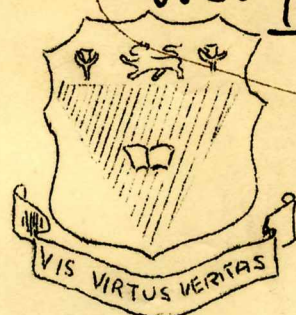


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The Rhodéo welcomes all freshers. Courtesy costs nothing. We also give them some advice : "Circumspecte Agitis", which, being translated, means : "Travel with care" - a warning not against the brutality of seniors (!) or the callousness of the staff (?), but against their own inexperience. Let no ink think more highly of himself than he ought, because this is one of the time-honoured prerogatives of the second-year.

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The Rhodéo regrets the departure of its first Editor, Mr. A.R. St. M. Delius, B. A., through whose patience, wit and tact, it became firmly established. His reviews are greatly missed.

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The Editor apologises to all idealists that this issue is devoted almost wholly to the splenetic outpourings of cynics. He hopes they will set to immediately and write something inspiring and not altogether unreadable for the next issue.

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#### STUDENT ELECTIONS.

We publish the following figures in order to give Rhodians some idea of their own apathy.

Out of an electorate of some 170 men,

87	voted for the election for the Senior Student,
80	" in the second election for the Senior student,
75	" " " House-Committee elections,
71	" " " S.R.C. elections.

Last year only 60 voted for the Senior Student, while 92 took part in the S.R.C. elections. This was from an electorate of approximately 150.

The S.R.C. is the body representing the interests of the students, and as such should have been intelligently supported. The fact that only 41 % were interested enough to vote, although ballot boxes had been placed in each residence, is mute testimony to the lack of intelligence and general apathy of a large portion of the new students of this University.

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The Editor fears that Rhodes is at the crossroads - that is, judging by the innumerable articles he has refused to publish. It is time Rhodians who have been resident in the College for two terms and over should realise that life is not going to be "jam" always - that they will have multifarious responsibilities in the future, for which they had better start tramping, e.g. to their future wives and husbands - a tiresome responsibility far more weighty than that attached to "pushing"; believe it or not; also their duties as citizens, far more wearing and less stimulating than the "army"; likewise a duty to themselves, which, although a trivial matter now, will be no joke when decrepit middle-age comes along. But we do not intend to disclose the secrets of a brilliant and illuminating series of articles which will appear in this paper in instalments, commencing next issue - a searing satire with all the morality of "Pilgrim's Progress" and all the world-wisdom from Solomon to P.G. Wodehouse, not to mention Faustian insight into the whole political, social and personal state of Rhodes. It will be a revelation to us all.

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Ux 11 No 1 March 6 1939

### CENSORSHIP.

It is hoped that this paper will grow to be an indispensable part of College life. Quite apart from its secondary function as a bulletin of events past, present or to come, we hope it will serve as a megaphone for any person who imagines or knows that his or her rights, privileges, inhibitions or tastes are being tampered with. We wish to make it clear to everybody that the RHODEO is run solely on student capital and enthusiasm; it is not the mouthpiece of the S.R.C. or the Council; it is the paper of every Rhodian irrespective of age, language or year status.

Within the bounds of good taste, we are willing to publish any article which is frank and open; we make it no stipulation as to subjects. We firmly believe that a purely student paper such as this has an important part to play in the development of a deeper, stronger and wittier consciousness of our unity as Rhodians.

But we work under one difficulty. There is something incongruous in our present position, which, as we see it, is this. At Rhodes there is dual control...on the one hand that of the students, represented by their House Committees and the S.R.C. on the other hand that of the Staff, working through the Senate and Wardens. Our education also falls into two groups...the academic education of the lecture room, and the social and personal education of Khat and Dancing Classes. Student discussion is the only way we have of adjusting our minds to these two often conflicting types of education. If we are to be university students, we must be allowed to be critical.

One hears of Mr. Pirow tampering with the freedom of the press. South Africa is still democratic, however. Our Master reminded us in an eloquent address not long ago, that we have the right of free thought and speech. Why then this inconvenient, time-eating triple censorship? Surely it is here in the universities, if anywhere, that the new and deeper liberalism is to be encouraged?

It is not as though we were a lot of unruly ragamuffins; there are very few extremists at Rhodes, and extremists will be satisfied if allowed to have their say "again the government." The average Rhodian resents interference that he is a hothead and that his writings have to be submitted to a type of martial law inspection; and the editorial staff regards it as an insult that it cannot be relied upon to keep its publications free from bad taste and pornography. Nor is it as though the paper had a circulation outside the College.

We make a very reasonable request. We are not juvenile delinquents at a reformatory. We are young citizens training to defend the ideals of our race. With but a little trust from our superiors, and with a criticism-muzzler, we feel we might be an incubator for fascists. We ask to be allowed to contribute to the growth of Rhodes in the one way we can, by making it the training field for responsible and educated citizens, whose critical faculties have been refined by use.



## The New Generation.

A new year has dawned in the academic world, and once again our happy home is bright with multi-coloured ties, and Persil-white placards.

It's the same story every year--" what aspirations we have! -- we must carve our names in something more enduring than wood, as teacher always said" - well, she ought to know!

In all probability teacher also went to a university, but being an ex-student she didn't give the game away as our new arrivals find out after a very short stay.

For instance, they find out that the niche-carving stuff is what our Transatlantic cousins call boloney-with a capital B! Hard workers are, as a rule spurned - "My dear it's simply not done, how can we possibly find time to work with three scopes a week, with novels to read the other four nights?"

While still at home, before going out to clean up the intellectual world, Johnny or Mary as the case may be, listens to an uncle George holding forth on "soft college life", and straight away Johnny or Mary think "Boy, what a break!" Now when our Johnnies and Maries arrived, they met a barrage of orders such as "Ink, clean my shoes; Ink, take these books over to Milner; Ink go down town for me." Then he felt as if uncle George had been dreaming when he talked about "indolent Varsity students, and the decline of the Empire due to the modern generation".

Of course the smarter of the inks knew after their first day that their fellow-beings were just suckers (to lapse into the vernacular), and that a stiff back due to carrying boxes up stairs, was just a passing phase, and could be obviated by the very simple, if more boring, procedure of sitting in the "Bots" all afternoon, or studying animals in the Museum.

They also found out that Uncle George knew a thing or two

## WHAT IS THE MATTER WITH RHODES?

Grahamstown is dead. It is like a certain Scottish beverage from a mist, of which one murmurs: "Born in 1820 and still Going Strong"; unfortunately, in the case of Grahamstown the mixture has lost its strength, and the mellowness of age is only found in its most depressing sense, ... in fact, nobody seems to get a kick out of life at all. By now even the freshers must look upon the encircling hills, not as a barrier to keep the riff-raff out, but as an Alcatraz to keep the riff-Rhodians in.

For the foregoing statements, I feel the need to offer my insincere apologies to the natives (white), and my sincere support and sympathy for the natives (black), who so very nearly succeeded in blotting the place out, way back in what-ever-it-was, when men were men.

With the foregoing opinion on Grahamstown, it is hard to palate the oft repeated statement that Rhodes is Grahamstown... What is the matter with Rhodes?

To answer a question of such importance it is necessary to analyse what comprises Rhodes, and to find where defects may be remedied. (N.B. I hereby state that no reverence is intended towards the Catering Committee, or the students of the fairer sex).

Rhodes is comprised of three parts, firstly the students. Students are very much the same the world over, but are considerably affected by environment. As for environment, apart from the town the place is fairly satisfactory, College House is habitable, the food is edible?, the work is hardish (especially for poker-scholars), the exams are harder, things are kept cleanish, and the rules and regulations are as antiquated as the antediluvian individuals that compiled them.

Secondly the professors, of whose predecessors I have already made mention, and of whom I shall make no statement until I have consulted my political weather-vane and discovered which way the hot air is blowing.

Thirdly one has the College societies, large and small, active and inactive, sporting and besporting, and so on... ad nauseam. The average society is formed as follows: one able but unscrupulous man is elected chairman of a committee, consisting of several unscrupulous but able individuals, who are active and/or ineffectual. This gang of wolves in sheep's clothing then lead the genuine flock by the nose. (In the case of the Dramatic Society "per ardua ad Astra")

The one weapon of the genuine flock is the unanimous vote, which it invariably uses with disastrous and suicidal effect. The conclusion one is liable to draw of the societies is, that even their ideas are apathetic. The sporting clubs are on a decidedly higher status, but physical comfort-



- contortion will never make up for mental stagnation.

As a result of the above analysis, I conclude that something is very wrong with Rhodes; everything is somewhat unsatisfactory, the college is stagnant, somnolent, and growing soft; situated in Grahamstown, sweetly unaware of the twentieth century, it is drugged and degraded by a pall of apathy, and by a lack of vitality injurious to the morale of any university.

The students are responsible for allowing themselves, not only to be bored by Grahamstown but to be duped by the conservative quackery of the social leaders, the social climbers, and the Senate, whereby all things are conducted in the time worn traditions of preservation, moderation, and procrastination. To be content with such a state of affairs would be final confirmation of the fact that Rhodes is in a groove, and as a result of which it will produce no longer the salt but the sediment of mankind.

I should like to quote and criticise two extracts from the College Calendar: (1) "...the College is representative of the best educated opinion in South Africa." (Which is a lie.)

(2) "The College itself is situated in the residential part of the town, in an atmosphere far removed from the distractions and temptations of the great centres of population". (Which is only too true).

Of these two statements the former is a pious and commendable hope, the latter is a scurrilous misrepresentation of facts; its real meaning is that Rhodes has been and will be denied the benefits of large scale modern civilisation and science, denied the opportunity of close contact and study of modern progress and conditions, and the opportunity of self-realisation; and furthermore, denied the acquirement, anywhere, of a general and intellectual morale by which I mean love, honesty, and self reliability. All this to be exchanged for a mere mean mushy hypocritical chastity.

In conclusion, I hope I have shocked you, my reader, you needed it. To remove the blocs and blockheads which endanger Rhodes, universal action is required and will, pray God, be given. Unity, courage, and freedom are the lifeblood of a university. With these can be won that power progress and prosperity indicative of the twentieth century!

LOUIS DE LA MORGUE.

(M.G.B. Roney)

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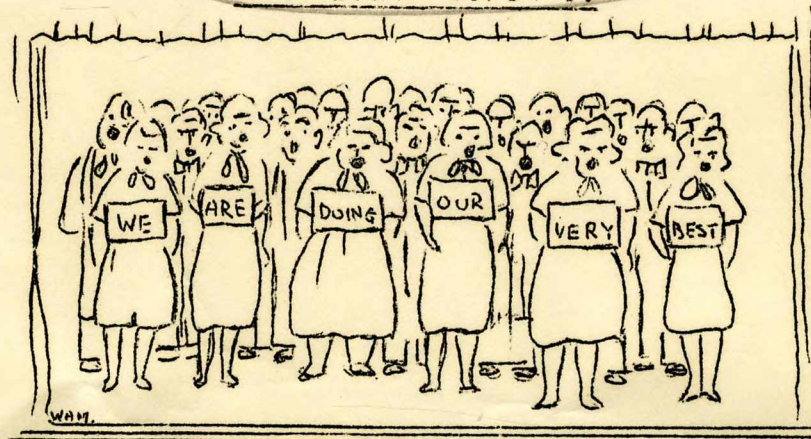
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## THE INKS' CONCERT.



Are the days of the Assassination Committee numbered? Has the inks' Concert degenerated into the annual bore? Is there an atom of usefulness, enjoyment or originality left in its unending monotony of choruses and cheap love-making?

These are the questions we should be asking ourselves if we feel we have grown indolent and lost all our initiative. This is not merely a question of whether or not the inks' Concert is obsolete, it is a fear, which is fast crystallizing into fact, that it has become peurile.

Its defects must be strikingly obvious to the casual passer-by, or the newcomers in our midst. Perhaps our familiarity with its annual appearance, and our misconception of tradition have made us pitifully blind.

If originality is a professed aim of the inks' Concert, then we are very misguided in our methods of capturing that elusive quality. We who have seen three, four, yea, more, inks' Concerts come and go, have probably lost our originality. Why then do we not cultivate it among our youth, instead of repressing it by handing out ill-conceived ideas and moulding the unwilling cast in order that they might conform with them?

Would we not achieve a better performance, more enjoyable, amusing, original, if we allowed the first years to run their own concert under the parental eye of an advisory committee of four or five members?

Divisions into groups of twenty, each with its own committee, and each responsible for one or more items, would not only enable the inks to put on a better show, but would furnish the Musical and Dramatic Societies with an excellent opportunity for spotting talent. As a means of welcoming the first years, this type of concert would constitute a heartier welcome than the existing one.

The idea of an inks' Concert is fundamentally an excellent one, but it has given rise to abuses. It has provided a scope for rather futile bullying by the domineering temperaments of undignified exhibitionists.

The greater part of the Assassination Committee every year may have many ideas, some of them even original, but they have little opportunity of putting them into practice. We are led to wonder if it is a case of too many cooks?

We must, however, remain hopeful. Already reforms are on the way. We rejoice at the departure of the AOG system. A kinder spirit is born--- may wisdom not be long delayed.

" Progressive."

## TERM PROGRAMME

(subject to approval by the Senate)

March 11th. Freshers' Concert.	April 1st. Athletic Sports.
" 18th. Dancing Class.	" 5th. Vac. commences.
" 25th. Bridge Drive in	" 19th. Vac. ends.
Junior Common Room.	" 22nd. Dancing Class.
" 29th. Term Ball.	" 29th. Term ends.



## REVIEW.

"SOME ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF THE BANTU IN SOUTH AFRICA"  
- Dr. Hobart-Houghton-M.A.  
(Pub. S.A. Institute of Race-Relations. Price 1/6.)

This monograph by our Senior Lecturer in Economics provides an instructive handbook for those who wish to understand the economic problems of the Bantu. Faced as we are on some sides by stacks of intractable material, on others by disconcerting voids, it is refreshing to be able to turn to a booklet which, while avoiding superficialities, lays the whole subject concisely before us. For those who wish to pursue Mr. Houghton's analysis into more detail, full and varied references are supplied.

The author commences with a picture of Bantu tribal economy before the advent of European civilisation. A nomadic pastoral people, the Bantu had no conception of thrifty agriculture, but were content to lay waste the soil on which they lived and then move on to new pastures. Contact with the European halted this progress and defined the Native reserves for the future. With the coming of peace the population increased rapidly, the cattle waxed plentiful and the Bantu prospered, until the wasteful method of agriculture began to take its toll. Then the wealth of the Bantu became the source of their dearth.

Such was the position in the reserves; in the meantime the system of European life in South Africa was undergoing momentous changes. Before 1870 the economy of White South Africa, like that of Black South Africa, was a subsistence economy. Then diamonds were discovered, leading in the course of a few decades to the industrialisation of the country. The Bantu, forced out of the reserves, had to adapt themselves to the new conditions. At first they settled on the European farms as squatters, labour-tenants and farm servants; later they turned to the mines and the towns.

Mr. Houghton devotes separate chapters to the Bantu in the reserves, on European farms, and in urban areas. Throughout his analysis one strong thread can be traced: low Native wages mean low costs to the European employing class, in whose interests it is to maintain that level - at the same time these same low wages are a constant threat to European labour, which has striven by all means in its power to prevent Native competition by closing the doors of employment to non-Europeans. The relationship between this conflict and the vexed question of segregation, its bearing on the Bantu in different walks of life, and its implications for the future are all carefully discussed. In the chapter on the farm Native the thread becomes tangled, for the farm Native is a survival from the days of European subsistence farming, but in the chapters on the reserves and the towns it is strong and taut.

An appreciation of Mr. Houghton's work would be incomplete without a reference to his conclusions. Without hesitation where criticism is merited, he exercises a notable restraint where others have been tempted to sterile condemnation. One welcomes the admonition to "dismiss the possibility of any further large additions to the Native areas and concentrate attention on what can be done to improve the position in the reserves as they exist at present," coupled as it is with a number of proposals to facilitate this end. The author has amply justified his statement that "an economic analysis is a valuable corrective to political and racial prejudice."

---oOo---

The Social Studies Society will hold its first meeting in Jameson House Common Room at 7.45 p.m. on Tuesday 7th.

Mr. M.H. Shapiro will lecture on "The Child and the Law". All interested are cordially invited.



## - SWIMMING CLUB -

It would be more in order if we started off with a long talk on the benefits of swimming, but the time has come when every word and every minute is as precious as an Ink's night off, so we will start immediately on forthcoming events.

To begin with, P. A. Parks have challenged us to a match on the 25th. of March, and as yet we still have to start training, so we are sending out a special appeal for all interested in swimming to get into strict training. We might also mention that our annual gala will also probably be held concurrently with this match.

Coming to a still bigger event, we would like to remind everyone that the annual Intervarsity Gala will be held at R. U. C. this year, so that it would be only proper for us to put on as good a show as possible. Even if the body caves in let the spirit be willing and give of your best - after all keenness is the big thing. Don't be put off by some of our past performances, but rather try to prevent them. Rhodians have been known to get places at Inter-Varsity, so why not do the same?

Details may be obtained from Miss J. Bartlett (Phelps House), or from Mr. F. H. Lancaster (College House).

## DRAMATIC SOCIETY NOTES.

At the general meeting held on Wednesday, 1st. March, the following Office Bearers were elected for 1939.

President:- Prof. M. Roberts.  
Chairman:- I. W. Snedden.  
Secretary:- W. A. Mollatt.  
Treasurer & Technical Director:- G. R. Dowthwaite.  
Committee Members:- Misses B. Wallace; K. M. Orenstein; M. M. Suthers; P. L. Wilkinson.  
Messrs. S. H. M. Christie; E. C. C. Owen.

The meeting then passed the new constitution, a summary of which is given here:- Membership open to all paying the S.R.C. sub. Members of Council, Staff and Old Rhodians may become members by paying a sub. to the S.R.C. Procedure at General Meeting; The power to accept extra members was granted. Technical Staff to be appointed by the committee. The calling of meetings. Carrying-on-members. Changes in Constitution by General Meeting majority and by approval of the S.R.C. The Society will endeavour to stage three productions each year. S.R.C. to finance the society on an estimate sent in at the beginning of each year. Financial statement to go to the S.R.C. during productions for a grant to cover any unexpected expenditure.

The scheme for closer co-operation between the Dramatic Society and the Dramatic Club was then outlined. Under this scheme a joint committee of the Dramatic Society and Dramatic Club will cast the plays to be read at meetings of the Dramatic Club. These plays are then to be rehearsed about three times and performed on the stage in the Great Hall. This will give the Dramatic Society an opportunity of spotting talent in a more satisfactory manner than under the auditions scheme. This does not mean that auditions will be abolished - they will merely be powerfully augmented. This plan is still in the preliminary stages but ~~it~~ it is hoped it will bear fruit.

At a subsequent committee meeting Misses Leith and Bray were appointed Wardrobe mistresses.

The Inks' Concert Play at present being produced is "Scenario", a racy play about an American film producer doing his stuff in England.



## HOCKEY CLUB

A well-attended meeting of the Men's Hockey Club elected the following Committee:-

Captain:- F. McDonald.

Vice-Captain:- C.C. Coventry.

Hon. Secretary:- R. Mundy.

Committee Members:- W. H. MacRobert; B. v. d. Merwe.

Junior Secretary:- P. Faure.

## DEBATING SOCIETY.

Minutes of Freshers' Debate held in the Upper Chemistry Lecture Theatre at 7.45 p.m. March 2nd, 1939.

The Chairman proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Burnett, last year's Chairman, for all he had done for the Society, which, he said, had enjoyed a fairly successful year. Then he welcomed the Freshers to the Society and hoped that many would attend future debates.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The Chairman asked the opinion of the House on the question of religious discussions. He saw no objection to discussing religion in the broad sense of the word. A short discussion followed and the motion was proposed "that topics of religion in its broadest sense be allowed provided that no offensively personal views be expressed, and that it was at the Chairman's discretion to decide how deep the discussions might proceed." This was unanimously agreed upon.

The Chairman called on Mr. Gathorne to propose that "this House contends that Western Civilization rests on Science". The Speaker said that in this particular debate some reference to religious faith was inevitable. The greater part of Europe was to-day without serious religion and because of this want science was the mainstay of our civilization. He emphasised the many benefits of Science and said that without it we would inevitably return to barbarism.

Mr. Peter, in opposing the motion, maintained that civilization rested on the arts, and not the hard facts of science. The Arts were more human and taught us to know more about our

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