MR ANDREW AND STAFF, MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE, BOYS OF THE COLLEGE, PARENTS AND WELL-WISHERS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IT IS A SINGULAR PRIVILEGE FOR MY WIFE AND ME TO HAVE BEEN INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN YOUR PRIZE-GIVING FUNCTION THIS EVENING, MORE PARTICULARLY AS IT IS PART OF THE COLLEGE'S I25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS, WHICH HAVE EXTENDED OVER THE PAST YEAR. WE OFFER YOU OUR HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS: MAY DALE COLLEGE CONTINUE TO GROW AND PROSPER IN THE YEARS THAT LIE AHEAD, WHILE REMAINING STEADFASTLY LOYAL TO THE PHILOSOPHY, THE IDEALS AND THE VALUES THAT HAVE SUSTAINED YOU UP UNTIL NOW, AND GIVEN YOU A PROUD NAME, NOT ONLY IN YOUR IMMEDIATE HINTERLAND BUT ALSO THROUGHOUT SOUTHERN AFRICA.

Over the years Dale College and Rhodes University have enjoyed the closest and most cordial of relationships. For instance, there are at present 37 Old Dalians registered as students at Rhodes, ranging all the way from a doctoral candidate to freshmen. Rhodes draws its students from over 700 schools, but your contribution ensures that Dale, as always, remains one of the notable feeder schools to the university. Our relationship is far from being a one-way street, since many of your staff, including both your Headmaster and his Deputy, are Old Rhodians. To cement the contact even further, the Chairman of your school committee, Mr Neville Woollgar, is also a member of the university council.

THERE ARE OTHER COMMON BONDS WORTHY OF MENTION. WE CAN BOTH LAY CLAIM
TO BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS OF PLEASING APPEARANCE AND DISTINCTION, IN

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WHICH WE CAN, AND DO, TAKE A PROPER PRIDE. IN AGE, HOWEVER, RHODES MUST CLEARLY AWARD THE PALM TO DALE. FURTHERMORE, BOTH INSTITUTIONS DERIVE THEIR NAMES FROM PUBLIC FIGURES OF RENOWN IN THE PUBLIC LIFE OF THIS PROVINCE. ALTHOUGH CECIL JOHN RHODES APPEARED ON A BROADER STAGE THAN SIR LANGHAM DALE, THE LATTER'S PLACE IN THE ANNALS OF SOUTH AFRICAN EDUCATION HAS NOT DIMMED OVER THE YEARS. IN ANY EVENT, A SCHOOL OR A UNIVERSITY IS FORTUNATE INDEED TO HAVE A PERSONAL RATHER THAN A GEOGRAPHIC APPELLATION, SINCE IT PERFORCE BRINGS CONSTANTLY INTO FOCUS THAT INDIVIDUALS, EVEN IN TO-DAY'S COLLECTIVIST OR MONOPOLISTIC WORLD, STILL DO MATTER, AND THAT THEY CAN INFLUENCE EVENTS. IN SOME PARTS OF THE WORLD SCHOOLS DO NOT EVEN HAVE NAMES AT ALL, ONLY NUMBERS. WHEN I WAS A STUDENT AT HARVARD I HAD A VERY GOOD FRIEND FROM NEW YORK CITY, WHO ATTENDED PUBLIC SCHOOL (OR PS) NO. I25. IMAGINE TRYING TO ENCOURAGE YOUR CRICKET OR RUGBY TEAM BY NUMBER, OR FITTING IT INTO YOUR WAR-CRY!

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THE NUMBER 125 IS A VERY SATISFYING ONE. AS A FORMER MATHEMATICIAN I IMMEDIATELY OBSERVE THAT IT IS THE CUBE OF FIVE, WHICH IS AN AUSPICIOUS START. WHEN MULTIPLIED BY EIGHT, ANOTHER CUBE, IT EXPANDS ALL THE WAY TO A THOUSAND, OR THE MILLENNIUM. AN IMPRESSIVELY LONG PERIOD IN HUMAN HISTORY. ONE PROCEEDS FROM THERE IN AN OBVIOUS WAY TO THE CONCEPT OF CONTINUITY, AN APPARENTLY SIMPLE NOTION, BUT ONE THAT HAS OCCUPIED THE ATTENTION OF PHILOSOPHERS SINCE THE DAYS OF PLATO AND ARISTOTLE. TAKE AS AN EXAMPLE THE CONUNDRUM OF VAN RIEBEECK'S AXE. AN HISTORIAN, VISITING ONE OF THOSE FAMOUS OLD CAPE WINE FARMS, LIGHTED UPON AN AXE OF UNUSUAL APPEARANCE. UPON INQUIRY HE WAS INFORMED THAT JAN VAN RIEBEECK, WHEN LEAVING THE CAPE, HAD GIVEN IT TO THE ORIGINAL OWNER OF THE FARM, "DO YOU MEAN TO SAY THAT VAN RIEBEECK HIMSELF USED THIS VERY AXE?", HE ASKED.

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"OF COURSE", REPLIED THE FARMER, "AND IT HAS BEEN IN CONTINUOUS USE EVER SINCE". WHEN PRESSED A LITTLE FURTHER HE READILY ADMITTED THAT THE AXE HAD BEEN FITTED WITH A NEW HANDLE FROM TIME TO TIME. UN ONE OCCASION, BECAUSE IT HAD BEEN SO FREQUENTLY SHARPENED, THE HEAD HAD WORN DOWN TO THE POINT THAT IT ALSO HAD REQUIRED REPLACING.
NONETHELESS, IT WAS UNDOUBTEDLY VAN RIEBEECK'S AXE.

WE PERHAPS TEND TO DISMISS THE FARMER'S CLAIM AS FANCIFUL, BECAUSE AN AXE HAS ONLY TWO PARTS. BOTH OF WHICH ADMITTEDLY WERE NOT THE ORIGINALS. THE CONTINUOUS FUNCTION ARGUMENT SEEMS TO GAIN MORE, VALIDITY

IF ONE CONSIDERS AN ORGANISM WITH MANY PARTS, ALL OF WHICH ARE EVENTUALLY REPLACED. THIS REALLY IS THE ONLY ARGUMENT FOR EXTENDED IDENTITY. TAKE OUR OWN BODIES. I UNDERSTAND THAT OVER A PERIOD OF SEVEN YEARS WE ARE ALMOST ENTIRELY REPLACED. EXCEPT PERHAPS FOR OUR

TEETH AND PORTIONS OF OUR LARGER BONES. IN ONCE SENSE, THEREFORE, MY WIFE IS DEFINITELY NOT THE WOMAN I MARRIED, AND I AM NOT THE MAN BESIDE WHOM SHE WALKED DOWN THE AISLE. IN THE CASE OF AN INSTITUTION WE CAN APPRECIATE THE POSITION EVEN MORE CLEARLY. NONE OF THE FOUNDER MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL ARE PRESENT TO-NIGHT. THE BUILDINGS HAVE COMPLETELY ALTERED, THROUGH RENEWAL OR REPLACEMENT. WHEREIN, THEREFORE, IS THE DALE OF IS6I THE SAME SCHOOL AS THE DALE OF I986, OR WHEREIN WILL THE DALE OF 2III BE THE SAME AS THAT OF TO-DAY, IF SUCCEEDING GENERATIONS KEEP FAITH?

LET US APPROACH THIS QUESTION OBLIQUELY BY CONSIDERING WHAT FACTORS IN OUR HUMAN EXPERIENCE CHANGE MOST RAPIDLY AND UNPREDICTABLY, AND WHICH CAN BE RELIED UPON TO ENDURE. If WE EXERCISE OUR IMAGINATIONS A LITTLE WE CAN PICTURE OURSELVES AS PART OF THE DALE COMMUNITY OF THE 1860'S. IT WAS A VERY DIFFERENT WORLD IN A MATERIAL, PHYSICAL SENSE THAN THE

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ONE TO WHICH WE ARE ACCUSTOMED. MANY OF THE THINGS WHICH WE TAKE FOR GRANTED, AND FIND IT HARD TO CONSIDER SURVIVING WITHOUT, WOULD HAVE BEEN UNKNOWN. THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO ELECTRICITY, NO TELEPHONES, RADIO OR TV, NO MOTORISED TRANSPORT AND NOT MUCH IN THE WAY OF ROADS, NO JETS AND NO COMPUTERS, NO PLASTICS OR MAN-MADE FIBRES, AND ONLY THE MOST ELEMENTARY MEDICINES. SUCH HAS BEEN THE FRANTIC PACE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY THAT THE MATERIAL LIFE OF OUR NINETEENTH CENTURY FOREBEARS HAD MORE IN COMMON WITH THAT OF THE STONE AGE THAN IT DOES WITH OURS. FURTHERMORE, NO PERSON IN 1861 COULD EVEN HAVE IMAGINED WHAT LIFE IS LIKE TO-DAY. ANY PREDICTION HE ATTEMPTED WOULD HAVE BEEN HOPELESSLY WIDE OF THE MARK.

ARE WE IN ANY BETTER POSITION TO-DAY TO PREDICT THE CIRCUMSTANCES PREVAILING IN THE YEAR 2III. ASSUMING OF COURSE THAT A NUCLEAR

HOLOCAUST IS AVERTED? HARDLY. FOOLHARDY THOUGH IT MIGHT BE TO

PROGNOSTICATE, I BELIEVE WE COULD SUGGEST SOME OPTIMISTIC TRENDS. IT SEEMS FAIRLY HOPEFUL, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT AUTOMATION AND ROBOTIZATION WILL HAVE ADVANCED TO THE POINT THAT BASIC HUMAN NECESSITIES WILL BE ABLE TO BE PRODUCED IN SUCH ABUNDANCE THAT NOBODY NEED WANT FOR FOOD, CLOTHING, SHELTER AND FUNDAMENTAL MEDICAL ATTENTION. ONE COULD ALSO CONFIDENTLY ASSUME THAT THERE WILL BE MAJOR BREAKTHROUGHS IN NUCLEAR FUSION ENERGY, CURES FOR MANY MAJOR DISEASES, AND IMPROVEMENTS IN TRANSPORT. ONE THEORETICAL STUDY HAS SUGGESTED THAT WITH BALLISTIC AIRCRAFT ANY TWO POINTS ON EARTH WILL BE NO MORE THAN FORTY MINUTES TRAVEL TIME APART. PERHAPS PUCK IN MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM WAS BEING CLAIRVOYANT WHEN HE SAID: "I'LL PUT A GIRDLE ROUND ABOUT THE EARTH IN FORTY MINUTES". WE SHALL ALSO HAVE PROGRESSED A LONG WAY IN

PREVENTING THE DETERIORATION IN VEGETATION, AIR AND WATER THAT IS SUCH

A FEATURE OF THE DARKER SIDE OF OUR MODERN LIFE. IF EVEN A PORTION OF

WHAT I HAVE SUGGESTED COMES TO PASS IT WILL ALTER IRREVOCABLY THE CONCEPT OF WORK, WHICH WILL FOCUS ON SERVICE RATHER THAN PRODUCTION. PHILOSOPHIES OF SCARCITY, WHICH APPEAL SO POWERFULLY TO THE "HAVE-NOTS", WILL LARGELY HAVE LOST THEIR APPEAL, BECAUSE THERE WILL BE ENOUGH TO GO ROUND.

NO FUTUROLOGIST, HOWEVER PERSPICACIOUS, WOULD DARE SUGGEST ANY FORECAST BEYOND BASIC TRENDS, OVER SO LONG A PERIOD AS I25 YEARS. EVEN IF WE ARE WILDLY, EVEN ABSURDLY WRONG AS WE GAZE INTO OUR CRYSTAL BALLS, IN A DEEP SENSE IT IS NOT OF FUNDAMENTAL OR TRANSCENDENTAL IMPORTANCE. NOBODY TO-DAY UNLESS HE WERE A SCIENCE HISTORIAN, COULD READ WITH PROFIT ANY MORE THAN A MINUSCULE PROPORTION OF THE SCIENTIFIC OR TECHNICAL LITERATURE OF I25 YEARS AGO. ON THE OTHER HAND, A GOOD DEAL RELATING TO HUMAN NATURE OR THE STRUCTURE OF

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INSTITUTIONS DATING FROM THAT PERIOD, INDEED FROM EARLIER CENTURIES, IS STILL EMINENTLY READABLE AND COGENT. A FINE EXAMPLE IS CARDINAL NEWMAN'S SEMINAL WORK, "THE IDEA OF A UNIVERSITY", WHICH WAS WRITTEN ABOUT TEN YEARS BEFORE DALE WAS FOUNDED. IT STILL READS ALMOST AS FRESHLY AS WHEN IT WAS WRITTEN. IT REMAINS THE AUTHORITATIVE SOURCE BOOK OF A VIEW OF THE UNIVERSITY WHOSE FIRST PRIORITY IS THE CULTIVATION OF THE MIND RATHER THAN THE APPLICATION OF USEFUL KNOWLEDGE.

IT IS THE COMMITMENT TO LASTING VALUES THAT DEFINES THE FUNDAMENTAL CONTINUITY OF AN INSTITUTION SUCH AS DALE. ALTHOUGH A DALIAN OF 1861 LIVED IN A VASTLY DIFFERENT WORLD HE WAS AS MUCH A BOY OF THE SCHOOL AS THOSE BEFORE US THIS EVENING. AND DOUBTLESS AS THOSE WHO WILL BE ATTENDING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY FESTIVITIES. YOUR HEADMASTER SUMMED

IT UP SUCCINCTLY IN LAST YEAR'S COLLEGE MAGAZINE. "WHY ARE DALE'S NUMBERS INCREASING SO DRAMATICALLY?", HE ASKED. "THE ANSWER IS THAT DALE IS OFFERING A SALEABLE COMMODITY: A PHILOSOPHY, AN IDEAL AND A SET OF VALUES WHICH ARE NOT EASILY FOUND IN OTHER SCHOOLS: A SALEABLE COMMODITY BEING SOUGHT BY PARENTS AND BOYS ALL OVER THE REPUBLIC".

LET US CONSIDER A LITTLE FURTHER JUST TWO FACTORS THAT WOULD BE PRESENT IN ANY MEANINGFUL SET OF VALUES. THE FIRST IS THAT OF DISCIPLINE. WITHOUT IT NOTHING WORTHWHILE CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED, EVEN BY MEN OF GENIUS. GENIUS HAS OFTEN BEEN DEFINED AS "NINETY-NINE PERCENT PERSPIRATION, COUPLED WITH ONE PERCENT OF INSPIRATION". IF SUCH IS THE CASE FOR THE MOST GIFTED OF OUR FELLOWS, HOW MUCH MORE MUST IT BE SO FOR THE REST OF US? NO BOY GETS SIX DISTINCTIONS IN HIS MATRICULATION RESULTS. UNLESS HE SHUTS OUT MOST NATURAL PREDELICTIONS

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AND DOES AN IMPRESSIVE AMOUNT OF WORK. UNLY A BOY BORN WITH A SILVER SPOON IN HIS MOUTH WILL KEEP A COVETED PLACE IN A CRICKET OR RUGBY TEAM IF HE DOES NOT ARRANGE HIS LIFESTYLE SO AS TO RETAIN HIS BASIC JITNESS. AND DOES NOT APPLY HIMSELF AS WILLINGLY IN PRACTICE SESSIONS AS IN MATCHES. PROFICIENCY IN PLAYING A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT DEMANDS HOURS OF DAILY PRACTICE. ARTHUR RUBINSTEIN. THE GREAT CONCERT PIANIST, USED TO SAY "IF I MISS A DAY OF PRACTICE I NOTICE; IF A WEEK MY WIFE NOTICES; IF TWO WEEKS THE PUBLIC NOTICES". HE CLEARLY INTENDED TO CONTINUE TO MEET HIS OWN HIGH STANDARDS. AS WELL AS SATISFYING HIS AUDIENCES.

MANIFESTLY, THE FINEST KIND OF DISCIPLINE IS SELF-DISCIPLINE, BUT THAT, LIKE ANYTHING ELSE, HAS TO BE LEARNT, AND DEMANDS A CERTAIN LEVEL OF MATURITY. UNTIL IT IS ACQUIRED THE DISCIPLINE HAS TO BE

STRUCTURED AND EXTERNAL. AT THE TIME YOU MAY FEEL LIKE SHAKESPEARE'S "WHINING SCHOOLBOY, WITH HIS SATCHEL, AND SHINING MORNING FACE, CREEPING LIKE SNAIL UNWILLINGLY TO SCHOOL". IN LATER YEARS, AS YOU LOOK BACK ON YOUR SCHOOLDAYS AT DALE, YOU WILL REALISE THAT A LIFETIME HABIT OF DISCIPLINE IS ONE OF THE FINEST LEGACIES YOU WILL HAVE RECEIVED. WITHOUT DISCIPLINE YOU WILL MAKE NOTHING OF YOURSELF, AND EVEN MORE CERTAINLY NOBODY ELSE WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE ANYTHING OF YOU. LUCK, OF COURSE, ALSO PLAYS A PART IN EVERYBODY'S LIFE, BUT WITHOUT BASIC DISCIPLINE YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO EXPLOIT THE LUCKY BREAKS THAT DO COME YOUR WAY.

THE SECOND FACTOR I WISH TO CONSIDER IS THE CAREFUL BALANCE REQUIRED BETWEEN THE INDIVIDUALS'S RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS. AND THOSE OF THE GROUP OR GROUPS TO WHICH HE BELONGS. AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF HISTORY.

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AND IN DIFFERENT SOCIETIES. THE PENDULUM HAS SWUNG. SOMETIMES IN THE DIRECTION OF EXCESSIVE EMPHASIS ON THE INDIVIDUAL. WHILE AT OTHER TIMES THE AUTHORITY OF THE GROUP. AND THE OBLIGATION TO CONFORM TO ITS NORMS. HAVE BYEEN OVERSTRESSED. IN THE LAST ANALYSIS, HOWEVER, WE MUST ACCORD PRIORITY OF IMPORTANCE TO THE INDIVIDUAL. THE INDIVIDUAL HAS A DIGNITY. A REALITY AND A SIGNIFICANCE THAT NO SOCIETY CAN CLAIM. HUMAN SOCIETIES RISE AND FALL, AND ARE DESTINED TO PASS AWAY. THEY ARE PART OF HISTORY. ONLY THE INDIVIDUAL. NOT ANY SOCIETY. HAS AN ETERNAL DESTINY. NONETHELESS, MAN HAS TO BE PART OF A SOCIETY. HE IS A SOCIETAL BEING, AND HE CANNOT LIVE ALONE. HE HAS TO TAKE THE NEEDS AND DESIRES OF OTHER PEOPLE INTO ACCOUNT. SOCIETY IS MADE UP OF THE INDIVIDUALS COMPRISING IT. IT EXISTS FOR THEIR SAKE, AND NOT VICE VERSA.

Take your school as an example of a society. The school exists to serve you, the boys. If there were no need to educate you, there would be no impressive buildings or playing fields here, and no staff would be employed. In short, there would be no school. By what at first sight is something of a paradox, the school cannot completely fulfill its function of educating you properly in an integrated sense - physically academically, socially and morally - unless you in turn wholeheartedly serve the school. To be sure, your head could be filled with a databank of more or less useful facts, without much service commitment from you, but that would hardly be education. All the opportunities for fellowship, mutual concern, growth as a person, and the acquisition of the beginnings of a real culture, which the extra curricular team, hostel and school activities and facilities provide, will not bear fruit unless you, the individual pupil.

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SACRIFICE YOUR NATURAL PROCLIVITIES TOWARDS LAZINESS, HALFHEARTEDNESS AND LACK OF CONCERN. THE PARADOX IS RESOLVED WHEN WE REALISE THAT WHAT THE INDIVIDUAL SACRIFICES TO SERVE THE SCHOOL IS THE FINITE.

NEGATIVE. DARKER SIDE OF HIS NATURE. THE LABOUR IS RETURNED A HUNDRED FOLD IN GROWTH WHICH YOU ACHIEVE. DIRECTLY PROPORTIONAL TO YOUR EFFORT. IN OTHER WORDS, YOU REAP THE REWARDS OF THE DISCIPLINE TO WHICH I HAVE ALREADY ALLUDED. WHAT IS MORE, YOU WILL BE WELL-PREPARED TO PLAY YOUR PART IN THE DIFFICULT AND DANGEROUS DAYS WHICH LIE AHEAD. WHEN OUR INHERENT DISCIPLINE AND SENSE OF BALANCE WILL BE PUT TO THE SEVEREST OF TESTS.

Dale College has been a successful and well loved-school for the past I25 years, through many changes and vicissitudes, precisely because, no matter how much external circumstances may change, human nature

DOES NOT, AND DALE HAS PROVIDED THE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH OUR DEEPER ASPIRATIONS MAY BE NURTURED. NO MATTER THAT OUR ANCESTORS TRAVELLED IN OXCARTS, AND OUR DESCENDANTS MAY COLONISE THE MOON AND THE NEARER PLANETS, ALL GENERATIONS, PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE NEEDED, AND WILL CONTINUE TO NEED, THE SAME BASIC PREPARATION FOR LIFE.

WE ARE EXPERIENCING HARD TIMES. HARD TIMES UNDOUBTEDLY LIE AHEAD. IT DOES TAKE A FIRMLY GROUNDED FAITH TO IMAGINE DALE I25 OR EVEN 250 YEARS AHEAD. THE BETTER A SCHOOL IS THE MORE LIKELY IT IS TO SURVIVE EVEN CATACLYSMIC CHANGES. WINCHESTER COLLEGE RECENTLY CELEBRATED ITS SESQUICENTENARY. IT IS ONE OF THE PREMIER SCHOOLS IN ENGLAND TO-DAY. AND FOR MOST OF ITS LONG 600-YEAR HISTORY IT HAS BEEN IN THE FOREFRONT. FOR MANY WHITE SOUTH AFRICANS IT IS HARD TO IMAGINE A GREATER UPHEAVAL THAN THE TRANSITION FROM IAN SMITH'S RHODESIA TO

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ROBERT MUGABE'S ZIMBABWE. I AM TOLD, HOWEVER, BY AN INFORMED OBSERVER OF THE SCENE THAT THE BEST SCHOOLS IN RHODESIA CONTINUE TO BE THE BEST SCHOOLS IN ZIMBABWE, AND STAND FOR MUCH THE SAME VALUES, ALTHOUGH OF COURSE SERVING A VERY DIFFERENT CLIENTELE.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. ON THIS AUSPICIOUS OCCASION WE SALUTE DALE COLLEGE FOR WHAT IT HAS ACHIEVED OVER THE GENERATIONS, AND WE CONGRATULATE THE PRIZEWINNERS.

WE WISH THE COLLEGE EVERY SUCCESS AS IT BRAVELY ENTERS ANOTHER PHASE OF ITS HISTORY. FOR THE REASONS WHICH I HAVE ADVANCED WE PROJECT OUR MINDS INTO THE FUTURE WHEN A DISTANT GENERATION, IN SOME WAYS VERY DIFFERENT FROM US. BUT IN ESSENCE VERY MUCH THE SAME, WITH ALL THE

GLORIES AND ALL THE FRAILTIES OF THE HUMAN CONDITION, WILL BE CELEBRATING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY. THEY WILL BE REJOICING EVEN MORE THAN WE ARE, FOR THEY WILL HAVE TWICE AS MUCH TO LOOK BACK ON AS YOU DO NOW.

D S HENDERSON

RHODES UNIVERSITY
20 OCTOBER L986