



RHODOS

STAFF NEWSLETTER

27 JUNE, 1997
VOL 9 NO 10

Four 'A's led to Rhodes

Prompt action by the Marketing and Communications Division has resulted in the "acquisition" by Rhodes of a student who would otherwise have left the country to study abroad.

Ms Shana Mohan, now in her first year of study for the BA degree, came to South Africa with her parents in 1995. They are both on the staff of the Lumko College of Education in Lady Frere. The family come from Bangalore, in India.

Shana completed her Standard 8 year and then proceeded to finish both Std 9 and matric in one year, at the Abambo High School.

Her matric pass included four distinctions and, as a result, she was featured in both the *Eastern Province Herald* and the *Daily Dispatch*.

This drew the attention of the Marketing and Communications Division to her and, as a result, she was contacted by staff members based at Rhodes' Gauteng office in Johannesburg.

Helene White and Sue Norval met with Shana

and discovered that she was planning to return to India to study, mainly because it was going to cost the family a lot less and she was not at all sure that she would be able to attract the necessary bursary support to continue her studies in South Africa.

Shana was persuaded to stay at Rhodes and seek bursary support by the Johannesburg pair and registered at Rhodes at the beginning of the year. They were able to put her in touch with possible sponsors.

Some four months later Shana has received the great news that The Johannesburg Stock Exchange has made a bursary available to her and she is now concentrating on her studies without having to worry about financing them.

She loves Rhodes — "I find it beautiful here; there's just very little time outside my studies to become too heavily involved in any clubs and societies (although she has joined the Hindu Students' Association)" — and is improving her already excellent English while attending lectures in that Department in addition



Shana Mohan (left) photographed on the Grahamstown campus with Sue Norval of the Rhodes Gauteng Office.

to those pertaining to her selected majors.

By all accounts, she's doing extremely well at Rhodes, but

would prefer to wait on her June results before commenting.

Debaters head for Cape Town

Seven members of the Rhodes Debating Society will be escaping from the Festival to participate in the National Debating Championships in Cape Town in July.

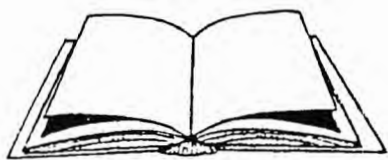
They will join teams from nine other universities in battling through a contest of wits and witticisms to identify the best debaters in South Africa.

The hopes of Rhodes will rest on the utterances of Donna Kipps, Zondiwe Chima, Philip Sigworth, Stuart Theobald, Sandy Gardyne and Eusebius Mckaizer. Chris Thurman will be representing the Society as an adjudicator.

The representatives were chosen on merit, with development also being a factor. The three teams were chosen after the Society's internal competition which was held this term.

Rhodes Debating has grown in stature and membership since the "Marijuana Debate" which was held last year. It now has over 270 members from the staff and student bodies. Anyone is eligible to join; interested parties can contact Stuart Theobald at 2 8080, or visit the World Wide Web page at <http://www.debating.ru.ac>.

This year's competition runs from the 10th to the 14th of July, on UCT's campus.



SABINET

Arrangements have been made to provide Rhodes staff and students with end user access to SABINET's popular databases, according to Vivien Botha of the RU Library's Information Services Department.

The *Index to S.A. Periodicals* (ISAP), the catalogue of publications in S.A. Libraries (SACat), and the *S.A. Union Catalogue of Theses and*

Dissertations (UCTD) will be included, she advises.

Intended users should access SABINET Online on the World Wide Web at <http://198.54.80.5:8500/>, logging in as 709010w0 and using the password 7090.

Access is limited to one user at a time.

Further information is available from Vivien Botha or Babalwa Sishuta, on extension 8462, or e-mail v.botha@ru.ac.za or h.sishuta@ru.ac.za

News from the Library

Recent titles received in the Library

Mysticism: holiness east and west/ Denise Lardner Carmody, John Tully Carmody. 291.42 CAR

English for academic purposes: a guide and resource book for teachers/ R.R. Jordan. 420.7 JOR

Brainsex: the real difference between men and women/ Anne Moir and David Jessel. 155.33 MOI

The man who knew infinity: a life of the genius Ramanujan/ Robert Kanigel. EDUCATION

510.92 RAM/KAN

The illustrated brief history of time/ Stephen Hawking.

—Updated and expanded ed. 530.11 HAW

The look of the century/ Michael Tambini. 745.20904 TAM
Imagining characters: six conversations about women writers/ A.S. Byatt and Ignes Sodre, edited by Rebecca Swift. 823.0099287 BYA

Does God play dice?: the mathematics of chaos/ Ian Stewart. 530.1 STE

Cult fiction: popular reading and pulp theory/ Clive Bloom. 809.3 BLO

The emperor's new mind: concerning computers, minds and laws of physics/ Roger Penrose. EDUCATION 006.3 PEN

The woman who walked into doors/ Roddy Doyle. 823.914 DO

Freshwater fauna fishes are threatened

About 25% of the indigenous freshwater fishes in South Africa have declined sufficiently to warrant serious conservation attention if they are to survive long-term, said Professor Paul Skelton, Director of the JLB Institute of Ichthyology, during his recent inaugural lecture, entitled *The African Heritage of Fishes*.

"Few rivers are unaffected by man's actions and the habitat of most fishes has been damaged or changed

through direct physical action. The building of dams, water extraction and large scale use changes in the catchments such as afforestation, agriculture, urban and industrial development are all factors in this. Until now, water has been seen only as an exploitative resource and not as the life-blood of the environment," he said.

Indigenous fishes are also threatened by introduced alien and translocated fishes. For this reason it was important to keep a healthy balance between introducing fishes to natural waters and the conservation of indigenous species. Prof Skelton said Rhodes University and its associated institutes have an important responsibility to conduct research and to advise the public correctly on these matters.

"Freshwater fishes are by far the most diverse vertebrate assemblage in the world but

that diversity is not evenly spread over the continent. There are only 94 indigenous freshwater dispersant fishes in this country while there are about 220 in Southern Africa, including the catchment basins of the Kunene, Okavango and Zambezi rivers."

Prof Skelton said reasons for few fishes in South Africa could be the fact that the aquatic systems of most rivers are restrictive and have one or two closely related species in them and that major rivers run along the east-west axis hinders the north-south penetration of the fish fauna.

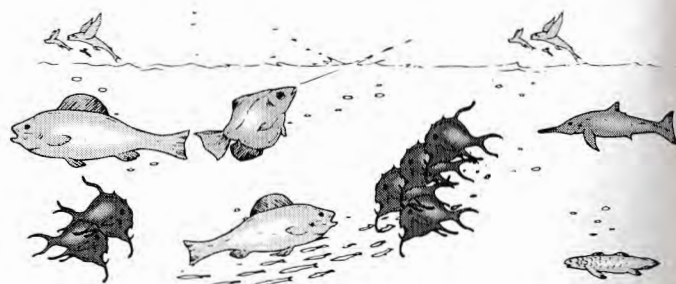
He said that today the Grahamstown collections have top-class national and international stature and are

well curated and fully computerised. "Linking them to the SADC's (South African Development Community) Geographic Information Systems programme would soon enable the JLB Institute to compile a dynamic distribution atlas of the species that will be a huge asset in biogeographical assessment studies," he believes.

He repeatedly stressed the importance of research. "Good collections are heritage resources of immense value but they don't just happen, they require committed curatorship to grow. It takes but one act of ignorance for valuable resources such as these to be lost forever."

Rhodes 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.



Bank funds farm school project



Community projects initiated by the Rhodes University Mathematics Education Project (RUMEP) continue to attract significant funds from the private sector, in recognition of the vital work being accomplished in the field of Maths Education.

At a recent ceremony, the Fort Brown Combined School, a farm school near Grahamstown, was presented with a cheque of R 185 920,00 by ABSA Bank for its project.

Present during the ceremony were the school pupils, community members, government officials, teachers, the farm manager and her family, ABSA representatives, RUMEP staff and Rhodes Marketing and Communications Division representatives.

This donation was in recognition of the outstanding work done by RUMEP in the Farm Schools by empowering the teachers through seeking new ways of teaching mathematics and demystifying the perception that mathematics is difficult. Learners are engaged in an

interactive approach to solving mathematical problems. Common amongst Farm Schools is the multigrade nature of the classes: this results in the teachers experiencing the predicament of having to cope with teaching children from Sub A to Std 5 all in one classroom.

Mr John Stoker, the Director of RUMEP said that "... this presentation is to support the work that we do in farm schools, with the community, the children and the Education Department. The work we do is in line with and supports Curriculum 2005."

Mr Andy de la Mare, Head of Group Communications of ABSA in the Eastern Cape, said that his company's vision is "to be partners in growing South Africa's prosperity and one of the ways we strive to accomplish this is through our continued support of education, job creation and primary health care. We are happy to be working with RUMEP in improving the situation in the rural schools."

Cheque it out . . . ABSA Bank's Andy de la Mare and Mr van den Heever (right) hold the cheque that is going to do wonders for the RUMEP's Farm School Project. That obviously gives Miss Thandi Mboyiya, the project's facilitator and Mr Mgolodela from the Education Department all of reason to smile.

Rhodes' Capital Development Manager, Mr Siyanda Manana, said that it was very rewarding to raise funds for people who appreciate the effort and who are in real need, and he urged more companies to support RUMEP so that the delivery

mechanism could be effected much sooner. He added that the project has led to a marked improvement in teaching skills and had boosted confidence amongst teachers. "Empower the teacher and you empower the nation", he said.

*Have a great
Festival!*

July 3rd to 13th

More long-servers recognised



Mr Dale Ranchhod, of the Department of Zoology and Entomology

Rhodes staff members continue to reap the results of 25-year periods of loyal service to the University and Vice-Chancellor Dr David Woods has been busy

congratulating them and handing over certifiactes marking the occasion.

Some of those whose quarter-centuries have caught up with them in this pleasant manner, since *Rhodos* last appeared, are seen in these photographs.



Ms Sandy Rowoldt, the Cory Librarian, with Dr Woods.



Below — Mr Phillip Vens (second from left) with his Print Unit colleagues (from left) Welcome Ngxizele, Patricik Mpumlo and Michael Rala.



Above — the Department of Law's Prof Ivan Schäfer (second from left) with, from left, Prof Alastair Kerr, Dr Woods, Mrs Schäfer and Dean of Law Prof Rob Midgley.



RHODES UNIVERSITY

25 yrs

New qualification for University mechanic



Howard Potgieter (above), who has been working for Rhodes University for nine years, was recently awarded a certificate for having achieved competency in the Service a Motor Vehicle course at the East Cape Training Centre.

Howard, who has been married for nine years and is father of two, thanked Rhodes for paying for his course and accommodation while in the Friendly City. It lasted for ten

days and left him eager for more: "I would like to go on more courses to improve my skills and I would also like to be a qualified mechanic in the near future", he says.

Roadworks on campus during Festival

The Grounds and Gardens section has advised that work will begin on slurry-sealing both sidewalks along Lower University Road (the road separating the Chemistry and Zoology Buildings) on 30th June.

It is hoped that the task will be completed by July 7th.

Printworks Exhibition

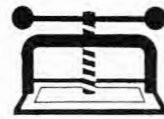
A retrospective exhibition of art work from the Graphic Art Section of the Fine Art Department is to be exhibited in the Rhodes Alumni Gallery at the Albany Museum, as part of the Grahamstown Arts Festival.

The exhibition of more than fifty graphics is titled **PRINTWORKS** and it reflects a decade of print making by students who have worked in a wide range of mediums

from the traditional to the innovative and experimental.

Works on display, in addition to being drawn from the Rhodes Collection, are being sourced from personal, private, corporate and public collections — no small task

PRINTWORKS



A RETROSPECTIVE EXHIBITION OF PRINTS REFLECTING A DECADE OF PRINTMAKING FROM THE GRAPHIC ART SECTION OF THE RHODES UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF FINE ART



and one that is taking considerable logistic planning. (University staff who may have to be without their favourite picture on their office wall for a week or two

while the exhibition is on are asked by Graphics lecturer Dominic Thorburn, to be sympathetic to this worthy initiative.)

"All are encouraged to view this exciting home grown exhibition", says Thorburn.

'Efficient education the key' says V-C

Rhodes Vice-Chancellor, Dr David Woods, says that an efficient and sustainable education system at primary, secondary and tertiary levels is the key to accessing knowledge.

He said this while addressing 500 Rotarians at the opening ceremony of the 28th District Conference of Rotary District 9320 East in East London earlier this month.

Dr Woods said that the worst legacy of apartheid was the failure to educate black people and he called the 1959 Separate Universities Act a "horrendous piece of legislation which among other things said black people were incapable of being taught

Mathematics," a report in the *Daily Dispatch* records.

He also stressed the role of tertiary institutions in producing a high level of human resources needed by the country.

"We in the universities must seek out students with potential and ensure that we produce internationally competitive graduates who are independent, original, analytical and critical thinkers with an understanding of ethics and basic honesty", Dr Woods told the Rotarians.

He warned, however, that the support of both the private sector and the government would be needed to accomplish this goal.

Campus travel agent expands services

Rhodes' friendly neighbourhood travel agent has expanded its campus office, in terms of space, staff and services offered to staff and students.

Graham Price, of GBS Travel, says that the volume of business has grown significantly since the campus office was opened some three years ago.

There are now two staff members in the travel suite in the Administration Building to handle what Price refers to as "a major account".

Lee-Ann Barnard is at Rhodes full-time and she is available to handle all booking and ticketing requirements for staff. Belinda Tudge, who works half-days, is responsible for marketing and is kept busy exploring new travel opportunities and options on behalf of Rhodes travellers.

The agency also handles bookings on behalf of students, subsequent to the closure of the SA Student Travel Services offices on our campus, although these, by choice, are handled from GBS Travel's High Street premises. Student travel is a competitive business, says Price, and his staff are always on the lookout for the best deals and new travel programmes.

The agency will not limit its activities to air travel only and, apart from train and bus bookings, is negotiating enhanced car-hire rates for its customers. "Members of the Rhodes community should be aware that we are able to do

personal, as well as business, travel arrangements for them, says the team.

There are many advantages in having a presence on the campus. The staff get to know their individual customers well and are able to go that extra mile when necessary.

GBS Travel is itself a member of the Sure Travel Group, an association of independent travel agencies which is the biggest travel-buying group in the country. This ensures that they have access to the best deals, the staff add.



GBS personnel in their campus office — (left) Lee-Ann Barnard and Belinda Tudge.

Giant steps in the research on ecosystems

Ecological research and technical development in Southern Africa will be given a boost by the recent award to four institutions — two each from Africa and Europe — of funding for a programme of the European Commission. The programme is aimed at fostering cooperation between developing and European countries in conserving the bio-diversity and stability of our fragile dune systems.

This award of funds, to be used by ecosystem researchers in Southern Africa, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands, could lead to a better understanding of coastal and inland dune systems and the conservation of bio-diversity.

The project, which will focus on the impact of invasive grass species on the structure, function and sustainable use of coastal and inland sand dune ecosystems in Southern Africa, has two programme leaders from the developing world, namely, Prof Roy Lubke from Rhodes and Dr Elmar Veenendaal of the Okavango Research Centre at the University of Botswana.

Their European counterparts are Dr Alan Gray, Head of Terrestrial Ecology's Furzebrook Research Station in Dorset, United Kingdom and the group leader Dr Wim van der Putten of the Netherlands Institute of Ecology.

Only two examples of invasive plant species and their effects on the sustainability of natural ecosystems will be studied in this

proposed project. Both plant species are grasses and cover sand dune ecosystems. *Ammophila arenaria* (marram grass), originating from North-Western Europe was introduced for sand stabilisation of coastal sand dunes along the Cape coast of South Africa. Sand stabilisation is of great importance to the infrastructure and economy of the South African population.

The second species, *Cenchrus bifloris*, is introduced in the Kalahari sand dune savannah of Botswana by imported fodder from South Africa and it originates from tropical America. It establishes itself at sparsely vegetated sites formed by heavy and patchy exploitation of savannah by cattle and is especially concentrated around artificial watering points.

Researchers and post-graduate students will be appointed to the research teams studying the coastal and inland dune systems. At Rhodes, a full time researcher will be appointed to coordinate the study. In addition, two post-graduate students will investigate different aspects of the marram grass project. Members of the eight-person team from the Botany Department at Rhodes will attend training programmes in Europe for up to three months.

This project is expected to be of great benefit to a country like South Africa, with our beautiful coastline of many regions still unspoiled by development.

Phumeza Mgxashe

New book launched from Robben Island

Wakker Wakker en aan die Brand, a true story of the 1976 uprising in the Western Cape written by Dr Cornelius C Thomas of the Department of History (East London campus), was launched on Robben Island on June 12, 1997, and also formed part of the recent Youth Day programme on the Island on June 16.

Roy du Pre, Professor of History at Unitra and author of *Separate but Unequal*, thinks that this latest Afrikaans prose work in the bookstores — it is published by Mayibuye Books — “is bound to become required reading for present and future generations of South Africans.”

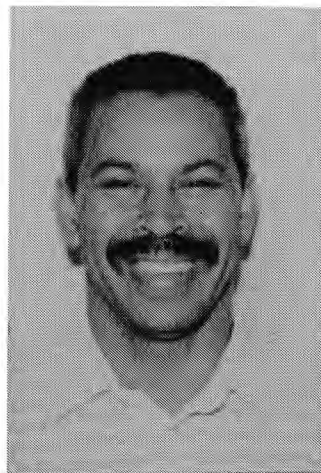
“In Thomas’ debut as a prose writer, using emotive and evocative language which is sometimes shocking yet authentic, he takes the reader on the ideological and activist journeys of the Western Cape’s class of 76,” he said recently.

Wakker Wakker speaks of a plucky generation of students (at UWC) and high school pupils (on the Cape Flats) who helped nationalise the Soweto insurrection of 1976. By late-July, 1976, it seemed the Soweto uprising was an isolated Transvaal episode and that the rest of the country would not respond. This book

shows that at UWC “black cats”, armed with traditional Western Cape radicalism and black consciousness, were getting ready to reach out to Soweto. The reader is taken into volatile mass meetings where students discussed, debated, and documented the new philosophies that had been unfolding on black campuses, and where they contemplated the way forward.

Ideas quickly translated into action as students woke up to the full realities of the evil apartheid ideology and, in their hundreds, took to workshops and cells, and to the streets. This street action made their struggle both visible and fluid. Within two to three weeks the struggle had spread, first to Guguletu and Bonteheuwel, then throughout the Western Cape, and, finally, to Port Elizabeth. By the beginning of September, black impatience

rolled into the white heart of Cape Town in trains and, down the roadways of Devil’s Peak, on foot.



Dr Cornelius C Thomas

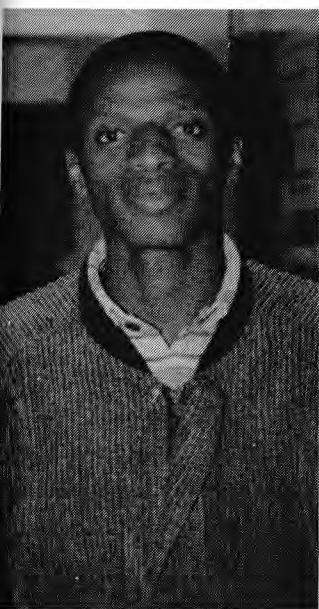
Wakker Wakker offers much food for thought to historians, sociologists, and linguists who wish to unravel, at a micro-level, the internal dynamics of student boycotts, the various connections “required” in

struggle, the modes of communication employed, and an understanding of what people were prepared to die for.

The book is based on primary sources such as student publications, ephemera, interviews, SRC reports and news articles, yet the story unfolds in a down to earth narrative style. It therefore offers the reader key entry points for insights into the inner workings of a generation and an institution that played such a significant role in the transformation of apartheid South Africa.

Dr Thomas was awarded a Ph D degree by the University of Notre Dame du Lac in 1993 and lectured at Clarion University of Pennsylvania (1992-3) and Notre Dame du Lac (1993-4). He joined Rhodes in East London in 1994.

'A global experience' for ADC tutor



Luvuyo Njovane

Luvuyo Njovane, a Bsc (Hons) student who has been with the ADC’s Ikhnkco School’s Project for the past five years, gained “a global experience and new ideas” from fellow student tutors and mentors at the 2nd BP International Conference.

He was part of a delegation, which consisted of Mrs Tisani, former project coordinator and Miss Maziko who is a senior tutor and ADC administrator, that attended the UK conference to do a presentation about student mentoring and tutoring at Rhodes.

The conference which aimed to encourage debate on

the continuing development of tutoring and mentoring by students and to assist and promote the continuation of the forum for the dissemination of research and good practice.

Luvuyo still cannot get over the feeling of seeing so many people. “There were people from all over the world and out of about 20 Africans that were there, there were about 15 South Africans. There were people from Singapore, Israel, the US and the Czech Republic. I never knew that tutoring projects could be so diverse.”

Some of the topics that were covered addressed the

creation of a learning community, preparation for life after school and the training and retention of student tutors.

Asked whether the Ikhnkco Project has shown success in its endeavours, Luvuyo is quick to say: “Yes, it’s been successful. We’ve helped local pupils in many subjects, especially Mathematics, as we relate it to real life situations and we have also introduced them to problem-solving and exam-preparation skills.”

Smalls

FOR SALE

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BED and BREAKFAST

Self-contained flatlet, pool, private entrance. R 55,00 p.p. Contact Sheryl-Anne Drennan at ext 8298/9 (a.m.); 2 7189 (h) or cell 082 657 0359.

WANTED: HOME FOR RENT

Clean, 3-bedroomed house or flat, with second bathroom, required for long-term rental. Phone 28 518 (08:30 to 17:00) or 083 701 2827 (home).

WANTED

AMESA urgently needs scientific calculators for needy local High School pupils. Please deposit with Mr Berning (Library), Mrs Watkins (IT), Butler's Pharmacy or phone 2 7574.

HOUSE TO LET DURING FESTIVAL

House to let during the Festival period. Phone 31 8301 (w) or 2 4591 (h).

LOST

Black staffie (Simba), with white marking on chest. Phone (0461) 2 7574.

HOUSE SITTING OFFERED

A reliable person is available for house sitting from now for a few months. Phone 2 6787 (h).

FORT SELWYN ARMS — FRONTIER PUB

The troops are back Victorious from their Campaign out in the bundu, to give Festival goers what they need. GROC TIME (Beer, Wine, Spirits), Song, and the odd bang and piper too. We guarantee a good time to be had by all. What with heaps of Pipers (including the East London Scotts and Kaffarian Rifles, etc.) and Paddy's Irish band. Not to mention Haggis, Wenches, Free floggings, the shooting of the odd Deserter, quartering of infidels, Traditional dancing (Scottish of course) and to top it all SUNDOWNERS with a bang. Where? The Fort Selwyn Arms. Next to the 1820 Settlers Monument, you can't miss us. Open from 11:00 until late.

CRITICS SOUGHT

Cue, the Arts Festival's long-standing daily newspaper probably has a job for you. Cue's Fringe manager, Jeff Stevens, says the paper is looking to expand its base of reviewers for shows on the Fringe this year and university staff are invited

Situations Vacant

Applications are invited from members of staff, irrespective of race, gender or creed, for part-time posts of **Wardens of Men's and Women's houses of residence** with effect from 1 January 1998.

Applicants should have lived in a university residence or have had experience of a wardening nature in an educational institution. Possession of an academic qualification would be a distinct advantage.

Whilst no remuneration is attached to these posts, the successful candidates will be provided with a free flat, electricity and water throughout the year and free meals during the University's terms and when available during vacations. Entertainment expenses will be refunded up to a specific amount.

Application forms may be obtained from Mr Patrick Phillips in the Personnel Division (ext 8116; e-mail adpd@giraffe), to whom completed applications should be sent by 22 August 1997.

Applications are invited from members of staff, irrespective of race, gender or creed, for the following post of **Part-time Secretary/Clerk in the Department of Physics and Electronics** from as early a date as possible.

Candidates should have had several years of experience in a secretarial capacity with organisational and administrative skills. Some computer literacy, a knowledge of word processing and spreadsheets and elementary bookkeeping are desirable. Previous experience in a library would be an advantage.

Application forms and salary particulars may be obtained from Miss X K Wakashe in the Personnel Division (ext 8117/5) to whom they should be

to join the team! We seek Xhosa, Afrikaans and English writers. Reviewers will be issued with free tickets for opening Fringe shows, and are

then required to write a very short critique on the piece for the following day's paper. Contact Jeff Stevens (a/h) 23461.

ADVERTISING RATES

Display ads: R 3,00 per column centimetre; double for front and back pages.

Classifieds: 20 cents per word. Advertising copy must be supplied in writing, on diskette or by e-mail and must be accompanied by full payment.

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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 contributions but reserves the right to edit these.

RHODOS DEADLINE DATES

Copy date: 17 July

Publication date: 25 July

Staff pub open tonight!

Dave's Den will be open tonight (June 27th). It will next open on July 25th, after Festival. Staff members and their guests are invited to join their colleagues after work, from 17:00.

