

We wish to invite volunteers to fill the post of Cassiodorus. Or even if this much is not forthcoming, we will welcome any contributions to this column - no matter how small the offering. Please drop any tit-bit of gossip and item of scandal into the Rhodeo Box in Kaif.

DEBATING SOCIETY-- CADS' NIGHT

Last Thursday the pilot stars of the mighty seemed to have wavered not a little in their appointed courses. Not only did the afternoon's General Meeting leave a certain proportion of the college somewhat breathless at the impudence of those who dare to attack the local totempole, but the Debating Society met that night to debate the motion that "In the opinion of this house the value of the S.R.C. and the four House Committees lies solely in the training they give in representative government."

From the first, argument was vitriolic. Several people about the college seem to feel quite strongly on the subject. Mr Hall started off by trying to debunk everybody's illusions about everything. Under this heading might come his definition of himself and his supporter, Mr W. Witherden, as Cads. He then went on to declare that nobody but a cretin or a moron would stand for the S.R.C. or the House Committee, since the only privilege of those austere bodies was to act as Super-Stooges for the better organisation of dances, kaif and other police duties.

Mr Gough, who thought otherwise, said that it was only the S.R.C. and the four House Committees which "prevented the college from being called Rhodes High School." He seemed oblivious of the fact that it is only the representation by such bodies of their electors which prevented the S.R.C. and the four House Committees from being a glorified prefect system. From here it would have been a comparatively easy case for the proposers to prove that since all their duties might be done as well by a paid staff, the sole value of such bodies lay in their training for representative government. Mr Witherden seemed most indignant at the limits imposed on night leave for women students. He bewailed the fact that once a week "one of the House Committee has to stay in all night to see that people cross off." Miss Chadwick, in a peroration which could emanate only from a legally trained brain, served up a rehash of the saying loved by Con. Law to the tune that the S.R.C. and the four House Committees were "government of the students by the students for the senate."

This seemed to hit the nail on the head, and the supporters of the motion fastened on it like the wolf on the fold. Mr Peter, who can always be depended upon to rise in an emergency, delivered an intimate little chat to the chairman to the effect that his grammar had much improved since his elevation to secretarial heights anyway, so who said the S.R.C. had no other uses? Mr Hilson, after a screaming competition with the gentlemen in the cheap seats, staunchly opposed the motion. Misses van der Vyver and G. Hall yielded to gentle pressure from the chair and allowed a few beautifully modulated syllables to fall. Miss van der Vyver, it may be observed, was the only person in the whole evening to make mention of points debated at the afternoon's general meeting, which she reserved to prove her point. Mr Rogers however remained firm in declining to speak; his attitude when he rose to say "Mr Chairman I have been a member of this Society for several years" suggested that he was thinking seriously of putting in at once for a pension. The Chairman throwing discretion to the winds gave vent to an impassioned oration which was convincing enough. He too spoke of the dangers of the illusion of self-government. Miss Wallace however was disappointed in him and spent ten minutes telling the House why.

The process known as summing up but which might just as well be called petering out was got through with the minimum amount of pain. It became obvious with the voting that a great number of people go to debates not to talk but to sit for although most of the speeches from the floor had been in favour of the motion it was lost by a considerable margin. It would be highly gratifying to see more people speak voluntarily from the floor: for surely that vast amorphous mass which sits in the front rows at debates year in year out must think sometimes, or at least want to say something?

GRAND THEATRE PROGRAMME

March:

Mon. 30., Tues. 31. Wed. April 1.

"THE PRISONER OF ZENDA" with: Ronald Colman, Madeleine Carroll,
(A David O'Selznick ("Rebecca") production.) Douglas Fairbanks, Jr.

April:

Thurs. 2., Fri. 3., Sat. 4.

"KIT CARSON"

with : Jon Hall, Lynn Bari, and Dana Andrews.

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SPORT NEWS.

The 13th Annual Gala showed that Rhodes has this year a wealth of swimming talent, and those who gathered at the Bath on Saturday afternoon were regaled with excellent fare.

Heugh in particular excelled himself, breaking three records. His time of 6 mins 54.7 secs. for the 500 yards freestyle broke the record established by Webber in 1935 by 19 seconds, and his performance in the 220 and 100 yards freestyle reduced the respective records by 5.5 and 2.4 seconds. In the 50 yards freestyle too Gillmer equalled the record of 26.4 seconds.

Several new events appeared on the programme -- the 150 yds backstroke, Women, (won by Miss Seeman), the 200 yds breaststroke, Women, (won by Miss Wilson) and the 150 yds backstroke, Men, (won by Trewartha) -- and in these the times were good.

The diving too was of a high standard, Heugh eventually emerging as champion. In the womens diving Miss Widdicombe, the only entrant, gave a polished exhibition.

The Inks' Dashes (and splashes) provided a little variety and no little amusement, though the Old Crocks, when they eventually emerged from the obscurity of the dressing room evoked roars of laughter which thoroughly dwarfed all preceding titters. We noticed particularly Master Harvey with his dummy, Ballerina Lipschitz and little Ronnie Philip with his tricycle.

In the Inter House relay Struben (not surprisingly) won easily, and in the Womens Inter Year event the 3rd years won comfortably from the Inks.

After the presentation of prizes by Dr Martin Harv, who had abandoned his dummy, was seen capering off with a bottle of er milk.

Flash -- The water polo team, featuring Captain Maisels, defeated an R.A.F. side by 7 goals to 1.

CRICKET

On the same afternoon a somewhat depleted Rhodes side beat an Air Force team by a narrow margin, in an eventful game.

G.G.D. (Old Dalian)

CASSIODORUS -- When last heard Mr Dickerson had reached Standard VIII.

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THE CHRONICLES OF CHLOË

For the dispassionate observer, Thursday afternoon's debate provided a deal of innocent - and not so innocent - fun. The righteous indignation of our representatives at the presumption of its electorate to question Conciliar action had its comic merits. Indeed, and the comedy progressed, and the Council found itself being tied in the knots of its own innocence, one flippant cross-bencher began singing a little song. I record it with but few verbal alterations, and have given it the title:-

The Ship of State.

The Captain's name was Butler.
He sawed and hacked - the cutler !
With logic, fact,
And massive tact.
No butcher could be subtler.

The Pirate, though a sticker,
Withdrew his plea for liquor,
Because he felt
That he'd been dealt
A kick upon the knicker.

His colleague was a fetter:
He'd only signed the letter.
In face of ill,
He sat quite still,
Which didn't make things better.

The Busy Secretary
Was innocently wary.
He took his stand
Not on demand:
He merely requested: "You chaps had better do something about this."

The Oriel S.S., Gearing,
Was monstrously God-fearing.
She said: "You think
My colleagues stink!"
- Her tone was most endearing.

Old Faithful's name was Rogers.
He knew some little dodges :-
"Get off your fence;
Vote Confidence!!
Support the College Stodges."

End-of-term Diary.

Another first term dribbles to its close. Ahead, the gloomy prospect of the Graduation Ceremony as the grande finale. Perhaps the finale matches the overture. But that still does not excuse the finale. In most universities throughout the world - or such as have pretensions to being civilised - this ceremony is performed within a week or two of writing the final examinations. To be capped at such a time represents a thrill. It is the festive, ceremonial climax to the first flush of having a Bachelor's degree. It is shared with all those who have laboured, or otherwise, thro' three years with you.

Here we wait five months. +It is more a depressing aftermath than a ceremony. A large number of degrees are conferred in absentia; it is on a par with having a wedding reception after five years of married life - and then with the bride and groom missing.

But it's an ill wind: the Fines and Revenue Dept has a good time.

As I dodder round the campus in this year of grace(?) 1942, my national consciojsness, my patriotic pride..and other spiritual adjuncts (Cont p.5)

LETTERS TO THE RHODEO. (Continued)

The Editor,
The Rhodéo.

Dear Sir,

I cannot believe that anyone was disposed to doubt the sincerity of the Secretary of the S.R.C. in the slight fracas over the withdrawal of Mr. Pittman's motion. But the entire affair was in the nature of a test-case, and, contrary to the general opinion of the House that it was all a shameful waste of time, it was very necessary to go through with it. The real waste of time lay in the tiresome wrangling as to whether the S.R.C. might discuss a motion previous to the House's approving the principle of that motion. This wrangle was so much eye-wash. It merely helped to evade the issue.

For the issue was, simply, that a mistake had been made. The S.R.C. in using its undoubted prerogative to debate a motion before its first appearance in the House, unfortunately allowed the skeleton to escape from its cupboard, and the skeleton went ambling all over the campus.

The proposers were, with every justification, alarmed at the escape of that skeleton. To anyone in the least appreciative of the notorious inability of the House to grasp with any clarity the point at issue, it was obvious that no rein should be given to any such proclivity on the part of the House.

The very suggestion that questions of administrative detail might be introduced into a preparatory discussion of general principle made the withdrawal of the motion necessary. Opposers of the motion would have blinded the House with such questions as the cost of a licence, the premises for the bar, the date of the next session of the licencing board, etc. points which it was the S.R.C.'s business to discuss and then to report upon at a subsequent General Meeting. Then and then only should queries of administrative detail be queried from the floor.

In defending the Secretary's action, the Chairman said that it was entirely reasonable to expect the Proposers to have the scheme theoretically already administered, so that they could answer any questions that the House might ask. This was untrue. The initial outlining of any scheme is the business of the S.R.C. No proposer of such a motion is expected to approach the Senate with regard to the sanctioning of the motion; he is not required to enter further into the matter than to propose its general desirability. When a Students' Union was approved by the House, the House was not required to participate in finding premises for the Union, or in working out financial estimates.

The debate was a test-case inasmuch that it was necessary to determine whether the House was to be allowed to fog and to prejudice its own mind on questions of general desirability by discussing administrative detail and practicability which it was not really competent to discuss. In fact, whether it was not the Chairman's business to rule out of order any impertinent and invidious queries which might not be immediately answerable and which might hence swing our shockingly limpid and tractable public opinion into rejecting the motion, even in principle.

The hint at a Vote of no Confidence was quite deplorable. There was no **thought** of attempting to remove the present administration, and to attempt to suggest that such was the case was quite indefensible. It would appear that there is a prevailing opinion to the effect that once the elections are over, Representatives are no longer answerable to the electorate. It would appear that any criticism or even questioning is construed as lack of faith, or even as personal dislike. And this is sheer folly. The position of being able to take one's representatives is an admirable and valuable one. Our spiritual descendants of Junius and the Anti-Jacobin in this college form their own functions in what we are pleased to call our democratic student regime. Let there be no more of this crude humanitarianism which burbles forth in answer to criticism: "Oh! you are being nasty to ----" "A public personality entails upon himself or herself public responsibility and public criticism. This is never private or personal in its intention."

Cont. page 7.