



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 on Founders' Day, at the memorial outside the Great Hall.

The Vice-Chancellor, Dr Derek Henderson, laid a wreath on behalf of the University. He was followed, on behalf of their respective bodies, by the President of the Old Rhodian 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 of a Rhodes staff member, as the flag was lowered and raised again.



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 Rhodes' news reporter, crime reporter, sports reporter, photographer and correspondent concerned with matters ichthyological.

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

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.

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 do 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.

Rhodos itself, as it is administered and structured at present, needs without doubt to be placed on a path of constructive transformation. Instead of waiting for national events and watching while other institutions undergo transformation, Rhodes should take the lead in democratisation and other processes that would enable it to become a working model that could be applied in the macro environment. Rhodes provides the perfect context in which transformation can be undertaken but obviously the University as it is now, is not a perfect working model, and we do not mirror South African society. We do, however, have access to input from almost every sector of the broader mind-set.

As regards the political affiliation of SRC members, to say that none of them was elected on a political platform is incorrect. Politics are part of students' life and while the SRC itself will not push party politics, its members, in some cases, 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.

RHODOS STAFF

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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

150 Club update

We are living in extraordinary times. Even as the news gets more sombre in many spheres, the club flourishes, so much so that, some fluctuations in membership notwithstanding, the loyal core remains and newcomers are signing up to such an extent that we are now well over the 200 mark. So the organising committee; myself, the Secretary, Arthur Lanham, and the Treasurer, Michel Beauvais are going to meet as a matter of urgency to rename the club more ambitiously and begin to step up prizes. Thank you all for your wonderful response to the latest recruitment drive! Luck also moves in extraordinary ways. Two of our earliest winners are also among our latest draw winners. Here is the comprehensive list to date:

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

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.

WHAT'S ON? - September 23 - 30

Thursday, September 23

Students for Human Rights
Lecture

- Arts Major, 7.30 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.

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 law
of access to be undertaken in South Africa, was published recently. The
book entitled, *The Law of Access to Children*, was written by Prof Juw
Schäfer, Head of the Law Department.

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

In order to achieve this aim, Prof Schäfer has noted comparative
developments elsewhere, particularly the changes that have been affected
to the laws of custody and access in England by the Children Act of 1989,
which came into operation on October 15, 1991.

The book focuses on the child, often the victim in the parents' battle for
custody. He said, "We should look at the whole question of access from
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 a
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 dilemmas
confronting the courts; Persons entitled to access; Kinds of access; and
Conditions.

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

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

Prof Schäfer completed the first draft of his book while visiting the Centre
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 custody
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 over
R20 000. This is available to
staff to a maximum of R2 000 for
any one loan. Loans are allocated
proportionally in terms of income.
As long as one is indebted to the
scheme membership of RUSA
should be maintained. This also
applies those obtaining loans from
the Car Purchase Scheme.

New executive

Dr Gina Buijs (Chairperson) Ext 8233
Mr Mark Hazell (Vice-Chairperson)
Ext 82

Ms Glynn Armstrong
(Honorary Treasurer) Ext 83
Ms Julia Goodwin (Secretary) Ext 83
Ms Mary Allen Ext 82
Mr Andrew Cook Ext 81
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
Mr Warren Snowball Ext 82
Mr George Wells Ext 82
(Lecturers' representative on Senate)

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to be continued