

OVER the past two years the *Rhodes Journalism Review* has set out to seed and encourage discussion on a wide range of issues pertinent to media freedom and the free flow of information in southern Africa.

Some of these discussions have had far-reaching effects, in particular the debate on media ownership in South Africa. For example, two years ago, when this *Review* seeded the debate by publishing a 16-page analysis of media 'monopolies', there was no suggestion of any change in ownership patterns. Last month, however, the first unbundling began with the Argus company offering to sell off part ownership of the *Sowetan* to the community.

We still have some way to go in this regard, and in particular in making the country's electronic media more accessible and less partisan. However, now the SABC itself is encouraging debate about its future control and management. This was unthinkable two years ago.

These are watershed changes, and while we don't claim credit for any of this, *Review* certainly has been instrumental in confronting these issues and in encouraging rational discussion around them.

Pursuing this editorial line has not always endeared us to advertisers, some of whom, as major publishers, have been on the receiving end of severe — and often unjustified — criticism in *Review's* pages. Yet, they are still advertising, which reinforces our belief that

editorial

independence is not necessarily jeopardised by adopting editorial positions hostile to advertisers.

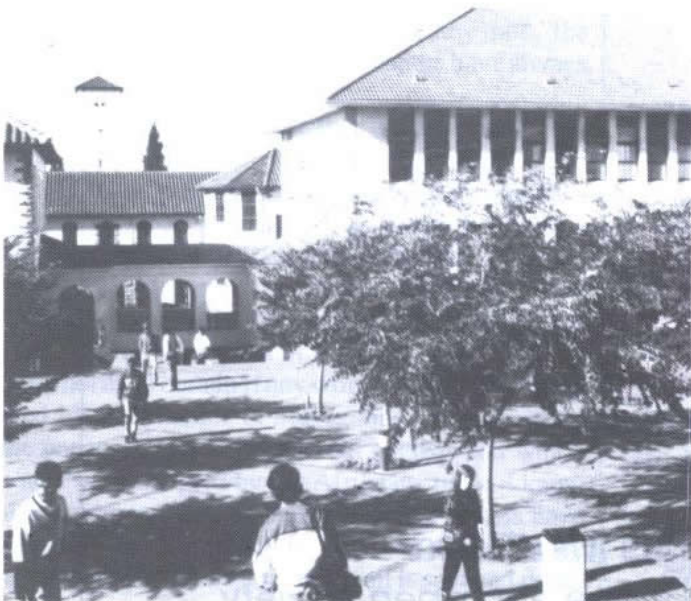
We believe the mere fact that these advertisers are still with us speaks volumes about their integrity as publishers. It also suggests editorial independence can, and often does, flow from market-driven media.

We have no doubt that had *Review* started its life as a subsidised journal, it would not have enjoyed the freedom it now has to pursue important media issues in an even-handed manner. Thus a good deal of credit for promoting media's role in a democratic South Africa must be shared by *Review's* advertisers. And the debate has reverberated elsewhere in southern Africa because throughout our region it has been small bands of dedicated journalists who have had to carry the torch of freedom where politicians, bureaucrats and a host of state functionaries in obeying orders or enforcing unjust laws have not been up to the task.

We wish to thank the *Index on Censorship* in London and journalism reviews in Nigeria, Canada, the United States and Britain with whom we now have expanding relationships.

Special thanks to Thomson Newspapers in Canada for *RaggedRight* and Times Media Limited for sponsoring its reproduction for *Review* subscribers. And to *VryeWeekblad* and *Sowetan* for *State of the Nation Report* which also goes to subscribers. But most important, we thank our contributors and we salute the torch-bearers for holding the flame aloft. ●

We've grown big by staying small.



To measure the greatness of a university, some would count the students. We'd rather make sure the students count. This is exactly why, at Rhodes, you won't find yourself one of tens of thousands, but one of three and a half thousand. A number with numerous advantages. Such as a ratio of one lecturer to twelve students ... residences a few minutes' walk from lectures ... the privacy of single rooms ... and easy access to all 32 sports, from surfing to skydiving.

Inevitably, all this, and more, has given Rhodes a great name. Which is why you might wish to write it after yours.

Rhodes University



For full details, write to the Registrar, Rhodes University, 6140 Grahamstown