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activate

INDEPENDENT
STUDENT NEWSPAPER

STRAIGHTOUT

Rhodes and Homosexuality

Editorial



Tamara Kenny, Editor

Dear Moffies, Dykes, Faggots, Carpet-munchers, Fudge-packers, homos... and Others

Picture this, if you will:

Amanda is a third year student. She is studying industrial psychology and law. She lives in digs with her two best friends from res. She has been in a happy relationship for a year-and-a-half. She is straight.

Amanda's friends are very accepting of her and Peter's relationship, whilst some of them doubted that it would ever last as long as it has. Her parents thought that Peter was simply trying to get her into bed. They still doubt his intentions, but they have learnt to tolerate him.

Is any of this sounding even vaguely familiar to you? For some, perhaps. For those who are Out and About, relationships may have taken on a fairly comfortable place in your life. I'm not saying that everyone who comes out necessarily finds the love of their life immediately, but it definitely makes it a little easier. It must have come as a real shock to the system to arrive at Rhodes to find so many straight people milling around; people who have never considered what life is like on the other side of the Homo/Hetero scale.

For the rest, who are either still wrestling with the prospect of what you or what the rest of the world thinks you "are", or who are simply quite neatly nestled in that Diesel closet, the story I have presented to you may not be much of a reality. As much as most people are quite willing to convey their support or

even tolerance of your "lifestyle", give them an anonymous survey and suddenly, you are an animal. This means that you could join the ranks of the Discovery Channel crew and "do it" for all to see. Or you could learn to tolerate the people who can't look past the feather boa or shaven-head.

Everyone has heard that fantastically patronising phrase: homosexuals are people too. So are heterosexuals. Although if you think about it, being straight doesn't make sense: every magazine article and self-help column - even Bite Me and the Duke - tell us how different men and women are, how we don't understand each other and are usually doing something wrong in bed. So, what's the point?

Nobody is actually winning the prize for having an easy life on this campus, or in this society, for that matter. And straights don't really have support groups, marches, specialised dance-clubs and a myriad of literature fighting for their way of life. Why do they need to have them anyway: it's not like you want to be bombarded by images of the typical Happy Little Hetero Family every time you turn on your television.

Wouldn't it be interesting, in fact, if all the articles written about relationships started with us needing to define every person by their sexuality, in much the same way as we do with gender or race. How would our world change if the heterosexual was the Other?

Wouldn't it be fascinating if it didn't matter?

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Virtual Rizla

By the
Jabberwock

"It's disgusting. Not even dogs do it." - Anonymous, in a survey devised by Activate Features writers on homosexuality.

Just when you thought the Jabberwock had wussed out and found God, some silly little bigot has set my blood boiling. Welcome to the age of enlightenment, when, buoyed by the "D" word - hoorah democracy! - we run around waving our Y-Front flag and pretending that everything is great. We've finally worked out that it's not a sin to be differently hued, pigmented and cultured. For all intents and purposes, there is no place for prejudice in post-apartheid South Africa.

Unless you're a faggot. I don't expect people to miraculously change their point of view just because we've hit the 21st century, but it startles me that such narrow-minded sentiment still exists in the minds (and I use the term loosely) of university students. Only two percent of this country's population enjoys a tertiary education; we travel from all over the world to pool our knowledge at Rhodes University and punch the air triumphantly because, after years of struggle and horrible, pointless persecution, we can now study with people of differing race and nationality. It's not an issue any more - except in some extreme cases of xenophobia - and we're ready to take on the world.

The problem is that, while it's now OK to be black, pink, purple, coloured or an unhealthy shade of grey, we're not allowed to be a) outspoken or b) queer. Granted, homophobia is not as obviously rife here at Rhodes as at some universities further behind the boerewors curtain,

but it still exists. I could deal with this prejudice a little better if racism were really dead, but the truth is that we've been socialised into denying one stupid belief system, so we find another "minority" to loathe. I still meet people who claim to have toyi-toyed in the aisles along with any good, self-respecting liberal, but they're the people who get plastered and say things like "I don't dislike black people, really...I just wish they weren't so...backward."

These are the same people who deliver such gems as "I'm not a homophobe...some of my best friends are gay." Gay people are the latest accessory, but we still can't move away from the idea that a person's sexuality permeates and shapes every aspect of their life. Ask your "best friend", then, whether he or she gets up in the morning and thinks, "Wow, life is great, I love having sex with people of the same gender, and there's milk in the fridge!" I doubt it, somehow.

The Jabberwocky can't win, though, because I dislike pseudo-liberals and bigots with the same intensity. All those prissy little Sandton twits who wouldn't understand Black Sash or the Suffragettes prance around yelling "Viva!" (or "Hooray for gay!", or something equally banal and grating), and by their "caring" actions, they totally defeat the purpose of normalising those "minorities".

So do me a little favour. Stop being nice to "minorities" if you really can't stand them. Spit on a leper. Tell awful ethnic jokes and don't be afraid to laugh at the punchline. And then, you ridiculous waste of very necessary oxygen, slap yourself because you're a wanker.

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Every drop counts



Safe blood starts with me



pics by Leigh Hildyard

By Wilma den Hartigh

On Wednesday, 17 May 2001, all blood donors could once again donate their pint at the Eden Grove.

"The turn out was excellent and very unexpected!" said Debbie Carter, organiser of the event. The wonderful support could be attributed to good recruitment, by means of RMR, E-mail, posters and word of mouth. All the blood donated by Rhodes students will count towards House points. Currently, New House and Walker house are tie on 14 points each and Alan Grey are close behind with 10 points.

Debbie Carter of the Blood Bank said that they received 165 units of blood, in comparison with the previous 11 units they received.

"It could save someone's life" and "It's for a worthy cause" were just some of the responses received from donors.

Due to the unexpected support, some people had to be turned away. The blood bank ensured all donors that they will be better prepared next time by supplying more staff and equipment.

On behalf of the Blood Bank, Debbie Carter wants to thank all students, for supporting this worthy cause and also for creating a wonderful atmosphere at Eden Grove.

2001 G'town Citizen of the Year

By Harugumi Mutasa

Grahamstown medical practitioner Mary Knowling is Citizen of the Year. In 1957 she returned to Grahamstown having completed her MBChB in Britain. During her medical career, Mary Knowling became involved in the plight of the residents in Grahamstown East and devoted her life to their cause.

Appalled by the poverty, starvation and lack of adequate shelter and accommodation in the area, she funded several projects to build houses for the homeless and the disadvantaged. Each house was equipped with basic furnishings and the local community was encouraged to take up subsistence farming as a means of earning an income.

Over the years she pioneered the restoration of many historical buildings, including the Cathedral of St George and St Michael, 36 New Street and 32 and 34 Sommerset Streets as well as the stables behind them. She is a keen member of the local SPCA, GADRA, Grahamstown Historical Society and the Ratepayers Association.

A favourite amongst many, she received a standing ovation from the audience and her supporters at the banquet, many of whom had known her all their lives and were a testimony of how many lives her kindness had changed.

Wearing the same outfit she wore 26 years ago to the opening of the Monument building, her parting words were, "All my friends ask me if I am still alive and I reply, yes I am still here!" Mary Knowling intends to continue to show compassion to all who need it.

Last respects

By Christine Davis and Vanessa Rogers

A somber procession of academics and lecturers in full academic dress made its way down the High Street to the Cathedral of St. Michael and George for the memorial service of leading citizen, academic and prominent literary figure Professor Guy Butler.

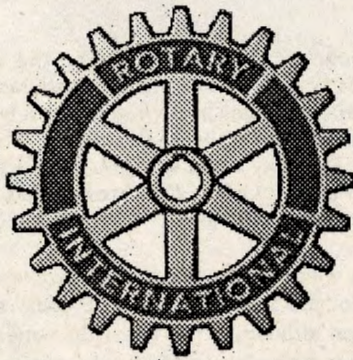
Born in Cradock in 1918 he passed away on April the 27th in Grahamstown. He dedicated his life to South African Literature, was Head of the Rhodes English Department from 1953 to 1978, pioneered the establishment of NELM (National English Literary Museum) and the ISEA (Institute for the Study of English in Africa).

English Professor Malvern van Wyk Smith gave the Eulogy and commented that Butler was "A great man, distinguished scholar, poet, fine father and a true son of the soil".

The moving memorial service was followed by an evening of poetry reading to celebrate the work of Guy Butler and pay tribute to his literary career.

Professor Butler was described by his friends and colleagues as a kind and generous man who was dedicated to his work..

Innovative fund-raising



By Victoria Malakou and Xany Du Toit

Work Avoidance Behaviour or just plain chilling out will be put to the ultimate test on Friday 25 May as Rotaract has planned an awesome day of distraction and entertainment.

Igor, president of Rotaract, has high hopes for this day and plans for it to be a big one on the Rotaract calendar: "Exciting events such as a Pool Competition, two a side basketball and a tug of war have been planned."

President Kat commented: "The event is being organized to raise money for the Hope Fountain farm school." The Rotaract team in conjunction with the Aerobics Club plan to contribute this money for the provision of basic facilities such as desks, chairs and stationery for the school.

The main event for the day is the Polar Bear Swim where Rhodes students who are brave enough, will attempt a length's swim across the wintry pool for a sponsorship.

This looks to be an exciting and enjoyable day and a last chance to relax before swot week.

campus Facts

East London Grad:

233 diplomas and degrees were conferred.

48 Honours degrees, 19 Masters degrees and two Doctoral degrees. The Faculty of Education produced 99 graduates, Humanities 81, Commerce 47, Science 4 and Pharmacy 2 graduates.

Courtesy: www.ru.ac.za/news/pressreleases/

Honorary Doctorate conferred on Donald Woods:

At East London Grad. Woods is known for his anti-apartheid journalism. As Daily Dispatch Editor-in-Chief for twelve years Donald Woods was prosecuted seven times by the apartheid government under publication laws. He was arrested on October 19, 1977 and subjected to banning laws and a form of house confinement for editorial accusing the apartheid government of responsibility for the death of the young black leader Steve Biko.

Courtesy: www.ru.ac.za/news/pressreleases/

Rhodes graduate appointed as University's International Liaison Officer

Journalism graduate, Sherwin Bryce-Pease, has been appointed as the University's International Liaison Officer based in the United States.

Courtesy: www.ru.ac.za/news/pressreleases/

Jammed!



By Thandoxulo Jika

Mrs Eunice Onceya, a member of the Smuts Hall catering staff, was charged and fired for stealing a jar of jam two weeks ago.

Her representative, Mr. Khushelo said "My client is a diabetic patient and she was not stealing jam." He further explained that the meal provided was not suitable for a diabetic so she had taken the jam to have it with a slice of bread.

However, Dr Ian L'Ange, assistant Dean of Students, said that this was not the case and that during the hearing Mrs Onceya never mentioned that she was a diabetic; instead she said that the meal provided on that day was not suitable for a person who was on a diet.

Furthermore, Dr Ian L'Ange said that she was caught stealing a whole jar of jam and that the catering staff had been warned several times that they should not steal anything in the kitchen because this causes a shortage of food for the students. He always encourages the catering staff to go to the administration if they were experiencing food shortages at home. Mrs Onceya was not available for any comments and the reason

The easy way to firsts

By Asha Speckman

From under-achiever to straight-A academic, blonde, blue-eyed, Swiss-Italian, Paul Tosio, is the pioneer of an exciting programmed causing a whirlwind in the study- programme field.

At an early age Paul was diagnosed with Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD). However he attended numerous study courses and combined various study programs into the Juno Study course.

The course cost of R420, which includes a bound workbook, audiotape, CD, stationary and unlimited follow-up service plus a discount for students who bring their own group. Paul boasts that his course is "Good value for money in terms of what's out there", because it is "Developed by a student for students". Participants are taught speed-reading, memory, and discipline and relaxation skills. He has taught 15 schools here in Grahamstown and Johannesburg, a bridge club as well as teaching a lady to count cards.

Briefs

Up in smoke

- The EU Parliament has ruled that cigarette packs sold after September 2002 will carry health warnings that cover over 40% of boxes and some countries will be given the option of carrying photos of stained teeth and other smoking-induced health effects. Furthermore, cigarette companies will be forced to cut levels of tar and nicotine and the use of words such as "mild" and "low tar" will also be banned.

Courtesy: Daily Dispatch

Missiles

- Bush's national missile defence programme apparently aimed at protecting the USA from rogue states like North Korea and Iran may trigger an arms race as countries like China are concerned that it will threaten their security.

- A Russian delegation has proposed a European missile defence plan in a move to counter the proposed US missile defence programme, which Russians believe will contravene international defence treaties.

Courtesy: Daily Dispatch

Acid leak at nuclear reactor:

A nuclear reactor in Suffolk England has been shut down after sensors detected a leak of boric acid.

Courtesy: independent online

Grahamstown man shot

A Grahamstown local, Lyanda Phekeni, was fatally injured when he and his brothers apparently attacked six policemen who were investigating charges of assault against the man.

Courtesy: daily Dispatch.

When the Circus comes to town

Boswell Wilkie Circus is due to arrive in Grahamstown at the beginning of June.

Sanctions on Zimbabwe

The Canadian government has imposed extensive sanctions on Zimbabwe following the violent treatment of a Canadian diplomat by the war veterans.

Source: www.mg.co.za

Terror campaign extends to Zim cities

The campaign of violence and terror unleashed by the war veterans on white commercial farmers has extended to industry and trade, not sparing hospitals, foreign donors and aid agencies like the German sponsored SOS Children's Village and the private Avenues Clinic in Harare.

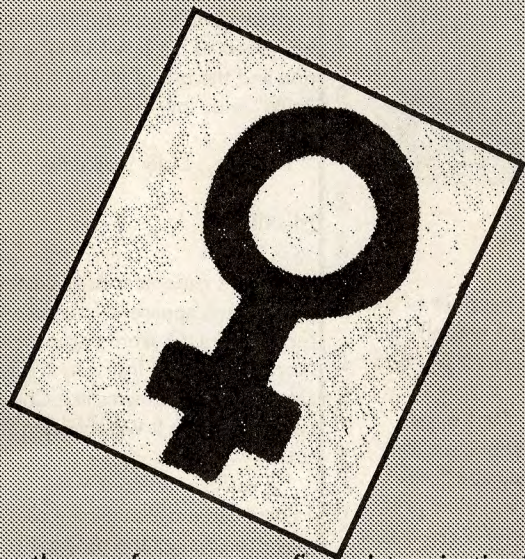
Source: www.mg.co.za

World Record Blood Donor

Maurice Creswick became the new world record holder when he donated his 323rd unit of blood on the 17th of May.

Source: www.woza.co.za/news

bite me Spice



Recently, one of my more intelligent friends was going through the motions of a "possibly, maybe, but not really sure" romantic entanglement. This friend was unsure of whether to pursue the object of her affection or to allow said object to make the next move. Being about as romantically adept as a platypus on ice skates, I wanted to go with my first instinct and advise the "Make your feelings known" approach. But luckily my tongue has more sense than the mind it's attached to. "Play the game," I said.

Yup, ladies and gents, I joined the ranks of the "flirt and tease" school of romantic thought. Deception and Bullshit-I, Honesty and My Self-Respect - Nil.

Honesty is a tricky thing at the best of times. In the romance arena, it's positively fatal. Having stupidly tried on repeated occasions to work out what is really going on with whatever man is currently tickling my fancy (or my tonsils), I have worked out that honesty is the most effective romance killer besides halitosis.

Why? 'Cos honesty makes you look desperate. You see, men have a substantial "hit her over the head and drag her back to my cave" complex. Of course, this conquering instinct is present in women, but not to the spectacular extent that it is seen in man, "the mighty hunter". For men, the thrill of the chase is half (if not all) the fun. They want us to toss our hair, bat our eyelashes and cross our legs till we fall off our barstools, but if any of our flirting assumes any serious intention, they will bolt faster than the Duracell bunny on speed. Men wouldn't go for attached women with such

fierce determination if there wasn't that element of competition and "my dick is bigger than yours" imprinted in their DNA. Have you noticed how men can smell that you have a boyfriend, even if said boyfriend is on the other side of the country and you don't mention him even once? They catch a whiff of another man and all their best hunting instincts kick in. They have to bed you there and then or else their grand purpose in life will be unfulfilled (much like any female who dates a Founder's boy).

This is why, if a girl actually ditches the passive cock-teasing for a slightly more direct approach, a man will feel instantly emasculated and attempt to extricate himself from the situation, usually with all the grace of Lennox Lewis in a production of Swan Lake.

So girls, what are we to do? Well, I would like to assume the hard-core feminist approach and say to hell with the whole business. But, the truth is that we need men for certain things. Actually, scrap that. We want men for certain things. Sex and money being two key factors (we know we can earn our own living, we just prefer to spend someone else's hard-earned cash).

So, remember your hair-spray and mascara, buy yourself a Wonderbra and remember the one and only Golden Rule when it comes to flirting and romance: Honesty is the worst policy.

I mean, God forbid we actually say what we mean.

Bygones

StraightOut

The Union is packed. The congestion on the dance floor presses bodies against each other like radioactive sardines. That sexy someone sidles into view. What a body! What a smile! You return that smile and venture, "You look really hot tonight." The sexy smile withers. "Can I buy you a drink?" you chance. "Listen, I'm just not that way, ok!" and that sexy someone walks away.

A growing awareness has resulted in most people accepting that homosexuals do have a place in society. "In today's world there is no room for anti-gay attitudes. It falls under the same category as racism and anti-feminism" says Mark*, who admits to being homophobic, but is willing to talk reasonably about the subject. "Being gay does not mean that you cannot fulfill the same purpose as everyone else"

In a society long foresworn to liberalism and equity, we are still faced with questions of homosexual culture, and the attitudes towards it. Even at a supposedly liberal arts university in the 21st century. Rhodes has often been held up as kind of free-flow ideological melting pot, where most belief systems and lifestyles are tolerated if not always agreed with. Yet many homosexuals seem to feel that Rhodes can be a very difficult place to be openly gay. These are not simple dynamics, and understanding them means coming at them from all possible angles. We took our questions to the campus walkways with a survey, send out a covert force onto the floors of the Union to test attitudes to homosexual flirting and spoke to a few of Rhodes's gay activists and ordinary people struggling to deal with their sexuality issues.

The Survey

We surveyed 100 random people outside the library and in the Jac Labs. Our survey results show a diversity of age, religion, gender and country of origin. Not surprisingly, such a variety of people means that views are bound to conflict. The attitudes varied from complete and unabashed homophobia to acceptance and support.

"We shouldn't wave fingers at those who hate homosexuals" comments Andrew Warlick, a second year student who is open and proud to be gay. "We should respect each other's positions. We should be discreet in public just like any other respectful people would."

What would you do if your same sex best friend came out of the closet?

Again, we observed a complete range from "We went for a drink" to "Find a new friend" but it was shocking to note how many people would disown their best friend for admitting their true sexuality. As one person simply put it: "Why should this be a problem?"

Many respondents were afraid that their best friend would make moves on them. Michelle*, who is in the closet about her sexuality, expresses disgust at this attitude.

"One thing I can't stand is people who think that just because I'm gay, I want to sleep with everyone. First they're scared I'm going to jump their bones and then they're offended when I don't."

Another glaring issue - religion.

paradox: religion and homosexuality

It is common knowledge that most western religions condemn homosexuality. With this in mind, we asked the question: "What is your religious belief and how does it affect your views towards homosexuality?" 67% of the people we surveyed were Christians. Of these, 59% oppose homosexuality because of their religion. We were startled at some of the extreme reactions that manifested themselves in the survey. "Being gay is sick and perverted. It is from the devil, therefore I hate it!" preaches a straight male from Harare. Male, straight, Cape Town continues, "Not even dogs do it - it's an illness." Other arguments against homosexuality include "God does not approve", "It's a sin" and "It's just not right, okay!" "Are these people [homosexuals] religious and [do they] have God in their lives?" asks female, straight, Harare. Michelle replies: "Until the day I'm struck down by lightning, I can't say God opposes me."

Thabo*, who is openly gay but reluctant to reveal his identity in light of his comments, has different views about homosexuality and religion. He says that if you want to find homosexuals, "Go to His People. They deny themselves, run to the church and find each other there."

Matthew McChlery, chairperson of His People, a prominent Christian society at Rhodes, clarifies: "I don't know any Christian homosexuals." He stipulates that neither Christianity nor His People condone aggression towards homosexuals.

Neither, of course, do they condone homosexuality.

"As Christians, we need to show God's love for everybody. We need to be careful to separate the person from his lifestyle. The correct Christian response [to homosexuality] is to still love the person, but not excuse the sin in their lives."

In response to the aggressive attitudes mentioned above, he answers "You do get extremes. People lose sight of the person behind the sin. If there were people in my society with such harsh ideas, I would remind them of their responsibility to show love to their neighbour." When asked if it is possible to be a practicing Christian and a practicing homosexual, he responded, "It wouldn't agree with biblical principles."

We went out with the realistic expectation that more religious people would have ideological objections to the concept of homo-

sexuality. What we completely underestimated was the level of hatred that misconceptions have fostered in these people's minds. Although many respondents expressed concern and support for homosexuality and homosexuals themselves, the number of gaybashers left us shocked. How can people harbour so much hatred for another person based purely on personal lifestyle choices? One female exchange student from America "I think it's a shame that we judge people by their sexuality."

It would be unfair to categorise all religious people as homophobic. The survey did make every attempt to accommodate people of varied religions, including Agnostics, Atheism, Hindu, Islam, Judaism and "Other". We have focused on Christianity in this article because such a large percentage of our respondents were Christian, and a number of those respondents used their religion to defend their homophobia.

South Africa was the first country in the world to include Lesbian and Gay rights into their constitution in 1996. In Zimbabwe, as in many countries, homosexuality is still illegal. 66% of Zimbabweans listed themselves as disgusted by homosexual PDA's, compared to 37% from other countries. Two thirds of the Zimbabweans surveyed were Christians.

At university level, experimentation is more common and can be explained away with "I was drunk and horny."

We spoke to Alex* about this topic. She reckons "I'm the straightest bisexual around. I've never been with a girl!" Although she has experienced feelings of attraction towards other women, she is too intimidated to actually do anything about it. "I don't bother, 'cause I naturally assume they're straight. It's pretty depressing."

There seems to be a fairly thin line between experimentation and other people's perceptions of your sexuality. Roxanne* is a straight girl who lost a bet and found herself in bed with two men. She would have been more reluctant to go through with it had one or both of the other participants been female. "I just decided, what the hell, why not? It was definitely worth it but I wouldn't do it again."

Homosexuals themselves are divided on the issue of experimentation - for some, it is a transition from confusion to clarity; for others, it is a social game used to shock and impress your friends. Roxanne's motto is "try everything once". When it comes to experimentation, Michelle maintains that "people who never consider it are missing out" while Thabo exclaims, "Experimentation? No, man! What a waste of time!"

Undercover in the social arena

In order to observe the results of our research in practice, we took a group of drama students undercover to the Union on a Friday night to flirt with members of the same sex. As expected, the reactions were vastly varied.

In general, females seemed to be less put out by our efforts at getting closer. One actress suggested that this is because girls are naturally more tactile, especially when they are drunk. The barmaid didn't even bat an eyelid when she served a female "a Redds, please, Sexy!"

The males received considerably more hostility in the forms of

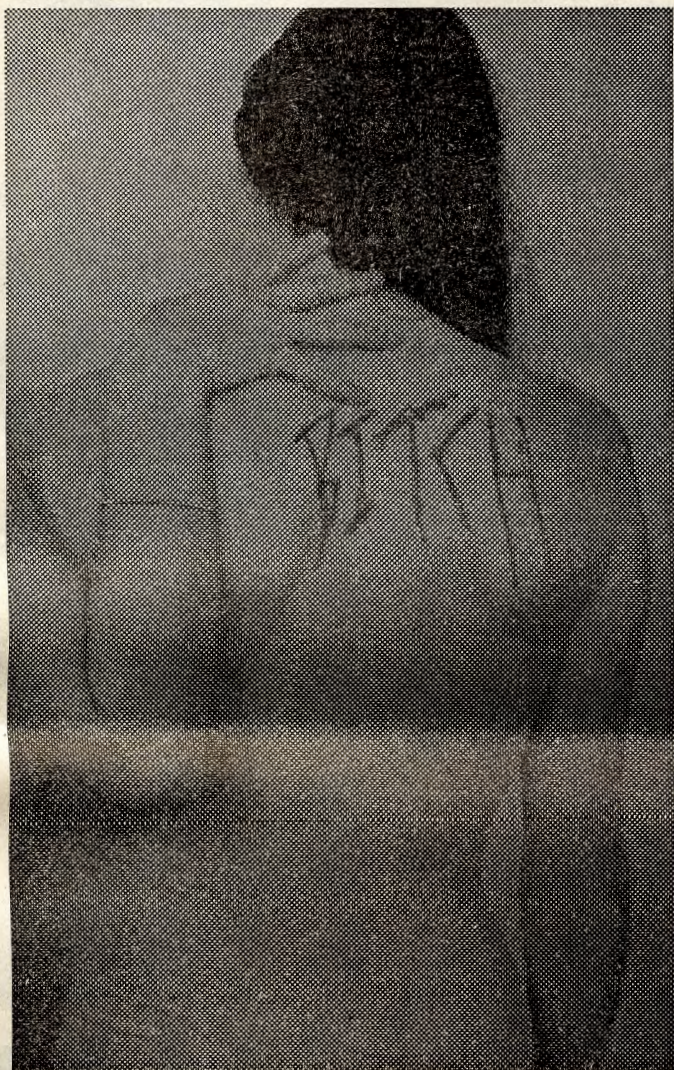


Sexuality is an issue that will confuse and haunt many people throughout their lives, while others will never have to agonise about who they take home at night. Activate decided it was time we investigated the dynamics of this issue here at Rhodes...

verbal insults and mild threats. Imagine a male being approached by 6 foot 2 of strapping young man. Profanities flew, defenses shot up and one target even went so far as to proclaim "I've got herpes!"

However, our quest to find evidence of same-gender orientation was not a complete failure. One stereotypical jock bought our male actor a drink and was very receptive to his propositions, though nothing ultimately came of it.

Judging by the generally unresponsive and sometimes aggressive behaviour of the victims of our journalistic espionage, we can deduce



that homosexuality is still a major concern within Rhodes' student population. Equally interesting is the difficulty we faced in recruiting people to play the roles. The fact that very few people were ultimately willing to simulate a different sexuality suggests that homophobia is also still a huge issue even among supposedly liberal students.

The activists, and lack thereof

One of the most contentious questions asked in our survey was "Should Rhodes University have policies discouraging homosexual activities within single-sex residences?" to which a startling 20% answered "Yes". 25% abstained from answering. This underlying hostility was rather disturbing. One fifth of students living in res are uncomfortable with the idea of sharing living space with homosexuals. It seems that bringing sexuality into the common rooms and corridors of res raises a lot of people's hackles.

Rhodes has no such policy and, assures Mark Ranier at the Counseling and Careers Centre, sees no need for one.

Nevertheless, Lance*, a first year student contemplating coming out of the closet, senses a strong anti gay vibe around his residence. He hears verbal gay-bashing and gay jokes around the res and in the dining hall. "You can't stand up for yourself" he comments. "There's no-one to back you up. I don't think it's the best thing to do - I have to live there for three years. I won't get as much respect as I get now." He feels there should be some organization to look out for gay rights. We asked Michelle Smith, SRC Rep for societies, why such an organization doesn't exist. "I would support it and ratify it immediately, but no-one's taken the initiative," she explains.

Indeed there used to be a vibrant gay society at Rhodes. This club was initiated many years ago to create a general platform and meeting place for homosexual people in the student and staff bodies as well as in the greater town population. STEP (Sexuality Tolerance Education Programme) later became OutRhodes, Rhodes' official gay, lesbian and bisexual society.

In 1999 Nic Moolman resigned from his post as president of OutRhodes. From here, the whole society just "fell apart" says Ryan Macnab, a member of the group at the time. "There was no-one with the drive and enthusiasm to keep it up. The problem with the gay community right now is a complete lack of interest."

Ryan recently wrote an article for Activate encouraging the Grahamstown homosexual community to revive their once thriving

public presence. He reminisces about the days when Colours (next to Gino's) prospered as a gay bar, when OutRhodes held braais and social events, and complains that the homosexual community has become very quiet and apathetic. "What are you fighting for?" we ask. "Not so much fighting," he corrects, "just gaining a sense of awareness." He wishes that the community would "know itself; enjoy itself."

Ryan is not alone in his quest for motivating the homosexual community to stand up and fight for their rights. Deidre Edwards is a heterosexual student who co-directs the Gay Youth South Africa webpage (www.gayyouth.co.za). She started working for the website when her close friend came out of the closet. He wanted to start the site to help other young South Africans deal with coming to terms with their sexuality. Deidre immediately promised to help. "I feel society needs to have a better understanding of people's sexuality," she says. "People are afraid of what they don't understand. Church and Sunday School drill it into you that it's evil - the work of the devil. It's a misconception more than anything else."

We asked why she feels so strongly about a cause that is not really her own. "Because people are closed-minded," she explains. "It annoys me. In school I was the shy type. People judged me. I know how it feels to be judged." She also echoes Ryan's desire for a homosexual meeting place. "You need a place to hang out. We all go to the Union to pick people up. The homosexual community doesn't have anywhere to go."

This is not entirely true. Just because there are no in-your-face gay clubs and bars, that is not to say there are no social venues for homosexuals. Fifteen minutes out of Grahamstown one stumbles across the "Big Gay Farm." Owned by two ex-Rhodesians and members of OutRhodes, this currently acts as an unofficial meeting place for young homosexuals on campus. It is an informal social gathering place, where regular braais and parties are held and people can go to just "hang out" with other people who understand them. "I'm a first year. When I came to Rhodes, I knew no-one," recalls Lance. "I was getting really frustrated, then a friend introduced me to a friend... I met gay people through other people."

In 1999 Ryan Macnab and his radio partner Darren Jay Hart hosted a show on RMR entitled "Fig and Fag". The aim of this highly satirical and controversial show was "to show people what the hell was going on, that [homosexuality] doesn't have to be a foreign concept." Macnab explains. The show ran weekly from February to September 1999. One landmark show aired around June was entitled "The Ins and Outs of Gay Sex". They discussed the technicalities of gay sex, blowjobs and various fetishes and STD's [Sexually Transmitted Diseases].

The objections were vehement and many. Posters were torn down, nasty emails sent and outraged phone calls made on air. Macnab admits that this particular show might have been slightly more explicit than was usual, but insists that it was carried out with taste. Following in the faggoty footsteps of "Fig and Fag" is "Gaydar the Faggot Radar", a short slot in RMR's new popular show "Penis Envy". Not as notorious as its predecessor (although the show's presenters maintain that it's only a matter of time...) "Penis Envy" is a music and comedy show containing a bit of everything. Candy Andy, who hosts "Gaydar the Faggot Radar" explains, "This part of the show is geared towards gays. I'm very openly gay on the show." "Penis Envy" has a new time slot from 8 to 10pm on Mondays. The interview show will take place between 7 and 8pm on Saturdays.

Sexuality issues do not begin and end on campus. Many young homosexuals still face huge emotional and social problems with coming out of the closet. Michelle explains that "it's easier to play it straight - pun intended." She has not yet told her parents because she isn't sure how they will react.

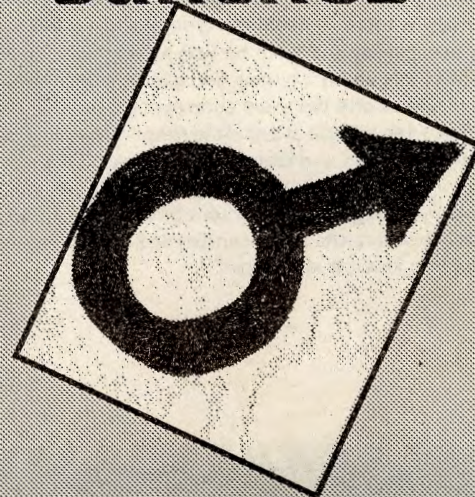
Lance has been doing some soul-searching recently. Although he kept his homosexuality a secret from his family and friends for many years, he has been toying with the idea of coming out for some time now. After our interview and discussion of the homosexual lifestyle available at Rhodes, Lance has decided to come out of the closet at last.

Here in Grahamstown, it is easy to assume that liberalism rules the day, but - as with issues such as xenophobia and racism - homosexuality is still discussed in hushed tones by the sort of people who hang out at the Rat. It would be foolish to assume, though, that the rugby-playing, beer-swilling "oke" who lives on your corridor or the delicate, floral-clad church-goer who sits next to you in the dining hall do not lead a different life behind closed doors.

There are parts of the world where a gay couple waking up in each others arms in the morning can rely on a social space geared towards tolerance and understanding. There are other places where the same act is still grounds for imprisonment. Rhodes, as usual, exists somewhere in the shadows of the grey between these. Chances are many of you have read this far and discovered little that is new or revelatory. Some of you will have reacted with indignation, with empathy or with passing curiosity. We have seen all these values expressed in roughly equal amounts from the voices in this piece. We do not presume to order you how to consider all this, save to beg of you the one thing we feel all of us owe people like Lance and Michelle - an aware and open mind.

Written by Lauren Oshry, Christopher Scott and Jak Koseff.
Researched by Lauren Oshry, Christopher Scott and Richard Strickland
Pic: Jak Koseff

Duke "filthy" Sanchez



Not that I think women are stupid. It's just that they aren't capable of dealing with the truth. You wouldn't trust a kid with the keys to the gun cabinet, would you? Not unless you're Oldkie van Reenen, and he still has to go through to Witbank to the regional high court every week to defend himself against accusations that his negligence caused the Groot Colostomy Bag Tragedy of '95 (an incident which also proves that women have no sense of humour, but that's a story for another column).

No, women can't handle the truth, and that's gospel. You just try a little honesty sometime, and see how far it gets you. You can give it a go on any number of occasions. Think about when you were a laaitie and your old lady used to demand the whole story. Just tell me the truth, she'd say, and nothing will happen. And the next thing you know, you're shovelling kak in the vegetable garden for a month after school, all because the epileptic kid can't take a joke. It took me hours to rig that portable strobe-light in the science lab too. Genius is always reviled in its own country.

But nothing's changed since those days. Try being honest with your cherry. About anything. Of course we all know that she never looks fat, in anything. Don't try "voluptuous" either. That might work for Candice Hillebrand, but your average South African chick wants to be slim. Call her "curvy", and she'll be faint and moody for weeks from starving herself down to a size 12. And then you won't notice the difference. But tell her the truth? She may remind you of a pregnant sow in that dress, but if you dare utter it, you'll be milking your own udder for the foreseeable future.

My main bru Toks is unlucky with women. That is to say, he is compulsively honest. And the shit it gets him into defies belief. Not only does he tell women honest answers to their questions, but he offers his own opinions even when not pressed for them. He reckons that if he ever finds a chick that can deal with it, he'll marry her on the spot. I haven't had the heart to tell him that he might as well look for a chick who understands why the Springboks haven't been the same since Os retired.

You'd be amazed at the ultra-violence that the little blonde at the bar is capable of when you let her know exactly what your thoughts about women in positions of power are (the I S secretary can stay, the rest need to pay more attention to appearance: Margaret Thatcher, Manto Tshabalala-Msimang et al). And we all know what happens when men are honest about indiscretions committed while trying to be monogamous. Oestrogen levels rocket, hate mail flows, and the poor oke stumbles into venom at every turn.

To paraphrase a once notorious statesman: what need has the female of truth? It only confuses them, diminishes their sense of self-worth, and decreases the statistical probability of anyone getting laid. Make Bill Clinton your role model on this issue and you can't go wrong. In the end, it all comes down to the way you define honesty. And that's the truth.

Duke Sanchez believes in equal opportunity naai-ing. He is from a coal-mining dorp noted for its forward thinking policies on gender inequality, and cites Orkney Snork Nie as the major influence on his writing. Send wisdom to kam-erou@hotmail.com.



Texasvontk

The hosts talk about anything and everything. Initially it was just about music and movies, but today their show is hailed as one the most controversial on RMR. The show has many features. A personal favourite is 'Uncle Bob's ten minute storytelling time.' The spontaneous story telling of the duo comes complete sound effects, voices and tear-jerking humour. They also have a Dedication triplet where, guess what, you get to phone in and dedicate a song to your loved ones. They also have guests, real and imaginary, and the interviewers get right to the bottom of whatever they choose to talk about. In the spirit of National Enquirer Television, the news centres around film, music and sport, and is delivered every 45 minutes. Well now you know it all, almost!

The Bloc

So if you need arrive at Eden Grove and realise you forgot your pen, get the r know where to go!

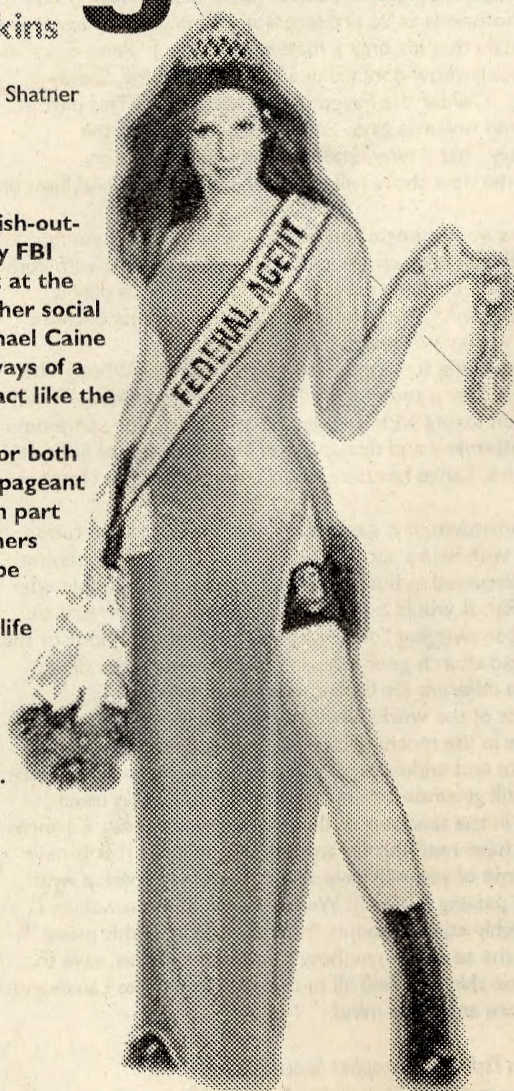
Splitting Reels

Miss Congeniality

Reviewed by: Nigel Tompkins

The Players: Sandra Bullock, Michael Caine, Benjamin Bratt, William Shatner
Director: Donald Petrie
Rating: 7/10

Great performances and tight direction make this formulaic, 'fish-out-of-water' plot work well. Sandra Bullock plays a tough, tomboy FBI agent, who has to masquerade as a beauty pageant contestant at the Miss America in order to catch a mad bomber. Unfortunately, her social graces leave much to be desired. Enter the scene-stealing Michael Caine as a top-class consultant, who is hired to train Bullock in the ways of a lady. His efforts make for some hilarity as Bullock is forced to act like the bimbo she despises. It's a new take on the Pygmalion tale; however this time round Benjamin Bratt is the love-interest (for both Bullock and Caine). The film takes terrific stabs at the beauty pageant industry, and it's great to see William Shatner satirising his own part of the Miss America pageant as the host with the corny one-liners that are regurgitated year after year. Bullock seems to finally be getting her career back on track after a recent number of disappointments, and it's nice to see Bratt (Julia Roberts' real life love interest) stepping up in the entertainment world, leaving behind TV's Law and Order to pursue a career in the movies. Michael Caine, after his Oscar success two years ago, is going to be a popular commodity for these types of roles and his performance in this film makes the price of admission worth it.



Just sa

The Activate Guide to what, when, how,
(You can find it all in the Activate Guide)

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So get with the times and ch

Munchies

ckhouse

st glance, but remember – dynamite comes in small packages. With great service, and enjoy your meal, if you haven't been there, go now! Food is provide students with great food, but also a friendly smile. ble for around R3. King-Pie doughnuts are also available, as well as a range of pies King Pie (R4,50) and home-made (R5,50)), or maybe a hotdog (R4,50). with a variety of fillings. For only R6,50 on Thursdays, you can even get a currybun- can also buy coffee or tea (including Rooibos), or even hot chocolate (R2,50 and onecards, Panado, soup, loaves of bread, pens, and even calculators! Smokers will et the munchies, or have a headache at the prospect of yet another lecture – you

ny Know

ow, where, with whom, how many, how much...
(an figure out the rest)

erActivate



activate? Missed the last edition? For up-to-date information and news not checkout InterActivate, the online version of your favourite varsity paper. mber a sections:

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ig guides, party details, cinema schedules, video releases, RMR listings and

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ts t other other campus newspapers and Rhodes based sites of interest.

and check-out: <http://activate.soc.ru.ac.za>.

stuff

Well done! You have survived Semester 1! Now all you have to do is pass your exams, and then do it all over again. We all know that the first six months of the year are a settling in period for the first years, a 'oh no not again' period for second years, while the seniors are back, reminiscing about their junior years at Varsity. I know your first year was the best one yet. In the spirit of good memories, we decided to let you know what we liked and didn't like about the first six months at Rhodes in 2001:

WE LIKED (in no particular order)

Mr Burger's veggie burgers
4play
LIVE MUSIC @ Rhodes
Soulfood parties
The Play party (specially DJ Fresh)
Grad Ball (and that deep house floor only a few people found)
Drink as much as you can nights at Pop Art
Dude Where's My Car?

WE DISLIKED (In any particular order)

The Union (Blah!)
Talent show
Progressive House at Pop-Art
Mr Universe's talk on "Sport Nutrition"
The lack of die hard partygoers

RU Fixtures

Tues 22 May	Squash: Albany League: RH3 vs Port Alfred 4	Away	17:15
Wed 23 May	Rugby: RU "A" vs Cambridge RU "B" vs Border Tech	Home Home	20:00 18:45
	Squash: Albany League: RH4 vs Wyvern 4 RU 4 vs Swallows	Home Home	17:15 17:15
	Table Tennis: EPTTU Closed Tournament	PE	18:00
Thurs 24 May	SPORTS COUNCIL MEETING Squash: Albany League: RH1 vs RH2 RH Staff vs Sevenfountains	OMP Away Away	19:00 17:15 17:15
	Table Tennis: EPTTU Closed Tournament	PE	18:00
Sat 26 May	Tennis: PE and Districts Champs Hockey: Thistles XI vs Old Grey RUW1 XI vs PE Crusaders Rats XI vs St Peters RUW3 XI vs Pirates	UPE Home PE Astro Old Grey Pirates	All day 14:00 14:00 16:00 14:00
	Rugby: RU "A" vs KWT Brumbies RU "B" vs Hams Tech	Breidbach Home	14:15 15:00
Sun 27 May	Tennis: PE and Districts Hockey: RUM XI vs PE Crusaders Thistles XI vs Hume Park Romans XI vs UPE Occasionals vs Hume Park RUW1 XI vs Technikon	UPE PE Astro PE Astro Home Hume Park Home	All day 12:00 14:00 10:00 11:30 14:30
Mon 28 May	Squash: PE League: RUM1 vs Swifts RUW1 vs Londt Park RUW3 vs Humansdorp	Home Home Home	18:30 18:30 18:30
Tues 29 May	Squash: Albany League: RH3 vs St Andrews 3 PE League: RUM2 vs Londt Park RUW2 A vs Westview A RUW2 B vs Londt Park A	Home Away Away Away	17:15 18:30 18:30 18:30
Wed 30 May	Squash: Albany League: RH4 vs Swallows RH5 vs Sevenfountains 3	Home Away	17:15 17:15
	Table Tennis: League - Round 6	PE	18:00
Thurs 31 May	Squash: Albany League: RH1 vs St Andrews 1 RH2 vs Wyvern 1 RH Staff vs Alex 1	Away Home Home	17:15 17:15 17:15
	Table Tennis: League - Round 6	PE	18:00
Sat 2 June	Tennis: PE and Districts Champs	UPE	All day
Sun 3 June	Hockey: Occasioanls XI vs Uitenhage Tennis: PE and Districts Champs Central Albany vs Bathhurst Hockey: Occasionals XI vs Old Vics	Home UPE G/Town Club Home	15:00 All day 12:30 11:30

Stripping if you're strapped

By Justine Norval and Hilton Tarrant

I have a cell phone, a laptop, a hi-fi, a clothing account, a car and a social life. This makes me no different from most of the students at Rhodes. The average Rhodes student falls into what economists call the "upper middle class income bracket"; those that don't, strive to be there. An average year at Rhodes will cost approximately R25 000, making it an expensive endeavour. Ignorance is more expensive than education but education has a high price. To support the lifestyle that society dictates as appropriate for a student, some kind of alternative means of income is necessary.

So what do students do for money? The most obvious and popular choice is to be a waiter or waitress or to serve drinks from behind the bar. The hours are long, the pay is non-existent and tips are hard to come by in a town such as Grahamstown, where students comprise a significant proportion of the consumer market. Other students turn to less conventional methods of obtaining supplementary cash - some students repair clothing while others play hairdresser for a fee, few guys even admit to baking for res friends and run tuckshops to bring in the money. Many DJs on RMR have it easy as they are paid to deejay in clubs and at events. This could earn them as much as R500 for a night's work, work that brings them experience and satisfaction. On a more academic note, students resort to typ-

ing essays and assignments for fellow students who are less computer literate or subjecting themselves to weekly torture as tutors. If all else fails, taking your clothes off is sure to turn a few heads and always has people reaching for their wallets.

Mike Scott, a first-year Fine Art student, spends several hours a week staring at a few choice subjects who have chosen to discard their apparel in the name of art and...well... supplementing their income. Mike paints nude models. Models are employed as maintenance staff on campus and have decided to boost their regular salaries by being a model - nobody would turn down an additional R600 a week, many students would jump at the opportunity but at what price? Would it be obscene to remove your clothing in the name of art and earn some extra money for your pains as well? Would you be able to stand starters in front of a group of art students and their easels for an hour or two at a time with them scrutinising your body? Does this cross that invisible line we draw for ourselves about what is appropriate and what is not? Mike says it is most definitely a matter of art. "We don't see the naked figure as a person, they are a series of shapes and colours, lines and shadows and varying degrees of light and dark surfaces." A true artistic perspective but it doesn't change the fact that most girls would be cautious in removing their kit to be sketched naked.

The general consensus on campus is one

of horror at the thought of removing clothing for the purpose of "art". Some girls even go as far as to say there is little difference between this artistic form of nudity and pornography. Most would turn to this method of supporting themselves as the ultimate last resort. It is unlikely that the art department at Rhodes would allow students to pose nude, as they would open themselves up to a barrage of criticism not to mention challenging the ethics of its constitution. Complications and controversy would most certainly arise if this were condoned. But after all, most students believe the choice should be theirs and there are students who would agree to pose for money. It is a simple matter of finance and many would forfeit a lot for the secure lifestyle that the extra money is sure to afford them. These same students are the ones arguing that there is a clear distinction between art and porn.

It is futile to deny that it has become increasingly acceptable to ignore the norms and justify the means with the end. In a few years' time it may be that the general opinions surrounding nude modelling will be much more relaxed. Who knows - it could become a weekly ritual to strip down to your birthday suit and be superimposed onto canvas, using the monetary rewards reaped to pay your Edgars account.

To pose or not to pose...

"I would never pose nude, it's an invasion of my privacy and a violation of my sexual orientation."

Tess McLaren

"I could never take my clothes off in front of people I knew...actually I don't think I could do it in front of people I don't know either"

Caroline Stewart

"Art should be about drawing bowls of fruit, not naked women"

Andrew D'Ercole

"I am too shy to pose nude in front of a whole bunch of three-legged speices"

Rachel Mabaudi

"No, because I am not really an exhibitionist."

Heather Knott

"It's art, it's not pornographic at all. They (art students)

don't see you as a naked person."

Roxanne Prando

"It's not something I would ever do, I would just be too embarrassed but I don't condemn people who choose to do so."

Kelly Jackson

"It's their choice, and I wouldn't look down on anyone who did."

Christopher Czypionka

"The human body is a beautiful form that has been expressed through art over the centuries. I don't see a problem with girls posing nude if they choose to."

Daniel Garrun

"It's not something I would normally consider doing but for R600 I would start going to gym more often."

Renate Penderis



Pics: Emil van Maltiz

Some people are only interested in your mind

Source: Brightest Young Minds Press release

"To create a meeting space where the brightest students can interact with South Africa's leading companies, in a creative environment, to explore new ideas and strategies." This is the aim of the second annual Brightest Young Minds conference that seeks to draw tomorrow's leaders together for a weeklong conference in the Western

Cape.

Brightest Young minds is looking for 100 delegates who are final year, honours, masters and doctoral students in engineering, computer science, commerce, law and international studies. The conference takes place for the 1st to 7th of July in Strand, Western Cape and is organised by AIESEC Stellenbosch.

The conference is sponsored by four industry leading, innovative companies: Accenture, Billiton, Nedcor and Sanlam. Bussiness Day/Financial Mail acts as media partners in the conference.

From all over the business sector this concept has been received with big acclaim and a few companies had to be turned away. Brand

Pretorius, CEO of McCarthy Retail said, "I studied the concept with interest and am impressed with the initiative."

Other than companies, a few external speakers will contribute to the week. One of them will possibly be Ms Carly Fiorina, CEO and Chairperson of Hewlett Packard.

According to the organisers, "the strength of the conference lies in the synergy that will be created by bringing top, diverse students, knowledgeable company representatives and external experts together".

The conference website at www.bym.co.za.

For information contact Marike Groenewald on 829520522.

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a ride
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releases
find something
you missed in the
print edition
get online fea-
tures, online
social commentary,
online consciousness..

. . . is so 20th century

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Letters to the Editor

A Letter To BOOB Mugabe

After having a long and heated argument with my H.O.D. yesterday, I decided to air some grievances I have with Africa at the moment. All these notions about democracy in Africa I find sweet. Naive, but sweet. At the end of the day, hungry people are thinking about food, and not about their right to vote or to have free public gatherings. Thus, (and this goes out to all exchange students) someone should make it known that developed world, IMF and World Bank policies of rewarding are badly run, human rights abusing, nominal democracies is just not on. What should be rewarded is good governance in whatever form it takes.

So now, what is it that bugs me about Boob and his ilk so much? Any person with half a brain (it really does not matter which half) should understand that happy people don't kill or topple their leaders. Thus, if a majority of African leaders (we know how rich you guys are) decided that perhaps they had enough money to get whatever it was they were saving up for. They could begin instituting sound economic principles (perhaps throwing a nominal 5 -10% of their personal savings into the mix would also be a great token of good will). The above includes beefing up the infrastructure, clamping down on corruption, encouraging local small and medium enterprise, health care, education etc. With the above accomplished, and with the resultant (slow at first but it will speed up with time) growth and enrichment of the people all would begin to go well. Boob my friend, you don't even have to waste money on your charade of a democracy, you just have to keep the people happy.

It also stands to reason that a 10% tax on someone who earns \$10 is only \$1. If, however, you taxed 10% of \$20, you would gain \$2 and so on. In other words, if you wanted to carry on getting richer tax richer people. If you want richer people, stop stealing the damn money. Do you get my drift? Think of all the money you could save on bodyguards. As you can see, policies of development for the whole (yes Boob, that includes the whites and the Matabele - pay attention) population would result in a happy populace. As I said before, if they are happy, why topple or assassinate you? The above would probably do wonders for your persecution phobia, not to mention your popularity which has sagged to all time lows. A further bonus is that the Rand would stop being buffeted around like a judgement against you in the Supreme Court of Zimbabwe. This would make us South Africans very happy indeed. In this way, it is conceivable that you and the other great dictators, despots and the like will lead long, prosperous and fruitful lives.

Back to the first worlders. Send this letter to your local or national representative. ATT: Representative in the First World "Please stop funding corrupt human rights abusers for your own personal gain. It is hurting us and is getting in the way of our development. Many Thanks, Signed the developing world."

Boob and Co., the only way Africa is going to come anywhere close to developing is if we do it ourselves. Repeat after me "Proactive, not retroactive." There you go, much better don't you think.

Signed: If you do this, I can fill my car up again for less than R200.

Prove to us that this is not the town of the Living Dead... All letters to *Activate* are welcome. But please note the editor reserves the right to edit, amend or alter any material in any way deemed necessary.

The Editor

I would like to show my support for the Duke here, after that last fluffy letter published in *Activate* from some indoctrinated Atherstone person. Perhaps his column is crude and unnecessary, but it's cool dammit. If a minority stirs themselves into a prudish fanaticism then that's fine, they don't have to read what they have decided offends them, but please let the rest of us get on with enjoying our newspaper. Rhodes is great in that almost every type of person is tolerated. It's unreasonable that one group should expect university life to revolve around their views and preferences.

After all, censorship is the ultimate tyranny.

Strix
Graham House



Inter-campus

Hackers deface mail server

(Source: The Current online)

Officials suspect Chinese hackers may have attacked the University of Missouri at St Louis's Outlook homepage

Hackers hit a University web server with an anti-U.S. government message that defaced a homepage primarily used by UMSL faculty and staff last Monday.

"F--- U.S. Government" "F--- Poizonbox" was written in red letters on a black background, covering the Outlook homepage, said Tom Kyle, security administrator, and Kyle Collins, principal systems administrator.

Outlook is an advanced e-mail system that is used by UMSL faculty and staff.

The site was discovered at 7:23 a.m. and was immediately recovered.

The site was inaccessible for the remainder of the day to ensure security, said Collins.

"We found them very quickly," said Collins. "[We] took the website down and restored the backup web pages... Luckily it was not the UMSL homepage."

Information Technology Services administrators say they believe the hackers may have been Chinese.

"This is allegedly a retaliation. A lot of government sites have been hit this week," said Collins. "Poizonbox, I think, is a hacking group that has been targeting Chinese government websites, mainly since the incident with our surveillance plane."

Kyle said political unrest "could be a part of the reason."

But, that's also a very good excuse to do things."

Hackers break through systems by using programs called "script kitties," which find holes to dump dummy files into, said Collins. However, the University has incorporated staff who can recover security offences.

As soon as I saw it, I knew what happened," said Kyle. "On Microsoft's internet there are Internet Information Services, which is [their web server [software]]. It has had a lot of holes in it recently. There's been a lot of patches out, [because] a lot of versions of it... have had a lot of problems within the last few weeks."

"I went ahead and closed off access to it from server to network so that someone at home checking their e-mail wouldn't get that nice little message," said Kyle.

Collins and System Administrator Linda Stamminger, system administrator, then permanently repaired those exploited holes, said Kyle.

The hackers entered the system through a broken machine in N.Carolina, said Kyle. ITS is currently in the process of reporting to the FBI.

"We've caught hackers before," said Collins. "We are very diligent about this. We take hacking very serious."

Hackers will be unable to exploit these same holes again because they have been patched. But administrators still encourage users to utilize antiviral software because a 100 percent hacker-safe system cannot be guaranteed.

Mandela honoured by Cambridge

(Source: Die Matie Online)

Magdalene College ended former president Nelson Mandela's five-day tour of Britain on a high note last week, making him an honorary fellow.

According to Cambridge University student newspaper, Varsity, Mandela was awarded the honour to try and recognise "racial equality" within the institution and to help undo the elitist image the college suffered from.

In his speech, given to a capacity crowd, Mandela emphasised a strong commitment to equality. He praised the British education sector, saying South Africa "owes much to Britain for the relative strength of our tertiary education system".

"Our country is in need of skilled people. I thank you for what you are doing for the youth of my country," he told the audience.

Mandela, wearing the red robes of his Doctor of Law from Cambridge, had the audience roaring with laughter, explaining: "I am nervous speaking, firstly because I am a pensioner, secondly I am unemployed and thirdly, I have a bad criminal record".

As Mandela left the hall, South African student Jongi Klaas (30) stood up and performed a tribal dance. "I hadn't planned to do it, but it seemed the right thing to do," said the future teacher afterwards. "You just get caught up in the magic of Madiba, he really is an amazing person."

Student newspaper Varsity criticised the college saying it is still racially divided with only around 12 black undergraduate students accepted every year. The newspaper condemned them for saying they have a "small but significant number of black undergraduates".

Black students voiced their support for the tribute as it would "benefit the college".

South African Mathew Sathekye said this was not "only because of publicity, but also because people will associate Nelson Mandela with the college, and this will attract potential sponsors, allowing more people to gain access".

Mandela joins the honorary fellow society along with past "distinguished" fellows such as Rudyard Kipling, former poet to the British Empire. According to reports Mandela led out the procession to a tribal anthem performed by Magdalene College.

Wits H.O.D shot

(Source - Die Matie Online)

Johannesburg -The shooting of Professor Malcolm Purkey, head of the University of Witwatersrand's Drama department, shows "a lack of security on campus". This according to Student Representative Council vice-chairperson of internal affairs, Isaac Moroeng. Purkey was shot late last month, allegedly by Sikhumbuzo Yani, a PhD student in Drama, during a performance of Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream.

"The university has announced an upgrading in security, but this comes a bit too late," says Moroeng.

He went on to say it is thought around R200 000 to R300 000 will be spent on upgrading security. "I think everyone was caught quite off guard," he said.

Wits announced last Saturday that it would be undertaking steps towards suspension hearings against Yani. Purkey avoided injury, sustaining a flesh wound, and was released from hospital the next day.

According to the university, it will take time to get proceedings underway, as Yani is currently in custody awaiting bail hearings. Acting rector of the university, Professor Leila Patel, said the process would be carried out in terms of the rules for student discipline and the general rules for student conduct which specifically prohibit the carrying of firearms.

A press release sent out by the university said the implementation of proceedings required Yani to be there in person before proceeding.

"We fully support the proceedings," Moroeng continued. "This sort of behaviour cannot be excused or justified."

He added that it was unlikely Yani would ever be a student at Wits again.

Although there had been racial tensions within the Drama department, Moroeng says he doesn't think the incident was racially motivated.

Purkey confirmed this, reportedly denying the incident had anything to do with race.

Yani had been reportedly feuding with Purkey over the choice of productions performed, calling them "Eurocentric".

During the performance Yani had reportedly become involved in a commotion outside in which he allegedly drew a gun and threatened a female student.

During an intermission Purkey then found Yani and asked him whether he had drawn a gun.

According to the statement from the university, "Purkey was then shot, sustaining a flesh wound".

Yani later handed himself over to police and has not yet been asked to plead.

The university has set up trauma counselling for those who witnessed the incident.

Registrar of the university Dr Derek Swemmer condemned the incident saying it was illegal to carry dangerous weapons on the campus "without the permission of my office".

He also said the incident was an isolated and infrequent occurrence.

Purkey was unavailable for comment.

Briefs

Sex degree- "Sex is the impulse behind everything anyway."

This according to Dr Robert Buranello, course convenor of a new sex course focusing on classical erotica through the ages at the University of Cape Town.

Being presented in four segments through the Department of Modern and Classical languages and literatures, the course is proving to be extremely popular with more than 50 third-year students enrolled in its first quarter of existence.

"We thought it would be a good way of complementing what we do and getting everything across," he told the university's weekly newspaper. Source-Die Matie Online

Worsening - The condition of 15 students' health in Niger after going on a hunger strike to protest against their detention. The students were detained after clashes with government forces in late February. One soldier was reportedly killed, and around 50 students injured. Legal sources in the country indicate the charges against the students could now be upgraded to manslaughter. Source-Die Matie Online

HORROR Scopes

Bong-Bong the Omniscient has lost the thread. He finds himself staring at a horizon that includes exams, responsibility and adulthood, and chooses to sit there, coddling a stone cold cup of coffee and lighting up another fag. All the while a classic rock station plays out his soundtrack for him....

Aquarius (21 Jan - 19 Feb) The dice was loaded from the start...

Or at least from the start of the week. You will find yourself playing lovestruck soprano outside the bedroom window of your object of affection. He/She will remind you that you shouldn't come around here, scaring other people like that. So, what you gonna do about it?

Pisces (20 Feb - 20 March)

That's great, it starts with an earthquake...

You find yourself obsessed by apocalyptic visions which somehow include cameos by obscure personalities such as Lester Bangs and Leonard Bernstein, as well as warring factions, governments for hire, not to mention birds and snakes and airplanes. Just remember - you feel fine.

Aries (21 March - 20 April)

The sun only shines on TV... That's because you've warped your sleep patterns and lifestyle habits to the point where you are completely nocturnal. The coffee stained nights will continue all through the exam period, until you wake up one bright morning during the vac and scream "A-Ha!"

Taurus (21 April - 21 May)

With the lights out it's less dangerous...

You will find yourself escaping exam stress in the dingiest locations you can find. People continually approach you claiming to be stupid and contagious, begging you to entertain them. Oh yeah.. and there's a faint scent of spirits in the air.

Gemini (22 May - 22 June)

There's a feeling you get when you look to the west... A strange fortnight awaits you. Materialistic wenchies convinced that all that glitters is gold, people who talk about their shadows being taller than their souls. It's all somehow connected to shopping for stairways. If everything feels like a gigantic balloon weighted down with lead, don't worry. It's all just a bad joke on the critics.

Cancer (23 June - 22 July)

Now gather round people wherever you roam...

You develop a sense of defiance this fortnight lost to people our age since the late 60's. You continually remind the old and supposedly wise folk around you not to criticise what they can't understand. You rail against journalists, the government and society at large. You don't let the fact that you can't sing stand in your way for a moment.

Leo (24 July - 23 Aug)

Step out the front door like a ghost into the fog... This fortnight you will befriend a religious nut-case with an exhibitionist streak named Maria. She will show up at your house at odd hours and wreak havoc with your sense of self, not to mention your work schedule. Ultimately, it's fine because round here no-one gets to sleep too early anyway.

Virgo (24 Aug. - 23 September)

You are only coming through in waves... You will be struck by a sense of being socially anaesthetised this

fortnight. The rose tinted glasses will be removed to reveal a world still painted in shades of pink. It will all feel comfortably numb.

Libra (24 Sept - 23 October)

See the stones set in your eyes... Whatever your romantic situation this week, prepare for the thorn to twist in your side. There will be many nights of patient waiting, as an "edge-y" guitar riff plays in the background. Meanwhile, the rest of G-town will go about their routines of high hopes and heartbreaks...with or without you.

Scorpio (24 Oct - 23 Nov)

Due to a cross-cosmic lack of originality, your destiny for the next two weeks will be a funky up cover version of last fortnight, done by some silly boy band with no true feeling for the original material, who don't even play their own instruments. Don't worry - Cat Stevens, Billy

Joel, and countless others share your pain.

Sagittarius (24 Nov - 21 Dec)

For a minute there you lost yourself...

There's some kind of cosmic mafia out there with something against people who speak in rhymes. You complain bitterly that you've given all you can, but it's not enough. The transcendental cops simply reply "That's what you get when you mess with us."

Capricorn (22 Dec - 20 Jan)

Imagine yourself on a boat on a river...

Since anywhere is better than the library 24-hour study room at 3 in the morning. You will begin to tentatively visions of tangerine trees, rocking horse people eating marshmallow pies and strange women named Lucy. You will be struck by how many phrases can be abbreviated as L.S.D.

Bouldering Brouard and Sabbagh take Rhodes open title

By Stephen Kihn

On 13 May, the Rhodes Open Bouldering Challenge was staged. This event, the first of its kind at Rhodes, attracted a field of 30 participants ranging from as far afield as Johannesburg right down to students of local schools, Kingswood and Graeme College.

The competitors were separated into different categories according to their varying abilities. A high school category, a men's novice and a men and womens open category were established, providing all entrants a fair chance in which to exhibit their rock climbing skills.

The competition kicked off with the qualifiers being staged between 10am and 1pm. The qualifiers entailed each entrant choosing and climbing a designated route in which points are rewarded according to the difficulty of the route. Each participant could attempt as many routes as they wished within the allotted time constraint.

In the mens open, the favourite, Paul Brouard, finished with the highest score of the qualifiers, and clearly illustrated he was the man to beat. In the womens open, Ingrid Sabbagh emerged with the highest score in the qualifiers and so the pace was set by the frontrunners.

After the qualifiers, a free workshop was run by Paul Brouard, in which he demonstrated a few of the techniques and methods of training which has enabled him to capture the last two SA champs, and earn recognition as the leading climber in the country.

Once the qualifiers had separated the socials from the serious, the final took place at 3pm. The procedure for the finals was slightly different. Each of the finalists was placed in isolation. What this meant was that

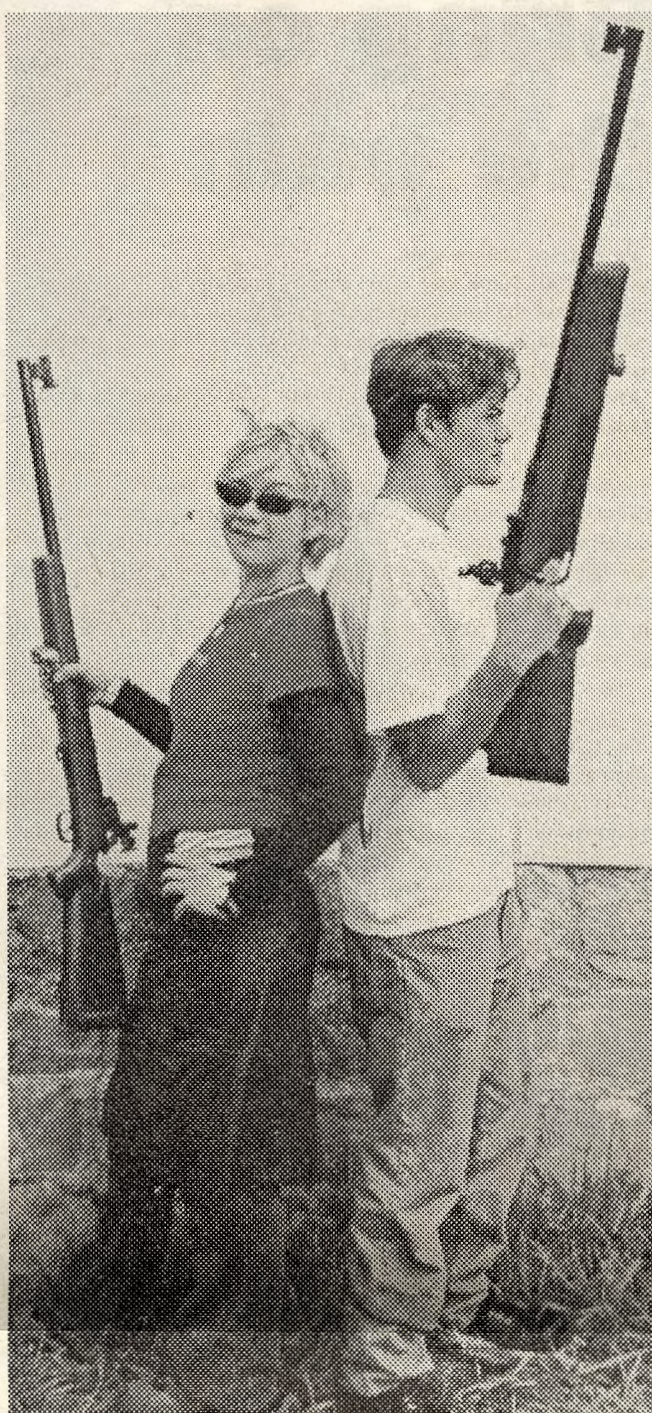
each finalist would have 10 minutes to look at the designated route, five minutes to try a practise climb and then have only one chance in which to climb as high as they can. None of the finalists were allowed to view one another during their ascent.

In the novice division, Mark Houran emerged as the winner, setting the scene for the more experienced competitors.

In the men's open division, the clear favourite was Paul Brouard, and in the finals he showed just why. Drawing from his wealth of experience and displaying sublime technique, he continued his domination and comfortably captured the title. A spirited effort was given by the runner up Kyle O'Donoghue, who, despite being the underdog, showed the commitment and determination which is central to every rock climber's make up.

The womens open was a much closer affair. The final was a battle of wills and concentration between the two emerging contenders, Ingrid Sabbagh and Cathy Fourie. The atmosphere was tense and the harsh fact that one false step meant failure was always a concern. Through it all, Ingrid, a Rhodes student and climber with four years of experience, displayed the greater composure and emerged as the winner in an enthralling final.

The prizes, which consisted of hampers and climbing products, were kindly sponsored by a number of local businesses. Tournament organiser Kyle O'Donoghue was pleased with the turnout considering it is the tournament's debut and believes the participation will grow with each year as the rock-climbing scene at Rhodes develops.



Cool under Fire: Rhodes Rifle Club

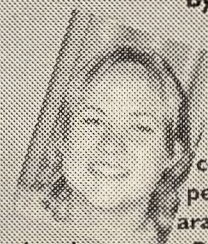
Rifle Club - E P Champs

by Mark Sainsbury

The day was a good one for most. Matthew Hart deserves special mention, as he was consistently good throughout the day, finishing on 93.50%. Chrisand Hilton started out badly, but improved in the afternoon to achieve very respectable scores of 563 and 564 in the afternoon. Pravesh is a talented shottist, but has not been able to make many practices recently. This showed, as in each match he shot some great 100s, but then some poorer ones. This inconsistency during a match is just a lack of practice and should come right as his work load drops for a while. Tyra and Mark suffered from lack of concentration possibly as their morning scores were great places to build from. Mark compounded his poor afternoon by putting a round into the white area between targets. This was a rookie accident, and he was very disappointed. Rob is a rising shottist and after his first competition in Craddock, which did not go well, he shot a very solid and respectable competition, ending on an 86% average.

Club Crawl

By Emily Russell



All kitted out in your checked porno-pimp outfit, open your legs, bend your knees and give one last trademark bum-wiggle. Dry your palms, breathe, and firmly grasp Big Bertha with both hands. After a few struggling strokes, one or two flying bogies and some putting from the rough, you should eventually score the honourable hole in one while shouting: "Fore!"

Golfers do it with sterling style indeed; in few other sports can players pull off a handicap so well so as to enjoy the luxury of a cart to transport them from tee-party to tee-party with a caddie to carry their bag all the while.

The members of the Rhodes Golf Club are affiliated to the Grahamstown Club (on Craddock Road upon the hill) and due to the unfortunate lack of any facilities on campus, this is where they are based.

Since the 1960s, students have been strutting their stuff in annual staff vs. student and town vs. gown

competitions, creating the perfect opportunity to separate the mice from the ...Rhodents.

Every second week there is a 9-hole competition with a Match Play knockout system which runs through all four seasons, and eight Medal Competitions throughout the year.

The club is desperate to lure the ladies with coaching clinics from which they too can gain confidence and become "captain co-ords".

The men's A team of eight golfers has been together for three years now and came fourth in last year's SASU - contrary to their rather dismal history- and are determined to progress this year.

The flying balls of the 19th hole are the most lethal, and if one finds its way into your drink, you are obliged to comply with the strict etiquette of golf and down it.

With only birdies above and divots below, your sole competition in golf is yourself and you strive continuously to improve self-control and perfect previous games.

Disappointment as Rhodes loses first match of season

By Robin Minifie

For the first time this season the Rhodes Under 21 A Rugby side lost a league match. There is much disappointment in the camp, but this marks the beginning of a tough road ahead.

On a Saturday that was as hot as hell, the Under 21 A side had to travel away to Ham's Tech (East London), expecting nothing less than a win. Unfortunately, it was not to be. Things were not happening and the team was not at full strength, with many players suffering from injuries, and the temperature did not help either. There are no excuses, only the side did not gel on Saturday, as fundamental handling errors crept into the side's play. After only five minutes the scoreboard read five points to nil in favour of the visiting Rhodes side, thanks to slick movement and the pace of winger "Slinky".

Unfortunately, there were no conversions, but Rhodes looked well on their way to another victory. Then the queerest thing happened: Rhodes fell asleep and Ham's Tech capitalized. The score was now five all. Rhodes then decided to catch a wake-up and applied pressure to the goal line of Ham's Tech. With the penalty that followed, "Buzz" kicked it over, and Rhodes took the lead again by three. Then Ham's Tech scored another try with a conversion. Going into half time, Rhodes were 12-8 down. The second half was nothing special and both sides made many errors, but Ham's Tech got a penalty and kicked it over. The score was 15-8, and that was how it satyed - but to Rhodes' credit, they never gave in and played with unparalleled heart, right to the final whistle.

Mixed fortunes for 1st Netball team

By Sheldon Morais

Saturday 12 May proved to be a day filled with mixed fortunes for the netball first team. They played two matches, winning one and losing the other.

The ladies started the day with a tough encounter against Lorr Diaz. The match was marred by atrocious crowd behaviour, with the fans not allowing the game to flow freely. The girls, despite a gutsy performance, felt the added pressure and the Lorr Diaz ladies were allowed the opportunity of taking control of the game. Rhodes never gave up, and at the final whistle were only defeated by seven goals, going down 21-14.

The second game of the day proved to be a more fruitful affair, with the ladies convincingly defeating Uitenhage C, 33-8. The team pulled together and put on a great team display. At the end of the day the ladies were sitting comfortably within the top three in the league standings, having played 9, won 7 and lost 2.

A hair raising day

Bring on the pain

By Lee-ann Davids

Saturday, May 12, saw the third round of the Eastern Cape basketball league take place at Fort Hare University. Everything proceeded in true Eastern Cape style, with games horribly off schedule, and the occasional beer delivery van driving through the court to bring supplies for their evening's entertainment. The day did, however, involve plenty of acrobatics and crowd-pleasers. Matches were relatively low-scoring due to a slippery court surface and a pair of rather disagreeable hoops. Arch rivals, UPE, pulled off a closely contested win against the men's B team, who then went

on to beat Border Tech 34-21. The women's B side defeated UPE 27-11, and Border Tech 21-15. Both the mens and womens B-sides showed impressive strength against their A-side opposition. Eastern Cape Tech put up a brave fight in the first half of their match against the mens A side, but were trounced convincingly in the end, the score being 30-9. ECT's women's team pulled out at the last minute, giving our women's A-side the day off.

At this stage, next week's finals are unlikely to present any problems in seeing both the men and womens A sides through to the CBL.

By Patrick Cruywagen

June 16, 2001. Some may think: student uprisings of 1976. Others might be too stressed about passing the flippin exams to think of anything else, but for six Rhodes students (five of them novices) it means Comrades Marathon day.

We will be part of the record 15 588 field, including 534 foreign entries, that will line up in the wee hours of the morning in Pietermaritzburg. The sounds of Chariots of fire and the infamous cock will blare over the loudspeakers before we set off at 6am. It will be the culmination of many months of pounding the road for countless kilometres. Elite athletes do about 260km a week in training while the average Rhodent hopeful does about 120 during peak training. Nothing can prepare you for Comrades though as the unexpected lurks around every bend and the feelings of fear and terror are very real at this stage.

This year will be a down run and I know what you beer swigging couch potatoes are saying. Yes you can walk it in the 11 hour cut off time. I challenge you too try or even join us on one of our Sunday morning training runs. We will be gentle I promise. Bruce Fordyce says the difference between the up and down runs is the limp. With the down run you limp for 2 weeks after the race instead of the traditional 1 week. Being unable to get of bed without assistance or having to drag oneself up stairs will happen on the days after the race..

The first 50km is relatively flat and you even get to run down Polly Shorts right at the beginning of the race. What a pleasure. Then the fun starts as you are now entering new terrain and have to face Fields Hill and Bothas Hill. Your legs are starting to play up now and the hills (down and up) are staring to take their toll. You find yourself walking. Yes it is allowed. Everyone does it believe it or not. Suddenly you are taking 8 minutes to do a kilometre. Bring on the pain. You now have a race on your hands and it becomes a massive mind game. Pain is pleasure I tell myself. Somehow I am not entirely convinced. Comrades they say only starts at 70km.

The support from the crowd and fellow comrades pulls you along even though it might be at snails pace. You can smell the sea but the Kingsmead stadium remains but a blur on the horizon. Will someone please explain why the hell I am doing this. You manage to get to the stadium with its wonderful soft, green grass and you find what I call your "camera legs". You know what I mean. It allows you to do that impressive sprint finish that your mates and family miss as they are too busy buying hot dogs but it gives you the satisfaction of overtaking that 70 year old lady that has managed to stay ahead of you since she overtook you at the halfway mark. For all your effort you are rewarded with a medal that is barely the size of a fifty cent piece. Find me the race organiser. The medals are miniatures. Actually I am too tired to bother at this stage.

Last time I finished Comrades the first thing I did was grab a six pack of beers and wait for my mates to finish. They were all too tired to join me afterwards. Anybody care to join me this year? For a drink that is of course!

SA goal-keeper dies on soccer field

By: Lee-Ann Davids

Rhodes graduate, Andre Rudman, tragically passed away last week Wednesday after he collapsed during a soccer match at Telkom Park in Port Elizabeth.

Rudman graduated from Rhodes in 1984 with a Bachelor of Arts degree (Fine Art). He represented Rhodes at provincial level in four different sports (rugby, cricket, athletics and basketball), and at national level in soccer. He also won the Rhodes Super Sport Star award (a fitness competition which use to be run at Rhodes) for three consecutive years. Pete Andrews, head of Sports Administration and fellow student of Rudman, describes him as "a very talented sportsman and artist and undoubtedly a leader".

Anton Boonzaier, principle at Lawson Brown High School,

where Rudman taught, says that Mr. Rudman's death is "a big blow for basketball in the Eastern Cape, and Arts at the school". Mr. Rudman played a prominent role in getting sponsorships for basketball.

"Andre was a committed and religious person and had a soft spot for the disadvantaged," said Boonzaier in a telephone interview. He regularly recruited talented basketball players from the townships, to expose them to a higher level of the game and often covered the costs involved for this out of his own pocket. "He developed basketball in the Eastern Cape. If it weren't for his efforts, the game would have never been this popular," was Boonzaier's final comment.

Mr. Rudman is survived by his wife and two daughters (one and three years old).

Rhodes runners: at the Spar Ladies 10km in PE



RAHMAN-LEWIS REMATCH ON

By Dominic Esposito

Lennox Lewis - and not Mike Tyson - will get the first shot at new heavyweight champ Hasim Rahman. The Briton, who lost his WBC and IBF titles to Rahman last month, expects to receive confirmation today that he'll be granted an immediate rematch, reported the Baltimore Sun.

CRUNCH TIME FOR DAL-LAGLIO

Lawrence Dallaglio faces a second scan on his swollen right knee to determine whether he can tour Australia with the Lions this summer. The former England captain picked up the injury during his London Wasps' Zurich Championship semi-final defeat by Bath last Sunday.

HENMAN BEATS COSTA IN ROME

Tim Henman overcame the loss of the second set to beat Albert Costa and advance to the second round of the Masters Series event in Rome. After breezing through the first set, Henman lost his rhythm and Costa claimed the next to set up a decider. But Henman proved to be mentally stronger in the final set and used his serve and volley game to good effect to easily win it.

WOODS SNIFFS FIFTH

Tiger Woods' bid to win his fifth successive major begins when he returns to tournament golf for the first time in four weeks. Woods, who goes for a unique quintet of back-to-back major titles at next month's US Open, is part of a strong field that includes Phil Mickelson and David Duval - his nearest rivals for last month's Masters.

REDKNAPP WALKS OUT OF UPTON PARK

Harry Redknapp has quit West Ham United. Redknapp stated it was "time for a change" and thanked the club for its support in his seven years as manager at Upton Park. In a statement published on the club's official website he said: "I've had a chat with the chairman and just feel it's been a tough season."

AUSSIES IN THE MONEY

Australia will have its first million dollar cricketer under a new pay agreement. "The Australian cricket team will become the best-paid sporting team in Australia, the best-paid cricket team in the world," claimed Australian Cricket Board chief executive Malcolm Speed. One Australian player would earn A\$1 million (£360,000) a year, during the life of a new four-year agreement with the board, according to Speed.

The Legend Continues...

Teejay - Sports Editor

So, by now you should be in the same position as me; stressing for exams! Yep, that's it! You know they are about a week away. But I figure, if you can get through the entire semester of lectures, tuts 'n pracs, all they are really asking of you is three hours of concentrated, brain stretching, foot tapping essay writing. Can't be that bad if you think about it right? Yes, I am in denial. This is a pretty similar state for athletes to be in at some stage in their career. Internationally renowned javelin thrower Steve Backley tried to ignore a shoulder injury, and ended up being forced to have an operation that would keep him out of the athletics world for almost a year.

32-year-old Backley, who stands 1.96m tall and weighs in at just 95 kilos, began his javelin-throwing career at the age of 16 when he recorded an official throw of 64.34m. The weather conditions at the Athletics meeting that day were appalling, with Backley having to face high winds and moist grounds. Still, for a 16 year old, throwing a funny shaped metal stick across the field for nearly 65m is pretty sharp. As he got older, and his technique improved under the guidance and coaching,

of John Trower (hectic coach, heavily into the whole fitness thing), Backley's personal best distances improved. At the age of 18, his personal best was recorded as 78.16m. By age 20, his personal best was sitting at 85.90m. His all time personal best was recorded at age 23 with a distance of 91.46m.

The 1996 Atlanta Olympics proved frustrating for Backley, who spent the entire competition leading the pack, flying his British flag high, only to be ousted from his winning position by Czech Republic's Jan Zelezny, after Zelezny's last throw. Sydney 2000 Olympics was the place for Backley to claim back what he had lost in 1996. He was after the gold. On his final throw, Backley shattered both his personal best and the world record. He could taste it. So close. Zelezny. Jan Zelezny had one final throw, just after Backley. I think, for the first time ever, I noticed the deathly hush that run through the stadium. No-one spoke as Zelezny's face was plastered all over the large screen in the stadium. Zelezny's run up was perfect, his release was Olympic velvet, and he took the gold medal from under Backley's nose by exactly one inch. Not such a cool scenario, unless you are Zelezny. As for Backley, two Olympics, two silver medals!