



Rockhounds go electronic



Some of the team members of the multidisciplinary research team; from left to right they are Karim Sami, Andre Botha, Paul Goodwin, Allan Rice, Fabio Frescura and Denis Hughes.

A truly multidisciplinary project is under way at Rhodes which is already indicating new techniques in pinpointing important mineral sources.

The core of the project is the establishment of a computer modelling programme designed to better understand the formation of ore reserves. The team working on it are representative of the Departments of Geology, Physics, Information Systems and the Institute for Water Research (IWR). Specific input is thus being brought to the exercise by geologists, geophysicists, hydrologists, physicists and computer modelling experts. Staff and stu-

dents at Rhodes from all these disciplines are involved.

Funding has been attracted from such organisations as the Anglo American Corporation, BHP (formerly Broken Hill Proprietary), Gold Fields, Rio Tinto Zinc, Randgold and the Foundation for Research and Development.

The research is being led by Dr Alan Rice and Dr John Moore of Geology. Other participants are Prof Fabio Frescura and his students Andre Botha and Keith Harris (Physics), Dr Denis Hughes and Karim Sami from the IWR and Paul Goodwin from Information Systems with four Honours students, Maurice Henry, Andrew

Gavin, Natalie de Bruyn and Giles Parnell.

The research itself goes back some years and the current workers are drawing extensively on data produced by Prof Hugh Eales of Geology; "His lifetime's work", says Alan Rice.

"Exploration for ore is a fairly mature science", he adds, "drawing on a great deal of common wisdom in the fields of Geology, Geophysics and Geochemistry. But now, with the exciting capabilities of computers and new technologies, fresh avenues are available to include physics, the last remaining card to put

Contact in the field

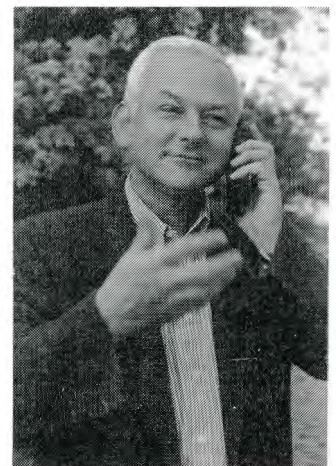
Rhodes University staff out of town on business, research or field trips need no longer be out of contact.

The University has purchased some cellular telephones which are available for hire by staff members who wish to be able to remain in touch with colleagues and their offices while out of Grahamstown.

At a basic charge of R 5,00 per day, plus call charges, these may be booked - it is advisable to do so well in advance - from Brenda Potgieter in the Reception Office. A form needs to be completed and the authority of the Head of Department concerned is required. Allocations are made strictly on a first come, first served basis.

Mrs Potgieter advises that would-be users should first

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Prof Fabio Frescura researching one of the new cell phones outside of his office, while in contact with the FRD recently.

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Letters to editor

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS
RHODES UNIVERSITY
e-mail: rhodos@ru.ac.za

Pensions: Principal Officer replies

The editor,

In response to Ralph Kirby's letter (RHODOS, 8 March), I would like to provide the following information for the members of the Pension Fund and Provident Fund:

- * the fund assets (60% of actuarial value) were transferred from the AIPF to the new Funds on 1 September 1995;

- * staff wishing to know their transfer values may contact Patrick Phillips (Ext 8117) for this information;

- * The Trustees appointed RMB Asset Management and INVESTEC Asset Management as Investment Fund Managers for both Funds;

- * the Funds are currently being audited;

- * the Trustees are due to consider the audited statements at their next meeting scheduled for late April;

- * each member will be sent a benefit statement reflecting the amount of their personal benefits offered by the Fund;

- * a general meeting will be held for all members of the funds at which the Fund Administrator and Actuary will be present to answer all queries related to the Funds.

Members of the Fund are reminded that should they have any queries they are welcome to contact either Patrick Phillips or myself in the Personnel Division. •

B M H Smith,
Principal Officer

No unilateral action

The Editor,

May I, through your column, reply to Arthur Lanham's somewhat sarcastic letter regarding the red brick pathways and speed humps in Prince Alfred Street. He is quite correct when he says there is progress in the Estates Division and I can also assure him that the Division does not act unilaterally; before any project is undertaken, proper consultation takes place.

As far as the red brick paths are concerned, this is the continuation of the master plan for the development and beautification of the campus that was accepted many years ago. I am open to correction, but believe it was Arthur Lanham's friend and ex-colleague, Mr Bill Mills,

who started the project by laying the pathway from the Drostdy Gate.

As far as the speed humps in Prince Alfred Street are concerned, this road has long been a race track for inconsiderate motorists who have shown scant regard for the 40 km/h speed restriction, let alone the stop signs at the various intersections. This has resulted in many near-fatal accidents and now that Prince Alfred Street has become University property, Management took the decision, in the interests of safety, that the traffic must be controlled by utilising speed humps that would be effective.

Since the university has reopened, hundreds of vehicles have traversed the humps

with no adverse effect except a reduction in speed. The reason the humps are situated where they are is to slow the traffic at the intersections as the word stop does not feature in a number of motorists' vocabularies.

Prince Alfred Street is the focal point of the campus for many staff and students and safety must come first. The humps, however inconvenient, thus have to stay unless, of course, Arthur Lanham, concurrent with his criticism, can offer an alternative solution to the problem. He is fortunate, however, to own a Sani 4X4 which he can now put to good use. •

Les Reynolds

This letter has been edited

Insensitive

The Editor,

Although this letter is in my personal capacity it reflects the opinion of a number of members of the East London staff. We wonder who it was that named part of the computerised student records system *Tokoloshe* and we wonder if anyone has objected? In my opinion it shows a disregard for the spiritual and cultural beliefs of a large sector of the University population.

If we want to be that insensitive to the beliefs of one group of people we could call another function of the computer system *Evil Eye* or *Satan* (Obviously the comparisons are not perfect). The point remains that there are a number of people I have spoken to that simply do not believe that an Eastern Cape University would intentionally use the concept of the *Tokoloshe* so lightly. Perhaps this is a time to do some renaming. •

Felicity Coughlan

Rockhounds go electronic

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into the hands of 'hard rock' exploration geologists. Although modelling of the physics of transport in rocks has yielded beneficial results for the oil and petrochemical industries, it has not been previously applied to the formation of 'hard rock' minerals such as gold, chrome, platinum, and others".

At the centre of this research is the determination of ground water circulation paths which may contain mineralization of economic importance. Flow of ground water can be induced by the emplacement of magma chambers which are large bodies of molten rock. As the magma cooled, it deposited various minerals, at different temperatures, along the way.

A further and gratifying aspect of this research is that it has enabled exchange programmes with overseas insti-

tutions. Two PhD students from the University of Exeter's Cambourne School of Mines are at Rhodes at the moment and other links will be put in place with other universities. •

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50 years of Ichthyology

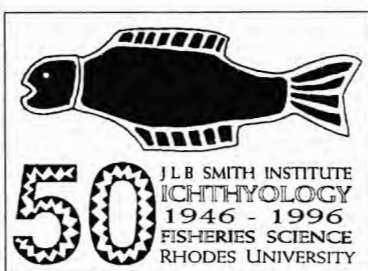
The JLB Smith Institute of Ichthyology and the Department of Ichthyology and Fisheries Science at Rhodes are jointly celebrating 50 years of the study of Ichthyology in Grahamstown during this year.

After spending 24 years in the field of Chemistry, Prof James Leonard Brierly Smith was granted a sum of money in 1946 by the CSIR to establish the science of Ichthyology in the city.

Prof Smith is internationally recognised for his work in ichthyology and, of course, for identifying and describing the coelacanth in 1939.

It was only at the end of 1968, the year that Prof Smith died, that Rhodes and the CSIR decided to transform the Department into an Institute

From one man's efforts, a "Declared Cultural Institution" and a University Department have developed. To celebrate these achievements, a programme of events will run throughout the year. These



The 50th anniversary logo, designed by Fine Arts student, Richard Kilpert.

range from a sand-sculpting competition, to be held in December through to an arts display, scientific meetings, and many other events. The goal is to raise enough money from these events to support an ongoing bursary for a student to study systematic ichthyology at Rhodes.

In support of these celebrations, a competition was held for the design of a logo that could be used on all material pertaining to the 50th anniversary. The winner, selected from over 30 entries, was Rhodes fine arts student, Richard Kilpert. •

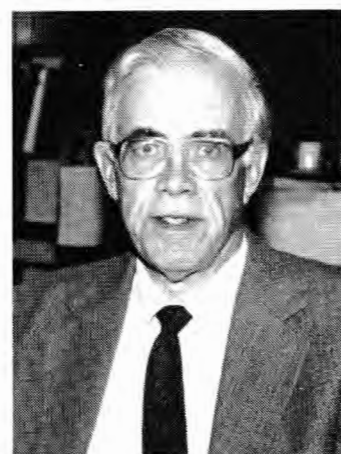
International award for Brown

The Mettler Award in Thermal Analysis, previously awarded to Americans, Australians, Chinese, and Indians, has now been won by a South African — Prof Mike Brown of Rhodes University.

Prof Brown has been involved in the field of thermal analysis, which is a broad term covering the study of the response of materials of all kinds to various heat treatments, since about 1972, when Rhodes University installed some of the first equipment that came on the market.

Thermal analysis is of practical use in many areas — from medicine to engineering — and Prof Brown has been particularly involved in the field of pyrotechnics, in association with AECI Explosives (now ICI Explosives).

"Many people associate pyrotechnics with fireworks only" said Prof Brown, adding that there are many more industrial uses for these vigorously reacting chemical mixtures. His work at Rhodes has added to the understanding of



Mike Brown, winner of the 1996 Mettler Award.

the factors which determine the speed at which pyrotechnic mixtures burn.

The Mettler award, instituted in 1968, is presented annually by the North American Thermal Analysis Society (NATAS) for distinguished service in the field of thermal analysis. It consists of a certificate, an honorarium, and an invitation to present a Plenary lecture at the International Congress on Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry — in Philadelphia in August this year. •

Various enquiries from Profnet

Profnet is an international enquiry service designed to serve journalists around the world.

Their queries are posted to Profnet, members of which then put the journalist concerned in touch with experts and specialists who may be able to assist with their research. Mary Burnett is the link person at Rhodes.

looking for experts who would be willing to write, for a fee, articles on third world public health issues. They are also seeking experts on third world development strategies, including economic joint ventures with western nations.

Those who feel that they have the expertise to help in this project should make contact with Mary Burnett on ext 8517, or e-mail: adbb@warthog.ru.ac.za

MODERN DAY EXPLORERS

A writer on the *Sunday Mail* in Brisbane is keen to hear from modern explorers, scientists and researchers who ven-

ture into difficult places for their research. Mountains, ice, underwater, deserts — almost anything.

They must be prepared to discuss their research with him by e-mail and pictures would also be appreciated.

This is an ongoing quest. Any staff members who feel that they have something to offer on this should contact Mary Burnett at adbb@warthog.ru.ac.za.

Contact in the field

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make sure that the phones can be used in the areas to be visited. Telephone cells tend to straddle the national road routes in this country and many areas which are off the main routes are not covered. If your field trip is taking you deep into the bush, this may not necessarily be for you.

She also advises that it is no safe assumption that our cell phones will work overseas. Once again, check in advance. •

THIRD WORLD HEALTH ISSUES

A new bi-monthly newspaper for people of African origin in Africa, Europe, Australia, South America, the Caribbean, and the US is

Record month for service awards



Mathematician meets Statistician, Dr Henderson with Prof van der Watt (at left).

Sirion Robertson (below) was joined by his wife, Sally-Ann (left), the Dean of the School of Pharmacy, Prof Beverley Wilson, and Len Paton, Lecturer in Pharmaceutical Sciences, when he received his award.



Jane Dalton with her award.



Almost one month before he retires, the Vice-Chancellor, Dr Derek Henderson has had the pleasure of officiating at a record number of long service award ceremonies.

No less than six staff members reached the 25-year milestone and were recognised in traditional manner during March.

They are Roger Jacob (HoD: Geology), Jane Dalton (General Manager: Catering and Housekeeping), Nic Heideman (Professor of Mathematics: Pure and Applied), Sirion Robertson (Senior Lecturer: Pharmaceutical Sciences), Phillip van der Watt (Dean of Commerce) and Koyo Memani (Head Handyman: Grounds and Gardens).

In all cases the recipients of the awards received a framed certificate and a cheque in appreciation from the University.

RHODOS was able to obtain photographs of some of the recipients; these are published on this page. •



Koyo Memani with congratulatory colleagues, clockwise from left, Patrick Khadi, Luc Maréchal, Ephraim Lamani, Brotherhood Yanta, Michael Mkolo and Alfred Xasbi.

The contents page speaks



The English Experts — five of the nine Rhodes contributors, from left: Prof Laurence Wright, Ms Sarah Murray, Prof Vivian de Klerk, Prof Barbara Bosch, and Mrs Penny Silva with the book entitled *Focus on South Africa*.

Grahamstown, and Rhodes in particular, has long been known as the centre of English in South Africa and this is reinforced by the latest book in the *Varieties of English Around the World* series published by John Benjamins, which features no less than nine contributors with past and present connections with Rhodes University.

The book, which includes chapters written by lecturers and academics from the Departments of English, Education, Afrikaans, Linguistics, and the Institute

for the Study of English in Africa at Rhodes, deals with the state of English in South Africa and explores the language from an historical perspective, as well as dipping into various pan-ethnic varieties of English such as black English, Afrikaans English, and Cape Flats English. It seeks to grapple with the problems related to standardising the language, and discusses the role of English in education and in society at large.

"English in South Africa is fraught with ideological push-

es and pulls" said the editor of the book, Prof Vivian de Klerk of the Linguistics Department, who added that the importance of English in South Africa is obvious. "The question now, is which English?", Prof de Klerk explained. The book does not seek to draw any definite conclusions about English at this stage, since the language, and its role in South Africa, is constantly changing and will have to be monitored and reviewed again in ten years time, she added. •

Course draws wide range of delegates

A new aquaculture training course being presented by the Department of Ichthyology and Fisheries Science (DIFS), planned to become an annual occurrence, has proved so popular that next year's intake is already fully subscribed.

The first course, which ran last week, attracted six more than the 25 students which it was designed for, but arrangements were made to accommodate the full complement of 31.

Students on last week's course, which covered fresh and salt water applications, included current and potential fish farmers, perlemoen and mussel producers, governmental agricultural advisers and advisers from Eskom's Agrilec division.

"This wide range of people, who come from all corners of the country, are being lectured by a dozen people during their week-long course", says Prof Tom Hecht, Head of DIFS. They obviously include several DIFS staff members and senior students, but contributions from other experts, such as Dr Peter Rose, Director of LIRI Technologies on biotechnological matters and others covering the

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Some of the participants on the Aquaculture course being shown the finer details of a rainbow trout by Dr Horst Kaiser.



Using internet as a teaching aid

Tim Bouwer of Computing Services recently played host to Mr Buti Matlhako of the University of the North West (UNW — formerly Unibo) when the latter visited our campus.

The visit followed an earlier visit by Bouwer to Buti's university for the purpose of commissioning the University of the North West's e-mail and internet facilities. These were in turn made possible by an FRD grant.

Mr Matlhako is a member of UNW's Computer Committee and he says that the university was in possession of the necessary hardware and software. He contacted the FRD for advice on its operation and how to set it up and was referred to Rhodes and Tim Bouwer.

Mr Matlhako studied for his BA (Communications) at UNW and, he says, "never really left. My first employment was at UNW, in the library, where I first came into contact with a PC. I was assigned to 'make sense' of it", he remembers.

He did well enough to become responsible for designing and implementing several training courses and passing on his knowledge. His prowess came to the attention of the Mmabatho Manpower Centre which employed him to run courses in word processing and spreadsheets. Later the Bophuthatswana National Development Corporation managed to attract him and he became a systems support officer there.

Thirteen months later, in 1994, UNW persuaded him to return and he has, since then, been closely involved with the development of computing on that campus.

Buti says that he is particularly interested in the use of e-mail and the internet as a teaching aid and it was this which prompted his reciprocal visit to Rhodes. He visited various departments and, in particular, the Academic Development Programme, where he found much which will be of value to him in his current position at UNW's Academic Development

Centre where he implements support to both academics and students in their work.

A long way, he admits, from his first tentative fingering of a computer keyboard when he was first told that his

assignments during his studying had to be typed up. That still holds true; he is working towards a Diploma in Information Technology through the Rand Afrikaans University. •



Mr Buti Matlhako (left) photographed with Tim Bouwer during the former's recent visit to Rhodes.

Second chance to see celestial visitor

All is not lost to South Africans who wish to view the most recently discovered comet in the universe.

This is the message from Simon Walsh, of Rhodes' Astronomy and Ham Radio Society (ASTROSOC) who, together with other members of the Society saw and photographed Comet Hyakutake from ASTROSOC's observatory on the campus recently.

Newly discovered the comet may be, but astronomers believe it could have been around for millions of years; it is merely an infre-

quent visitor to our solar system.

It was discovered barely two months ago by a Japanese amateur astronomer, Yuji Hyakutake.

"The best viewing could still be ahead of us", says Walsh. "The comet is at the moment only visible in the Northern Hemisphere, still heading towards its closest approach to the sun (called its perihelion) on the 1st of May. As the dusty snowball nears the sun, its outer layers of dusty ice steam off into space to form a huge (sometimes more than a million km wide) cloud

of water vapour and dust around the comet. The cloud spreads out away from the comet to form two tails- one of water vapour (gas) and one of dust. It will pass around the sun and we will be able to see it, in the Southern Hemisphere only, during May", adds Walsh.

Staff and students at Rhodes are invited to make arrangements to visit ASTROSOC's observatory for a spot of comet watching next month. Bear in mind that if you miss it this time, it takes the comet about 10 000 years to complete one orbit.

On March 25th the comet passed 15 300 000 km from the earth (only 40 times the earth-moon distance) and thus became one of the closest-passing comets to the earth in recorded history.

Readers who would like a far more detailed fact sheet with advice on how best to see Hyakutake in May should please contact ASTROSOC, whose home page on the World Wide Web (The URL is <http://www.rucus.ru.ac.za/astrsoc>). •

Findings presented in Lesotho

Researchers from Swaziland, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Mozambique and three delegates from the Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER), recently attended a seminar arranged by the Institute of Southern African Studies at the National University of Lesotho, where they presented their findings following three years of research on the topic of *Gender, households and environmental changes* (GHEC) in a variety of national contexts. These were the results of a joint project funded by the American McArthur Foundation, with a budget of almost R 2 000 000.

The projects were multidisciplinary as well as multinational and covered a wide variety of subjects, ranging from the role of women in the Phane caterpillar economy of Botswana to the potential of biogas as an alternative to wood fuel in Swaziland. Most delegates identified environmental degradation

and water scarcity as major problems under the arid conditions that prevail in most of southern and central Africa.

The ISER presented two projects: a comparison of rural and urban squatter settlements in the Eastern Cape, led by Dr Cecil Manona; and a study of two contrasted villages in the same region led by Dr Robin Palmer. Michelle Cocks represented the five researchers who assisted with the latter project.

While most researchers employed the standard research methods of their disciplines, some availed themselves of the new technique known as "community video", by which interviews and discussions with sections of a community are shown to other sections and their reactions recorded. Edited compilations of these sequences may be shown to other interested parties in order to generate concern and discussion. This research technique was demonstrated particularly well by a delegate from



Dr Cecil Manona and Dr Robin Palmer, the Rhodes representatives at the recent seminar in Lesotho.

Namibia.

Discussion for a second phase of the project ensued and it was agreed that "community video" should be more widely adopted and a training workshop set up. The consensus was that "GHEC 2" should run for three years and address the implementation of

the recommendations included in the many projects which made up "GHEC 1". In other words, there should be a shift from "pure" to "applied" research, with researchers actively addressing the most pressing grass-roots concerns of the communities already studied at level one. •

Challenge to nature conservation in SA

Current trends indicate that the challenge facing nature conservation is a social rather than a biological one. In countries such as South Africa, where there are large imbalances in wealth and resource distribution, there is a growing need for neighbouring communities to support the existence and survival of protected areas and this demands a recognition of the link between poverty and degradation.

A number of protected areas in South Africa are managed in consultation with their neighbouring communities, but experience concerning the best way to proceed

in this regard is limited, especially in the Eastern Cape. What is needed are useful models to inform future progress.

It is with this in mind that the Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) at Rhodes University is planning an Educational Study Tour, whereby local people will be able to learn from other successful projects.

Local people, ISER staff, and Parks Board members involved in the ISER projects dealing with the Great Fish River Reserve Complex and the Dwesa Reserve in the Eastern Cape Province, will be touring the Kwa-Zulu Natal area in May this year, where they will have the

opportunity to meet other Parks Board members and target issues relevant to their own areas.

By setting priorities for community development and the alleviation of poverty, the pressure on natural resources may be reduced. At the same time, communities neighbouring the reserves may benefit tangibly if they participate in eco-tourism developments, royalties and the sustainable harvesting of resources within the reserves.

Local communities, however, have little appreciation of the income generating and job benefits implied by eco-tourism, and whilst they recognise the need for com-

munity development they lack the resources, skills, information and optimism needed to initiate these development processes.

The Educational Study Tour, which is funded by the World Wildlife Fund through the South African based Green Trust, aims at addressing these and other issues relevant to the concerns of the participants. Topics such as conservancy initiatives, neighbour relations programmes, eco-tourism and different types of participation will be covered. •

Sports Scoreboard

SPORTS RESULTS • 14 March to 25 March

Thursday 14 March

Tennis

RU vs Grahamstown

Rhodes won 78-54

Saturday 16 March

Rugby

RU 1st XV vs Dimbasa

Rhodes won 59-0

Athletics

Biathlon - EP Championships
(2 000m Run, 100m Swim)

3rd Mark Haw was selected
to represent EP at SA Champs in
Kroonstad on 6 April

Hockey

Intercity League

RUM1 vs Pirates

Rhodes won 2-1

Sunday 17 March

Hockey

Intercity League

RUM1 vs Tech

Rhodes lost 0-2

Tuesday 19 March

Tennis

RU vs Blaaukranz

Rhodes won 94-38

Thursday 21 March

Cricket

Bohemians 6-a-side

Rhodes came 1st

Tennis

RUM1 vs Uitenhage

Rhodes won 14-0

Friday 22 March

Athletics

East Cape Students Track &
Field Champs - East London
Tim Iraka - 1st Triple Jump
(14,70m)

Wamkele Mene - 1st - 3000m

Cricket

RU1 vs Goodhope

Rhodes won by 5 wickets

Goodhope 218 all out

Filmer 5 wickets

Rhodes 219 for 5

Carlisle 78, Filmer 40

Rugby

RU1 vs Hams-Tech

Rhodes won 18-16

Hockey

Intercity League

RUM1 vs Buffs

Rhodes won 2-1 (Goals by de
Dios and Garrard)

Volleyball

Pre-season Knock-out
Tournament

Semi finals

RUM1 vs 3D UPE

Rhodes won 21-11

Final

RUM1 vs Spartans A

Rhodes won 15-11, 15, 9

Rhodes Men - 1st

Tennis

RUM1 vs Westview

Rhodes won 14-2

RU1 vs Early Birds

Match drawn 0-0

Rowing

Natal Champs

Rhodes Women's B Scull,
Women's A pair, Women's A
coxless 4, Woman's A, Senior
C Scull, Senior B Scull, Senior
A coxless 4, Senior B coxed 4,
Senior C coxed 4, Senior C
and Senior B crews all won
their events.

Sunday 24 March

Cricket

RU1 vs Old Selbornians

Rhodes lost by 3 wickets

Rhodes 158 all out

Old Selbornians 159/7

Hockey

Intercity League

RUM1 vs Bohemians

Rhodes won 4-1 (Goals by de
Dios 2, Potts 1, Corfield 1)

Rhodes finished 2nd out of 8
in the Intercity League

Soccer

RU2 vs Themba Royals

Rhodes won 8-1 (Goals by
Manjoo 2, Culbert 2, Chitsike
2, Dhookie 1, Mosoma 1)

Tennis

Night League

Rhodes - 1st overall

Tuesday 25 March

Rugby

RU 1st XV vs Old Selbornians

Rhodes lost 10-15

U/21A vs E.L. Sub Union

Rhodes won 65-0. •

RHODOS

DEADLINE DATES

Copy Date: 11 April

Publication date:

19 April

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Articles should be forward-
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Articles are preferred on
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Text may also be e-mailed to
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Photographs and line art
are also welcome, either as
stand-alone items or illustra-
tive of articles. Please note,
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and white photographs as the
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RHODOS STAFF

Editor:

Chris Walwyn

Tel: (0461) 31 8457

Reporters:

Julie Gibson,

Myra Phenya

Tel: (0461) 31 8509

Design and Production:

Nimita Masilela

Tel: (0461) 31 8510

e-mail:

rhodos@ru.ac.za

Fax: (0461) 31 1902

RHODOS is produced

fortnightly by the

Marketing and

Communications

Division of Rhodes

University,

Grahamstown.

The views expressed

are not necessarily

those of the Editor,

RHODOS staff, or the

University. The Editor

welcomes all contribu-

tions but reserves the

right to edit these.

Course attracts many

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vagaries of pumps and their
uses, water quality manage-
ment and the treatment of
waste water, are also features
of the course.

Hecht says that the course
is particularly intensive —
"they leave here tired!", he
says, — with its 16 lectures
and nine practicals. It is run
by DIFS in association with
the Aquaculture Association
of Southern Africa; the DIFS
participation results in part
due to support from the
Liberty Life Educational
Trust.

One of the reasons why
the course is popular is
because it enjoys high credi-
bility. Successful participants
leave with Rhodes University
certification, signed by Hecht
and the University's Registrar. •