

rhodeo

vol. 29

no. 03

10cents

Focus on Rhodes Black Workers



Give

Us

Today

Our

Daily

Bread....

Cecilia



Hello Sweeties,

Glad to see you all back for another term of just a little work and fun, fun, fun.

Actually a sudden change has come over me and I've gone all leftist inclined. Hope you read this nice issue of Rhodeo 'cause its full of nice information about the nice little Blackle packles that make your beds, sweep your floors and clean your toilet bowls.

They really are lovely aren't they, all that bowing and scraping when you walk by; actually from what I hear, they bend and scrape for most of the day even when we aren't around. Jeez, where do they get all that energy.

Honestly, people I just don't know where we would be if there was nobody around to ignore and be indifferent to.

But to more serious matters, wasn't Rag triffic, simply triffic?

All that drinking on float building night was really something else, just a pity that there was not enough stuff around to kick, pull and smash to pieces. Still it was fun getting stuck into the floats after the procession.

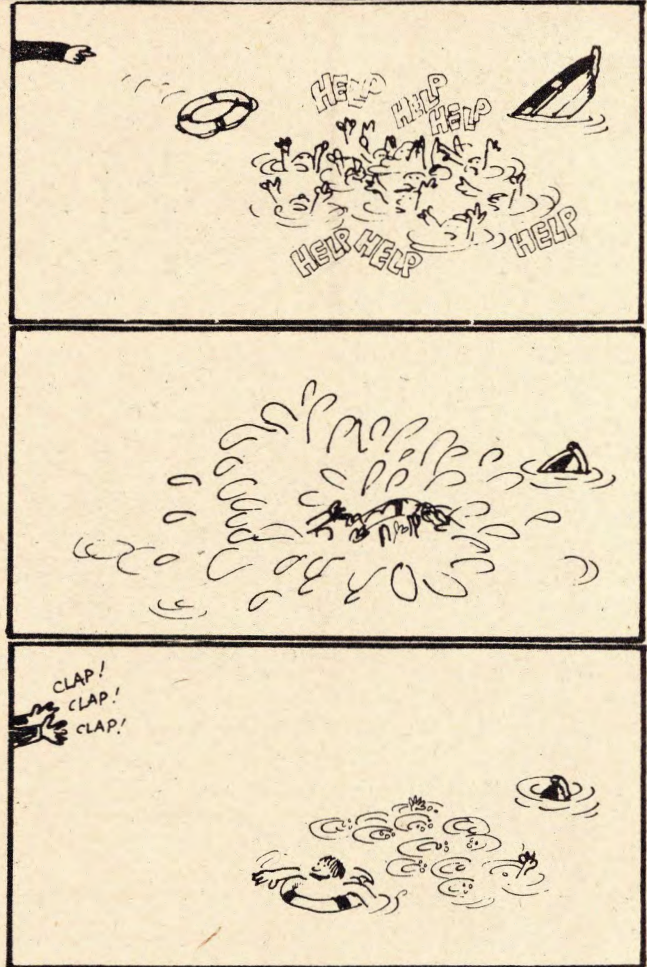
And the girls. Weren't the girls just triffic. Poor things they looked absolutely bushed after their march but I guess you've just got to accept that after all that walking and kicking and walking and kicking. Lovely to see our girls on show, really healthy for them and others.

But I'm getting seriouiser and seriouiser. Don't have to tell you about exams and all that but remember all the money that's been spent on you by your mummies and daddies and al\$9 the guvverment.

Must fly now my sweets, have fun and don't catch cold and remember I'm watching youse.

Cecilia xx

trivia



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The Nedbankers

First came the Schlebusch Commission and now Rhodeo lacky's are on the prowl at all major airports and harbours, stealing other people's diaries. We've at least ten in the Rhodeo office and the first published belongs to.....well. some people are just so careless.



Monday 21.....God another diary, where do they all go? Had occasion to walk past parliament today and saw Bill Deacon coming down the steps. Shouted abuse at him but got away before he recognised me I think. Must get some more wheat germ.

Tuesday 22.....Will it never end? Moscow demanding quicker distribution of the detonators, London wanting to know whether we got the money and Bill Deacon calling me dangerous. Got the wheat germ but I guess I will have to share it with all the other people in the damned commu...er house.

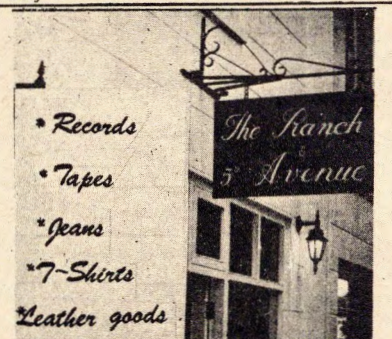
Wednesday 23.....Spoke to the students at UCT today, gee did I get them worked up. We're getting more and more support. First the English universities then all the universities, industries. South Africa then the Cape Sea route and then...0000 OOHNNNNNN. But I must be careful.

Thursday 24.....Who the hell is Scorpio? Keeps writing to me. Not nice though. Could it be Bill Deacon?

Friday 25.....Not much doing. Went to town by bus nobody following. Even in town all morning not a sign of the man who always stalks me. Am I boring them? No I won't let them fool me. Message of support from the Tygerburg and District Hang Gliding Club. Nice. Write diary.

Saturday 26..... Boring day except ran out of wheat germ. Write diary.

Sunday 27..... Blast. I've had enough, tomorrow I resign. I hate this. It never stops. Another commission. Testify again. But wait mustn't go over board calm down. Remember remember the power the power and the glo...but I must keep these thoughts to myself. Hide diary.



FOR SALE

One Remington Calculator. Good Condition R30. Contact Rhodeo office.

One National portable radio, R15. Contact Rhodeo office.

WANTED

One second hand academic gown. Contact SRC secretary.

RHODES LABOUR AGONY

On last Thursday of term, while the students were contentedly eating their lunch, the Black workers on campus were streaming to a meeting held on the King Field. And they weren't there to play games either. The same process was repeated an hour later by those workers who could not attend the gathering earlier.

The meeting had been called by the elected representatives of the Rhodes Black Workers Association. The issue, wages and working conditions. The workers have complained, that they cannot feed and clothe themselves, let alone their families on what they get paid. This is probably understandable when one computes that the average wage as calculated on August 2 1974 paid to black workers on this campus falls below half the officially recognised poverty wage level. Little wonder that workers are upset about working conditions when many of them work longer than 12 hours a day, seven days a week.

The solidarity of the workers on that day show that at the very least something was rotten in the state of Rhodes. A total of more than 300 workers (out of a total labour force of 550) were united in their grievances. The workers passed a unanimous vote of no confidence in the Labour Relations Committee which concerns itself with the needs of Black staff. The workers also called for:

1. a new body to replace the Committee,
2. an immediate ad hoc committee with workers on it to investigate their conditions of employment.

What follows is a factual documentary of wages and working conditions of the campus, supported with necessary statements and other comparative data. You can decide for yourself.



objectivity and the p.d.l.

A useful point of departure in attempting to assess objectively the level of wages paid to the university Black employees is to compare them with the poverty datum line (P.D.L.)

The P.D.L. is a hypothetical measure, developed by doctors and nutritionists to show the lowest cost which a family must meet with its income to maintain standards of health and decency in the short run only. The measures include the following minimum costs:

- the minimum quantity of food necessary for the family
- fuel and lighting
- clothing
- cleaning materials for personal and household use
- cost of transport
- cost of housing.

The P.D.L. for Grahamstown - 1975, calculated by the Wages Commission in conjunction with members of the Economics Department stands at R103,07. However, the P.D.L. is more remarkable for what it excludes than for what it includes. For example, no provision is made for the following:

- food other than bare essentials
- household goods - pots, furniture, stoves, etc.
- tobacco, sweets, liquor and entertainment of any sort
- savings and insurance
- education
- personal care such as toilet and cosmetic requirements.

So we see that clearly the P.D.L. is a totally inadequate measurement of a living wage. The income which a family would actually survive on in the long run is calculated by taking half of the P.D.L. and adding it to the P.D.L. This is called the Effective Minimum Level (E.M.L.).

Thus a decent income for a family in Grahams-town would be R158,00.

editorial

Black people who work at this University receive a pitiful remuneration for their soul destroying labour.

Needless to say we find this state of affairs at our University repugnant but what we find more repugnant in fact, downright disgusting is the complete indifference shown to the plight of these people by you the students.

This issue of Rhodex is for the students' consumption and not to lay the blame for this manifestation of the South African Way of Life on anyone's shoulders. That has been done often enough.

Hopefully but doubtfully some idea of the misery of the Blacks at Rhodes might filter through to you and others. Maybe then we could see some genuine action towards relieving their task.

Like work teams of students in the University gardens or cleaning the residences at some stage during the week. Student attitude towards the Black worker at the moment is highly dangerous on top of it being sick.

A simple reorganisation of priorities by the Administration would also go a long way to providing some relief. It costs a fortune to maintain separate dining facilities, what happens to surplus food from the residences and from Kaif?

The biggest price of all will have to be paid however, the day that workers at Rhodes decide they have had enough.

The awful truth about Rhodes.



Grade	Per month
Unskilled	R56.40
Waitress	R32.20
Housemaids	R29.90
Head waiters	R41.40

R30

While these do not include all the categories of work, they are the most representative (e.g. housemaids and unskilled workers alone account for nearly half of the entire work force). To sum these wages up in relation to the P.D.L.

Category	Approx. % of P.D.L.
Unskilled	33.1/3
Laundry worker	33.1/3
Waitresses	25
Housemaids	25
Head Waiters	25



The facts show that the entire labour force is paid below the P.D.L. The average are getting paid not even half of the P.D.L.

However, wages are only half the story. Just as important in one's work are the conditions of labour i.e. the general 'pleasantness' of the work involved. This would cover things like hours of work, sick pay, rest breaks and so on.

\$ The average working day at Rhodes is over 12 hours.

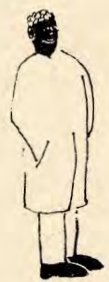
As far back as the last century the British government passed the famous 10-hour bill limiting the maximum working hours in a day to 10. This, of course, was subsequently lowered to 8, which is the prevailing practice in South Africa today.

\$ Workers, especially the sissie and those in Kaif often complain of having to work during their breaks and sometimes during lunch break as well.

\$ Since Rhodes is an educational institution one would expect that some consideration would be given with regard to educational level in relation to pay. In fact, the survey done by the Wages Commission last year, shows that there is absolutely no relationship between pay and education.

\$ In almost all places of employment today a contract is signed by the employer and employee with regard to wages and working conditions. No such contract exists at Rhodes. This leaves workers with a sense of insecurity and doubt as to their conditions of employment.

Two free meals per day - R7. This then works out at 17½c per meal. Without needing to describe these "meals" next time you have the chance take a look at what is given to the employees for their food.



R41



when ?



As students, you are probably acutely aware of the damaging effects of inflation on one's income. The national price increase has been given at over 10%. The situation as far as the black worker is concerned is unfortunately different. It has been shown that increase in the cost of living falls much heavier on the lower income group, who have little or no luxuries of which to cut down on as prices rise. When prices increase it usually means less of the little food and clothing that are presently obtained. The situation in Grahamstown is far worse than the national average. Surveys report that the c.o.l. has increased by 38% in the past 2 years.



WAGES COMM. STAND...COHEN

Lest it be thought that since Administrations et al MUST be right because they are always in 'the know', I want to clarify exactly what the Wages Commission is, and in this particular case what role it played in the meeting of the Rhodes workers at the end of last term.

The Aim of the Commission is twofold:

1. By means of research and publications to expose to the White public the nature of the Black workers conditions in S.A. The purpose is to bring pressure to bear on employees to alleviate the overall poverty of the Black worker.

2. Ultimately, we realise that it is the worker who must be responsible for his own emancipation. And the Commission assists by providing information, and worker education, thus preventing dependency on students.

With this rather simplified identification of the the Commission activities we turn to the Commission at Rhodes and its relationship with the Rhodes workers.

In May last year the Commission invited Cecil Fanekiso of the Black Allied Workers Union (BAWU) to talk to the Rhodes workers on the need for worker organisation. After his talk the workers elected a group to form the Rhodes Black Workers Association, consisting of workers. It was to represent the workers in any communication between Admin. and the workers on wages and working conditions.

The Commission allowed the association to use its office and equipment for meetings and printing of circulars.

A relationship was built up between the worker association and the Commission, with members of the Commission sometimes attending the meetings of the association when they were invited to give advice.

It was felt by the workers that a meeting should be called of all workers on campus in order to discuss the matters of wages and working conditions. A questionnaire probing complaints was circulated at the meeting, hoping that a united front could be established.

The questionnaire was drawn up by the workers and printed by the Wages Commission.

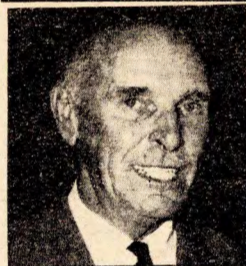
The association invited me to speak to the workers at the meeting at the end of last term. The meeting and my speech was confined to a description of the Wages paid and a suggestion that the workers should form a united front if they desired to appeal. There was no agitation, no subversion and copies of the speech can be made available if there are any doubts..

Dr Hyslop has said that he does not think that students should concern themselves in such matters. Inherent in this statement is the question of oppression and poverty in our society. Either you support it or reject it. There is no middle line and the ultimate test is where your actions are. You can indulge in intellectualism, in this case you support it. Alternatively you attempt to change it. This is rejection.

Where do you stand?

Gideon Cohen

Chairman, Wages Commission.



DR. HYSLOP

Rhodes: How seriously does the Administration view the Workers' meetings at the end of last term?

Hyslop: We don't view it very seriously. The Workers should have a right to assemble.

Rhodes: Do you think that their demands were justified?

Hyslop: Without investigation I cannot say.

Rhodes: Any comment on the fact that the majority of the Workers are being paid below the P.D.L.?

Hyslop: The poverty datum line relates to a family of six and not to the individual wage. We have no way of gauging the size of workers' families.

Rhodes: A questionnaire was distributed at the meetings, do you have any comment on this?

Hyslop: I have no comment. I think it was drawn up by students.

Rhodes: A number of allegations have been made against Supervisors. Do you think these are justified?

Hyslop: I don't know whether they are true. The Workers have got channels. I can't comment on the allegations without investigation.

Rhodes: Do you think there has been any agitation behind this latest dispute?

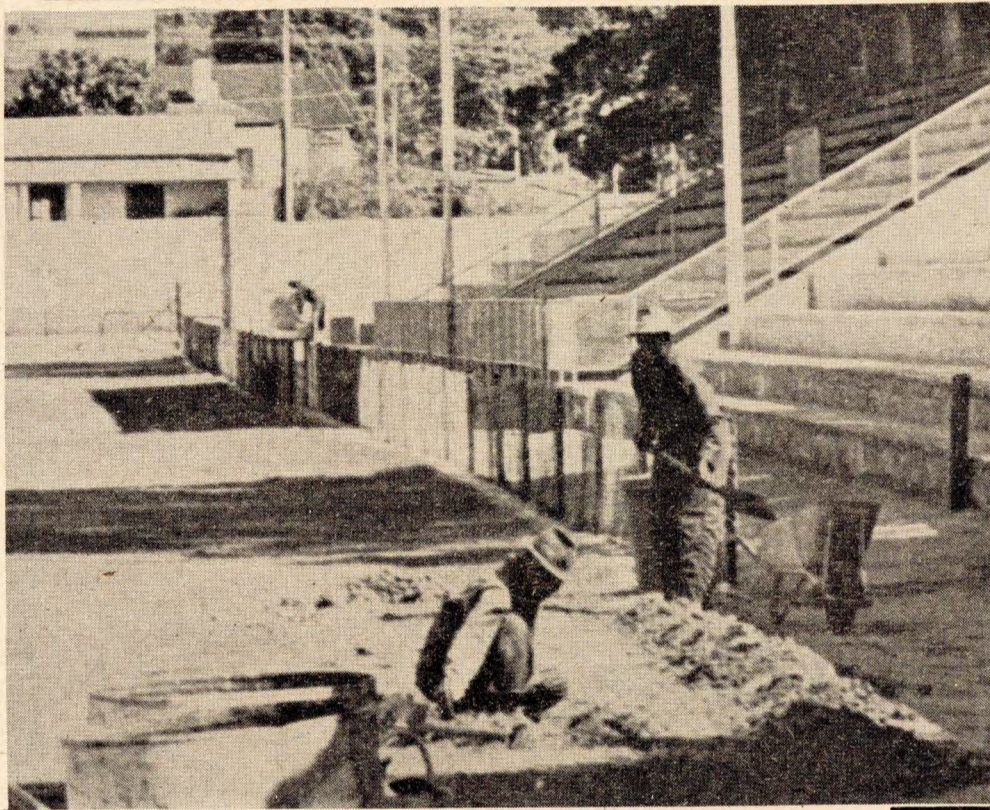
Hyslop: Not necessarily agitation, but certainly collusion between students and Black Workers.

Rhodes: The wages paid at Rhodes are generally lower than at other English universities. Does this have anything to do with a financial predicament in which Rhodes might find itself?

Hyslop: The financial position at Rhodes is extremely serious. If we increase the wages at Rhodes by one rand all round it would cost the Council an extra R30 000 per annum.

Rhodes: How do you view student involvement in Black labour conditions?

Hyslop: I do not think they should concern themselves in such matters. This problem is one for the University to resolve and that body is always willing to listen to representation of the workers concerned.



RHODES HAS A FINE SPORTING TRADITION - up to a point.

... the agitator thesis

The inclination to blame dissension of any sort on "agitators" is nothing new. But, in relation to the black worker and work stoppages in South Africa it has become almost a stock reaction to be pulled out of the bag and thrown at the public as an all-embracing explanation for the situation. In 1946, at the time of the 70,000 strong black mine strike, Gen. Smuts said: "It was not caused by legitimate grievances but by agitators". The same theme has been repeated ad nauseum right up to the recent Durban and East London strikes.

Such thinking reflects not only a total misunderstanding of the situation but, more sadly, immediately forms a psychological steel wall by employers against meaningful negotiations which black workers are attempting to achieve. Meetings such as the workers held last term are signs of absolute frustration.

If the channels of communication had been satisfactory last term's meetings would never have happened. Black workers in South Africa do not seek confrontation of their own free will. The cards are usually too heavily stacked against them. Confrontations are forced upon workers by their employers when normal methods of negotiation have failed.

If the University want to get to the heart of the matter they will have to dispel with the "agitator" thesis. To blame everything on agitators is to seek a scapegoat from the real causes of the situation. If the Administration really has the welfare of its employees at heart then the only way to prove their sincerity is to make investigations, and not allegations.

Stoops Talk



An alarming message came to me in the form of the Weekend Post and Weekend Argus both dated April 5. It read UPE 33, Crusaders 10; UCT 40, Hamiltons 13, but there was relief. Police 20 Stellenbosch 13 and Villagers 31, Victorians 6. What's so alarming? Well it tells us that the other Cape varsities are in slick form already and with the Ted Scales Trophy competition coming up things look bleak Wits also won on the 5th. Interesting points arising! UPE's powerful eighth man Menanteau Serfontein put up so good a display as to displace George Barnans, the one-time EP captain, from the EP A team. Their opponents were a man short following the late-tackle-immediate-shower ruling but more about that further on.

UCT were outstanding by all accounts. Alan Cunard (ex-Selborne) scored a try and Robert Vice (ex St. Andrews) coming in as late replacements for injured Chris Pope on the other wing, dotted down four tries in his debut.

Stellenbosch, suffering from a case of no-more-Morne were thoroughly overwhelmed by burly Bobbies - no excuses there. Good news for Rhodes, due to meet Victorians on May 3 (see elsewhere for more details), was the thrashing Villagers, revitalised by a case of now-more-Morne playing for them, handed out to these boys. Half-time was 6 - 6 but in the second half their defence ceased to be.

The staff side of all people walked off with the Bob Stimson Inter-Hall cricket trophy and as such deserve at least my heartiest congratulations. This was the only internal competition run in the first term but there is much to lood forward to in the winter months: inter-hall table-tennis, hockey (male and female), netball and soccer. Most important or at least most coveted is the House Rugby title. All interhouse games with the exception of the semi-final and final will be played on Sundays in the second term.

Last year I mentioned an article on 'dirty-rugby' (self-composed of course) and possible prevention thereof. It seems that EP Rugby Union have decided to take drastic steps in their league, one of the sorely guilty parties. However their late tackle rule threatens the game with its severity. Fear could change rugby from a man's game to a cinderella sport. I hope not.

Folks please realise that there is a 12 day delay before this printed word before me reaches you in Rhodes so don't criticise the news as antiquated.

Time for sportstar of the week (5 - 12 April). This goes to Sue Dickie for her record-breaking swim in Rhodesia over Easter, narrowly followed by Rich Burmeister for his sparkling performance at full-back against Albany on Rag Day.

Time is moving on, the ink is congealing and I still have to go poodle-popping at Charlie's so ciao for niao.

rugby line up 1975

Last year Rhodes played well for most of the season but made the expected flop at the end. This happened because they always seem to have a period, late in the season, of about four away games is two weeks (to compensate for the mid-year vacation.) This year's fixture list looks fairer all round, even if it does mean a rather lean home-programme for this term.



Kelvin Hulley, supported by Derek Barter and Mark Kleinenburg, gains possession at a lineout despite the attention of Albany flank Brian Shone.



Howard Edge of Albany brings down Rhodes wing Mike Saad during the recent league clash.

The 1st XV presents mainly old faces. Up front we have hooker Mark Rowles supported by perennial Chris 'Boston' Porter and strongman Graeme Bell. Robbie Clayton, a regular last year, and Rob Cock will provide opposition for these places. Locks Derek Barter, who represented Border a few times last season, and Kelvin Hulley almost pick themselves. The same goes for our loose forwards. Dave Shaw and Ali Weakly, the captain, have vast experience having played together for one and a half seasons. Outstanding SA Schools player Mark Kleinenberg completes this trio.

Looking Good

Behind the scrum is last years 'reserve' scrum-half Kenny Ball who should provide a solid platform if he curbs his instinct to 'go it alone.' At fly-half we have a contest for selection between Tubby Usher, who can only resume playing in mid-May following an injury against Albany on Rag Day, and Rich Kernick whose form has slumped since representing Border last year.

Rob Edkins was a regular at centre in 1974. He must watch his hands though as they seem to let the side down at moments of great promise! Next to him is Guy Murray, the new face in the backline, Guy played fly-half for Defence in Cape Town until Peter Kirsten (who've heard of him?) arrived whereupon he spent the rest of last season as first centre outside Kirsten, something which can only benefit a player. On the wings we have mercurial Mike Saad, an U 20 and, later on, 1st XV regular last season and Manny van Zyl, converted (excuse pun) hockey player who runs with speed and determination combined with a shrug-off for would-be tacklers that could shatter a brick wall. Our last line of defence, at full-back is Rich Burmeister who played under 20 and 2nd last year. At last his incredible guts and courage coupled with ability and concentration have been recognised. He gave a brilliant display against Albany to prove it.

So on the whole things look good for the season. Rhodes have been invited to play at Newlands against Victorians, (the Stellenbosch 'second team' who also play Grand Challenge in Cape Town) on May 3 as curtain-raiser to the Stellenbosch-Pretoria match. This is a tribute to our attractive style of play. There will be the usual intervarsity tournament this year, no doubt, as well as the intervarsity against UPE in August and the Freakes Cup encounter against mighty Free State University.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Congrats to Derek Barter on selection for Border to lock with his brother Greg. Derek's form has warranted selection for long enough.

Chum Brown recently of Rhodes now teaching at Kingswood, is presently accompanying their 1st XI cricket team on a South England tour.

SOCCER PROSPECTS BRIGHTER

1974 Season
Not a
Good One.....

The 1974 season was not a good one for Rhodes. Unfortunately there was no coach at the beginning of the season and there was a general lack of spirit. Rhodes finished second last in the East Cape N.F.L. log. This position was not a true indication of the full potential of the side. Rhodes won only 3 games, drew 2 and lost the rest. The best victory was against P.E. City Reserves whom Rhodes beat 5-3 after trailing 1-3 at one stage.

The 1975 prospects are brighter. Rob Harper, ex-Windhoek City, now at Rhodes, is coaching and doing well. The discipline that was lacking last year is now being enforced. Mark Norrish was elected club-captain and has been working hard in collaboration with the secretary, Bobby Wilson.

Two friendlies have so far been played this season. The first one, against E.L.Tech was marred by nasty incidents and was called off when a Tech. player refused to leave the field when ordered off. E.L. Tech. were 3-1 up at the time. This being the first game, Rhodes showed little co-ordination. There was a vast improvement in the second match against the local Defence team. Rhodes won 4-0 and the margin would have been wider but for the excellence of Defences' keeper.

Exciting prospects amongst the first years include Robbie Halliday and Trevor Bloch. Both these players have had a lot of soccer experience and have shown in the friendlies that they are capable of living up to their promise.

This year the Soccer Intervarsity will be held in Port Elizabeth and Rhodes are taking it seriously. Last year Dan Smit was selected for the Proteas, a just reward for all the effort he has put into Rhodes soccer over the last four years.

Could there be a couple more this year?



Rhodes 1974 Soccer Team

Back: Taki Kyriacos, Udo Kannegiesser, Dan Smit(c), Schalk van Wyk (manager), Rich Quinn, Keith Rumble, Butch Nunn, Bill Stephens

Front: Dennis Walker, Bob Wilson, Chris Fredericks, Mark Norrish, Jeff Sacks, Steve Petzer.

With one Regatta to go, the Rowing Club have produced an outstanding list of results

At the Buffalo Centenary Regatta (March 22) the first crew won the Novice Event and the second crew the Maiden Event.

Intervarsity was held over Easter and two crews made the journey to Pretoria. Both crews entered one division higher than that in which they normally row. The first crew came second in the junior event and the second crew were narrowly edged into third place in the novice event. Rhodes took third place among the 5 competing universities.

ROWING

The Buffalo Regatta held over Rag weekend was very successful with both crews rowing well. The first crew pipped Wemmer Pan to win the novice event. This was Rhodes' first win at a status regatta for many years.

The Rhodes first crew (Dave Urwin, Mark Chapman, Kippie Mundell, Shaughn Cole and cox John Rainier) have been selected to represent Border at the South African Championships. Five crew will be travelling to Pretoria to represent Rhodes at the S.A. Champs. This includes one novice crew, two maiden crews and two women crews.

EASTER TENNIS

The Easter weekend advanced, and come Saturday, there was nothing to do so I went to King William's Town to watch the Kaffrarian Tennis Championships. I'm glad I did.

Held on the courts next to Dale College, some fine tennis was seen.

On the Saturday Jane Piers, Jackie Holdsworth and Mike Bladen were knocked out in the first round, thus qualifying for their respective plate events. Erith Budge won through to the second before dipping out. Mike Francis playing Terry Niland (the top seed) put up a 2 hour struggle before losing.

Meanwhile Jane Piers and Pri Andrews were doing very well in the woman's doubles and it was no surprise to hear on Monday that they had made the final, but unfortunately they lost. Ronnie Kingwill and Harvey Bryan made the men's doubles final but they also found the going too hot.

After lunch Erith Budge, who had already played two singles matches, teamed up with Mike "Kitty" Keyter in a marathon 2 hour doubles match which they won 7-6 (tie breaker), 4-6 and 9-7. They too bowed out in the next round.

Most of the above happened on the Saturday which shows that we didn't last all that long.

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letters..

..... shame on you professor

Smuts

As hard as it is to be believed, not all liberals, what Professor Smuts calls "left-wingers", are absolute fools; some futhermore are blessed with powers of logical thought.

As hard as it is to be believed, an argument from authority is usually cited in elementary logic as a bad argument. It is with sadness then that I must say that not only is Prof. Smuts' argument misrepresentative and therefore unacceptable, but also really badly constructed.

What the liberal finds 'intolerable' is not the tranquil atmosphere of this beautiful campus but the apathy and indifference of students to suffering in the world around them as the direct result of a superimposed political system. Perhaps there is a case for calling this apathy 'sloth'; why not a deadly sin? It is not peacefulness in the sense of there being no possibility for violent revolution (which NUSAS and other liberal organisations continually decry) but a sickening kind of moral indifference.

I take real exception to the underhand charge (hardly subtle) that liberal students rejoice in poor academic achievements. Surely it is a fallacy of the first order to suppose that students writing examinations towards degrees themselves, having serious academic

ambitions, either hope for a lowering of academic standards or that there should be nobody who does well. Most students of liberal inclination I have spoken to here feel very concerned with the not purely metaphysical problem of Rhodes as University and with current moves overseas (NSU) to discredit South Africa degrees and to remove access to facilities this doubt becomes all the more harrowing.

A last point: upon what figures are Prof. Smuts' claims made? It has been noticed at UCT that committed students can be said, roughly to be among the most brilliant. Perhaps there is a case for a direct proportion between the two. Any clear-thinking liberal ought to take exception to Prof. Smuts' equating a liberal cause with what we all know to be puerile; rebelling against all forms of authority.

It is significant that an expression which can be termed 'systematically misleading' has been used: Authority is never a thing but a principle which justifies itself in terms of either general acceptance or imposed power. It is never a 'body' to be deified. We have long since dispensed with metaphor in political philosophy. People do not rebel against authority, they react against certain legally binding principles which are either seen to be unjust (altruistic opposition) or to interfere with the fulfillment of certain desires (egotistic opposition). Let it suffice to say that the

liberal knows intuitively what are his grounds for disagreement.

I shall limit myself finally to the question of the status and meaning of a university. Prof. Smuts writes:

'I find the political attack on the Government on the back page inexcusable, not because I hold any brief for the Government, but because a campus newspaper is hardly the place for it.'

Of course, there is a difference between campus newspaper and student newspaper, a difference the editor of Rhodoe would, I am sure, be eager to accept and stress.

If we are talking about a student newspaper, a newspaper written by students to express views and grievances concerning both the university microcosm and the world outside, then Prof. Smuts' argument involves the question of the university which will probably be the crux of all disagreement.

I shall not attempt to debate the issue because the question, to our shame, can never be 'What is a university?' but must always be translated as 'What is a South African university such that it not be prevented from continuing?'. Let us rather ask ourselves what we are here for. Presumably both to develop a specialised competence enabling us to fit into one of the more esteemed social slots, and a general intelligence (in the humanities a critical ability) which can be applied by creatures who not only have opportunity to prance around on garlanded floats but who are also, by ancient definition, animals that live in a 'polis'.

While I support Prof. Smuts appeal for a raising of standards and for Rhodoe to publish more erudite articles, I do not see that this in any way should mean that the paper become what Prof. Smuts intends - innocuous and conservative.

As for an objective newspaper - I am always deeply suspicious of a political criterion for 'fact'.

Damian Garside

Rhodoe Staff

Peter Bruce
Bruce Cohen
Deborah Morgan
Pete Richer
Lauren Vlotman
Tony Stoops

Rhodoe is printed by Bumleys of Port Elizabeth and published by the Rhodoe Society

pollution bullsh..t

The SRC is undoubtedly the burning question on Rhodes campus. What space does Rhodoe allocate to it? A piffeling fraction of that which it allocated to pollution.

Oh! how heartely sick I am of reading poorly written version's of that same old pollution story. Do the officials of this student mouthpiece not realise that we can find such articles in any contemporary newspaper or magazine? The world might well be near its doom if we don't revise our consumer ways, but much nearer to that eternal chasm is the role the student plays in his own government.

Let us discard the well worn articles of ecology for the present and come nearer home. Let us investigate the truth about a Rhodians existence.

We, supposedly adults, are totally at the mercy of the Rhodes authority's whims. Is this the beginning of our lives as the proverbial cog, or is this already the end?

Peter Knight.

..we mourn



....the appointment of Mr Bill Deacon, M.P. for Albany to the Rhodes Council as the 'government representative'. That says it all for Mr Deacon, instigator of the Schlebusch Commission.