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THE OLD RHODIAN UNION ZIMBABWE

16 - 18 JULY 1981

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I believe that it is customary on these occasions to tell you something about the university and particularly about the year that has passed. I propose to follow this custom but I do not intend to read a paper to you and I hope to spend a few minutes with a slide projector to show you what the Quad II project means to the university. I will also try to bring some of the 1980 news up to date, where this is relevant.

In many ways, 1980 was a good year for Rhodes. We achieved some academic and sporting successes but the year was noteworthy mainly because the strenuous efforts which have been made to stabilise our finances have at last born fruit and the university is now on a firm financial footing, which has only been achieved by careful control and improved productivity. This has not been easy to achieve because, as the Vice-Chancellor has said, we have escaped none of the country's problems of inflation and manpower shortage and our own cash resources are still very limited in relation to the demands which we face.

There is no room for complacency, although we have managed to improve staff benefits and, in 1981 we were able to make some substantial salary adjustments in areas where they were needed.

Managing university finances requires skill and steady nerves. A measure of the university's achievement in this area is the change from the payment for overdraft facilities of R40 000 in 1979 to one of earnings of ~~about~~ R140 000 in interest on short-term investment in 1980 and this trend has been carried over into 1981. It says a great deal for the skill of our

*P. 2 contains financial details on: total exp. over
past 12 months; time; fees; warning of rising
fees;*

London business and professional men, led by Mr Ashton Chubb, with strong support from the East London City Council. The division is offering, initially, a B.Com. degree on a part-time basis. It was expected that about 25 students would register but in fact, 52 students were registered.

Lectures are ~~at present~~ conducted in the East London Technical College, ~~with the generous co-operation of the principal.~~ The college is, however, short of space and will not be able to provide for our needs in 1982. A search ~~for a new site~~ was therefore instituted by the East London Committee and a few weeks ago Council decided to purchase the Wool Exchange building which is very well suited to our needs. It has a lecture theatre with a raked floor which is capable of seating more than 60 people and there is further space suitable for lecture rooms, studies, administrative offices and student amenities. In order to provide for expansion which may be required in the next 4 or 5 years we have also purchased the vacant stand next door. A building could be erected on this stand which would provide for our projected requirements in East London until the mid 1990s.

During the year, two national museums have grown out of the university. These are the J L B Smith Institute of Ichthyology and the National English Literary Museum and Documentation Centre. They will in future be financed by the Department of National Education. These two institutions will retain their links with the university : the teaching responsibilities of the J L B Smith Institute will be carried out by the new Department of Ichthyology and Fisheries Science and the Documentation Centre will maintain close co-operation with the Institute for the Study of English in Africa. It holds important manuscripts and provides facilities for research work on such author collections as those of Joy Packer, Stuart Cloete, Sir Percy Fitzpatrick, Athol Fugard and Jack Cope.

Through the generosity of Federale Electronics of East London, a new chair of electronics has been endowed and Dr G de Jager has been appointed as its first professor. A new honours course in electronics will be offered in 1982 and will make it possible for students to take part in an even wider field of research in this subject. This generous endowment is a good example of what the managing director of Federale Electronics, Mr Mike Bosworth called the cross-fertilization between industry's practical application and the university's academic pursuits.

A second new chair to be established in 1980 was the C.U. Peat Memorial Chair of Accounting and Professor K S Prinsloo has been appointed to the chair. There is at present a severe shortage of people trained in accounting and the B.Com. course is one of the most popular at the university.

The third new chair was endowed by the Molteno Brothers Trust. This chair, the H.A. Molteno Chair for English - Second Language is the only one of its kind in South Africa and its establishment follows a six year programme of research into the teaching of English in Black primary schools. The new professor will be closely involved with projects in the Transkei, Bophutatswana, Lebowa and Soweto. He will also help devise solutions to problems facing Rhodes students.

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The new B.Econ. degree which offers Economics and Geology as majors recognises the need for inter-faculty studies, to meet the changing requirements of society and it will lead, in 1982, to the introduction of an honours degree in Mineral Economics.

The university is giving consideration to the introduction of a degree in Agricultural Management and it is hoped to offer a new degree to be known

as a B.Com. (Agricultural Management).

Increasing worldwide pressure for the purification of industrial wastewater makes more valuable the work of the Leather Industries Research Institute, which is an associated research institute of the university. LIRI's advice was sought recently by the Environmental Protection Agency of the U.S. Government for its standards for the discharge of tannery effluent. No fewer than 11 major leather manufacturers in the U.S. and Canada are members of LIRI and contribute to its research funds. Some of you will know that LIRI has ^{provided} purchased valuable advice to both the tanneries and the shoe making industry in Zimbabwe.

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The country's first English language post-graduate course in Limnology was launched as an M.Sc. degree by the Department of Zoology and Entomology in 1980 and a few weeks ago we were able to announce with pride that Barclays Bank International had generously agreed to provide the necessary funds to support a chair of Limnology for a period of five years.

Rhodes was the venue for no fewer than 9 conferences or congresses in 1980, many of them attracting overseas interest.

Rhodes students certainly do not lack the opportunity for sport. We offer 30 different sporting activities and our standard of performance seems to have been maintained at a high level because we had 17 students chosen for S.A. university sides and 28 for provincial teams. Over 80% of students were involved in some form of physical recreation on campus but efforts are constantly being made to encourage even more students to take up some sporting activity.

The annual inter-varsity against U P E took place at Rhodes and involved about 1200 students in 16 different sports. Before the rugby match the points tally was even and U P E just managed to win this hardfought and exciting match and so decided the series ^{in their favour}. We intend to do better this year when we travel to P.E. but I must warn that our rugby team which won the Border league competition last year has been badly hit by injuries this year and will face a much harder task.

One of the most significant developments of the decade is the Quad II project. I have brought some plans which are on display and from which you will see that this project not only finally encloses the second quad but also produces a large piazza made up of the space between the library and the existing Geology Department.

One large building for the Geography Department will complete the south-west corner of the second cloistered quadrangle. A second building, for the English Department will form the south side of the new piazza with the third and last building for Geology forming the northern side of the piazza. The piazza will be landscaped and will include a sunken refreshment kiosk. The project implements the main recommendations of the Mallows Plan for making the central campus a pedestrian area. University road will become a cul-de-sac at the Psychology building and Artillery road will be blocked off at the car park near the library with the other end of this road, from Drostdy road becoming a pedestrian mall. Work on this project has already commenced. The builders boardings are up and demolition work is proceeding.

And so you may feel the future is secure for some time to come, but is it? The Rhodes University Foundation was established to administer the

university's portfolio of investments, its endowment, if you like. The income from these investments is used to provide grants to assist research, bursaries, prizes, scholarships and for augmenting the general income of the university. In the past eleven years, investments derived from funds donated to Rhodes have increased steadily and now total nearly R4 m. More than half of this amount is, however, earmarked for specific uses.

The university's income per student was derived as follows in 1980:

Own, including grants from the Rhodes Foundation	4,4 per cent
Tuition fees	15,9 per cent
Grant subsidies	79,7 per cent

It is obvious from these figures that we, like all other universities, depend heavily on the money which comes from the government.

Now let us consider a few more facts. We know within very close tolerances how many students will be attending universities in South Africa in the next 18 years or so because they have already been born. In 1979 there were 30 600 matriculants, of whom 23 600 were white. In 1984 the comparable figures will be 40 800 and 26 800. By 1990 there will be 56 800 matriculants of whom 31 600 will be white and by 1994 61 per cent of the matriculants will be black and the number of whites will tend to level out for some time to come. After 1994 the number of blacks will increase rapidly, to nearly 100 000 by the turn of the century, which, I remind you, is only 18 years away. Thus we will move in the next 18 years from under 40 000 to nearly 130 000 potential university students.

With the new political dispensation and the increased affluence of the lower income groups many more blacks than before may be expected to attend

universities. The shortage of manpower will also be a major motivating factor. As a result, a higher percentage of matriculants is likely to require university training.

I do not believe that the country will be able, in the short time available, to cope with the ^{full} bulk cost. ^{of} This very rapid increase in the demand for higher education and the present Minister of Education is on record as saying that universities must expect less help from the Government in the future. Less than 80 per cent. But now much less? it seems to me that we must aim to increase the income from our own resources: from less than 5 per cent to at least 30 per cent of our total income. That is between 6 and 7 times what we have now, so we must think of a portfolio of the order of R30 million by the turn of the century, other things being equal.

The Foundation has already foreseen this situation. Their immediate sum is R10 million over the next five years but perhaps we should already be thinking of doubling or quadrupling this figure.