

MILTON NEWS

Wednesday 15 November 1978

No. 261

Those Dinners

Milton has for long time held an envied reputation for good food in the Dining Hall. When Mrs Hitchcock left last year we were sure that we would never be able to replace her adequately. We were wrong. Mrs Mann and Mrs Hodgson proved us wrong.

The three big dinners we have had recently - Leavers' Ball, Prefects and Honours - all showed that our reputation for good food is in very safe hands and that while Mrs Mann and Mrs Hodgson are there Milton boys can look forward to many years of enjoyable gorging.

We thank our two cook matrons for the quality of the cooking and the little extra touches like candles, flowers and fruit punch which added to the occasion. We hope they think that all the trouble they took was worthwhile - everyone there did!

Extracts from speeches made at the Prefects' Dinner follow:

Review by Grant Paterson

The deputy head boy presented the traditional summing up of the year in the traditional way: part serious, and part light hearted.

He reminded us of the achievements of prefects as individuals: as athletes, scientific geniuses, swimmers, cricketers, tennis, squash and basketball players who achieved recognition beyond the school.

He reminded us of prefects' versatile contribution to the variety concert - song, dance, acting, comparing.

Michael Harrison, he said, had been "a popular and

positive leader, who set a faultless example for Steve McKenna to follow." He thanked Lance Smith for his efforts in promoting school spirit.

Of the staff he said, "I have enjoyed my contact with the staff this year. It is amazing how nice people are when they know you are going away soon."

He wished next year's prefects the best of luck.

The Gladiators

If you know this year's prefects well and enjoy puns, you will like these extracts from Paul de Sousa's speech at Prefects' Dinner:

"Inevitably for all of us the annual prefects' dinner heralds the approach of the end of yet another year in the life of Milton School. How pleasing it must be for the staff to see the last of the old and work-weary prefects and to welcome in our place a group of proverbially innocent lambs who are as yet only too eager to be led to the slaughter house.

"Gentlemen, it is my belief that only through our own strength of character and courage in the face of insurmountable odds have we, the out-going prefects, saved ourselves virtual Christian martyrs at the blood stained gates of the institution which, to the staff is their colosseum and to us their chief form of entertainment. And I believe that a great deal of the credit of having saved us from the lions jaws, drooling for our blood, is due to the head boy, Michael John Harrison. Without his strength and leadership behind us we would most certainly have lost the battle.

I believe that the Almighty has Himself intervened on our behalf, for only He could have had the insight to Grant us a deputy head boy (in the form of Paterson). Not only is "grandpa" a veteran campaigner, an old and experienced fighter, but he is also Scots. Only the tight-fistedness and cunning of a Scotsman could have

combined with and enhanced those of Michael John Harrison to the extent that they formed a partnership as strong, and as united in harmony as two oxen in harness, whereas in fact there was only an ox and a fox in that harness.

"But providence having gone thus far to our assistance went even farther in placing in our midst Francois Joseph Krige, who, in our hour of greatest temptation, when we were surrounded by multitudes of devils wearing blue shirts and satanic fiends wearing white shirts, would sing to us sweet ballads and lead us in divine harmony from the valley of the shadow of death.

"But even so, all too frequently, we would find ourselves faced with and in deadlock with forces much greater than our own. It was then that Andre van Vuuren came to the fore, and by using his head-lock to break the deadlock we would inevitably buckle the opposition and push forward to rake up a bloody victory against our mean and devilish opponents.

"Then again when despite all this, satan would unleash another furious campaign against our noble and brave resistance and would place upon our lines of defence great stress and strain, then Mike Kennedy would feature (Liz would have been proud). For only he could work out the force per unit area and extension per unit length of our resistance required to overcome the enemy and prevent us from reaching our yield point and conceding to the forces of hell fire.

"And as captain long L J F Smith said, thanks Mike, you held the innings this time. In fact his long righteous arm bowled over the opposition on many occasions and his no balls attitude to our survival stumped many of the wicked foe. And then with his long, lanky cricket-like legs, he would lead us forward to face the next exorcising innings.

"By this time the once fanatical enemy were becoming demoralised and indeed some of the devils defected to the side of righteousness and we opened our ranks to welcome them with Christian forgiveness; or such was Michael Hageman who in time became a strong member of

our forces after defecting from the hellish devils, and in recognition for his services we baptised him "Hell's Angel" with 50 cc's of divine light, whereupon he went in a puff of smoke to meet our heavenly father.

But where did we get the money to offer this splendid resistance to the blue shirts, for the British certainly didn't send us arms. All credit here is due to Lange, and without the great percentage of his interest in us we would certainly have failed and been driven to our death as inevitably as pigs turn to pork. And for his financial assistance we are all deeply indebted to Billy.

To Tony Mills who served as our reconnaissance man we most certainly owe a great deal. Whenever the infidel dogs refused to expose their positions to us, and very often they showed this negative attitude, Tony would tread a light meter and swoop upon them like a storm in a flash bulb, tearing the devil tridents from their grasp like tripods before a storm.

"So may our tale of victory serve as a warning to the new prefects, that if they don't swallow their own squabbles and pull together, they will most certainly be overcome by the blue shirt brigade. McKenna, take heed."

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Notes from the Headmaster

The end of year examinations have now commenced and we all wish the pupils every success in the very important examinations.

During examinations the school takes on a very different atmosphere as the familiar faces suddenly disappear from the scene, only to be seen when they are writing. It becomes very quiet indeed and so unlike the vibrant institution it really is.

The internal examinations commence on Tuesday 21 November and I trust that all pupils in junior classes are making sufficient preparation now.

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"Supersonic" Hope Fountain 30km Race

Six boys competed in this event last Sunday, five of them completing the course well within the time allotted. Congratulations to A Gerling, A Flinders and R Schroeder for winning the schools team section. This is the third consecutive year that a Milton team has won.

Congratulations also to Mr Walker on coming in first in the Masters' Division.

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Congratulations to the following who gained honours in all subjects in the last mark sheets:

G. Blatch 3A1	-	7
M. Rehman 3A2	-	7
G. Hammond 4C1	-	7
D. Rahman L6	-	3
N. Paterson U6	-	3

Next week: Some account of the Honours Dinner.

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Basketball - U/15A vs Founders

Milton started off very badly, and within about ten minutes were 12-2 down. Then Milton began to settle down, and some good movements were seen with fast breaks and accurate passing. We managed to pull up and at the end of the first half were 16-14 down.

At the commencement of the second half Milton seemed to lose concentration, and the passing became poor; giving Founders a chance to increase their lead to 22-14. Milton did not lose heart and fought back strongly, producing some fine movements; but were unable to close the gap sufficiently and at the final whistle, we were 26-22 down.

On the whole, the team played well, but a few points

have to be touched up.

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For Sale: Australian Ring necked doves. 50 cents each. Phone 888790.

For Sale: A Scalextric Set. Contact A Mills 68828.

LPs for Sale: Carpenters; Horizon; Passage; Close to you; The Single 69-73; Revelation; House of the Rising Sun.

Contact: C. Myles 3A1.

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Library News

The Middle School library will be closed as from the 24 November. All boys are requested to return their library books on, or before, that date. At the end of each term much valuable time is wasted tracking down boys who forget to return their books, and heavy fines are incurred by many of them. Remember - don't be a "book-keeper", return your book on time and save yourself money.

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Dr Louis Brabrow, a Rugby Springbok in 1937, and subsequently a rugby coach at UCT, has written, in conjunction with R K Stent, a book called "The Varsity Spirit" which is a "Story of Rugby Football at the University of Cape Town." This traces the history of rugby at UCT from 1883-1963, and relates many interesting and amusing anecdotes. It is interesting to note that our Mr Swales played in the Intervarsity in 1960. We are very grateful to Dr Brabrow for presenting us with this signed copy, and we are sure that many boys will find it fascinating reading.

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News from Old Boys

Paul de Chalain was selected for the officers course and subsequently passed out as a Lieutenant; he is now i/c Sengwe TTL and responsible for six Protected Villages and 15,000 locals.

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Women's Lip

What is your opinion on the manners and behaviour of the boys at Milton? "Generally, Milton boys are quite well behaved and have good manners, although they sometimes have to be reminded of them! Rhodesian youth is way ahead of youth in many other countries in this respect."

"I think that manners and behaviour could be a lot better - I would like to see more of the little courtesies of life being practised - opening doors, greeting lady teachers, etc. I think that the VI Form are particularly remiss in this respect. I hear far too much bad language and the habit I hate most is spitting! Disgusting!!"

"Individually and in small groups their manners and behaviour are/is good. Assembled in the Beit Hall they display no decent manners and their behaviour is disgraceful."

"Could be more considerate."

Do you find boys more eager to work than girls? "No, very few boys seem to be eager to work and those that do come in for such a ragging from the others that they soon abandon any enthusiasm. Girls are far more competitive and keen to please."

"By and large, girls are more conscientious."

"No."

"Some, but not all. Girls seem to realise that they have to work very hard to get anywhere. Some boys do as well, but most are very casual and could do far better if they were prepared to work."

What methods do you use to keep order in your class?

"A bit of yelling, a bit of sarcasm (much appreciated by those not under fire), and a bit of beating, usually by me, but more serious cases go to the Head..

Occasionally I set extra work. Generally, I don't find discipline a problem. "

"I try to keep my classes busy and interested. A class that enjoys lessons is generally well behaved. I keep the class good humoured and prefer to coax them along using fair repartee and keeping my wits just that little bit sharper than theirs. I use the tried methods of lines and extra work in the last resort, I send a boy to be beaten, but very rarely, and for something very serious."

"Natural authority."

"Iron hand in velvet glove, or single out a rowdy boy."

"A spoken word. A well timed rebuke can humiliate a cheeky boy, and a short lecture can pull up a class. Occasionally beating has to be a last resort - by the Headmaster, not by me!"

"Give them jobs to do such as clean the classroom, etc."

Do you think female teachers should receive the same salary as male teachers?

"Yes! Definitely! We do exactly the same job (often much more conscientiously!) It is sexual discrimination to pay us less. We are one of the last countries in the world where this rule still applies."

"Yes! We are expected to do the same job - take sport and have the same qualifications. Besides, women teachers work much harder in and around the classroom, preparing lessons and marking books. Women are natural teachers - men have to learn to be!"

"No."

"Why not? Equal pay for equal work? Men's married responsibilities should be met by family allowances, or some such, depending on whether population-growth seems desirable or not. Who decides this latter point?"