

MILTON NEWS

Wednesday 22 February 1978

No. 234

Notes from the Headmaster

In response to a request at the AGM of the PTA, I give below, in percentage form, the results of the public examinations:

A-Level 83,3% passed 2 or more subjects.
M-Level 28,4% passed 3 or more subjects.
O-Level 33,3% satisfied the first stage of Matriculation Exemption. 46 pupils need to repeat subjects at midyear and if they are all successful, the percentage could rise to 74,7%.

Arrangements have been made with one of our suppliers to sell a Milton T-shirt - a blue shirt, similar in colour to our normal blue school shirt, with the school badge and navy trimming at the neck and arms. This shirt was suggested to me by senior pupils and will be available for all pupils to wear. It should be on sale today.

* * * * *

Winners of the '100' Club Draw held on 15 February:

'A' Club

1. Mrs F Jacobsen
2. Mr H Watson
3. Mr J Moreira

'B' Club

1. Mr K Swales
2. Mr G D Einhorn
3. Mr J Cousins

* * * * *

To speed is human. To be caught, a fine.

* * * * *

Mr. Felgate

Mr. Felgate was born in Hong Kong. He was educated at CBC and then achieved a BA(Hons.) degree at the University of Rhodesia. After two terms of teaching, one at Gifford and one at Northlea, he obtained a Post Graduate Certificate in Education at the University of Exeter in the UK.

When Mr Felgate was asked if he had any comments about the school, his answer was:

"I have no complaints, except that my classroom is rather archaic. It would be nice on a dark morning to have an electric light. The siren goes on far too long. I hate that wretched thing!!"

Mr Felgate is very interested in the running of a Sixth Form Union. He feels that this should enable the boys to enjoy themselves in a relaxed atmosphere and build up some Sixth Form spirit.

Besides being a teacher, Mr Felgate is a Scout leader. He finds it very amusing to see half his Scout troop at school. A keen tennis player, he achieved tennis colours at the University of Rhodesia. At one stage Mr Felgate was involved in the Red Cross, but work pressures forced him to stop this.

Like most of the Milton staff, Mr Felgate intends staying at Milton. Let us hope that this remains his intention for many years.

H.L.S.

* * * * *

- Q. What goes ha ha ha plop?
 A. A man laughing his head off.

* * * * *

Athletics at Messina

Last weekend a small contingent of some twenty-three athletes competed in the annual meeting at Messina. The meeting was highly successful and some good performances were displayed.

Our Express Motorways bus left at 6.15am on Friday morning and after picking up the Falcon team at Essexvale, we joined the convoy together with Hamilton, the only other school competing from Rhodesia. On arriving at Messina we had time to do some shopping before moving on to Tshipese where we were accommodated. The evening was spent socialising with Capricorn School, Pietersburg and numerous friendships were soon set up.

The following day it was off to the athletics track where the Milton team (although small in number compared to Louis Trichardt and Capricorn who had some 150 members in their teams) displayed their strength and fitness.

Overall Milton obtained 20 1st places (of which 4 were records) 10 2nd places and 7 3rd places. The record breakers were W. MacDonald who won the U/16 Long Jump with a jump of 5,99 m. D. Seligman jumped 5,95 m. to equal the existing record in the same event. C. Hodder was the centre of attraction with his throw of 69,60 m. in the U/19 Javelin breaking his old Messina record by 62,90 m. M. Grobler running his first U/14 1500 m. set a new record and D. Dismore established a record of 41,08 m. in the U/14 Javelin.

Other members of the team who gained firsts were the U/19 - Hawkes, Taute, U/17 - Husband, U/16 - Seligman, U/14 - Nyles. C. Birtle ran a personal best of 2,01 min. in the U/19 800 m. and narrowly lost after finishing with a great sprint passing several competitors on the last 100 m. The U/16 team won the 100 m. relay event in a closely contested race.

Louis Trichardt were eventual overall winners, followed by

Capricorn. W. MacDonald won the trophy for the best senior athlete for his performances.

The team arrived back on Sunday lunchtime after an early start of 6.00am. The success of the trip was due to the spirit of the boys, masters and parents and Old Boys that attended and, of course, the humour produced by W. Spencer and P. Viljoen. Messrs. Bain, Walker and Swales who accompanied the team, must be thanked for the training and encouragement they gave us along with Mr Craxton. Joe Krige, the captain of the team, set an excellent example of true sportsmanship and must be congratulated.

David Husband

* * * * *

Sixth Form Union

This year's Sixth Form Union has organised a full programme for the first term and hope that the events will be well supported.

All sixth formers are asked to pay \$1,00 subscription and will then be able to participate in most of the events at a reduced rate.

The first event of the year was a Sixth Form braai and dance on Saturday 16 February. Those who had not paid subscriptions had to pay \$1,00 for the dance, while those who had paid their subscriptions got free tickets. Other events that are planned are a talk on University life, a talk by a member of the Army, a Folk evening at Milton, a trip to the Matopos and a sporting afternoon with Townsend. We have also been asked by Townsend Sixth Form to participate in a Balloon debate.

We hope that these events will be well supported by Sixth Formers.

* * * * *

What is black and shrivelled and hangs on an electric light fitting?

An Irish electrician.

* * * * *

Fagging

A continuation of last week's article on the re-organisation of the boarding hostels.

Some customs die hard and fagging is one of them.

As a legalised system it is a purely English institution - you won't find it anywhere in America or Europe. It started in an unplanned sort of way in public schools in England in the last century when schools were still very badly run and prefects took the law into their own hands.

Schoolmasters in those days were not professional men, some had little education or interest in education. They were, therefore, grateful to tough prefects who brought discipline to schools, and boarding houses in particular; thus, when prefects took . . . privileges for themselves and used fags to work for them, nothing was done to stop them.

The system of fagging does not therefore have a very . . . respectable history. Yet it persists in most Rhodesian hostels.

When our boarders were asked about fagging it is a strange fact that everyone was in favour of it. "It taught the spoilt brats from the junior schools some discipline." "Prefects get to know their fags very quickly and the fags could learn a lot about the school from them." "Once you had fagged and done a bit of hard work for the house you felt part of it." "Prefects deserve fags because they do a lot for the house. Fags relieved prefects of small tasks and so gave prefects more time for their hostel duties."

A Form III boy said, "I enjoyed fagging." A Form I boy said, "I was looking forward to fagging."

Much of the above is true, but the system of fagging was one of the bad old traditions because it was open to abuse and while some fags were happy, many others were not, or, at best, put up with it - in the hope that one day they would be prefects and could lord it over the unlucky Form Ones.

Above all, fagging was never confined to prefects; other seniors always behaved as if the privilege should be theirs too, so that the idea of a junior obeying orders of a senior went through the whole house: a Form II boy thought he could demand obedience from a Form I. It is this sort of "seniority" that was the chief abuse we wanted to eradicate by amalgamating the two hostels.

So fagging has been abolished.

The task of making the new system work is not an easy one; but we are sure it is a worthwhile one and we wish both housemasters and prefects good luck in their endeavours.

* * * * *

What do you give a kangaroo when it is sick?

A Hopperation.

* * * * *

Public Speaking

Last Thursday evening at 7.30pm. Lions Club held their annual inter-school public speaking competition. It was the first of the two preliminary rounds. Seven schools competed and another seven will compete this week. The finals will be held the following week.

A total of fourteen people spoke including two boys from Milton, Widdows and Paterson. Both their speeches were of a high standard. We will only know if they will be in the final round next week. The reason for this is so that the finalists in the first round do not have more time

to prepare their speeches than those in the second round.

The Comperce was Peter Rollason and he explained the judging system to the audience. There are three judges who award points to the speakers in such categories as stance and audibility. The judges will remain the same for the first two rounds and new judges will be appointed for the finals.

Some of the titles were thought-provoking, interesting and even amusing, such as "I was born at the wrong time" and "The Simple Life".

I would strongly suggest that everybody attend the next two rounds of the public speaking as I am sure they will prove to be very constructive. On behalf of the school, I wish the two Milton competitors Good Luck!

H.S.

* * * * *

The Happiest Days of your life

The School Play for 1978 is well under way and the actors and actresses and producer are getting down to some serious work.

The play is set in the period just after the war. I am happy to say that we have almost finished the first act knowing the words and moves. All the performers are beginning to adapt to their characters parts. Matthew Rudd is proving to be a very good, stout headmaster; a bit small, but stout. A Townsend girl is playing the part of the large, round headmistress and she also is showing great promise. The other main male parts are being played by Mark Slaven and Stuart Loxton. Mark is the young school master all ready for fun and he can't do without his female company. When he hears that a girls' school is coming to share the same school as theirs, he is delighted.

The more dry, sincere part is being played by Loxton. He

is a typical school master who is handy with his cane with a certain Hopcroft, who is played by Philip Neal. He dislikes female company intensely.

If everything goes well, this play will be very successful.

S.M.L.

* * * * *

On Noah's Ark, all the animals came in pairs ...
Except the maggots who came in apples.

* * * * *

U/13A vs Founders

The U/13A have started the season well, beating Gifford, Plumtree, and in their most recent match, Founders.

Milton won the toss and elected to bat. Wentzel gave the side a good start, making 34. The innings was declared just after tea at 72 for 5. (Martin 3 for 7). Founders were struggling for runs and losing wickets rapidly, but black clouds developed fast and it looked as if they would be saved by the rain. But just as the rain started, Milton took their last wicket with their score at 33 (Mower 3 for 3, Hulley 4 for 9).

D. Gammon

* * * * *

Junk Man: "Any beer bottles today, lady?"
Lady: "Do I look as if I drink beer?"
Junk Man: "Any vinegar bottles today, lady?"

* * * * *

"Daddy, why does it rain?"

"To make things grow."

"Well, why does it rain on the pavement?"

* * * * *