

DRAFT

MESSAGE: RUSA Reporter.

Even in a university as comparatively small as Rhodes, communication between members of the community is not as good as it should be. This is not a failing of this institution alone - it is one of the hallmarks of any grouping of people, however much they may have in common.

Notices and memoranda may inform members of staff of various matters (and one sometimes wonders if anyone ever reads them), but this is not communication, and it is easy for academic departments and administrative divisions to narrow their viewpoint to their particular field of operations, almost to the exclusion of all else.

I hope that the RUSA Reporter will receive support from both readers and contributors so that it may play its part in improving communication within the university. With your support it will grow into a platform for the exchange of ideas.

X The principle of academic freedom means that a university is a melting-pot of thought and development. This means that nothing can be neatly labelled, boxed and <sup>permanently</sup> packed away and, to outsiders it might seem that a university is an untidy, even somewhat chaotic, place.

X Rhodes may be "untidy", but the only way to make it tidy would be to halt the process of the pursuit of truth. This would mean no more research in any field and would herald the end of the university as a <sup>vibrant</sup> teaching establishment.

X The year 1986 may <sup>well provide difficulties both</sup> be a difficult year for Rhodes and for this <sup>e</sup> country, but Rhodes has faced many difficulties in the past and will no doubt do so in the future. If the staff of the University - <sup>academic, administrative and technical</sup> both administrative and academic - are committed to providing a sound and efficient basis for the pursuit of truth, then the "untidiness" of academic development and discovery will continue unchecked.

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