

40 years on

The highlight of a meeting of Service Staff, held in the Great Hall and addressed by the Vice-Chancellor earlier this week, was the presentation of a special award for no less than 40 years' service.

Making the award to Mrs Joan Prins, Dr Derek Henderson said that this length of service was becoming an extreme rarity in today's modern world. Mrs Prins joined Rhodes on 9 November, 1953 and is currently employed in the laundry at Rhodes.

During his address to staff, Dr Henderson stressed the need for increased and sustained productivity in the light of the difficult economic circumstances expected for 1994, exacerbated by the cut in the Government's subsidy to educational institutions.

He implored all staff to work towards improved productivity, likening the available funds to milk which, in terms of quantity and quality, is expected to sustain

increasing numbers. The only way to achieve this while maintaining standards, he said, is to improve the quantity and quality. We are going to have to do this ourselves, he added; it won't be done for us by whoever is in Government in Pretoria. Without maintenance of standards, he said, students might no longer find Rhodes an attractive University and another source of income might shrink.

The Secretary of the Shop Stewards Committee, Mr Elijah Ntente, in his reply to Dr Henderson's address, reiterated earlier requests made for "training and retraining". He said that while increased productivity was a laudable objective, this would not be achieved unless individual staff members were assisted in achieving their full potential through training and self-development. He felt that current channels were not adequate and hoped that more effective methods would be explored. He



Mr Rick Heard (left), Laundry Manager, and Mrs Joan Prins (2nd from left) with some of her colleagues after she had received a special award from Rhodes for 40 years of loyal service.

On Mrs Prins' right is Ms Sannie Hermanus and on her left Ms Sheila Hector. In the foreground are Messrs Leonard April (left) and Arrow Ntshoko.

said that there was great capacity to effectively respond to training on the part of the Service Staff members.

Mr Ntente also stressed the importance of voting on April 27th

next year and asked that the University administration go out of its way to allow for voter training in order that all Service Staff members could effectively and responsibly cast their vote.

Distinguished teachers and researchers



At an end-of-year cheese and wine party for Senior Staff, Dr Derek Henderson presented four Vice Chancellor's awards, two each to distinguished teachers and distinguished researchers. The bemedalled recipients, three of whom are seen here with their wives, are, from left, Prof Pat Terry (Distinguished Teacher, 1992) with Sally; Prof Rob Midgley (Distinguished Researcher, 1993) with Trish; and Mr George Euvrard (Distinguished Teacher 1993) with Gwenda. The Distinguished Researcher for 1992, Prof Rick Bernard, was not present at the function.

Annual closure

Rhodes closes for the end of year Christmas and New Year break on 22 December at 16h00.

Thursday, 16 December is a normal working day but may not subsequently be claimed as a public holiday worked, as the University will be closed on 24

December in lieu thereof. The previous day, 23 December, will also see the University closed, in lieu of Workers' Day on 1 May.

Normal office hours and routine will recommence on Monday, 3 January, 1994.

The Director of Public Relations and Development and her colleagues wish all staff members a Blessed Christmas and all that is good during 1994



Letters to the Editor

Rhodos invites correspondence on all matters of concern to the University community. It is hoped that the contents of such letters, which should, ideally, not exceed 200 words in length, will indicate the wide spectrum of views held and will promote further discussion.

A pseudonym is acceptable, so long as you also supply your full name and traceable address to the editor, who will respect confidentiality.

LITTER OR EXPERIMENT

The Editor,

For at least three months a pile of sand, rubbish and cigarette ends has been lying in the corner opposite the entrance to the Economics Department. Next to it stands an asbestos pot - empty. Why?

Is this part of some arcane sociological, anthropological or psychological experiment? If so, how long may we expect it to continue and will the findings be published in *Rhodos*?

Eager to know.

SEASONAL GREETINGS

The Editor,

May I request the courtesy of your columns to wish my former friends at Rhodes and in Grahamstown seasonal greetings.

I shall no longer be propping up the postal services by means of Christmas cards. Instead, what I would have spent thereon plus postage will, I hope, be of benefit to Rhodes.

My intention is to make a donation to the bursaries fund initiated by the Old Rhodian organisation which, when last I heard, was being led by Chris Hummel.

If he or his successor will contact me, we will, as they say, make a plan.

I would like to think that other Rhodians, past or present, might follow this lead and that *Rhodos* would cooperate by mentioning their names. That way we'll learn whom we're not going to be hearing from or, better still, from whom, etc.

*B G (Paddy) Canglely
Admin 1977 - 1987.*

When brown can be green

Rhodes has boosted its efforts to use recycled material where possible by placing an order for 24 park benches from a Cape Town company. The benches are made, not from wood or concrete, but from **Polywood**, a material manufactured from recycled plastic.

Range of colours

The benches come in a range of colours, (ours will be brown). The colorant is impregnated into the material which saves enormously on maintenance through painting or varnishing, and on the labour usually inherent in such work. Being of significant durability one does not have to replace sections of bench from time to time, as is the case with timber. Their appearance is similar to those made from wood, however.

The 24 now on order may well be the first batch of several which will make their appearance around the campus soon.

Academic Development Programme

New Lecturers Orientation Programme - 1994

The New Lecturers Orientation Course will be on 7 - 9 February 1994, in the Council Chamber.

It will be followed by a number of seminars during the year.

Dr Margaret Rutherford of the College of Science, WITS University will give a public lecture on 8 February 1994 at 19:30 in Arts Major. The topic will be Foundation Programmes as a means of improving access to universities for disadvantaged students.

For further information contact Este Coetzee or Nadine Cloete on extension 8171.

Wide range of services offered

The Department of Geography reminds University and Research Institute staff of the wide range of graphic services on offer through the Cartographic Unit.

These include production of maps, diagrams and illustrative graphics to publication standard, processing of photographic negatives, half-tones, bromides, black and white photographic prints and slides, and diazo (blue) slides.

They also offer conference poster design and layout, diazo printing for oversize maps and plans, overhead transparency design and preparation as well as computer-generated graphics and illustrations.

A small production fee is levied to cover costs and enquiries should be addressed to the Unit on ext 8322 or 8323.

Course successfully completed



Eleven Grounds and Gardens staff members were recently awarded their certificates by the Registrar, Dr Keith Hunt, after successfully completing a course in Garden Maintenance run by the East Cape Training Centre.

The course was held over five days, at Rhodes. Participants were monitored by instructors.

Seen with their manager, Mr Mark Hazell (centre) after the ceremony are, from left, (back row) Elijah Ntentile, Wallace Gongua, Dr Hunt, Nkululeko Nojoko, Mr P S Murray (Director: Estates Division), Ndoyisile Msila, Patrick Khani and (front row) Jeffrey Qubuda, George Matyumza, Toto Lamani and Kidd Nojoko. Mr Daniel Mani was

unfortunately absent when the photograph was taken.

As a follow-up to the course, the men were taken to Bedford to see some of the finest gardens in the country. "This was quite an eye-opener and has contributed to the skills training which is part of a continuing effort at Grounds and Gardens", says Hazell.

New Medical Aid option

Staff are advised that Meddent has a new medical aid option on offer which will appeal to those who have a low claims history or preference for a 100% scheme.

Please contact Patrick Phillips in Personnel (ext 8116) for further details.

Significant growth in interest in LEAD

Participants on one of the Industrial Lead Development programme courses undergo a lesson in teamwork and leadership during their training course.

The Institute for Individual and Social Development, at the East London Division, has seen a significant growth in interest in its Industrial Lead Development Programme.

Course leader Peter Kemp says that this year some 25 people from several local companies are attending. Companies pay ISIDA for the training of their staff who, while participating in the extensive activities which make up the course, learn a variety of skills and disciplines.

"The programme", says Kemp, "makes a basic assumption which is that leadership qualities are developed through a social process marked by hard work and access to experiences which promote the acquisition of a broad range of skills, values and attitudes. Problem solving skills, which participants gain while being guided through a range of experiences, are generalised into situations within their homes, their work places and their daily lives".

The three main aims of the programme are to assist participants to think strategically, to work as a team rather than as individuals and to instil in themselves the importance of taking responsibility for their own lives.

A fundamental criterion is that any one group on course should consist of as broad a social mix as possible, including people from industrial workers through to senior management with a mix of races and gender.

A typical course will include a six-day, 'outward bound' type,

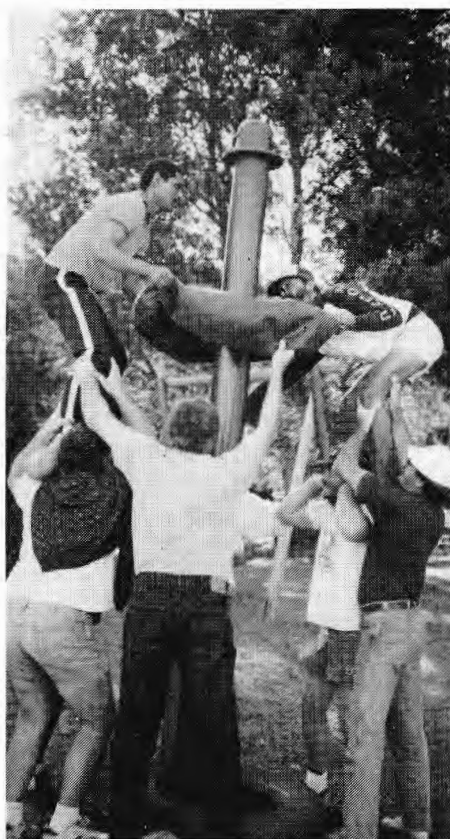
team building programme which tends to set the tone for the rest of the course; it breaks down preconceived barriers and facilitates interpersonal bonding. Broadening of frames of reference in the context of the arts, politics and economics is achieved by a seven-day excursion to the National Arts Festival.

A two-day community service programme sees participants sent in pairs to various community organisations in and around East London to experience aspects of social work at first hand.

There is also a full range of workshops, dealing with strategic planning skills, locus of control, presentation skills, power management, self and family development, financial management and career planning, among other topics. Work related projects designed especially to explore individual levels of formal education and academic competence are also embarked upon.

A carefully designed mix of formal professional behaviour, such as report presentation and consultation, balanced with recreational options such as sport and the use of leisure time round off an extremely satisfying package - one which major companies are finding is enhancing the levels of productivity and responsibility of their employees across the board.

The course has proved so popular, says Peter Kemp, that an 'Alumni Society' is being formed; premises are being explored where past participants



In the top picture, the team have to remove the semi-inflated inner tube without allowing it to touch the pole.

While crossing the river on a raft which they had had to construct earlier (below), the teams have to 'pull together' under the direction of their chosen leaders. The object, as can be seen from the photograph, is two-fold. The humans have to cross the river safely, but do not necessarily have to remain dry. Their clothing, however, in the 'rubber duck' under tow, does!



Fulbright Scholar

Matthew Smith, a temporary lecturer in the History Department on Rhodes' East London campus, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to study in the United States of America.

Matthew has been teaching African History, in both Grahamstown and East London, since 1989. He is the son of Prof and Mrs Malvern van Wyk Smith. He applied for the scholarship earlier this year; it is administered by the United States Information Service. Applicants have to convince the administrators of the potential benefit of their proposed studies in

America to South Africa as a country and not only to themselves and their institutions.

Matthew is not yet sure of which American University he will visit as he has not had a response yet. Scholars are asked to identify several, in order of preference, when winning the award.

Matthew will be temporarily abandoning his history and pursuing studies in Higher Education Administration while in America. He says that he sees both demand and potential for practitioners in this field in South Africa in the future.

"It is a specialised discipline in its own right, today", he says. "Educational Institutions at all levels have particular needs, systems and disciplines of management which are not common to other spheres. This is especially so in the field of private education at all levels, given the increasing competition for funds and fees".

Matthew was awarded his Masters degree at the graduation ceremony in April this year having earlier obtained his BA at the University of Cape Town.



Matthew Smith

'... disturbing images on show ...'

1993 Rhodes student art exhibition – an appreciation by Robin Palmer

I have gone to the opening of the annual exhibition of students' work at Rhodes almost every year over fourteen years without ever feeling moved to review it – until now. This record is perfectly understandable as I am neither art historian nor critic but a social anthropologist, albeit one with a lifelong interest in fine art.

What has provoked me to write about this year's show is its striking departure from its predecessors; and what this change might signify not so much from the aesthetic perspective as from that of the sociology of art.

Nudity, sexuality and danger

The first work one sees upon entering the Art School's exhibition hall is an enormous tryptich woodcut by Richard Kilpert entitled 'End of the Road', in which an embracing nude couple are flung from a car careering off the National Road. The themes of nudity, sexuality and danger are continued in his other woodcut, 'The Jaws of Life', in which a young man anxiously watches 'the jaws of life' menace his erect penis.

Giselle Baillie, like Kilpert a Graphics III student, has also produced large colour woodcuts. In her 'Raft of the Medusa', the

snake-haired siren with a large wound in her thigh submits to a skeleton; in 'Submission to Identification' two lesbians embrace as the submissive partner eviscerates; in 'MEMartyr' the two themes combine as a skeleton embraces a semi-dissected partner on a dissecting-table on which instruments lie.

Elsewhere, in the black and white treatment 'Empire of the Senseless', the love makers are whole, but beneath the surface on which they writhe the skeleton lurks. 'Turning and Turning in the Redress of the Wind' contains neither skeletons nor dismemberment: this time one of the embracing lovers has been prevented from using his baton by means of a timely stab through the hand.

Stephen Johnson, another Graphics III student, shows a lithograph entitled 'Seduction', involving two antagonistic couples in the same space. It is an interpretation which makes seduction coterminous with date-rape. On the same wall, Gary du Toit's 'Untitled' lithograph surrealistically shows a cannibalitor literally getting under his partner's skin.

Jessie Breytenbach, an MFA student, has a number of works on

show, mainly pastels. Inspired by the Tarot, she has produced her own interpretations of four of the cards – the Fool, the Hanged Man, the Lovers and The Sun. In all there is unease in the excruciating expressions on the faces of the realistically-drawn actors, and physical hazards abound, such as yawning chasms and savage dogs. In *The Lovers*, a young man faces a choice between two young women in slips, one modest, the other flirtatious, while Cupid, in the background, prepares to loose an arrow. Tarot is all about choice-making: in this case it is clear that the man will choose the wanton one.

Sinister figure

Besides the Tarot-inspired quartet, Breytenbach offers two other pastels. 'The Chocolate' features a sinister figure, reminiscent of the archetypal puritan inquisitor or SS officer, against a background of chocolate wrappers proffering a chocolate to the viewer with a quizzical expression – would anyone accept sweets from this stranger? 'Miriam' is dominated by a central female figure crowned with orifice-like poppies and surrounded by embryos – her reproductive potential externalised, kept at bay.

In both drawings disembodied eyes are a strong, unsettling presence.

The only Breytenbach on show which is not a pastel is the black-and-white woodcut, 'Safe Sex', in which a pair of naked limbs repose on the ground surrounded by flies.

The photography exhibition includes works from students of the first three years. Most of the photographs are in the instantly-recognisable saturated colour and lighting treatments pioneered by their lecturer, Obie Oberholzer, in his many exhibitions and coffee-table books. In terms of technique as well as content they demand attention and, generally-speaking, admiration.

First-year, R Ashby shows a photograph in black and white, of a nude woman in a bath staring down the adjacent lavatory bowl; in the water, cunningly superimposed, the face of her lover stares back at her.

Repulsive tomatoes

T Lodell and L Shear of the second year have become captivated by tomatoes, but not as still lifes, for the sake of their shiny redness or internal geometry: they prefer them mouldy, repelling a literally recoiling knife-and-fork in the former case, or squashed in the mouth and dripping down the stubbly chin of a man in stark close-up, in the latter case.

In the third year, K Street shows a pig's head with an ad hoc cap of blue plastic tied on with orange string, and a bowl of chicken legs under a green light-bulb. W Mitchell has the following: a table-setting featuring two mummified rats; dead mice hanging from strings in a window, their passing marked by a candle in a bird-cage; a motel suicide (or is it a murder) reflected in the bathroom mirror with a partial view of the deceased in the bath and his nude lover in the next room; and a male nude in a chair contemplating the bottom half of a female cast (the top half is missing). J Steinhobel features two nocturnal studies of a flooded lime-quarry in which rotting, paint-daubed tyres have been dumped.

The works I have cited do not represent the majority of the *oeuvre* on show, but they are a conspicuous minority both in terms of quantity and quality.



Some of the works on display at the Art Exhibition, which is open until the end of the term.

continued on page 5

Student art continued from page 4

The list includes the work of the more senior and most competent students; regardless of content the sheer size and boldness of some of the works draws the eye. Inevitably, they characterise the 1993 exhibition, making it a departure from previous shows.

Acting as lightning-rods

What to make of it all? Why have Rhodes fine art and photography students broken with the Bradfield-Brooks painterly tradition, emphasizing graphics and photography and pursuing the themes outlined above? 'Why' questions are always tough questions, but this time, for me, the answer seemed to be self-evident. As always, the most creative of our youth are acting as lightning-rods for the latest social concerns of our society and expressing them graphically but in symbolic code.

In the authoritarian old South Africa students were more inclined to work within the traditions of their art schools – in Rhodes's case, the Bradfield-Brookian one (which entailed, incidentally, a massive investment in expensive oil paint and canvas for the mandatory *impasto*) – at the same time as they expressed their opposition to apartheid in the crude-marxist terms of the struggle.

Since 1990 the struggle has become complicated beyond depiction and authoritarianism has followed apartheid into the political melting-pot. 'Casspirs and comrades', the equivalent of cops and robbers, whose pictorial potential captivated so many art students in the 1980s, has given way to a more pervasive, less readily or literally identifiable unease as the violence in the townships continues and elections loom.

Experiencing stress

Within this larger political context, students are experiencing stress in their social and sexual lives as never before. Rhodes is an intensely social campus and art and photography students are no exceptions. Among those in the 12 - 25 age-group, heirs to the sexual revolution, sociability also entails exploring sexuality. But nowadays the pursuit of sex is bedevilled by three products of the same sexual revolution: feminism, out-of-the-closet homosexuality and AIDS.

There used to be clear distinctions between courtship and seduction, seduction and rape: now they are blurred. Gender identity is more fluid than ever before: students are less certain of their sexuality. Until recently heterosexual whites (the majority of art students at Rhodes, I think) could dismiss AIDS as either a 'gay plague' or an 'African thing' – no more: there are even those who declare that condoms are ineffective, that there is no such thing as safe sex.

Fear and confusion

It is my contention that fear and confusion at the national-political level combined with (even eclipsed by) the fear and confusion inherent in the social lives of art and photography students – by definition the most visually sensitive, tactile and sensuous students on campus – has produced

the disturbing images on show at the Rhodes Art School this year.

Fortunately, creative tension and the other kinds of tension are by no means incompatible: fear and loathing can produce great art, as happened when Europe was racked by plagues and syphilis in the Renaissance. The individual students mentioned in this review are engaged in encoding visual representations of the hazards of sex and gender in a violent society, from the tryptich of the couple in the car crash in the entrance of the hall right through to the colour-saturated images of death, decay and frustrated, tainted sex in the photography section. Divination via the Tarot points to the desire to make the right choices, but The Fool is not protected by his innocence, the Hanged Man is the wrong way up and in The Lovers the

young man selects the sexier who may be HIV positive.

No room for optimism

There is no room for optimism in portentous images on show, but portents the works show a will resist in their didactic nature. They made accessible: very graphic in every sense of the term. The artists have eschewed the direct self-indulgent sensuality of impasto oil paint and personal iconography to provide a direct message driven home with the most ancient and universal symbols (skeletons, knives). Working individually they have produced a collective representation of neo-Hierononymous Bosch's warning for a secular, postindustrial society: Take care! Confusion, disease and death are close to us! And who can say that students are over-reacting?



A photograph by R Ashby, on exhibition at the School of Art in Somerset Street

On-site voter education on campus?

April 27th next year is destined to go down in history as one of the most important days of our lives. It is of utmost importance, says a recent advertisement published in the *Daily Dispatch*, that all those who are eligible to vote be allowed that opportunity.

Information forming part of the advertisement suggests that, while 87% of South Africans who are eligible to vote will be able to do so, the balance, some 2,4 million people, will not be able to do so because they do not possess identity documents.

Those without should note that application for ID documents may be made at any regional or district office of the Department of Home Affairs, at the department's various service points and mobile units,

and at any magistrate's office throughout the country.

No-one will be permitted to vote without an identity document.

It is easy to obtain one and there is no cost.

The Department of Home Affairs has stated " . . . if the number of employees on any one premises warrants it", arrangements can be made for one or more of their officials to visit in order to facilitate the submission of applications.

Perhaps the employee representative bodies, RU and NEHAWU, should jointly investigate the particular situation at Rhodes and find out if they qualify for such a visit?

The Editor

UDUSA News Update

committed to non-racialism, non-sexism and democracy

November 1993

Elections: Voter Education

Regional workshops on voter education are being planned for November 1993. The aim of these workshops is to train trainers. Members who attend these workshops in November will be expected to train university staff members. Voter Education workshops are scheduled for the Transvaal, Natal and Western Cape Regions on the 6th, 8th and 11th November respectively. A Workshop for the Eastern Cape is also being planned.

Election Monitoring

The National Office is working with the UDW-based training organisation - ACCORD - on training in elections monitoring. As many of our members as possible will be trained as elections monitoring trainers in early 1994. These trainers will in turn be expected to train students and members of staff at their universities during February and March 1994. Members will receive further details during November.

The National Office is also currently engaged in discussion with IFEE (Independent Forum for Electoral Education). As you are aware, approximately 60 000 people will be needed to monitor the April elections. IFEE will offer elections monitoring training to our membership. The monitors will be expected to monitor the election on Wednesday 27

April 1994. Training will commence during January 1994. As soon as detailed plans for training have been finalised, they will be forwarded to Regional Chairs.

Insurance Benefits

The National Office has been able to secure low insurance rates on the following schemes:

- a) Group Life and Disability Insurance
- b) Retirement Annuities
- c) Endowment Policies
- d) Education Policies
- e) Funeral Policies
- f) Short term Household and Motor Vehicle Insurance
- g) Medical Benefit Fund securing cover for hospitalisation, surgery, dread disease diagnosis, frailty and disability.

Advantages to these funds are that contributions are tax deductible and contributions that are not used will be invested on behalf of our members in a separate fund. Members will receive further details and application forms by the end of this year.

Skills Training

A National Dispute Resolution Skills Training Workshop was held in Johannesburg during September. The programme dealt with issues concerning our understanding of conflict, dispute resolution processes, and choosing the appropriate dispute resolution process. Participants commented that they found the work-

shop informative and useful. Further workshops on mediation and negotiation skills will be held at regional and branch level during 1994.

Other Benefits

We are currently engaged in further discussions regarding the following:

- a) Membership of a Buying Consortium
- b) Free Legal Advice and Representation
- c) Motor Vehicle tyre and service scheme.

NEC Goes Ahead

UDUSA's twice yearly National Executive Council meeting will go ahead on 20-21 November. The delay was caused by short-term cash flow problems. Happily UDUSA's finances are assured and its business as usual.

General Strike

COSATU has called a General Strike for 15 November to protest against clauses in the Interim Constitution which undermine workers' rights. COSATU's Central Executive Committee has exempted the education sector from the planned action. UDUSA branches may wish to join the strike - where this does not harm the interests of students.

**National Office Closes 15
December to 10 January
MERRY CHRISTMAS**

VUDUSA

Vista UDUSA Branches are now nationally organised in Vista-UDUSA. In advance of negotiations with management on Transformation, VUDUSA is convening a broad meeting of democratic organisations on November 13. This will be followed by a National Caucus of VUDUSA on the 19th. Further details can be obtained from National Chairperson, Joe Manyaka (011-938 170/176).

Vista-Pretoria

There's a name change for UDUSA's Vista-Mamelodi Branch. With growing membership from Vista Head Office and Vista Further Education, it became necessary to re-christen the branch: Vista-Pretoria.

Vista-Bloemfontein

Welcome to UDUSA's newest branch - Vista-Bloemfontein - which has applied to affiliate to UDUSA with an initial 31 members.

Victimisation at Unibo

UDUSA Branch president, Tsepiso Rampele lost his job with the university when the management refused to confirm his appointment at end of October. UDUSA has called on branches, fraternal organisations and overseas unions to voice their objections to this latest attack on academic freedom. Send your protests to:

Prof R Malope, Vice-Chancellor, UNIBO (fax 0140- 25775); Mr P Botha, Minister of Foreign Affairs (fax 012-3510253); Dr T Eloff, Administrative Of-

ficer, Multi-Party Conference (fax 011-3972211)

The Convenor, NETF, c/o NEC (fax 011-4031130);

UDUSA National Office (fax 011-3395278).

A V-C for Venda

The UDUSA branch at the University of Venda is appealing for eligible candidates in their university's search for a new Vice-Chancellor. Please send any suggestions to Venda or via the National Office.

Workers take Stellenbosch to Court

It seems that Stellenbosch has been in the habit of terminating workers' services without a hearing. Two workers - members of the Public Servants Association - took their case to the Cape Supreme Court arguing that the rules of natural justice applied to them and that in terms of administrative law they should have been given a hearing.

The university contended that it was not a "public authority" and did not need to observe the procedures which apply to public bodies.

The judges were having none of it. They held that because the university received public funds, and was established by law, the employment contracts of the two were at least partially covered by statute.

They said that when it hired and fired the university was a "public authority" exercising public duties rather than carrying out a purely private function.

The judges ruled the university acted illegally in dismissing the two without a hearing.

Annie Gagiano of the UDUSA branch commented: "A legal ruling at this level re-emphasises that Stellenbosch, like all other universities, is accountable to the public."

UPE - End of an Era

The Broederbond stranglehold over the University of Port Elizabeth was broken last month by a broad based alliance of progressive academics, students, workers and democratic organisation. Dean of Arts, Prof Jan Kirsten - hailed as the "people's choice" - was elected rector.

"Our major problem is that UPE has no political or moral legitimacy," Professor Kirsten said. "Through negotiations we need to transform it from a white, male-dominated university into a multi-cultural institution with a strong regional focus.

"I believe in social responsibility, wider community involvement and affirmative action - not through the quota system, but through equal opportunities," he said.

The appointment process was put together by a negotiating forum that constructed a three-tier voting system comprised of the UPE Council, the senate and a representative committee of staff, student and community organisations.

Candidates for the post were interviewed by the broadly-based evaluating committee, while members of the senate watched on closed-circuit television.

The committee's recommendation - 17 out of 20 voted for Prof Kirsten - was then put to senate and then to council.

Alty Award follows doctorate



Professor Dieter Welz, Head of the Department of German at Rhodes, recently received an Alty Award (above) from the Vice-Chancellor, Dr Derek Henderson.

This follows his achievement of a DLitt (German) degree, awarded by the University of Pretoria. He will be capped next week at a graduation ceremony in Pretoria.

His thesis discussed Medieval Literature with special reference to Arthurian Romance.

Dr Welz holds an MA (cum laude) and a Dr Phil (magna cum laude) from the University of Hamburg in Germany. He has had many papers published and essays broadcast and has also written several books.

Maths Project a growing success

RUMEP - the Rhodes University Mathematics Education Project, has achieved some noteworthy successes since it was established in July this year.

Some 133 teachers from 56 schools in the Grahamstown, Ciskei and Border regions have attended RUMEP courses during the period and 43 educational advisers and inspectors from the region recently attended a symposium. This was a unique forum which saw, for the first time, representatives from many departments of education working together cooperatively for the first time. "RUMEP's function is to facilitate such forums", says John Stoker, the Project's first director.

RUMEP was launched with the specific purpose of improving the quality of teaching and learning mathematics in primary schools, says Stoker. "We realised that we had to rethink the whole approach to teaching mathematics, as the methods in use were simply not working", he says.

The programme is initially aimed at the first four years of schooling, where the foundations for numeracy are laid. An issue of concern in mathematics learning in 'black' schools is the language of instruction for those for whom English is a second language. RUMEP sees as its ongoing task the production of evidence on which informed decisions may be based regarding language and the teaching of

mathematics for this age group.

During the workshops for the 56 schools referred to earlier, new methods of building number meaning and problem solving are explored with the teachers.

"Developing 'ownership' of materials has increased teacher motivation, skill and enthusiasm for the project" Mr Stoker said. "Our classroom visits have seen a new and exciting curriculum taking shape, which is more appropriate and more relevant to the needs of the pupils. Teachers are using number activities suggested in the workshops in ways that are meaningful to the learners. We have seen much greater emphasis on problem solving, with children using their own methods to work out solutions that make sense to themselves."

Mr Stoker has found that cooperative learning comes easily to young people and that they learn to listen to one another and to negotiate meaning, particularly important in multi-cultural classrooms. He says that teacher confidence has also been enhanced, specifically insofar as classroom management is concerned. "This approach is far removed from learning by rote", he says.

Rhodes joins ProfNet

Rhodes' Public Relations and Development Division has become the first university organisation in South Africa to sign up with 'ProfNet' an interest group of public information officers using the Internet to communicate electronically.

This is as a result of an initiative by the University's Media Officer, Miss Mary Burnett.

ProfNet was started at the State University of New York at Stony Brook with two goals: to create on the Internet a global community of public information officers (PIOs), linking the world's major educational, scientific and cultural institutions; and to use the Internet to increase the frequency, immediacy and quality of communication between journalists and college and university faculty members.

The project has two components: Profnet, a co-operative of public information officers linked via Internet to give journalists and authors a quick and convenient access to expert sources; and PIOs Online, a directory of academic PIOs who can be reached by electronic mail.

ProfNet is centred at the Stony Brook Office of News Services. At its core is an electronic mail distribution list that enables news staff to send journalists' queries simultaneously to PIOs throughout North America and beyond.

The PIOs respond directly to the inquirer by electronic mail, fax, phone or 'hard' mail - whatever route the inquirer specifies.

By October this year, ProfNet's membership stood at 640 PIOs representing 320 colleges, universities and a wide range of academic, government and corporate organisations oriented to scholarship and research, including such institutions as Stanford, Berkeley, MIT, CalTech, Johns Hopkins, the University of Chicago and the University of Virginia.

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The Editor welcomes all contributions but reserves the customary right to edit these where necessary.

RHODOS DEADLINES

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