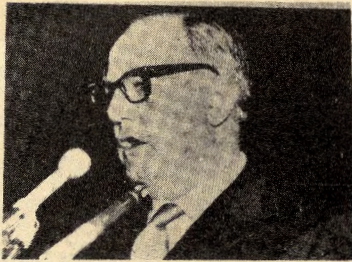


RHODEO

Special Freshers Issue



ARE YOU SURE YOU'VE COME
TO THE RIGHT PLACE?



Vorster: 'In the interests of all South Africans'

PISCOM:

...where does your heart lie?

Detainee's cell death reported

One would have thought that they'd had enough by now - of Acts that is: Public Safety, Riotous Assemblies, Criminal Procedure, General Law, Unlawful Organisations, Civil Defence, Terrorism, Public Service, Affected Organisations and so on ad nauseum. But obviously such legislation is not sufficient to cope with what Mr. Vorster terms "dangerous subversive activists" and so in the interests of "all South Africans" as he puts it, a further act is now in force - "The Parliamentary Internal Security Commission" - (PISCOM) to deal with the increasingly problematic issue of "subversives" who actually dare to question the justice of pass laws, racism, inequality, exploitation, poverty, authoritarianism, migrant labour and all the other facets which seem to constitute an integral part of South African society. We can rest assured that PISCOM will do a good job.

And it is both comforting and indeed necessary to have so much faith in them, for the Commission consists of parliamentarians appointed by the executive. All information is heard behind closed doors, organisations and individuals are being investigated at the whim of the executive and they report back to the executive. And if anyone is so unpatriotic as to hinder them in their investigations by refusing to give evidence in private to this congenial band of gentlemen, the government has been considerate enough to offer a six month jail sentence as an alternative. Of course the people that are subpoenaed by PISCOM must not expect to have lawyers or advisers with them - that would be

totally unreasonable, besides which, to hear both sides of the argument would take far too long when there are so many other subversives waiting to be investigated.

In point of fact PISCOM actually seems to be an inevitable step in the pattern which we have thus far seen of the governments entrenchment of its own power and privileges and its perpetuation of an oppressive and violent society. It seems to make opposition to the Nationalist minority regime somewhat more difficult and somewhat more dangerous. The implications for social action in South Africa are probably quite wide. The all-encompassing dimensions of this act will enable the government to investigate and take action against any one opposing the perpetuation of injustices upon which this society is based: the system of forced cheap labour, the systematic exclusion of the majority of the population from any real political say, inadequate housing, inadequate health facilities and inadequate education, to mention only a few.

Many people who take some sort of a stand on those issues might find themselves vulnerable to the workings of the PISCOM machine. The way in which PISCOM is constituted and the way it works seem to make it little less than an organ of severe repression which the government it seems, will not hesitate to use. It is not an irrational step. It is a step designed to further repression and to counter groups who might pose a threat to them for working for social change in South Africa, in areas where

it is so desperately needed. Not only is the Commission itself an instrument of repression, but any collaboration with it will amount to a condonation of it. For instance a willingness to testify might appear to be a willingness to aid the investigations, which might in turn lead to the elimination of people and organisations who realise the need for grass-roots changes in this country. Moreover PISCOM is actually designed to work as a propaganda machine of the most insidious nature. If people are inclined to give evidence, they will be exposing themselves to a government manouvre to turn students against students and radicals against radicals.

Mr. J.J. Engelbrecht, (Nat. MP), reacting to opposition to the Commission by "a certain sector of the press" said "should we perhaps not also ask where the hearts of these people belong? Do they, too, perhaps belong to the other side? Do they, too not perhaps want to destroy the existing order in South Africa?" Mr. Engelbrecht is perhaps right. Should we not ask where our hearts belong? If, by "the other side" he means those opposed to a government which detains and bans its opposition, a government which perpetuates the socially disruptive and tragic system of migrant labour, a government which takes taxes from people and does not build houses for them (there are over 200,000 squatters in Cape Town alone) and a government with a history of Sharpeville, Nyanga, Langa, Paarl and Carltonville (to mention only a few) behind it, then perhaps it is time for all students to question where their hearts belong.

14 detentions reported

171 detained under security laws

RHODES RAG

W.O. 1614

STUDENTS UNION RHODES UNIVERSITY
Message from 1977 Chairman

John Whitfield

Our aim is to make Rag as successful as possible by raising a large sum of money for the Grahamstown charities - while enjoying the festivities to the full.

To achieve these goals, student participation is most important and as Rag is so early this year, time spent now should not affect anyone's academic performance.

Each residence has a Rag representative, so ask them about Rag if you have any queries. Details of Rag functions, stunts and Rhodent blitzes will be publicised on campus - the first 3½ weeks of the academic year are going to be action-packed.

The Rag offices are in the Students' Union and anyone with spare time is welcome to come in and give us the assistance we need. PLEASE HELP US BY BRINGING IN YOUR TICKET BOOKS AND MONEY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THANK YOU.

'NATIONAL STUDENT' under way

Nusas's national campus newspaper, *National Student*, is to be revived this year after financial problems and government harassment caused its collapse last year after the first issue. The editor, Garth Senegue, has announced that there will be four issues during 1977, which will be sold on all English speaking campuses. He also stated that although it was a Nusas project, the editor and staff would enjoy considerable autonomy from the National Union.

The first issue is tentatively scheduled for publication on 22 March, and according to the editor the same policy line will apply this year.

The major stumbling block is likely to be financial: *National Student* has a budget of only R1800, which is insufficient, and advertising will have to be sought. It has not been decided whether to print at UCT or Wits (depending on costs) but the paper will be airfreighted to other centres.

FRESHERS!

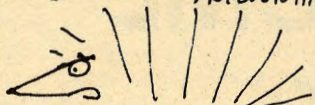
If you haven't already received them, your departments will be supplying you with lists of set text books for the year. If you are like most new students, you will immediately run down to the nearest bookshop and dutifully buy every recommended book.

DON'T.

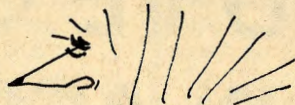
Be selective. You might never use some of the books you have bought. We have a fairly well stocked library at Rhodes which will cater for most of your needs. Many students sell their books at the beginning of a new year - so wait and see. Certain bookshops in Grahamstown are also notorious for their prices. There are several bookshops, so shop around before you buy and make the best of your money. There is also a second-hand bookshop in the Students Union which sells many text books at very low prices.

Don't worry about buying your books before there are none left - the library will always be there.

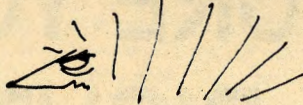
I found the Sunday Times report on the goings-on at Rhodes ASTONISHING



I was never involved in anything like that...



worse luck!

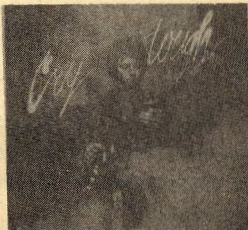




wax rap

NILS LOFGREN "CRY TOUGH" A&M AMLS 64573

Cry Tough - strong words coming from this anemic looking Nordic guitarist. The latest Swedish bid for world domination has manifested itself on NME's top album award list. In fact, Lofgren has sliced his axe into the musical maelstrom, displacing Dylan and banishing Bowie to take the number one spot for the best album to come out of the first half of 1976. His line up of musicians is relatively unknown, but is flavoured with the spice of Buddy Miles and P.P. Arnold (backing vocals), Aynsley Dunbar (ex - John Mayall's Bluesbreakers), Jim Gordon and Al Kooper (the latter producing the album as well). Lofgren augments his own vocals with the disciplined voices of the Ron Hicklin Singers and his guitar is complemented by that of brother Tom's. His voice, although not brilliant, is versatile - occasionally sounding like Steve Winwoods and sometimes following the line of feeling Rod Stewart has.



However it always retains its own brand of individuality, merging with a curiously sensitive ambiguity. The album opens up confidently with the title track "Cry Tough" doing exactly that. Basic percussion work keeps the rhythm jogging while Lofgren's guitar spits authoritatively around the beat. This sound is strengthened by the backing vocals and the harmonising slide guitar of Tom Lofgren (reminiscent of the twin lead of the Allman Bros. Band). The next track, "It's not a Grime" is also characterised by guitar interplay. The tight harmony they produce adds a type of lightness to the basic rock beat, occasionally breaking into heavy metal. The alleged orchestrations here are inaudible. Other worthy tracks are "For Your Love" which is saved from becoming a musical cliché by a gut-rotting, driving bass and restless guitar; and "Mud in your eye", a bawdy acoustic song with Scott Ball's upright bass lending a jazz feeling. Congas replace drums resulting in a pleasant interlude. "Don't get closer" and "You lit a fire" are weaker points, mediocre numbers with a Traffic-y mood and a lighter air. "Jailbait" raps up the record fairly well. It's a little gimmicky but without excess. Throughout the whole album Lofgren's guitar is the feature instrument, everything else becoming subservient to it. His lyrics are not outstanding but have a simplistic power of their own while his song writing is imaginative and varied. Guitar lovers, lend an ear to this! Lofgren is well worth listening to.

by Brett Hilton-Barber

ALL RECORDS REVIEWED
IN THIS COLUMN WILL
BE AVAILABLE FROM

record ranch

RAG 77

MORE THAN JUST A LOT OF BALLS ...

Two big problems face this years Rag Committee. The first is an acute shortage of big-business sponsors, needed to cover the costs of competitions and the Rag Magazine Rhodent. The second is the short time they have to organise and hold everything. Rag Day has been brought forward again from last year and is now only weeks from the beginning of term. Rag Comm. Chairman John Whitfield is confident that Rag will be a success, but only with the full support and enthusiasm of students. "Movie Madness" is the theme of the traditional procession of floats downtown on Saturday 12 March. An innovation is the *Campus Carnival*, planned to be held on the Great Field that afternoon. It will be on the lines of a village fair, featuring games and sideshows.



John Whitfield: 1977 Rag Chairman

The fortnight leading up to Rag Day will involve many fundraising events — fundraising is after all the reason for the existence of Rhodes Charity Rag — and the emphasis will be on student involvement. This is the only way to make up the deficit created by the business firms, whom economic pressures have forced to reduce or cut out completely their usual sponsorship of Rag events.

Not all the events have yet been finalised, but on the cards are a *Beer Stube*, (we hope the beer will be cold this year!) a mock trial to which certain celebrities as well as campus and Grahamstown personalities are being summoned, and another *Champagne Spectacular* stage show at the Monument.

Rhodent will also be bigger and more colourful than in previous years. It will also contain a Xhosa supplement which it is hoped will get the message about Rag across to domestic servants in the households where *Rhodent* is bought. Two thousand extra copies of the supplement will be on sale on Rag Day at 5c. Apathy and antagonism to Rag amongst Grahamstown's black community is another problem which John Whitfield hopes to overcome this year.

The prime event on the social calendar is generally agreed to be the Rag Ball. In addition three others are being planned, the first of which is the Coronation Ball, where the 1977 Rag Queen will be crowned. Later in the year she will participate in the Witsenberg Campus Queen contest. And to show that Rhodes is doing its bit to preserve indigenous customs, a *Tickiedraai Boere-Ball* is being organised.

Gordon Cramb

1977 RAG COMMITTEE

John Whitfield - Chairman
John Kingsley Jones - Rhodent Editor
Dave Urwin - Competition
Mary Wienand - Xhosa Supplement
Jane Deacon - Discos and Socials
Paul Etsine - Rhodent Distribution
Andrew Booyesen - Vice Chairman/Stunts
Michelle Stap - Debs
Janet Richter - Decor
Nicky Maynier - Royalty
John Hinton - External Publicity
Liz van den Nieuwenhof - Internal Publicity
Brigitte Lang - Mock Trial
Rob Freedman - Rag Day Events
Ed Walsh - Bars
Kevin Harpur - Beerstube
Sharon v.d. Puil - Champagne Spectacular
Garda Halstead - Rag Ball & Others
Dugal Sharp - Big Bleed
Mark Waterkeim - Dynamics
Penny Garbutt - Asst. Secretary
Gordon Springgett - Treasurer
Jem Rouse - PR/Drummers Bus. Manager
John Cowan - Appeal Letter

A message from the Rag Chairman appears on page two.

COUNTDOWN TO RAG

FEBRUARY

Sat 26 Coronation Ball

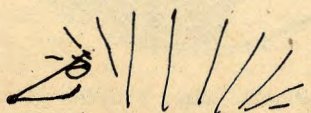
MARCH

Thu 3 Beer Stube
Sat 5 Tickiedraai Boere-Ball
Mon 7 Mock Trial
Tue 8 Ball
Wed 9 Big Bleed
Thu 10 Champagne Spectacular
Fri 11 Float Building
Sat 12 Rag Day Procession and Campus Carnival

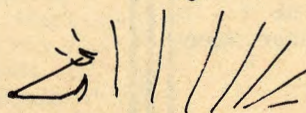


FLASHBACK TO RAG 1976:
Willie Marais looks on as Rag Queen Candy Miller is crowned.

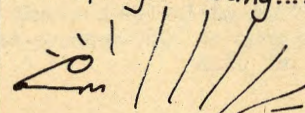
All those lucky 3rd
years getting out of
res....



LIBERATED! UNSHACKLED!
Free to do their
own thing....



...AND their own
cooking, cleaning, washing-
up, bed-making, budgeting,
sweeping, dusting.....



WORKERS PAPER

Rhodes University is once again attempting to publish a Black workers newspaper, in keeping with most other English speaking campuses. The previous effort, the "Rhodes Workers Paper", was a low budget project which never saw circulation due to 'organisational difficulties' even though the first issue was printed and ready for distribution.

The format will be very similar to Wits's "Wits Worker". The paper will feature mainly local news affecting the Black staff, with letters and features. It will also be distributed free of charge and will be printed in Xhosa and English. Some copies will be available in Kaif, in addition to those distributed amongst the staff. Bert Heydenreych, SRC Publications Councillor and originator of the project, has obtained a R100 grant from the SRC - however this will be far from sufficient. To print 800 copies of each issue will cost R38, and extensive advertising will therefore be essential. The newspaper will be staffed by a Black and White team, and as yet no editor has been appointed. "Abasabenzi", the Wages Commission Publication for Black workers at UCT was banned by the Government in the early part of last year, a move which points to a sterile future for any Workers Paper at Rhodes.

HISTORY REPS

Elections for the History Department student liason committee are to be held in the first month of this term. The committee, initiated by department head Professor Davenport, was started last year to articulate class grievances and improve staff-student relations. 2 representatives from each class liase directly with Prof. Davenport.

CHEAP FILMS

FILMSOC has decided to drop its entrance fee this year from 30c to 20c. Jon Inngs, chairman of FILMSOC, said that the decrease was due to "the current economic climate and because of rise in petrol costs and res fees". Total attendance last year was up by 500 from the 1975 total of 5,750. The Thursday and Sunday movies screened in the GLT have probably served more students on campus than any other society activity. The Thursday films, which cater for a more intellectual audience, attract an average audience of 50, while the popular Sunday night movies usually attract about 200.

PHOTO SOC

The Photographic Society, housed in the dark-room on the old Kaif's driveway, supplies equipment to all member photo-enthusiasts - beginners are welcome to use the equipment after an introductory course arranged by the Society. Anyone wanting more information is invited to contact chairman Jon Inngs at the Societies Evening to held early this term.

CAGL

The future of the Comparative African Government and Law (CAGL) course at UCT is in the balance, according to the last issue of 'Z', a UCT student newspaper. Reacting to moves afoot by the UCT administration to remove the course, which was established as a result of student efforts, 'Z' says: "CAGL will live but only if we struggle to keep it. Our message is clear. Keep your hands off CAGL!"

1976 S.R.C.



'Oh, what a lovely year!'

From left to right: (top) Monica Pike, John Rainier, , Ivan Peden, (middle) George Euvrad, Albert Heydenreych*, Trevor Lowen*, Pete Wilson, Isak Smuts*, (bottom) Marilyn Cohen, Kevin Harpur, Andre Lamprecht (President), Lynette Paterson, Rob Midgeley*. (Those marked with asterisk are on 1977 SRC)

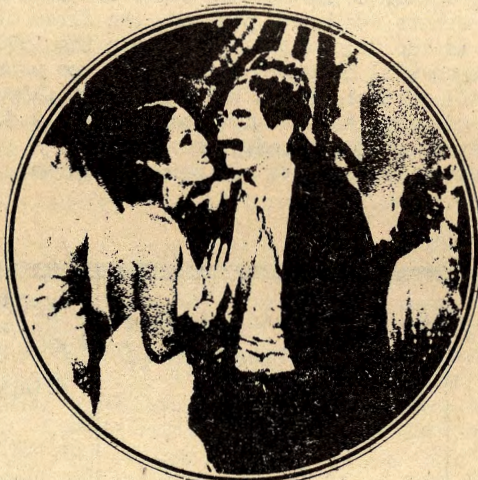
ENVIRAC

The future for ENVIRAC at Rhodes looks promising this year as the head office moves from Cape Town to Johannesburg. The move follows the establishment of a Rural and Community Development Trust which, according to Envirac director Carl Edwards, will administer Envirac funds and finance specific projects in the fields of community medicine, intermediate technology, fish farming etc. The new Envirac offices in Johannesburg will also serve as a resource centre for students and as a job placement centre.

RHODEO

A recommendation that Rhodexo be exempted from censorship in 1977 was approved at a Senate meeting in November last year. Previously, Rhodexo was subject to the censorship of a panel consisting of two staff members.

Rhodexo's annual SRC grant has also been increased from R2000 to R4000. Rhodexo is now printed at Grocott and Sherry in Grahamstown; it was previously printed in PE at considerable expense.



"Dialectic what? Lady, I think you got the wrong Marx!"

VARSITY FEES UP

Rhodes has raised its fees for students by between R40 and R60 for the 1977 academic year, and boarding fees have been increased from R720 to R780 per year. Tuition fees for Art and Commerce degrees have risen from R385 to R425, and for Science degrees, from R440 to R485 a year. Similar increases have been implemented by all South African universities with the exception of the University of Pretoria, where the only increase is a R20 hike in res fees.

The highest increase in fees was announced by UNISA, where registration fees have risen from R15 to R25, undergraduate courses from R40 to R50 and half-courses from R20 to R25.

The University of Cape Town has pushed up its fees by an average of 8 percent. The fee for a BA degree is up from R450 to R480, for a B Comm from R500 to R540 and for a B Sc from R590 to R640. A spokesman for the university said that the main reason for the increase was the escalating cost of running the university, and that annual increases could be expected. Wits University announced a general 10 percent increase in all fees except for education and postgraduate students. Residence now costs approximately R800 per year.

Professor Jannie de Villiers, Rector of the University of Stellenbosch, where fees have been increased by 15 percent, said that rising costs had made the increases unavoidable.

EDITORS TALK

The Student Editors Conference was held at UCT from 10th to 12th February last week. Although too late for more details before going to press, it is expected that all the main South African universities will be represented. One of the major topics expected to be discussed was the formation of a national student newspaper news service. Rhodes is represented by Rhodexo editor Martin Feinstein, Assistant editor Gordon Cramb and SRC Publications Councillor Albert Heydenreych. Fuller details of the conference next week.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sir,
I should like to express my disgust at the elitist nature of the South African Union of Jewish Students. It may or may not have come to the notice of students on campus that I and three other associates distributed a constructive criticism in pamphlet form on campus. In this pamphlet it was suggested that the future leadership of SAJUS should try and take a more diverse outlook towards both internal and external affairs. This criticism was not of a personal nature and we did not wish to offend any person especially the existing leadership. It came to my notice that one or two individuals became reactionary and almost infantile in the remaining few days of the third term last year. What I am pleased to say is that they started to show their true colours even if these colours were dirty.

The AGM was held, at which a motion was proposed to censure these people for writing and distributing the pamphlet on campus. I feel the chief aim of this motion was to remove both the freedom of opinion and expression within the auspices of Rhodes University.

There is still hope - the motion was not passed! A new committee was not elected due to constitutional problems but another meeting is to be held in the second week of the first term of 1977, where a new committee is to be elected. I should like to ask this committee to have a refreshing and dynamic outlook and to let the Jewish students emerge from their dark hole, Hillel House. Who knows, maybe if this is done the Jewish students might notice that not only should they play a role in general student activities, but they should be proud of the fact that they are Jewish.

Michael Bagraim.

RHODEO

EDITORIAL OPINION

It would be both naive and easy to say that Rhodéo's only similarity with the past is the name. However any newspaper involves not merely consecutive periods of existence, but a continuing reputation and image of credibility, which, when weakened, affects the future of the paper. Rhodéo is perhaps unique amongst South African student newspapers for various reasons. Financially, Rhodéo has to survive on a meagre budget which although increased this year, is still small. Furthermore, the nature of the Grahamstown locality rules out much advertising, and this situation has been weakened further by Rhodéo's loss of credibility last year. The Campus situation is also far from conducive to a successful student paper: there is very little communication between students and the administration, (a situation which is beginning to change) and the campus produces little relevant news material compared with the more metropolitan campuses. However, Rhodéo remains an integral part of the life of the University and its internal and external relationships, but this can only be maintained if there is effort on the part of students themselves. For our part, it will be the aim of the editorial staff not only to bring Rhodéo to the people, but to bring the people's views, complaints and aspirations for expression in Rhodéo. Our aim is to avoid becoming an elite, producing words for the masses; but rather a mouthpiece open to anyone with something to say. There will, however, be some areas and issues on which we will take a very definite policy stand.

Thus it is not only up to us to ensure that Rhodéo becomes what it should be, but up to the student body as well.

And with a bit of hope we shall see the beginning of the end of complacency and apathy.

It is obvious that a system of residence administration which is made up of wardens and sub-wardens and not students, will be a mere entrenchment of the warden's position and the old status quo. The SRC rightly sees its function in respect of reform as that of a watchdog, informing students of their rights and attempting to make the system truly representative.

In a system that has been lulled into apathy by the ruling body, the majority is never likely to emerge which could effect change. Unfortunately the feeling that the SRC is an outside body without the right to interfere in such matters was much in evidence last year. In fact, one warden of a woman's residence objected that an SRC member could have nothing to do with the hall's affairs because she was the SRC's rep in the hall! This event highlighted the danger of residences, particularly women's residences, becoming dominated by wardens and sub-wardens. After all, sub-wardens are not student representatives, but are more like "echoes of the warden". It is the warden, after all, who nominates the sub-wardens.

The SRC obviously has no right to dictate policies or constitutions to the halls, but it does have the duty to represent all students, and in instances where wardens seem to be trying as much as possible to entrench their positions of power, the SRC should continue to try to inform students of their rights and urge them to exercise these rights.

It is only in this way, through active participation in student affairs at all levels, that the SRC can achieve the credibility it needs to function as a truly representative student body.

PASSING

THE WISE MAN DOES
NOT SPEAK UNTIL HE
HAS SOMETHING TO SAY.



THROUGH

It has been said by the active few and the apathetic many that the primary reason for Rhodes University's complacent political role in South Africa is that it is not situated in a large city. Citing Wits, UCT and UPE as examples, they point to the apparent relationship between big-city exposure to problem issues and student action. On the other hand, they say, a university in a small town where problems are neither very manifest nor complex, cannot be expected to assume an active participatory role.

Grahamstown is a relatively small town. Rhodes is a relatively small university. But to attempt to justify an appalling lack of student commitment in immediate community issues and a lack of concern with national issues is ludicrous. No matter the size of the community issue or injustice, it is the very existence of involvement that is important. Once involvement and concern develop on the part of the student body towards a community, even on a small scale, the constructive participation and possibly intellectual

Continued on back page

BOOK NEWS

The following books are now available from the SA Institute of Race Relations, Publications Dept., PO Box 97, Johannesburg, 2000.

- *A Summary of the Report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Coloured People (the Theron Commission)* edited by Prof. Sheila T. van der Horst. R2.10 per copy, postage 15c.
- *A Survey of Race Relations in SA 1976* by Muriel Horrell, Sean Moroney and Sue Blignaut. R6.00 plus 25c postage.
- *Unregistered Trade Unions in South Africa* by John Lewsen (available February/March)
- *TURMOIL AT TURFLOOP: a summary of the reports of the Snyman and Jackson Commission of Inquiry into the University of the North (with appendices).* Compiled by J.G.E. Wolfson. R2.10 plus 15c postage.

RHODEO

EDITORIAL STAFF - VOL 31 NO 1

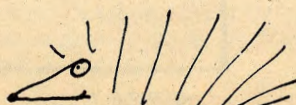
RHODEO is the student newspaper of Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa. Published by the SRC, Rhodes University and printed by Grocott and Sherry.

EDITOR Martin Feinstein
ASST EDITOR Gordon Cramb
FEATURES EDITOR Gavin Hayward
SPORTS EDITOR Rob Morell
BUSINESS MANAGER Richard Drurie-Brewer
CIRCULATION MANAGER Rob Freedman

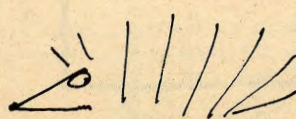
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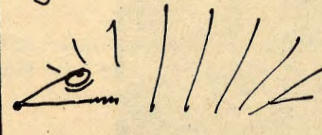
autonomous res
government....
very nice



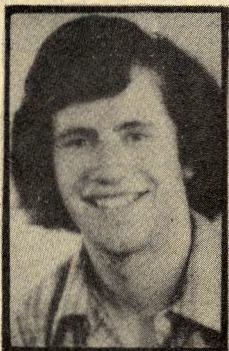
I just hope that,
knowing some people,



it doesn't become
AUTOCRATIC res
government



MEET YOUR SRC



ISAK SMUTS -
Black Staff Liason Councillor



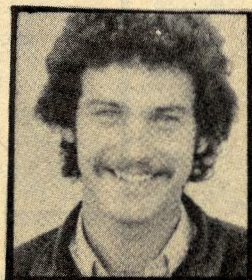
ASHLEY LA GRANGE - President



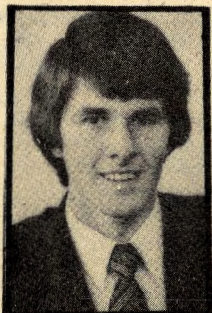
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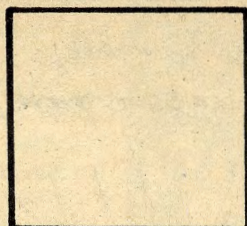
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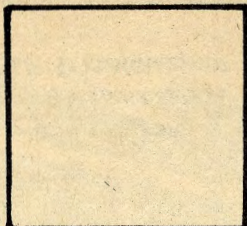
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Oppidan Councillor



ROB MIDGELEY - Culutural Councillor



MONICA STONES -
Honorary Secretary



GLENDIA LLOYD -
Projects Councillor

RIPOFF

STUDENT CONSUMER COLUMN

How many of you have decided that you've had enough of being short-changed, messed around, trampled underfoot, cheated, rudely treated, underestimated and generally ripped off by Grahamstown's notorious shopkeepers and businessmen?

Well now you have a release valve and a protection device all in one: your own student consumer column. Rhodes students in Grahamstown provide the biggest single source of money flowing into the town and as such they deserve to be listened to as consumers.

This is how the column works: if you are ripped off in any way by a shop or business in Grahamstown, and you are unable to sort things out yourself, write to Rhodex giving a brief account of the facts. Rhodex will then investigate the matter and take it up with the business concerned in full, publishing the letters and the results in 'RIPOFF'.

You've had it too good for too long, Grahams-town!

SAIRR Conference

Delivering the Hoernle Lecture to the South African Institute of Race Relations Conference in Durban last month, Professor G. Bozzoli, Principal of Wits University, appealed for the opening of white and black universities to all races.

He said the removal of university apartheid, which could be done with "little or no disturbance", would result in a tendency towards natural segregation. Once the mistrust caused by enforced segregation had disappeared, he said, Blacks would take pride in their best universities which would remain predominantly Black, while White universities would remain predominantly White.

At the same time in Johannesburg, the Institute called for the appointment of a judicial commission to investigate the growing number of deaths of people held under arbitrary police detention. At least 12 people have died in custody, all of them political detainees, since the beginning of 1976, while two detainees have died in the newly independent Transkei Republic since March last year.

In a statement, the executive committee of the Institute re-affirmed its belief "in the duty of the State to protect persons held in its prisons from the danger of illegal treatment, especially when they are held under provisions which effectively put interrogating officers beyond the reach of the law."

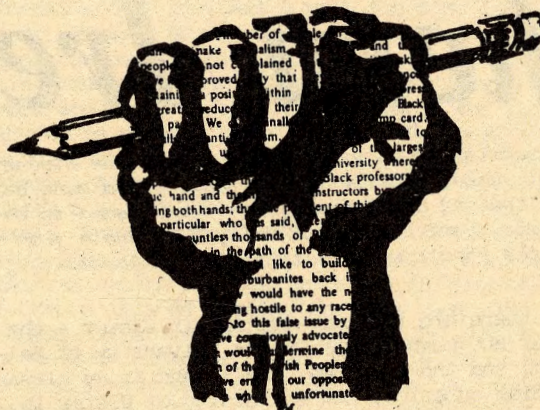
The appeal followed the death of another two detainees, Mr. Lawrence Ndzanga and Dr. Nanoth Ntshuntsha.

1st Term gigs

Tue 15th Feb	Vice-Chancellor's Welcome (Great Hall, 5 pm)
Wed 16th Feb	Opening Speakers Address (Great Hall, 8 pm)
Thu 17th Feb	Rag Finalists Cocktail Party (Rooms A & B, SU, 6-10 pm)
Fri 18th Feb	Kaif Krawl
Sat 19th Feb	Opening Ball (Great Hall, 8-12 pm)
Mon 21st Feb	Societies Evening (Great Hall, 8-11 pm)
Fri 25th Feb	Rag Discotheque (Great Hall, 7.30 pm)
Sat 26th Feb	Coronation Ball (Great Hall, 8 pm)
Fri 4th Mar	Rag Variety Show (Great Hall, 8 pm)
Sat 5th Mar	Boere Ball "Tickie Draai" (Great Hall, 8 pm)
Mon 7th Mar	Mock Trial (Great Hall, 7.30 pm)
Tue 8th Mar	Disney Ball (Great Hall, 7.30 pm)
Wed 9th Mar	Big Bleed (Great Hall, 8 am - 9 pm)

Rathbone: Thoughts on S.A.

RICHARD RATHBONE, lecturer in African History, is back in England after a recent lecture visit to UCT. Here are some of his thoughts on South Africa.



Broken People

August and September 1976 were violent and important months for South Africa. They were also important months for me; I was able to see much in South Africa that scholarly writing and journalism had not prepared me for. I cannot claim that these weeks were times of unalloyed happiness for such demanded a degree of callousness and detachment I fear I do not have amidst broken bodies, broken communities and broken people. But to those who helped me understand and who made that search interesting I will always be grateful.

Un-freedom

The frissons a newcomer experiences on arrival in South Africa are clichés; I was prepared, and yet oddly unprepared, for the demeaning profusion of the labels of apartheid. While I was made ill by signs on benches and lavatories, what did blacks make of these? I think I soon learnt. I have lived and worked in West Africa and I think I am a reasonably practical person. The West African political party I had spent years studying had once said that it preferred "freedom with danger to servitude in tranquillity" and in lofty tones I had questioned this. What does freedom mean, how do you count it, who is free and the rest. I know the answers to those questions now. South African blacks do not look free. Their eyes do not meet white eyes; they look over their shoulders to see the white you must be smiling at when you are smiling at them. They look frail and my dreams are haunted by the endless image of thin legs disappearing into ill-fitting big boots. Un-freedom has robbed them of the beauty I took for granted in West Africa. The young people I saw peacefully demonstrating in Cape Town until police provocation forced them to defend themselves had recaptured some of that beauty in their defiance. This is not an analysis of freedom but I know what people look like when they are denied it and that is an important lesson.

Conspicuous Consumption

But white people have freedom plus. The style and standard of life of whites disturbed me because a culture based upon conspicuous consumption should disturb anyone. In return for the extensive and unparalleled privilege you corporately enjoy, you sacrifice relatively cheap objects; were this not so white society would not play along with the barbarism of the regime. To be sure lots of you told me how terrible it was to live in South Africa. You had little freedom of speech, a lot of guilt and certain limits to the pursuit of happiness. Some of you, very few of you regrettably, are taking great risks in

pursuit of things that are important to you and I admire you without reservation. But more of you pretend a disaffection you do not live. Your clothes, your cars and your lifestyle jolted me when I compared them with those of my own students; but the price of those things is that you have stopped asking about how much those things cost, not to you, but the people you condemn to live half-lives of fear and hunger so that you may enjoy an unmatched material life.

Over-Intellectualizing

You spent a lot of time asking me what you should do. I could not answer that question because it is a monstrous arrogance to prescribe for others. I know that I should do but do not know what you can do. But some of the things you do are wrong and I can mention those. One of them is over-intellectualizing about South Africa. If you cannot feel and see what is wrong then it is you rather than society which is at fault. Analysis of the situation is neither a prescription for change nor is it the only proof of horror. Jumping into the collection of data about mine accidents or the number of cars owned by blacks is a kind of refuge from the unassimilable. In all extreme societies those who dissent have little peace. I am not referring only to the harassment of the state. Your personal life affords no escape from this for walks on the beach, drives in the platteland and the rest are disfigured by what you wrongly call "petty" apartheid. In an extreme society there is no escape from your personal life in work because that is painful. It is an agonising matrix to live with and you have your society to thank for that.

Sympathetic Radicals

But that is only part of over-intellectualization. Many of you are sympathetically radical. But much of that is radical chic. You can afford, because you are privileged whites, to make discordant noises from time to time. You have yet to face up to the black dilemma of being excluded from all avenues of legitimate protest. In that protected environment you laudably read widely and make certain conclusions. The state allows you theory but not practice and you comply with that restriction. And so the theoretical thrusts must necessarily become more daredevil. Thus I have had to listen to denunciations of "black consciousness" from a number of you. You analyse such, rightly, as racist and thus untouchable.

But what are you saying? And more importantly what are you looking at? Most assuredly it is not the realities of Langa and Guguletu, Athlone or Ocean View. In theory black consciousness is unpalatable but look at its power and try to understand what its espousal betokens. You are not supposed to be sympathetic with it for its advocates have given up on people like you after decades of bitter experience of betrayed trust. You are, not unnaturally, worried about your future if a black insurrection takes root and succeeds. The way you preserve your place in that society manifestly cannot be by denying the one ideology that has brought a hideously oppressed people off their knees and into acts of sheer courage that will always be remembered. The only way you can assure your place in that hoped-for society is by using the skills your privilege has afforded you and by allowing those whose unprivileged status has denied them such to use them. To expect such use to be always in accord with your purism is both naive and unreasonable.

Peripheral Roles

If I am sounding negative I crave your forgiveness. I am depressed by the general unconcern shown in my own country for what is happening in South Africa and the indifference of soi-disant radicals to contemplating ways in which we might help. But such sadness is offset immediately by the strength and self-awareness of blacks in South Africa. Unless we are elitists we cannot mourn the distinctly minor role given us by history. The fight is between blacks and white power now and your role - and my role - is at best peripheral. There are things to do of course and there are those amongst you whom I cannot name who know what those things are, just as I have colleagues who know what can and cannot be done from here. Some of these things might be risky, but absorbing what goes on around you is far worse than anything the state can do to you. The twenty or so years of socialization most of you have undergone in South Africa is hard to defy but defy it you will have to if you are to survive physically and morally. There are certainly many amongst you who I know to be capable of that. I am enormously glad in many ways that I am not a twenty year old white South African but the daunting nature of that role, which you have whether you sought it or not, is also quintessentially challenging.

now you know...

William G Hall of Shrewsbury, England, killed himself by drilling eight holes in his head with a power drill.

Grace Slick of Jefferson Airplane officially named her daughter god. Why the small g? "Because we've got to be humble about this", said the singer.

Students at DeAnza College, Cupertino, California, set a new world record by playing Monopoly underwater for twelve hours.

Alka Selzer in America cancelled its award-winning "Mamma Mia, That's a Some Spicy Meatball" TV commercial under pressure from the Italian-American Civil Rights League.

Russian scientists claim success in transforming grapes into brandy in ten days using nuclear radiation- and that it tasted as good as three-year-old cognac.

The tongue depressor used to examine Joe Frazier before the Frazier-Ali fight was offered for sale for \$20.

Students in Northern Ireland

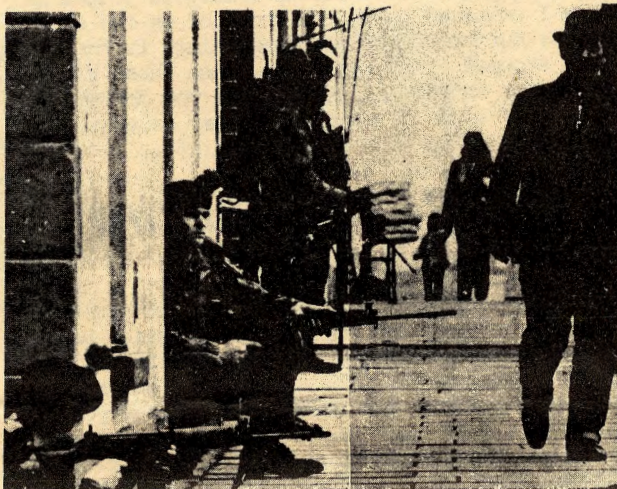
The Northern Ireland situation is one about which South African students know little. A complex struggle involving political rather than religious issues, and manifested most noticeably in violent guerilla warfare in Ireland and Britain, it is a dilemma in which students are playing an increasingly important role. Here DONAL McCracken, a graduate from the New University of Ulster and an assistant in the Rhodes University History Department, gives his view.

Ulstermen and South Africans have much in common - not least their reputation. To the ignorant foreigner they are seen as puritanical, inward looking, hopelessly entrenched in the past and supporting ultra-conservative governments. Consequently both have received the odium of the worlds popular mass media. My sojourn at Rhodes has clarified the truth of this for me - one should always be careful about believing what the BBC says, (next to Englishman, the most unpopular institution in Northern Ireland.)

There are always those at any university who seem to encompass their whole existence around rugby, girls (or boys, as the case may be), idle and irrelevant gossip and drink, (incidentally, there is an unhealthy absence of Guinness and Bushmills Whiskey on Rhodes campus). Casting aside these unfortunate and usually jolly souls I intend to discuss only those Ulster students who are more cultured - those who sit into the small hours of the morning, a glass in one hand (sometimes a revolver in the other) fiercely debating some aspect of their nations politics. Irish students for several centuries have been a noticeable segment of society. During the eighteenth century the young gentlemen of Trinity College Dublin, whose number included Edmund Burke, would - of an evening - pour tar over the equestrian statue of William III, because the rear of the brute, (the horse) pointed towards the gates of the college. Finally one night they beheaded the monarch of "glorious and immortal memory". Their battles with the butcherboys were legendary - on one occasion the latter capturing a scholar and hanging him up by a meat-hook from his mouth.

Such tomfoolery has tended today to remain south of the border in the Irish Republic - whilst in Ulster student militance abounds. But it differs from that of English or American universities, in that it is not confined to the left wing. I do not intend to plunge in to the many and complex facets of the Ulster problem - suffice it to say that religion is only one of several component parts. Because the Catholic minority tended to come from the poorer classes their politics veered towards socialism. The present mainly Catholic party is called the Social Democratic and Labour party. Whereas the unionists - comprising an alliance between protestant artisan and landlord - veered to the right, and their party was actually allied to the Conservative party at Westminster. Therefore, when the present troubles began in the mid '60's student militance emulated along these two lines - right wing, loyalist and protestant, and left wing, republican and catholic. And it was initially from the latter that there was student political activity.

Now there are two universities in Ulster - the older and much larger Queens University of Belfast, and the very new, small, and in my biased opinion superior, New University of Ulster in Coleraine, near the north coast. It was at Queens in 1968 that student involvement in present day Northern Ireland's politics began, with the formation by students and post graduates of the Peoples Democracy Movement. In theory,



*...an 824 year old struggle
with no end in sight*

and perhaps initially, a non-sectarian organisation which sympathised with the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association. Following the example of Berkley campus, monster meetings and marches were organised by the students - led by Miss Bernadette Devlin, soon to become an MP at the age of 20. A great many moderate students from both religions joined the movement in the hope of that it might break the traditional sectarian political impasse. The Northern Ireland Home Secretary referred to them as "silly bloody fools". Whether they were or not is debatable - certainly many soon resigned as the movement took on a more republican (IRA) standpoint, and especially after the movement's refusal to suspend agitation when Captain O'Neill - then Ulster premier - announced certain reforms and dismissed the able, but extreme, Home Secretary, William Craig. The "Burntollet" incident, when Civil Rights marchers were attacked by loyalists

in which members of the Peoples Democracy and Radical Students Alliance were involved, exacerbated the sectarian split in student life and the Republican Clubs came into their own. On the other side of the fence unionist students activity was on the decline until about two years ago, when the followers of that controversial and astute politician, the Rev. Dr Ian Paisley went on the offensive. His party - the Democratic Unionists, who are left of the original Unionist Party - virtually replaced the latter in Queens, and remain to this day a potent opposition to the republicans. Politics has been and still is, therefore, a powerful force in the life of Queens University; and numbers of students are imprisoned for being staff-members in the IRA.

I have left the New University of Ulster to the last, as its student politics seem to augur well for the future. In the Belfast area the institution has a reputation by both sides of being in the hands of their opponents, as a High Sheriff of Belfast remarked, in confidence: There's a "P" on every door which stands for "Paisley". Politics have tended to live in isolation on the campus as Conservative society versus Socialist, (neo-Republican). Further, the Campus seems relatively free from sectarian tension and draws considerable numbers of students from the Republic of Ireland. This intellectual independence found expression when the student body repudiated the National Union of Students motion to ban all "facist speakers" on any campus. And to show their contempt for this motion we in the Debating Union brought Mr Enoch Powell to speak on the campus, where he was enthusiastically received.

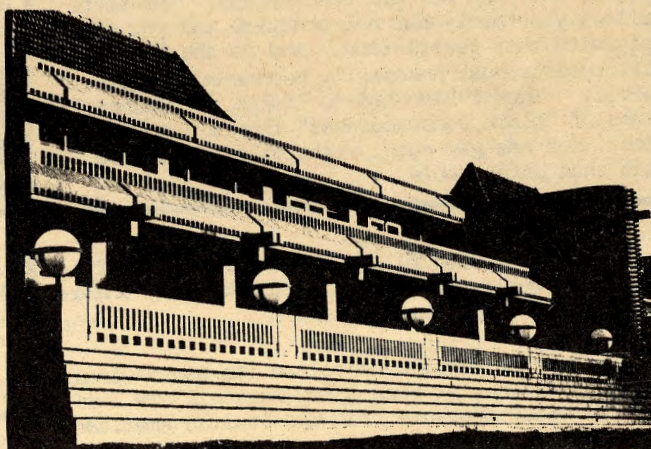
But where a new and healthy student approach to politics has emerged is in the support given to those of us who believe in an independent Ulster where religious differences will be sunk in a common loyalty to our own province - thus throwing off the divisive bonds of England and the Irish Republic. In a recent debate I spoke on a platform with Mr Glen Barr, MP for Londonderry. In favour of the motion, "This House would declare independence". In a Great Hall packed, and against Unionist and Alliance MP's, the motion was virtually unanimously carried by the student body. And if I had to predict the future involvement of Ulster students in the politics of their land, it would be that they would reject their traditional politicians, who constantly churn out a plethora of pathos and platitudes. Then, maybe, a solution might be found to the age old problem, which has been the graveyard for the career of many a fine English politician - The Irish Question.

Kimberley Hall...

The basic objective of the Kimberley Hall committee is the planning, organisation, controlling, coordination, disciplining, staffing and motivation of a system in which the hall affairs are autonomous.

These ideals are perhaps tempered by the realisation that it is still Senate who dictates the parameters within which the Hall may introduce change. 'Legislation' outside the accepted limit is placed before a Residence Superintendent Committee for approval.

Hall 'government' is divided into an executive and a committee. The executive comprises the Hall Warden as chairman, the Hall senior student



autonomy?

as vice-chairman and various secretaries. One house warden and one sub-warden are also included in this body. It meets fairly regularly and is the seat of effective power. Room is allowed for up to 3 students on this committee and a majority vote is needed to pass a motion. Once the system is operational, the committee's authority will encompass everything except catering and maintenance. In the long run it is even possible that student fees might be reduced as the Hall assumes more control, through the reduction of catering and repair costs. Mike Beggs, the senior student of Pringle House, equates being on the committee with being on the SRC: "There may be a lot of wasted time."

FRESHERS UNDER PRESSURE

When a new student comes to Rhodes, he (for he read he/she throughout) often arrives under the impression that he is escaping from all the restrictions of home and school, into a completely free environment. As long as he gets through in November, there seems little else to hinder him in living the sort of life he wants to lead for once. But under this surface freedom there in fact lie many hidden pressures on the student to conform in various directions. These pressures emanate from the structure of Rhodes campus society and from certain groups within it.

American campuses have over the years been the subject of much sociological examination, and for the benefit of freshers Rhodéo's Gordon Cramb took some of these thoughts to the head of our own Department of Sociology, to get them unraveled. Professor EDWARD HIGGINS has been at Rhodes for around ten years.

Rondebosch, Cape Town, 7 January.

A good starting-point would probably be the most striking feature of Rhodes as opposed to metropolitan universities: that it is a residential university where most of the students - and nearly all new students - live right on campus. What special problems does this give rise to?

Our problems are contained in a more narrow physical and socio-psychological area. In Grahamstown the university student lacks the anonymity that he would have at Wits, Pretoria or Cape Town, and lacks the diversity of entertainment. This could mean an inbred "spirit" which I think is the particular charm of Rhodes. It is self-contained, and when you line this up with the best staff-student ratio in the country, this has academic and even social advantages. To a large extent we escape the excessive bureaucratization and impersonality of large universities. The community that arises from having to rub shoulders with others holds fantastic potential for developing friendships, and for "bull sessions" where minds meet and people exchange ideas.

To what extent do you think these opportunities are exploited at Rhodes?

No, they are not exploited to the full. As I often say to my students, there are more things to talk about than fashions and dates, or sport and women. If all your efforts are going into a good time or griping about the residence system, then you will miss many opportunities. These are three or four "golden years", where most students are in a sense free of financial worries or responsibilities. They are - let's face it - a privileged minority, an elite, and in South Africa doubly so. Arguing about the great questions of life can be great fun - I can't see it as a drudge. One mind should always improve another.

Coming back to the problems, many people are not used to living at such close quarters in residence. These people can be "thrown", and many serious emotional problems do arise. A counselling service is extremely important. Many on the staff realise that students are not just minds, and where there are grave emotional problems one's work must suffer. Problems of adjustment are inescapable. The majority seem to make the grade, but they don't squeeze enough out of university life, or they are rather one-sided in what they squeeze out.

Does Rhodes as a self-contained community bring forth much stronger social pressures towards conformity than in a looser framework?

Perhaps the conformity that the students impose on themselves is sharper and less undifferentiated. This internal system is often much more important and closer to the participants, than the external system as laid down in university regulations.

Is this conformity entirely self-created, or are there powerful pressure-groups within the student community which enforce it?

There are definitely pressure-groups on campus. Let's take some of them.

- You get the highly motivated, work-oriented student who just wants to get his or her degree with no trimmings or window-dressing, sticking to the syllabus and avoiding all distractions. In some ways this is admirable, but this student reminds me of a horse with blinkers. He feels that he shouldn't even think about political or ideological issues or look outside the campus. The pressure coming from this "silent majority" is not highly focused.
- The student radicals, for instance, take an opposite view. This group is well-endowed intellectually, and, partly because of that, they can have interests far beyond their studies. For them the intellectual life only has validity if it can reform political structures.
- Another group of "radical intellectuals" are not politically oriented. They have in a



sense turned their back on politics and the larger society. Here you will find such manifestations as the drug scene.

- Among the girls there are the "social butterflies", and I feel there are too many of them at Rhodes. Lacking seriousness of purpose, they are more interested in their wardrobe than the intellectual life, more interested in boyfriends than in getting a degree, more interested in dates than doing any serious work in the library.
- They have their counterparts among the men: we've heard of the rugger-buggers, these aggressively masculine types, the sportsmen, the heavy drinkers, with at least externally an anti-intellectual syndrome. They try to live out the anti-work because of the pressures of their peer group, though perhaps some of them are secretly hard workers.

There are other groups such as those with a strong religious commitment, and there is the breakdown between Oppidans and residential students. All this points to enrichment. Students of Fine Art, Music and Speech and Drama are distinguishable from the rest, as are broadly the Commerce students, Arts students, Social Science, Divinity and Law. The earlier types I spoke about tend to overflow into the different faculties, and all have a differential degree of success in exerting conformity on their fellow-students. It's a fascinating scene; but naturally as an academic I expect people to come to university with a seriousness of purpose, and I must be critical of some of the aspects.

Would you say that on coming to university for the first time, people naturally drift into one of these groups, or do some of the groups actively recruit?

Watching this, I like to bluff myself that in those first few weeks I can pick out the different types, but I'm not always successful. There is an element of self-selection, of gravitation towards certain groups. Like seeks like. Then there is a large group uncommitted. This process can be very subtle and almost unconscious: more established persons in various groups do seek out others, but the others are drawn.

In your first term on campus I often wonder how anybody does any work - because of finding one's feet not only academically (learning how to use the library etcetera), but socially, in the interacting of so many diverse persons all subsumed under the one status and role of "student". I've also wondered whether certain types are drawn for example to the Social Sciences, or do the disciplines have some impact on people, or is it something of both? I've noticed with my colleagues in the tea-room, even when discussing some non-academic subject, the different approaches, the slight differences in terminology and emphasis.

Do students actively play the role of university student?

I do think that they try to play a role - they adopt all the externals - the slang, dress style and attitudes are all elements new to them which they acquire in the course of their university career - some more than others. So many acquire what I call a new rhetoric, towards which I am most unsympathetic.

What does that involve?

It involves a new terminology, and what I think is a lot of sloganeering and shibboleths trotted out and often it takes the place of logic, analysis and argumentation. These people are very difficult to deal with. For instance, if they don't like something you are saying, they press the button, and the button flashes on the screen of their mind "Fascist" or, worse still, "Conservative". A label has been attached to you, and what you are saying is not examined on its merits. This student rhetoric is one of the greatest obstacles to clear thinking and the pursuit of the intellectual life.

Returning once more to the residences, what problems arise from the segregation of men and women students?

Some people seem to combine what I would call "love and the intellectual life" very well, but many others do not. Members of the opposite sex can become a terrible distraction to pursuing one's studies. Do segregated residences encourage this distraction? If I were a student I would not like to live in a mixed residence; but I'm at least a generation removed from the people whom it concerns.

What I have found out in discussion with students - and which I must confess surprised me - is that many first-year males in spite of their bravado are terrified of females. Another phenomenon is not so surprising, but interesting: on the campus the students have their own status system or hierarchy, and this comes into play in regard to dating. A first-year man, so I'm told, wouldn't get away with trying to date a second- or third-year woman student. But I don't know whether mixed residences would solve our problems - I'm inclined to think not. This is South Africa, and a university cannot pretend that it is not existing in its society. It has to take cognizance of the society in which it is rooted. It is irrelevant whether the people like the society or not - it's one of the facts of life.

Continued on page 10

Vice Chancellor's MESSAGE TO FRESHERS

It is my pleasure to offer a very warm welcome to all new students attending Rhodes for the first time. Rhodians are proud people. They are proud of their university, proud of their traditions and proud of the achievements of those who have gone before them. You are now Rhodians and we who are already Rhodians expect a great deal of you. We expect you to uphold the good name of the university in your academic achievements, in your athletic endeavours, in your extra-mural activities, in your concern for the well-being and convenience of others, and in your conduct both on and off the university precincts.

The extent to which you profit from your years at Rhodes rests very largely in your own hands. There is not much emphasis on compulsion in the university ethos. One largely sets one's own goals and the extent to which one reaches or falls short of the target depends on the degree of effort which you are prepared to expend. Be ambitious with your goals: aim high and do not be content with second best, either in yourself or in others; but more particularly in yourself. Ultimate and longterm goals have to be broken down into yearly, monthly, weekly, even daily sub-goals. A serious commitment to earn a degree three or four years from now must be translated into a series of lesser commitments to complete certain assignments in the current week, for example, which in turn implies setting aside time for reading and study each day. Otherwise, your commitment is meaningless. A journey of a thousand kilometres begins with the first step, as the old Chinese proverb goes.

Students are young people full of vigour, initiative and joie-de-vivre. You are going to enjoy yourselves, no matter what "the system" says or does. Thank God for it: the world would be a very dull place without students. Let me urge you however, never in your lighter moments of recreation to let your exuberance be at the expense of others. It is not always easy to bear in mind, but not everybody in Grahamstown is a student. Excessive noise late at night, overindulgence in alcohol or other forms of arrogant or boorish behaviour do not endear students to the townfolk, and in any case are not necessary concomitants to enjoying oneself.

The year 1977 is not going to be an easy one either for the country or for the university. We are going through a period of necessary, though often painful, adjustment. Both as individuals and as an institution we shall have to learn to make do on rather fewer financial resources than we have been accustomed to. We shall also have to accommodate ourselves to the concept that certain privileges that we have regarded as part of our birthright may not always be ours in the future.

A time of limited adversity and stringency is also a time of opportunity. It enables us to take stock of ourselves, to decide what is essential in our lives and what is merely convenient or enjoyable. Use your time at university wisely. Take stock of yourself, determine worthwhile goals and strive for them wholeheartedly. Participate fully in all that university life has to offer you, and prepare yourselves to make a solid contribution to the juster and more peaceful Southern Africa to which we all aspire. Above all, cultivate a sense of balance and harmony in all that you undertake. You will then emerge from your experience at Rhodes a fully integrated human being, prepared intellectually, emotionally and physically to make your contribution to society.

D. S. Henderson.

Dr. D.S. Henderson
VICE-CHANCELLOR

FRESHERS UNDER PRESSURE Continued from previous page

The res system is obviously a big factor in the development of peer groups; but this only partly explains the syndrome of riotous boozing for which Rhodes is famed. Why are there seemingly so many rigger-buggers at Rhodes?

I wonder in my more charitable moments whether it is again because we live in a small town and don't have the diversity of entertainment that, let us say, Natal or Wits students have.

In other words, if you've seen both movies there's nothing else to do but go to the Graham?

Exactly. Then again, the younger male students don't know how to relate to women, and with the herd spirit acquired in adolescence they prefer to go drinking. It is a status symbol. I often wonder where these people get all the money. We have a rather bad name for excessive drinking. There is terrific pressure from the peer group: it's a brave man who will walk down to the Vic on a Friday night and say "give me a bitter lemon with a lot of ice". But an improvement in drinking habits could take place. By all accounts the last Rag was the most sober we have had, and, strangely enough, we have never collected so much money.

It was pretty well policed though, with the VC prowling around on floatbuilding night...

I think that was an excellent idea! Rag is a very public occasion. Why must students be so protected from the consequences of their behaviour? As I see it, in Grahamstown they are.

In what sorts of ways?

People turn a blind eye to intoxication and other forms of deviant behaviour and say "Oh, they're only students", whereas if I as an ordinary citizen was guilty of that, I would feel the full rigour of the law. I feel this is a bad preparation for life.

Do you think that students get away with more than they come in for? Students often imagine themselves as the whipping-boys of the Grahamstown residents.

I think so, in spite of that. In all university towns (one can go back to Oxford or Paris) there has been some town-gown clash or latent hostility. People may be envious of students. Taxpayers may think that you are sometimes irresponsible, and I think they are right!

Here's a problem which worries me far more than rigger-buggerism. Every year in the columns of Rhoeo there appear letters bemoaning the overwhelming state of apathy that exists among Rhodes students, towards anything beyond set academic work, sport, and maybe helping out a little on Rag Day. The SRC, other clubs and activities on campus, as well as any body such as NUSAS concerned with changing the broader South African society, are beyond the average student's threshold of concern. What are the causes of this apathy? Why is it so prevalent at Rhodes?

Yes, I have seen it in my own lectures - I recall last year being exasperated into a state of silence by students, interrupting with "Is this necessary for the exam?" In other words, an incredibly narrow view of education. Whether the schools or the parents are to blame, or the generally uncritical nature of South African society, I don't know. To be an intellectual is not to be able to trot out a whole lot of answers learnt off by heart; but it is to take the answers people give and to turn them into questions. I may not have the answer to all of South Africa's problems - nobody has - but I should have some gnawing and nagging questions.

Continued on back page

Alister Maxegwana is alive and well and living at the whim of Admin

by Ben MacLennan & Rhoeo staff

The day after Rhodes residence head waiter Alister Maxegwana gave State evidence in the pamphlets trial last year, he was suspended by Staffing and Personnel Officer Mr L Smit because "The man has been in court - he can't just come back and start work". The Vice-Chancellor Dr Henderson said the suspension was made with his knowledge, but Smit says he only sent a report and notification of the suspension to the VC after the act.

The VC said Maxegwana was suspended because "I haven't had the transcripts of court records yet, but I believe Mr Maxegwana was involved in something that could have upset the normal proceedings of the University". He said Maxegwana was going before a disciplinary committee, but refused to say whether Maxegwana would be allowed to represent himself, or who would be or who would appoint the committee.

A week later he suspended postgraduate students Jack Lewis and Lauren Vlotman - making this decision without access to the information on which he said Maxegwana's case still depended. The punishment of the white students was meaningless. They were suspended for the whole of 1977. Neither had intended to return then anyway. Henderson actually discussed Lauren Vlotman's plans with her before passing sentence.

(Jack has since been banned, and Lauren has had her passport confiscated.)

SRC

The SRC Executive passed a motion condemning certain aspects of the University's conduct, noting "the expressed liberal values of the Vice-Chancellor and the University" and that the University saw fit to discipline persons who had already gone before the courts of the land. SRC President Ashley la Grange was particularly upset by the University's handling of the affair.

Philosophy lecturer Ian Macdonald asked the VC if he could represent Maxegwana at the hearing. It appears at this stage that he will be allowed to do so. The committee is now waiting for the transcript of the court records. Maxegwana has been suspended on full pay, but he may not go to work. Friends report that being in this limbo is demoralizing him, to put it mildly.

Editorial comment:

The committee is reportedly to consist of four senior members of Council. I would question the presence of one of them (who holds a high-up Admin post) on the grounds of a conversation between him and Maxegwana, reported by the latter, in which he said that Maxegwana was "fucking the University up". He doesn't sound unbiased. According to Lewis, Henderson said to him that he would allow Maxegwana back if he would sign a declaration promising not to involve himself in the

Black Workers' Union. If this is true, it sounds suspiciously as though Henderson is using the court case as an excuse to settle the long-standing grudge between the BWU and the Administration. If the committee finds Maxegwana guilty, it won't be so easy for them to find a punishment that ranks with the meaningless one imposed on the students. Firing him is a very drastic step. It is very difficult to find a job in Grahamstown, especially if you've been fired from your last one. Alister Maxegwana is an intelligent, warm, loyal man of high integrity. He has spent years in a dead-end job - in any other society he would be in a position where he could exercise his initiative and his intelligence. He deserves sympathy for what I see as an act of frustration. Not for the act itself - the threat to burn houses was reprehensible - but for being driven to this act. He does not deserve to be condemned.

SPORT

purple
or
la grange

The track-suit issue which created such a furor at the end of last year has eventually deflated down to nothing more than hot air which nevertheless blew away the proposals for change. According to Ashley La Grange (see picture), the prime mover of the motion, misconception seems to have played a large part in the rejection of the proposals. Aware of some discontent on campus over the colour of the tracksuit, Ashley sounded out opinion. There seemed to be an overwhelming desire for change among the sports-people he spoke to. Their main objection was that outside the Eastern Province the present Rhodes tracksuit could not be worn without "sticking out like a sore thumb". The opposition to the "distasteful" colour however appeared to be minimal. With this in mind, Ashley introduced the idea of a colour change and at the same time the possibility of a new style. The outcry this caused doomed the proposal almost as soon as it had been made. Of the estimated 30% strongly opposed to the change, most, Ashley feels, were unaware of exactly what was being suggested. Sports Union colours were to remain the same, and the grey which was proposed was not a "dull steel grey" as alleged, but a mottled grey of which there were no samples available. Rejection seemed to stem from tradition, (Ashley points out that the present colour is only 8 or 9 years old anyway) and perhaps a deep seated loyalty to Rhodes and its colours. Whether purple and white is gaudy, distasteful or obscene, it seems as though Rhodes will continue to be recognised flamboyantly, whether the up-country brethren like it or not.

Not in the
running

At last years Stirk Bowl athletics meeting, the absence of Black athletes was conspicuous after both Fort Hare University and the Border Black athletic associations had been invited to participate. The reasons for the lack of response were thought to be that the Black athletic season ends in April, thus finding the athletes out of practise in October. However political motives were not excluded.

The Athletics Club has always advocated a merit system of selection and this has got them into trouble on at least one occasion - in the late 1940's a meeting with Fort Hare caused quite a storm. Next year, UPE will probably have a multiracial meeting. Rhodes, in keeping with its policy, is thinking along the same lines. The future is open: in the club constitution a Black is as eligible for membership as anyone else.

GREAT
EXPECTATIONS

There is more than enough sport at Rhodes to keep everyone happy and completely engrossed - to the extent that (mercifully) you won't have to open a book all year. With tongue in cheek, ROB MORELL tells you all.

What a sport bonanza lies before us this year. From bitter to sweet, every taste is catered for. For those who have Evel Knievel tendencies, there is the kamikaze soap box derby - a suitably flamboyant way to earn a mention in despatches. Masochistic and sadistic tendencies may be satisfied on the acreage of grass (normally green) fronting the Kaif. Here one may take delight in either watching people throw small leather balls at one another or in actually seeking to kill the guineau pig holding a piece of plank. Another version of this sport takes place on the King field - the subtle difference between the two forms (called 'baseball' and 'cricket') is the batting method. In baseball, the implement used has its origins in medieval warfare, while in cricket the bat is derived from the primitive spade.



The chief occupation of the Rhodes academic year is rugby. All members of the male sex are invited to come and see and take part in all-in wrestling, complicated by the use of an odd shaped ball. The fairer sex too, has ample opportunity for showing their flair in this sphere. In the field of achievement, the Rhodes Ist succeeded last year in killing all but the most resolute teams, while on the home front Botha House were the most successful on the beaches. (They adopted the old Vorster adage.)



For lovers of round ball games, there is a wide variety of choice. Snooker: a most popular sport from which the more enthusiastic players graduate up to fencing. If the snooker tables under the SU are occupied, more round ball satisfaction

may be found on the soccer field. Although Rhodes Ist XI did not do too well in their Eastern Cape league last year, it is hoped that this year the ball will be better taught - to enter the opponents net.

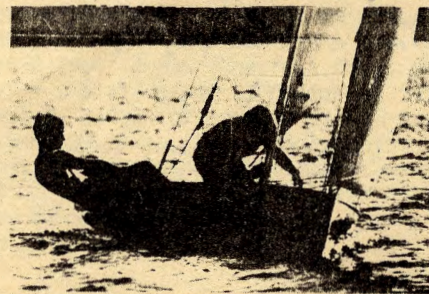
Basketball, netball and volleyball all have an ardent following. Apart from spectator excitement, these sports provided provincial representatives and a feast of good hearted attempted manslaughter.

Squash made its notable black mark on Rhodes life. The hundreds of hard-hitting individuals who gravitated to the courts last year proved that swear words are definitely in. To improve one's vocab, a trip to the squash courts is always rewarding. In the same vein, tennis falls down a bit: the zealous player's articulations tend to get lost in the wind.

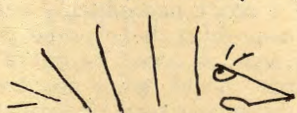
It's rather perplexing that so many people prefer hockey to golf. After all, golf is just a relaxed stationary way of playing hockey. This may seem paradoxical, particularly to those who have ever witnessed a scratch golfer shank a chip, but in contrast, the vigorous perambulations of persons on the field (both large and small, male and female - an interesting finding for those who do Botany) holding sticks seems ridiculous. Although Rhodes lost many of its hockey matches last year, it was responsible for Philip Rudd's representing E.P.

We now come to the water sports, the most popular of which is a leisurely plek by the side of the pond with a pair of verkykers. However, there are other, more energetic watery pastimes - swimming for instance. If its quite cool (about 0 degrees) go and have a look at the swimming pool; among the icebergs you'll be able to observe some bodies. These will indubitably belong to people who belong to the waterpolo, underwater and swimming clubs. All those specialising in anti-freeze are encouraged to join the above clubs.

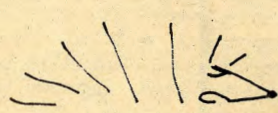
Just across the way from the pool is another pool within which is a sort of an island. This masterpiece of engineering is for those vasybtyng types who fancy themselves as oarpersons. The object of the system is to climb into your concrete boat and then paddle like hell until you've got nowhere at all; thus, satisfaction having been obtained, one may retire, hurt, until the next day at the same time. The more buoyant members of the club occasionally go and float on Settlers Dam. Three other similar forms of water sport can be found at Rhodes. For yachting, the use of wind is obligatory. For canoeing, the use of a canoe is obligatory, while for surfing (down at Kowie) the use of surf is optional.



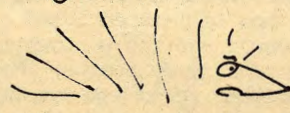
Change the colour
of the Rhodes
tracksuits?



That's a TERRIBLE
idea. Just think....



...we wouldn't match
the rubbish bins
anymore.



What, me
worry?

Republic of South Africa



Warning

To All New Students at University

In the past your government has been forced to ban a large number of students and former students. We believe that few, if any, of you would like to end your university career with the following qualifications:—

- Restricted to specific magisterial district.
- Banned from factories, educational establishments, courts of law, airports, docks, printing and publishing premises.
- Prohibited from attending gatherings — social or otherwise. (A gathering is 3 or more people)
- Restricted to your home over weekends and from 6 p.m. — 7 a.m. at night — without being allowed any visitors.
- Frequent reports to the police.
- Not allowed to be quoted.

Therefore, we urge you to follow this simple rule:

Do Not Think

At all times — do what you are told, avoid discussion, do not question any aspects of society, remember — an unwary thought in your brain could lead to actions incompatible with state security — so avoid them — in particular thoughts on such subjects as — humanity; Christ's teachings; fair wages; prejudice; fascism; police brutality; justice; fair play; decency; sport; religion; literature; culture; censorship; cost of living; etc. etc.

Continued from Page 5

Such wished for concern is sadly lacking in Grahamstown. Apart from the fleeting charitable orgasm that is Rag, there is no concrete participation in the issues which surround students in their Grahamstown environment: the tragic poverty of black South Africans and the eviction of people from their lifelong homes to name but two. These issues remain and multiply while nothing is done. And even Rag is a charitable hoax, which without its associated pleasures and diversions would not exist.

It is tempting to excuse Rhodes students from the burden of involvement by saying that they are usually from other areas and cities, and do not feel for Grahamstown's problems what they might well do in their home towns. But facts must be faced. They are South Africans, and they are in Grahamstown for a very substantial part of their higher education, living amongst and living off their fellow South Africans. Petty parochialism is no excuse for apathy or complacency. The localised issues that students face here, in terms of relevance, are no different to those anywhere else, and are merely microcosms of larger, South African problems. Action in Grahamstown is action in South Africa, results in Grahamstown are results for South Africa. We live in South Africa as well as in Grahamstown, and to those committed to change and to those who perhaps do not realise or acknowledge the need for change, this is the place to start.

Fogstar.

FRESHERS UNDER PRESSURE continued from page 10

Human beings are fundamentally selfish, looking after number one, and the people who look beyond are often regarded as eccentric. The apathy of the majority often drives the minority into ridiculous postures. In going to the extreme they weaken their case. That doesn't deny the need for all persons associated with the university to be critical, analytical and to think about the ways in which the quality of South African life could be improved or reformed. It pains me that more of our students are not critical: it is a sad lack in our society. If the academics are not critical, then who on earth is going to be?

The civil disobedience campaign of about six years ago has become part of Rhodes folklore, as the great manifestation of nonapathy. Were the consequences of that era and the attitude of Admin one of the causes of the present apathy?

No, I wouldn't see it so much internally. In any country which feels threatened, isolated and ringed by hostile forces (whether real or imagined) the area of tolerance shrinks and the area of vulnerability increases. That affects everyone. Whether it is an apathy of disinterest or despair, I don't know. But so often the people who tried to be concerned and critical were ridiculous, no matter how well-intentioned. They often marred their cause and the worthwhile elements in what they were saying, by the way they went about things. But they faced a mountain of apathy and people are not very reasonable when they reach a stage of exasperation.

How do freshers get dragged into this cult of non-participation?

Let us take the students who are coming to Rhodes in 1977. I am sure that the majority of their parents will have told them "Don't get involved in anything political." People who step seriously out of line in South Africa find that a heavy hand descends on them. It is so difficult for people who are idealistic and have a strong social conscience, to adopt a critical stance and keep within the law. I myself think it can be done and should be done, but many young people seem to find it extremely difficult. I think that the majority because of pressures on them are going to play safe.

Could you finally run through a brief checklist of the most significant pressures facing first-year students as they come to Rhodes?

First of all is bewilderment at this (to him) completely crazy scene. The newcomer has got to learn so much; the poor student can be in a total dwaal. Then a new approach to study, to knowledge. This is a staggering change. Then of course a considerable amount of freedom.

It's paradoxical that freedom is a pressure, isn't it?

Yes — all the seductions of university life can lead students astray — I don't necessarily mean in a moral sense, but away from their prime purpose, which is to study and (we hope) to get a degree, improve their minds and to get a new look on life. It's a most demanding form of adjustment that we require from them, and the remarkable thing is that most adjust reasonably successfully.