



RHODOS

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Painting of Bishop unveiled on campus.

A young Fine Arts student on the campus, Ms Michelle Turnbull, has seen her work unveiled, on 30 August, by the Vice-Chancellor in the Mother Cecile Memorial Dining Hall.

Ms Turnbull was commissioned by the Hall Warden, Mrs Coral Waite, to produce a portrait of Bishop Allan Webb, to complement an earlier work, by the late Ken Robinson, of Mother Cecile herself.

Allan Webb was Bishop of Grahamstown in the mid 1880s and Rhodes Allan Webb Hall of residence was named after him after Rhodes took over the present St Peter's campus from the Community of the Resurrection of Our Lord in 1975. Bishop Webb came to Grahamstown after serving as Bishop of Bloemfontein and, realising that there was much work needed to benefit the young children of South Africa, he visited Britain seeking recruits to work towards this end and to found a new Order within the Anglican

Communion. He recruited six young women who came to form the nucleus of the Community of the Resurrection. One of these was to become Mother Cecile and it was she who subsequently founded the Order.

The Sisters taught children for ten years and then established the Grahamstown Training College, training teachers who later worked all over Southern Africa.

Mrs Waite says that Ken Robinson had been about to start work on a portrait of the Bishop shortly before he died. She took it upon herself to raise the funds for the new portrait, which has been donated to the Hall.

The archives of the Community of the Resurrection were searched for reference from which the artist could work.

The picture on the left was taken at the unveiling of the portrait by Dr Derek Henderson, the Vice-Chancellor. With him in the photograph are Mrs Coral Waite, the Warden of Allan Webb Hall and the artist, Ms Michelle Turnbull (left). About 25 people attended the ceremony, including several Sisters of the Community of the Resurrection of Our Lord.

Picture: Andrew van der Vlies

Weakley Bursary and Memorial Trophy awarded

The Allistair Weakley Bursary has been won for the first time by popular Rhodes scrum half and 1st XV captain, *Andrew Milne* (pictured at right).

The former Scottish Schools representative was awarded the Bursary after the 91st Annual General Meeting of the Rhodes University Rugby Football Club, held at the end of August.

The Bursary was established in 1993 in memory of popular Grahamstown attorney and staunch supporter of the RURFC, as both player and administrator, Mr Allistair Weakley.

He and his brother Glenn were murdered while on a fishing trip in the former Transkei on 13 April 1993.

In making the award, Prof Ian Macdonald, a Vice President of the RURFC, said that it was appropriate that Mr Milne had won it because he displayed many

of the outstanding qualities of Mr Weakley himself and was a team captain with exceptional motivational ability.

Three other awards

Mr Milne was also awarded no less than three of the RURFC's awards for the current season at the dinner which followed the AGM. These were the Ally Weakley Memorial Trophy, for the hardest trier; the President's Cup, for an outstanding contribution by a 1st XV player at the annual Intervarsity and the Tim Muirhead trophy for the most significant contribution to the RURFC on and off the field.

Mr Milne is studying Human Movement Studies while at Rhodes and is currently in his second year.





Letters to The Editor

Holy stillness – sense of ease

The Editor,

Incubation from the Greek means temple-sleep. In the days before Hippocrates and surgery, the ailing and the wounded would spend time at a temple and believed that, during their stay, they would be visited by the god Asclepius (with his rod and serpents) in their sleep. He would touch them and, when they woke up, they would be healed. During their stay, the patients would lead a clean lifestyle, free from symposia (with their often debilitating side effects) and indulgent excesses (cf. the Union, Vic, digs parties et al), replete with saunas, exercise programmes and a healthy diet while being attended to by the priests and priestesses of the temple. Psychosomatic illnesses were rare and short-lived.

I recently had cause to convalesce in the University's Sanatorium for a two week period, and during that time, apart from the saunas, I incubated in the true sense of the word. The small building on the edge of the Botanical Gardens is run like a temple, with all the care and attention of the priestesses of yore. In this case the attendant guardians are Sisters Buchner, Verela and Searle. Every day of the year they attend to ailments from concussion to cases of the clap. Above and beyond the call of duty they will listen to your every woe from unfair timetables to boyfriend troubles. During my stay Sister Verela was called in at 01h00 to remove a splinter.

For the patients in the sixteen available beds a healthy routine is kept with meals, vitamins, temperature checks and cleaning. All this could not be done without the unfailing and personal help of Miriam Sizani and Mavis Maboza. Doctors are called in when needed, parents are kept informed and magazines are supplied as an alternative to those deadly textbooks. I made friends with many a two-day 'flu sufferer and was protected from chicken-pox and female patients.

There is an holy stillness which imbues the sanatorium with a sense of ease, and for much of the time, perhaps gazing out over Bots, the outside world seems to have stopped, waiting for one to recover. So to the tireless saints at San, a heartfelt thank you.

Richard Kilpert

Rhodos invites correspondence on matters of concern to the University community which will indicate the wide spectrum of views held and will promote further discussion.

A pseudonym is acceptable, but the writer must supply his or her full name and residential address to the editor, who will respect confidentiality.

Is everybody happy out there?

The Editor,

There seems to be a certain degree of dissatisfaction amongst some academic members of staff regarding the University's approach to dealing with applications for promotion. A number of staff members have expressed a lack of confidence in the system and regard their future promotion prospects as being quite bleak. With the prevailing economic climate it is inevitable that the University is reluctant to offer promotions easily (it costs !), while individuals are motivated to seek promotion to offset the decreasing (in real terms) value of their salaries. There are clearly other individual and corporate issues apart from the financial ones, but the overall effect of a lack of confidence in the promotion system is to produce staff who are unmotivated and therefore less productive and more liable to seek alternative employment.

Part of the problem appears to be a lack of real understanding about the criteria used to decide on promotion apart from the fact that it is partly based on the number of published papers, teaching experience, postgraduate student supervision and contributions to administration. The other part of the problem appears to be the perception that some criteria are neglected, or that the weight given to others are out of proportion with the priorities of a modern South African university. Perhaps it is time that the University did two things – firstly to update its promotion criteria to be more relevant to the current situation – secondly to be somewhat more transparent about the whole promotion process.

I would like to highlight the following points related to promotion criteria:

- * Many, if not most, South African (and foreign) funding agencies are orientating their priorities toward practical research which has some benefit to the community (defined in the broadest possible terms and including industrial, economic and social development). Funds from private companies (for research or training) are also frequently directed towards practical work. While neither of these preclude the possibility of generating journal publications, they are not likely to be high on the list of the donor's priorities. The requirements of the donor are more likely to be met through consultancy type reports or well run training courses. The success of the individual or group can then be best measured by the frequency or level at which such funding is attracted and the development of a reputation for 'delivering the goods'. The question then remains – to what extent are such factors considered during promotion evaluations compared to a simple count of journal publications?

- * SA universities are being encouraged to become more relevant to the broad community and to direct some of their efforts to community outreach type programmes rather than academic type research. It seems reasonable to suggest that such work should be recognised as criteria for promotion. If it is not then staff will be reluctant to spend time and energy on these programmes when they could be doing other things that fall more in line with the University's promotion criteria. This could then lead to the University acquiring a reputation for ignoring the needs of the community.
- * Perhaps the time is ripe for Rhodes to worry a little less about the number of 'A' and 'B' rated scientists that are on the staff (no disrespect intended to those members of staff who have attained such reputations) and additionally concern themselves with the extent to which staff are addressing local (regional and national) issues in their research programmes.
- * There appears to be a perception that promotion criteria are not applied uniformly across different departments or faculties. I am not sure myself that such uniformity is appropriate or possible. However, perhaps it is wrong to apply any form of fixed criteria or uniformity even within a department or faculty. Perhaps each case should be considered on its merits given a broad set of guidelines which are understood by everyone involved. Is a PhD a requirement for promotion to Senior Lecturer (or Senior Research Officer) and above throughout the University? If not, what other factors or criteria are taken into consideration and how? These are the type of questions that are being asked – and as far as I can understand – not being satisfactorily answered.

I would not like to give the impression that I think that everyone who applies for promotion should get it (a university staffed completely by full professors is not that practical), nor that it is a very easy task to decide who gets it and who doesn't. I have no personal axe to grind and I fully appreciate the difficulties faced by the University Staffing Committee. However, there is rarely smoke without fire (at least sooner or later) and I have heard dissatisfaction expressed in a number of quarters which means that something (or someone) is smouldering away nicely. I would be interested to hear what other members of staff think about these issues and I hope that this letter may generate some constructive discussion that ultimately might lead to a better system or, at the very least, a better understanding of the present system.

Denis Hughes

East London Director appointed

"... an exciting period in the development of Rhodes East London"

Prof Terry Marsh (48) has been appointed Director of the East London Division in succession to Dr Stephen Fourie, the new Registrar.

Prof Marsh (pictured at right) is Professor and Dean of Education at the University.

"This is an exciting period in the development of Rhodes East London", Prof Marsh said. "With a student complement of over 700 and the potential for the expansion of courses offered in the faculties of Commerce, Arts, Social Science and Education, Rhodes is in a position to offer quality tertiary education to a wide range of students in East London and its surrounding areas."

Prof Marsh has BSc, Honours, BEd and Masters degrees from the University of Cape Town and a PhD in Mathematics Education from Rhodes. He also holds a Secondary Teacher's Diploma.

After teaching at the SA College School and

Camps Bay High School in Cape Town, Prof Marsh took up an appointment as Senior Lecturer in Mathematics and Computer Science at the University of Fort Hare in 1980.

He was appointed Senior Lecturer in Computer Science at Rhodes in 1983 and Associate Professor of Education in the Department of Education in 1986. He was promoted to full Professor in 1994.

His wide experience in the teaching of mathematics and computer-based education at all levels has seen Prof Marsh become involved in several professional bodies dealing with mathematics education, a field in which he has published widely.

While in Cape Town, he was a member of the South African Universities Rowing Federation touring team to England in 1975 during a period of leave from teaching.

Prof Marsh, his wife, Cecile, and their three children plan to move to East London towards the end of the year.



Rhodes pair to exhibit in Johannesburg

Prof Jos Nell, Head of Sculpture in the Department of Fine Art, and one of his students, Miss Belinda Walwyn (BFA III), have been invited to submit works for exhibition at the prestigious Everard Read Gallery in Johannesburg.

The theme of the exhibition is Natural History and it will be officially opened by the Duke of Edinburgh late in October. It will run until the end of November.

Prof Nell will be submitting three works and Miss Walwyn one.

Prince Phillip to open international exhibition

Their work will be displayed alongside that of many international artists who have also accepted invitations to exhibit. They include David Shepherd and Grant Kennedy from the United Kingdom; Michael Coleman and Kent Ullberg, from the United States; Robert Bateman, from Canada; Raymond Harris

Ching, from New Zealand and Robert Glen, from Kenya. Many South African artists, including Keith Joubert, Paul Augustinus, Dylan Lewis, Gail Darroll, Vic and Pam Guhrs, Johan Hoekstra, Francois Koch, Ken Newman, Willem Strydom, Lucky Sibiya, Velaphi Mzimba and Leigh Voigt will also be exhibiting.

A percentage of the income from the exhibition, which is being jointly presented by the World Wide Fund for Nature (formerly the World Wildlife Fund), will be directed towards the Table Mountain Fund and used for the rehabilitation of the area between Table Mountain and Cape Point – the Cape Point Protected Natural Environment (CPPNE). This area has the highest concentration of threatened species on any continental area of equivalent size anywhere in the world. It contains more plant species (2 256) than the British Isles (1 492) and is experiencing environmental degradation which needs to be arrested.

Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, is President of the World Wide Fund for Nature.



Prof Jos Nell with one of three pieces (a boar's head sculpted from whale bone) which will be shown in Johannesburg and Belinda Walwyn and her bronze octopus which will be on the same exhibition.

The ADP on the move

Tutoring, mentoring and textbook research have taken staff members of the Academic Development Programme (ADP) abroad to London and Braunschweig, Germany.

Mrs Thami Tisani, Acting Director of the ADP, received a scholarship to research history textbooks at the Georg Eckert Institute for International Textbook Research in Braunschweig. While there, she attended a workshop of history textbook writers who specialise in the history of the Balkan region.

The problems facing these history textbook authors were surprisingly familiar, Mrs Tisani said, "but it was the open debate in which these academics were engaged that was a learning experience. In South Africa the tradition of university teachers' involvement in textbook writing, which was lost during the apartheid years, needs to be recovered."

The George Eckert Institute was founded in 1950 to promote history textbook writing and revision through dialogue between writers from different countries. It has grown into an international centre where history textbook writers converge for research and conferences.

Presented paper

In April, Ms JoAnne Vorster of the ADP and Ms Ndileka Maziko from the iKhonco Schools Programme (an outreach project of the ADP) attended an international conference on Students as Tutors and Mentors in London. Ms Vorster presented a paper and workshop on the ADP's iKhonco Schools Project. iKhonco helps high school pupils from black schools to develop the academic skills necessary for tertiary education. The project was described as "exemplary" in the final keynote address by

Sir Christopher Ball.

The conference was organised by BP International who have been involved in developing student tutoring and mentoring projects around the world. It was attended by more than 200 delegates from more than thirty countries who presented papers and workshops on tutoring and mentoring projects within universities and colleges as well as outreach projects into schools and communities.

Education within range of more pupils

By helping pupils do better at school and raising their aspirations, college or university education is brought within the range of more pupils from different levels of society, Ms Vorster said. "These projects are especially interested in generating first generation students. For us, in South Africa, this kind of project is of paramount importance."

An interesting development is that tutoring and mentoring has become part of the curricula of students in many tertiary institutions abroad. Students who wish to enter diverse fields such as teaching, the health professions, architecture and commerce, can now do a tutoring and mentoring component as part of their curriculum. Being a tutor or mentor fosters the development of valuable skills such as good communication, facilitation, planning, time management, team work, etc (what are known in the business world as "soft skills").

Liz heads for the UK

Liz Davies, ADP Specialist Lecturer in Law leaves for the United Kingdom in October to take up a Research Fellowship at Sheffield Hallam University, and to attend that institution's Postgraduate Programme in Further and Higher Education.

The aim of the programme is to enable course members to develop and extend their professional competence and critical awareness as teachers in Higher Education with special emphasis on staff development, which has been identified as one of the key areas for the improvement of teaching and learning in institutions worldwide.

Liz will also study and evaluate staff and student development programmes at other universities in the United Kingdom – London University, Edinburgh, Nottingham, Oxford and Glasgow. It is hoped that this research will assist in the planning of formal, accredited staff development courses at Rhodes.

Liz's research project has received generous funding from Rhodes University, Gencor Development Trust and Anglo-American Chairman's Fund.

New face at Sports Administration

With a strong belief in the tenet that "a healthy body accommodates a healthy mind", Mr Vince Basson, new Rhodes Sports Officer, has taken up his duties with responsibility for overseeing twelve sports which include athletics, akido, aquatics, canoeing, karate, rifle, rugby, sailing, soccer and weights. "We also try to advise students on how to administer and how to use available funds effectively", he explained.

Mr Basson studied physiotherapy for a year at the University of Durban Westville. He then attended Bechet College where he completed two years of a course in physical education and completed the course at the Rand College of Education in Johannesburg. He taught physical education at the Fred Norman Secondary School in Johannesburg until 1989 and then went to

Uitenhage where he taught at the CW Hendriks Primary School until June this year.



"I try to attend as many meetings of 'my clubs' as possible. This helps to keep us up to date on where the club stands and any fund raising functions attempted", added Mr Basson. He coaches Rhodes first team soccer but, "I don't restrict myself to any particular sport. I need to become more familiar with the university's policies, but for the moment I would like to see more practice reports and more structured club meetings", he said.

Mr Basson concluded, "I plan to study further and with any luck hope to complete a BA Human Movement Studies."

Yashica Haribhai

Did volcanoes cause extinctions?

Volcanic eruptions 65 million years ago could be as plausible an explanation for the extinction of dinosaurs as the collision of large exploding meteor with Earth, says Professor Julian Marsh of the Department of Geology. Prof Marsh returned recently from a field workshop and conference on large igneous provinces held in Boulder, Colorado.

The conference was organised by the International Association of Volcanology and Chemistry of the Earth's Interior.

"The field workshop was held in the Columbia river basin, Washington and the Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming", Prof Marsh said.

"The workshop sessions on the 15 - 16 million year old Columbia River Basalts was of particular relevance to my own research on the emplacement of the Karoo Flood Basalts, which are 180 million years old."

"Previously it was thought that lava flows building flood basalts, such as those of the

"Prof Steve Self and co-workers from the University of Hawaii have determined that the sulphur pollution produced each month at Laki was greater than the total sulphur pollution of the recent explosive activity of Pinatubo volcano in the Philippines, which was the biggest volcanic eruption in the world this century."

"The Laki eruption resulted in a famine in Iceland; most of the island's livestock died, as did 25 percent of the human population. In succeeding years northern hemisphere winters were exceptionally cold because of the cooling effects of the sulphur pollution -



Columbia river and the Karoo, required very high rates of lava eruption over short periods. It is now thought that eruption rates are modest but sustained over years or even decades", he said.

Prof Marsh said that the implications of this style of eruption for the environment are profound.

"First, on eruption of lava, enormous quantities of gas, including sulphur dioxide, are injected into the atmosphere. Just one flow in the Columbia river sequence is calculated to have injected one billion tons of sulphur per year into the atmosphere."

"Second, the long duration of the eruptions does not allow the atmosphere to recover from these effects, and current models for calculating the consequences of this atmospheric pollution are inadequate."

"A clue to the likely consequences, albeit much scaled down, can be gleaned from the eruption of the Laki fissure in Iceland in 1783. The eruption lasted for four months and produced a lava flow similar to those that built the Karoo or Columbia basalt sequences", Prof Marsh continued,

even the Mississippi River froze over at New Orleans!"

"The suggestion is that large flood basalt eruption, 50 000 to 20 000 times the volume of the Laki eruption, can catastrophically affect life on Earth. This is borne out by the tight correlation between the timing of flood basalt events and mass extinctions over the last 250 million years", he explained.

"In recent years an extraordinary amount of attention has been focused on the extinction of the dinosaurs (and other fauna) about 65 million years ago at the end of the Cretaceous period, and there is compelling evidence that a large bolide (bursting meteor) collided with Earth at the same time. "This has led to the notion that somehow mass extinctions are related to bolide impacts."

"Fortuitously, a large flood basalt event, the Deccan eruptions in India, occurred at the same time as the end-Cretaceous extinction. Evidence of impacts related to other extinctions in the faunal record is obscure, and very large volcanic eruptions, as a general mechanism, may be a more probable explanation of these extinctions", Prof Marsh said.

Obituary: Mr Wilbert Askew

Mr Wilbert James Askew (80) a respected former Registrar of Rhodes University, died in East London on Sunday September 3, after some years of ill health.

Mr Askew was a member of the staff of the University for twenty years, from 1960 to 1980. During that time he was Assistant Registrar (Academic) and Registrar from 1967 until his retirement.

After his retirement he was appointed part-time administrative officer at the Institute for the Study of English in Africa (ISEA) at Rhodes, a position he held until the end of 1983.

He completed his schooling at Glenwood High School in Durban before reading for the BCom degree and a University Education Diploma at Natal University College.

In 1938 Mr Askew joined the City Treasurer's department of the Durban Municipality, where he later rose to the position of Accountant. His time with the Durban Municipality was interrupted by five years of war service during which he served with the Second SA Division and the Sixth SA Armoured Division.

Mr Askew was appointed Town Treasurer of Nigel Municipality in 1948, a position he held until the end of 1959, when he joined the staff of Rhodes University.

His former colleagues at Rhodes describe him as a warm, caring and unassuming man who was meticulous and conscientious in all he did for the University. He is also remembered as being responsible for the floodlighting of the clock tower.

His former colleagues remember the quiet and efficient manner in which Wilbert Askew went about all he did which concealed the vast amount of work which he handled. He was initially responsible for all personnel matters at Rhodes and, when a separate personnel division was established, it was discovered, his colleagues say, that at least three people were needed to handle the work which he had been doing.

A Rotarian for many years, he also served on the committee of the War Memorial Homes Association in Grahamstown. Mr Askew and his wife were members of the Trinity Presbyterian Church in Grahamstown.

He leaves his wife, Jean; three children, Timothy, Mark and Beth and their families.

SA Neuroscience to benefit from conference trip

Southern African students of neuroscience as well as medical registrars in various disciplines of neuroscience, will now have the opportunity to be exposed to experts in the field.

This is the result of continuing negotiations on behalf of the Southern African Neuroscience Society by Prof Santy Daya of the Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology at Rhodes and the United States National Committee of the International Brain Research Organisation (IBRO).

Prof Daya is a council member of the Southern African Neuroscience Society and Editor-in-Chief of the African Journal of Neuroscience.

SA representative

He was the South African representative, at the meeting of the Governing Council of IBRO at the Fourth IBRO World Congress of Neuroscience held in Kyoto, Japan in July this year.

"I met the Secretary General of IBRO, Dr David Ottoson and Dr Erminio Costa, Chairman of the US National Committee for IBRO, who together indicated they would sponsor a total of US \$ 55 000 towards a lecture course in neuroscience in South Africa", said Prof Daya.

The course will be held in Johannesburg in April next year and will be convened by Prof Daya under the auspices of the Southern African Neuroscience Society.

"This will be of immense benefit to those neuroscientists who do not get the opportunity to attend conferences abroad", Prof Daya said. When asked about the benefits of such a course, Prof Daya replied: "In the United States alone the state spends US \$ 410 billion annually on treating neurological disorders. It is evident that advances in neuroscience are needed worldwide."

Prof Daya presented a paper on work done by his research team on the protective effects of melatonin, the pineal hormone, on stress-induced damage of the hippocampal neurons in the brain as well as the potential of using melatonin in neurodegenerative disorders such as Alzheimer's Disease.

"I was also invited to give a talk on Neuroscience in South Africa at the session on *Neuroscience in Developing Countries*, where I discussed neuroscience projects at various universities in South Africa. I also stressed the importance of having more international delegates at our national meetings to share their expertise and encourage collaborative research with South African Universities", Prof Daya said.

New Liaison Officer for Johannesburg



Helene White (above), a former Rhodes student (BA Phys Ed 1982) has returned to the fold with her appointment to the staff as Liaison Officer based at our Johannesburg office.

She will be responsible for strengthening the gauteng arm of Rhodes schools liaison, media relations, alumni affairs and communications programmes.

Helene was born in Zimbabwe – in Bulawayo – and went to school in Gatooma where she completed her A-levels. She then studied at Rhodes.

After adding a UED to her qualification, Helene taught Geography and Biology at the Studywell College in Johannesburg. In August 1994 she joined the staff at the University of the Witwatersrand as Sports Officer with specific responsibility for squash, tennis, netball, canoeing, golf, cycling, handball and aerobics. She was also responsible for colours awards, functions, and sports bursaries.

An active sportswoman herself, she swam for Transvaal from 1983 to 1986 and is a national judge of synchronised swimming. She has just returned from Bonn where she managed the SA Junior swimming team on its overseas tour.

Helene's personal interests are also mainly sporting by nature; she plays golf, paddles canoes and is a member of the Wits Road Running Club.

She is also a member of the Rhodes Alumni Golf Committee and she organises the annual Kaif Krawl, which is the Johannesburg OR reunion. She is an avid reader of psychological

Alty Award presented



Mr Colm Allan (centre), Junior Lecturer in the Department of Sociology and Industrial Sociology, was recently presented with an Alty Award in recognition of his being awarded the degree of MPhil by the University of Ulster.

With him and the Vice-Chancellor, Dr Derek Henderson (left), who made the award, is Prof Jan Coetzee, Head of the Department of Sociology and Industrial Sociology.

Pharmacy student wins prestige award

An award-winning Rhodes graduate student is working on an evaluation of the USA's Federal Drug Administration (FDA) guidelines for the testing of topical corticosteroid formulations.

Mr Patrick Demana, a Masters student in the School of Pharmaceutical Sciences at Rhodes, has won the prestigious Upjohn Young Scientists award at the 16th annual meeting of the Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences, held in Bloemfontein.

He was joint winner of the award following his podium presentation entitled *A comparison of novice and experienced observer assessment of corticosteroid-induced skin blanching* which concerned methodological aspects of the Human Skin Blanching Assay. Skin blanching is a side-effect of applying corticosteroid drugs to the skin which results in a whitening of the skin at the application site. The intensity of this whitening is related to the potency of the drug and is used as a measure of the efficacy of the cream, or to see if two creams have the same potency and, therefore, clinical usefulness.

One of the critical aspects of this assay is the training of new research personnel to be observers of the corticosteroid effects once the creams, ointments or lotions are applied to volunteers. Through his research, supervised by Dr Eric Smith, Mr Demana has conclusively demonstrated that the level of exposure to the methodology is directly related to the accuracy and precision of the results obtained by novice observers compared to experienced personnel.

"The ability to compare and score two neighbouring skin-blanced sites requires some training because the observer must be able to rank the intensity of the skin blanching on a scale for comparison", said Dr Smith.

This finding precludes novice observers from being included in the visual assay when used for topical equivalence assessments of similar formulations and generic products.

These findings are timely in that the American Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has just released a new set of guidelines for the testing of topical corticosteroid formulations.

Mr Demana's findings were reviewed by the FDA, along with extensive comment on this methodology by Dr Smith and Professors John Haigh and Issy Kanfer, prior to the release of the official guidelines mid-year.

"These guidelines do not specify that visual observers must have a certain degree of proficiency. This is an aspect of the guidelines that we are challenging", Dr Smith said.

Mr Demana is now doing a thorough evaluation of the new FDA guidelines as part of his Masters thesis. The School of Pharmaceutical Sciences at Rhodes University remains one of the few centres in the world where the assessment of topical corticosteroid formulations is routinely carried out.

ISER compares two squatter settlements

Dr Cecil Manona, of the Institute for Social and Economic Research (ISER), has conducted a study which shows that squatting is not only a problem in large cities, but also in small towns.

"The housing crisis in smaller towns in the Eastern Province is very serious and it is incorrect to view squatting as an issue for the larger cities only", said Dr Manona, who is a Senior Research Officer at the ISER.

A research project entitled *Gender, Households and the Environment in Informal Settlements* formed part of a subcontinent-wide research programme. The project was directed by the National University of Lesotho and funded by the MacArthur Foundation. It examined the ways in which men and women in two communities organised their lives in their households and in wider society and it assessed the impact of their activities on the physical environment", Dr Manona explained.

The study compared two settlements. The larger informal settlement, Duncan Village, is situated close to East London. The smaller one was in Peddie Extension near the small town of Peddie. Certain similarities and differences were revealed. "In both cases, the people resorted to 'squatting' in a search for accommodation. However, they vary a great deal in their nature. Duncan Village is overcrowded. In Peddie Extension, people have more space", Dr Manona said.

"Duncan Village is one of the most densely settled informal settlements in the region and is within walking distance of East London's central business district. The closeness of this location to the city centre has made it a prime target for work seekers. The attraction of living in the city has led to extreme congestion," he continued.

"In Peddie Extension, pollution and health hazards are minor compared with those affecting Duncan Village because the residential density is much lower." Both settlements encounter serious problems with regard to water, however.

The study also shows the extent to which the status of women has changed. "In these informal settlements, women are better educated than men and their enhanced status has made them less dependent on male support", he explained. In Duncan Village households have a smaller number of members and these tend to include younger people than those in Peddie Extension.

"Although the existence of these communities is now recognized by the administration in the Province, the actual improvement of living conditions in informal settlements will depend on the creation of local administrative structures which will be representative of the people", Dr Manona concluded.

Yashica Haribhai

Computers take on graveyards

What do graveyards and computers have in common?

Mr Monty Paul, a lecturer in the Department of Education, has devised a 'graveyard project' which enables children to use computers as effective research tools.

Mr Paul recently presented a paper on this research project at the World Conference on Computers in Education (WCCE). The international conference, with over a thousand delegates from 62 countries, was held in Birmingham, England.

"School children capture headstone data from local graveyards. The information is

entered into an electronic database which enables quick and efficient sorting, selection and query of information. Pupils are able to determine family trees, patterns in the ages of death and infant mortality rates, amongst other things. The power of the database enables children to get involved in research that they would have found difficult before", Mr Paul explained.

The WCCE is held every five years. "Besides being able to attend keynote addresses, paper and poster presentations, delegates also had the opportunity to be involved in a variety of discussion and

professional groups to work on solutions to common problems", he said.

"I was able to work with teacher trainers from Scotland, England, the United States, Australia and France to look at ways of making both pre-service and in-service teachers more effective computer users."

The trainers collaborated on a paper which was presented on the final day.

"I have had a number of queries for future contact from as far away as Mexico, New Zealand and Australia", Mr Paul concluded.

Yashica Haribhai

Recognised for her courage

More than a decade of investigative journalism dedicated to attacking apartheid was recognised when *Daily Dispatch* journalist Louise Flanagan was awarded the South African Courageous Journalism Award.

Ms Flanagan, a Rhodes graduate, received the R 7 000 award, sponsored by the Ruth First Memorial Trust, from British journalist and author Professor Ronald Segal (picture at right).

Her expose into state death squads and other military and police-inspired violence during the final throes of apartheid was cited by the judges, Prof Guy Berger, Head of the Rhodes Journalism and Media Studies Department and former editor of the Cape Town-based newspaper *South*, Shamin Meer, a gender and development consultant and former *Speak* magazine journalist and Jeanette Minnie, the executive director of the Freedom of Expression Institute (FXI).

In her acceptance speech, Ms Flanagan, who is an East Cape News Agencies founder member, praised the award organisers for encouraging investigative journalism which she said was "not financially rewarding at all for the journalist or the newspaper which is brave enough to publish their articles".

"Now, 50 years after Ruth First was writing, there is still as much a need for investigative and independent journalism as there ever was", she said.

Many people had suggested to her that there was not a lot left to write about following the first democratic election in 1994. "I think that is completely wrong", she added.

"I think the battle over the Truth Commission is going to be one of the biggest fights this country has seen for a long time. I think it is still one of the biggest stories journalists have to cover in this country."

While she had at times felt threatened, she is lucky when comparing herself to the severe harassment experienced by many other South African journalists, she feels.

Because she was once followed for several months and then kept under surveillance by



military intelligence and members of the sinister CCB unit, she had felt obliged to send her 10-year-old son away from home for several weeks before the elections.

Flanagan said she and other journalists in the Eastern Cape had worked for "several years" to expose SADF-funded secret operations in Ciskei. "It made us highly unpopular. Several of us were told we were on hit lists. I was threatened by one of the members of the (secret SADF) unit that he was going to sue me because I had lost him his job. I got such a fright that I spent the next two years trying to find documentary evidence to prove that the SADF had run his unit - as we had said."

"I had to spend months and several thousand kilometres trekking from East London to Pretoria and Cape Town, following people around - at one point even searching through somebody's rubbish bag to find their next address.

Despite the tough barriers facing South Africa's investigative journalists, she believes that it is "really exciting because we have more access now to information that we had before. There are more people who are prepared to come forward, and we have more editors who are prepared to give us space and help us run

these kind of stories."

She also praised her sources and introduced her "partner" Gerrie Hugo whom she met "five years ago when he was fired from the military for giving journalists like me information. I got the byline; He lost his job," she remembers.

The judges said in a statement that the decision to make the award to Louise Flanagan was to recognise her sustained, brave and in-depth investigations into Eastern Cape dirty tricks. They said that the extent of painstaking research and investigation surpassed other entries and had included tracking down and securing interviews with the "shadowy personalities involved in the whole sleazy business, consistent tracking of their subsequent careers, as well as thorough scrutiny of court records. The achievement was an unravelling of an astoundingly complex and tension-ridden web of South African, Transkeian and Ciskeian police and military intelligence networks, fraudsters, front companies and political masters", they added.

This year was the second time the award has been made. It will be awarded again for work conducted during 1995/6.

Mike Loewe - ECNA

Computer upgrade for Library

The Rhodes Library is in the process of upgrading its computer hardware from the dated Ultimate mainframe, which has been in use since automation in 1990, to the SUN-UNIX system.

The conversion process began in early August with tapes of the data base being sent to the software suppliers in Johannesburg for transfer to the new system. This means that no alteration of the data base is possible until the new system is physically installed in Grahamstown.

In practical terms this means that no new book accessioning and cataloguing has been possible since early August. For this reason, library users might have noticed that the new book display has remained unchanged. New book requests will also not be put through until after the installation of the new machine. The circulation

module and on line catalogue (OPAC) will continue to function throughout this period, however. Circulation records will be transferred on site, in Grahamstown.



The library staff are committed to making every effort to disrupt library users as little as possible. It is hoped that the actual down time during the entire process will be as little as 1 to 2 days, providing that no problems arise during the hardware installation process. The sense of urgency surrounding this hardware migration has resulted from the constant threat of failure by the Ultimate machine.

Should there be any problems or queries, staff are welcome to discuss these with Kate Skinner in the library, or at Tel: 318463 or LBKS@GIRAFFE.RU.AC.ZA.

Dr Eric Smith collaborates on book

A book entitled *Percutaneous Penetration Enhancers*, edited by Dr Eric Smith of the School of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Dr Howard Maibach of the University of California - San Francisco, has recently been released by CRC Press in the U.S.A.

This book covers the latest technology available to increase the amount of a drug that may be administered to the patient through the skin. The production of this volume is part of an ongoing research collaboration between Dr Smith and Dr Maibach's laboratory in the Department of Dermatology at UCSF. Their joint research programme is focused mainly on factors influencing transdermal drug delivery and the assessment of topical corticosteroid creams, ointments and lotions.

The science of delivering drugs through the skin has flourished in the last 20 years to the extent that there are now several products on the market that deliver drugs from patch systems, through the dermal layers and into the blood stream. Much of the current research effort in this field is directed at the reversible modification of the stratum corneum biochemistry, by physical or chemical means, such that more drug may be forced through this barrier. The editors of this text have assembled a collection of well-illustrated, short chapters written by over sixty world authorities in the field, which collectively serve as a comprehensive reference on the latest chemical and physical methods available for enhancing penetration. The diversity of chemical enhancers discussed in this single volume is the most comprehensive to date. In addition, several chapters deal with modern analytical techniques that have been used to assess penetration enhancement, information that has not previously been presented in one reference text. Other members of staff of the School of Pharmaceutical Sciences who contributed chapters to the book are Prof John Haigh and Dr Roderick Walker.

Charity run at month end

The final date for the Winch Mile, a charity event organised by Winchester House, has been set for Saturday 30 September.

Entry forms are to be mailed to Rhodes academic departments in the last week of the third term.

All departments are encouraged to enter as many teams of four as possible. In the past there has been intense rivalry for the Best Rhodes Department Award.

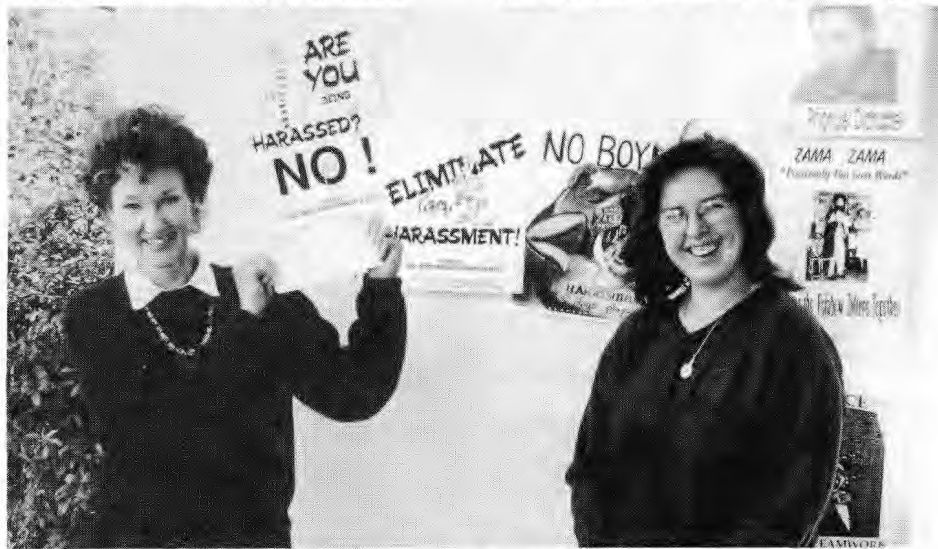
Top two prizes won by single entrant

Sue Abraham, a Senior Technical Officer in the Cartography Section of the Geography Department, has won both 1st and 2nd prizes in the recent Poster Competition mounted by the Anti-Harassment Panel. The Panel judged Sue's two entries to be eye-catching, "fun" and suitable for creating awareness of the Panel's work amongst both staff and students. Michael Barkes, a Fine Art student won 3rd prize in the competition.

The purposes of the competition were to

secure material for future education campaigns and to generate awareness about the Panel and its activities.

While the number of entries submitted was disappointing, their quality was of a high standard. It is hoped that participation in further competitions will increase in future years. Despite this, the Panel feels that the competition was a success. The prize-winning entries will be used in the 1996 Anti-Harassment Panel's Education Campaign.



Sue Abraham (left) with Ms Sarah Fisher, who coordinated the competition for the Anti-Harassment Panel. Ms Abraham's entries are the two on the left; No Boy is the work of Michael Barkes, a Fine Art student who won 3rd prize in the competition.

Interest rate reduction on home loans for RU staff

The University has entered into a suretyship scheme with the Standard Bank.

As a result of this, the Standard Bank is able to offer all *qualifying* staff members preferential interest rates on their home loans.

Staff members with existing bonds with the Standard Bank *qualify for a minimum 25% interest rate reduction.*

For further details contact Mr R N Smuts, in the Finance Division (ext 8162) or the Standard Bank's home loans section.

St Philips nursery school handed over to church

The Centre for Social Development (CSD) has handed over the running of St Philips Nursery School to the St Philips Anglican Church Council in the Fingo Village.

The parents of the sixty children and members of the parish were informed of the decision to hand over the school and all its contents at a meeting held at the school recently.

The new school committee is to be chaired by Mrs V Ngxoweni, with Mr S W Ngeju as treasurer and Ms A N Ntloko and Mr M Z

Nqweniso as committee members. The CSD will assist the new committee until the end of the year.

The Revd Prof Peter Mtuze, Rector of St Philips, thanked Mrs Thelma Henderson and the CSD team for their work in establishing and running the nursery school over the past eight years. He said that they were overwhelmed by the gift of the school and all its contents, as well as a generous financial contribution, which is to be invested.

More awards for the Department of Drama

Three members of staff in the Department of Drama have won Vita Awards this year - lecturers Ms Reza de Wet and Mr Andrew Buckland and Professor Gary Gordon, Head of the Department -- and their students are benefitting!

The students are able to perform in the First Physical Theatre Company, which uses the talents of staff and senior students in the Department.

Reza de Wet, who is acting coordinator, creative writing coordinator and who lectures first- and second-years as well as honours students won the Vita Award in the Cape for best original script for her play *Drif* which has won seven awards. These included best lighting designer, best designer, best actor, best original script, best production, best actress and best supporting actress. At the beginning of the year, Ms de Wet also won the Fleur du Cap for the second consecutive year for best indigenous script for *Drif*.



"She's an illuminating person to work with because she works from the soul", her colleagues say.

Andrew Buckland won the Vita Award for his play *Feedback* which he is performing as a one-man show at the Edinburgh Festival in Scotland. He has previously won the Fleur du

Cap Award for best new indigenous script amongst several others and has also been awarded the Edinburgh First Award at the Edinburgh Festival.

Professor Gary Gordon was pronounced choreographer of the year for his work *Shattered Windows* at the FNB Dance Umbrella. He was also nominated choreographer of the year in 1993 for *On the*

lightside of the moon and his collaborative work *Surround her with water: An epiphany*.

The Department provides a stimulating and challenging environment for theatre research and cultivates practices that are artistic, critical and collaborative.

Egoli actress in Grahamstown to direct *Ghost Dance*

A well-known performer and Honours student in the Drama Department at Rhodes, Nan Hamilton, is in Grahamstown conducting a research project which combines aspects of African, Eastern & Western traditions and which culminates in two 90 minute performances in the Old Gaol during the third week of September.

An experienced and multi-talented performer, writer, director and educationalist, Nan started her professional acting career with Rex Garner in Jeffrey Archer's *Beyond Reasonable Doubt* in 1989 and has since been involved in a wide variety of acting on stage, celluloid and television culminating most recently with her role in MNET's soap opera *Egoli*, as Julia, an industrial spy. She has worked extensively with the Market Theatre Laboratory and is one of regular members of the improvisational theatre show *Theatresports*. Also involved with dance, she has worked extensively with Sylvia Glasser and Moving into Dance.

Nan's current research aims to evolve a syncretic form and style of theatre that draws on myths, legends, design, text, music and dance from ancient and modern sources. Her production involves a large cast of musicians, dancers, karate sampais, artists, puppeteers, singers and flame throwers, drawn from the Drama Department, the whole of the university

community, Grahamstown and Rini. It includes school children, students and adults who come together every evening to engage in a process of development through sharing of ideas, language and skills to create *Ghost Dance*.

Nan says that she and the cast are trying to construct responses to look beyond our rapidly changing reality. "I believe the creation and use of a physical-visual theatre style will accommodate the variety of responses and dynamically source into our cultural heritage. I am trying to create a sense of theatre that involves the audience and cast in a Kinaesthetic sense experience", she says. Ideas are from the Tibetan book of the dead, African myths, Tai chi, tantra and yoga, and the result is a street theatre event with a difference.

Ghost Dance is a journey in which the audience are moved around the Old Gaol and become part of a carnival style show, where the cast are dressed in colourful costumes made from found and recycled materials, which recreates the journey of the soul into the maze and back where it attains rebirth. There is no time to be bored with this production and it is not a sombre show as one might expect with death being the overall theme.

Performances are on September 20 and 22 at 18h00 at the Old Gaol and tickets may be booked in advance at Grocott and Sherry.

Vice-Chancellor's Research Award

The Vice-Chancellor's Research Award is awarded annually to stimulate research and research-related scholarly activities and to support the quite exceptional young staff member engaged in research and more general scholarly activity.

Who is eligible?

Staff members who are under 40 years of age on 1 May in the year in which they are nominated. They should be of exceptional quality and proven achievement with sustained records of scholarship.

Who may nominate

Deans of Faculties, Heads of Departments and Directors of Research Institutes may nominate candidates. In addition, staff members may apply to be considered. Nominations and applications must be accompanied by:

- * a curriculum vitae of the nominee or applicant
- * details of publications, reviews of publications (or cited references) and other evidence of distinction
- * the names of three referees.

The VC's Research Award Committee will

- * invite referees to comment on, inter alia, whether the candidate is exceptional and worthy of being considered, whether the candidate is recognised as being one of the most outstanding people in the age group and, in respect of publications, the level of production, the media used for publications, the quality and depth, the standing within the discipline concerned and the international and/or national standing
- * take into consideration not only the work on which candidates have established their reputations at Rhodes University, but also work done elsewhere
- * regard 'research' in the broader sense to mean all creative endeavour including the performing arts and the fine arts
- * not be required to recommend an award if in its view the nominations and applications are not sufficiently outstanding to warrant an award.

What is the value of the Award?

R 15 000 or such other amount as may be determined by the University Council on the recommendation of the Joint Research Committee.

How may the Award be used?

The award may be used for research or creative endeavour and shall be for any legitimate research expense, including equipment, running expenses, travel or a combination of these.

Nominations and applications should be forwarded to the Registrar's Office by 14 November 1995.

New committee elected

At the recent Annual General Meeting of ARUSA, Dr Gina Buijs was elected Chairperson of the Association.

Her fellow committee members are Mrs Mary Allen, Mrs Glynn Armstrong, Mr John Landman, Dr Temba Masilela, Mr Warren Snowball, Dr Gary Baines, Mr T L Amos, Mr D Wilson and Mr Gilton Klerck.

The Vice-Chairperson and the Treasurer are still to be elected at the next Executive meeting. Approximately six Lecturers' representatives on Senate and a NEHAWU member will be represented on the RUSA Committee in *ex officio* capacities.

Rhodos & What's On

This is the last edition of *Rhodos* in its current form.

As part of the restructuring of the Public Relations and Development Division, the newsletter will again be published fortnightly.

The What's On column will no longer appear in *Rhodos* but as a more comprehensive fortnightly leaflet, alternating with *Rhodos* in its appearance.

By increasing the publication frequency of *Rhodos*, we aim to keep staff better abreast of matters of topical interest and to run current staffing and smalls advertisements.

Present and former Directors together

Three Directors of the Public Relations and Development Division were on hand to see one of their number, Neil Papenfus, receive an award for 25 years of service to the University from the Vice-Chancellor, Dr Derek Henderson.

With Neil (centre) are Richard Buckland and the current incumbent in the soon-to-be-renamed Division, Ms Aletta de Villiers.

Ms de Villiers has previously reported to both of her predecessors.

Mr Papenfus has announced that he will be retiring from the staff at the end of the year.

Rhodes athletes excel

Six athletes from Rhodes have been selected to represent South Africa in their respective sports. S Dominic Goliath and Puling Puling have been selected to represent South Africa in the SA Students Volleyball and SA Students Soccer sides respectively. They flew out of Johannesburg this week to compete in the 1995 World Student Games. The '95 *Universiade*, which will take place in Fukuoka, Japan, will host 12 sporting codes.

Justin Powers, the Rhodes Men's volleyball coach and Bronwyn Law-Viljoen, who coaches the Ladies volleyball team, will represent South Africa at the All Africa Games in Zimbabwe from 8 - 24 September.



Matthew Hallows, an Eastern Province and South African Hockey player, pictured above on the right, will also compete at the All Africa Games in Zimbabwe in September. He was once again included in the SA provincial hosted by Border in which EP finished fourth. The Eastern Province duathlete, Barrie



Justin Powers



Bronwyn Law-Viljoen

Knox-Davies, who finished first in the EP Duathlon Championships, went on to finish ninth in the SA Duathlon championships, which earned him a place in the South African age-group duathlon team which will compete in Mexico later this year.

Sue Powers





Wednesday, 20 September

Inaugural Lecture: *New tricks for the newspaper trade: An old watchdog tastes press freedom and the information age* by Prof GJEG Berger.

Wednesday, 27 September

JLB Smith Memorial Lecture. *How fish distributions reflect Geological History* by Prof Dannie Hensley of the Department of Marine Sciences, University of Puerto Rico.

Saturday 30 September

The Winch Mile. Charity event see noticeboards for details.

Rhodos invites contributions from staff members and other readers. Articles should be forwarded to the Editor, at the Public Relations and Development Division.

Articles are preferred on diskette in any of several common word processing formats, including ASCII, Word Perfect, WordStar, Xywrite and Multimate.

Text may also be e-mailed to adjw@warthog.ru.ac.za. Photographs and line art are also welcome, either as stand-alone items or illustrative of articles.

NOTE NEW RHODOS DEADLINE DATES

Copy Date	Publication Date
18 September	28 September

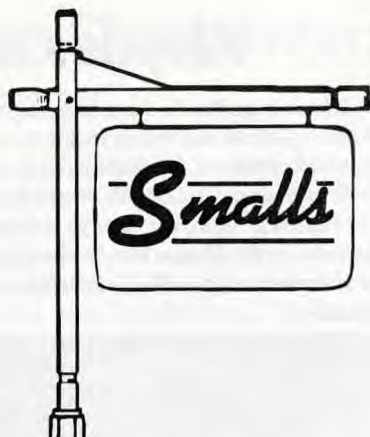
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RHODOS is produced monthly by the Public Relations and Development Division of Rhodes University, Grahamstown.

The views expressed are not necessarily those of the Editor, Rhodos staff, or the University.

The Editor welcomes all contributions but reserves the right to edit these.



FOR SALE

Close to schools - Aerolite in ceiling. 3-bedroomed house with BICs. Lounge/dining room with jetmaster fireplace. All fully carpeted on beautiful parquet flooring. Kitchen, bathroom with sep toilet. 1 1/2 garage, laundry, outside room and toilet. Enclosed garden with vinyl pool and braai area. R 145 000. Please contact Mrs Mitchell at ext 8569/70 or 2 4988 after hours.

DOMESTIC WORKER AVAILABLE

A reliable literate domestic worker, Caroline Nosisana, is available for Wednesdays and Saturdays. Reference available from present clients. Phone Eureka Janse van Rensburg at the Education Department - 31 8386 or 2 2778.

PANELBEATING & SPRAYPAINTING

Tired of rust holes, accident prone or needing a change of colour? Phone Alfredo: 31 2198. Affordable, friendly service.

HOUSE FOR SALE.

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, study, wall-to-wall carpeting, bics, large garage; superb braai/entertainment area, large established and fully enclosed garden, north-facing and very sunny, situated in cul-de-sac. R 165 000. Contact Gary Baines at ext 3880 or by e-mail at hgb@kudu.ru.ac.za

FOR SALE

Nine black nylon ribbons for Epson LQ1500 printer for R 175,00. Contact the English department at ext 8400/1.

Highlight of the first ever Intervarsity event between Rhodes and Fort Hare, played during August, was the soccer. Both first and second teams drew their matches at two goals each.

Supporting the Rhodes players from the touchline are, from left, the Registrar, Dr Stephen Fourie, the Vice-Principal, Dr Michael Smout, Director of Sports Administration Pete Andrew and Dean of Arts, Prof Ian Macdonald.



ADVERTISING RATES

Display ads: R 2,50 per column centimetre; double for front and back pages.

Classifieds: 10 cents per word unless a bona fide staff member is advertising in his or her personal capacity, in which case no charge is levied. Advertising is run strictly on a cash basis.

Copy, which is only accepted in writing, should be forwarded with payment to the Public Relations and Development Division.

FOR SALE

Peugeot 20 inch (50 cm) BMX with 5-speed gears, new tyres front and rear, new pneumatic tube (front), solid tube (rear). R 240,00. Phone 2 7597 after hours.

HOUSE TO RENT

We wish to rent a house or swap ours in Fremantle (Western Australia) for one in Grahamstown for the period 1 July to 30 November 1996. We need at least three bedrooms and a safe environment for our two children (2 years and 5 years). If anyone is interested please contact Prof Bob Dowse on 31 8354/8355 or Melanie Roome on 2 3779.

BED and BREAKFAST

In Johannesburg's northern suburbs. Charming, newly furnished twin-bedded accommodation with own entrance; bathroom en suite, opens onto private patio, walking distance to shops and restaurants, 10 minutes from Wits, RAU and Wits Tech, metered phone, bar fridge, lock-up parking. Single: R 140,00; per person sharing: R 115,00. Phone (011) 442 8083.

NEED A HOUSE SITTER?

Elderly couple, visiting from France, would like to house sit December/January. reliable, responsible and excellent with any animal, from birds to horses. Contact Lorna (ext 8557) or Richard Grant (ext 8452) or phone 2 4798 after hours.

COTTAGE FOR RENT

Kenton cottage on the Kariega. Sleeps at least six. All mod cons. R 100,00 per day. Contact Robin Palmer at ext 8232.

Intervarsity drawn 2-2