

Notes from the Headmaster.

No. 285

In recent years the end of each term has been very difficult indeed because pupils have been withdrawn before the end of term. At the same time, many of the male staff have been away on police duty at that time so the problem has been compounded. It is very much easier for everyone to keep working honestly until the final day and I therefore appeal for the co-operation of all parents to ensure that we are able to do just that. Please ensure that your son attends school up to and including Friday 17th August. The first few days of next term will be used for the completion of examinations for the Public Examination candidates. The examinations will commence on Tuesday 18th September at 7.30 a.m.

INTERACT CLUB.

The Interact Club of Bulawayo was formed at the beginning of this year. Its members consist of Bulawayo senior school pupils. Pupils from form four and above are eligible to become members and the entrance fee is only \$1.00. Membership fees per year are only 50c. In addition each member is given a badge to wear and receives a membership card to prove that he is a member of the club.

The function of the club is community service, and members are expected to make time available to participate in various projects through the year. Any funds raised by the club are given to charity, but it must be emphasised that the club is not essentially a fund-raising club. Members are engaged in community service and the club has already been approached several times this year to help out at various functions such as flag-selling and fetes; members have helped out at the Bulawayo Child Welfare

Society by painting swings, slides and jungle-gyms.

At present the membership numbers about 75 and new members are welcome. Anyone interested in community service is welcome to attend any meeting, the club meets every second Thursday at 5.30 p.m. in the Milton Pavilion; the next meeting is scheduled for the 9th August and all interested persons from form four and above are welcome to attend.

THE GHOSTS OF MILTON.

Milton has the dubious distinction of possessing at least two ghosts, and perhaps even four or five, including some species of more doubtful pedigree.

The phantom best known in the school reputedly frequents the middle school library area. It is said that this ghost was once a librarian, whose soul returned to familiar haunts after she died.

One moonless night in 1974, a Mr. Davis, a former Pioneer House Master, was asked to accompany several senior boarders to the library, as they claimed to have seen the ghost. However, the team did not reach the library, for as they approached the foot of the stairs, they heard a rustling sound, accompanied by a very noticeable drop in temperature. Shortly afterwards a shimmering outline appeared on the steps. The retreat to the hostel apparently resembled an Athletics Day team event, and Mr. Davis went on to become a well known sprinter. Subsequent investigations revealed footprints above the wall of the

Beit Hall balcony. Several boarders have heard the piano in the hall being played discordantly, and lights have been seen in the library at night.

The second ghost, if reports are to be believed, is a headless dog which haunts Charter House. According to a very reliable source, a bell can be heard ringing through the hostel on quiet nights. Boarders are adamant that the spectre wears a collar with a bell stitched to it. After one of the canine's constitutionals, deep scratches were found on a window in the hostel.

Other sightings have been made of a group of two or three "ghosts" dancing, but these spectres are believed to be figments of fertile imaginations.

Whether Milton does have a ghost or not is a matter open to conjecture. However, until the matter of the Library ghost is finally resolved, it would be advisable for all pupils to be conscientious in returning overdue books and paying fines, lest they receive an unwelcome visitor.

BRIDGE CLUB.

The Bridge Club still meets every Friday afternoon with all other afternoon activities and still manages to produce four regulars from a membership of nine. The main stumbling block is the lack of opposition. On phoning around Bulawayo recently, it was found that Milton is at present the only school operating such a club. The top pair, Catherall and Worsley did play a match last term against Mrs. C. Sampson and Mrs. M. Carver and came out easy winners. Apparently the boys have been promised a match against the Staff for the past three years and this match has never materialised. How about it Staff?

BREEDING BUDGERIGARS.

In 1840 an English ornithologist, John Gould, brought a large number of wild creatures to England from Australia. Amongst these were some light-green budgerigars. Gould found that these small parakeets, bred easily in captivity and they are among the most popular pets.

The breeding of budgerigars can be very rewarding. A mature male and female budgerigar, given a correct diet, and provided with a suitable nest box, should breed successfully in a small cage. Best results are obtained by providing the birds with either specially constructed breeding boxes, or nesting boxes in an aviary. The former is called cage breeding and the latter colony breeding. Cage breeding enables the breeder to control and select matings while in colony breeding the birds select their own mates. After a hen has laid her first egg it should take eighteen days to hatch. The average number of eggs laid is six, although batches of eighteen have been recorded. A young budgerigar normally emerges from the nest box at one month old. From the original light-green budgerigar brought from Australia, breeders around the world have produced a large range of colours; various shades of green, blue, grey, mauve, yellow, white and piers which are combinations of two colours. As pets for a family, budgerigars are ideal being easy to house, keep and feed; they will become very tame and many specimens will learn to imitate the human voice and other sounds.

STUDENT OVERSEAS TOUR.

What a lovely surprise it was for my wife and I to be invited to act as tour leaders for this year's National Travel trips to Europe. I have seen the itinerary and I am very impressed with the tour arrangements. The trip will cover seven countries and our own passports are sufficient. The cost will be just over \$1100,00 and I cannot imagine where one could get better value for a trip like this. There are still a few vacancies on this trip and any person interested should contact me for further information. K. Swales.

CHESS REPORT.

Milton has enjoyed a successful term at Chess. We have played two inter-schools matches, both against Founders. In our first match, we were without a few of our top players and we were beaten 6 - 2 at Founders. For the return match, Milton fielded a stronger team, although still not full strength, and we won 7 - 1. Revenge had been achieved.

In the Chornicle Chess League, our teams are doing exceptionally well. The A team is currently third in the first league, which is an exceptional performance for a school team, and the B team is running third in the second league and has a good chance of promotion.

We are looking forward to the Rhodesian Scholars' Chess Championships in Salisbury. Owing to increased transportation costs, only two or perhaps three players will be attending this year, but I am sure they will keep the name of Milton riding high in chess circles.

1st XI HOCKEY REPORT.

On Monday afternoon Milton played C.B.C. Although play was fairly even, the Milton forwards were combining well, putting pressure on the C.B.C. defence. This pressure resulted in a short corner for Milton, and a fine shot by Gibbs put Milton into the lead. Shortly afterwards, Gibbs scored from another short corner and Milton were 2 - 0 ahead. C.B.C. scored their first goal just before half-time, and they scored again just after the break, thus drawing level with Milton. Both teams were now trying exceptionally hard to go into the lead, and when Gibbs scored from another short corner, Milton thought they had wrapped the game up. However, C.B.C. scored only minutes later, making the final score 3 - 3. Gibbs is to be commended on scoring his 3 goals.

INTRODUCING LASHLESS.

"Are you plagued with

"See the Headmaster

"Go for a lashing"

"Take six boy"?

"Don't let it get you down! We understand problem posteriors". Take "Lashless", the new tonic that hardens posterior skin, toughens skin to take any cane, any time. It's unbeatable!

Made from: 10 mg of crushed decomposed granite
100 mg of liquid rubber
20 mg of dehydrated leather
20 hard boiled eggs from Milton
Dining Hall

Dosage:- 1 - 2 teaspoonsful before school and at break. Guaranteed to relieve painful lashings and cause perfect numbness.

WANTED.

- (a) Guitar for teenage girl.
 - (b) Side Drum.
 - (c) Ladies Bicycle 24" any condition.
- Telephone:- 60352.

WANTED:- Ladies 26" bicycle in fairly good condition.
Telephone:- 48987 after school hours.

FOR SALE:- Calculator \$20,00 or N.C.O. contact
J. Tapson - Pioneer House.

FOR SALE:- Complete darkroom of equipment - all you need is the camera to start an interesting hobby
If interested contact Gary Ludick Upper VI or telephone 48688

WEEK-END RUGBY RESULTS.

Milton vs Prince Edward - 1st Lost - 2nd Lost -
3rd Lost.

Milton vs Falcon - 4th Won - 5th Lost -

Milton vs Gifford - U/15B Won - U/14B Won -
U/14C Won - U/13B Won -
U/13A Won

HORSE RIDING.

If you like being your own master, speed, and the beauty and grace of an intelligent animal, then riding is a hobby you would probably enjoy. Horses are probably amongst the most intelligent of man's domesticated animals, and combined with strength,

this makes the horse the most rewarding animal to own.

There is a lot of work involved in owning a horse: regular exercise and grooming are essential and this can be very time-consuming. However when you are riding at a canter or full gallop and feel the wind tearing at you, you tend to forget the hard work involved. Unfortunately riding can be expensive; a horse can cost anything from \$200 to \$2000 and a good saddle and bridle will set you back \$150. Food is also expensive with a monthly bill of about \$30.

There are five main riding pastimes, these being: racing, show jumping, dressage and showing, cross country and polocrosse. I find cross country is the most exciting with a flat-out pace being maintained instead of a more sedate show jumping style. There are always eight horse shows on throughout the year and the horses are graded by their ability to jump fences. It is easy for a beginner to "get into the scene" with many novice competitions organized. Riding schools in Bulawayo often have learners' courses organized during the holidays for those interested.

If you are interested contact one of the riding schools and I am sure they will be of assistance.

Murphy's Law:- "Left to themselves, things always go from bad to worse".

"The main ingredient in correct decision making is correct information. When we discover a yardstick to measure the value of correct decisions then we will have found the true value of reliable information".

"A fool profits by his own experiences only - a wise man by that of others."
