

Thursday, 23 September, 1993

Vol 5 No 17

At the going down of the sun . . .



At a simple and moving ceremony last week, Rhodes remembered the University's founders, benefactors and staff and students who lost their lives in war.

The annual ceremony was held or Founders' Day, at the memoria outside the Great Hall.

The Vice-Chancellor, Dr Derek Henderson, laid a wreath on behalt the University. He was followed, or behalf of their respective bodies, by the President of the Old Rhodiar Union, Prof Chris Hummel, the President of Convocation The Hon Mr Justice T M Mullins, a senior member of Council Mr P Bennet, a senior member of the Senate, Prof E Baart and by eight senior students, one from each of the halls of residence.

The Last Post and Reveille were played by two boys from Kingswood College, each the son o a Rhodes staff member, as the flag was lowered and raised again.



Service Staff wage issue resolved

R 126,00 across the board increasing to R 133,00 next year.

The Service staff wages issue was resolved last week after NEHAWU and the University agreed to go to mediation.

Various demands had been agreed to earlier, but the question of the increase caused a breakdown which led to last month's illegal strike by workers.

When talks broke down the University had offered an amount of R 126,00 across the board to Service Staff members.

After mediation both parties agreed to this figure, which will be backdated to 1 August.

It was further agreed that an adjustment will take effect from 1 February 1994, which will effectively raise that figure, by R 7,00 per month, to R 133,00 across the board.

Many staff members have met Erica Meaker (above), a Port Elizabeth Technikon student, who has been Student Assistant in the Public Relations and Development Division since the end of January this year. Her contributions towards publicising the University's activities, in a variety of ways, have been appreciated by many. She has been particularly active in the generation and dissemination of press releases and as Rhodos' news reporter, crime reporter, sports reporter, photographer and correspondent concerned with matters icthyological.

We shall miss her and wish her well in her final examinations in November.

Letters to the Editor

The Editor,

The task of combating views such as those expressed by Dr Sirion Robertson (Rhodos, vol 5 no 16), like the task of the Sewage Department, never ends and is not pleasant. But someone has to do it. Dr Robertson suggests as a condition for involvement and possible sacrifice on his part in the wage dispute, that the workers sacrifice some of their "remarkable fecundity". This remark is both hurtful (its phrasing is deliberately insulting) and dangerous (it unwisely gives a racial angle to an issue which should not have one). However, we should not reject views just because they are hurtful and dangerous. Hume observed that "There is no method of reasoning more common, and yet none more blameable, than ... to endeavour the refutation of any hypothesis, by a pretence of its dangerous consequences ..." The pertinent questions are: is the insinuation about Rhodes workers true, and is it relevant to the wage dispute? In another recent polemic Dr Robertson seemed to accept these standards (see Comment, No's 11 and 12). We no not know whether his claim is true, but neither does he. In any case, he does not offer any evidence, probably because it is a mere unscientific

prejudice. Even if it were true however, we fail to see its relevance to the wage dispute, or we see its relevance differently. To insist that the serious issue of overpopulation be a consideration in a local management issue is akin to demanding that the Greenhouse Effect be one. Alternatively, research shows that Dr Robertson may have his direction of causality wrong: workers may have large families because they are poor, powerless and uneducated.

It is worrying that the contribution of a self-styled champion of civility and rationality, so utterly lacks both.

Marius Vermaak, Seumas Miller, Steve de Wijze, Ian Jennings, Terence Beard, Ian Macdonald, Francis Williamson

The Editor,

I write in connection with the editing of my recent letter to Rhodos. As we discussed, it would have been preferable to hold the letter over until I could be contacted than to edit it in such a way that the sense was completely distorted. It is not clear from the published version why 'repressive' views should be an incitement to racial hatred. The word I used was 'Nazi' which makes this clear. Dr Robertson's views on the necessity for certain sections of staff to be sterilized

before being employed at Rhodes are tenets of National Socialism which were expounded in *Mein Kampf*.

Gina Buijs

The Editor replies:

The letter was edited on legal advice. It was unfortunate that Dr Buijs was away, as it is our usual policy to consult the authors of letters when this situation arises. We could have held the letter for an extra week, but decided to edit and publish it.

Rhodos readers are reminded that it is the Editor's right and duty to edit material submitted for publication, although letters are usually only edited on legal advice or when they are repetitive. Rhodos aims to provide a platform for all members of staff to air their views and we welcome your letters and articles.

Please let us know what you think, but remember that the editor has to protect herself and the publication from litigation.

The Editor,

There are certain comments in the interview with me (*Rhodos*, 9 September), that I feel need to be addressed as they have been taken out of context, they are ambiguous and not truly reflective of my or the SRC's beliefs.

Rhodes itself, as it is administered and structured at present, need without doubt to be placed on a pal of constructive transformation Instead of waiting for nation events and watching while other institutions undergo transformation Rhodes should take the lead i democratisation and other processes that would enable it become a working model that coul be applied in the macn environment. Rhodes provides the perfect context in which transformation can be undertake but obviously the University as iti now, is not a perfect working model, and we do not mirror Soul African society. We do, however have access to input from almost every sector of the broade mind-set.

As regards the political affiliation of SRC members, to say that now of them was elected on a political platform is incorrect. Politics are part of students' life and while the SRC itself will not push part politics, its members, in some case have been supported by political student groupings. What is important, is that a large number of student views are reflected in the composition of the SRC.

Carla Tsampiras, SRC President

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Having won the Eastern Province Premier League recently, Rhodes' 1st hockey team represented Eastern province at the Champion of Champions Clubs' Tournament in Johannesburg, from September 2 to 4 and came a commendable 4th. Mr Peter Andrew (second from left) Head of Sports Administration, with team members Greg Ferrans (left) and Graham Ortlieb (right), took delivery of the team's minibus from their generous sponsor, Mr Geoff Vetch, of Hamilton Sunbird Tours before the trip.

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The Editor welcomes all contributions but reserves the customary right to edit these without referral

RHODOS DEADLINES

Copy Date Publication Date

24 September

30 September

Stars of the Day - Rhodes' crews excel

Rhodes emerged victorious at the annual IGI South African Universities Boatrace, held recently at the Kowie River in Port Alfred. Ladies' and Men's crews both won their respective races.

Our men won their race for the fourth consecutive year, thus breaking the previous record of three consecutive wins held by Wits.

Six other universities competed in this year's IGI Boatrace, which is similar to the Oxford/Cambridge race, where two boats compete over six kilometres. They were: Wits; the University of Cape Town; the University of Natal (Pietermaritzburg and Durban); the University of Port Elizabeth (UPE) and Stellenbosch University.

At Friday's headrace, the ladies' crews of Rhodes and UCT achieved the best times to compete in the final. In the men's section, Rhodes and Wits qualified for the final.

The final saw the Rhodes Ladies in good form beat UCT by two lengths. The Rhodes Men followed their example and beat Wits by a length and a half, but not without much drama at the last corner.

Rhodes crew member, William Blackie, explained, "There was quite a strong headwind, but we managed to keep our technique together in the rough conditions. We gained the advantage in the first two kilometres of the race, and from there it was just a matter of hanging on to our lead of about two lengths. However, on the final corner, Wits took a chance by going over some shallow water and took back a

length, but we managed to pull away another half a length over the last 1 000 metres".

The Rhodes Ladies' Crew comprised Cox, Camilla Girdleston; Stroke, Karen Kück; Seven, Ros Morgan; Six, Fiona Casstles; Five, Claire Baker; Four, Lindsey Kretchly; Three, Robin Kretchly; Two, Caroline Edwards; and Bow, Luwane Cross.

The Rhodes men were Cox, Nick Leck; Stroke, Grant Hartley; Seven, Luke Hartley; Six, Jeremy Ashton; Five, William Blackie; Four, Owen Schultz; Three, Barry Banks; Two, James Stewart; and Bow, Charles Stebbing.

December 1992

January 1993

February 1993

150 Club update

We are living in extraordina times. Even as the news gets mo sombre in many spheres, the ch flourishes, so much so that, son fluctuations in membersh notwithstanding, the loyal co remains and newcomers are signif up to such an extent that we are no well over the 200 mark. So the organising committee; myself, t Secretary, Arthur Lanham, and t Treasurer, Michel Beauvais a going to meet as a matter of urgen to rename the club mo ambitiously and begin to step up prizes. Thank you all for yo wonderful response to the late recruitment drive! Luck also mov in extraordinary ways. Two of o earliest winners are also among o latest draw winners. Here is t comprehensive list to date:

Rhodes Counselling Centre

List Foss

The Rhodes Counselling Centre has recently undergone some fundamental changes. Established in 1985 by the SRC, it was originally run as a peer counselling support system, used mainly by students.

Mrs Lisl Foss, the Centre's new coordinator, aims to make this service available to all members of the Rhodes community, including administrative

and service staff, academics and

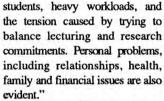
students. A trained and experienced counsellor, she is responsible for both the counselling and the running of the Centre and student volunteers are no longer used.

Statistics indicate that the Counselling Centre's services have become increasingly popular. During the second term 14 students and 4 staff members made use of the Centre. A total of 32 counselling sessions were given. The third term showed a marked increase with 40 students and 3 staff members receiving counselling. A total of 70 counselling sessions were given during the third term.

Mrs Foss explained that unresolved emotional problems can decrease our productivity, which then becomes a problem in itself. "By talking things through with an empathetic and objective person, we mobilise our coping mechanisms again, enabling us to sort out our own problems. I encourage staff members to make use of this facility," she said.

"It is important to recognize that

it is normal to have periods of stress in our jobs. Some of the difficulties experienced by a c a d e m i c s include work-related issues, such as problems with colleagues and



The Counselling Centre is upstairs in the Rhodes Union building in Room B22, next to the SASTS office. Mrs Foss is available on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings during regular counselling hours, or by appointment at other times. She may be contacted at the Counselling Centre, or by phoning 26587. In cases of emergency, Mrs Foss can be reached at home, telephone 2 3591.

Everything that is shared during a counselling session is strictly confidential. R500

Pat Terry, (1963) Rhodes University Stanley Shuttleworth (1928) Kenton-on-Sea Jennifer Still (1977) Cape Town

March 1993 Otto Hempel (1959) Unified

April 1993 John Torrance (1934) Harare

May 1993 Julia Goodwin (1992)

June 1993 Grahamstown
Richard Cooke (1985)

July 1993 Plettenberg Bay
John Torrance (1934)

Harare
August 1993 Michael Rossouw

(1983) Hartswater September 1993 Otto Hempel (1959) Attendance 'whisky bottle' pr

Michael Smout, Vice-Princip Rhodes Univers Julia Goodwin (199

Margot Beard (Daly 196

Mary Allen (198

Michel Beauvais (198 our Treasur Vivienne de Kle (Cole 19

Jennifer Still (19

Derek Zipp (197 Johannesburg Reuni Eleanor Bark

At the Cape Town Reunion, Jennifer Still donated the bottle which s won to be auctioned for the Ally Weakley Memorial Bursary Fund. To gesture was repeated by Eleanor Barker, who also donated it to be auction for the Fund.

The highest bidder was Billy de Klerk (1972). Thank you all! Sign up today!

Chris Hummel, Chairman, 150 Clui



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WHAT'S ON? -September 23 - 30

Thursday, September 23

Students for Human Rights Lecture

· Arts Major, 730 pm

Saturday, September 25

Rhodes University Summit

- Monument, 8.30 am 5 pm
 Creative Arts Disco
 - · Great Hall, 7.00 pm

Sunday, September 26

Oppie Video

· Arts Major, 7.30 pm

Monday, September 27

Zoology & Entomology Seminar by Professor J P Loveridge on 'What makes Chiromantis skin waterproof?'

• Room 216, 4.00 pm

Wednesday, September 29

Inaugural Lecture by Professor Malcolm Sainsbury, Head of the Department of Information Systems, on *Information Systems* and Creative Responses

Arts Major, 8.15 pm

Situations Vacant

Applications are invited from suitable qualified candidates, irrespective of race, gender or creed, for the following positions:

Lecturer/Junior Lecturer in Human Geography

from 1 January 1994 or as soon as possible thereafter. Preference may be given to candidates with interests in rural development and/or in resource management.

Junior Lecturer in the Department of Linguistics and English Language.

Temporary post from 1 January 1994 to 31 December 1994 in the first instance for which expertise in phonetics and phonology will be a recommendation.

Application forms, salary details and other particulars concerning the above posts may be obtained from Mrs A Orsmond in the Personnel Division (phone: ext 8117). Applications close on 30 September.

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SMALLS

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by Mary Allen immediate past Chairperson

Attendance was disappointing at the AGM held on Thursday 2 September, which the Executive Committee finds most disturbing. During 1993 three other meetings were organised to obtain guidance from members on various issues. As a result of poor attendance at these meetings the RUSA Executive emphasises that the Executive is not RUSA. Members appear to call on RUSA in times of crisis only. The Executive believes that crises would be limited if RUSA were able to be proactive in negotiating mechanisms with management. During the past year RUSA has achieved success on issues affecting the interests of members. RUSA membership has been maintained at around 700 members. A survey of several universities indicates that RUSA has proportionately the largest membership as a single staff association. This should provide RUSA with a bargaining force which could determine its strength to negotiate.

Book addresses access rights

A new book, which has been described as the first serious study of the la of access to be undertaken in South Africa, was published recently. In book entitled, The Law of Access to Children, was written by Prof lw Schäfer, Head of the Law Department.

In his introduction, Prof Schäfer said, "The book aims to highlighth practical difficulties facing South African courts when dealing wit questions of access to the children of divorced and separated parents at to suggest some ways in which these difficulties can be resolved".

In order to achieve this aim, Prof Schäfer has noted comparate developments elsewhere, particularly the changes that have been affect to the laws of custody and access in England by the Children Act of 196 which came into operation on October 15, 1991.

The book focuses on the child, often the victim in the parents' battleth custody. He said, "We should look at the whole question of access for the child's point of view. South African courts view access as the non-custodian parent's right, while the child's wishes are not considered."

"Throughout this work access is referred to as a privilege rather than right. A privilege that is only exercisable when it is in the interest of the child."

The book is a detailed exposition, and includes features, such as: The advantages and disadvantages of access and some practical dilemma confronting the courts; Persons entitled to access; Kinds of access; and Conditions.

A controversial aspect of the book is the section, entitled, Race and Cultur which deals with mixed marriages. Since mixed marriages have become legal recognised in South Africa, the courts have not yet had to deal with the race factor as a means of determining the limits of reasonable access.

Although primarily aimed at legal practitioners and students, The Law Access to Children is written in a simple style, which makes it a valual source of information for the layperson.

Prof Schäfer completed the first draft of his book while visiting the Cent for Family Law and Family Policy at the School of Law at the University of East Anglia, Norwich, where he researched the English laws of custom and access.

RUSA NEWS

Report back from the Annual General Meeting

Working Hours, Medical Aid, Home Improvement Loan Scheme.

Through regular liaison meetings, the RUSA Executive has brought to the attention of management issues such as the differing working hours in various sectors. As a result, a directive was issued allowing departments to define the starting and finishing times for staff to suit departmental activities.

The criteria for membership of the medical aid scheme have been amended to encompass the 'principle breadwinner' concept which allows married women to join. Whilst RUSA's initial request was for membership to be open to all employees, one acknowledges that certain discriminatory limitations have been eliminated.

The Home Improvement Loan Scheme, at the request of RUSA, has been topped up to a total of R100 000 by the University with the RUSA contribution at just of R20 000. This is available to staff to a maximum of R2 000 any one loan. Loans are allocat proportionally in terms of incorn As long as one is indebted to scheme membership of RUS should be maintained. This all applies those obtaining loans for the Car Purchase Scheme.

New executive

Dr Gina Buijs (Chairperson) Ext 823 Mr Mark Hazell (Vice-Chairperson) Ext 82

Ms Glynn Armstrong Ext 83 (Honorary Treasurer) Ms Julia Goodwin (Secretary) Ext 83 Ext 82 Ms Mary Allen Ext 81 Mr Andrew Cook Mr Temba Masilela Ext 83 Mr Gary Norton (Co-opted) Ext 85 Ms Maxine Reitzes Ext 83 (Lecturers' representative on Senate) Ms Jenny Roberts (Co-opted) Ext 81 Ext 82 Mr Warren Snowball Ext 82 Mr George Wells (Lecturers' representative on Senate)

to be conth

Rhodos, 23 September, 19