

INTRODUCTION BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, DR D S HENDERSON
TO THE INAUGURAL LECTURE BY PROFESSOR IAN ALEXANDER MACDONALD,
PROFESSOR AND HEAD OF DEPARTMENT IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY,
ON WEDNESDAY 1 OCTOBER 1986

We are gathered here this evening to listen to Professor Ian Macdonald deliver his inaugural lecture as Professor of Philosophy, a chair he took up in July 1984.

Professor Macdonald was born in Johannesburg shortly after the outbreak of the second World War. He completed his schooling at King Edward VII High School and it was there that he developed his

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love for rugby football. He captained his school's first fifteen and, like me, was a hooker, ^{word that has gone down in reputation} not of the POT variety, of course, but of the rugby scrum ilk. To-day after some years he is still chairman of the Rhodes University Rugby Club. Whilst on the subject of rugby, I have heard it said that Professor Macdonald is the sole surviving rugby coach who can be seen charging from one end of a rugby field to the other clad in a tie, flannels and blazer with a cigarette dangling from the corner of his mouth. He rejects out of hand the thought that a track suit might have its uses.

More seriously, Professor Macdonald's career at Rhodes began in 1958 as a Theology student. He soon became interested in Philosophy and it was in this field that he decided his preference lay. Nevertheless, it was as a Theology student that he became a member of SRC, one of the very few who did, and he later became the SRC's president.

He achieved his B A Honours degree in 1962, was a teaching assistant at the University of Kansas for three years and obtained his masters degree from that University in 1966. A year later he became a lecturer at Rhodes and a senior lecturer in 1971.

In South Africa, Professor Macdonald is highly regarded as a thoughtful philosopher. He does not enter debate lightly and when he does his contribution is clear and decisive. His particular philosophical strengths lie in the social, political and moral fields and he tends to deal with issues which have a wider implication. His papers on "Philosophical Justification for Censorship" and "Group Rights" are cases in point.

In the Faculty of Arts his colleagues regard him as a fair and a wise man. He has served the faculty in a number of capacities which include Assistant Dean, Deputy Dean and Acting Dean.

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Professor Macdonald is very keen and active in the affairs of the University and has served on a number of Senate committees, Joint Committees of Senate and Council, and other administrative committees.

As one would anticipate in as well rounded a person, Professor Macdonald has also played a meaningful role in Grahamstown Community Affairs.

So it is with great pleasure that I welcome here this evening Professor Ian Macdonald and introduce him to you.

The title of his lecture is "Group Rights".

Ladies and Gentlemen, Professor Macdonald.