



# RHODOS

STAFF NEWSLETTER

27 November 1998 VOL 10 No20

## Management Course



*Participants (back) and Lecturers (front) of the Certificate in Management Practice.*

Rhodes University's Management Department recently ran a 21-week course in functional areas of business, followed by a graduation ceremony. The certificate hand-over ceremony, presided over by Jos Welman, took place at the Old Mutual Sports Pavilion, with management lecturers who presented the course, and participants and their families in attendance. Professor Gavin Staude handed over the certificates and congratulated the participants.

Amongst the participants who undertook the course, which was open to the public, were nine Rhodes personnel from a number of divisions. Other participants came from local NGOs, First National Bank, the Education Department, the Albany Museum, as well as local businesses.

The Certificate in Management Practice was successfully completed by Dave Martin from the Engineering Workshop, Sue Powers, from Sports

Admin, Luc Marechal of Grounds and Gardens, Brenda Holland from the Estates Division, Ronwyn Coulson, the University Architect, the Zoology Department's Sunday Ogiakhe, and Margaret Clarke, ex secretary of the Geology Department. In addition, the certificate was also awarded to Andy Hatting, Manager of Building Maintenance, Khayaletu Sweli, of Campus Protection Unit, and Dave Charteris, Head of the Campus Protection Unit, who gained top marks in the final exam.

The participants have successfully completed both modules on Strategic Management, Marketing,

Human Resources, Service Marketing, and Financial Management, as well as a mini-exam at the end of the course. This year's course is similar to those run by the Management Department in Port Elizabeth and East London. It is likely, if there is enough demand, that the course will be presented again in Grahamstown in the second half of 1999.

Sunday Ogiakhe, a Post-Doctoral fellow with the Zoology Department felt that, "The course was excellent and the lecturers very competent. It was of very high standard." He enrolled in the course to increase his skills base, citing the increased need in his field for science managers.

## Promotions!

*The following staff members are being promoted from 1 January 1999:*

### Senior Lecturer to Associate Professor

Dr Paul Bischoff - Political Studies/ISU  
Dr George Euvrard - Education  
Dr Fred Hendricks - Sociology & Industrial Sociology  
Dr Francois Jaques - School of Languages  
Mr Obie Oberholzer - Fine Art  
Dr Allon Poole - Physics and Electronics  
Dr Ireneusz Szyszkowski - Statistics

### Lecturer to Senior Lecturer

Dr Korwa Adar - Political Studies/ISU  
Dr Stephanie Burton - Biochemistry & Microbiology  
Dr Cheryl Sacht - Chemistry  
Dr Susan Ziehl - Sociology & Industrial Sociology

### Junior Lecturer to Lecturer

Mr Anton Vorster - School of Languages.

*Congratulations.*

## Dr Woods' Year-End Message

1998 has been a full and successful year with exciting developments and successes in the academic, administrative and student sectors. Success is not achieved without talent and hard work, and I would like to congratulate the entire Rhodes community for contributing to a successful 1998.

Charlotte and I wish the students good luck in the examinations and a well-earned vacation to you all!

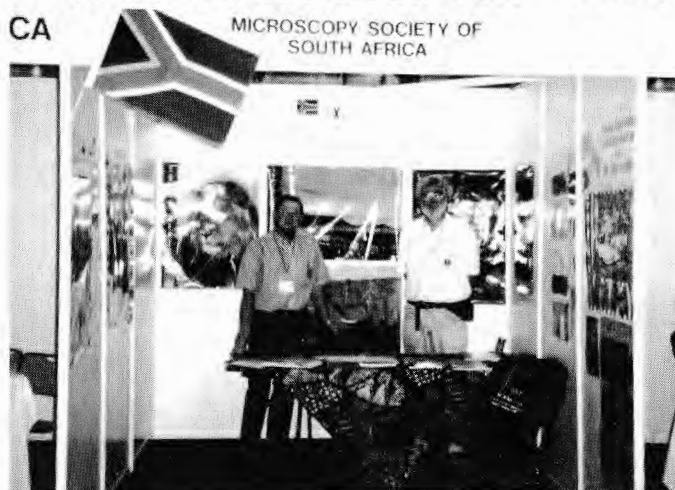
SEASONS GREETINGS





# What do Ted Botha and Colombian drug peddlers have in common? Read on.

CA



*Robin Cross and Ted Botha manning the Electron Microscopy Society of South Africa stall.*

Professor Ted Botha of the Botany Department, and Mr Robin Cross of the Electron Microscopy Unit recently returned from the 14<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Electron Microscopy held in Cancun, Mexico.

Although it is glamorized in travel literature and cigarette advertisements, getting to Cancun (on the North Eastern tip of Mexico's Yucatan peninsula) to experience all that it offers, proved to be an interesting and, in retrospect, rather amusing experience. Firstly, as is strangely quite often the case, it turned out that the cost of getting there was in inverse proportion to the distance travelled, and thus the route took Botha and Cross first to London and then Miami and finally on to Cancun. Surprises are in store for South Africans attempting to travel in transit through the US, despite what the small print on the official US visa regulations may say. Suffice it to say that South Africans, whatever they look like (all sorts, Botha included) are viewed with the greatest suspicion and, like sundry Columbian drug peddlers and other dodgy-looking characters passing through Miami International, find themselves relieved of their passports and air tickets, incarcerated and,

when moving around the airport, escorted under police guard! Privileged treatment, perhaps, but rather unnerving at the time.

According to Cross: "Having parted company on friendly terms with US officialdom, we were finally on our way to Cancun but, interestingly, being re-united with passports and tickets was not allowed until arrival in Mexico. Was this in case the lure of getting into the US was so great that one would be tempted to jump from the aircraft into the Gulf of Mexico and swim to shore?!"

Safely at the conference, which was attended by approximately 2000 delegates and trade exhibitors, Cross and Botha delivered two joint papers on plasmodesmata - the structures that regulate cell to cell transport in plants. The research around which these papers was based includes the use of fluorescent probes to 'stain' these cells so that anything that affects the cells, such as viruses or hormones, can be tracked in real time. These important structures are approximately 35 millionths of a millimetre in diameter.

In addition, Cross also presented a paper on the structure and arrangement of collagen fibrils in ostrich

skin. A greater knowledge of these characteristics is important in improving the processes involved in the manufacture of leather.

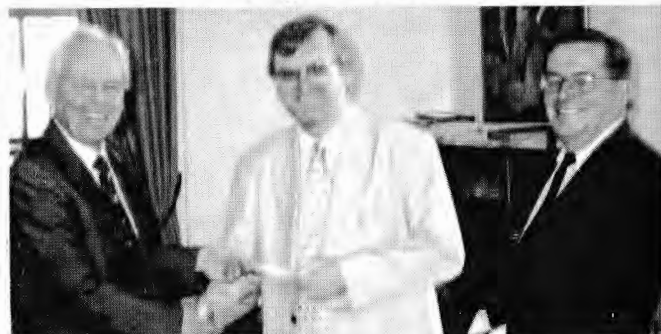
One of the highlights of the Congress for Botha was the workshop and related exhibitions focusing on the confocal laser-scanning microscope. This powerful microscope fills that gap between a conventional light microscope and an electron microscope, and allows high resolution real-time observation of functional living material — something which is not possible with other microscopes. According to Botha, "We are very interested in acquiring one of these instruments and hope that with the help of the FRD, we will be able to set up a facility here on campus, that will attract scientists from other universities around South Africa. If we get the facility, it would be the first confocal laser scanning microscope in the country." The advantages which can be attained through the use of confocal microscopy should benefit most of the biological sciences here on campus, a factor which is borne out by the wide support the application has generated on campus and from researchers at other universities.

An important aspect of

the congress for Robin Cross was the digital imaging workshops. "There are far-reaching implications in new developments in digital imaging. The new formats allow us to share technology with people in remote places even when they have only the most basic PC equipment and communications. The opportunities for establishing outreach programmes are wide-ranging, in particular through access to our resources and image archives," he said.

Cross presented the successful bid for South Africa to host the 15<sup>th</sup> Congress in 2002. The international microscopy community can expect a very exciting programme at the ICC in Durban. This will also present exciting opportunities for universities around the country to tap into this reservoir of knowledge. Internationally renowned scientists attending the congress will be invited to visit various universities and to share their expertise with local scientists. The opportunity will be unique as delegates will include experts from virtually all scientific, engineering and medical disciplines, and even some from the arts, the single thread that pulls all these people together being the fact that they use microscopes in the course of their work.

## Alty Award



*Professor Ian Macdonald watches as Law Professor Dieter Welz receives an Alty Award from the Vice-Chancellor, Dr David Woods, for completing his LLM on medical jurisprudence.*





# Of Showers and Meteors



1998 has seen the return of the Leonids, a meteor shower that shows its spectacular presence once every thirty-three years. Then again, they may show up in 1999 and 2000.

However, this year's strongest chance of seeing the meteor shower, caused by fragments of a disintegrating meteor, occurred in the small hours of Wednesday 18 November, according to Professor Graham Poole of the Department of Physics and Electronics. Sky-gazers throughout South Africa may not actually have been able to see the meteor shower, as it reached its peak somewhere over the Western Pacific and Mainland China. In Grahamstown, rain put paid to chances of seeing anything at all. There were, however, other opportunities to see some meteor showers both on Tuesday 17th and Thursday 19th.

But if you will settle for nothing but the best, the chances of seeing a more magnificent display increase next year, but sadly wane in 2000. Definitely not an exact science - you might catch it on one of three days, in one out of three years. Luckily astronomers have predicted that, this time around, the display of fireballs and shooting stars, should be quite breath-taking.

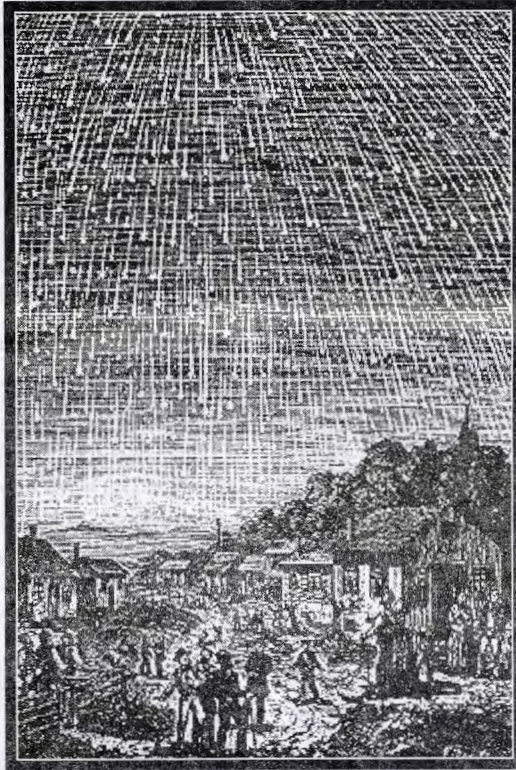
The Leonid storm, so called because the shower's focal point or radiant is situated in the constellation of Leo, can be traced back hundreds of years, but this was not realised until after the famous storm of 1833. It has since occurred in 1866,

didn't occur (or at least wasn't very visible) in 1899/1900 and 1932, but returned with some flair in 1966, and will hopefully present a major event in the 1998-2000 period. The reason for this three-year long window of opportunity is that the string of debris surrounding the disintegrating comet that provides the

fragments responsible for the meteor shower, takes about this length of time to pass by the Earth's orbit. Despite this seemingly large spread (ie three years worth of debris), the comet fragments are rather concentrated, a relatively close grouping that results in the unusually high rate of meteors and, this time around, fireballs that make up the shower. Other showers arising from debris that is more uniformly distributed around the parent comet's orbit are more predictable but less spectacular annual events. Very old showers that have become so diffused that they have lost their identity give rise to the random shooting stars that one can see at any time of the year.

The 1833 shower had hundreds of shooting stars and fireballs, and it is hoped that the comet will swing close enough to Earth's orbit to come close to recreating this event in the next few weeks, or in the next two years. This year, the peak of the meteor shower

occurred on the 17th at 19h00 over China. Skygazers throughout the Far East craned their necks and were rewarded with a spectacular display, although in no way as breathtaking as the 1833 shower.



*The 1833 Leonid storm by Karl Jauslin.*

## Visitor to Economics

Professor Andrie Schoombee of the University of Stellenbosch recently visited the Department of Economics and Economic History. He delivered lectures on *Commercial Banking Services for Micro-Entrepreneurs in South Africa*.

With the shedding of jobs in the formal sector, micro enterprises are playing an increasingly important role in the South African economy. And while South Africa's formal banking sector does not cater for these micro enterprises, international experience has shown governments are also not the most effective way of financing these enterprises. According to Professor Schoombee, "Parastatal finance corporations are high-cost providers of a limited range of financial services to a limited number of black entrepreneurs." Schoombee said that the government could, however, play a role by passing legislation forcing banks to operate in this market. "They could also guarantee part or all of the loans taken out by the micro entrepreneurs or the state could subsidise these loans for a limited period.



*The Economics Department's Professor Hugo Nel, and visiting Professor Andrie Schoombee, of the University of Stellenbosch.*

The state could also scrap or lift usury rates which could attract private capital into this market," he said.

Professor Schoombee was hosted by the Department as part of their visiting lecturer programme.



## Education Department Holds Environmental "Think Tank"

The Education Department recently held an international think tank aimed at sharing ideas on environmental education. SADC countries, including Mauritius, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Namibia, as well as Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland were represented, as well as countries as far north as Tanzania and Malawi.

The seminar, designed to bring together both those interested in Environmental Education and those involved in teacher education, was funded in part by the Danish-sponsored Life Science Project based in Namibia. One of the key delegates at the seminar was Namibia's

Dr Patty Schwartz, director of National Institute for Educational Development (NIED). The other major players were Professor George Euvard, Head of the Education Department, and Dr Lars Dulstrom, from Denmark's University of Umea.

Rhodes was selected as the site for the seminar as it has both an Environmental Education Unit concerned with promoting and developing environmental education, and a Chair of Environmental Education.

The seminar was run in an entirely workshop-based format - the rationale behind the whole 'think tank' being that of sharing ideas,



*Ursula von Harmelen of the Education Department with Lars Dahlstrom from the University of Umea.*

strengthening and creating ties between teacher educators involved in Environmental Education programmes, and the exploration of possibilities for the development of closer collaboration amongst SADC environmental education practitioners. There were no key speakers

nor even keynote addresses, and not even a concrete agenda as this was not a conference but purely a gathering to bring together a group of representatives from the region to exchange views and ideas, and discuss the possibility of setting up a network of teacher educators.

## Veterinary Sciences Visitor



*Robin Cross, Director of the EM Unit, with Shirley Pinchuck and Professor John Soley.*

The Electron Microscopy (EM) Unit was recently visited by the University of Pretoria's Professor John Soley. Professor Soley, who works in the UP Veterinary Sciences Department, was at Rhodes researching different techniques used to preserve cells, in this case mammalian and avian sperm cells, and measure them. He chose to bring his research to the Electron Microscopy Unit here at Rhodes, because of the unique combination of equipment and on-site expertise. While, he

says, most of the equipment necessary for his research is available in Gauteng, it is spread out amongst different institutions. This makes visiting Rhodes to do his work a better option.

Professor Soley is researching the different degrees of shrinkage that often results from different preservation techniques, including cryofixation, flash-freezing, chemical preservation and drying, and methods for light microscopy. Working in our EM Unit allows him to take

video footage of live cells using the light microscope, from which control measurements can be taken. These measurements will be used to determine the different degrees of shrinkage which occur using other techniques of preservation for the electron microscope. He is looking not only at the overall degree of shrinkage but also at components of the cells which do not shrink, and for possible consistent ratios of the degree of shrinkage between components of the cells for particular techniques. "The crux, is to compare techniques until one arrives at the simplest technique and then to eliminate any statistically signifi-

cant deviation from the normal size of a living sample. This will allow labs without the combination of equipment the Rhodes EM Unit has, to carry out similar research. The sophisticated set-up here allows cost-saving for other institutions," says Professor Soley, citing the "one-stop service" that the Rhodes EM Unit offers.

Professor Soley was Head of Department of Veterinary Sciences EM Unit and now lectures in veterinary anatomy, histology and embryology. He is currently researching male reproduction in non-passerine bird species, looking at sperm morphology and development.

### Did you know that.....

If you yelled for 8 years, 7 months and 6 days, you would have produced enough sound energy to heat one cup of coffee..

Banging your head against a wall uses 150 calories an hour..

On average people fear spiders more than they do death..

The strongest muscle in the body is the TONGUE..



## Generating our own Income

"In the first 16 months of setting up an Income Generation Programme at Wits, we are targeting a gross income of R10 million." This is according to Professor Robin Lee, Executive Director of the Income Generation Programme at Wits University (see Rhodes Volume 10 Number 10).

Professor Lee recently spoke at an Income Generation Workshop at Rhodes to highlight the need for and to inspire some creative thought around how we at Rhodes could be generating our own funds. He outlined some basic principles on the way to approach this new way of thinking within institutions such as ours. "The key areas to look at are to sell goods or services and to generate income by not making staff do more than they already do, but to use already existing capital assets and knowledge. The idea is to make innovative use of what has already been invested in."

But to make this programme successful, a couple of mindsets are going to have to change, the first being that bureaucracy is the antithesis of the type of environment in which income generation best exists. "One needs to have mavericks and risk takers, but this all needs to happen in an environment in which innovative ideas and thoughts are encouraged and not seen as a threat," said Professor Lee.

In setting up the Income Generation Programme (IGP)

at Wits, which is staffed by 14 people including consultants, a situation analysis was conducted within the University to determine the viability of such a programme and to see how the various interest groups would respond. The timing was critical as the management hierarchy was undergoing change and there was a certain amount of dissatisfaction amongst the younger staff, who were wanting action instead of talk. Student opposition was unlikely as a period of conflict was coming to an end. The proposal to set up the IGP went straight to Council for approval - "in retrospect, it was probably not a good idea to bypass Senate," said Professor Lee.

An aggressive campaign was then launched to project the IGP as everything that academia/admin WAS NOT. The IGP became very visible. They threw launching parties and bought a page in the internal newsletter to use for propaganda. The message was out that it was time to change. Staff were appointed on a consultancy basis, and a fund was set up so that there was a pool of money from which to lend people funds to begin programmes.

Wits has already established a "Faculty Company" for the Faculty of Health Sciences (known as the Wits Health Consortium Limited) and is now planning to convert IGP itself to a trading company, wholly owned by

## New Business Complex

The Department of Economics has completed a viability study of a proposed new business complex in Joza, Grahamstown East. This has been undertaken at the request of the group of Grahamstown business people planning the development. The project has been conducted by Professor Hugo Nel, with assistance from post graduate students.

The research not only covered the viability (projected sales) of the new enterprise, but also the development trends, particularly housing, in Grahamstown East. Commuter traffic was also estimated. Possible future service to the group could include assistance with a formal business plan.



Seen at the handing over of the draft report are (from left to right): Mr S Mayekiso and Mr S Ngwenyana (field workers for traffic count), Professor H Nel, Mr Z Nkwinti (group of developers) and Ms B Anderson (research and report writing).

the University. They are relooking at all retail services that the university offers (e.g. photocopying, food outlets, graphic services, printing, etc) to bring these together into a Division of Retail Services. A separate company is also being established to manage conference services and to establish a conference centre.

Professor Lee also believes that there needs to be organised commercialisation of research. "Research should not be allowed to just happen - it must be managed and it must be consistent with

the university's Mission," said Professor Lee. "Many researchers are most effective at the level of applied research and many of their results can be marketed," said Professor Lee.

The IGP also plans to offer courses in entrepreneurial activity to all staff, commencing in 1999. The courses will be activity-based and result in the creation of real projects. At Rhodes, Professor John Duncan will be taking on Income Generation as part of his portfolio as Dean of Research.

## World Englishes Conference

The Head of the Department of Linguistics and English Language, Professor Vivian de Klerk recently returned from presenting the keynote address at the 5th Conference of the International Association of World Englishes (IAWE) alongside Professor Efurosibina Adegbiya of the University of Ilorin, Nigeria. She was chosen for this particular honour on the basis of her extensive studies into language attitudes, and her range of publications in the area of sociolinguistics in southern Africa. Professor de Klerk spent a week at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, along with a number of other distinguished South African linguists, including Raj Mesthrie from UCT, who presented a paper on Indian Englishes in South Africa, and the Uni-

versity of Natal-Durban's Elizabeth de Kadt. Professor de Klerk's address concentrated on the experience of Black English in South Africa, fast becoming a *de facto lingua franca* within the country amongst non-mother tongue speakers. The paper explored a range of linguistic issues relating to the theme of the conference: *World Englishes and African Identities*. These include the problems involved in defining new varieties of English around the world, attitudes to such varieties, and prospects for their future growth and development.

According to Professor De Klerk, the conference was extremely stimulating, and she made many worthwhile contacts with colleagues in the field. Plans are now in hand to host the 7th conference of the association in South Africa in 2000.



## Of Dictionary Conferences and Courses



**B**ernd Schulz, Assistant Editor at the Dictionary Unit for South African English attended the 8th International Congress of the European Association for Lexicography (Euralex '98) at the University of Liège, on one of the wooded hills just outside the City of Liège, Belgium. The biennial Euralex congress brings together scholars, professional lexicographers, publishers and others interested in dictionaries of all types.

With as many as three parallel sessions of lectures running all day for four days there truly was a tremendous amount of exposure to new trends in dictionary making and lexicographic theory. Much of the

lexicographic work that is done in Europe is required by and funded by the European Parliament and its structures. The Parliament's need for speedy and accurate translation is in some ways comparable to our own multilingual situation. Unfortunately we can only dream of accessing as many resources as they do. Many papers focused on another huge development in dictionary making, namely how computers continue to revolutionise the process by making access to huge bodies of electronic texts (corpora) readily available. This enables lexicographers to see how language is really written and spoken and therefore aids the work of defining considerably.

Mr Schulz also had the opportunity to spend two days at the Dictionary Department of the Oxford University Press observing the revision on the Oxford English Dictionary, and consulting with lexicographers there on the Dictionary Unit's new dictionary project.

Shortly after his return, he travelled to the University of Pretoria to attend and

## Would you like to help?

**E**ach year there is a growing number of newcomers to the Rhodes staff. Many of them are completely new to Grahamstown, and often new to South Africa. A group of us has been attempting to visit them within the first few weeks of their arrival, to check whether there are ways in which the settling-in process can be made easier. Often simple things like finding a doctor, dentist or even schools need to be addressed.

If you feel that you would like to be involved in this, we would appreciate your assistance. Often it only means visiting once, as usually Departments are very good at looking after their own new people. Even then it means a recognisable smile over the shelves at the supermarket or a chance over a cup of tea to be able to tell a few of the Grahamstown urban legends.

### *Please contact us:*

*Sally Terry, tel: x8425 (w) 6224470 (h) or email ihst@giraffe or Funmi Ubogu, tel: 6226678.*

This visiting programme is one of the many facets of the Fulcrum Forum which is involved in several social areas of the Rhodes community.

help in the organization of a two-week course on bilingual lexicography and problems in African language lexicography (Afrilex-Salex '98) with two highly respected trainers from Britain. This course was a second stage following after the introductory course Salex '97 organised at Rhodes last year. It is intended that each of the 11 official languages get their

own Dictionary Unit and thus there is a critical need for training African Languages lexicographers in order to get this much neglected activity rolling as soon as possible. "We can only hope that the laws which are holding up this process are finalised soon, so that we can all begin to make multilingualism a reality in this country," Mr Schulz said.

## The Fulcrum Forum - 1998

*Charlotte Woods*

**T**he Forum has met regularly during the year and has supported both new initiatives as well as established events and items.

Newcomers to the University have been welcomed and their needs catered for wherever possible. Two parties for new members of staff and their partners were held at The Lodge in February and July. The babysitting group has continued to provide a supply of students for those in need of this service, and a housesitting group has been

established. Whenever possible, staff and students and their families who have been seriously ill or bereaved, have been visited.

Dave's Den has been transformed into a convivial watering hole frequented by staff on the first Wednesday of each month. The RUWA has continued with its lunches and guest speakers, as well as its activities within the community. Sporting activities have included a successful bowls tournament, Sunday hike, and Rounders evening.

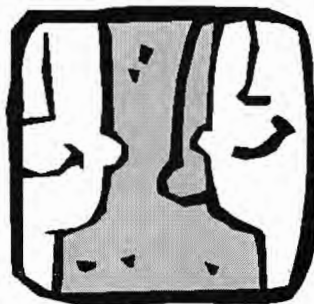
The RU children's Day Care Centre continues to provide a wonderful service and we hope to hold a fundraising day towards the end of February to allow for improvements to the Centre.

On the cultural side, campus life has seen the most enjoyable Lodge Garden Concert, Founders' Day Ball and the V-C's Concert.

We look forward to the children's Christmas Party on 5 December as the final event for the year. We shall start off the new year with the first Newcomer's party early in February and hope to hold the Lodge Concert on 14 March.

Dave's Den will also open with a bang so look out for details.

I thank all the dedicated members of the Forum for their involvement, time and energy in helping to make the University a happy and caring environment in which to live and work.





## Rhodes Band Wins Competition



Ilida Jacobs, Toast Coetzer and Gil Hockman.

Two different bands from Rhodes University, *Buckfever Underground* and *Die Pienk Gevaar Projek*, recently placed in the top three entrants in SABC's Geraas 1998 'Vuurdoop' Afrikaans songwriting competition. *Buckfever Underground* were the overall winners. Made up of Gil Hockman (who reportedly can't play a guitar) on guitar, and Toast Coetzer on vocals, the band's name is an amalgamation of 'buckfever' - a kind of trigger-happy frenzy that occurs when hunting, and 'underground', "symbolising things, well, you know... under the ground."

"Essentially, we tried to find the wierdest name possible," says un-guitarist Gil "the Man with the Iron Lung" Hockman.

Their song, 'Dink Harder', written as the band puts it, "about nothing much", was mixed and produced in a morning by well-known local record producer Steve "Rich Holmes" Albini. It has now won them studio time and a 1000 CD deal, which should qualify them for distribution through Musica.

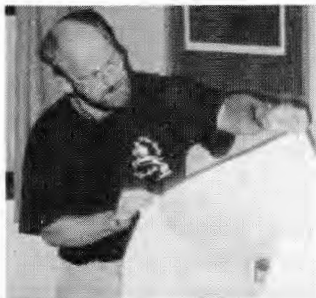
Both bands travelled to Johannesburg over the weekend of 13 November to shoot music videos for the SABC TV show, which aired on Tuesday 17 November. The videos then went up against a panel of judges including Johannes Kerkorrel, Carel Hoffman (*Oppikoppi*), Ansie Kamfer, two record executives from Janus Records, two Beeld reporters, and Geraas's Jacques De Preez.

One of the other entrants, Rhodes University's *Die Pienk Gevaar Projek*, had high hopes of winning the competition, relying on their "Slick Chick Power". But in the end, it was the motto of the Buckfever Underground, "Nothing like Beer and Freedom", that carried them through to first place. It was on Monday 16 November, while driving back from Johannesburg that the enterpid duo received a call telling them of their victory.

Un-guitarist Gill Hockman says, "We hadn't really considered the possibility of winning. I'm still not quite sure how big it is or what exactly it is." He is still stunned. Spoken Word vocalist Toast Coetzer rather quatably agreed, "It was lank surprising." The band must still decide how to handle their victory. Ironically, in an interview prior to actually winning, Gil unwittingly said, "This competition has temporarily forced us to take what we're doing more seriously."

## New Ecce Website

If you haven't been there already, make sure you visit the Ecce website soon! Ecce is an online literature magazine (ezine) launched on Thursday 21 October, by the English Department. Featuring student and staff contributions in the form of poetry, prose, profiles and editorial comment, Ecce promises to branch out into other literature communities within the Eastern Cape. The initiator and indeed primary driver of the magazine from concept to reality, Dan Wylie, hopes that Ecce will become a forum for critical and creative writing. The first edition (a few are likely to come out every year) includes a literary profile of retired lecturer Don McLennan, a story by a former student based in Johannesburg, and an article from Professor M van Wyk-Smith, former Head of the Department currently researching



Dan Wylie unveils the computer.

European representations of Africa. There is also a book review, links to other significant literature sites, and announcements of events, literary competitions and examples of both poetry and prize-winning academic essays by students. The site was designed by Dan Wylie and Tim van Niekerk, and Lee-anne McKinnell from the Physics Department provided technical expertise. Her husband, John McKinnell is responsible for the beautiful sunset landscape that forms the cover page, and adorns every successive contribution. The address is <http://www.ru.ac.za/academic/departments/english/ecce>.

## Improved FRD Ratings for Rhodes Scientists

1998 has been a successful year for Rhodes' Scientists in terms of FRD (Foundation for Research Development) ratings. These ratings are based on peer review and categorise individual scientists in terms of the national and international recognition they have received for their research. The three main categories are A, B and C ratings, with specialised categories being P (Prestigious Presidential Awards to Young Scientists), Y (under 35) and L (Scientists who have entered Research Careers at a later stage).

Presently rated researchers are re-evaluated on a regular basis. Of those evaluated in 1998, Professors Peter Clayton (Computer Science) and John Duncan (Dean of Research) have improved from the C to the B category. In addition, Dr Ian Skilling (Geology) has gone from a Y to C rating.

Seven members of staff were also successfully evaluated for the first time. They are Dr Nigel Barker (Botany) who received the first P award at Rhodes, Dr Rod Walker (Pharmacy) who was given a Y rating, and in the C category are Drs Pete Britz (Ichthyology), Eric Ferre (Geology), Euvgeny Pakhomov (Southern Oceans Group), Vladimir Smakhtin (Institute for Water Research), and Warwick Sauer (Ichthyology).

In total, Rhodes now has 13 B, 23 C, 1P, 1L and 3 Y-rated scientists.

*Did you know that you are more likely to be killed by a champagne cork than by a poisonous spider?*



## Stock Theft Research Project

A project to determine the economic and financial impact on the red meat and live stock farming industries in the Eastern Cape as a result of stock theft is to be headed by Professor Geoff Antrobus of the Department of Economics.

"The unacceptable increase in stock theft over the past few years has prompted the Eastern Cape Red Meat Producers Organisation (ECRPO) to embark on this research project," said Sid Knott, Chairman of the ECRPO.

According to Mr Knott, the research project has been approved by the National RPO, the National Stock Theft Committee of the SAAU and the South African Meat Industry Company (SAMIC) who will also fund the project. The project will take approximately 12 months to complete.

The objectives of the project are to value the market and non-market impact of stock theft in the Eastern Cape on the economy of the Province; to determine the effect of stock theft on the structure of farming and its viability within the province; and to supplement existing information on the extent and nature of stock theft and the means of minimising the problem.

The research methodology will include published and other existing resources, personal interviews with leaders and farmers within the industry, detailed case studies and self-completion questionnaires distributed within selected districts in the province between commercial and developing farming areas.

## International Conference



The Botany Department's Dr Nigel Barker, and his visitor from the Royal Botanical Gardens Kew, Dr Brian Schrire.

Botany Department's Dr Nigel Barker recently presented two papers, and was co-author on a further three, on his research into the evolution of grasses at the Second International Conference on the Comparative Biology of the Monocotyledons and the Third International Symposium on Grass Systematics and Evolution in Sydney, Australia.

This gathering of botanical specialists presented a range of studies on the classification and evolutionary characteristics of grasses, which are one of the larger families of monocotyledonous plants. The result of these presentations is a major upheaval and re-align-

ment of the classification of the grass family (Poaceae), which will be submitted for publication shortly.

Dr Barker is also presently entertaining a visitor from The Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew in the UK. Dr Brian Schrire, a systematic botanist, has returned to South Africa to collaborate with Dr Barker on legumes. More specifically they are sequencing genes of the genus *Indigofera*, a plant from which indigo dye was originally produced, and which is still used for dyeing traditional clothing in Nigeria. This is a very large genus with over 750 species in tropical and sub-tropical regions, and over 550 species

## Multicultural Marketing



Neren Rau and Trevor Amos, both from the Department of Management recently presented a paper at the 1998 Multicultural Marketing Conference in Montreal. The conference was hosted by the Academy of Marketing Sciences, in conjunction with Concordia University. It was well attended by a number of South African academics, as well as representatives from a number of international universities. They presented a paper entitled *Marketing to the Youth in South Africa: an International Comparison of the Aspirations of Higher Education Students*.

The paper looked at South Africa as a developing country currently attracting the attention of marketers from around the world. It offered perspectives on the career aspirations of South African youth, compared to their American counterparts, within the context of how these ambitions would shape their consumer behaviour. It examined the importance of developing an understanding of the factors that will shape the consumer behaviour of

South African youth.

The paper was completed with the assistance of a researcher in the United States, Dr Richard Scott. The paper was amongst those published in the proceedings of the conference. There was a lot of interest in South African papers presented at the conference.

The conference dealt with the need for marketing research to be scientific - not only for commercial application, but also as an academic discipline.

Both Rau and Amos feel that the conference was successful and well organised, with lots of interest displayed in South Africa. There is even a possibility that the conference planned for the year 2000, could be hosted by South Africa.

Moreover, the conference has proved to be a valuable opportunity for making contacts within the international marketing industry. Trevor Amos believes that it is important for commerce faculties to be represented at an international conference level and that this could prove to be a useful marketing tool for the university.

in Africa alone. It is also found along the perimeter of the Indian Ocean. It is hoped that information from the DNA sequences will allow Drs Barker and Schrire to gain a better understanding of the evolution and speciation of this group, and this expands on Dr Schrire's research on the evolutionary and biogeographical relationships of the genus.

Dr Schrire was the South

African Botanical Liaison Officer at Kew from 1985-1988, a position that has existed since 1910, but was terminated in 1990. Dr Schrire has also worked at the National Botanical Institute in Pretoria, and gained his PhD at the University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg. He presently curates the legume section of the Herbarium of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.



# Staff Bowls

Ten teams entered the recent Staff Bowls Tournament and unfortunately we were plagued with bad, cold weather but the teams donned layers and layers of warm clothing and competition was fierce. Most of the teams entered into the spirit of the competition and we had names such as "Farnasutra", "DeLIRious", "Marketing Movers", "Bookworms", "Rock Doctors", "Sludge Farmers", "Ally Cats" and "Metals - 19 Carrot".

The greens hummed with the sound of bowls bumping into one another and the idle chatter and bursts of laughter was a sure sign that the teams were enjoying themselves. The Bowling Club Pub did a steady business with the sale of beers and ciders and of course the ever popular kitchen struggled to keep up with the demand for toasted sandwiches, "shjlap" chips and burgers.

The teams played in knock-out rounds and on the last Thursday of the tournament we had four teams battling it out in the semi-finals, namely The "Bookworms" (RU Library) vs "Farnasutra" (Biochemistry) and



Harry Tsikos (Greek), Eric Ferré (French), John Hepple (Zimbabwean), Ron Sheets (American), Malcolm Roberts (British) of the victorious Rock Doctors.

"Ally Cats" (Estates Division) vs "Rock Doctors" (Geology Department). While the semi-finals were in full swing the "Sludge Farmers" (Biochemistry) played "Metals - 19 Carrot" (also Biochemistry) The "Marketing Movers" played the Law Department, and "DeLIRious" (LIRI Technologies) played Accounting. The next day, Friday, was a nail-biting final between "The Rock Doctors" and "Farnasutra". The "Rock Doctors" managed to beat their opposition by one point.

Final results were as follows: Winner of the Keith Hunt Trophy and 4 bottles of specially imported red wine (Tussies) - Geology Department, 2nd Place - "Farnasutra", 3rd place - Es-

tates Division, 4th place - LIRI Technologies, 5th place - Rhodes Library, 6th place - Marketing Division, 7th place - Accounting, 8th place - Law Department, 9th place - Biochemistry ("The Sludge Farmers") and 10th place - Biochemistry (Metals - 19 Carrot). Special awards went to Genevieve from Biochemistry who won the "Warmest dressed award" for wearing 6 layers of clothing on the coldest night of the tournament - she got a few packets of sun-block for when she eventually takes her clothing off! The team of "Farnasutra", led by Clint Boyd, won chocolate teddy bears for being the team who complained the most, especially after the rules specifi-

cally stated "No complaining"! Johan from LIRI got a 'dummy' for nearly throwing a tantrum after his team lost their game when one of their team threw a bowl which knocked the kitty into the midst of the oppositions bowls! Karl Flowers got a "can of chocolate worms" for being the member to throw the dreaded bowl which hit the kitty into the opposition's bowls! Gary and Shaun from Biochemistry were awarded a candle each for heckling the organisers for not turning on the lights when dusk fell! The blonde award went to Shelly from Marketing who got a bottle of 'shampoo' to wash the blonde away! Each team were given 'medals' (suckers on ribbons).

All in all a great tournament with very lively participation. Next year we hope to hold the tournament a little earlier (end September) and Departments will get plenty of notice. Thanks must go to the Bowling Club who gave up many hours to keep the participants in constant liquid refreshment and for looking after everyone so well.

*Thanks to the Departments who entered teams - see you next year!*

# Sport in East London

Sport on our East London campus has shown rapid progress since the appointment of Sam Van Musschenbroek as the Student Councillor, one of whose responsibilities is the overseeing and promotion of sport and recreation on the campus. Obviously given the city campus nature of Rhodes (EL), the absence of their own facilities and the number of night-time lectures, it is rather more difficult to provide the normal infrastructure within which to play. Through association with other clubs and facilities they have, however, been able to provide opportunities for students and staff to participate in 14 different sporting or recreational pursuits. This is quite remarkable given the limitations which they face and students and staff alike need to be commended for their efforts to date.

In keeping with the need to recognise this achievement, Rhodes (EL) held their inaugural Sports Awards Dinner at the Hams/Tech Club on Saturday 17 October 1998. The evening was a great success and proved to be an excellent base to work

from in the future. There was considerable involvement in the organisation and presentation of the evening by the student members of the Sports Committee. Dr Terry Marsh, Director of Rhodes (EL), addressed the dinner and the awards were presented by Pete Andrew, Head of Sports Administration. Awards were made to the Sportsman of the Year, Winston Kriel, a Border and SASSU Squad hockey player, and to Juliet Kerr, also a Border hockey player. Dr Marsh had donated a trophy for the club which is deemed to have made the most progress over the year, this was awarded to the Netball Club for their efforts during 1998. We congratulate all those prize-winners.

## Error

"In Rhodos Volume 10 Number 19 it states that Tish Burger died in November. She in fact passed away in October. Apologies for this error."



## St John Ambulance

Rhodes University's Professor Beverly Wilson, Dean of Pharmacy, Glynnis Armstrong, of the Geography Department, and Jean Perry, who has retired from the Finance Division, were invested in June as members of the local St John Ambulance Foundation. Also called the Order of St John the Priory for South Africa, the Foundation's history goes back almost 900 years, to the Crusades. Today it is active throughout South Africa, in the US, the UK, Canada, and nearly fifty former British colonies throughout the world, as well as in Grahamstown. In 1884, the first recorded work of the Order was done in Grahamstown.

The recent investiture ceremony, marked the acceptance to, or promotion within, the Order, by members who had lived up to the Order's motto "Pro Utilitate Hominum"- in the service of mankind. As a reward for good service, postulants are admitted to the Order at different grades, and are presented with the Insignia of the Order, appropriate for that grade. They included:

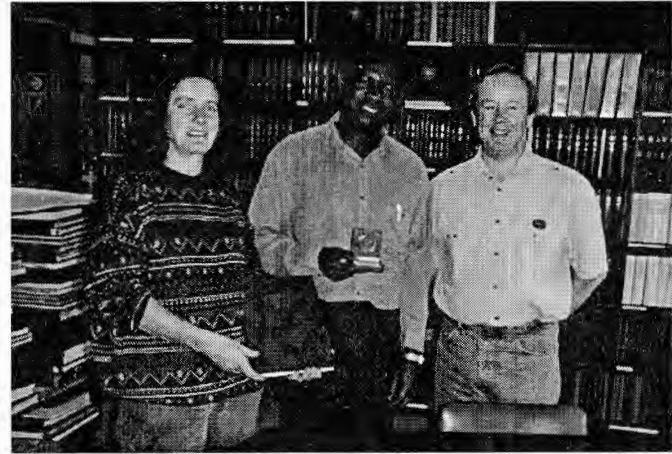
Mrs Glynnis Armstrong, who was promoted to Superintendent of the Division in 1997, has completed an NTIDP course and is an instructor with the Brigade and Training Department.

Professor Beverly Wilson, who has been the Chair of the Grahamstown Centre since 1996, and Mrs Jean Perry, who has recently retired as honorary treasurer of the Grahamstown Committee, but remains a willing and very active volunteer.

## Seen in the John Daniel Library last week:

Mr Vincent Kakembo of Vista, Port Elizabeth, visiting his 'home' department at Rhodes with the Bronze Medal for the Outstanding Masters Thesis 1998. The medal is the Society of South African Geographers' most prestigious award for graduate students. Vincent is the first black student to win the award since its inception in 1960 and this is the second time in six years that a Rhodes student has won the medal. Vincent has just registered for a PhD at Rhodes.

Also in the photograph are Vincent's supervisors, Prof Kate Rowntree and Prof Roddy Fox. This is the second time for one of Roddy's students to win this medal.



## Wet Exhibition

Tanya Poole's MFA final exhibition was rained on, but not necessarily rained out. In fact, the rain and low cloud cover, says Tanya, contributed to and complemented her tripartite exhibition. The aqueous theme concentrated on figures of women (and one man on a beach) swimming, seen through the murky haze of water.

Beginning with what seemed like a traditional gallery showing of her oil paintings, the audience at the School of Fine Art were soon jolted out of their contemplative reverie, when Drama Department Professor Andrew Buckland appeared, rather nervously, to open the exhibition. Indeed his leg-crossing, dams-under-pressure(!) antics were heralded by the rather unusual provision of regular H<sub>2</sub>O (with a resplendent slice of lemon) instead of the more conventional wine

and hors d'oeuvre. His opening speech, with much liquid sloshing frantically about in his pockets, was a comic affair typical of his demeanor. Indeed it bordered on the deliberately absurd, when doyen of the Fine Arts School, Obie Oberholzer appeared dressed in the regalia of Buckland's latest piece, *The Water Juggler*. He left in his passing a note recognising and acknowledging Tanya's hard work throughout the year.

The exhibition then took an exciting journey some eight kilometers out of Grahamstown, to the swimming pool at the Stone Crescent Motel, where the performance piece began. As the audience waited with bated breath, Tanya strode into the pool, and piece-by-piece removed heavy material screening a number of pieces painted on polythene which lay at the bottom of the pool. She brought each piece up to the

surface, allowing the audience a quick glimpse of the trompe-l'oeil swimmers before returning them silently to their resting places. According to Tanya, the hush of the audience throughout the long process, and the utter silence below the water, were significant factors within the presentation of the piece. "I was sealed off from the audience underwater," she said, "in a world of my own, without any self-consciousness."

The rain and cloud cover reflected and diffracted the light throughout the performance piece, and had a similar role to play at the video installation, held back in Grahamstown, at the Old Gaol. Here, rain running down the walls contributed to a beneficial distortion of the video images projected in three out of four different locations, giving the installation a crisp, aqueous feel. The images were coupled with a thought-invading heart-

beat that carried through the entire building, amplified above the other sounds of wind, breathing, and splashing accompanying each of the video projections. This made for an entirely immersive and emotion-provoking conclusion to the exhibit.

But all this could not have come off without a lot of hard work, and for this Tanya should be commended. She generated so much work for the project that a vast amount of it had to be discarded. Negotiations with lawyers, attempts to secure the St Aidan's pool - the original site that inspired the exhibit, shooting and editing the video installation, and the performance piece only created four days before the exhibition, have taken up to two months of slog since Tanya completed her work. But, she says "it was interesting to see people's responses. After being alone in the studio for so long, it made me realise that the works do project."



# Nocturnal Lectures

The fact that Computer Science 1 lecturer Peter Clayton is currently on sabbatical in Utah didn't stop him from delivering a series of first-year lectures towards the end of last term. In fact, sleepy-eyed students had no reason for missing even the dawnie lecture, when Clayton himself was up at approximately 2am, Utah time, to deliver the lecture. Wonder how it was done? For the first time at Rhodes students and lecturer have been connected by real-time ISDN video line across the Internet, and across the World.

Using a dedicated line that ran through various phone systems, and reportedly even through a satellite system, Clayton lectured from a studio at Utah State University in Utah. On this side, Michael Rorke, another lecturer in the Department, ran a feed from a video conferencing computer set up in Chemistry Major through the lecture venue's video projector. Students attending the lecture were able to see a picture of Peter Clayton, in real time, while on the other side he could see the lecture venue from a tiny camera mounted atop the video conferencing computer.

It was possible at the end of every lecture for students to relay questions to Professor Clayton through Michael Rorke. In total Professor Clayton lectured seven long distance lectures, on topics ranging from the Information Revolution, ethics and computing, intellectual property and quality of life is-

sues, to the role of safety critical systems. The theme of the lecture series was 'Social Aspects of Computing'.

Throughout the lecture series, or as Professor Clayton put it, the "telematic teaching experiment", the issues of interactivity and globalisation were stressed. Technology such as the video conferencing system serves to make the world smaller, to create an "interactive environment with the flexibility to mix video conferencing with other types of computer applications, for example, joint computer-based projects."

According to Professor Clayton, South Africa is in a unique position, existing within the First World development community, yet with a Third World set of consumer problems. Given the current government's drive for empowerment through Information Technology, this sets the scene for technological advancements that are targeted at Third World issues of access.

The lecture series was also used to demonstrate the potential this technology has for Rhodes University, for instance with the same set-up being used to deliver lectures or tutorials from Grahamstown to East London.

You can look up course content, including newspaper clippings, animations and other tools Professor Clayton used during his lectures at <http://www.cs.ru.ac.za/CSc101/social/>. Professor Clayton is looking to encourage Rhodes lecturers to use the Web to distribute versions of their course material to their classes.



Top Commerce Students Liesel Botha, who collected the 1997 Dean of Commerce Prize, and Nicholas Walker, who was awarded the 1997 Jardine prize, with Dean of Commerce Professor Phillip Van der Watt and Professor Mark Bunting.



Winners of the Pharmacare/South African Chemical Institute symposium, with judges from Pharmacare. Two medals were given out in two categories (Category 1 - Honours or first year MSc/ Category 2 - second year MSc or PhD students) for the best presentation, by chemistry students from around the region. (from left to right) Ms Buyiswa Jacobs, Vista University (Category 1 - silver medal), Dr Matthew Worthington and Ms Sharon Furlong, Pharmacare, flanked by Mr Rudolph van Niekerk, PE Technikon, (Category 1 - gold medal), Mr V. Todaro, UPE (Category 2 - silver medal) and Rhodes' Michael Datt (Category 2 - gold medal).

## NTESU MEMBERSHIP

NTESU membership has now climbed to a total of nearly 290! This includes, at last count, 129 Academic staff out of 344, and 143 Support Staff out of a total of 436 such staff in Grades 6 and above.

There are another 16 NTESU members at Rhodes who work in various Institutes and so on. So, overall, NTESU represents 35% of all staff in Grade 6 above. By the time that the University defines management, NTESU is on the way to 50% representation ... if all existing members encourage non-members to sign up.

**Remember:** NTESU is representing YOUR interests concerning working conditions at Rhodes.

Everybody is legally entitled to join!

Rhodes needs to hear from its own staff!

**IF YOU WANT INFORMATION ABOUT HOW TO JOIN NTESU,  
CONTACT AMBER WICKS AT 8144 or ANY MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE**



# Classifieds

## FOR SALE

2 bookcases (matching); Round pine table, seats four; Pine 4-drawer chest of drawers; Defy 419 stove, 4 spiral plates, oven & warming drawer. What offers? Contact: 622 5364 (h) or e-mail: M.Burnett@ru.ac.za

## HOUSESITTERS FOR EAST LONDON

Are there any staff interested in spending Xmas in East London? View of ocean. Period: 21/12/98 to 03/01/99. We need someone to take care of our home and our 2 (not used to children) dogs. Accommodation otherwise free. Contact Clifford at cvano@dolphin.ru.ac.za or (0431) 736-2561.

## OLD MUSEUM JARS

The JLB Smith Institute has for sale (cheap) a few of its old apothecary jars. Sizes and prices are 2.5 litre (R35) and 2.0 litre (R25). These are ground-glass stoppered, blown-in-mold cylindrical jars made before the War. Ideal holiday gifts for that impossible-to-shop-for special someone. Phone 6361002, ask for Dr Eric Anderson.

## KAROO LAMB FOR THE HOLIDAYS:

Half or whole Karoo lamb cut up to your requirements. Please contact Joyce Sewry at chjs@warthog or phone 6225083(evenings).

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Planning a staff function, business do or private party or Christmas party? We can accommodate parties of +40 persons. Fully licensed. Meals provided to your taste and pocket. Phone Phil McDougall at 6229411.

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## Letter to the Editor

It appears now to be a matter of common knowledge that Rhodes will soon be offering integrated "programmes" under the broad canopy of one or more of its degrees. The intention of such programmes is to increase the market-related content of our Bachelor's degrees.

Two things, I believe, are relevant to these forthcoming developments. One is the general desirability of applying the "programme principle" to our postgraduate qualifications; the other is the matter of a specific area of expertise which, tragically, is increasingly important in the New South Africa.

In the specific area I refer, cautiously, to the rising mortality rate in the face of unsuccessful AIDS awareness campaigns. The management of perimortal circumstances for individuals and their families is likely to overload the country's funeral parlour and undertaking services, and to require wider and deeper skills than are ordinarily demanded of these professional areas.

A postgraduate, specialist qualification in such grave

matters would surely be useful. The postgraduate status seems consistent with the solemnity and profundity of eschatological questions in general, and of the contrapuntal, purely secular problems bearing broadly upon interment.

The University should introduce such a qualification as soon as is realistically possible. I suggest we call the qualification an MBalm (Rhodes). In addition to the automatically encapsulating an element of the field, this designation may have the effect of showing Rhodes as an enduring and useful anachronism in the New South Africa. For some, perhaps, there may also be a whimsical facet to the degree title. In this too we must not be left behind by our larger competitor institutions. Thus Cape Town confers a BS (Sea) in oceanography, and Wits is reported to be launching an MPlode for urban planners.

I hope senior members of Senate will take the matter up without delay.

*Yours etc.,*  
**BOBBY JAHN**  
*School of African*  
*Primatology.*

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