

B6.1.1

RHODES UNIVERSITY

---

ECC REPORT  
OCTOBER 1985



## INTRODUCTION

Rhodes ECC was established in August with representatives from Ansoc, Methsoc, Cathsoc, SAUJS, PFP Youth, NUSAS and EDACT as affiliate organisations as well as a number of interested individuals. Two subcommittees - media and culture - were formed and together they comprise the working group of the ECC. An executive (chair, treasurer and secretary) were elected with their functions defined largely in terms of administration and co-ordination.

The Troops Out campaign was therefore something ECC cut its teeth on, as it were, both in the sense of working together as a group and in presenting a profile to campus. The campaign was launched with a cheese and wine to which campus societies, Hall reps and sympathetic academics were invited and a speaker from PE ECC who outlined the objectives and context of the campaign. Workshops in the residences were held to generate discussion about the campaign and ECC in general. ECC campus members slotted into the relay fast organised by the off-campus group, and the campaign finally culminated in a mass meeting (also our official campus launch) at which Dave Schmidt spoke (and sang!) and where a number of cultural activities were presented. These activities are assessed below in more detail.

## ECC AS AN ORGANISATION

ECC's establishment generated a good deal of enthusiasm and willingness to participate from a wide range of individuals. Reviewing the way the Troops Out campaign ran, however, it was felt that involving the affiliate organisations had been the major problem area. This was partly due to an inhibition on the working groups' part not to over-extend the still untried-and -untested resources at their disposal, but also due to a lack of sensitivity on the part of a small section of the working group which was unhealthy for building strong working relations with certain of the affiliates. As a result the Troop Out campaign emphasised a more general campus profile neglecting somewhat the specific needs of the affiliates.

As a response to this problem, a proposal for a third subcommittee, to be called the Contact Group, has been discussed. This will be made up of affiliate reps plus interested individuals and will be responsible for devising a programme of activities (seminars, videos, cultural activities) tailored for the affiliates' needs. This group would also facilitate a flow of communication between the working group and the affiliate constituencies in ensuring that



report-backs happened and so on.

**MEDIA:** On the whole it was felt that this subcommittee had worked well, organising display boards, a pamphlet, posters of the activities, flyers and a banner. The group outlined the need for more skills training workshops to take place and have suggested a number of innovative ways to present our profile to campus to avoid it being swamped in the deluge of other societies' advertising. These include 'Concept Ads' to be broadcast on the campus radio station, co-ordinating a book of ECC poems and prose and more statement posters. Silkscreening t-shirts with a Rhodes ECC logo at the Oppidan Craft Markets had also been a successful venture and would be repeated.

**CULTURE:** This subcommittee has been very successful in that it managed to sustain a large membership throughout a busy period of training and activities. Once again, however, it was felt that these activities should not simply play to the converted but be flexible enough to adapt to the needs of our different constituencies. Campus response to these activities has nonetheless been very favourable and it is these activities which are largely responsible for providing the organisation with the dynamic and vibrant image it enjoys.

### **CAMPUS PROFILE**

On the whole Rhodes ECC felt that while we have made an impact on campus and provided an accessible forum for a wide range of organisations our teething problems are not yet over. Relations with the affiliates need to be strengthened and built, while our campus activities could be planned and strategised more tightly. With regard to the Troops Out campaign specifically, it was felt that the lack of sustained participation by the affiliates in our programme was again the major problem. As ours was a two-week campaign due to the ten-day vac cutting into the first official week of the campaign, activities were fairly concentrated but may have been confused in the eyes of campus with those of off-campus ECC (also advertised on campus) due to the lack of any independent build-up as ECC before the Troops Out campaign began. Publicity around the Relay Fast could have been more high profile as well. Plans for next year would therefore look toward capitalising on the vibrancy and enthusiasm we have managed to generate around certain of our activities this year but to give this more content and more organisational concreteness. ECC at Rhodes is fulfilling a definite gap and looks set to go from strength to strength.



Mock trial - Dinner  
 2 week relay  
 - Inkata

Service  
 meeting

many with  
 pickets  
 balloons

Churches - Nat I.

**Collection Number: AG1977**

## **END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)**

### **PUBLISHER:**

*Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive*

*Location:- Johannesburg*

**©2013**

### **LEGAL NOTICES:**

**Copyright Notice:** All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

**Disclaimer and Terms of Use:** Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document is part of a collection held at the Historical Papers Research Archive at The University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.