



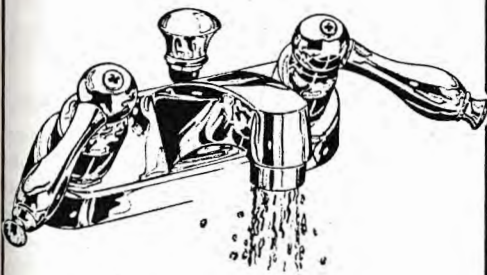
# RHODOS

INCORPORATING THE RUSA REPORTER



Thursday, October 25

Vol 2 No 15



## Editorial

Very few people noticed that the issue of *Rhodos* due for the end of September did not materialize. We were gratified with the few vociferous complaints (and one plaintive one) which we did receive.

No, the wheels didn't come off. The non-appearance of *Rhodos* was a well-planned plot.

We have several complaints from people who have not received *Rhodos*. The obvious answer would be to have a database of names and addresses, but Public Relations does not have the people-power to do this, except for the Rhodes pensioners. If your copy does not arrive, check your departmental / hall / residence mail distribution system before checking with the mail room. The mail room has a list of all sections of the University and the numbers of copies to be delivered to each.

We hope that all pensioners are now on our mailing list. If you know of a pensioner who is not receiving *Rhodos* and would like to, please let us have the name and address.

## Congratulations!

To Mrs Thelma Henderson, on winning a SALUS award, presented to her last month by the Minister of Health and Population Development.

Also to Roger Jacob and Chris Hummel - the former on been appointed a full Professor, the latter on being appointed Associate Professor.



*Professor Tom Hecht has regrettably stepped down from his pedestal. He found life as a living statue conflicted slightly with research, teaching and family life, so he passed the job on to the chap in the picture above. (See story inside)*

## Tribute to Boysie Green

**Extracts from the Vice-Chancellor's Tribute to Mr L B "Boysie" Green at a Memorial Service on October 16**

It is my privilege to offer some thoughts on Mr Green's public contribution to the life of this city.

Boysie was born in Grahamstown in 1914 the son of a local businessman. His schooling was at Kingswood College, whence he was awarded the Municipal Scholarship to attend Rhodes University College. His career as an attorney in Grahamstown spanned over fifty-three years.

We honour a man who was far from content to confine his concern to his

profession. His interest in Rugby began as a small boy, but bouts of rheumatic fever precluded his active participation. Nonetheless he had an informed and lifelong devotion to the game. In the Fifties he became President of the Albany Football Club, then at the acme of its status as a force to be reckoned with in East Cape rugby, even producing a number of Springbok trialists.

Just as his medical condition deprived him from playing so too did it prevent

*continued on page 2*



# Read a T-shirt today

by Sandy Rowoldt

Those colourful T-shirts you see being worn on campus and on display in the Library have literally gone a long way towards the promotion of both literacy and readership - right around the world in fact.

These wide travels are most appropriate as 1990 is not only the South African Year of the Reader but also UNESCO's Literacy Year and the Rhodes Library promotions are being seen and worn in the United States, Canada, Spain, Germany, Australia, England, Ireland and, most recently, in France.

At the latest meeting of the Eastern Cape branch of the South African Institute of Librarians and Information Science (SAILIS) Professor

Patrick Fein presented the visiting speaker, Mme Catherine Parodi, of the Biblioteque Nationale, with one of the T-shirts. We hope she'll be wearing it in Paris on France's National Literacy Day.

The T-shirts have proved popular not only locally but also with visiting researchers, who have taken them home with them. Grahamstownians have also sent them as gifts to friends and families overseas.

There are still limited stocks of the three designs which were commissioned specially by the Rhodes Library, although not all the designs are still available in every size. At only R20,00 they make splendid Christmas presents!

## Spend a holiday at Wits

The University of the Witwatersrand is to open its halls of residence to the public during the university vacations from December to February, the Easter break and in July.

The accommodation is basic and comfortable, convenient and affordable. Room rates range from R20 to R33 a day, and meals can be arranged to suit tastes and needs.

Function rooms and many facilities which can accommodate parties from six to a thousand or more, are available for hire.

The Wits option is suited to groups such as school tours, study groups, staff training groups, sports clinics, cultural or special interest groups, and seminars and conferences.

For further information, contact the Vacation Accommodation Officer, Student Affairs, University of the Witwatersrand, PO Wits, 2050 Johannesburg. Tel: 011-716 3543

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from him seeing active service during World War II.

Boysie's interests ranged far and wide, and included business, charitable, educational and cultural undertakings. He was a founder Trustee of the Josie Wood Trust of the South African Library for the Blind, and subsequently became its Chairman.

It was in the area of educational administration that he really came into his own. He joined the Council of Kingswood College and was for many years Chairman of its Finance Committee. Some twelve years ago he joined the Rhodes University Council, as a co-opted member and rapidly became chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, and later, Vice-Chairman of the Council itself. At the beginning of 1990 he was elected to the Chair, where his tenure was all too sadly brief. Both institutions owe him a great debt for his counsel and wise

husbandry during difficult times. His steadying hand, now so suddenly withdrawn, was an asset that will long be recalled.

When the concept of a memorial to the 1820 Settlers was first mooted, Boysie was invited to join the inaugural committee. He was intimately connected with all phases of the development of the 1820 Foundation. Up to the time of his death he was a member of its Council, and served for many years on its Executive Committee. Nor did his cultural activities end there. He assisted his wife Ann in reviving Omnitheatre, and later became its first President. He has been a prime mover in upgrading and re-establishing amateur theatre in Grahamstown, particularly by bringing in professional directors and actors. He bore a good deal of the financial risk himself.

His contributions were recognized through his appointment to the Board of CAPAB, where he served until its organizational



*Congratulations to Richard Bouch, of the Department of History, on attaining his PhD and receiving an Alty Award as a result. With him in the picture are Dr Chris Hummel (left) and Professor Ian Macdonald.*

## Applications are invited from candidates for the following posts:

### ■ Clerk/Supervisor In the Rhodes Union, from February 1 to November 30, 1991

The successful candidate will be required to assist the Caterer, supervise staff and undertake general clerical duties with an emphasis on control of cash floats, banking and checking of suppliers invoices. Applicants should be prepared to work shifts, averaging 49 hours a week.

### ■ Secretary to the Students' Representative Council, from February 1, 1991

Candidates should be competent typists with word-processing and sound organizational skills and the ability to deal with people at all levels. Duties include minuting of meetings, arranging student conferences and various other administrative tasks.

### ■ Secretary/Clerk in Business Information Systems from January 1, 1991

Candidates should be competent typists with general office experience and the ability to deal with people at all levels. Word-processing skills would be an advantage, although training will be given.

### ■ Flexi-time Clerical Assistant In the Library from January 1, 1991

Candidates should be competent typists with a working knowledge of word-processing. Previous library experience would be an added advantage. The incumbent will be required to work 1 200 hours a year, at times convenient to the Library and the applicant.

*Application forms and salary particulars can be obtained from Mrs Annette Orsmond, of the Personnel Division, ext 115.*

format was restructured.

All these contributions to our civic life were formally recognized when he received the prestigious Merit Award of the Grahamstown Rotary Club in September 1989.

To his widow Ann and members of the family we extend our warmest sympathy and condolences. We commend also the courageous manner in which the whole family, not least Boysie himself, faced the trials of his final illness. Alongside our sad-

ness, however, and contrapuntal to it are equally strong sentiments of appreciation and thanksgiving for what Boysie Green has meant to each one of us and to his one and only dwelling place, Grahamstown. We all have our personal recollections of what he has meant to us, and how privileged we have been to have interacted with him. Those recollections will endure in our minds. We shall not easily forget him.



## ILAM's Lapa now ready for action

Andrew Tracey informs us that the new Lapa at the International Library of African Music (ILAM) building is complete and ready for action.

It is available for use day or night, week or weekend.

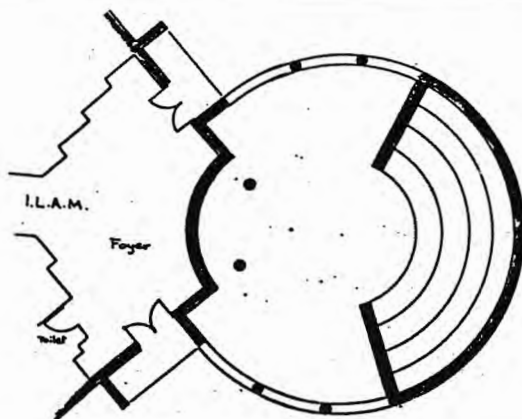
It is an outdoor circular performance/presentation/lecture area, with seating for about 80 people.

It has working lights, and ample power sockets for addi-

tional lighting or equipment.

To find the ILAM, if you have not yet seen the new building, take the gate opposite the Rhodes University Theatre, next to politics, turn left through the Ichthyology courtyard, then right.

You are welcome to visit the new building to look at the Lapa. Please ring Mrs Harper or Mr Tracey on ext 557



## Geography plans info systems laboratory

by Andrew Weldrick

Geographers at Rhodes are attempting to establish a Geographical Information Systems (GIS) laboratory, following the international swing in this direction over the last four years.

According to a Lecturer in the Department, Mr Colin Hobson, more than half the jobs for qualified geographers in the USA now specified that a knowledge of GIS technology would be an advantage, and South Africa was rapidly following suit.

"GIS is one of the major recent developments in Geography, and involves the use of computers in the handling and analysis of mapped information", Mr Hobson explained. The potential of this technology was vast, he added.

"GIS functions as a combination of a data base and a graphics package, and it is capable of listing details about areas one is researching, and identifying features on a map", he explained. "It can do spatial analysis and help make long term predictions by using information stored in the data base".

Mr Hobson stressed that GIS had a broad application base, and was not restricted to the use of geographers. This technology was widely used by regional and local authorities, town planners, landscape architects, geologists, botanists, and could be used by ichthyologists, zoologists and environmental consultants. "It could be of great help to researchers in any of these fields", Mr Hobson explained.

If the Rhodes GIS laboratory

is established by next year, the University has sponsorship available for the GIS software programmes which could mean a saving of around R260 000. While Rhodes has taught GIS to third-year geography students during the past two years, a laboratory would enable the university to offer GIS education as a post-graduate option.

Mr Hobson presented a paper entitled "Teaching GIS in South Africa" at the Annual Computer Graphics Conference last month, which was attended by 50 local and international speakers. Mr Hobson said there was a great need in this country for education in GIS if SA was to remain on top of international developments in this field and make use of such a widely applicable technology.

## Albany Bowling Club Fun Day Sunday!

November 11, 1990

December 9, 1990

**Come along and have fun !**

**Bowls - mixed trips or pairs**

Two Games - of 15 ends

Tabs in - by 9:30 am

Tea - with biscuits

**Braai Lunch - about**

1:45 pm

**Prizes !!!**

(to be announced)

**Charges:** Green fee - R1,50

Tea & biscuits - included

Braaipacks - R5,00

Visitors, beginners and spectators are welcome.

**Information:** Val Mills or Bill Tatham ext 205 or 201

## From the Potting Bench

### Winter's come in the back door

by Mark Hazell

Last time I wrote, I thought that Spring had come with summer following close on its heels - but in typical Grahamstown fashion, winter went out the front door and slipped in through the back door again.

The temperature this morning was 7°C outside - but we must be very grateful for the magnificent spring rains which have fallen and are in fact falling as I write.

It must be many years since Grahamstown experienced such beautiful spring weather.

A delightful quote from Ezra Pound: "The difference between a gun and a tree is the tempo. The tree explodes every spring."

With November just around the corner and Christmas lurking in the shadows, one should begin preparing the summer garden.

Place a thick mulch over the surface of your soil to protect against summer heat and to hold the moisture from rain and the dews with which we are very blessed in Grahamstown.

Start planting your summer annuals now for a show for Christmas and into the New Year.

Some useful plants are: Dahlia unwins, Impatiens Elfin (for shadier spots - allow to dry out to encourage flowering.)

All marigolds are good for strong colour and assist in discouraging eelworms. Portulaca is good for quick colour at this

time of year.

A few perennials introduced now will reward you with colour for a few seasons and will reduce your labour requirements. Plant a few Shasta daisy plants to fill those vases. The same applies to Michaelmas daisies, which come in a lovely range of colours these days. Statice plants are useful to introduce blue into your garden, although these too come in a range of colours, which include yellow.

Thinking about the range of colours reminds me that there was a spectacular show of colour at the Albany Horticultural Society's recent Spring Flower Show. A number of visitors to the show were heard to say "But the flowers in my

garden are better than those on show!" So why not come out of hiding and put a few blooms on next year's show - it's great fun. Mike Young, of Engineering Services, and his wife, Barbara, took the prize for Champion Rose. There you have it - if an engineer and a nursing sister can produce a champion, who knows what other wonders there are lurking behind the pale parchment-coloured walls of this University.

Why not give it a go next year - prepare your cut flowers and pot plants. There are many valuable prizes to be won. The Society welcomes members from all sections of the community at a fee of a mere R5 a year.



# Stewart found changing attitudes

by David Kraft

The attitude of the international community to South Africa is no longer one of aggression, but one of interest according to Professor Gavin Stewart, head of the Department of Journalism and Media Studies.

"While television and the popular media continue to reflect the political upheaval in South Africa as a simple moral conflict, newspapers such as *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post* realize that the situation is complicated and that the issues are not clear cut," Professor Stewart said.

Professor Stewart returned recently from a lecture tour abroad which culminated at an international conference in Ottawa, Canada, during the first week of this month.

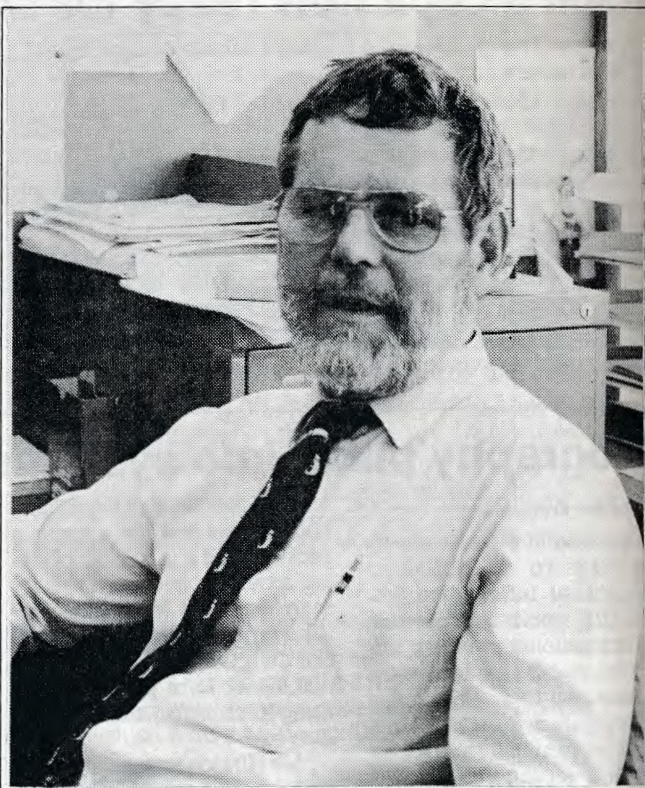
82 delegates from over 20 countries were invited to deliver papers at the *Media in Crisis* conference held at Ottawa's

Laval University.

The governments of Germany and the USA invited Professor Stewart to deliver his paper titled *Lone voice against South Africa's long crisis: the Rand Daily Mail 1957-1985* at various venues in their countries prior to the Canada conference.

In an interview, Professor Stewart said, "I see the Rand Daily Mail as a kind of collective Greek tragic hero, it functioned as a newspaper ideally should, and yet it was a victim of the deep divisions and inequalities which it tried to mend."

Professor Stewart worked for the Rand Daily Mail between 1965 and 1975 during the editorships of Mr Lawrence Gandar and Mr Raymond Louw and has been researching the newspaper's impact on South African politics for some years.



## Ichthyology has its own sculpture

by Val Papenfus

The first sculpture to be erected on the Rhodes campus, a juvenile unicorn leatherjacket, made by the Cape Town sculptor, John Skotnes, has taken pride of place in the quadrangle of the new premises of the Department of Ichthyology and Fisheries Science at the old Royal Engineers Building.

The free-standing sculptor, measuring 2,7m by 2m, was donated to the university by the artist.

When the head of the department, Professor Tom Hecht, realized something was needed to add character to the quadrangle on their new premises, he decided on a sculpture and commissioned Skotnes to tackle the project.

"We are all delighted with the way it has turned out and feel it contributes tremendously to personalizing our space," Professor Hecht said.

Skotnes chose this particular fish because the shape of the

animal allowed him a lot of scope to use his artistic licence.

The sculpture is made out of cor-ten steel which develops an anti-corrosive coat which does not need painting and ultimately causes the fish to take on its own colour, depending on the prevailing atmosphere.

"Not knowing what colour it will turn out makes it even more exciting," Professor Hecht said.

"I feel very strongly about art because it goes hand in hand with science.

"We hope that our sculpture will encourage more departments to erect them as it adds much character to the campus."

The department moved into their new premises six weeks ago and Professor Hecht said that although it was "pure magic" to have their own place, the building would only serve their purpose in the medium term because the department was growing so rapidly.

## Snippet from Varsity Voice, the staff newsletter of UDW

We were interested to see the following paragraph, in a guest article by Professor Moosa Motara, Dean of Science at UDW, who will be Dean of Students at Rhodes next year:

"You may be interested to learn that when I was interviewed for the post of Dean of Students at Rhodes University, the SRC President sat on the interviewing committee as a full voting member. I believe that UDW would benefit from including students in its Senate and on faculty boards and that the latter should include all permanent academic staff, not just junior members, as is the case at present."

### The Editor

I would like to appeal to Rhodes staff on behalf of Mr Joseph Mazwi, now aged 64, who retires at the end of this year and finds himself in an unfortunate position with respect to his future pension prospects.

Mr Mazwi has a long record of service (26 years) with the University, having joined Rhodes in 1965 to work in the Jan Smuts kitchen. He was transferred to Drostdy kitchen in 1969, where he served as head waiter. In 1971 Mr Mazwi moved across to work for the Computer Centre, where he has since been in service. Mr Mazwi began to pay pension benefits when the scheme was introduced for service staff in 1976. Mr Mazwi was never promoted beyond Grade 1 level. Consequently, his pension contributions have been

low, but in accordance with his salary scale and the specifications of the pension scheme.

On retirement, his gratuity (lump sum payment) will amount to little more than that required to purchase a new personal computer, and his monthly pension will amount to R109 a month.

If any member of the staff would care to make a cash donation towards helping Mr Mazwi in his retirement, please do so before November 30 either to Mrs M Botha (Department of Business Information Systems), or Mr R Moore (Department of Business Administration), who will collect it on behalf of Mr Mazwi and present it to him before he leaves at the end of this year. Thank you,

Rob Moore

## RHODOS STAFF

Editor: Mary Burnett (ext 517)

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Cartoonist and encourager: Mike Ginn

Rhodos is produced twice a month by the Public Relations Division, Rhodes University, Grahamstown. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the Editor, Rhodos Staff, or the University.



## Rhodes was very different in 1936

by D M Morton

When I arrived at Rhodes in January, 1936, it was a very different place from what it is now. So also was Grahamstown, though a good deal less so. For one thing, the city had only three tarred streets, including High and Hill Streets.

More significant, there was no water-borne sanitation. (This was achieved in 1937, a wet year, during which the digging of drains everywhere caused a great deal of nasty inconvenience.)

The city was not much smaller than it now is.

The exits from the city were different. For Port Elizabeth you exited via Prince Alfred Street, on what is now the Old Port Elizabeth road, past the Leather Institute and Kimberley Hall. For Port Alfred, you left via Hill Street, on what is still a winding bit of gravel road that joins up with the existing route, and for

East London you exited via Fitzroy Street. Only the Cradock Road is as it then was although, of course, it was not tarred.

The greater part of the city - excluding the new parts like Somerset Heights and Hill Sixty - is very much unchanged, though many of the buildings have been groomed up to modern standards. This is particularly true of New Street, which was then little better than a slum.

Artillery Road, as you approached the town, bent to the right, where it now bends to the left, passing through the Drostdy Arch, and there was scarcely even a cart track in front of the College (We were then of course, Rhodes University College).

There was only one bioscope, His Majesty's, where *God Save the King* was played at the end of

every performance, and the audience loyally stood in respectful silence.

I had arrived, by ship, at six in the morning, and before the afternoon was over I had made two resolutions that I was bound to break very soon. After an early breakfast I enquired when the next train for Grahamstown would leave. I was told, at nine o'clock. "Then I had better get my baggage along to the station pretty soon", I said. "Oh there's no hurry", was the reply "It's nine in the evening." "Then it must get in pretty late", I replied, knowing that Grahamstown was less than 80 miles away as the crow flies. "No, it's due at seven in the morning". "What?" I thought, "Ten hours to do a mere 80 miles: one might as well walk. I'll never set foot in a South African train if at all possible."

So I joined forces with

another passenger whose destination was Grahamstown, and we hired a taxi (for four pounds, I remember), and in due course we were heading for Grahamstown over a gravel road (apart from a 20 mile stretch at the PE end) which was clearly the original ox-wagon trail, hardly upgraded at all.

We were soon scattering fowls and children, turning corners on the wrong side regardless of traffic, (I was soon to learn that, apart from the odd lumbering ox-wagon, there was no traffic) and bumping over corrugations and pot-holes, at what I thought was a highly dangerous speed, though we took three hours to do the 80 miles. I was soon making my second resolution: never would I trust myself to a car on the South African roads.

*continued on p6*

## Ula Cameron looks back over 20 years...

Twenty years ago, Rhodes had a student enrolment of about 1 500 and Grahamstown was a sleepy city with no parking problems and few parking meters. The Graduation Garden Party was held on the Drostdy lawns.

Today everything has changed, student numbers have grown and everyone seems to have at least one car, so parking is a nightmare.

Rhodes, however, is still a lovely place - perhaps more so than it was then.

1970 was a year of severe drought (though the population of Grahamstown was small enough not to require water rationing). Only seven inches of rain was recorded from January 1 to August 22, when the heavens opened and there were eight inches of rain in one week.

By the end of the year we had a total of 23 inches, including four inches which fell over the weekend of December 4. There was a terrible storm that Saturday night, during which the wind and rain ripped through the Grahamstown area

- the cyprus trees which grew by the Drostdy Arch were completely uprooted. All the rivers were in flood and there was much devastation.

There has been more development at Rhodes than ever before. The University acquired the Training College and St Peter's Home complex as well as the old Prince Alfred Hospital. These buildings were renovated to provide much needed accommodation for residence and academic use.

The new Arts Block was completed in 1977, filling the fourth side of the first quad, and making space for seven academic departments. The areas they vacated in the old Arts Block were used for administrative offices.

The most ambitious project was Quad II, three large buildings which completed the core of the University.

A prefabricated building near the Department of Botany and another ugly building (used for many years by the J L B Smith Institute) were demolished to make way for

new buildings.

Landscaping is an ongoing project and for some time, visitors from other universities at home and abroad, and many parents and friends have complimented Rhodes on its beautiful grounds.

Perhaps the most spectacular development has been brought about by the onset of the computer age.

Twenty years ago, departments got excited when they were given an overhead projector!

There were only six electric typewriters and a collection of manual machines, some of which were 30 years old.

The first electronic calculator was the size of a shoe box and the white writing board had not been invented.

The Department of Computer Science started in the early 1980s with 20 Apple microcomputers. Physics extended into Electronics and, more recently a new department came into being - Business Information Systems.

## Politics for Beginners

**Socialism:** You have two cows - you give one to your neighbour

**Communism:** You have two cows. The government takes them both and gives you the milk.

**Fascism:** You have two cows. The government takes both and sells you the milk.

**Nazism:** You have two cows. The government takes both and shoots you.

**Capitalism:** You have two cows. You sell one and buy a bull.

**Trade Unionism:** You have two cows. They take them from you, shoot one, milk the other and throw the milk away.

**Moral:** Don't have anything to do with cows. They only bring you trouble.





# San Sisters' Column

## Hypertension (High blood pressure)

by Sister Win Simpson

Normal blood pressure tends to rise with increasing age, during exercise and when under stress. A person is considered to be hypertensive only when repeated measurements are increased. Pressure is measured during and between contractions of the heart and is called systolic and diastolic - eg 120/60 (average normal). It is accepted that people over the age of 20 can have an increased blood pressure of their age plus 100 over 60 - 80;

### Risks

There are seldom any indications of increased blood pressure and the patient can be unaware of any problem. Untreated hypertension shortens one's life expectancy, since it causes serious damage to organs such as the heart, brain, kidneys and eyes. It may cause strokes, heart attacks and kidney problems.

### Incidence

In younger age groups, more men than women have a problem. During middle years hypertension takes on epidemic proportions amongst women, especially urban black and "coloured" women.

### Treatment

Moderate and severe hypertension requires medication. A change in eating habits may be beneficial, especially in the overweight person. Salt and alcohol intake are also contributing factors.

### Salt Intake

Man's daily intake is approximately 10 times more than is needed.

Use herbs and spices to flavour foods and not more than 5ml table salt per day, per person.

Limit the use of salty processed foods and condiments. Read product labels and avoid NA, MSG and words such as soda and sodium.

### Alcohol Intake

Hypertension amongst heavy drinkers who imbibe 60 - 80gm of alcohol per day, is twice that of moderate drinkers. A moderate intake is two glasses of wine or two tots of spirits or two cans of beer, by definition, per day.

### Overweight

The body mass index (BMI) is a simple formula to determine overweight.

$$\text{BMI} = \frac{\text{Body weight in Kg}}{\text{Height in meters}^2} \quad \text{eg } \frac{56}{1.65 \times 1.65}$$

$$\text{BMI} = 20.6$$

### BMI Key:

	Men	Women
Normal Weight	20-25	20-24
Overweight	25-30	24-30
Obese	More than 30	More than 30

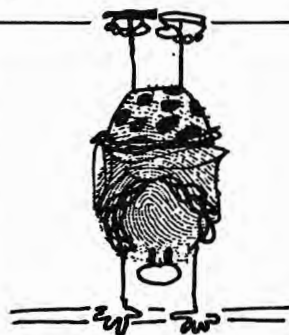
Dieting should be undertaken with your Doctor's approval and advice.

*continued from p5*

Grahamstown in January 1936 seemed inconceivably dead to a new arrival from Britain. The schools and colleges were closed, the lawyers were also on holiday, and so were all those who could get away to The Kowie. Installed in what was popularly called "Jenningsdorp", and is now Oakdene, I spent the first few days looking around what had not yet acquired the name "The campus". The front of the College, with the tower, had just been built, but still needed much internal work done before it was ready for occupation. What was to be the Library is now the Senior Common Room and the Council Chamber. Struben House had just been completed, and was ready for occupation. For the greater part of 1936 it was known as X House, and the Council eventually decided to give it the name of the local member of Parliament, a "carpet-bagger" politician from one of the successful families in the early days of the goldfields - an unlucky choice, as it turned out, for he

had, apparently, no local interests, other than to be the local constituency's representative, for in the distribution of his estate, the College was disappointed in its expectations.

There were then four men's residences, College, Milner, Botha, and the newly-opened Struben; and three women's Oriel, Jameson and Beit. But even with the opening of Struben, there was still too little residential accommodation, and non-oppidan men students were housed in various squat old houses scattered about the grounds: in Artillery Road and on the borders of the sports field. They rejoiced in the names of "Buckingham Palace" and "The Grove", among others. On the high side of Artillery Road there were several private houses, demolished later to be replaced by Olive Schreiner and Lilian Britten Houses. The Great Hall, a wood and iron structure was on the site of J K, and on the site of the present Library was that very important unit, Kaif.



## Wayside Chapel

A certain English lady decided to go to Switzerland to live. She enlisted the help of a schoolmaster there, who found a single room for her to live in. She wrote to the schoolmaster to enquire about the toilet facilities in connection with the room, referring to the toilet as the "WC". The schoolmaster did not know what was meant by a WC and so consulted his parish priest who decided it must stand for "Wayside Chapel". The schoolmaster wrote the following letter to the lady in England.

Dear Madam,

We are glad to inform you that there is a WC just nine miles from your room in a pine grove. It is open only on Thursdays and Sundays. This is an unfortunate situation if you are in the habit of going regularly. You may be happy to know that some people bring their lunches and make a day of it. Some of the people who don't have cars, just make it in time.

I would especially recommend Thursday for they have an organ accompaniment then. The acoustics are great - even the most delicate sound can be heard. My son was married in a WC. There was such a rush for seats that ten people tried to sit on the same one at the same time. It was interesting to see the looks on their faces.

My wife, sickly but dedicated, doesn't go regularly. In fact she hasn't gone for more than a year. Naturally it pains her not to be able to go more often. I will reserve a seat for you where you can be seen and heard by everyone.

I hope I have been of some assistance to you.

Cordially,  
The Schoolmaster

## Third Party claims: your questions answered

**M**otor accidents continue to be an everyday occurrence in South Africa, especially during the school holidays, and affect both motorists and pedestrians.

The Association of Law Societies of South Africa points out that while an accident has a disruptive effect on the lives of the persons involved, the third party system was established for this very eventuality.

The Association recommends a short consultation with an attorney as soon as possible after an accident, even if it is not a very serious one.

By so doing, the third party may receive advice on all aspects leading to a claim, and the attorney is able to begin the necessary preparatory investigations and preparations immediately.

The Association has issued a pamphlet covering every aspect of third party claims entitled *Third Party Claims: Your Questions Answered*.



# LETTERS

## Phones

**R**hodos made enquiries after receiving a letter complaining about the embarrassment of being cut off when trying to transfer calls within the University.

There is a technical fault which has the Post Office, Philips and Teleboss technicians scratching their heads. It is not something that can be solved overnight.

We have noticed that sometimes the system works perfectly - obviously we are experiencing a bad spell.

## The Editor,

**N**o, Richard, you did not hear the first cuckoo call this spring. Repeated Piet-my-vroues sounded in the Botany garden at 8:00am on Monday, October 1.

When living in Grahamstown from 1979-1985, I recorded the first cuckoo call each year, and the earliest I heard it was October 4.

*Doreen Court  
Department of Botany*

*(Professor Peter Mtshu informs us that Ilungalegwaba, the Xhosa name of the bird referred to in Richard Buckland's letter, is an older version, not in common use. The more usual name is Uphezukomkhono, which reminds farmers to put their hand to the plough in springtime - Ed)*

## The Editor

**S**ome time ago, over a period of days, the Rhodes windows were cleaned. I was extremely shocked to see that the men involved had no safety harness at all when perched on the ladders.

Surely any institution must ensure that its employees receive adequate protection when performing potentially dangerous tasks?

I hope that the University takes immediate steps to provide the necessary protective equipment.

One hopes, too, that in the interest of humane staff relations, it is established that those who perform such tasks as scaling buildings and roofs do not suffer from vertigo.

*Margot Beard*

## The Editor

**T**he present system of Capital Equipment distribution needs to be changed.

It is cumbersome, time-wasting, inefficient, frustrating and unfair.

Ostensibly, any item costing more than R500 is required to be applied for, with a written motivation, in priority order.

In practice, the more costly items, such as computers, use up the bulk of the annually dwindling funds available and the less costly items tend to be eliminated year by year while equipment or apparatus they are intended to replace or supplement becomes outdated and useless.

Very often the less costly items are apparently disregarded because they are considered unimportant, but it might well result in less effective teaching or mean that some lecturer, or some group of students, is unable to do essential items of work.

There is a predisposition abroad in the University that research is always more important than teaching and that postgraduate work is always of more consequence than undergraduate work. It may surprise its proponents that a considerable body of opinion exists at Rhodes that regard that view as fallacious and dangerous, and they have no right to foist their view upon the rest of us on the pretext of knowing best what is good for the majority.

Sometimes equipment is required that is very costly but needs to be purchased as an integrated unit, not piecemeal, for if separate items are purchased in succeeding years, not only can it not operate as an integrated unit, but advancing technology will result in various components becoming incompatible.

It would seem that such equipment should be on a separate list which goes directly to the Development Office for funding from outside sources on a first-come, first-served basis, once the request has been thoroughly investigated by a person in that Office competent to do so.

*D A Scott*

*(Letter shortened - Ed)*

## The Editor

**T**hat's it! That does it!

Your headline (Oct 11) "New Maternity leave regulations" calls for protest marches, demonstrations, letters to the press, TV interviews and advertising campaigns.

Talk about discriminatory regulations!

Whilst only once is it made clear that these regulations apply solely to the female of the species, what about the poor old male - because it would appear that he is excluded?

I mean to say, when you think of all the stress the father-in-waiting goes through, the strain is tremendous - from the laying of the keel to the launch - surely he needs leave to prepare and recuperate after the event?

And think of all the floor-pacing to come, burning the midnight nursery candle and crawling to work after a sleepless night.

Come one Dads and Dads-to-be - fight for your rights!

Flood Personnel with applications for Paternity leave, put the beer in the fridge, get out the golf clubs and fishing-rods and demand equality with your better halves.

## A. Non

*(I was feeling really sympathetic until I read the stuff about beer, fridges, golf clubs and fishing-rods. You would have wrung my heart if you had mentioned nappy-buckets, bottle sterilizing and burping - Ed)*



## The Editor,

**A** Department that seldom gets attention is the Sanatorium.

During my current two-week stay here, I have got to know the routine very well and feel very strongly that Rhodes staff and students should be better informed of the San's huge contribution to the University, in its treatment of both students and service staff.

The staff consists of three Sisters and two service staff members. The Sisters work 53 hours a week and the service staff have only four days off a month. The day starts at 7:00 and ends whenever!

The Clinic is open in the mornings, afternoons and evenings and is run by the two Sisters on duty. They also have to see to the needs of patients of the San and answer endless telephone calls on a variety of matters. In between this, they grab a cuppa that usually ends up going cold.

These dedicated people work very hard and give a lot of themselves. They advise, listen to students' problems and provide a refuge for one who is depressed or just simply burnt out.

Often the Sister on night duty gets called out in the night to deal with anything from vomiting to accident injuries or suicide attempts.

They seldom complain, but the one thing that drives them dilly is the constantly ringing 'phone, that interrupts what they are doing.

Please would the University make the Sisters' job a little easier and less hectic by providing them with a telephone answering machine, the cost of which is a small amount to fork out for five women who work very hard for the University, seldom having their efforts acknowledged and recognized publicly

*Yours sincerely,  
Cecilia de Vos  
BJourn IV*

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# Staff Sport

by Doug Coghlan

## Golf

Twenty-eight staff members turned out for the Rivett Trophy (individual championships) and Henderson Cup (inter-division) on Saturday, October 13. The weather was superb and the day was rounded off by lunch.

In the Rivett Trophy, Paul Davies surprised everyone, not least himself, by returning a fine 75 (38 and 37) which put him two shots clear of Colin Buxton (77) with Bruce Smith third (81). Rob Cross won the B Division (82) and Derek Henderson the C Division (99).

Tech Staff won the Henderson Cup with 129 points from Admin B (121) and Academic A (120). The best three couples were: Buxton and Whitfield (Academic A) 45 pts; Dore and Collett (Tech) 45 pts; Davies and Donald (Admin A) 44 pts.

The Convener of Rhodes Staff Golf in 1991 will be Rob Cross. It was also suggested that next year the Henderson Trophy be in four sections, with the Researchers forming a separate group.

## Bowls

The date for the Keith Hunt Trophy has been set for Saturday, November 3, at the Albany Bowling Club. Spectators will be most welcome.

## Dancing in spurs

A singular accident is reported from Dublin. Colonel Wardlaw was dancing at one of the Viceregal entertainments when his spur caught in a lady's gown, and he was thrown down with such violence that he fractured his hip. May we ask, in the name of common sense, what is the use of spurs in a ballroom? Is the exhibition of these dangerous weapons due to the theory that officers should be ready for action at a moment's notice? Are their horses kept ready saddled at the door? Or do they sleep in their spurs? Possibly it may be the custom to wear them in the presence of ladies from the effect produced by the clank and clatter of swords and spurs. We have heard of half-sovereigns being substituted for rowels, in order to improve the tone of the ring. But could not a similar effect be produced by a bell hung around the neck? At any rate it would not be as dangerous as the wearing of spurs on the heels has proved itself to be. (*Pall Mall Gazette*, February 26, 1870.)

## Rhodes to host Chemistry Convention

The 31st SA Chemical Institute Convention will be hosted by the University from June 24 to 27 next year. The Convention will overlap by one day with the National Festival of the Arts, which runs from June 27 to July 6.

There will be invited plenary lectures, keynote lectures and mini-lectures linked to poster sessions.

A number of visitors from overseas are expected.

## Students Art will be on show

Mr Christopher Till, Director of the Johannesburg Art Gallery, will open the Rhodes University School of Fine Art Student Exhibition at 6.30 pm on Wednesday, November 7, at the Art School Gallery in Somerset Street.

There will be a wide range of undergraduate and graduate work on display. The exhibition will include paintings, graphics, sculptures and photography.

The exhibition will be open to the public on weekdays between 9.00 am and 4.00 pm from November 8 until early in 1991.

## For your diary...

**Monday, October 29**

Examinations begin

**Saturday, November 3**

Grahamstown Historical Society

Day excursion led by Mrs Yvette van Wijk to view the Old Roses of Grahamstown

*The Old Cemeteries*  
10:00 am

**Monday, November 12**

Grahamstown Historical Society

Lecture by Mr Sandy Stretton on General Smuts's invasion of the Eastern Cape

*Albany Museum*  
8:00 pm

## Sport fixtures

**Saturday, October 27**

• Waterpolo

RU1 vs Tech 1

*Alexander Road Pool*  
12:00 noon

RU2 vs Tech 2

*Alexander Road Pool*  
1:00 pm

RU1 vs Saders 1

*Alexander Road Pool*  
3:00 pm

RU2 vs Saders 2

*Alexander Road Pool*  
4:00 pm

**Saturday, November 3**

• Bowls

Keith Hunt Trophy

*Albany Bowling Club*  
morning



## Smalls

**Weigh Less Classes.**

Masonic Hall, Hill Street. Wednesdays: 8am, 9am, 2pm, 4 & 5pm. Contact Pam Bowker 24359.

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