



RHODOS

INCORPORATING THE RUSA REPORTER



VOLUME 1 No. 4

MAY 18, 1989



The "Boss" is watching

Phoneaholics, beware! The "Boss" has got your number.

The telephone monitoring system, *Teleboss*, is now operational and is keeping its watchful electronic eye on who telephones who, where, when and for how long - 24 hours a day.

The system has not been introduced to make life difficult - it is intended to make staff more aware of the cost of making long distance telephone calls, in an attempt to reduce the University's monthly telephone account.

So far this year, the use of telephones has cost a staggering R126 916,40. In 1988, telephone costs for the whole year amounted to R502 000,00. In 1984, before the installation of the PABX system, admin's telephone bill came to a mere R95 000,00 and that of departments, research institutes and units was approximately R50 000,00 ie. R145 000,00 in all. Despite spiralling costs in telephone charges, the costs have not risen proportionately, which is why something had to be done.

Teleboss will be used on a trial basis until the end of the year and until then, monthly reports will be sent to heads of departments, research institutes and units detailing the costs incurred on each member of their staff's telephone line, enabling them to keep a check on the use of the telephones for

which they are responsible.

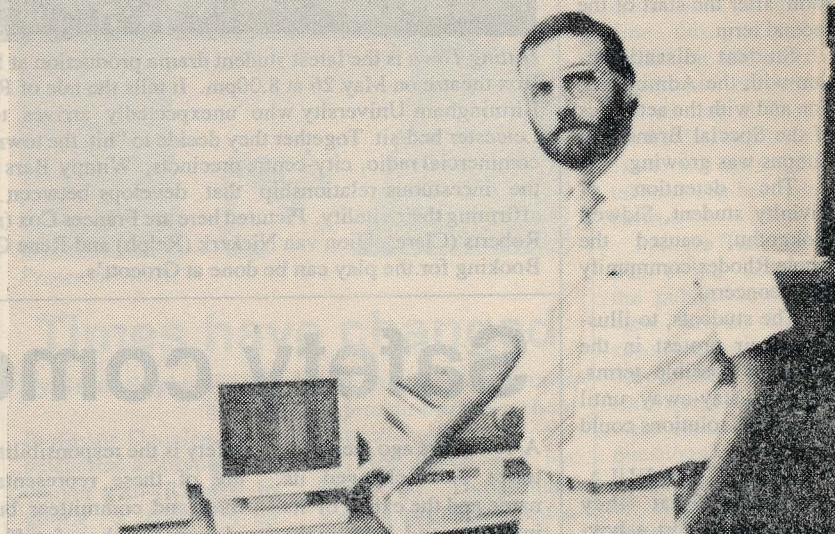
Mr Errol Wicks, of the Finance Division, told RHODOS that this method will enable those concerned to estimate the amount of money they will need to budget for annually to cover telephone charges. They will also be able to see very clearly if and when telephone lines under their control are being misused. Mr Wicks said that the insufficient monitoring of unbarred lines is one of the causes of the high telephone bill.

At the beginning of next year, as in the days before the advent of the PABX system, specific sums of money will be added to departmental grants to pay for telephone calls. This amount will be determined by the amount spent by each section from now until the end of the year.

Mr Wicks estimates that by using the monitoring system, and making each member of staff more aware of the costs involved in dialling a number, approximately R200 000,00 a year could be saved, to be spent on library books, for instance.

Already, there are signs of savings. Before the "Boss" was installed, telephone calls were costing, on average, R2 000,00 a day. The average cost now is R1 300,00.

Teleboss also records the number of calls made in a given period, the number of calls received, and the average answering



This is it! Pat Brett, from Teleboss, East Cape, with the newly installed telephone monitoring system.

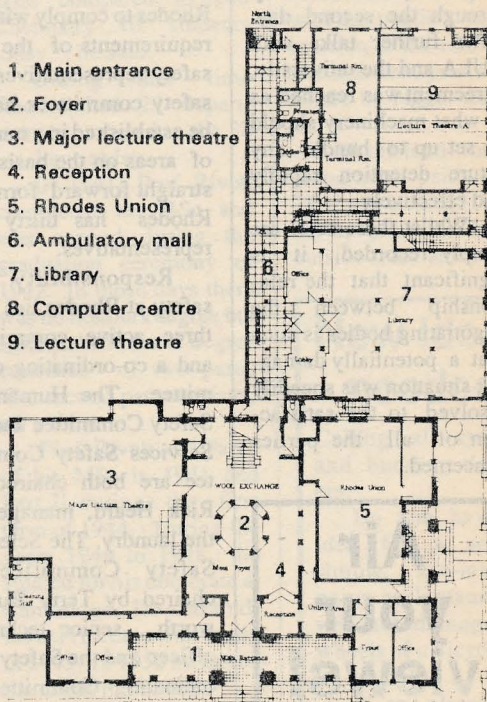
time. On April 29, 1 996 outgoing calls were recorded and 2 358 incoming calls. *Teleboss* showed that 699 calls put through to extensions were answered, and 401 calls were unanswered. The average answering time was 4,53 seconds a call - surely an indication of the great job being done by our hardworking switchboard operators.

Released!

News of the release from detention of Divinity student Sidwell Mokgothu was conveyed to RUSA chairman, John Eller, on Friday April 28, just 21 days after he was detained.

The Rhodes community is grateful for the efforts of the University Administration, RUSA, RULA and the student body towards bringing this about, despite the fact that Sidwell is required to report to the police periodically.

Ground Floor Plan



The new complex at the East London Division was officially opened by the Chancellor of the University, Dr Ian Mackenzie, on Friday, May 12. The plan of the ground floor shows the spacious new library, the new computer centre and the Rhodes Union - all very welcome additions to this fast-growing campus.

Talks defused dangerous situation

The RUSA - RULA - STUDENT combination was again put to the test soon after the start of the second term.

Student dissatisfaction with the Administration and with the activities of the Special Branch on campus was growing.

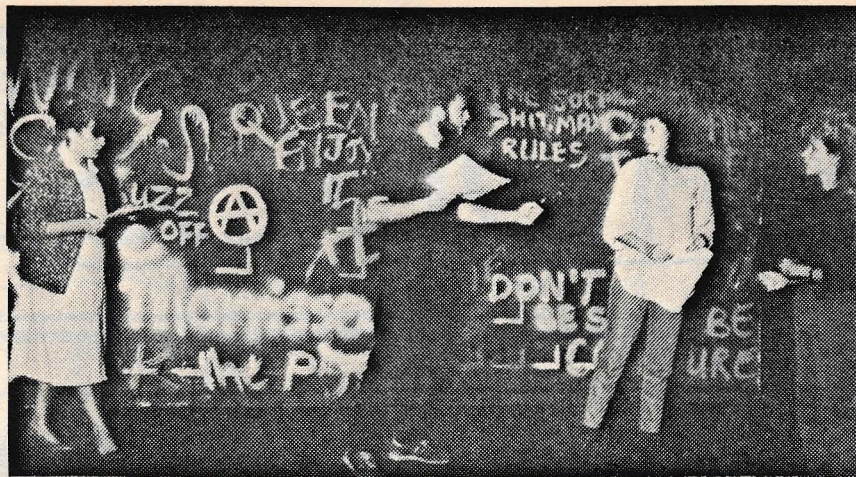
The detention of Divinity student, Sidwell Mokgothu, caused the whole Rhodes community great concern.

The students, to illustrate their protest in the strongest possible terms, called a stay-away until acceptable solutions could be found.

RUSA and RULA, recognising that they could not support a boycott, met on several occasions with the student body and with the Administration, in an effort to reach a compromise.

The result was that the students called off the stay-away midway through the second day. After further talks with RULA and the university, agreement was reached as to what machinery should be set up to handle any future detention rapidly and effectively.

Whilst these facts are simply recorded, it is significant that the relationship between the negotiating bodies is such that a potentially damaging situation was speedily resolved, to the satisfaction of all the parties concerned.



Hitting Town is the latest student drama production at Rhodes and starts its run in The Box theatre on May 26 at 8.00pm. It tells the tale of Ralph, a student drop-out from Birmingham University who unexpectedly arrives to visit his sister, Clare, in her Leicester bed-sit. Together they decide to "hit the town". But against a background of commercial radio, city-centre precincts, Wimpy Bars and dangerous practical jokes, the incestuous relationship that develops between them seems the only way of affirming their vitality. Pictured here are Frances Cox (right) directing (from left) Sarah Roberts (Clare), Dion van Niekerk (Ralph) and Rene Coetzer (Nicola). Booking for the play can be done at Grocott's.

Safety comes first

A few years ago the "Factories Act" changed its name and the extent of its interests, and became the *Machineries and Occupational Safety Act*, known today as the *MOS Act*.

The Act applies to a very wide range of activities and among these are universities. In order for Rhodes to comply with the requirements of the Act, safety representatives and safety committees had to be established in a number of areas on the basis of a straight forward formula. Rhodes has thirty two representatives.

Responsibility for safety at Rhodes lies with three active committees and a co-ordinating committee. The Humanities Safety Committee and the Services Safety Committee are both chaired by Rick Heard, manager of the laundry. The Sciences Safety Committee is chaired by Terry Butterworth, senior technical officer and the Safety Co-ordinating Committee is chaired by the assistant director, Business Affairs Division, Phil Murray.

In an interview for RHODOS, Rick was quick to point out that, in reality,

safety is the responsibility not of these representatives and committees but of every member of staff at Rhodes.

The representatives are the link between staff, their places of work and the Co-ordinating Committee, whose main responsibility is to monitor the activity of the representatives and to ensure that action is taken when necessary.

Each representative has a checklist of areas and equipment to observe, to check and to report on and the reports are submitted monthly to the area committees. The area committee chairmen; the Competent Person in Charge of Machinery, Mike Young; and the Chief Campus Protection Officer, Dave Charteris, who, together with Phil Murray, comprise the Safety Co-ordinating Committee, meet once every three months to monitor the reports and to assist, where needed, to put into effect the actions required.

How effective are the representatives? Rick acknowledges that in some instances motivation is difficult to achieve

but believes 'by and large' that the representatives do a good job and are helping to make Rhodes a safer place in which to work.

Rick stresses that the prime factor in any safety drive is AWARENESS. If staff were aware of their responsibility for safety practices in their area of operation and would help the representatives by drawing their attention to weak aspects, not only would the representatives feel more keen but Rhodes would benefit considerably.

One such benefit could well be lower insurance premiums (remember the fire at Graham House?) and another lower workmen's compensation levies.

In subsequent issues of Rhodos Rick Heard has agreed to give some hints on how to avoid unsafe or dangerous practices and to give the names of representatives and their areas of responsibility.

If members of staff are aware of any safety hazards please do not be backward in coming forward with this information - Ed

Stepping up

Congratulations are due to four members of staff who have recently been promoted.

Mr W T Futter, from Pharmacy, has been promoted to senior lecturer, as has Mr D W Mckellar, from Education.

Mr P Andrew has been promoted to senior sports officer and Mrs J Hobson, from Business Administration, has been promoted to senior programmer.

Lift list

Students living in and around Johannesburg are reminded that the Schools' Liaison Office in Johannesburg is the place to remember if transport to and from Grahamstown is a problem.

If you're stuck for a lift, or can offer a fellow student a lift, please contact Shelly Sher at (011) 7885544, or call in at the office on the Top Floor, The Mews, Oxford Road, Rosebank, and put your name on the list.

Decorative fountain

Thanks to a generous donation from Mr Michael Chapman, son of the late Professor Hugh Chapman, a decorative fountain is to be built in the centre of the main quadrangle.

Consideration is being given as to the precise nature of the fountain and as to whether or not it should have filtered water and be stocked with exotic fish.

Business Affairs Division is presently evaluating the technical, financial and operational aspects of several alternatives.

**Air
your
views!
Write to
Rhodos**

Welcome to Rhodes

Several new names have been added to the staff list recently, and the RHODOS team extends a warm welcome to them all.

Newcomers to the academic ranks are Miss M S Ehlers, who has joined the School of Pharmaceutical Sciences as a Lecturer and Ms M L Strom, a new Lecturer in the Department of French.

At the East London Division, Mrs R J Everett and Mr N Kiva have joined the staff.

Two new Caterers have joined the Catering Section - Miss C Diedericks and Mr A van der Westhuizen.

New faces in the Business Affairs Division are Mrs M C Luyt (Director's Secretary) and Miss A M Wills (Typist/Clerk); Mr D E Martin and Mr H Potgieter (Engineering); Mr J Ralo, Mr R Wentzel and Mr R Thomas (Building Maintenance); Miss Y Windvogel (Maintenance Stores); Mr N Nojoko (Grounds and Gardens).

Mrs L M Donaldson is the new secretary in the Computer Centre and Mrs S Hurter is the new assistant to the hall warden of Kimberley Hall. Mrs D M Murray is a part-time secretary in the Philosophy Department. Miss R Weltsz has joined the Printing Unit as a phototypesetter.

Miss Gladys Bool has joined the Drama Department as a seamstress, while Mr Michael Moli and Mr Elias Rala have been appointed as messengers in the departments of Journalism and Law respectively.

Five temporary guards at the Campus Protection Unit have been appointed to permanent staff. They are Mr T Chrisjan, Mr P Katiya, Mr S Morris, Mr C Mpati and Mr L Swartbool.

Inter-departmental movers include Mrs G Crouch, who joins the Finance Division as a data capture clerk shortly, and Mrs J B Mitchell, who has joined the Development Office from Philosophy.

Who does what, and why

RUSA NEWS

As promised in the April issue, here are some brief details on RUSA's current activities, and who does what.

Portfolios and those responsible for progress are:-

Membership and Employee Groups - Marion Lacey, Julia Segar, Sue Middleton and Denis Scott.

Educational/Social Events and Staff Concessions - Chris Heymans Judy Hilton - Green.

Residences and Student Affairs - Godfrey Meintjes and Margot Beard.

RULA - Robin Palmer.

CUTA - Georg Gruber.

UDUSA - Marion Lacey.

Topics with which members are currently busy include:

A one-time bonus payment in recognition of academic achievement.

A request for recognition, by the university, of long service.

Finding ways and means of gaining more members. There has been an increase of nearly 15% since February.

A list of existing staff concessions.

A simplified "Staff Guide" for the benefit of new staff.

Correspondence with other tertiary educational institutions on the possibility of reciprocal 'educational discounts' for the children of staff.

Replying to requests for information on a variety of different subjects.



Professor Rivett

Times have changed

by Grace Rapholo

Professor Douglas Rivett celebrated a 50-year association with Rhodes by giving a lecture in the Department of Chemistry recently. The lecture was followed by a cocktail party.

Prof Rivett began his lecture by describing life at Rhodes in 1939 when he registered for his BSc.

At that time there were no portable radios or television sets. Nylon stockings were manufactured for the first time in New York and the first jet plane had not yet flown. World War II began later that year.

Rhodes was known as Rhodes College and was an all-white institution. First years were referred to as 'Greek Inks' and were not allowed to go to Kaif. 'Inks' had to wear placards around their necks which recorded their names and the courses they were taking.

Prof Rivett said September 12 used to be an annual university holiday and it was on this day that Rag took place. "Rag Day was a small affair in those days", he said.

Grahamstown was more isolated than it is today and travelling to Port Elizabeth was a 'three-hour journey'.

'Scope Nite' used to be held at His Majesty's cinema

and the students used to present their own show prior to the film.

Prof Rivett said the Chemistry Department was a strong department in those days. Like in any other department, the lecturers wore academic dress during lectures. Students were not allowed to talk during practicals.

"There were only 24 students in our final year class compared to 140 Chemistry III students today", he said.

During that time Rhodes had 22 departments compared to the 38 we have today.

In 1941, Prof Rivett completed his BSc and was capped during the graduation ceremony of 1942. In those days there was no honours degree but instead the Masters degree consisted of two parts. The second part consisted of a thesis.

Prof Rivett did Part I of his MSc in 1941 and Part II during the first term of 1944. During the years 1946 to 1948, he studied for his doctorate at Cambridge. He also studied at Princeton University in 1949. In 1950 he joined the CSIR in Pretoria.

Prof Rivett has held lecturing posts at Rhodes and at the University of Cape Town. At present he is Professor Emeritus and Research Associate in the Chemistry Department.

Triumph for TRU

"Yuk - kill it!" is most people's automatic reaction when confronted with a fat, engorged tick. But there's more to ticks than meets the eye, as visitors to the recent Bathurst Show discovered.

The Tick Research Unit was invited to exhibit at the show for the first time this year and their exhibition illustrated the importance of research carried out at Rhodes in the field of tick borne diseases, and the steps being taken to combat these diseases.

At the Tick Research Unit stand, members of the public were able to view various live tick specimens under a microscope, and members of staff and research students were on hand to answer questions.

Student projects were on display and the relevance of their work was emphasized by a poster presentation. Guidelines in the rational use of insecticides were also explained.

The Director of the Unit, Professor Bruce Fivaz, said he was pleased with the public's positive reaction to the exhibition, and that next year's effort would be bigger and better.

All the hard work and preparation paid off, as TRU was awarded the runner-up prize for the best outside stand at the show.

New ideas needed

Calling all cyclists, and budding designers.

Do you have an idea for a secure, simple, low-maintenance cycle stand that will not damage the wheels of a bicycle, or its frame?

If so, please contact Mark Hazel at Grounds and Gardens (Extension 241), as he's eager to hear from you.

Faxing Ackerman

by Robin Palmer

I had an extraordinary experience recently which I would like to share with RHODOS readers.

It was not a spiritual experience or a psychic experience - it was a very material experience. Yet, there was a non-material component as well - the sense of triumph one feels when having won a major moral victory.

Why am I sharing it? In this authoritarian society, under a state of emergency, in remote Grahamstown, it is all too easy for the ordinary individual to feel insignificant and depressed, as if his interests will always be ignored by powerful vested interests. Confronted by substandard products or shoddy service, the reaction is, all too often, "What can an ordinary person like me do about it?"

The answer is: "Probably more than you think". I have proof of that.

For some weeks I experienced frustration over a faulty lawn mower, purchased from Pick 'n Pay Hypermarket in Port Elizabeth. On Wednesday, April 26 I could stand it no longer, so I faxed a letter of complaint to Raymond Ackerman at the Cape Regional Head Office of Pick 'n Pay.

The fax message began:

"Dear Mr Ackerman,

I hesitate to involve you in my difficulty with the Hunters' Retreat Hypermarket, but as you have an honorary doctorate from this university and have partly endowed a Chair of Business Administration at Rhodes, I feel that we have some sort of link, and that you have more than a passing interest in good retailing practice, particularly where one of your branches is involved".

I then detailed the date of purchase and exact nature of the problem I had experienced with the lawnmower and explained that it was obvious I had inadvertently taken delivery of damaged stock.

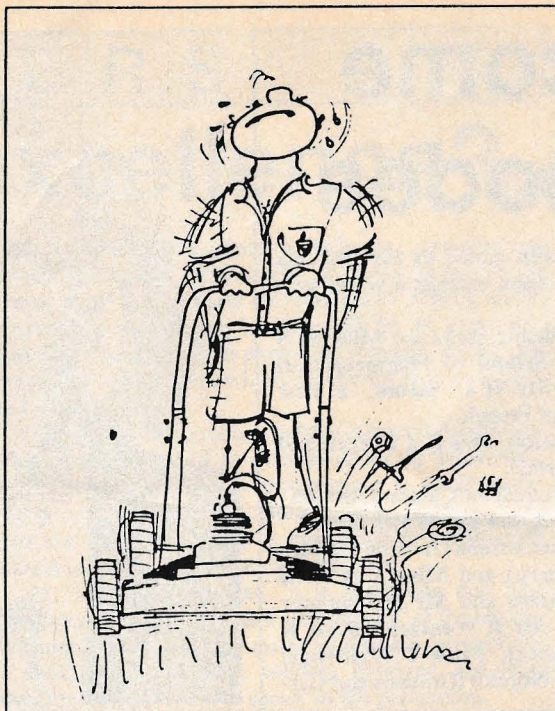
I went on to explain to Mr Ackerman the steps I had taken to return the faulty machine, and my discussions with the staff at the Hypermarket:

"When I arrived with it (the lawnmower) I was told, at the Returns Counter, confirmed by the Gardening Department manager, that because it had been used, even if for a few minutes, they could not replace it, but could only undertake to have the shield replaced and the engine realigned by the agents. Only if they could not repair it were they authorised to replace it. Even though my need for a mower was acute and I realized that it might take a couple of weeks to have the machine repaired, I accepted these terms.

"I never will again. It took five weeks and many telephone calls to the inept staff of the repairs department at the Hypermarket before I heard that the mower had arrived from the agents, but that it still had the dent in it. I was assured that they would send me a new one. There was a long delay in dispatching it, and more 'phone calls, and then last Friday, April 21, a call to the local courier's office confirmed that it had at last arrived.

"I got it home, opened the box and... what do you think? It was the same old mower, complete with dent, apparently untouched. It is hard to say whether the blade will still hit the shield - the groove is still there. I would have to try it on the grass. But would that not bring me back to square one? Would the whole sorry process not begin again? In disgust, I left the mower in its box and resolved to fax you. So far, this run around has cost me, in addition to the R599 for the mower, a return-trip to Port Elizabeth, innumerable telephone calls, and the R19,50 courier fee Hunters' Retreat saw fit to pass on to me. I cannot believe that the management of Pick 'n Pay can sanction this kind of treatment of a customer."

After sending the fax, I walked back to my office and thought nothing further of it. I was feeling great. Merely writing the letter and faxing it had been therapeutic in itself. I returned to marking essays with renewed vigour.



I put it out of my mind because I was not very confident that Ackerman would be there to receive it, or whether his minions would bother to show it to him.

So it was that when I got home for lunch and was told that a man had been trying to contact me and would telephone again at 1.30pm, I did not make the connection. It was only when the manager of the gardening section of the Pick 'n Pay Hypermarket telephoned again that I realized my fax had received a response.

The manager, Mr Andre Viviers, told me that Raymond Ackerman had telephoned him personally concerning my lawnmower, and that he was on his way to Grahamstown, leaving at 2.00pm, with a Wolf Electric mower - a superior model to my Rolux - which I was to regard as a personal gift from Mr Ackerman in compensation for the inconvenience I had suffered. He would also bring a cash refund for the faulty Rolux and the additional expenses I had incurred.

He was as good as his word. He arrived at about 3.30pm, unloaded the mower, tested it, instructed me on its finer points, and then unrolled a quantity of red banknotes and placed them in my hand.

To show that there had been nothing personal in the action I had taken, I offered him a beer, which he accepted, and we sat and chatted about basketball at Rhodes. He had played against our team and refereed matches in which Rhodes had been involved, it transpired. Then we stowed the old Rolux in the boot of his Corolla, and off he went - leaving me effectively richer by R700. The next day, I again faxed Ackerman, this time to say thank you.

The moral of this story is obvious. The ordinary individual, in remote Grahamstown, is not as powerless as he might think - with or without a fax machine. South Africa may be heading towards monopoly capitalism, as radical colleagues and students maintain, but local capitalism - at least in the retail sector - has not yet reached the point where the customer can be safely ignored. As long as there are several super/hypers in the marketplace, and one dissatisfied customer can do more harm than scores of satisfied customers can do good, there is a chance that one's complaints will be heard.

A word of warning. If, following this issue of RHODOS, Raymond Ackerman is bombarded with faxes from Grahamstown concerning lapses at Hunters' Retreat, he might smell a rat and be disinclined to despatch managers bearing gifts and bundles of notes. This sort of dodge probably does not work more than once a year in a given locale.

Don't kill the world

by Mark Hazel

How do YOU care for the world in which you live?

Monday, June 5, is World Environment Day - a day on which environmentalists throughout the world try to bring home to the human race the dire need to protect the environment to ensure man's survival in the 21st century.

We need to remember that so much of what we use is not only wasteful, but detrimental to our environment. The use of chemicals, for instance, while necessary, must always be done in strict accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

People must be more careful about using containers that can be recycled, and watch where they throw their unwanted plastic bags and wrappings.

Something else to remember is that not all biodegradable substances are harmless to the environment in their broken-down state.

Take good care of our world. It's the only one we have!

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The views and opinions expressed in the articles, interviews and letters which appear in this publication do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Editor, the Staff Association, or the Editorial Board.

Watch for those 'helping hands'

Part Two of Heinz Jasson's series on The Wonderful World of Finance

As promised in Part One of this series, here are some hints for Bond-holders on how to avoid financial losses by 'helpful' transactions on your Bond accounts.

Usually, some debiting to your account is done, apart from the monthly compounding of interest. The house insurance, title ded storage fee, and other charges are debited to your account.

You should insist that these transactions are done on DUE DATE, and not before, as is common practice.

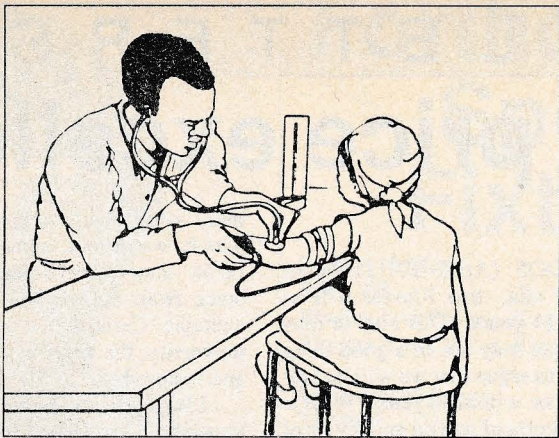
The result of early debiting results in a higher Bond account before your monthly interest is calculated. Therefore, your interest rate is higher, and will remain and be compounded higher until your Bond is fully repaid.

I found this malpractice on my loan statements year after year. Only a complaint to the manager and a personal re-calculation (their computer software was unable to correct my account) solved the problem last year.

So take time to check your due dates, and your accounts - you will very likely have cause for complaint.

Hopefully, if more people do complain, this type of malpractice by the 'helping hands' country-wide will be eliminated.

In my next article, I shall mention another charge you have paid before ownership of your house was transferred - something to excite our staff and students in the Faculty of Law - and you!



It's elementary!

This little gem, taken from the January 1989 issue of The Physics Teacher, was sent to us by Professor Eddie Baart, from Physics, at the suggestion of Dr van der Merwe.

The heaviest element known to science was recently discovered by physicists at Turgid University. The element, tentatively named *Administratium* (Ad), has no protons or electrons, which means that its atomic number is 0.

However, it does have 1 neutron, 125 assistants to the neutron, 75 vice-neutrons, and 111 assistants to the vice-neutrons. This gives it an atomic mass number of 312. The 312 particles are held together in the nucleus by a force that involves the continuous exchange of meson-like particles called memoons.

Since it has no electrons, *Administratium* is inert. However, it can be detected chemically because it seems to impede every reaction in which it is present.

According to Dr M Langour, one of the discoverers of the element, a very small amount of *Administratium* made one reaction that normally takes less than a second take over four days.

Administratium has a half-life of approximately three years, at which time it does not actually decay. Instead, it undergoes a re-organization in which assistants to the neutron, vice-neutrons, and assistants to the vice-neutrons exchange places. Some studies have indicated that the atomic mass number actually increases after each re-organization.

Administratium was discovered by accident when Dr Languor angrily resigned from the chairmanship of the Physics Department and dumped all his papers into the intake hatch of the university's particle accelerator.

"Apparently, the interaction of all those reports, grant forms etc, with the particle in the accelerator created the new element," Dr Langour explained.

Research at other laboratories seems to indicate that *Administratium* might occur naturally in the atmosphere. According to one scientist, *Administratium* is most likely to be found on college and university campuses, near the best-appointed and best-maintained buildings.

Dr van der Merwe has his own variation on a theme. He has defined Ferric *Administratium* Oxide as high-level rust, due to exposure to high humidity and temperature (hot air!)

Unyuko Gazi

Uninzi Iwabantu boMzantsi Africa bagul ngesisifo. Sisifo esiyin gozi kakhulu kuba unga-maso iminyaka ungazazi. Usiqonda Xa unenkathazo yentliziyo, izintso naxa ufa icala (stroke).

Ukuba unezizintso

z i l a n d e l a y o kunokwenzeka ukube unayo :-

(i) Iuntloko ebuhlungu

(ii) Ukutyhafa

(iii) Ukubanzima

ukuphefumla emveni

komthambo (exercise)

(iv) Ukuqaqanjelwa

k w e g x a l a b a

lasekhohlo okanye

isifuba

(v) Ukudinna

Ukuba uyazirhanela

kwesifo khawleza uye

eclinic ukhangelwe.

Ukuba unazo, abongikazi

bakuxelela ukuba yeka

ukutshaya; hlisa ubun-

zima, uyeke nokutya

iswekile netyiwa, na-

manqatha inyama

etyebileyo ngamanye

amazwi.

LETTER

Deafening Silence

THE EDITOR

I was surprised that there was no response form the Administration to Ms Segar's lengthy and serious article in Rhodes' own newspaper (RHODOS Feb 16).

I gather that Ms Segar has not even been responded to privately. Imagine my astonishment when the Registrar saw fit to respond to an anonymous letter in Grocotts.

Surely a serious and concerned article like Ms Segar's warrants attention even if only in the interests of good staff relations? I would think that any reputable business or company or institution would recognize the need to address itself to criticisms made by a respected permanent member of its staff.

Margot Beard

Well done!

Congratulations to the following Rhodes staffers:

Suzette Bowles (Finance Division), who married Andre Botha on April 1. They will live in Pretoria, where Andre is completing his studies as a civil engineer in agriculture.

Gavin and Sue Stewart (Journalism and Media Studies), on the birth of their son on April 7.

Godfrey and Elrika Meintjes (Afrikaans en Nederlands) on the birth of their daughter, Stephane on April 15.

Debbie and Nigel Walters (Computer Centre) on the arrival of their twin daughters, Rachel and Leah.

Audrey Russell (Development Office) who left the university after 14 years married Bert Clarke recently and now lives in Johannesburg.

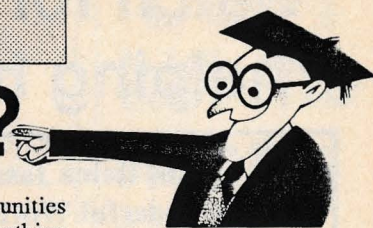
Mike and Viv Ginn (Public Relations) on the occasion of their 25th wedding anniversary on 24 April.

Mike Oelschig (Dean of Wardens) on becoming a grandfather for the second time around.

Keep your Campus Clean! Use the Litter Bins

LETTERS

What price excellence?



THE EDITOR,

In his article in RHODOS (April 20) Professor Macdonald suggests, *inter alia*, that Rhodes will be predominantly black within 11 years. This may or may not be so, and if it is, it may or may not be a good thing - but, to my mind, it is trivial to argue that we will be predominantly black within five or within 50 years. What is important is to agree upon criteria of testing and levels of accomplishment necessary for admission.

The fact that there will shortly be hordes of newly-matriculated blacks beating on our doors and "demanding" (the word is Prof Macdonald's) a university education should not, to my mind, provide a reason for lowering the standards of those institutions which are - or should be - centrally concerned with the maintenance and advancement of such standards.

No population, mushrooming at a rate of three percent per annum can expect any significant percentage of its citizens to receive university education, if by 'university' we mean something recognizable as such in the eyes of the civilized international community. Thus 'demographic pressure' provides us with a totally honest, economically necessary and non-racial reason for raising standards, so that universities can provide a suitable environment for the training and development of individuals of proven superior ability.

If it is assumed - as it is by some, and it seems Prof Macdonald is amongst them - that our universities should not concentrate on being centres of excellence, then we must ask in which other centres within the community should excellence be nurtured?

If the answer to this is that excellence is 'irrelevant', or unnecessary to, or cannot be afforded by what is, after all, a third world country, then we must wonder how genu-

inely sympathetic are such attitudes to communities which want, not unnaturally, to attain to something better than their present circumstances. Buying excellence from outside our borders will be an expensive exercise. Certainly, it is proper to reassess, within the university, the areas in which excellence is to be sought and fostered.

I believe it will be conceded that at least some of these areas should be linked to considerations of 'relevance', provided that the notion of relevance is itself intelligently comprehended in a global context, and provided also that such excellence is concerned primarily with mental rather than mechanical enterprise.

In a related context, it is disturbing that Prof Macdonald appears to think 'legitimacy' of the university may be, or should be, tested against the perceptions of a culturally primitive, socially deprived and intellectually underdeveloped sector of the population.

If some universities opt, in their egalitarian wisdom, for the banana route, Rhodes' quest for excellence may be indirectly facilitated. If we are prepared to be dictated to by considerations larger and more enduring, though perhaps less immediately pressing, than mass production and retributive racism, our future may be tolerably bright - at least by the somewhat undemanding standards of sub-Saharan Africa. Allow me to quote a relevant comment by Bertrand Russell:

'Progress should not be sacrificed to a mechanical equality at the present moment; we must approach educational democracy carefully, so as to destroy in the process as little as possible of the valuable products that happen to have been associated with social injustice.' (*On Education*, Allen & Unwin 1926, Chapter 1.)

Sirion Robertson

More hot showers needed

THE EDITOR,

I read with interest Dr Coghlan's article on the excellent sports facilities at Rhodes. I would like to suggest, however, that the University might consider upgrading the availability of hot water showers for men (I don't know what the facilities for women are like) as an important adjunct to the sport facilities on campus.

To my knowledge there are only two functional hot water showers available for all of the sport facilities (tennis courts, swimming pool and weights room/gym). Although there are three shower heads at the swimming pool, only one at a time functions as a hot water shower (the supply of hot water being inadequate to run two or three showers at a time). Likewise in the men's shower room at the back of the Human Movement Studies building, there are about seven shower heads, but only one at a time will provide hot water.

The two showers at the squash courts do work adequately, but all the others on campus require sequential showers if two or more people would like a hot (or even warm) shower at the same time.

I can appreciate that the lack of hot water in the showers will help us conserve water but I think that the availability of hot water would increase the enjoyment of the sports facilities.

P C Heemstra

They missed the central point

THE EDITOR,

I think Zoe Demos' letter in Grocott's Mail (March 23, 1989) received only superficial treatment, and I think that is unfortunate.

The responses of the Registrar and the Chairpersons of RULA and RUSA, unnecessary in my view, also missed the central point I think she was trying to make. (I assume that Zoe is a woman, perhaps wrongly, on the generalization that not too many of the male staff members seem to concern themselves with "the sexist language and attitudes" of the administration and with the "glaring imbalance in the number of women...in senior positions".

The central point has to do with the management style of the Administration, its apparent employment policy, its lack of openness and ina-

bility to be seen to be encouraging the participation of staff, at all levels, in their own affairs, as distinct from merely permitting it. This is what I interpreted to be the core concern of Zoe's letter - whereas others have seen it merely as an attack on staff associations.

I think that the Administration needs to respond to the real complaint, the primary one, rather than the secondary one - to which it did respond.

But no response is really called for unless there is a substantial body of opinion among staff that Zoe Demos is largely, or even partly, right. So far there has been no evidence of such support, nor has there been any visible contradiction of her views by the staff in general.

This was also the case with Julia Segar's letter in

the first edition of RHODOS. Some of the purpose of RHODOS is lost, I think, if there is not a free and fluent exchange of views. And I believe people are not going to express their views if they have the feeling that what they say might "be used in evidence against them", if the administration does not encourage and respond to views expressed, or if people think that facetious, sarcastic or condescending intellectualisms and sophistries will great their efforts.

The bottom line is that ALL staff members are entitled to their opinions, and the free expression of these opinions ought not only to be encouraged, but treated with a degree of respect and seriousness.

Making a fool out of someone for having a certain opinion in no way invalidates that opinion,

and demeans the person who does it more than the person who offers the opinion.

RHODOS belongs to the clerks and the secretaries as much as it does to the PhD's - and it is time they had a show-in, too.

I hope Zoe Demos will ride again!

Dennis Scott
Education

WANTED

ONE Computer (PC), preferably IBM compatible, with printer. If you have one that is not needed, or is under-utilized, please contact: The Superintendent, Grounds and Gardens, Extension 241.

Toorberg takes the top prize

Etienne van Heerden, a lecturer in the Department of Afrikaans and Nederlands, has accepted the prestigious Hertzog Prize, for his novel, *Toorberg*, which has already won several top literary awards for Afrikaans literature.

He will receive his award, which consists of a cash prize and a gold medallion, at a ceremony in Bloemfontein in June.

Previous winners of the Hertzog Prize, which was first awarded in 1916, include Etienne Leroux, D J Opperman, Karel Schoeman and N P van Wyk Louw.

Since completing *Toorberg*, Etienne has had a collection of poems, *Die Laaste Kreef* and a book of short stories entitled *Liegfabriek* published. Two of his short stories from *Liegfabriek* won prizes in the *De Kat/Pot Pourrie* awards last year.

Toorberg has another Rhodes connection. It has been translated into English by Malcolm Hacksley, a lecturer in the Department of Linguistics and English Language. Entitled *Ancestral Voices*, the novel, published by Pen-



Etienne van Heerden

guin Books, is due for publication in June this year.

Although he started writing at an early age, Etienne doesn't consider the prospect of locking himself away and writing as a full-time career. He says he needs the stimulation of regular contact with people. "You can't write successfully about life if you don't live it!" He doesn't find writing easy, either. "In my case it's definitely one percent inspiration and ninety nine percent perspiration and I have to discipline myself to put in regular hours in front of the word processor."

His career path has taken several turns since he obtained his BA LLB Honours degree at Stellenbosch University and his MA at Wits, including a

spell in the cut-throat world of advertising (which was the inspiration for *Liegfabriek*), but Etienne says he has found his niche at Rhodes. Here he combines his love of teaching and student contact with his writing, and enjoys the less hectic pace of life.

Sunday Concert

The Eastern Cape Chamber Orchestra (ECCO), under the baton of Professor Rupert Mayr, will give a performance at the Fountain, 1820 Settlers' Monumnet, at 3.00pm on Sunday, May 28.

Forthcoming Sports Fixtures

Friday 19 May

SOCCER

Rhodes I vs Callies. King

8.30 pm

Rhodes II vs Callies. King

6.45 pm

Saturday 20 May

TENNIS

Rhodes vs Carlisle Bridge. Home

VOLLEYBALL

Centralized fixtures. Alec Mullins

HOCKEY (Men)

Rhodes I vs Old Grey. Away

CROSS COUNTRY

The 'Prof Mountain' cross country. Prospect

Sunday 21 May

HOCKEY (Men)

Rhodes I vs Walmer. Great

Rhodes II vs Walmer & Pirates. Great

SOCCER

Rhodes I vs West Park. Bridgmead. 3.30 pm

Rhodes II vs West Park. Bridgmead 1.45 pm

Monday 22 May

SQUASH (Men)

Rhodes I vs Lond Park 'A'. Alec Mullins

Rhodes II vs Crusaders 'A'. Alec Mullins

Wednesday 24 May

SOCCER

Rhodes I vs Hume Park. Away

8.15 pm

Rhodes II vs Hume Park. Away

6.30 pm

Saturday 27 May

HOCKEY (Men)

Rhodes I vs UPE. Great

HOCKEY (Women)

Rhodes I vs PE 'A'. Great

Rhodes II vs Walmer. UPE

Rhodes III vs Walmer. Walmer

SOCCER

Rhodes I vs Technikon. Away.

3.30 pm

Rhodes II vs Technikon. Away

1.45 pm

RUGBY

Rhodes I vs Swifts. Great

3.30pm

Rhodes II vs Swifts. Great

2.10 pm

Rhodes III vs Swifts. Great

12.50pm

Rhodes U20 'A' vs Olympics. Great

3.00 pm

Rhodes U20 'B' vs Crusaders 'A'. SAP

Sunday 28 May

HOCKEY (Men)

Rhodes I vs Westview. Great

Rhodes II vs Uitenhage & Redhouse. Great

SQUASH

EP Schools. Alec Mullins

8.00 am - 2.00 pm

Wednesday 31 May

TENNIS

Grahamstown Championships

Rhodes

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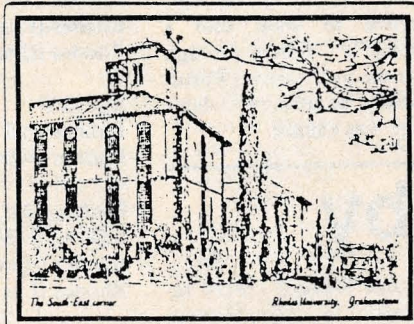
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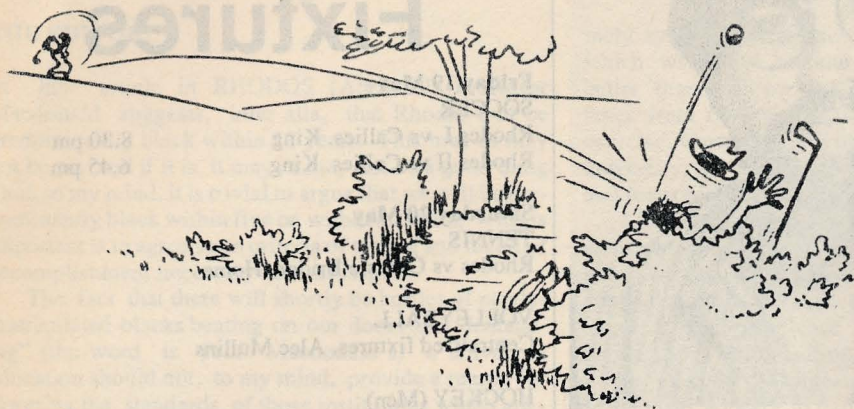
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Staff activities now full steam ahead

by Doug Coghlan

"The roar of the crowd, the crunch of the boot". Although a recent article in Punch has only limited reference to staff sport, winter activities are well underway, with many staff involved in a wide range of pursuits.

Squash

Staff teams are playing in the 1st and 2nd Grahamstown Leagues. The 1st team have played one match and lost one, and, at the time of writing, were girding their loins to meet the students. Anyone interested in playing, please contact Billy de Klerk at the Albany Museum.

Hockey

Three games have been played. Wins were scored over Occasionals (3-2) and Livingstone (3-1), but in a return match against Occasionals, Staff lost 1-2. It is reported that the side is still unsettled and still lacking in manpower, so if you feel inclined to play, contact Martin Hill at the Department of Zoology.

Shooting

The EP Air Rifle and Small Bore Championships were held over the weekend in Grahamstown, but staff were less prominent than

useful, perhaps because they were heavily involved in the organization of the event. Ian Dore won the Air Rifle section, with scores of 356 and 367 out of 400, but Ray Haggard (.22) and Colin Hobson (Air rifle) were less successful.

Running

Many staff pounded the tarmac to Port Alfred in the 10th annual Settlers' Marathon, expertly organized by Sports Officer, John Donald. Staff on his committee included Mike Hanley, Chris Whiteley, John Haydock, Margaret Corbett, Marleen Thompson, Pete Andrew and Doug Coghlan.

Chris Whiteley and Richard Foss ran extremely well, finishing 9th and 10th to gain gold medals. Chris managed to overtake Richard in the

last few kilometres. Silver medals were won by Dave Edwards, Mike Hanley, Roger Brooke and Mike Leibrand, while bronze medals went to Billy Futter, Roddy Fox, George Euvrard and Justin Jonas.

The event was a huge success and is now firmly established as one of the leading road races in South Africa.

Golf

On Sunday, May 21, a social golf day will be held at Bedford. More about this, and the encounter with golfing staffers from UPE in the next edition.

There is no truth in the rumour that Phil Court was savaged by irate students. He merely happened to walk into a player's follow-through on the golf course. Fortunately, no permanent damage was caused.

Rugby

University of Port Elizabeth rugby stars will have to look to their laurels at Intervarsity this year, as Rhodes teams have started the current season in fine form.

Four players from Rhodes - Brett Hodgson (lock), Warren Turner (flank), Kevin Hopkins (eighth man) and Greg

Quirk (centre) - were included in the Eastern Province Under 20 rugby team which met Western Transvaal in the first round of the newly-formed inter-provincial U-20 league on May 6, in Port Elizabeth. Western Transvaal ran out the winners by 22 points to six.

Forthcoming fixtures

(from page 7)

Saturday 3 June

TENNIS

Grahamstown Championships

HOCKEY (Men)

Rhodes I vs Pirates. Great

HOCKEY (Women)

Rhodes I vs UPE. Walmer

Rhodes II vs Greydene. Great

Rhodes III vs Uitenhage. Uitenhage

RUGBY

Rhodes I vs Old Collegians. Great 3.30 pm

Rhodes II vs Old Collegians. Great 2.10 pm

Rhodes III vs Old Collegians. Great 1.20 pm

Rhodes U20 'A' vs Crusaders 'B'. Great 12.50 pm

Rhodes U20 'B' vs Parks. Great 2.30 pm

Sunday 4 June

TENNIS

Grahamstown Championships

HOCKEY (Men)

Rhodes I vs P E Crusaders. Great

Rhodes II vs Ramblers & P E Crusaders. Great

Monday 5 June

SQUASH (Men)

Rhodes I vs Walmer. Alec Mullins

Rhodes II vs Walmer. Alec Mullins

Friday 9 June

RUGBY

Rhodes U20 'A' vs UPE 'B'. Great. 6.00 pm

Rhodes U20 'B' vs Olympics. Great. 6.00 pm

Sunday 10 June

HOCKEY (Women)

Rhodes I vs Walmer. Great

Rhodes II vs Technikon. Greydene

Rhodes III vs UPE. UPE

RUGBY

Rhodes U20 'A' vs Crusaders 'A'. Away

Rhodes U20 'B' vs UPE 'A'. Away

Monday 12 June

SQUASH (Men)

Rhodes I vs Old Grey. Alec Mullins

Rhodes II vs Old Grey. Alec Mullins

Tuesday 13 June

RUGBY

Rhodes U20 'A' vs Parks. Away 6.00 pm

Rhodes U20 'B' vs UPE 'B'. Away 6.00 pm

Thursday 15 June

TERM ENDS