Dr Hyslop and were told that the names of the people attending the concert had to be given to the South African Police beforehand. If this new development was the Administration's idea, what twist of reasoning brought them to stifle culture inside this culturally starved university?

We suggest however, that there was some form of pressure on the Administration from outside the university. The extreme measure of presenting names to the police could hardly be credited even to this Administration.

The Administration's lame excuse of 'legal advice' is no reason for causing the concert to be cancelled. Less than a week later a play was staged on this campus by black players, without any of the extraneous conditions laid down for the Dollar Brand concert. This shows the inconsistency and arbitrariness of the Administration's handling of student affairs in the absence of an SRC.

Whether the responsibility for the concert cancellation rests on the S.A. Police or the Administration, the far-reaching consequences of this decision have been accepted without as much as a murmur of discontent by the majority of Rhodes students.

No, this isn't another story about the erosion of your basic rights or the political intrusion into your culture, but we had an opportunity to educate ourselves and somebody prevented this education. This was an abuse of power simply because this is an educational institution.



The student docility in the acceptance of this arbitrary act shows a lack of cultural interest on this campus.

What will you do when the police want the names of the people attending your drunken party?

Editor's note: When I received this article I went to the organisers to find out if this article was completely true.

The organisers said that Admin's 'legal advice' was in their best interests in the light of what has happened in past shows where students had taken invitations for multiracial shows and distributed them to people who were not members of this university. This was done without the organisers' knowledge and while the organisers would agree with this in their private capacities it was unfortunately illegal.

Admin was probably scared that this would be repeated and because of previous police repercussions, decided not to allow the show to be staged.





RUTV: FIRST SCREENPLAY

Students and members of the Journalism and Speech and Drama Departments completed the first filming of a screenplay for television in the Rhodes University Theatre Box recently.

The project formed one of the departmental exhibitions open to the public on the final day of Arts and Science Week on Rhodes campus.

Four complete filming sessions were held throughout the day. An estimated 150 people attended and were able to view the finished product on a standard television screen after each session.

After watching the filming and playbacks visitors were invited to tour the controls room above the studio under the guidance of Professor Tony Giffard, head of the Journalism Department.

The screenplay itself was adapted from a section of Noel Coward's *Private Lives* and played by Jon Maytham and Lyrr Addison. The filming was directed by Graeme Addison of the Journalism Department. The audiences in the studio were given a commentary on the proceedings by Dr Les Switzer, also of the Journalism Department.

Sound and engineering were handled by the studio technician, Mr Lionel Bousfield.

Technically speaking, this was the most ambitious project yet undertaken in the studio. It has indicated that there is a genuine interest and enthusiasm, as well as creative ability, among staff and students in this type of work.

It seems however that very little of this work will be followed up under the existing circumstances: the equipment is all there, but only the departments of Journalism and Speech and Drama have access to it. Students and staff members who are interested in its use for extra-curricular work of a creative nature are unable to make use of it.

Obviously it would be disastrous to suggest that any person at the university simply be allowed to saunter in an play with the equipment. It does seem feasible, however, to propose that a student organisation such as the R.U. Dramatic Union which has official access to the theatre, be granted similar access, under the close supervision of a suitably qualified person, to the television equipment.

~ film page ~

FILMSOC SPEAKS OUT

This year's audiences were justified in looking forward to something completely different when eye-catching pamphlets advertised Filmsoc's theme as "Le Nouveaux". But where is "Third World Cinema" in the trad thrillers, cliched drama and hackneyed romanticism that has been screened?

Aiming to eliminate the Filmsoc audience credibility gap is the new committee, chaired by Mike Wilson. In an interview after the AGM on August 11, new committee member, John McCormick, praised ex-chairman Brian Nunn for his handling of Filmsoc's finances. When Brian took over in 1973 Filmsoc was R200 in the red - it now has R500 in the bank.

'GATSBY'....



FITZGERALD'S OR CLAYTON'S?

Jack Clayton's production of the *Great Gatsby* opened in Johannesburg recently. The show has been on the overseas circuits for some time now and the primary concern of most of its critics has been the question (if it is at all relevant) 'Is this Fitzgerald's or Clayton's *Gatsby*?'

Some 25 years ago a gangster movie, entitled 'Gatsby' and starring Betty Field, Shelley Winters and Alan Ladd was produced in America. Critics of the time seem to agree that its only connection with Fitzgerald's novel was its name.

The criticism levelled at the current 'Gatsby' is not quite as condemning, but nevertheless does seem to have some substance.

The actual adaptation of the novel for the screen was commenced by Truman Capote, but was taken over and finished by Clayton and Francis Ford Coppola. One major contention of critics has been the addition of a totally new sequence which Clayton believes 'is really cheated in the book, and perfectly justifiable in the film'.

The sequence presumably attempts to show something of the relationship between Gatsby and Daisy after they meet again. It consists mainly of the two waltzing alone (Gatsby, symbolically enough, in his old army uniform) about a single candlestick. If the film is, as South African billboards have it, the 'greatest love story ever told', then this addition might seem justified. One hopes, however, that Fitzgerald was writing about something more than just a great love story.

Another scene that Clayton and Coppola feel was 'enormously thrown away' in the book, is that of the death of Myrtle Wilson. This seems a rather sweeping statement to make about a passage in the book which has been able to capture the full vulgarity and violence of Myrtle's death in its setting.

Nevertheless Clayton believes that he has been able to remedy this fault by the inclusion of a scene in which Nick and Gatsby's father drive through the valley of ashes on their way to the funeral and we see Katherine, Myrtle's sister, coming out of the house to dispose of some junk.

Clayton, it appears, not only feels

that the novel lacks or misses scenes, but that in places it includes totally unnecessary ones too. He has jettisoned the scene, which he himself regards as hilarious, of the owl-eyed man and the accident in Gatsby's driveway in which one car loses its wheel. Clayton's views are that 'it's virtually the only scene where none of the principles is present, ... the story stops, and you're asking yourself what the scene is really about'.

What seems wrong here is not so much the loss of the scene, as the implications of this statement, coming from the man who has undertaken to direct something which is not easily adaptable to screen. By this same reasoning, and the fact that Fitzgerald's is a fairly compact and short novel, why did the author bother to include any passages at all which did not have any direct effect on the propagation of the action?

Guided possibly by the same sentiments, Clayton has seen fit to totally gloss over the attractive, and surely thematically significant character of Dan Cody.

Whether the production is able to capture on the screen what Fitzgerald did in the book seems rather aptly summed up by Penelope Houston in 'Sight and Sound'. 'But in the long run, the film is not so much the sum of its parts as the sum of its props: tunes, clothes, hair styles, the yellow Rolls Royce, Gatsby's shirts, his pink suit, his hair-brushes, his swimming pool. Gatsby's particular dream of recreating the past becomes submerged in the movie's dream of recreating the 1920's, for an audience supposedly avid for nostalgia'.

Ultimately the question of whose *Gatsby* this is need have no bearing on the enjoyment or otherwise of most viewers, but there will certainly be purists to whom it will seem relevant. The answer, it seems, is contained in the book itself: Nick Carraway expresses the sentiment that the world is best looked at through 'a single window'. Fitzgerald has obviously made Nick this single window for the reader, and allowed him to consciously structure the story as he feels is best to give a true picture of *Gatsby*. It is surely doubtful then, that any direction will ever come close enough for the purist and Fitzgerald fanatics.

The final selection of films is thrashed out at Filmsoc meetings and although interested persons can make suggestions to the committee via the SRC offices, this was never done.

John said Filmsoc could not be blamed for the failure of films to arrive on time. Filmsoc cannot afford to pay the R30 which guarantees the film for a certain date, but pays R20 with an order made well in advance to Port Elizabeth and Johannesburg.

He said Filmsoc was well aware of the poor quality of sound and reproduction on a large number of films and said this was largely due to the "antiquated" sound and projector equipment. The new committee aims at raising funds to buy more modern equipment. It feels justified in screening advertising slides before shows to boost finances, and hopes

audiences will be patient.

The uncomfortable GLT venue could be changed to the Chemistry lecture theatre if Filmsoc could assure the authorities that there will be no smoking, scratching on desks, running over seats or any other form of vandalism.

Speculating on the future, John said that the committee hoped to screen popular box-office hits on Sundays - a night when people go to movies for the sake of something to do - and keep Thursdays for films with small audience appeal.

He added that there is a small chance of changing at least four of the films ordered by the outgoing committee due to be screened in the last term. Audiences will be notified of changes well in advance.

'THE METEOR'



In June this year the R.U. Dramatic Union produced *The Meteor*, a play by Friedrich Durrenmatt. The play and some of its meanings seemed at the time to baffle audiences and theatre critics alike, and relatively little seems to be known in South Africa about Durrenmatt's work.

Rob Moore has a couple of things to say about Durrenmatt's themes in general, those of the *Meteor* in particular and how he feels RUDU's production succeeded in putting these over to the audience.

The three basic facets underlying Durrenmatt's drama occur in a definite sequence: First God, then the individual and finally worldly chaos. His early plays concern man's pilgrimage to God, in which the way of the individual, the path to be followed is stressed.

For him there is no rational faith, no man-made road to God; "for him who God blesses, He curses in a worldly sense". He sees all life as being viewed under the divine *No*. Man must first become aware of his imperfection, that his worldly life is a dead end, before he can earn God's *Yes*.

Durrenmatt explores the conflicts between idealism and worldly reality and while the individual is still subject to Divine Judgment, the dramatic stress is laid on the courage of the individual in upholding his faith.

Durrenmatt wrote the *Meteor* in 1966. That his Divine Plan continues in the *Meteor* is not immediately evident, and the religious portent of the play is easily missed, resulting perhaps in the confusion expressed by many people after seeing the RUDU production.

Schwitter, the protagonist in the *Meteor*, functions as the individual within the chaotic society, but in contrast to Durrenmatt's previous "individuals", Schwitter has no sense of the Divine Plan, nor is there any religious realisation or reconciliation even at the climax of the play on the part of Schwitter. This is directly responsible for the situation at the close of the play. I will elaborate on this point later.

Schwitter, as the meteoric figure, destroys what little social structure or inward faith there exists among the characters he comes into contact with, thereby increasing the worldly chaos, and becoming a destructive element him-

self. The Great Muheim, after Schwitter has carelessly devastated the faith he had had in one person "for whom it was worth rolling in the filth", says "I've been eliminated, cancelled out, crushed underfoot, derided, besmirched ..." and declares himself to be "... Her Muheim, a music-hall routine ..." At all points in the play he rejects normal human values and beliefs, except perhaps pure hedonism, stating at one point, "Guilt, atonement, justice, freedom, mercy, love - they're simply the self-justifications."

In dialogue with Frau Nomsen, the lavatory attendant and whoremonger, Schwitter says, "You sold flesh for money, and that's an honest profession. I can see the point of that. I too was honest, in my way. I wrote only to earn money, I cashed in on the fantasies of others and kept clear of philosophical pronouncements or moral judgments."

Schwitter will not realise that he is equally part of the chaos and equally to blame: "All those others who've been here - I can't make head or tail of them, they're all so entangled in life, so corrupted by it - fools, murderers, thieves, the lot of them." These descriptions could be applied to Schwitter himself. His only honesty is from an egotistical or hedonistic point of view.

The only concrete statement within the play that suggests Durrenmatt's Divine Plan is the character of Parson Lutz who appears after one of Schwitter's numerous resurrections, stating his belief that Schwitter has been genuinely resurrected and holding it as a proof for Christianity. Schwitter is totally facetious and treat the parson and his belief in an irritated manner.

The parson's speech states explicitly the situation of Christianity, particularly in the light of Schwitter's standpoint as I've outlined above.

Parson

May God show you mercy...

... It's hard to preach the gospel of the sacred death and resurrection of Christ and to have no evidence other than one's faith. The disciples had it somewhat easier, with all respect I have to say this. The Lord lived among them. Before their very eyes he performed miracle ... It wasn't so hard

to believe then. But that was a long time ago ... I beheld Thy light. Show mercy also unto those who are not able to see Thy glory, for they are blinded by Thy invisibility.

Schwitter will not recognise the Divine Plan. Yet he realises the chaos in the world. After his condemnation of the people he has met, he states: "Life is a carelessness of nature, an aberration of the carbon atom, a growth on the face of the earth, and incurable scab. Compounded from the dead, we decompose into the dead."

With this realisation of the purposelessness of the chaos he desires only death: "Everything had become a matter of complete indifference to me, and nothing had weight any longer, nothing had sense, nothing had meaning or value. Death is the only reality."

Ironically Schwitter realises the truth in a twisted fashion. According to Durrenmatt's Divine Plan, the only sense to life is salvation after death, but Schwitter doesn't see further than plain death. "Dead is dead".

Schwitter desires death, the release from chaos, but because of his lack of faith he must absurdly carry on living in his self-realised hell.

In a sense, Schwitter is a tragic figure, as tragic a figure as Durrenmatt will create, in that Schwitter realises his own horrific position: "Life is cruel, blind, bried and accidental". "Everyone falls apart ... and only I have to keep on living!"

More important, Schwitter realises the universal tragedy over and above his own personal suffering: "Death is the only reality. But of course, anger remains. Anger that things happened this way and not any other way, that's the stupidity of it all - that's the monstrous knowledge that keeps me angry and will not let me die!"

A relevant question to ask would be "why has Durrenmatt chosen a comic form to express essentially tragic themes?" Durrenmatt, in an essay headed "Problems of the Theatre", writes:

AFTER THE RELAPSE

Immediately after *The Relapse*, the R.U. Speech and Drama Department will be presenting a modern drama, Harold Printer's *Old Times*.

Printer was born in London in 1930 and has produced a body of work for stage, television and films which has given him an international reputation.

Old Times is one of his recent plays and Derek Mahon of "The Listeners" has said of it that it is "... fleshed with haunting language, with a complex intelligence that confirms, once again, the quality and distinction of Printer's talents."

Twenty years after they had lived

"Comedy alone is suitable for us, our world has led to the grotesque as well as the atom bomb. But the grotesque is only a way of expressing in a tangible manner, of making us perceive physically the paradoxical, the form of the unformed, the face of a world without a face..."

"But the tragic is still possible even if pure tragedy is not. We can achieve the tragic out of the comedy. We can bring it forth as a frightening moment, as an abyss that opens suddenly..."

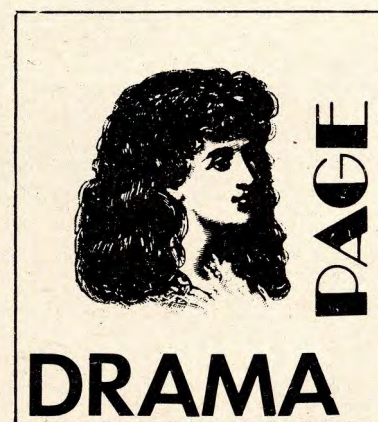
Having looked at some of the motivating themes of the *Meteor*, I will discuss briefly the RUDU production of the play.

The aim of the producer was, I think, to "scatter the dirt" as it were, and I think that this was often fairly successful. But here my criticism begins: The dirt was scattered, but for what purpose? All the motivating themes and justifications for the comedy were almost totally ignored. At the end of the play was a sense of tragedy, about the figure of Schwitter and an awareness that he was unable to die as he desired but the lack lay in the fact that the essence of the tragedy and the reasons for Schwitter's seeming immortality were not at all clearly expressed. The key part of Parson Lutz was, I feel, handled completely incorrectly: If any part of the play should have been interpreted seriously and sincerely, it was this one.

The parson should never have become a figure of fun, driven about the stage like a donkey. His last speech should have been handled with as much emphasis and meaning as possible.

On the other hand, Frau Nomsen, the lavatory attendant, the one character with whom, ironically, Schwitter can identify, was handled in the right vein with all the comedy her lines suggest. Similarly, the part of Olga, Schwitter's last wife was handled with the pathos necessary to exhibit another facet of Schwitter's character, that Schwitter was in fact capable of some feeling if only very little and momentarily.

The production succeeded very definitely, I felt, in communicating the energy and strength of the character of Schwitter and the disintegration of the characters around him. The comedy of his part was handled with the subtlety that enabled him to have the sense of the tragic. We were aware that Schwitter, unlike Muheim, was no music-hall routine.



together in London, Anna revisits Kate, now married to Deeley. The visit stirs up vivid memories of old times in all three, sometimes complementary, sometimes conflicting. Yet, as the play progresses, it becomes clear that what is stirred in them is more than memory - it is also an awareness of the gulfs between them.

The play is directed by John de Reuck, and designed by Sean Dewar. Deeley is played by David Bunyan, Kate by Jenny de Reuck and Anna by Anne Williams. Performances are private, but invitations are obtainable from John de Reuck at Struben House, and from the Speech and Drama Departmental secretary.

Last laugh before exams

The Speech and Drama Department's last production of the year, *The Relapse*, by Sir John Van Brugh, is as comically fresh as it was three centuries ago.

For a last laugh before the final exams, you cannot do better than see this Restoration romp.

Professional actor, Raymond Davies, heads the cast as the outrageously camp Lord Foppington. Mr Davies was last seen on the Rhodes Theatre stage as Azdak in *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*.

Others in the cast are Alice Krige, Arlene Katz, Andrew Buckland, Robert Sharman, Murray Steyn, Scott Hawker, Sally Ashby, Linda Frauenstein, Jon Maythem and Richard McKenzie. Roy Sargent directs.

Special music, written by Michael Tuffin, will be performed by Robert Mayr and a group of musicians on guitar, flute, harpsicord and strings. Gary Gorden choreographed the dancing.

Booking is open at Kaif each lunch-time and between 5.30 and 6.30 pm. Performances at Rhodes Theatre on September 5, 6, 7 and 9, 10 at 6.00 and 9.00 pm.



The Relapse in rehearsal. From left to right: Andrew Buckland, Jon Maythem, Richard McKenzie, Scott Hawker, and Sally Ashby.

THOUGHTS ON CERAMIC ART

by David Burn.

"My desire was to give these audiences my own sense of something wild and unrestricted that ran like water in the mountains, or clouds changing shape in a gale, or the continually dissolving and transforming images of a dream. This sort of freedom is not chaos nor anarchy. On the contrary, it is the result of painstaking design and in this work I have given more conscious attention to form than I have in any work before. Freedom is not achieved simply by working freely." (Tennessee Williams)

Again the gyre of popular fancy in the field of art has changed. From the once so popular French Impressionism, Art Nouveau and Art Deco, our fickle tastes have apparently changed (according to 'Realities', Jan. 1974) to an ever increasing demand for 19th Century Academic Art and the 'Primitive Arts'.

This trend runs hand-in-hand with the current social reaction against artificiality and towards 'spontaneity'. Whitman and Laurence rather than Eliot and Blake, are the often-quoted poets of this era. In keeping with this movement there has been a widespread revival of interest in one of the oldest art forms known to man - pottery.



Unfortunately, many of the initiating forces behind this revival seem to be founded on misconceptions. Most prominent amongst these is the belief that ceramic art is the perfect outlet for amorphous frustra-

tions and spontaneous experiment. This is untrue. Clay is not a benign earth excretion capable of filling artist and novice alike with primal simplicity and creative genius. It is rather a versatile, hard to master, yet highly rewarding material to work with.



One attribute of clay that determines, more than any other, the form and techniques of ceramic art, is its extreme malleability and tactually inviting texture. This, apart from being an attribute, seems to pose extreme difficulties to those who begin to work with clay. It is too easy to lapse into complete abandonment and produce masses of spontaneous finger-exercises that are worthless and totally uninteresting. A conscious effort has to be made to channel one's emotional responses and couple them to new and old techniques to produce a sensitive and original piece of work. Only an intimate, experience-based, knowledge of the art and its idiosyncracies can reward one with anything other than mediocre ceramic art.

Typically, a medium-sized piece of ceramic sculpture would take about four months to complete. A typical period of time for the contemplation of the work by an appreciative critic would be about ten minutes. The juxtaposition of these different time scales, in conjunction with the peculiar qualities of fired earthenware, seems to give the work the inherent timelessness that is so often commented upon.

Another factor that contributes to this effect is surely that of the basic ardour of techniques involved in producing the work. Wet clay is carved and shaped (or thrown), left to dry, then bisque forced in a high-temperature kiln. After this the

piece is glazed and re-fired. To render this in a more subjective and interesting manner let me rather say that an image or idea (the result of imagination) is reproduced in plastic clay and then fired, to capture it and render it timeless.

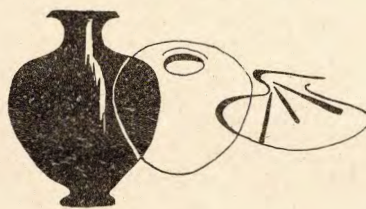
"However dramatic the theme and the plastic whole may be, the linking in fusion, the agogic slowing of action and the poetic structure of the time..." (Etienne Souriau)

It seems to me that all great works of art exist in a type of temporal no-man's land. It is this, the ability to erect a monument between the lines of time, that glorifies great works of art.

*"Between the conception
And the creation
Between the emotion
And the response
Falls the shadow.*

*Life is very long.
(T.S. Eliot)*

This is surely where the work of art stands and draws its greatest subject matter from - the 'shadow area'. This is what prompts the artist to freeze the Titanic above the fatal iceberg, Icarus, mouth agape, in the midst of the fall, the touch of the fingers of God and Adam.



In creating ceramic art the temporal gap between 'emotion' and 'response' is very small. The clay medium responds immediately to the slightest touch as opposed to the painstaking process of sculpture in stone. The brain of the artist moves the hand to react, to form, and in working with clay this is difficult to control and results in works being ruined, time after time, from too much 'spontaneity'. In pottery one must anticipate this quick-reaction time, or a shapeless mass arises; monotonous and with little regard for the displacement of space and time, or comment on the human condition.

We live our lives as spectators, viewing periods of time. Daily predictable occurrences, eras rather than instants, measure our existence: the

Jazz Age, Autumns, coffee breaks and opening times. We are relatively unaware of the multiplicity of particular split-second events that join second to second, minute to minute. Through the medium of sculpture and ceramics the artist is able to capture the particular, infinitely important and otherwise transient elements of existence.

Science can give us data to describe the relative attraction between objects in space but Henry Moore gives the inward sweep of three bronze points almost touching - and the space between them is electric.

There is constant debate going on about whether 'art is a cheap imitation of nature' or not. I believe that it is not, but whatever our feelings about this, we must surely agree that art takes its inspiration from each individual's interpretative view of nature and humanity.

What makes any piece a masterpiece is surely to be found in the degree of original workmanship that has lent shape and significance to the material. This is particularly true of ceramic art and an added appeal is that pottery, as no other art, is vulnerable, fragile. The mastery of workmanship, the depicted frozen instant in a piece of sculpture, is entirely vulnerable to careless hands and the idle, final brush of a coat sleeve.

Pottery stands with the greatest of the arts of space. In its extreme versatility, fragility, beauty of form and texture, ceramic art holds for me a particular appeal - but more than anything else, it seems to offer one justification for human endeavour and to restate the theme that 'Life is very long'.



S.A. RUGBY: What's happened?

By Tony Stoops,
Sports Editor.

Former All-Black Bob Scott said on SABC's "Talking Sport" after the third S.A.- Lions Test that South Africa has no natural players.

By natural players he meant individuals who have their own distinctive style, the ability to adapt it to suit any situation and, most of all, the ability to stamp his mark of control on the game.

The panel in the aforementioned programme agreed that the closest we have is Peter Kirsten, but he is too young. The last we had was H.O. de Villiers, but he is too

old. The national selectors have a great deal of influence on natural players, sadly to say. They cramp these players' styles so that they play to roles that don't suit them. For instance, much has been said about how H.O. was told to forget his normal style and play as he was ordered. At least his strength of character helped carry him on.

Playing players out of position in test matches is the most ridiculous manifestation of this cramping. Snyman isn't a centre nor Sonnekus a scrumhalf worth mentioning.

There were other scrumhalves: Wol-



marans. Butch van Wyk, even Chicken Gendall and the three Hamilton reserve scrumhalves all of whom are 'world class'. This is courting disaster and got it.

While dealing with the national side of rugby let us take a look at the lack of competition in the Currie Cup. I venture to say that until quite recently this was the most popular internal sports competition in South Africa but nowadays the fare served up just isn't good enough.

There is very little strength here. Suppose the draw, which allows for the top of Section B to play the winner of 1st in Section A vs 1st in Section B in the final, had put E.O.F.S., N.O.F.S., Border, S.W.D. and N.W. Cape and S.E. Transvaal in Section B. This would mean a side like S.E. Transvaal could get through on a lucky draw which is insane.

Next year there will be an improvement, we are told. I recall that last year and the year before. I think this unbalanced competition provides us with our biggest problems: complacency (we'll win, we always do), lack of tackling, (just take them any way you can) and weak scrummaging.

Suppose we are with two national selectors watching Transvaal play Eastern Free State. Transvaal don't try too hard because they know they can coast to victory. E.O.F.S. are so demoralised that they go after TVL in a half-hearted way and cutting through is easy. Transvaal don't have much opposition in the tight exchanges and hardly strain at the scrums.

E.O.F.S. hardly ever get the ball and so Transvaal don't have to tackle. It's hopeless having maybe three hard games a season. This combined with a lack of regular international competition leads to a diluted form of rugby throughout our country. Only the super league can save us from total collapse.

Surely the professional approach should manifest itself in a more determined and polished kind of rugby. Bad language also flies around when something adverse occurs. The tactics adopted in all quarters of the game are also quite appalling. They either try to scare the opponents off with robust scrummaging, intimidatory tackles etcetera (if they are a weaker side than yourselves) or if they are stronger then spoiling tactics are adopted. Anything to prevent the opponents settling down falls into that category. This is the converse of the professional attitude: if you can't win, make sure the other side doesn't have it all their way.

Dirty play must come in here. A realisation that one is being beaten at one's game brings on a terrible feeling of frustration and fists are as good an outlet as any for this panic. Why is there fighting? "Well, it's tough out there, you know" starts the common reply. Maybe some small, unintentional injustice is done and retaliation occurs. Rhodes versus RAU for instance in 1973. The schoolboys see this in the big games and immediately consider it the done thing and simulate

it with horrible results. Some schools' administrations do however pour battery acid on rugby's pretty face by telling the schools at Friday assemblies that they must win or face penalties for failure.

This fighting must be eradicated throughout. Send offenders off as soon as they offend irrespective of whether it is in retaliation or not. All the little schoolgirls or university hangs look upon someone who fights as a tough guy and admire him or even laugh when recalling a telling blow on his part. How would they consider him if he suffered the burning disgrace of being ordered from the field. This expulsion from the game could hand a knock to at least one local school.

Crowd behaviour.

This varied aspect of the game serves two purposes in the decline of rugby, but fortunately only in the Northern part of the land. The first and perhaps worst is to fluster the referee by hurling abuse at him for minor mistakes and hurling naartjies at him for major mistakes.

The crowd works itself to a high pitch especially when a victory against the odds is in the offing to the extent that the slightest mistake gets exaggerated beyond proportion.

I saw the Lions play the Quaggas and didn't often agree with the referee but I am quite sure that Mr Gourlay was a bit nervous after the hysterically voiced displeasure of 50 000 Transvaalians when he did not allow an apparently perfect try in the first 20 minutes. The scene at the end is history and to my mind the worst foul I have ever seen. Imagine the effect all this mass hysteria has on the side which is being wronged: they feel they have support in their indignation and go to town. Thank God the Quaggas kept going in the true spirit of rugby and kept the game free of incidents. With the crowd at your backs, anything can happen.

Letters to The Editor

Dear sir,

In view of the climate of political stagnation in South Africa at the moment, I would like to bring to the attention of the university the aims and principles of Verligte Action.

Verligte Action was born out of the need for change in South African society and shown phenomenal growth in some of the larger centres.

Our working format is as follows:

- * We are concerned: about the future of South Africa and its people;
- about the humiliations, restrictions and injustices to which many of our citizens are subjected;
- about the growing frustration and bitterness amongst various groups of our community, the increasing antagonism between language and colour groups and the danger of open confrontation.

- * We realise: that many of the present ills are the result of history, ignorance, and an inability to comprehend the full effect of attitudes and actions. that actions were often animated by a mistaken belief that they would be the best means to ensure the survival and preservation of our various peoples and their cultures and to secure peace and prosperity. that some of the policies that have been followed, many of the practical steps taken and many of the attitudes displayed have achieved a contrary result, inasmuch as they have become the main cause of frustration and irritation in our country.

- * We believe: that the time has come for a fundamental re-appraisal of attitudes, policies and actions; that the time has arrived for all South Africans to assist in the eradication of prejudice and the removal of injustice; that the future of our country can be built on the principle of non-discrimination, of respect for the dignity and worth of the individual and of full participation of all groups in the social, economic and political structure of our country.

- * We are therefore: establishing branches as well as action groups which participate throughout the country at national, regional and local levels in political thinking and planning and which concern themselves constantly with the improvements of inter-group relations and with the development of an informed and responsible public opinion; creating a forum for the free exchange of points of view within the framework of our consensus.

* Verligte Action declares that: it is not a political party and has no affiliation or association with any existing party or political organisation; it is a political movement that cuts across the barriers of status, sex, language, ethnic origin, colour, race, religion or party-political connection; it is a movement in which all South Africans who share the concerns and beliefs outlined above and are convinced of the need for change, can join forces in order to mobilise public opinion and bring about such change.

Any further enquiries would be welcome.

Peter Waterman.

Dear sir,

The members of the congress, at present meeting in Bucharest to discuss the population explosion problem, do not seem to be aware of the fact that there is a simple solution.

The solution is to breed large numbers of man-eating lions, and then turn them loose everywhere where the human population is increasing dangerously.

Lions, in surroundings where food supply is ample, have a natural animal rate increase that is less than two. The same applies to humans in surroundings free of lions. Thus both species tend to increase more and more rapidly. But if the lions are able to prey on the humans it can be proved mathematically that, with the above increase rates, the lion population and the human population will both oscillate, eventually reaching an equilibrium figure, and no population explosion will occur.

This, sir, is, I suggest, the obvious answer. Certain stringent laws will have to be enacted: for instance, lions must not be attacked or prevented from eating as many humans as they require; further, lions must be discouraged from eating anything else.

If this system is brought into force, the human race may look forward to a glorious and Utopian future. With the population contained food supplies will be ample (and, for the lions too). There will be no need for hospitals, asylums, orphanages, homes for the aged, etc.: the human race will consist only of healthy, intelligent, and very active persons.

Major D.R. English
(Rhodes University)

Professional Approach

The rise of professionalism in sport in general has hit our rugby in several ways. The most important manifestations in rugby are the will-to-win and condemnation of mistakes.

The unfortunate aspect of this is that it is hitting schools rugby harder than any other sections. The referee blows up and the 'man' in possession either stops dead in his tracks and stares at him in undisguised disbelief or throws the ball down or just shakes his head. This is absolutely revolting.

It not only shows a lack of respect for that most upright man, the referee, but also shows bad sportsmanship which, as I shall point out later, leads to fighting. The inability to accept the fact that one is at fault shows a weakness of character which is impossible to penalise.

Where have the days gone in which you would congratulate an opponent if he scored a very good try rather than stand behind your goal-line, telling the rest of your team that he scored from a forward pass or such-like? I don't know.

P.U.C. Visit

Rhodes vs. Paris

On Wednesday August 14, a touring side, P.U.C., played at Rhodes, the first such side to do so for quite some years.

At training the visitors had given the impression that they were slightly out of shape and after their drubbing at Potchefstroom few gave them much chance of winning.

From the kickoff Rhodes moved straight onto the attack and almost got over. Maso brought relief with a long touchfinder but Rhodes pressed again. In the fourth minute a blindside move ended with Bernard Lescour setting off on a brilliant weaving run from his 25. Dauga kept up with him and their short exchange of passes near the Rhodes line totally bewildered the defence and diminutive Lescour dived over 20 yards out for a well-deserved try. (0-4)

This shook Rhodes and for the next 15 minutes play seesawed between the 25's. Reed went blindside from a scrum but Lescour brought him down cleanly. Rhodes were next to score when Reed received the ball from loose play and fed Kernick who snapped over a neat drop after 20 minutes (3-4).

Paris swarmed onto the attack, a timely Laurence tackle preventing a certain try. Then we saw the true power of the visitors. They started a forward rush from loose play which carried the ball up to the line where prop and captain Jacques Dury scored between the posts. Chipont converted (3-10).

Paris was the only side in the game at this stage and Lescour nearly scored but knocked the final pass on as he dived over. Maintaining the pressure Paris scored again when



Scrumhalf Marcelle Peyresblanques gets the ball out to Jo Maso

scrumhalf Marcel Peyresblanques broke from a lineout and fed mighty Douga from in front of the posts (3-14). This was the half-time score.

In the second half the rugby deteriorated somewhat and few notable movements took place. Rhodes flyhalf Rich Kernick took advantage of the repeated infringements of PUC to put Rhodes back into the picture with penalties in the fourth, 17th and 32nd minutes to make the score 12-14. Could Rhodes pull it off? The answer was unfortunately to be no. With three minutes left for play Maso broke to send Lescour in for his second try, with three tired defenders trying to stop him. Chipont converted from quite an angle to make the final score PUC 20, RU 12.

LEAGUE

Rhodes League Rugby

Results:

beat Buffaloes.....19-3 H
lost to Police.....10-12 H
drew with Cambridge...23-23 H
beat Old Selbornians.33-6 H
beat Hamiltons.....16-6 H
beat Transkei.....25-3 H
beat Swifts.....62-12 A
beat Buffaloes.....18-13 A
lost to O. Selbornians.10-12 A
Still to play: away in league:
Old Selbornians, Police, Hamiltons,
Transkei, Cambridge; home - Swifts.

The first team has generally played a very fine brand of rugby this season as is reflected in the results to date. However, these results are a bit misleading - only two of these games has been played away from home. Rhodes are known for their occasional inexplicable collapses away from home.

The Border selectors seem at last to be paying due attention to the brilliant form of players such as Al Lawrence, Ally Weakly, our captain, Peter Reed and "Deadly" Donovan Neale-May. Perhaps the unluckiest man in the team is Derek Barter whose outstanding form goes unrewarded. His storming try against Transkei when he barged over the line with at least four opponents on his back springs to mind immediately. Dave Sawh, the third man in the loose trio with Weakly and Neale-May, has also impressed throughout.

Of the backs the most impressive have been Al Lawrence with his lightning fast touchline sprints that have led to many tries and flyhalf Rich Kernick whose kicking both tactical and for posts has held many sides at bay.

One weakness amongst the backs has been the inability especially in the early section of the line to tackle effectively. This was plain to see in the Paris University game when Rhodes were several times run ragged.

It has been encouraging to see under 20's playing for the 1st XV. Rob Clayton, Mike Saad and against Swifts, Les Harty, have all played well.

Looking at the team lists shows one startling feature for a side doing so well...we have gone through a whole host of threequarters, the defensive core, and yet we manage to settle down every game! It's just about time we won the Border League so here's to the 1st XV. Good Luck! Nielen Locke has done everything he can now you must give him and the rest of Rhodes the results.

Results of matches against other universities:
vs Paris 12-20

Freakes Cup vs OFS 0-20
Ted Scales Trophy vs Pretoria 3-43
Intervarsity vs UPE 12-42
Results of the Durban tour: lost to Maritzburg Collegians 22-51, lost to combined Maritzburg-Durban Varsity 7-16; beat Junior Clubs 24-12, beat Durban High School Old Boys 33-0.

Interview with P.U.C. coach

An interview with Gerard Fournier, coach of the French league champions, Tarbes, who recently toured South Africa with Tarbes and Paris University.

Q. You were out here with your club Tarbes and so know the inside story of the affair. What was the response to the incident at home?

A. The press exaggerated everything. The cause of the trouble was the Transvaal hooker who kicked the Tarbes hooker regularly. The suspensions back at home (two banned for life, the rest for the first month of the next season) were for vandalism and general bad behaviour at the hotel and airport not for foul play.

Q. After this, was there much opposition to the PUC tour?

A. No, none at all. The Ministry of Sport told the President of the rugby union that it would be a good education. There was no pressure through demonstrations either. In France, politics are kept away from sport.

Q. On to matters of the close future, how does the Springbok tour seem to be affecting France?

A. Well, we have had discussion groups on the subject of the tour but no more (Reuter reports on 'anti-Pok' groups are a progression).

Q. How does the French club system operate? Does it give everyone a fair chance?

A. There are 64 first league clubs, eight pools of eight teams. The top four in each section go through to the next round which runs over knockout basis. (Paris University is in second league). There are nine national selectors who watch all the teams not just fashionable ones. There was a crisis in 1972 when 42 players represented the country. This was a selection problem because the selectors were picking 'horses for courses', picking sides with an eye to matching opposition at their strong points. Then they adopted successful clubs' systems. Initially the players from outside floundered

in the new systems. Then when they started settling down the selectors would reject the method as useless and back to square one.

Q. What are the French teams' strong points?

A. There are none. We have been hit by a spate of retirements. The young players are still on their way to the top.

Q. How does French rugby stand in relation to the British Lions and their constituent 'countries'?

A. We are not as good, for two reasons. Firstly, as in South Africa, in Britain there is organised rugby at schools. This is not the case in France. Similarly your soccer here is weak for the same reason. Secondly in Britain they have weeklong training camps because they work to systems. In France this would be pointless because we have no precise basis and the players invited probably wouldn't be bothered to come to the camps anyway. There is an apathy toward the national squad.

Tour results: vs Potchefstroom 9-33, vs Rhodes 20-12, vs OFS University 6-22, vs University of Stellenbosch 10-18, vs UCT (cancelled) vs WP Invitation XV 33-32, vs Pretoria 9-37.

Rhodes' captain Ally Weakly looks for support as he is tackled by a P.U.C. player



Your Sports Dealer

Hockey

MEN.....

Rhodes Men's Hockey has been on the up for the last few years and finally it seemed we would win something this year when we stayed among the front runners until a few weeks back.

Unfortunately the past is the operative tense because a string of three successive defeats has put paid to any chance we had of taking the championships. The first of these 1-4 to Walmer at home on August 25 was a very poor display on our part. It looked like the season would end in total gloom but the few spectators who braved the icy wind on September 1 saw Rhodes win well (3-1 against Ramblers) in a rather poorly refereed game. Here are a list of the available scores and scorers:

RU...4 (Lee, van Zyl, Johnson, Strimling)
PE Mens'...1

RU...0
O Grey...1

RU...1 (van Zyl)
Pirates...0

RU...3 (Strimling 2, Lee)
Ramblers...2

RU...1 (Lee)
Redhouse...0

RU...2 (van Zyl, Strimling)
UPE...0

RU...1 (Stephenson)
Uitenhage...1

RU...(van Zyl, own goal)
Uitenhage...0

RU...1 (Stephenson)
PE Mens'...2
RU...1 (van Zyl)
Walmer...4

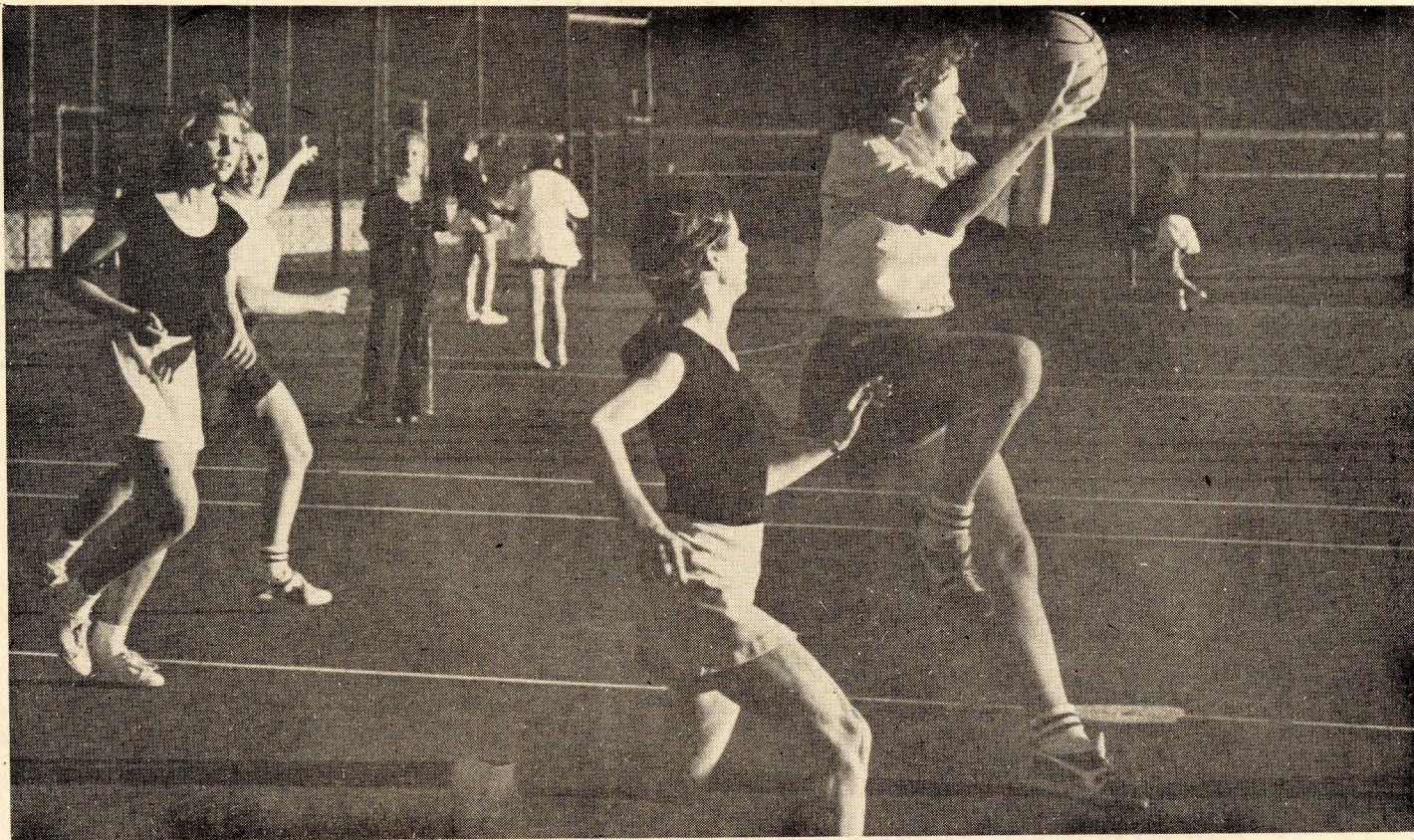
RU...0
Walmer...1
RU...2
Westview...0

RU...1 (Thompson)
Pirates...2
RU...3 (Stephenson, Donald, Johnson)
Ramblers...1

Stars have been Clive Connel-
lan, Manny van Zyl and Neil Thom-
son, all of whom represented EP at
the 1974 Interprovincial Tournament.
Gerald Strimling, Tim Shafer and
Bruce Millen went with Clive on the
EP U-21 side to Cape Town in the se-
cond term.

The standard of hockey has been
high as is mirrored in the good
crowds seen at the home games. Con-
sistency has been lacking as has
the post of a full-time sports union
trainer.

Some of the conduct on the field
has been unnecessary but on the whole
it has been good. Mark Mills has
been managing the side and he has
helped a lot through his undying en-
thusiasm and smooth wit. Maybe next
year we'll win but then only if we
deserve to. Congratulations to 1974
champions, Pirates.



WOMEN....

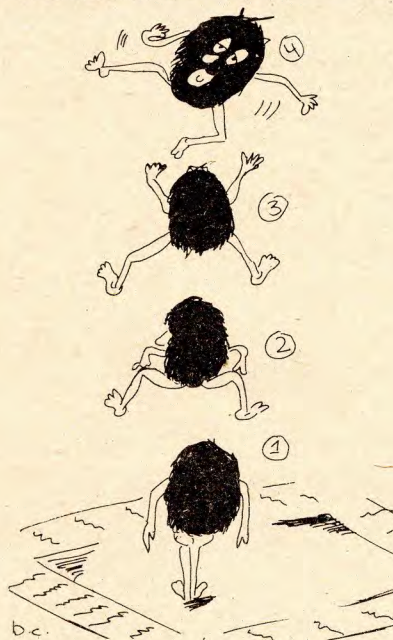
The Women's 1st Hockey team has enjoyed a highly successful season in 1974, marred only by the necessity of cancelling a number of games in the second half of the season owing to waterlogged grounds. The new venture of playing in the Border League on a friendly basis has helped to bring out the potential of a talented side, as well as create a fine team spirit.

Rhodes ability to hold their own in the stronger competition of the Border league has been amply proved by the results, the only two losses so far both being at the hands of Old Selbornians, last year's league winners. In addition to matches in East London, Rhodes have also beaten UPE 4-2 at intervarsity and the local Grahamstown side 5-0.

Undoubtedly the highlight on the season was the intervarsity competition held in Port Elizabeth. Rhodes, after losing their first match 1-3 to UCT, the eventual winners, improved with every performance to finish runners-up, having played seven games, won four, drawn two and lost one.

It was a fine team effort, but the outstanding play of Margie McGraw and Mary du Plessis in particular was noted by the selectors, and these two were chosen to play in the Protea Invitation team at the end of the tournament. Mary du Plessis subsequently gaining her full Protea colours when she played for S.A. Varsity against the United States in Johannesburg. Others, like Karen de Wet, Phillipa Evans, Trish Fitz - who captained the side with distinction - Cheryl Maree and Gill Cowley played extremely well throughout the tournament. The Rhodes defence was superb, conceding only six goals in the seven games, less than any other side.

The 2nd and 3rd teams, playing in the local Grahamstown league, have acquitted themselves well so far this season, and the 2nd team is well in the running for the league title.



Netball

The netball season opened this year with Border trials in East London. Leona Kemp was selected for the A side and travelled with the team to the interprovincial tournament in Stellenbosch in July.

The league in which Rhodes competes is now almost completed and both the 1sts and 2nds each have one outstanding fixture. Both teams are positioned in the middle of the log.

The South African Universities tournament was held in Cape Town this year. Rhodes did as well as could be expected and tied for 6th place with RAU and UCT.

Friendlies have been played against TC, P.J. Olivier and Port Alfred Woman's Club. In fact, the Port Alfred Club have also been included in the interhouse competition and have donated a floating trophy that will be awarded to the winning house. So far Oppies haven't given anyone much of a chance.

The club toured Plattenberg Bay and George over the long weekend and held matches against the Civil Defence College and the George Women's Club.

The netball Club's biggest setback this year was the R70 paid towards a speeding fine issued to the black Rhodes bus driver on one of their trips to East London. An appeal has been made to all clubs to help repay this debt and it is hoped that they will help - these girls are desperate.

Apology

We regret the absence of a report on the soccer season. This is due to the fact that they are doing a report amongst themselves for our publication. What I can tell you is that they have won two (8-0 last Saturday) drawn two but have lost the others. In our next issue early October there will be in the sports section...

- * a report on the soccer club season
- * a look back on the rugby season's tail and interhouse.
- * cricket: last season's achievements, next season's hopes.
- * rowing: an outstanding season
- * athletics and cross-country: this
- * tennis: Kingwill and co.
- and a profile on Nigel Hodder, new sports officer.

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Thanks

I would like to express my sincerest thanks to Wendy, for the many hours of typing, to Duncan for taking charge of layout, to Pete Richer for sub-editing and layout, and to Anne Sacks and Marion Whitehead for devoting their weekend in assisting with production. L.D.