

[29.11.1984]

DRAFT

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S MESSAGE FOR S.A.B.C

The year 1984 has generally been a kind one to Rhodes University. Despite the troubled times, we were fortunate to have avoided any serious dislocation in our business of imparting, preserving and extending knowledge.

There were two predictions that might have affected us - the famous but gloomy prognostications of George Orwell, and the more local but much heralded introduction of the new subsidy formula for universities.

In the event George Orwell's reputation for accurate timing has been lost and the financial arrangements for universities were, in effect, the old formula with a two and a half percent cut.

After initial cuts and then limited agterskots I can report that we managed to achieve a more or less break-even financial position. We were very pleased. Avoiding the serious deficit that confronted us at one stage enabled us to achieve the stability that a university needs if it is to perform properly. The projects in 1985 remain problematic and we at Rhodes have budgeted fairly conservatively.

The opening next term of Gold Fields House will be the last large construction project for some time. Our attention is likely to move to upgrading and remodelling existing buildings - but like all South African enterprises our work here will depend very much on future economic developments.

Gold Fields House is a residence for 78 men and is the result of a half million rands donation from Gold Fields Foundation. It will give us about a two per cent increase in accommodation and this will probably mark the end of a sustained expansionary period during which student numbers have increased by between two and four per cent for a number of years. Our

total all-in student body may reach 3 500 in 1985, of whom about 2 900 will be full-time in Grahamstown.

This limit, set mainly by accommodation factors both at the University and in the town, taken with the increased number of applications being received, means that we are able to be more selective. While this may appear to be reducing the opportunities for South Africans to enjoy a university education, it is in reality a step forward because, judged by other countries, we should have a higher proportion of people studying at technikons. The general limiting of university sizes is part of government policy and is a healthy development from the university and national points of view.

One area in which Rhodes is likely to continue to expand is in East London. Our Division there is expecting to register nearly 200 undergraduates and about 20 postgraduate students next term.

In addition to the part-time course for the Bachelor of Commerce we are now offering a Bachelor of Education course and possibly an honours degree in Social Work.

The confusion at the end of the 1984 school year in certain areas in Grahamstown and in other parts of the Eastern Cape makes Rhodes University very conscious of its place in society. Our prime commitment is to scholarship, and it is vital that we work in an atmosphere of objectivity and order. The Senate and Council and, to a large extent, the student body is conscious of the need to avoid the politicisation of the University. We know that what has been built up at Rhodes with toil and patience over 80 years must be guarded very carefully. In 1985 we will be working hard to ensure that all that is best in our great tradition remains intact for future generations.

[26.10.1984]

DRAFT

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S MESSAGE FOR S.A.B.C

The year 1984 has generally been a kind of to Rhodes University. Despite the troubled times, we ~~were fortunate to have~~ avoided any serious dislocation in our business of imparting, preserving and extending knowledge. *Neither George Orwell's gloomy prognostications nor the delay in the proper introduction of the new subsidy formula did us any lasting harm.*

There were two predictions that might have affected us - the famous but gloomy prognostications of George Orwell, and the more local but much heralded introduction of the new subsidy formula for universities.

~~In the event~~ George Orwell's reputation for accurate timing has been lost and the financial arrangements for universities were, in effect, the old formula with a <sup>small</sup> ~~two and a half~~ percent cut.

After initial cuts and then limited <sup>reinstatements</sup> ~~adjustments~~ I can report that we managed to achieve a more or less break-even financial position. We were very pleased. *By careful husbandry we overcame the financial hurdles, thus preserving* ~~Avoiding the serious deficit that confronted us at one stage enabled us to achieve the stability that a university needs if it is to perform properly.~~ The prospects in 1985 remain problematic and we at Rhodes have budgeted fairly conservatively.

The opening next term of Gold Fields House will be the <sup>culmination of the</sup> ~~last~~ large construction project for some time. Our attention is likely to move to upgrading and remodelling existing buildings - but like all South African enterprises our work here will depend very much on future economic developments. *our last major construction project for some time to come,*

Gold Fields House, is a residence for 78 men and is the result of a <sup>handsome</sup> ~~half~~ million rands donation from <sup>the</sup> ~~Gold~~ Fields Foundation. It will give us about a <sup>3</sup> ~~two~~ per cent increase in <sup>overall</sup> ~~accommodation~~ and this will probably mark the end of a sustained expansionary period during which student numbers have increased by <sup>average of</sup> ~~between two and four~~ per cent for a <sup>few</sup> ~~number~~ of years. Our



<sup>A</sup> ~~The~~ general deceleration in university expansion, ~~of which Rhodes experience is an example and consequent selectivity is a healthy development, for in comparison with other countries South Africa should have a greater proportion of its tertiary education directed towards technicians and allied institutions~~

total all-in student <sup>numbers</sup> ~~body~~ may reach 3 500 in 1985, of whom about 2 900 will be full-time in Grahamstown.

This limit, set mainly by accommodation factors both at the University and in the town, taken with the increased number of applications being received, means that we are able to be more selective. While this may appear to be reducing the opportunities for South Africans to enjoy a university education, it is in reality a step forward because, judged by other countries, we should have a higher proportion of people studying at technicians <sup>and other tertiary institutions</sup>. The general limiting of university sizes is <sup>deceleration</sup> ~~part of~~ government policy <sup>enrolment</sup> and is a healthy development <sup>both</sup> from the university and national points of view.

One ~~area in which Rhodes is likely to continue to expand is in East London.~~ <sup>East London</sup> Our <sup>Division</sup> ~~there~~ <sup>however, likely to expand to</sup> is expecting to register nearly 200 undergraduates and about 20 postgraduate students <sup>most of whom</sup> ~~next term, made up primarily of~~ <sup>will enrol for the B.Com and B.Ed degrees.</sup>

~~In addition to the part-time course for the Bachelor of Commerce we and a~~  
~~are now offering a Bachelor of Education course, and possibly an honours degree in Social Work.~~

The <sup>recent</sup> ~~confusion~~ <sup>and disorders</sup> ~~at the end of the 1984 school year in certain areas in~~  
~~Grahamstown and in other parts of the Eastern Cape~~ <sup>certain</sup> ~~makes Rhodes University~~ <sup>schools</sup>  
very conscious of its place in society. Our prime commitment is to scholarship, and it is vital that we work in an atmosphere of objectivity and order. The Senate and Council and, to a large extent, the student body <sup>are</sup> ~~is~~ conscious of the need to avoid the politicisation of the University. ~~We~~  
~~know that~~ <sup>W</sup> ~~what has been built up at Rhodes with toil and patience over 80~~  
~~years must be guarded very carefully.~~ In 1985 we <sup>shall</sup> ~~will~~ be working hard to  
ensure that all that is best in our great tradition remains intact for  
future generations.

Old version far too long at 3m 20 sec.  
Revised version clocks in at 1 min 54 sec

Second draft

[26.11.1984]

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S MESSAGE FOR S.A.B.C

The year 1984 has generally been kind to Rhodes University. Despite the troubled times, we avoided any serious dislocation in our business of imparting, preserving and extending knowledge. Neither George Orwell's gloomy prognostications nor the delay in the proper introduction of the new subsidy formula did us any lasting harm.

By careful husbandry we overcame the financial hurdles, thus preserving the stability that a university needs if it is to perform properly. The projects in 1985 remain problematic and we at Rhodes have budgeted fairly conservatively.

Our last major construction project for some time to come, Gold Fields House, is a residence for 78 men and is the result of a handsome donation from the Gold Fields Foundation. This probably marks the end of a sustained expansionary period during which student numbers have increased by an average of four per cent per annum. Our total all-in student numbers may reach 3 500 in 1985, of whom about 2 900 will be full-time in Grahamstown.

A general deceleration in university expansion, and consequent selectivity, is a healthy development, for in comparison with other countries South Africa should have a greater proportion of its tertiary education directed towards technikons and allied institutions.

Our East London Division is, however, likely to expand to nearly 200 undergraduates and about 20 postgraduate students, most of whom will enrol for the B Com and B Ed degrees.

The recent confusion and disorder in certain Eastern Cape schools makes Rhodes University very conscious of its place in society. Our prime commitment is to scholarship, and it is vital that we work in an atmosphere

of objectivity and order. The Senate and Council and, to a large extent, the student body are conscious of the need to avoid the politicisation of the University. What has been built up at Rhodes with toil and patience over 80 years must be guarded very carefully. In 1985 we shall be working hard to ensure that all that is best in our great tradition remains intact for future generations.

*This version ran at ± 2 min 12 sec.*