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RHODES BLACKS' WAGE MISERY REVEALED

Rhodo Reporter

IN an alarming statement issued by the Rhodes University Wages and Economics Commission, it was revealed that over 70 per cent of Black workers in the non-hostel category are living below the poverty datum line.

"The position of the hostel staff appears to be far worse," a spokesman for the Commission said this week.

These figures come as a result of a wage survey held on the campus during the last term of last year and are the first figures made public by the Commission.

The Rhodes University Wages and Economics Commission was established in 1972 with the aim of investigating discriminatory labour policies in the Eastern Cape and more especially in Grahamstown itself.

COMPILED

Initially the Commission compiled a primary poverty datum line for Grahamstown and conducted a survey amongst the University's Black employees.

The Poverty Datum Line was established at R60,62 for a Black family of six. The results of this first survey showed that over 70 per cent of the non-hostel staff were in fact living below this level.

"This is a very different picture from the one held by the Vice-Chancellor who, in an interview with past SRC President, Roger Wanless, a few years ago, claimed that as far as he knew no employees of the university lived below the PDL," the Commission spokesman said.

Other information obtained from the survey was that 80 per cent of non-hostel workers walk to work every day and average rent — not included in determining the PDL — was R3,50 a month.

TURNOVER

It was also established that there is an extremely high turnover of labour.

"This either indicates that the authorities fire staff frequently or that there is no incentive for workers to remain in the employ of Rhodes University," the spokesman said.

This rendered, to a large extent, the wage increases relating to length of service meaningless. The survey showed clearly that the old wages being paid to Black workers at Rhodes were extremely low and discriminatory, he said.

"The wage scales were reviewed and have been increased as from January this year. The small increases will no doubt go some way towards rectifying the situation and to that extent it is commendable, however it is doubtful whether they have been increased sufficiently.

"Unless further increases are forthcoming the discrepancy between what English-language universities profess to be, and what they really are, will become a glaring indictment to their students, staff and, more especially their administrators," the spokesman said.

Last year the Commission also arranged for two founder members of the Black Allied Workers' Union — a national trade union for Black workers not officially recognised by the government — to address Rhodes' Black workers. Following this the Rhodes Workers' Association was formed with the assistance of members of the Commission.

LIAISON

A fund raising drive on behalf of this Workers' Association collected R120 which enabled one of the university's employees to attend a leadership course conducted by the Allied Workers' Union.

This year the Commission plans to work in close liaison with the Rhodes Workers' Association. It has planned, in the light of experience gained from the first survey, to conduct a more comprehensive survey on the campus. This survey will attempt not only to establish the discrepancy be-

tween the wages paid and the PDL, but also to establish something of the cost involved in a realistic wage increase.

Recommendations will be made that the categorization of employees and wage scale structure be reviewed so as to provide a means of incentive to employees and a reflection of ability.

The Commission is run on participatory lines and invites all students interested in this kind of work to join at "Societies Evening" which is to be held tonight.

Rhodo Reporter

THE Rhodes University Club Committee will meet today to consider calling a special sitting of the Licensing Board to review their application for a liquor licence, which was refused last year.

Mr. Jan Lapinski, General Manager of the Students' Union and the Club, said the Club had no hope of coming out of the red without a liquor licence.

"Without a licence there is no revenue coming in, and this curtails expansion. The only revenue coming in is from food sales, and we are finding it difficult to come into the black from this alone. I am very sorry and disappointed about the Board's refusal, but we will apply again, if not for a full licence, then for a wine and malt licence," he said.

SITTING

The next sitting of the Licensing Board is in November this year, but could meet sooner should the Club call for a special sitting. Although reasons were not given for refusing a licence,



Does your sissie return to this?

Record bar for Union

Rhodo Reporter

FACILITIES offered to students at the new Students Union now include branches of two leading banks and a building society.

A branch of a popular record bar, which will be open until 9 p.m. every week night, is also due to be opened soon.

The two banks opened shortly after the Union was completed last year and the

building society branch started operating at the beginning of this term.

This leaves one more single room shop available for leasing on the ground floor of the Union and according to the General Manager of the Union, Mr. Jan Lapinski, this might be taken by a chemist or a book shop.

"Nothing is definite yet," Mr Lapinski said.

No licence: Club still in red

Mr Lapinski thought the refusal was based on the fact that the Club was located on educational premises, and that a licence would encourage students' drinking.

Mr Lapinski dismissed this reason, saying they could control age and behaviour at the Club. The Rhodes University Administration was in full support of a licence, and Dr. J. Hyslop, the Vice-Chancellor, submitted a statement to the Board in favour of the licence.

Another decision to be taken at the Club Committee meeting concerns the building of an a la carte restaurant in the Club. Mr. Lapinski has been planning this restaurant ever since he came to Rhodes, and if the Committee approves, the restaurant will be ready by the end of March.

FOOD

The restaurant will offer good food, original preparations, decor and service. Mr. Lapinski expects the restaurant to be of such an excellent standard that he will apply for classification from the Confrerie de la Chairie des

Rotisseurs — the top gourmet society in Paris. Representatives from Paris will visit the restaurant to sample the food which Mr. Lapinski will cook himself, and to examine the service.

The Rhodes University Club was started last year, and membership is open to all students, members of the Faculty, University Administration and old Rhodians. Subscriptions for men are R6 a year, and R4 a year for women.

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Nusas survives fifty years

By **NICK TAYLOR**
Nusas Eastern Cape Regional
Director

SINCE its formation 50 years ago, Nusas has been the only organisation of its type open to all South African students, regardless of their cultural, political or religious differences.

Leo Marquard, founder president, said in 1924:

"... our different student bodies know too little of each other. This ignorance breeds distrust and engenders warped opinions of each other's capabilities, preventing anything like a common pursuit of knowledge. A union will tend to break down the barriers between our universities, will help to organise studies and will make for higher efficiency."

Although still enshrined in the constitution, these ideals remain sadly lacking in practice, due to racial polarisation, firstly on the Afrikaans campuses during the Afrikaner nationalist movement, and, more recently, the rise of Black consciousness at the Black universities.

By 1936 all the Afrikaans University Colleges had withdrawn from the Union. The

reasons for this are summed up in a report in the Volksblad of August 22, 1933, which accused Nusas of being "too English, too imperialistic, too negrophilic in colour".

The tension between Black students and their English-speaking White counterparts can be traced to interference by non-academic organisations. All attempts at co-operation between the two groups have largely been frustrated by direct State intervention or indirectly by the national education policy which almost entirely eliminates any possible common ground between the various racial groups. In 1969 most of the Black campuses disaffiliated from Nusas and regrouped themselves into the racially exclusive South African Students' Organisation.

RESTRUCTURED

Isolated by forces beyond her control, it was decided in 1970 that Nusas should re-orient her tactics so as to work towards her ideals of individual freedom and justice primarily within the White group. The organisation was restructured to incorporate three branches: NUSED, which was concerned with education,

NUSWEL, which provides opportunities for involvement in social action, and the cultural body AQUARIUS. Each of these is headed by a full-time secretary-general.

Rhodes is one of seven campuses affiliated to the Union, and branches exist on a further four campuses, bringing the total number of students represented by the body to approximately 25 000.

Policy is decided at the bi-yearly congresses held in July and December, where Rhodes exercises 8 votes of a total of 74. In addition, the National Executive, consisting of the SRC presidents and their deputies, the four full-time office bearers and the four regional directors, meets four times a year.

On the Rhodes campus the local committee was involved in the collection and allocation of over R1000 to needy Black school-children; the organisation of a number of pop festivals and other cultural events; the setting up of a tutoring scheme in the location; a survey into the wage structure of Black workers on the campus; the organisation of a Civil Rights Week and many other activities. During 1973 it is intended to expand into the fields of ecology, community development and racially mixed sport.

RHODEO STAFF

Editor: Graham R. Watts.
Chief sub-editor: John D. Topping.
Sub-editor: Wendy Nunn.
Business manager: Robin van Deventer.

Letters to the editor and answers to criticism from both staff and students will be given space in Rhodéo. Place them in Rhodéo pigeon-hole in the General Office, Students Union.

EDITORIAL

Time to act...

THE appalling wages paid to the Black staff on this campus have been clearly highlighted on the front page of this issue of Rhodéo.

To continue slating those responsible for this inexcusable discrimination would be superfluous in the light of what has been said about the wage situation in this country. Crippling strikes and their aftermath have been reported and commented on in every newspaper in this country.

We would join them if we felt the authorities at Rhodes University were not fully aware of this disgusting state of affairs. They are.

It now being high time something was done about it and Black wages placed first on the priority list, we would like to offer what we feel to be a few pertinent pieces of advice to the university authorities. We feel qualified to do this — they look after us too.

Firstly, there is nothing, repeat nothing, which must take priority over the living conditions of people, and, it seems we have to remind the authorities at Rhodes University, this includes Black people.

Surely a university can free itself of the yoke, so willingly taken on by this and many other countries, that the economy is all important. The economy is god. So what if we cannot afford to have our offices recarpeted and refurbished regularly? Is it not enough that we should live in luxury at home — or is it necessary that we have home comforts at work too?

But these are only a few examples. The point to be

grasped is that if someone is asking for something new and calls it "essential", let him stop a minute and consider its worth — be it even a new residence — against the worth of a decent living standard for people that help to make our own lives comfortable.

And students are by no means absolved of the blame. When will we stop turning our noses up at food brought to us in residence and performing like a bunch of public schoolboys in front of waiters who regard the same food as outside the realm of their expectations?

The authorities of Rhodes University may well learn a healthy lesson from the strikes in Durban a few weeks ago. Now is the time — seeing that yesterday is too late — to set up effective channels for wage and working condition negotiations between the Black staff and the administration.

Let not the same pathetic whine from Durban employers — "But we didn't know our staff were so unhappy" — echo through the corridors of this university should the same drastic measures be taken by justifiably frustrated people.

Lastly the Student Wages and Economics Commission must be congratulated on the excellent work they did last year. At last, from the quarters of the student "hot air department", something constructive has been done. We look forward to more of this placing one's body where one's mouth is, and what better way than to start by putting our own house in order, by special request of the government, of course.

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Green light for faculty councils

BEN PARKER
Educational Councillor, SRC

Educational reform has consistently been an issue at Rhodes over the last few years, and the reforms called for have not been radical. That is, they have not been attempts to overthrow the present educational structure and to bring into effect such things as student committees to appoint lecturers.

Rather, they have been honest attempts to achieve effective means of communication between staff and students, particularly at the departmental level. The stress has constantly been on communication, as at the moment there are very few effective channels of contact between staff and students.

FRUSTRATION

This lack of communication has led in the past to considerable frustration at, and resentment of, the present educational structure. Students who have been dissatisfied with the content or the presentation of a course, have been unable to communicate their dissatisfaction, and this has resulted in disillusionment and resentment both with courses and the departments.

In order to rectify the situation, the SRC drew up a structure of Departmental Committees and Faculty Councils. This struc-

ture was approved by the Senate at the end of last year. The SRC intends to set up departmental committees immediately, and to give these a trial period until the second term, when it will set up Faculty Councils.

The Departmental committees will consist of an elected representative from each course within a Department. For example, in the English Department there will be an elected representative from Special English, English I, English II, English III and English Honours and post-graduated. They will thus compose a committee of five; they will then elect a chairman from themselves. The Head of the Department will either be a member of, or observer on, the committee, alternately he may let the committee meet on its own and the chairman of the committee would visit him after each meeting. It is hoped that in this way any problems with courses can be easily overcome.

ELECTIONS

The elections of the course representatives will be held in the first three weeks of the first term. They will be on a very informal basis. A member or representative of the SRC will attend a lecture of the class in question, call for nominations, ask those who were nominated

to leave the room and then hold the elections.

In order to form the Faculty Councils, all that is necessary is to call a meeting of all the Chairmen of the Departmental Committees that fall within a particular Faculty. For example, 25 departments fall within the Arts Faculty, there will therefore be 25 people in the Arts Faculty Council. These 25 will then elect a Faculty Council Executive of six. These six then elect a chairman. The Dean of the Faculty has the same choice of roles in relation to the Faculty Council executive as the Head of the Department to the Departmental Committees.

All in all there are 36 departments at Rhodes and seven Faculties. The chairmen of the seven Faculty Councils Executives will form a Faculty Council Co-ordinating Committee, which will be chaired by the SRC Educational Councillor.

COMMUNICATION

It is hoped that the Departmental Committees will provide an effective channel of communication at an intra-departmental level. Reforms at an intra-departmental level can filter upwards through the faculty council to ALL the other Faculties. Reforms can also filter down from the Faculty Council Co-ordinating Committee to the individual departments, and at the same time provide an effective means of communication, thereby enabling effective educational reforms to take place.

Cecil John



Let's start with a smash

WELL, well, well me hearties, how wonderful to welcome all of you back to yet another year in the wonderful, woeful world of a student.

You will all be glad to hear that during the vac the management of the Graham have fitted the lounge out with obvious expense and poor taste. I, for one, cannot wait till Rag so that we can smash it all up into glorious pieces in fine Rhodes tradition.

Oh, incidentally, don't look for that scruffy column "Cecilia" in this issue. It is DEAD. Due to a lack of interest and poor exam results. Cannot say I am sorry though no doubt the Women's Libbists will be burning bras and using obscene words outside these editorial offices.

On the question of seeking an identity, I'm sure that many of you will now be wanting to join one or another of the elitist and useless clubs at this University. For some qualifications are a weakness for hairy chests and for daisies from the lawn below

Smuts. But for most you will find that only the blank ability to stare bleakly in front of you in the Vic will more than qualify you.

In the annals of Rhodes history surely the greatest blunder will be that of Mike Walwyn on the Socio-Sexual survey. Very seldom has one man been so singularly, short sighted in destroying the work done by so many for so long. Glad to say that throughout this year whenever Rhodians meet "Walwyn's Folly" will be a great conversation piece. In fact, it will probably surpass the Students Union debacle of a year ago.

Early year news, as always is thin. Though before I leave you I'll leave you with a charming little postscript for all the little First Year girls enrolling for the Bachelor of Arts degree. (This is with thanks to The Star). "A Government report shows that one in five of Italy's one million prostitutes has a bachelor of arts degree." (You have been warned!)

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on the campus

Rag rears its head

Rhodes Reporter

RHODES Rag 73 is already rearing its sozzled head.

The Rag Committee under the chairmanship of Mr. Terry Brick has called for nominations for Rag Queen 73 and Mr. Tim Newsome is selecting his Drum Majorettes today.

After a shaky start at the end of last year following the resignation of three Rag Committee members, including the chairman, Mr. Stuart Boucher, Rag 73 seems to be heading towards a dynamic success.

"But," says Mr. Willie Marais, presently the Acting Chairman, "this is going to be the most difficult Rag we ever had."

Mr. Brick takes over from Mr. Marais this week and with Rag Queen nominations and selection of Drummies today Rag 73 takes the plunge from the obscurity of the committee room into the light of day with more than a bead of sweat's work put into the planning.

A great boost has been the employment of a permanent Secretary of Rag Committee, Mrs. Ann Loubser, for the first time ever and, says Mr. Marais, it has proved a most valuable investment.

PROGRAMME

The programme has already been announced (see foot of story) with the highlight — the Rag Queen Election — taking place on Friday, March 9. The compere of this sparkling occasion is a former Rhodes student and now a professional entertainer, Brian Surtees, while the Dealians provide the food of love.

Mr. Marais says the Drummies uniforms this year "are revolutionary, certainly the most terrific we've ever had." Kathy Chubb is doing the designing.

RESPONSIBILITIES

There is at present a Rag Committee of 25, but, says Mr. Marais, "the volume of work is such that the committee positions are merely there to administer the labour force on the campus which is the students themselves."

"Without the help of every member of the student body we cannot hope to effectively discharge our responsibilities to the many unfortunate members of the local community whose needs are well in excess of the record

amounts distributed through the efforts of previous Rag Committees.

"We hope to increase the average benefits of the recipients derived by each rand given to them by utilizing student labour in community projects in and out of Grahamstown during the year," Mr. Marais said.

COMPETITION

The Rag Committee hopes to see 50 000 copies of the Rag magazine, Rhodent, sold, and further income will come from a competition being held in which the first prize is a Datsun 1500 four door sedan. The donation of the Datsun comes after negotiations between the Rag Committee and the general manager of Datsun-Nissan.

The Rag office is now on the ground floor of the Students' Union and the hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. from Monday to Friday.

RAG 73 PROGRAMME

February 22: Selection of Drummies.

February 22 to 26: Rag Queen nominations.

March 1: Announcement of eight finalists.

March 9: Rag Queen election.

April 29: Beer festival with 28-piece brass band.

April 30: Big Bleed.

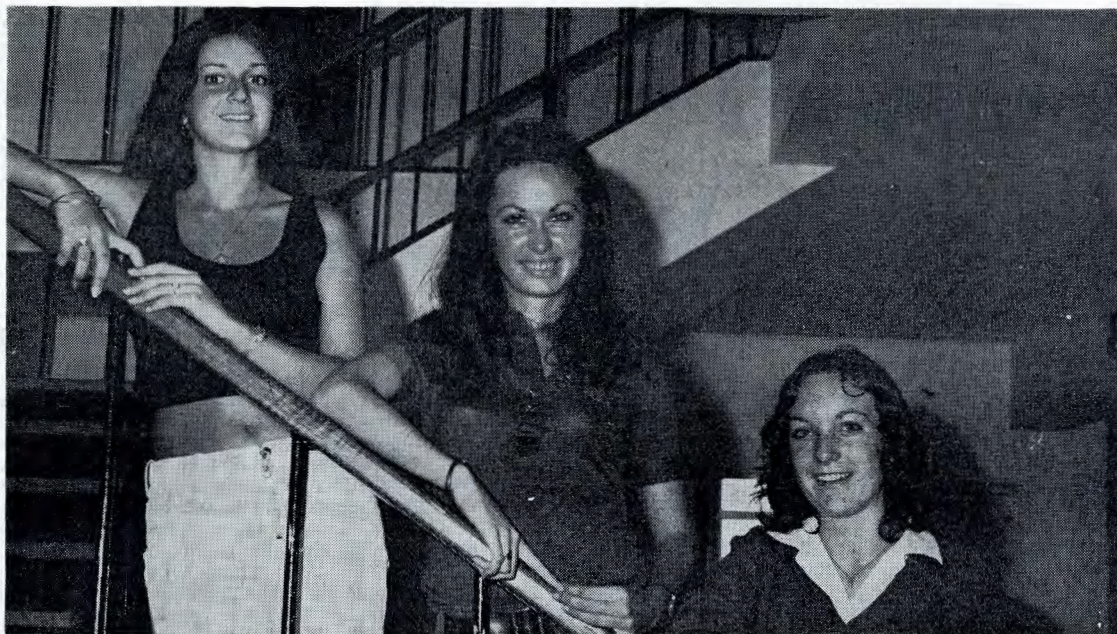
April 30: Mock trial with Rag Queen judge.

May 1: Film premiere The Candidate — Robert Redford.

May 2: Cabaret evening starring Alain D. Woolf.

May 3: Float building night.

May 4: Rag procession, Campus carnival and Rag Ball.



For the Athies tea time boys, here's some lovelies to welcome you. With a smile on the Athies steps this week were (left to right) Isabel Arthur from Springs, Judy Meyer from East London and Linda Smith from Witbank. Isabel is doing Sec. Pract., Judy a B.A. and Linda a B. Journalism.

More SRC by-elections

Rhodes Reporter

AN SRC, already plagued by frequent by-elections last year, now faces a further by-election this term to fill three posts vacated by Messrs. Nigel Henson, Mike Walwyn and Astley Driver, all of whom have not returned to Rhodes this year because of failures.

Just when it was hoped that the present SRC was becoming a valuable working unit on the campus it was learnt these three members, two of whom were on the SRC executive, would not be

returning to the university.

The portfolios vacated are Vice-President, Deputy President and Honorary Secretary. Although it is not likely that those elected in the forthcoming by-election will fill these portfolios, it is possible that a dynamic candidate might well move into the more important ranks of the executive.

DEFINITE

It is almost definite that there will be a further reshuffling of portfolios again and students will be interested to see what behind the scenes manoeuvring will take place to fill the important posts of deputy and vice-presidents.

The loss of Mr. Walwyn and Mr. Henson in these two positions means that the rather powerful triumvirate of these two and the president, Mr. Mike King, has been broken up. Much depends on who the successful candidates are, whether the SRC will take a more left wing turn with the emphasis on confrontation and demands rather than the moderate stand which has been taken up to now.

Nominations for the by-elections will be called for towards the end of next week.

RHODES STAFF

Rhodes Reporter

TEN new lecturers have been appointed for 1973, and four appointments have been made for the position of junior lecturer on the Rhodes staff.

Two of the new lecturers are old Rhodians. Dr. D. Riorden will lecture in Mathematics. He spent some time at Carlton University in Canada where he completed a Ph.D.

Another old Rhodian, Dr. J. M. Haig, has been appointed a lecturer in Pharmacy.

The vacancy left by Mr. Johan de Villiers, a former lecturer in the Journalism Department, will be taken by Dr. L. E. Switzer, who is a Ph.D. graduate from the University of California. Dr. Switzer received part of his training as a journalist in London.

He returned to the United States and was appointed to the staff of the California State University, where he became the acting head of the Journalism Department.

Miss C. Avery has been appointed lecturer in Fine Art.



Blonde Lorraine Russell (18) and Donnas Watt (18) getting to know you outside the Students' Union soon after they arrived on campus for their first year. Lorraine is from Georgia, USA, and Donnas is from Bulawayo. Both are studying for B.A.'s and Lorraine is staying in Lilian Britten. Donnas is in Olive Schreiner.

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