

LATIN OLYMPIAD 1991

GIRLS WIN COMPUTERS IN LATIN OLYMPIAD

The two top Latin pupils in the country are both girls, but boys were also well represented at the CASA's Latin Olympiad prizewinners' party held in the Michaelis Gallery in Cape Town on Friday evening (9 August).

The top standard 10 pupil is Gay Saxby of Rustenburg High in Cape Town, who won a colour computer with printer presented by Mr Bobby Richter of Professional Computer Manufacturers. Runners-up were Jean Meiring of Paul Roos Gymnasium and Calvin Jacobs of St George's Grammar School, who were presented with University study bursaries of R1000 and R750 respectively by Mrs Joan Lotter of Academica Books and Mr Joe Collyer of Penguin Classics. In standard 9 the lucky recipient of a computer system was Joanne Jowell of King David High School, Orange Grove. Her classmate Evan Morris came second, and the runner-up was Nicholas Larsen of Durban High School. They also received bursaries.

Joanne, Evan and Nicholas were flown to Cape Town by courtesy of Transnet, and all six spent a happy week-end exploring Cape Town as the guests of Southern Sun's Inn on the Square. Their chaperones were CASA-WP Committee members Helene Stephens and Clodagh O'Dowd. On the Saturday they were shown around Cape Town's Victoria and Alfred Museum by CASA member Nigel Fawcett. Proud parents, the Jowells of Oaklands and Mrs Myra Morris, came down specially from Johannesburg.

Latin seems to be the common denominator in a variety of interests. Two of these top six want to take up law, two want to study medicine, Calvin plans on becoming an electrical engineer, and Evan an actuary. All agree that the intellectual stimulus Latin gives them is a good preparation for any career.

Between them the six represent a wide range of talents. Jean came first in the Afrikaans and History Olympiads, and merited awards in the English, Maths and Science Olympiads as well. Calvin has been a prizewinner in Afrikaans Olympiads for three years running. Gay, the vice headgirl of her school, did well in the English Olympiad. Most of the six are involved in public speaking, some of them in drama as well. When Evan was in standard 5 he was awarded a gold medal for the primary schools' Maths Olympiad, and in 1990 he was awarded a three months' scholarship to study in Israel. Nicholas, an amateur archaeologist, started a choral society at his school and runs it himself. Joanne, who also studied in Israel belongs to a club that visits the aged, and she also teaches in a Black adult education programme.

The Latin Olympiad will in future be held in alternate years, with separate competitions for standards 9 and 10. Candidates in the first national Latin Olympiad came from all over the country. Their home languages ranged from Afrikaans to Zulu. She said that the Olympiad had shown that Latin is a good foundation for much more than law or medicine. The 204 Olympiad candidates between them had plans for 31 different career choices, from accountancy and architecture to nursing and hotel management.

Friday 9 August 1991 was Arbor Day, and Latin pupils agreed that this was a very suitable time to hold a party, as the passage from Ovid's *Metamorphoses* that they had had to prepare for the Olympiad was about a man who angered the gods by cutting down a beautiful old oak tree. He was punished with insatiable hunger, and in the end he gobbled himself up!

J.M. Claassen (Olympiad facilitator)