



RHODOS

STAFF NEWSLETTER

30 MAY, 1997
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Sickening trend could be reversed

A major South African private hospital company has embarked on a feasibility study with a view to opening a private hospital in Grahamstown.

Initially it would be of 21-bed capacity, with two operating theatres, Dr Bert Evans, a Grahamstown general practitioner told members of the Rhodes Women's Association at their monthly lunch meeting earlier this month.

This morsel was, however, the only good news in an otherwise worrying address, as he described the current situation concerning health care in our city.

"I recently visited Settlers' Hospital with two directors of a hospital company", he said. They made two comments worth repeating: 'This hospital is condemnable' and 'this hospital is an affront to the dignity of the people of Grahamstown'."

Dr Evans praised those staff members, nurses and pharmacists, who are helpful and caring. "My heart goes out to the few nurses who struggle to maintain an ethos and a standard worthy of the profession", he said. "A large number of top nurses have just given up and left the profession." But he added that there is now a general lack of discipline amongst the staff and a "shocking drop in the standard of nursing care". There is no recovery room in

the theatre complex and a lot of the plant is too old to be upgraded.

The hospital has posts for seven full-time doctors, Evans revealed.

Dr Evans said that he has personally been trying to get a private hospital established in Grahamstown for six years. He suggests, however, that one of the reasons for the reluctance displayed by the authorities to grant an operating licence is because Settlers Hospital stands to lose the bulk of its fee income, which comes from private patients.

"The revenue generated by patient fees amounts to more than R 1,5 million", he said. "Private patients, who account for 10% of admissions and 7,5% of outpatients contribute 92,5% of this income."

Dr Evans gave several examples of unprofessional behaviour which had occurred at Settlers Hospital, all of which, he added, had been reported to the relevant authorities. "Nothing has been done," he told the RWA members. He was also able to tell his audience that it is due to action on the part of the authorities that an arrangement, whereby Rhodes staff could obtain long-term medication from the Rhodes Sanatorium, has been stopped.

"The private patients who are being charged private fees should not accept the current standards of cleanliness and care", Evans believes. "Surely

Student trust fund launched

The Minister of Provincial Affairs and Constitutional Development, Manhammed Valli Moosa, visited Rhodes earlier this month to participate in the launch of a student trust fund which was named for him.

The fund, an SRC initiative, will make financial assistance available to students who would otherwise be unable to study at Rhodes.

It immediately benefitted through a R 5 000 donation from the University, presented at the launch by the Vice-Principal, Dr Michael Smout. Several other people

present made donations, including the Minister himself, in his personal capacity. To these amounts were added donations of R 50,00 per head, paid on admission by the approximately two dozen people present.

The Minister had earlier in the day addressed an audience on the campus on the subject of *The role of the youth in entrenching constitutional principles*.

At the conclusion of the cocktail party Minister Moosa was presented with a painting executed by a Rhodes student, depicting various aspects of the constitution making process.



Seen at the launch of the fund are, from left, SRC President Chicco Khoza, Minister Moosa and SRC Education Councillor Wamkele Mene.

New trustee appointed

In the recent election, Mr L M Reynolds was elected as an alternate Trustee on the Pension and Provident Fund.

it is within our constitutional rights to have a health care facility worth the money which we are compelled to pay? Perhaps the private patients should pay all their

hospital fees into a trust account until such time that Grahamstown is granted permission to have an adequate health care facility", he suggested.

Enhanced mobility for Grahamstown SRC



A jubilant Chicco Khoza, President of the Grahamstown SRC, accepts the keys to the Council's new mini bus from Director of the Estates Division, Les Reynolds. With them to receive the vehicle were, from right, Owen Sigauke and Lungelo Nabo, both SRC members. The vehicle replaces an aged combi which has now been put into service as a laundry van.

Winter school offers R 5 000 bursary

The Department of Mathematics, together with the Grahamstown branch of the Association for Mathematics Education of South Africa, will be running a course next month, on Higher Grade (HG) Mathematics for matriculation pupils.

The course aims to improve understanding of content of the HG Mathematics syllabus and to give a foretaste of university instruction and life, and will be presented from 30 June to July 4.

Staff members of the Mathematics Department and experienced Maths teachers will conduct the course and instruction will take place through lectures and small group tutorials.

A limited amount of financial assistance may be available to assist deserving pupils who would otherwise be unable to attend the course. Financial need and academic

ability will be taken into account when considering applications, which should be faxed to organisers immediately with documentation giving evidence of financial need and letters of motivation.

In addition, Rhodes has made available five scholarships for study at Rhodes, in addition to any others for which the pupils may be eligible, on condition that they register for either Mathematics 1A or 1B during their first year of study next year. The top candidate will be awarded a scholarship to the value of R 5 000 and the next four will each receive a scholarship to the value of R 1 500.

Entry is limited to 120 pupils and only those who have the potential to do well in HG Mathematics are suited for the course as it is demanding.

The topics that will be covered are: algebra, geometry, analytical geometry,

logarithms, trigonometry, sequences and series and calculus. In addition, talks will be given by educationalists on study methods and preparation for examinations and information on tertiary education. Attendance at an Arts Festival drama performance is also included.

Accommodation in the University residences, at a fee, will be arranged for pupils and teachers on request and meals will be served in the dining halls.

Budding mathematicians: A group of pupils (below) at a Mathematics course held earlier this year on our campus, photographed in the Mathematics Department with the Vice-Chancellor, Dr David Woods (centre). The Winter School expects to attract many more pupils to our campus. These pupils were amongst the first users of the new Continuing Education Centre for residence purposes and some of their sessions.

Rhodes invites correspondence on matters of concern to the University community which will indicate the wide spectrum of views held and will promote further discussion.

A pseudonym is acceptable, but the writer must supply his or her full name and residential address to the editor, who will respect confidentiality.



Seeking drugs to penetrate the skin

It is becoming increasingly apparent that the skin is a good route for the administration of certain classes of drugs, provided that its natural barrier function can be overcome.

Last month three members of the transdermal research group of the School of Pharmaceutical Sciences attended the biennial International Conference on Perspectives in Percutaneous Penetration held in La Grande Motte, France.

Two members of staff, Prof John Haigh and Dr Eric Smith, who were attending this conference for the third time, and a post-graduate student, Ms Sibongile Pefile, made five presentations at this meeting outlining their recent research results in the field of how drug molecules can be formulated to penetrate the skin.

Much of the research conducted at Rhodes University in this field is directed at investigating this barrier and ways in which it may be reduced during drug delivery. Recent advances include the development and subsequent commercial availability of transdermal drug delivery patches containing drugs such as nicotine (an aid for smoking cessation), oestrogen (hormonal replacement therapy for the

reduction of post-menopausal symptoms) and glyceryl trinitrate for heart conditions such as angina.

After the conference Dr Smith and Ms Pefile spent some time in Switzerland at the Transdermal Drug Delivery Research Division of the Kantonsspital Basel, where extensive collaborative work between the two groups is ongoing. Ms Pefile spent several days in the laboratory with the Head of the Department, Dr Christian Surber and his researchers, learning a new technique for delivering drugs through the skin by using supersaturated solution technology. These techniques will be used in

Grahamstown for the development of a dosage form for a new drug to treat solar keratosis.

Prof Haigh remained in France to take up a two-week visiting Professorship in the Department of Biopharmacy at the University of the Auvergne in Clermont-Ferrand. He gave a course of lectures to the seventh-year pharmacy students on corticosteroids and their use in dermatological diseases. He was also able to conduct some research, discuss previous collaborative results and plan for future association with the French researchers.

These overseas visits have strengthened South Africa's research expertise in this field.

Recent interaction with the American Food and Drug Administration has led to the release of a new set of guidelines for the monitoring of topical drug products.

The Rhodes unit, one of only two in the Southern Hemisphere, is a world-leader in topical drug bioequivalence testing technology, especially topical corticosteroid formulations.

Overseas exposure has resulted in other collaborative projects with researchers in Australia, Canada, Sweden, the United States and the United Kingdom.

Phumeza Mgxashe



Dr Smith, Ms Pefile and Prof Haigh at the Congress centre in La Grande Motte, France.

Fancy dressers will be disappointed

The Drama Department has regretfully advised *Rhodos* that, with immediate effect, the Wardrobe section of this Department will no longer hire out costumes and accessories to members of the public and students.



This policy has had to be adopted due to the fact that the Wardrobe section has a limited stock and the Drama Department treasures this stock and needs to maintain it for utilisation in Departmental productions and projects, reads a statement issued by Prof Gary Gordon, Head of the Department.

Rhodes conducts investigation into crime

Why do rapists and murderers commit their respective offences? What are their individual rationalisations for committing these crimes and is it a result of the country's collective failure to build a culture of shared values?

These questions are likely to surface in a series of in-depth interviews between 18 third-year students from the Department of Sociology and Industrial Sociology and 18 perpetrators of violent crimes imprisoned in Grahamstown.

The interviews are part of a study project launched by the Department which will investigate the social backgrounds and individual rationale for resorting to crime with offenders.

Prison Project coordinator and lecturer in the Department, Mr Colm Allan, says that there are two aims guiding this project: "From the point of view of the Sociology Department, this gives students exposure to the existence of 'real' problems within the community and from the point of view of Correctional Services, the chance to educate offenders as to the anti-social consequences of crime for South African society and in so doing, to discourage further offences."

"During the workshops we plan to emphasise the need for a minimum of shared norms and values within any stable social system," he explained. "The biggest cause of crime in our country is the lack of a unitary culture and the absence of any consensus over fundamental values."

Received Alty Awards



In our last edition we wrote that we would run a picture of those Alty Award winners whom we were unable to squeeze in on May 16.

Here they are: from left, Drs T F Cunningham, S E Radloff and H van der Mescht, with the Vice-Chancellor second from right.

According to the Sociology Department, crime is largely a response to conditions within an individual's social environment. "But this in itself does not explain the spiralling crime rate," says Allan. "We would like to see whether certain groups within our society feel justified in engaging in criminal acts because of their previous marginalisation under Apartheid and if so, why only a small proportion of the disadvantaged resort to criminality."

"The other thing we would like to find out," he adds, "is whether there is a culture of opportunism emerging which sees criminality as a justifiable lifestyle option."

He believes that too many people assume that what is important is that individuals should suffer for their crimes. "It is more realistic to view crime as a social problem, resulting from a lack of socially binding values," in his opinion.

The first two workshops took place at the Grahamstown prison last month and the

Nominations called for

Applications on behalf of top overseas academics are invited for consideration in respect of the award of the W D Wilson Visiting Fellowship, designed to afford foreigners the opportunity to visit South African universities.

They should reach the Deputy Registrar, Mr J C S Lancaster, by 6 July.

There are two Fellowships, awarded, according to the Ernest Oppenheimer Memorial Trust, "in order to facilitate the exchange of new ideas, to stimulate research and to enable local academics to keep in touch with new developments in all fields."

The value of each fellowship is R 80 000 and the Trustees hope to attract "experts of significant standing in their fields".

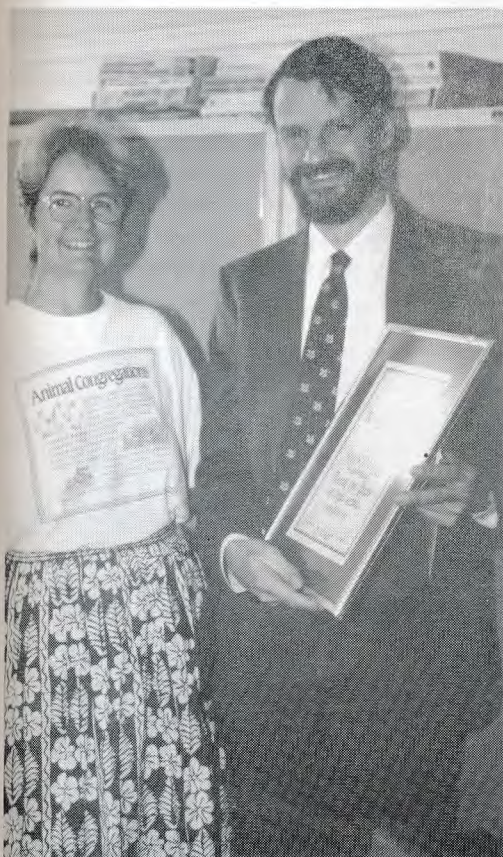
Candidates are expected to be able to visit South Africa

for a minimum period of three months.

Submissions to the Trust have to be made under cover of a letter from the Vice-Chancellor and must be supported by summarised *Curriculum Vitae*, and complete list of publications of both intended visitor and host, details about the department or institute which the nominee proposes visiting, a description of the proposed lecture programme, a summary of the proposed benefits to the institution and proposed accommodation arrangements, duration of visit and the host's contact address.

For further details contact Mr Lancaster in the Registrar's Division.

50 years between them



Recent long-service award ceremonies saw the Vice-Chancellor, Dr David Woods, present certificates for 25 years of service and tokens of the University's appreciation to Prof Pat Terry (seen at left with his wife Sally), Acting Dean of the Faculty of Science and Prof Beverley Wilson, of the School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, whose husband, Egil, was present to see her receive the award (photograph above at right).

New services from the Rhodes Library

Vivien Botha from the Rhodes Library, has advised *Rhodos* that, through its database, Dissertation Abstracts International, the company UMI provides access to all U.S. dissertations and theses from 1861.

In addition, information about recent Canadian and other international theses is available.

UMI has announced that it is now providing free access to the most current three month's worth of dissertations and theses titles, with abstracts.

You will find this service in the Dissertation Explorer section on the UMI Home Page at <http://www.umi.com>. Access to the full database is possible from the Rhodes Library's Information Services Dept.

A further service now available, from the HSRC's NEXUS Database System provides free access to the databases of TALK Worldwide (Forthcoming Conferences), Human Science Researchers and Research Methodology Courses. This service is available on the NEXUS Home Page at <http://www.hsrc.ac.za/nexus.html>.

The subscription database, Current and Completed Research Projects, is accessible from the Rhodes Library's Information Services Dept.

Contact Vivien Botha or Babalwa Sishuta, on extension 8462 for further details or e-mail them at v.botha@ru.ac.za or h.sishuta@ru.ac.za.



Overdue notices

The Library is now able to generate overdue notices via e-mail. "Sending out notices in this way will save having to print and post hundreds of notices a week and Library borrowers will receive their notices much quicker," says Deputy Librarian, Mike Berning. "We encourage borrowers to choose the e-mail option wherever possible."

In order to receive e-mail notices a borrower's e-mail address has to be entered into his or her circulation details on the Library's Urica system. Borrowers who would like to receive e-mail notices should ask the Circulation Staff to record their e-mail addresses in Library Circulation records.

When they do so they will receive overdue notices in electronic form only. It is possible, however, to revert to notices in printed form only, if this should prove necessary. The Library would like to move to a position where printed and posted notices are used only for borrowers without e-mail addresses, in order to save on printing and posting costs and staff time, and welcomes comment from users on the e-mail notice system.

At present the e-mail notice system will apply to overdue notices only. Once it is successfully launched the Library will explore sending out other regular notices such as 'books ready to collect' and 'recalled material' via e-mail.

HDE students need to be in fine voice for lecture

Students undertaking the Higher Diploma in Education Educational Studies course in multilingualism recently experienced a new approach to learning when they were taken through the words, music and history of our national anthem *Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika*.

This practical component was first introduced last year by Sarah Murray, Senior Researcher in the Department of Education.

It having proved both popular and effective, it was with no hesitation that she invited teachers from schools in Grahamstown, all of whom are Rhodes graduates, to repeat the 'performance' for this year's post graduate students.

"Mr Simphiwe Nojoko, who was an HDE student last year and one of the teachers of last year's module, led the lesson during which the HDE students learned the anthem. He is now teaching at Nombulelo and is active in the choir," said Ms Murray. She says that the introduction of the module was a result of her firm belief that all teachers are going to have to achieve a degree of competency in an African language.

A further aspect of the module saw the students spend three days of last week in the Thomas Baines Nature Reserve. The National English Literary Museum also assists through the provision of input on Xhosa culture to support the module — they regularly do this for schools.



This picture was taken during the 'singing lesson' in the Department of Education. The teachers (standing, from left to right) are Andile Mavikela (Nombulelo Senior Secondary School), Makhaya Ben (Ntsika Senior Secondary School), Simphiwe Nojoko (Nombulelo) and Nosipho Ngwalangwala from Mrwetyana High School.

Growth dependant on health of small business

For the last month, the Department of Management has played host to Professor Dylan Jones-Evans, from the University of Glamorgan, in Wales.

Prof Jones-Evans has been lecturing students taking the Postgraduate Diploma in Enterprise management on the subject of marketing for small businesses.

He says that it is a "marvellous course", and one which he hopes to implement on his return to Wales. "Many

universities in the United Kingdom still do not offer this sort of course", he said. "They should!"

He says that, traditionally, institutions tend to train for employment in large organisations at the expense of the small business sector. He finds this somewhat short-sighted, believing, as he does, that the future of economic growth, especially in South Africa, is inextricably linked to a healthy small business sector.

"The world's biggest economies, not only those of developing countries, have all realised that the future is dependant upon a strong and vibrant entrepreneurial small business sector", he believes. "This is recognised internationally and, if anything, it is needed in South Africa more than elsewhere."

Prof Jones-Evans is hoping to see some healthy collaboration between his university and our own, specifically in the field of

researching and learning to understand the needs of small businesses in the Eastern Province. He thinks that there is an opportunity in the potential of export of products from small concerns which should be investigated.

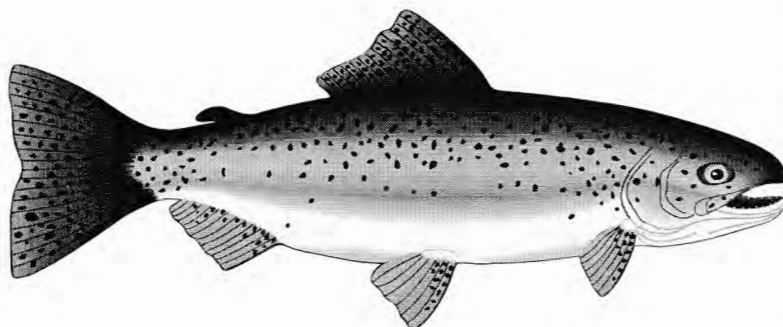
Outside the classroom, Prof Jones-Evans says: "I have really enjoyed myself. This will not be the last time I come to Grahamstown. I think that the city has fantastic potential as a major role-player in the development of the region."

Fisheries should benefit rural communities

The Department of Ichthyology and Fisheries Science (DIFS) and the Institute for Social and Economic Research (ISER) have obtained a grant from the office of the Premier of the Eastern Cape to investigate the potential for freshwater fisheries in communal rural areas of the Eastern Province.

The award, worth close to R 1 million over four years, is the result of an extended process of networking with rural communities, government, regional tertiary institutions, as well as other Departments and Institutes at Rhodes.

This project, which incorporates large areas of rural Eastern Cape is a natural extension of a smaller private sector funded fisheries development initiative run from DIFS, which is under way at present in the Middle Fish River Basin. The project was initiated and is directed by Dr Tim Andrew of DIFS.



The Head of the Department, Prof Tom Hecht, and Dr Andrew say that it signifies a new era of collaboration between biological and social sciences at tertiary level, a move which is essential if this sector is to tackle effectively the serious rural development problems facing South African society.

The project aims to use both biological sampling and socio-economic evaluation to assess the potential of the various water bodies in communal areas for the development of viable small-scale fisheries. It is anticipated that much of the implementation of fisheries will form a follow

up phase of the project.

Initial investigations carried out by the DIFS and other regional organizations such as East Cape Nature Conservation, have indicated that a large and virtually untapped fish resource exists in many of the areas targeted by this study.

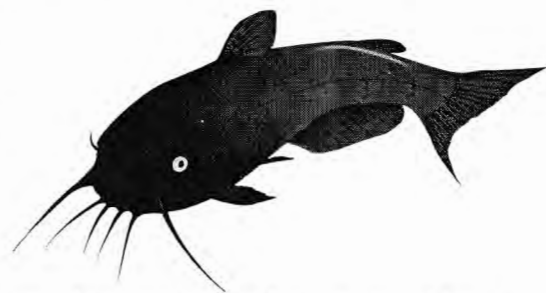
The overall aim of this project is to contribute to the alleviation of poverty levels in communal rural areas by assisting in providing people with an alternative, non-traditional source of both food and income. Because fishing is not a traditional means of food procurement in these areas, extensive effort needs to be made to assist communities in gaining the skills and expertise to exploit these fish resources. This will improve both food security and income earning opportunities for people living in these areas.

Once suitable resources have been identified, a process of community involvement has to be initiated. It will be necessary to work closely with willing communities to establish viable operating systems for exploitation at a local level, whether this be on a subsistence or semi-commercial scale. The involvement of local people is considered vital in the successful long-term implementation of this brand of fishery.

Although this project is the first of its kind in South Africa, the idea of using freshwater fish resources by local

communities is spreading, with interest being expressed from other areas, such as the Northern Province.

It is hoped that this project will contribute to the formulation of a responsible regional and national policy regarding the rational use of our freshwater fisheries resources. The type of exploitation envisaged is aimed at benefitting local people by keeping any gains from the fishery within the area of origin.



Pbumeza Mgxashe

Situations Vacant

Applications are invited from members of staff, irrespective of race, gender or creed, for the following posts:

Part-time Clerical

Assistant in the University Library from 1 July 1997 or as early a date as possible thereafter.

As the position involves computer work, typing and some general office accounting, experience in these skills would be an advantage to candidates but is not essential as necessary training will be given. The basic educational qualification is a Matriculation certificate but further qualifications and library/office experience would be an advantage. The successful candidate will be expected to perform general office duties and will be in daily contact with the University's staff, students and other libraries.

Application forms and salary particulars may be obtained from Miss X K

Wakashe in the Personnel Division (ext 8117/5) to whom they should be returned after completion by 31 May 1997.

Administrative Assistant:
General Office in the Registrar's Division.

The successful candidate will have direct responsibility for the allocation of lecture accommodation, venue bookings, the arranging of inaugural and other lectures, assisting with matriculation exemption procedures and providing administrative support in the General Office of the Registrar's Division.

Application forms and salary particulars may be obtained from Miss X K Wakashe in the Personnel Division (ext 8117/5) to whom they should be returned after completion by 6 June 1997.

Sports results

6 May 1997

Badminton - Men

RU vs Despatch

RU lost 0 - 6

7 May 1997

Rugby

RU 1st vs Swifts

RU lost 31 - 12

RU 2nd vs Swifts

RU won 29 - 3

Volleyball - Ladies

RU vs UPE A

RU lost 0 - 2

RU vs UPE B

RU won 2 - 1

Mens

RU 2nd vs UPE B

RU won 2 - 0

10 May 1997

Sailing

David Wright came 3rd in the Lazer class.

Hockey - Ladies

RU 2nd vs Uitenhage

RU lost 0 - 1

Volleyball - Mens

RU 1st vs Paterson

RU won 3 - 0

RU 1st vs Spartan

RU won 3 - 0

RU 2nd vs Vista

RU won 2 - 1

Soccer

RU vs Merino Saints

RU won 3 - 0

11 May 1997

Basketball - Men

RU 1st vs UPE 1c

RU won 62 - 60

RU 1st vs UPE 1h

RU won 79 - 39

Women

RU vs Strikers

RU won 36 - 31

RU vs UPE

RU won 58 - 37

Hockey - Mens

RU 1st vs Lotus

RU won 3 - 1

Thistles vs Pirates

Thistles won 4 - 0

Romans vs PE Technikon

Romans lost 1 - 2

Occasionals vs Alpha/Maple

Occasionals won 9 - 0

Chess

RU vs Border Tech

RU lost 1 - 3

14 May 1997

Hockey - Mens

RU 1st vs PE Technikon

RU won 3 - 0

Rugby

RU 1st vs United

RU won 38 - 12

RU 2nd vs United

RU won 78 - 0

15 May 1997

Hockey

Thistles vs Romans

Thistles won 6 - 1

17 May 1997

Tennis

RU vs Sidbury

Match drawn 5 - 5

Road Running - Duathlon

Neil Jackson came 2nd (first in the 20 - 29 age group).

Rugby

RU 1st vs Old Selbornians

RU won 26 - 14

RU 2nd vs Old Selbornians

RU lost 10 - 12

Hockey - Ladies

RU 1st vs St.Peters

RU won 7 - 1

RU 2nd vs Paterson

RU won 2 - 1

Volleyball - Ladies

RU vs Goodyear

RU lost 2 - 0

Men

RU 1st vs SAPS

RU won 3 - 0

RU 1st vs 3d UPE

RU won 3 - 0

RU 2nd vs PE Tech

RU won 2 - 0

18 May 1997

Hockey - Men

RU 1st vs UPE

RU lost 2 - 4

Thistles vs UPE

Thistles drew 3 - 3

Basketball - Men

RU vs Blue Streaks

RU lost 62 - 67

Women

RU vs Dynamoes

RU lost 61 - 65

21 May 1997

Volleyball - Men

RU 1st vs Goodyear

RU won 3 - 1

Rugby

RU 1st vs Kingwilliamstown

RU lost 15 - 24

Smalls

HOUSE TO RENT

From 1 September 1997 until 31 August 1998. 3 to 4 bedrooms, close to Rhodes and private schools. Phone 2 3325.

SITUATION WANTED

Full-time gardener seeks work on Saturdays. Contact C Bangushe at 31 8240/1 mornings.

BED and BREAKFAST

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

HOUSE TO SWOP

Escape from Grahamstown during the Festival. Swop your 3 — 4 bed roomed home with ours. We have a luxury home with views of the sea in Hout Bay. Phone: Lissa at (021) 790 7643/2

SITUATION WANTED

Reliable domestic worker seeking employment 2 or 3 days a week. Her English is limited but she works exceptionally well. Please contact Lisl on extension 8569 or e-mail adlg@giraffe.

HOUSE TO LET DURING FESTIVAL

Phone 31 8301 (w) or 2 4591 (h).

ADVERTISING RATES

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

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

Staff pub open tonight!

Dave's Den will be open tonight (May 30th). Staff members and their guests are invited to join their colleagues after work, from 17:00.

**RHODOS STAFF**

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RHODOS DEADLINE DATES

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