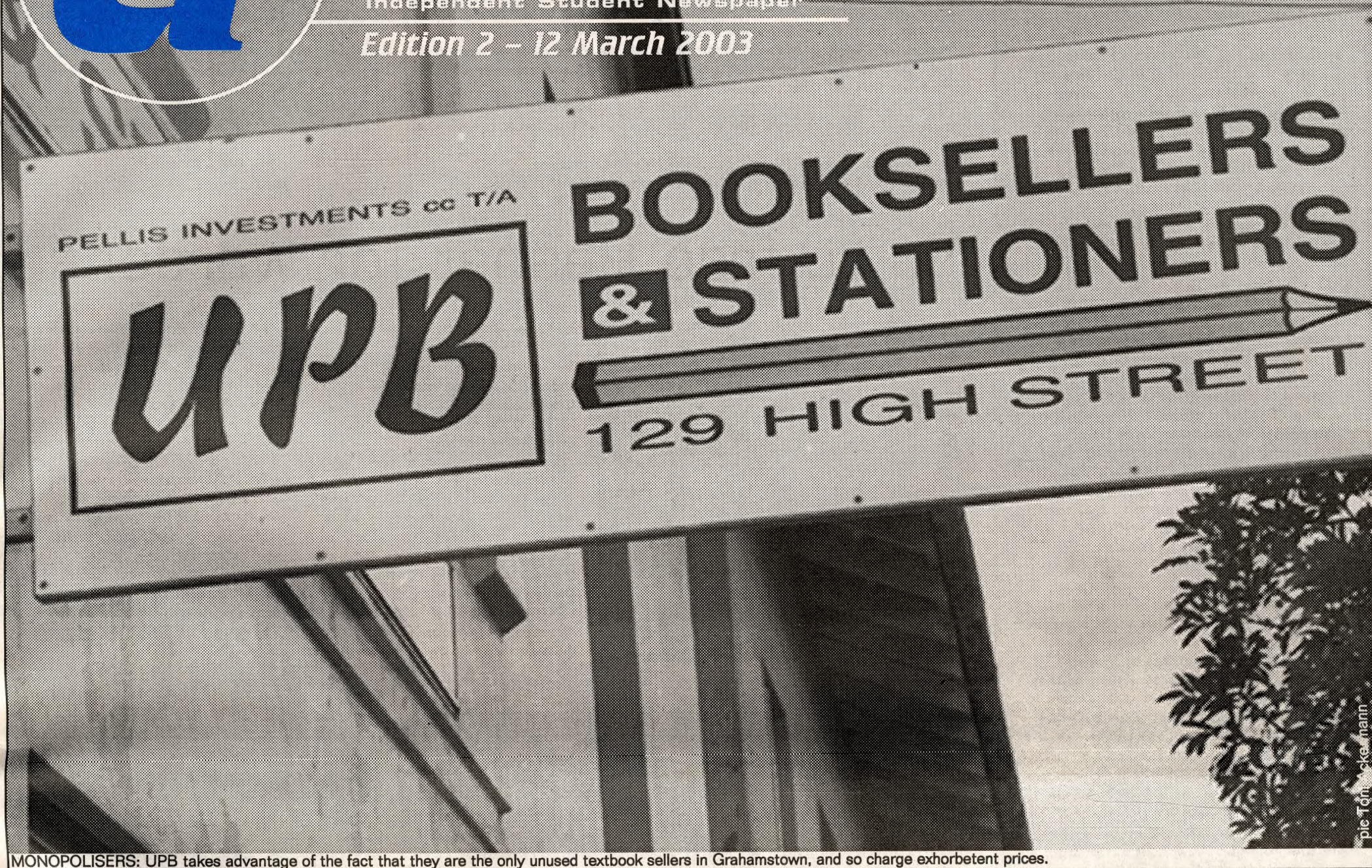


# activate

Independent Student Newspaper  
Edition 2 – 12 March 2003



MONOPOLISERS: UPB takes advantage of the fact that they are the only unused textbook sellers in Grahamstown, and so charge exhorbetent prices.

# Ripped-off?

by Lesley Odendal

**E**conomics 3 students are frustrated because of the problems they face in trying to obtain their set textbook, *Economics, Organisation and Management*. Not only is the textbook out of stock, but those students who did manage to buy the book from UPB in High Street were charged an extra R115 and are now receiving refunds from the store.

The confusion started when the lecturer of the course, Dinty Mather, negotiated a discounted price for the textbooks with the publishers Prentice Hall, based in the United States. The publishers agreed to sell the book worth \$34,50 at the reduced price of \$26. However, the publisher's agents, Pearson Education, failed to reduce the costs and charged the normal rate of \$34,50 (approximately R276 at the current Rand/Dollar exchange rate). UPB sold the textbooks to students for R475.

The publishers have recognised their error and have refunded UPB. The students can now be refunded the difference of R115,50.

The book is now being sold to UPB for \$26 (approximately R208) and is being sold to students for R359,50.

Irene Ellis, UPB owner, explains that all textbooks have a listed publishers' price. "We do not decide the prices. The publishing houses give us a set selling price."

Third-world countries receive the books at a highly-discounted price of \$4. South Africa is not represented in this category and therefore has to pay the standard price of \$34,50 even though it is a developing country.

Another problem concerning this particular book is its availability. UPB ordered a sufficient amount of copies in November 2002. However, the books were not released and the publishers now claim that the books will only be available in April.

"Students need the reading material to pass the course successfully. The lecture notes are not sufficient as the only academic material," says Mather.

One Economics 3 student who declined to be named says, "I went and photocopied the book at a place in town. I know that this is

against all the copyright laws. I'm scared of being caught, but I really need the textbook to pass."

Another student complained that the textbook is simply too expensive. "I cannot afford to spend more than R200 on a textbook. Regardless of whose fault this is, I think that it is unfair that poorer students are academically disadvantaged because they don't have the cash. It has become a case of economic apartheid."

"The price of textbooks is holding the entire academic institution at ransom," says Mather, "Because of the price of textbooks, it has become expected that the lecture notes are adequate to get them through the course – but this is not the case. We [the lecturers] cannot go into the same detail as the textbook due to the limited academic time constraints that we face."

For the moment, many of the Economics 3 students are sharing textbooks in order to get through the necessary course material until the new textbooks arrive.

• Read more inside: An in-depth feature on how the high prices of books affect students and a story on a possible competitor for UPB (pg 5).

## NEWS

Unregistered students forced off campus.

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## FEATURE

A little boy's fight to stay alive.

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## JUST SAY KNOW

Five bands hit the road in Powerzone show.

pg 7

## PICTURES

Protest pictures from yesteryear.

pg 10



# Pass cards for blacks again?

by Joonji Mdyogolo

**L**ike in Verwoerdian South Africa, blacks will now have to produce identity documents to enter a suburb. Last Tuesday, domestic workers in the posh suburb of Hurlingham Manor, north of Johannesburg, were lined up to have their photographs taken for access cards that will allow them entry into the area.

Five domestic workers who work in the suburb said the access cards were repression in the name of safety. But Debbie Bell, a member of the residents' committee, said the domestic workers had, in fact, requested the cards.

Nthatsi Modingoane, spokesperson for Johannesburg executive mayor Amos Masondo, said it would be illegal if the domestic workers had been forced to have access cards.

"It is a violation of their rights, and they should have legal recourse."

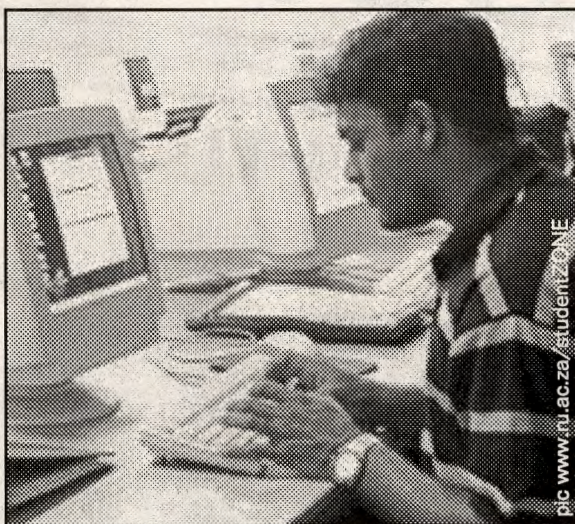
• This article is reproduced in its entirety and was originally published in The Star.

## The Natives Act, Act No 67 of 1952

Commonly known as the pass laws, the act forced black people to carry identification documents with them at all times. A pass included a photograph, details of place of origin, employment record, tax payments, and encounters with the police. It was a criminal offence to be unable to produce a pass when required to do so by the police. No black person could leave a rural area for an urban one without a permit from the local authorities. On arrival in an urban area, a permit to seek work had to be obtained within 72 hours.

# No to free Resnet for wardens

by Lesley Odendal



Some wardens are demanding free Resnet, and this has angered Francois Jacot Guillarmod, Resnet co-ordinator.

"The IT Division doesn't owe the wardens anything," he said.

In an e-mail circulated to Resnet users and interested parties, Guillarmod stressed the fact that Resnet is independent of the University. It is a self-funded project run by the IT Division. The funding needed for Resnet comes from the profits generated by other projects the IT Division is involved in.

According to Guillarmod, there are three classes of wardens. Firstly, there are those wardens who own a PC, a network

card, flylead and a network connection in their premises. The only thing that these wardens have to do is register. They do not have to pay anything for the Resnet services.

Secondly, there are wardens with a network connection to their premises, but they do not own a PC, a network card or a flylead. Thirdly, there are those wardens who require a cable to be installed. This needs to be paid for. The cost of the cabling and termination (i.e. the actual network point) is R400.

The IT Division is in the process of wiring up 21 other residences. If all wardens of these residences were to receive free Resnet, the IT Division would lose up to R16 000 per annum.

**I**s this a new form of racism or just a handful of white South Africans exercising their right to safety? Black people now have to carry access cards to enter Hurlingham Manor, north of Johannesburg (this page).

Just think about this for a minute. If you are black, how do you feel about being asked to show access cards before entering certain suburbs? How do white students feel about this? Should your security and safety come first?

Where does one draw the line between racism and safety? If it really is racism, then what should be done about it? Can one do anything about it? The residents of the neighbourhood have a right to protect themselves and their property. Then again every South African has the right to go where he pleases.

Human Rights Day is on 21 March. Most of us see it as a day off from lectures and a chance to get out of Grahamstown for a bit. Human rights violations are a thing of the past, right? In the new South Africa, the Rainbow Nation, we need not worry about such 'prehistoric' notions.

Rhodes University has a lot of history. Unfortunately, most of it has been buried away in old boxes gathering mould. Page 10 brings back a lot of memories for some. For others, it is just fascinating to know what students of yesteryear got up to. Look closely, you might recognize a few faces.

Protest marches, lecture boycotts, hunger strikes and house arrests. Students from all races coming out in solidarity for a particular cause. Where has it all gone? Students at the University of Fort Hare seem to be doing a lot of that lately (pg 3). The students are not happy with something so they burn, loot and riot to get what they want. It is common knowledge that there are other ways to solve a problem, and violence should never, ever be an option. But at least they are passionate about something.

Here, at our oh-so 'elite' institution, we need not worry about such things, right? We have other humanitarian issues to devote our time to, right? Asisipho is a two-and-a-half year old boy with cancer. His mother works in one of the residence kitchens. The university has asked students and others to help raise money for a series of operations he needs, but the response has been poor.

It would be too easy to blame it on student apathy and our alleged lack of interest in the world around us. Of course we can spare R5 for a raffle ticket! The beer which that R5 would have been spent on will have to wait.

Perhaps there was a lack of communication, and some students genuinely had no idea such a raffle was going on. Well now we know!

The question is, what are we going to do about it? It seems this is not the era for demonstrations, sit-ins and riots (not at Rhodes anyway). The marches we had last year were poorly attended, both in numbers and demographics.

What will it take to get students to get up and unite for something? There is a little boy who needs our help. Look at his face on page 6 and ask yourselves "What if that was my brother?" To the students who gave whole-heartedly to Asisipho, encourage your friends and other students to do the same.

As for the access cards, who knows? Maybe it will hit home when the system starts being implemented here on campus.

We pray it never does.

• e-mail the Editor with any thoughts/comments: g01m0259@campus.ru.ac.za



## Editorial 05

Haru Mutasa - Editor

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I'm a regular reader of *Activate* and think you guys are doing an awesome job. I read your editorial for Edition 1 and was wondering who I could contact in connection with the soup kitchen. I would really like to help out and am keen to get involved.

Kelly Cowen

• Anyone interested in helping out at the soup kitchen can contact Brian Gaybba at 046-622 5296 - Ed.

To the Editor,

First and foremost, I would like to thank you and the *Activate* staff for a wonderful and informative newspaper. However, I have one grievance. I am Zimbabwean and initially, I was grateful for the articles written about my country. But I have found that, of late, a lot, if not all, of your issues have contained an article about Zimbabwe. The problem is it's the same story being told over and over in different ways and frankly, we are tired. We would like to see more about other African countries.

Thank you for your time. Your efforts don't go unnoticed.

Yours faithfully,

Concerned Reader

**-SPECIAL-**

# Mike's

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R120 p/h - Code 10

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IRONIC: Freedom Square at the University of Fort Hare stands empty.

# Campus blues at Fort Hare

by staff reporter

**O**n 18 February, unregistered students at the University of Fort Hare were ordered off campus. The students were protesting against being evicted due to non-payment of tuition fees.

The dispute between the University and the students erupted when the students entered the University premises and attended lectures. The University then issued an ultimatum on 19 February for all students to vacate the residential premises by 13:00 that afternoon. The police were called in to forcibly evict unregistered students who refused to move. They then used teargas to disperse the students who were protesting at the campus gates. The University of Fort Hare's SRC Deputy President, Siviwe Vamwa, claimed that at least 12 students were injured when police fired rubber bullets at the students.

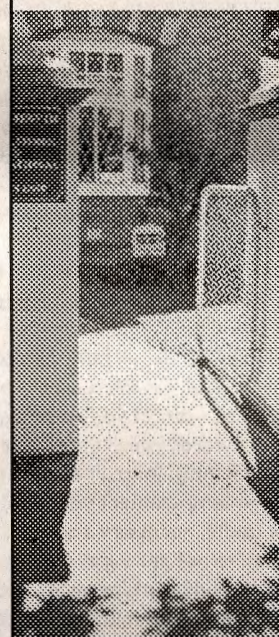
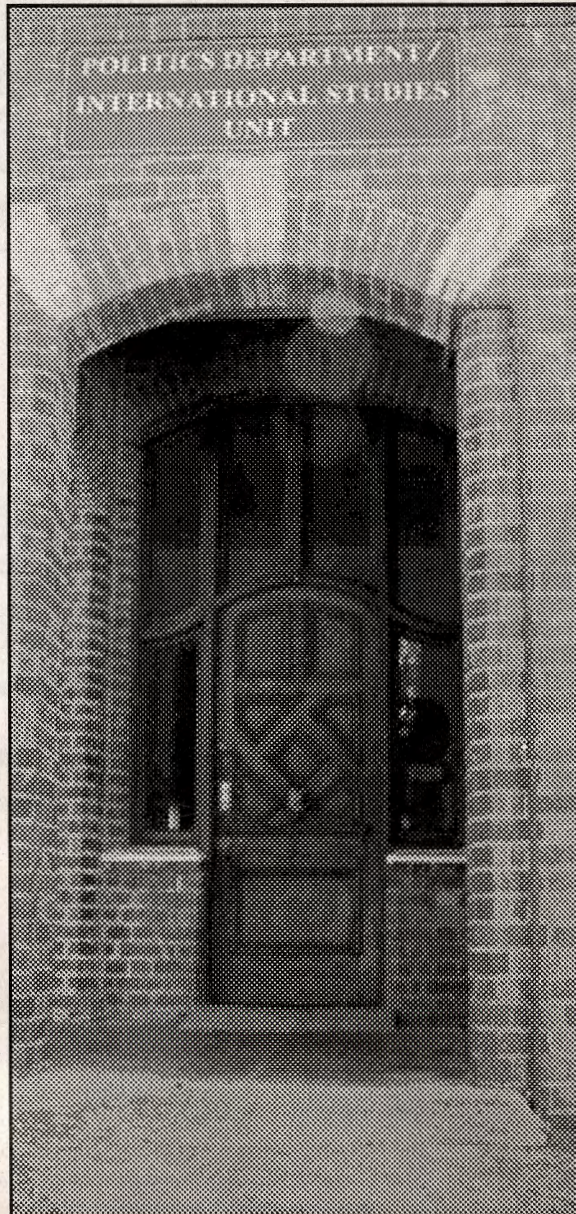
Measures were taken to provide transport to King William's Town and Bisho for the evicted students. The students' accounts were credited with R200 to cover travel expenses, and accommodation was provided for foreign students at

the Fort Beaufort campus. The University officials saw this method as the best possible way of trying to ensure a peaceful eviction.

The Marketing and Communications Director of the University, Luthando Bara, said, "All necessary means would be taken to ensure the protection of the University's integrity." Management also condemned what they described as "harassment and intimidation" taken by the protesting students but went on to claim that they remain sympathetic to students who do not perform academically and lack financial support.

The institution has refused to make financial concessions and stated that under no circumstances would they resume registration. Their justification for this ruling was that such actions would "send the institution straight to financial ruin". The administration firmly believes "that the self interests of a group of students cannot be placed above the survival of the institution".

A court order has empowered the University to evict any persons unable to provide proof that they are legitimately registered students.



**EQUIPPED:** The Department of Political Studies and International Studies Unit recently ensured that their building is accessible to wheel-chairs. Stairs to the front door (above) as well as the premises (left) were removed and ramps were constructed in their place. Many academic departments and other buildings on Rhodes University's Grahamstown campus remain inaccessible to those persons with physical disabilities.

pics Chris Czipionka

**I**f you are what you eat, does that make me fast, cheap and easy?" Robert Mugabe, quoted in the UCT Sax Appeal 2003.

We human beings are becoming incredibly peculiar, as far as selecting specimens to pop down our gullets is concerned.

Even the simple act of purchasing eggs has become a logistical nightmare. Last year, a digsmate convinced me to start chowing free-range eggs. It was all quite peachy until I visited the most confusing shop on the planet, Woolworths. 'Woolies' offers one a selection of free-range eggs, but they also stock organic free-range eggs. Apparently they treat the organic free-range egg-laying hens with regular Organics shampoo washes and preens to keep their feathers fluffy and relieve them of the stresses of all that tiring egg-laying.

But hold on, that's not all. For three times the price of ordinary eggs and four times the time taken deciding which blinking ones to buy, you can now feel like a new person by feasting on eggs that contain the Holy Grail of essential nutrients – Omega 3-acids. These acids apparently provide you with X-ray hearing and tunnel vision as well (if our sources at Verimark are correct). Who's up for an egg fight?

It all becomes a tad much to bear. And that's without even mentioning what happens when you throw religion into the blender. Take Lent... for Catholics it is a period of abstinence, which often translates to stuffing one's face with pancakes the day before Lent begins and recovering for the next 40 days. It's supposed to be about "making one's body, mind and spirit move in the same direction". No doubt many a chocolate fanatic has had their spirit and body follow their mind (and the nerves of close relatives and friends) around the bend as the chocolate cravings set in. Ask the Muslims about Ramadan. It's the same story.

It's rather admirable, walking the gastric (or is it gastronomic) straight and narrow. Take, for instance, alcoholic Christians who "avoid drugs at all costs" and pill-popping Muslims who "refuse to press their lips to a bottle of Black Label". And the Jews are always game for whatever's on offer, as long as it doesn't contain porcupines.

What's the point of all this fuss, really? More often than not, we're not actually eating what we think we're eating. We tend to lull ourselves into sweet, syrupy blissful ignorance about what actually goes on behind the scenes in a restaurant's kitchen. I've seen a pizza being popped into a delivery box after falling face down on a dodgy kitchen floor. And if you thought the curry you just swallowed was Halaal – it most likely wasn't. It may even have been a different animal altogether. As for vegetarians: a manager once assured me that "the vegetarians in the restaurant needn't fear" as the chicken being served was indeed 'vegetarian chicken'. That's comforting to know.

Next time you visit an eatery and are a little sceptical about where the grub actually came from, find a friend who is able to communicate with plants and take him/her along with you. If not, find a botany student.

Simply persuade him/her to interrogate the lettuce about what the kitchen staff did to 'Patty' before slapping her onto the bun.

Alternatively, you could stop eating out. Why not stop eating altogether?

Who's for a Big Mac?



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## SRC – Floundering or flourishing?

by Natasha Joseph

**F**ebruary 2000: SRC President Thabang Moleko posts his phone number all over campus. This is not just a strange attempt at getting laid. Moleko advises any student arrested for public drunkenness to phone him, no matter what the hour. He spends a lot of time arguing with police constables and bailing scared and drunken first year students out of jail.

February 2003: Natasha Joseph survives her fourth Rhodes University O-week relatively unscathed. Too much time carrying cases of beer back and forth during an SRC-organised Street Party gets her thinking. What is the purpose of an SRC? These are the students charged with representing us in all walks of varsity life; they also get a sizeable rebate off their tuition fees. Is an SRC a necessary, effective body of students getting things done? Or is there no place for such a body at this or any other university?

I must state from the beginning that this is largely an opinion piece. I began working on this story with certain preconceived notions about the role and function of the SRC. The purpose of journalism is to challenge preconceived notions, and to develop new or confirm old thoughts. Some members of the SRC were not happy with me for even contemplating this feature. I think 'some' must be the key word here. Some SRC members will always strive to do their job well and to represent us fairly before the staff of this university. Other SRC members won't do such a great job. That's the nature of any organisation.

I spoke to Sheila Cook, the SRC's Accounts Clerk. This conversation allowed me to take a closer look at what SRC members are expected to do during their term of office.

My first question was about the famous SRC fees rebates.

The SRC Executive gets 25% off the lowest BA tuition rate; other members get only 15% off that tuition rate.

"The President (Zimbabwean student James Chipunza) gets 50% off the lowest BA tuition rate. That's tuition only, and there's no additional allowance," said Cook.

According to Rhodes' official website (www.ru.ac.za), the annual BA tuition fee is R13 830. This means that Chipunza pays R6 900 tuition fees.

The SRC is given an annual budget by Rhodes' administrative services. The exact amount could not be revealed – despite charming, pestering and my usual "I'm just a silly little journalist with my hands in my pockets, love me, love me, love me" shuffle. However, it's public knowledge that the SRC provides grants to each and every society that operates under SRC auspices. If you're a member of StArT, the Live Music Society, Activate, HSS or ZooSoc – your cheese and wines, field trips, beach braais and workshops are paid for by the SRC.

Sheila takes great pleasure in hauling huge files out onto her desk and making me pay attention. This time, the file contained a list of all the SRC's accounts. As well as providing grants to every registered society,

the SRC pays bank charges, computer maintenance, election fees, lights and water bills, postage and phone bills.

"This is not a gravy train – far from it," says Cook. The SRC has 16 members this year, and each member sits on a number of external committees. Some committee meetings are held during lectures, and actual SRC meetings are often marathon sessions.

Among this term's concerns are renovations to the Union building – this includes Kaif, the actual Student Union and offices in the area. The 2003 SRC has already made many friends among older students by being the first group in years to cancel the infamous Talent Show. Finally, first year students had the choice to spend O-week fully clothed or at least not get naked under the bright lights of the Great Field. The Street Party which was held on Friday 14 February has been roundly praised as a success – log onto the Rhodes discussion forums (www.ru.ac.za/forums) for a full report-back from a range of Rhodes students.

So the SRC certainly isn't all bad. O-week ran smoothly, and the SRC can be forgiven for its horrible yellow T-shirts...almost. First years will notice that the SRC isn't as visible during the academic year as it was during O-week. I challenged Cook on this point, and she praised this year's group as being very "focused" on the academic year ahead.

"Most members are in [the SRC offices] at least once a day. They've been assigned tasks for this term, and they're a tight-knit group," says Cook.

The 2003 SRC has already started planning Rhodes' HIV/Aids Awareness Week, which is usually held during the third term.

All right, so most of you were expecting me to slate the SRC and use big words which imply that they're not very good at this responsibility thing. Journalism is a fickle mistress, and she's proved her strange temperament yet again: I might actually think that the SRC is a useful, necessary body.

But they're not getting away that easily. At least, they won't if the student body remains aware and involved in SRC processes. Don't let one or two members become figureheads for the entire group, and don't assume that every SRC member is loud-mouthed and under-performing.

Visit the SRC offices in the Student Union and form your own opinions. Don't shoot the messenger, and always ask questions. Brush your teeth. Read between the lines. If you're not angry, you're not paying attention. Catch you on the flipside.



LEADERS: The Executive of the 2003 SRC.

### The SRC really did all this!

Some examples of what the SRC body has done for students over the years:

#### • THE SRC Scene: April '89

This year's first years have been the first to benefit from a lengthy SRC campaign to improve the freedom and security of women residence students. First year women are now allowed greater access to residence keys and are also, for the first time ever, allowed to receive male visitors in their rooms during the first two terms.

According to Mrs Allen, Hall Warden of Oriel, the changes are working "very well". She added that she was "more than satisfied with the changes in her hall".

#### • THE SRC Scene: Aug '89

The SRC received a number of requests from students concerning bus services from Grahamstown to other centres. The SRC assisted SASTS in organising for tickets to be sold on campus. SASTS now sells tickets for the following bus services: Translux, Greyhound and Intercape.

So if you're looking for a lift, pop into the SASTS office (down the corridor from RMR) for timetable and prices.

#### • THE SRC Scene: Sept '89

The SRC has developed its own programme to put people into places where no human being has ever been before.

Faced with the unenviable prospect of the Ballroom Dancing Society having to practice in the RMR studios, Rhodexo pasting-up in the passage, and Oppies tea being served from the men's toilet, the SRC has taken steps to alleviate congestion in existing offices in the Union and open up new areas for development.

Last year rooms underneath the Great Hall were made available to societies, but this has not solved the problem.

New societies are being formed even faster than the State can ban them, and in this regard, a Space Evaluation Programme has been launched to deal with the congestion that has been caused.

#### • THE SRC Scene: May '90

The Administration has finally agreed to the dispensing of contraceptives from the sanatorium, following a two-year campaign by Women's Councillor Nina Shand.

The campaign was won after extensive research by the Women's Group of the SRC showed 98% of students questioned were in favour of contraception being freely available on campus.

## Talking Heads 03

by Chris Czipionka  
pics Chris Czipionka

Activate chatted to students at Rhodes and asked them what they thought about the Student Representative Council (SRC) and what the SRC has done for them.

Edition 2 2003



"They helped me get through 'Fresher's Week'"

(Henri, 1st year Bjour)

“ 1



"They are the central nervous system for students, as they handle a lot of our problems."

(Abena, 3rd year BComm)

“ 2



# Reading between the lines

In the brave new world of the Internet, where information floats around in a giant vacuum of cyberspace, students are still forced to buy hard copies of academic textbooks at ridiculous prices.

by David Glazier

The thin paperback cover opens directly to 239 precious pages of text. The design is meek and unobtrusive, the heading small and the words laid out on a 14cm x 21cm page. Just what is so special about this 2002 first year Philosophy textbook, 'The Ten Theories of Human Nature'? To most of us, it is not a great literary masterpiece. It is merely a textbook designed to help us pass Philosophy I. It comes at the very 'special' price of R330 and will be relevant to the course for a mere seven weeks. This book is just one example of a long list of brand new books that students are forced to buy. Perhaps the issue would be different if we were talking about books that we choose to purchase, but these are academic textbooks and therefore a necessity.

"I strongly disapprove of that price," Philosophy lecturer, Francis Williamson said when asked about the textbook. Williamson was left with no choice but to prescribe the text to his Philosophy I class last year, after an equally suitable book at R85 was found to be unavailable. Although aware that many students struggle to raise the funds for such books, he did not believe that there was any alternative, short of changing the course entirely. Williamson had advised students to group together and share the book or to make use of the 10 copies available in the library. The problem with this strategy was that over 130 students required the material at the same time — especially preceding exams, tests and essays.

Assistant manager of UPB Booksellers, Julie van Staden, said the main problem is that, "With the exchange rate going up and down, the prices of books change." Van Staden added that all academic books offered by UPB are imported mainly from Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States. Due to the continuously low exchange rate over the past few years, the price of imported books has thus increased.

Is this the entire reason for the inflated prices? Statistics stating that 80% of UPB's business comes from Rhodes students are hardly surprising. Consider the fact that according to van Staden, UPB places about a 50% mark-up on academic books. Though this figure seems grossly out of proportion, one must be careful to note that many factors, such as production costs, influence profit margins. When asked about these costs, van Staden said that they involved the mail/courier charges, staff salaries, computer expenses and rental of the establishment.

One student who experienced problems buying brand new books at exorbitant prices is second year BA student Matt Andrews. He purchased an English I paperback poetry book for R220. It will only be used for one term. "It's just unreasonable," he says, knowing that only a few of the poems will be included in lectures and tutorials. He suggested that more copies of books be put on short loan or that the University takes the matter into their own hands by assigning a department to buy books from manufacturers and give a "package

**The Biochemistry textbook wasn't too bad – only about R550...however Microbiology books had to be ordered from overseas and cost R720 (instead of R460).**

deal" to students. This deal would include all of the texts needed for the specific course.



STOCKED: Books at UPB are out of the price range for large numbers of students.

Dale Voster, a second year BSc student, said that although she should have paid about R1 000 for her Biochemistry and Microbiology textbooks, the cost ended up being much higher. "The Biochemistry textbook wasn't too bad – only about R550," she said, "However, UPB didn't have any Microbiology books left in stock, and I was told that they would have to order one in from overseas and that instead of costing about R460 it would now cost R720."

Williamson maintains that it should be the responsibility of individual lecturers to prescribe textbooks that are financially within reason. He believes it is useful to build up a small library of material. "A book becomes a resource that you use over and over again," he beams. He seems to have forgotten, however, that only by selling their old textbooks can some students actually afford to buy

the new ones required.

When asked if she feels that UPB is in a monopolistic position in Grahamstown, van Staden smiled and simply said, "Yes, we are." It is unclear as to why there are no other bookshops vying for the extensive student demand in Grahamstown. One reason could be that the relationship UPB has with Rhodes is long standing and cordial. "This bookshop has always been for Rhodes University," van Staden points out.

Towards the end of 2002, petition forms calling for the removal of Value Added Tax (VAT) on textbooks were placed in the Rhodes library. The petition was initiated by the National Library of South Africa and forms part of a countrywide appeal. As yet, the national outcome of the petition is unknown, but Head of Collection and Technical Services at Rhodes Library, Jeanne Berger, said about 500 Rhodes students signed the petition.

It seems that nothing will be done about the inflated prices of textbooks just yet, but at least students do have alternative options, such as purchasing second-hand books. For now, though, they remain mercilessly in the hands of lecturers, publishers and the economy.

## Students may have an alternative to UPB soon

by Toni Ackermann

Van Schaik bookstores recently hosted an exhibition of Pearson published products in Eden Grove. The Van Schaik group has 22 bookstore branches countrywide, yet they haven't got one in Grahamstown. "It is still a rumour but they [Head Office] are seriously considering it. It's in the pipeline," said Aletia Tait, Marketing Consultant of

Van Schaik Bookstores.

Tait said that having so many branches around the country is a "real push" for them. Van Schaik bookstores share a database and can thus use it to find a book in another store if it is not available in the one where the enquiry is made. "We use the database and pull it from another branch if we don't have stock," she said.

This means that the books are not specially

ordered from overseas, making the prices a lot more reasonable. The Van Schaik group also has a solution to a few commonly found problems.

A book is often bought and students know they are only going to need a few chapters from it, or they have to buy many different books for one course, needing a selection of chapters from them all. "We have permission from DALRO to take the material needed from all the different books and

copy it into one book," Tait said. This definitely cuts down on the costs and results in what the Van Schaik group calls "content solutions". Tailor made textbooks – how innovative!

It seems Van Schaik will finally put an end to the bookstore monopoly in Grahamstown. • Visit Van Schaik bookstores in cyberspace at [www.kalahari.net/vs/](http://www.kalahari.net/vs/) and check out the selection of tertiary textbooks they have on offer.



(Laughs) "They tried to get a vending machine installed at our dining hall, and that's about it."

(Werner, Psych Masters)

“ 3



"They gave me a street bash in Grahamstown, they are going to give me a Loxion Kulca party and they counselled and advised me."

(Luella, 3rd year BCom)

“ 4



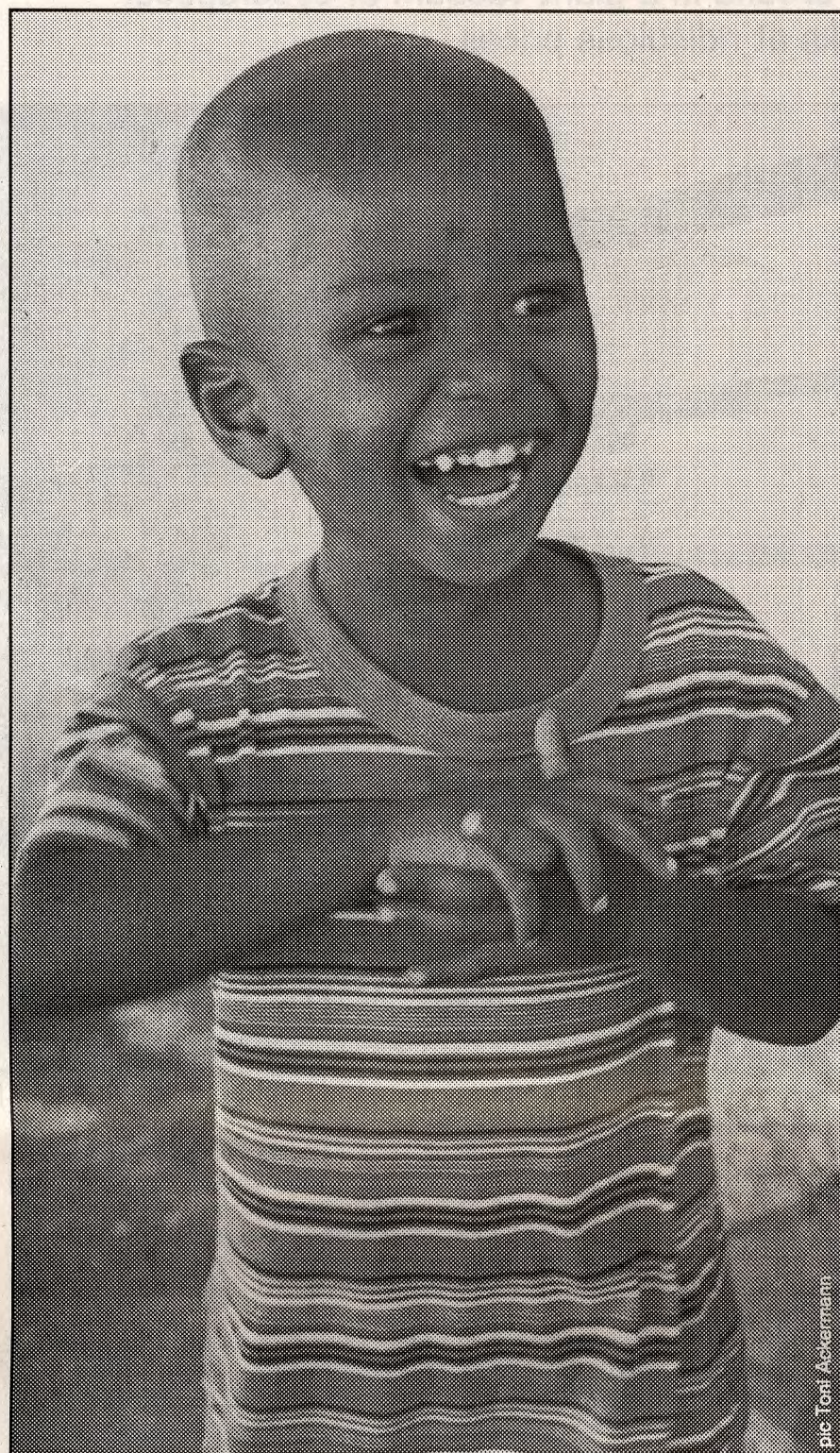
"O-week was fun, I don't know what else they do, they should make what they do public knowledge."

(Peter, 2nd year BA)

“ 5



# Cancer will not kill me



INNOCENT: Adorable Asisipho enjoys life in spite of his illness.

Asisipho is just two-and-a-half years old, and has cancer. His treatment is costly and although several attempts have been made to raise funds for him, they have been received with very little compassion from most people.

by Toni Ackermann

Asisipho looks at me and grins. I smile back, unsure of what to say. He plays with a seam on the leg of my shorts and says something in isiXhosa, which I don't understand. Straining my ears, I make out that he's actually trying to tell me his name and surname. "AsiMnyungula", he says, all in one word. His mother laughs at his lisp. He giggles, slipping a blue smartie into his mouth. Asisipho Mnyungula, affectionately known as Asi, is just two-and-a-half years old. He was diagnosed with cancer in January this year.

It all began one day when Asi came out of the toilet crying. His mother Mavis Mnyungula, a senior caterer in Jan Smuts dining hall, felt a large, hard lump on his right side and realised that something was wrong. She took Asi to the Greenacres Private Hospital in Port Elizabeth, and the paediatrician who examined him sent them straight to the Red Cross Hospital in Cape Town. He was diagnosed with cancer. A Wilms tumour had grown on his right kidney and because it was too big to remove he needed to undergo eight weeks of chemotherapy to shrink it.

Asi and his mother, Mavis, travel to the Greenacres Hospital every Thursday where he receives this treatment. Asi is scheduled for surgery on 17 March, when the tumour will hopefully be small enough to remove. Doctors are not sure how big it is at present, but Mavis said that because she can no longer see or feel it, she thinks the chemo has been successful.

The treatment is usually only a single dose of injections, but sometimes little Asi is given a double dose, which means that they have to sleep over in PE. "He's a sweet child," Mavis said, "Only when he's on his treatment does he get upset and when he sees the doctor he gets frustrated. I don't think he knows what's happening." They arrive in PE at nine in the morning and usually remain there until about two o'clock in the afternoon, unless he is having a double dose. Mavis said that he is sometimes given a tablet to stop the vomiting, which is an after-effect of the chemo. A few weeks ago, after one of his treatments, Asi's whole body broke out in an itchy rash. They had to return to the hospital where he was given medication. The doctors said it was another side effect of the injections. "I've had to shave his hair off too," Mavis said, "it was falling out from the treatments".

Unfortunately, this sort of treatment does not come cheap. Nor do the travelling and accommodation expenses. "For two weeks we went with Rhodes transport and one week with my friend. One week we went by taxi, but last week, we hitchhiked," Mavis said. The taxi costs them R80 return and it is an exhausting five hour journey in total. When they stay at the Red Cross Hospital in Cape Town, although the medical expenses are covered by medical aid, Mavis has to pay a levy of R50 per day for Asi, as well as her own accommodation, food and travelling expenses. When they go in March they will be there for two weeks.

Charmaine Avery, a senior caterer working in the Functions Kitchen and a very good friend of Mavis, has been helping with fund-raising for Asisipho. "I lost my son in a car accident when he was three years old, so this is very close to me. Mavis is a good friend of mine and she's

always there for anyone else who has a problem," Charmaine said, "Asi is lucky because he doesn't know what's going on."

The juices being sold in O-week were the main focus of Charmaine's attention. The 5 000 juices were organised by Dr Motara through the catering department and sold at R2 each, for a profit of 25c to 30c per juice. If all the juices are sold, the R1 250 profit will be given to Mavis. "We still have a few left but it's slow going," said Charmaine. The remainder of the juices are being sold under the arch. "We also want to do a jumble sale," said Charmaine, "but haven't decided when".

A raffle was also organised with Marvicks – the catering company that supplies fruit and vegetables to the RU Catering Department. They sponsored a small mountain bike as a prize. Tickets are raffled at R5 each and a total of R3 500 should be collected. Michelle Burger, who is handling the money and forms for the raffle, said that the response has been very poor, "I think it is because most people don't know about it." Although raffle sheets were sent to all the dining halls and hall secretaries on campus, not many were actually seen by students. Thus far, the amount collected is only about R1 000, much less than

was anticipated. The deadline for the raffle has been extended until 12 March, in the hope that more people will dig into their pockets to help. When asked for donations at societies evening, many students looked me in the eye and said that they had no money. Out of about 80 people approached, a meagre 15 of them donated money.

In Evolution, a restaurant at PepperGrove Mall, an article in *Grocott's Mail* about Asi, stands next to a bottle for donations. Quite a bit of money has already been collected, showing how generous some people can be. Manageress Abigail Rwanqa said that they would continue fundraising right until Asi leaves for Cape Town. "It is the first time we are doing this, but we have had ideas before on hoping to take donations to support other charities," Abigail said.

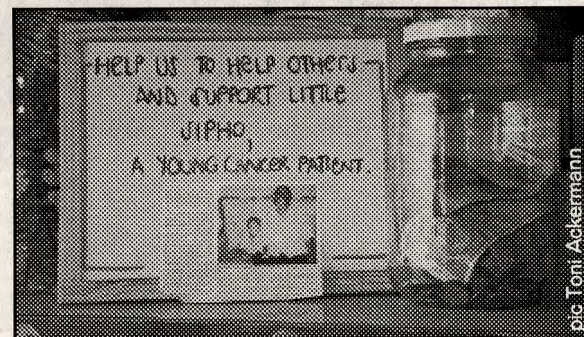
Asi is a curious little boy. Picking up my camera carefully, he turns it over and over again, examining each button and dial. I take off the lens cap and he shrieks excitedly as he looks through the viewfinder at his mother. He puts it back down in my lap and reaches for a Smartie. I stand up to leave and Asi starts whimpering. "He doesn't like it when people leave him," his mother says.

The last two months have been difficult for him, but it is not over yet. He is only a third of the way through his chemo, which he has to continue even after his operation. Asi has come a long way, but has an even longer way to go.

• Donations for Asisipho can be made with Sheila Cook at the SRC accounts office (upstairs in the Student Union Building) or in the Activate Office.



UNITED: Asisipho's family hope that he'll be okay and sufficient money is raised.



Continued from pg 5>



"They've never done anything for me, I don't even know who is on the SRC committee."

(Kate, 3rd year BA)

6



"They let us know what's going on around campus."

(Jerry, 2nd year BSc)

7



"I don't know what they do, or if they do anything."

(Paul, 1st year BPharm)

8



# MORE LIVE BANDS ON THE WAY!

Six of South Africa's principle bands will be embarking on a national tour over the April holidays on what is to be the first ever Powerzone Road show. Covering all corners of South Africa, the massive undertaking is aimed at introducing rock fans to a diverse group of bands and their music. Powerzone has championed the rock scene in South Africa for over five years, providing a constant music source for fans all over South Africa as well as abroad.

With its reputation as the premier rock 'n roll medium in South Africa, Powerzone is now going on the road with a ferocious line up in order to get the music it supports so fervently out to the masses.

The six bands on the bill are none other than rap/rockers Jimmy 12" (pictured right), alternative underground sensation Marlowe, The Parlotones; for the lighter side of things, pop/punksters The Finkelstiens, Even Flow and Nemesis. The diversity of the line-up ensures that everyone attending the shows gets their fair share of rock 'n roll in its entirety.

## VENUES

The Wavehouse (Umhlanga) – 28 March 2003

Barnacles (Port Alfred) – 29 March 2003

Buccaneers (East London) – 30 March 2003

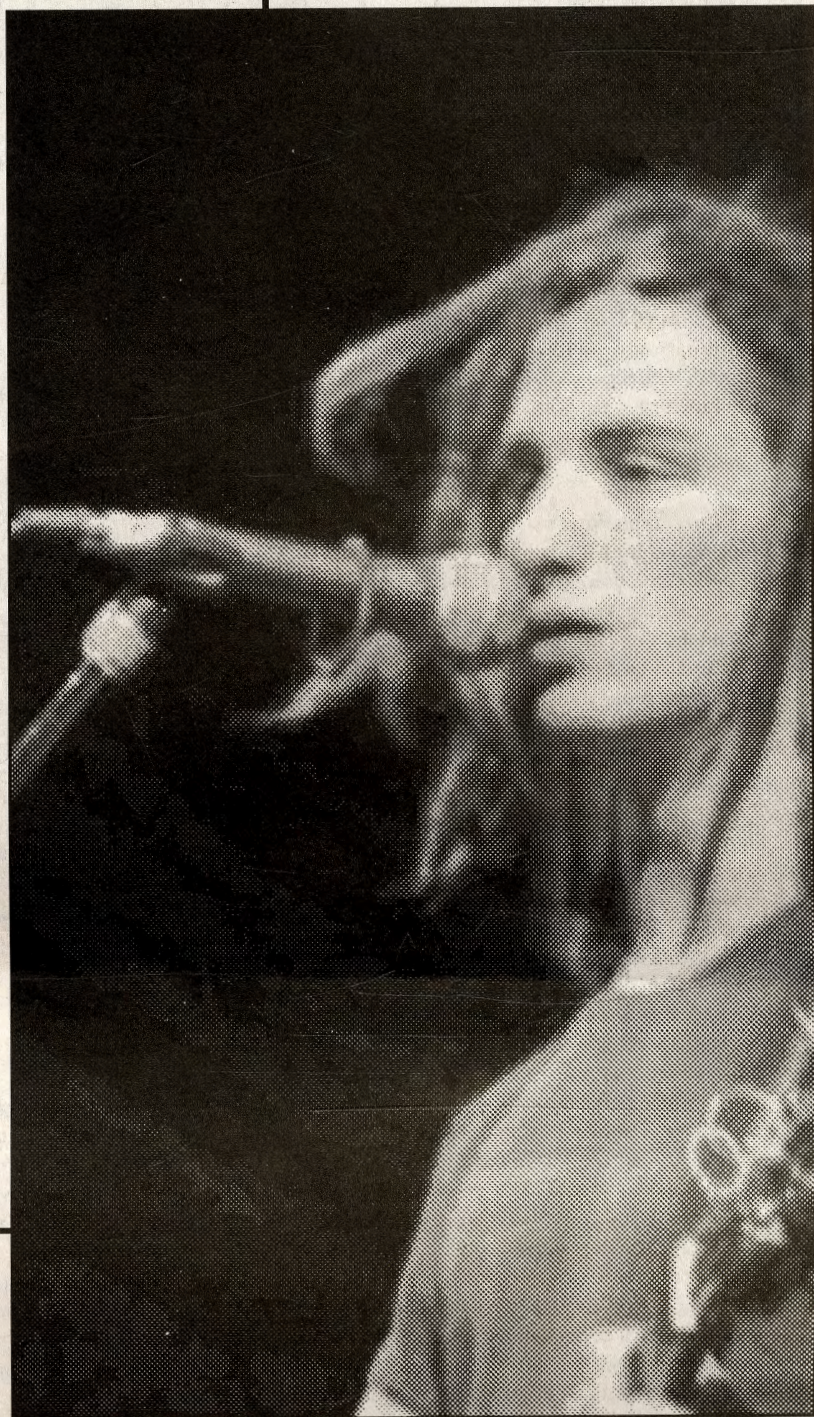
— Tap Huijs (Grahamstown) – 31 March and 1 April 2003 —

Oxide (Port Elizabeth) – 02 April 2003

Baywatch (Jeffries Bay) – 03 April 2003

Mercury Live (Cape Town) – 04 April 2003

Al's (Knysna) – 05 April 2003

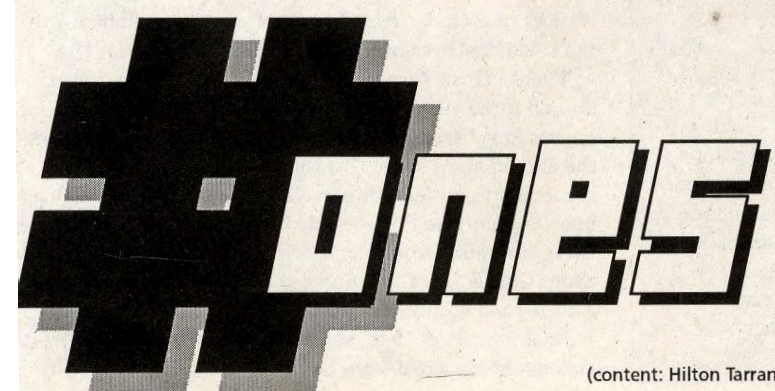


# Fifty words. NO MORE. NO LESS.

VARIOUS ARTISTS – Plea For Peace / Take Action Vol. 2

Combining a rare mix of the finest independent hardcore, punk and emo talent off the recent 'Take-Action' tour in America, this enhanced double CD is dirt-cheap at \$6 (+/- R45). With bands like Thursday, Snapcase, AFI and Anti-Flag included, not only is it a killer compilation but the proceeds go to charity.

Tracklisting available at <http://www.takeactiontour.com>



MOVIE: Two Weeks Notice

SINGLE: It's Wonderful – H2O

CD SINGLE: Goodbyes  
(Celine Dion)

CD ALBUM: Come Away With Me  
(Norah Jones)



RMR Talk is back for 2003!  
Tune-in between 7–8pm and 10–11pm.



**D**uring my driving lesson yesterday, I noticed that all Rhodents have taken a liking to the Grahamstown lifestyle, making nests and taking mates to their burrows. It is once we are comfortably settled that we take on needs to explore fresh outlooks, which do not necessarily coincide with the usual party-and-get-drunk side of things. I have noticed the amount of different religions that embody our campus and how they affect culture.

As I have not attended church since childhood, I have come to realise just how much, or how little I actually know about Christianity. Lent is a time when Christians give up something that causes them temptation – whether it is chocolate, alcohol or just biting your nails. This resistance to temptation continues for 40 days, which in my mind, becomes a century. Yet, as I discovered, it is the knowledge of why one is doing this that gives one their motivation. On asking an Association of Catholic Tertiary Students (ACTS) member, I got the full explanation on why Lent goes on for 40 days. They represent Jesus Christ's 40 days of wandering through the desert where he was tempted three times by basic essentials like water and food rather than guilty pleasures.

In my explorations, I have become most fascinated by Indian culture; particularly their bright colours and wonderful myths and legends. While watching 'The Guru' recently, I noticed how Indian culture has become intertwined with Western culture. This is also partially due to the rising popularity of Bollywood films. At Rhodes, the Hindu Students Society reflects Indian culture both in its old and modern forms.

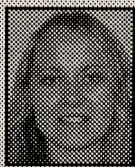
On the flipside, I decided to test my learning skills by braving the rather in-depth Classical Civilisation. Speak to anyone I know, and you will hear how crazed I have become. I live, eat and breathe classics. I find it so absolutely enthralling. I even attend the Thursday dawnie – which is crazy, I know. I suppose that my interest lies in the fact that this is a deep root of my culture, as well as the culture of Europeans. It is fascinating to know how advanced people were even before Christ and computers.

Recently at Societies Evening, I noticed how even the most obscure culture had a presence. The Live Music Society played music in a calm manner, while their enthusiastic members sported clothing made entirely of stickers advertising the society's name. StArT represents student artists who do not necessarily belong to the arts faculty. Although this is a society that might be quieter than the Live Music Society, their image spoke louder than words. The same can be said for RETA, who had posters of nude women to represent their fight against the fur trade.

Culture is fostered by the friends we have and by the societies we belong to. Yet it is our own individual character that can strengthen this particular culture. This is why I am personally proud to welcome the new writers to the Arts and Culture team.

They will give this page a fresh look as they bring their views not only from around campus but from around the world.

I would also like to encourage all aspiring poets to supply us with your poetry for future publication. I am now off to another driving lesson in the hope of not scraping any curbs or knocking over any Rhodents.



**Off  
Centre**

Natalie Oram – Arts & Culture Editor



pic by Elsabe van Tonder

**POWERFUL:** Gary Gordon (front) with members of the First Physical Theatre Company in 'This beautiful house is un-made'. Commissioned for the FNB Dance Umbrella in Johannesburg, this new full-length work, choreographed by Professor Gordon and Juanita Finestone, had a short run at the Rhodes Theatre on 7 and 8 March before seasons in Port Elizabeth and East London. Be sure not to miss this the lead up to the company's 10th anniversary celebrations. They are also now taking orders for Volumes 1 – 3 of *The Art of Physical Intelligence*.

## Heartlands, poetry at its simplest

by Verashni Pillay

**L**ocal poet Chris Mann was in action performing his production, 'Heartlands' from 18 to 25 February. First years gathered for their first taste of the arts and culture for which Grahamstown is well renowned.

Mann, a high profile figure in the South African arts scene, is actively involved in rural development. The recipient of numerous awards, he is also a playwright-come-musician.

Narrated by Mann against a backdrop of graphics by wife and fellow artist Julia Skeen and music composed by Christopher Coburn, the programme promised a true integration of varying art forms for a new sensory experience.

Mann's ability as a poet is commendable, but the narration, the graphics and poetry did not correspond. On the positive side though, the music performed by Daniella Huyns on the flute was quite captivating.

In retrospect, the R5 entrance fee would have probably been better spent on the *Heartlands* books that were on sale for a mere R20.



pic Paul Greenway

**RIVETING:** Chris Mann delivers his poetry at Heartlands.

## Poetry >corner<

### Rain

Cold crystals of soft sound,  
Sliding down like molten lead  
Down the walls of my day-dream cocoon;  
A grey veil that obscures the view  
From my bubble of inactivity.

An invisible hound snaps  
At the heavy sails of water,  
Impatiently seeking entrance to my solitude.  
It howls at its own futile attempts,  
The sound enhances my haven of silence.

### Synopsis on poet Gillian de Kock

I've always had a knack for creative writing but didn't really work at it until Grade 10, when I had to do a large creative term project for English. From then on, I couldn't stop writing, and my English teacher encouraged me to enter various writing competitions. Subsequently, I've been published twice by the Poetry Institute of Africa in their annual anthology (winning fourth prize in 2002). I've focused mainly on poetry, because I enjoy trying to compact my ideas into small spaces without the lengthy explanation required by stories. I especially love the rhythm that seems to generate naturally as I write, lending the words a life of their own; making my experiences and ideas jump out and dance radically or hide themselves mysteriously behind obvious meanings. As far as I'm concerned, poetry is the music of language.

## Bollywood extravaganza on campus

courtesy Rhodes Journalism Department

Indian film is about un-selfconscious glamour, escapism, vitality and earthiness. Following the success of the Bollywood Film Festival last year, the Rhodes Film Club and Hindu Students Society are showing a season of Indian films.

'Saathiya', on Saturday 15 March, is the story of a couple who meet, fall in love and decide to get married against the wishes of their families. The reality that marital life isn't necessarily 'happily ever after' is embellished with the traditional escapism of the Bollywood formula.

'Mujhse Dosti Karoge' on Saturday 22 March revolves around three vivacious youngsters, Raj, Pooja and Tina. Raj has long harboured feelings for Tina, while Pooja plays the clichéd good friend. Raj finds out later that the responses to his fervent e-mails were not written by Tina, but the plain-Jane Pooja. Kunal Kohli's directorial debut takes inspiration from Michael Lehmann's 'The Truth about Cats & Dogs' in a warm meditation on true love, sacrifice and friendship.

All films start at 19:00 at Eden Grove. Further information can be obtained from Liezel on 046-603 8071.



# Africa heads list of child demonisers

by Christopher Scott

Five African countries and three African armed forces have been identified by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan for using children in armed conflict. Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Liberia and Somalia were noted as having extremely high numbers of child soldiers.

Annan also pointed out that, aside from Somalia, child soldiers made up a large contingent of the three countries' regular armed forces.

The Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers has warned the international community that, "the problem of child soldiers, far from being solved, is still prevalent".

"Child soldiers continue to be abused as foot soldiers, porters, look-outs and sexual slaves. The problem is not decreasing, but with each new conflict, children are at risk of being drawn into the fighting," explains Casey Kelso, co-ordinator of the Coalition.

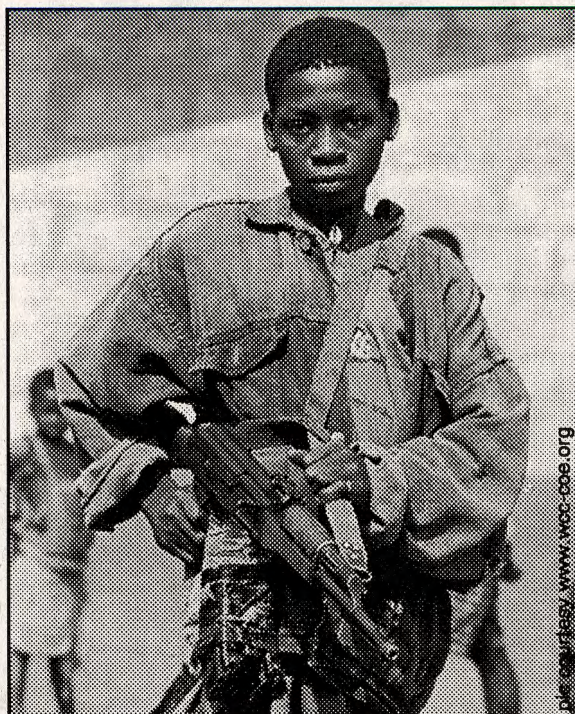
In January this year the UN Security Council adopted a new resolution regarding armed conflict and children. The Secretary-General will now include information relating to child protection in every country-specific report the UN delivers.

111 countries have signed the 'child soldiers treaty', which acknowledges that the use of child soldiers in conflict is wrong.

However, the Coalition warned the international community not to "strike off [the issue] just because it has been banned [by international law]".

In conflicts such as in northern Uganda, about 90% of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) are children. According to Amnesty International, child soldiers are "systematically terrorised and brutalised" to ensure discipline. Children are forced to kill other children caught attempting to escape the LRA.

Children of both sexes experience sexual abuse and trauma, and it is estimated that nearly 100% of escaped girls and women are HIV-positive.



KILLER: Armed child soldier.

## New legislation for Zimbabwe NGOs

by Christopher Scott

Zimbabwe's NGOs have formulated and submitted their own governing legislation to the government.

The proposed legislation aims to govern organisations that exist "for the benefit of the members of the public" that are not controlled by the State or any of its organs.

The Non-Governmental Organisations Act is a draft response to the government's own restrictive Private Voluntary Organisations Act released last year.

All NGOs governed by a constitution are eligible to register.

Opposition from the public or government is not taken into account. The governmental legislature made it possible for NGOs to become dissolved if members of the public contested their legitimacy.

The NGOs' activities will be overseen by an independently elected board and the National Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (NANGO). Collaboration between the two will ensure that corruption and negligence are virtually eradicated.

Individuals prohibited from sitting on the board include persons with criminal records, unrehabilitated insolvents, Members of Parliament and persons who bear any affiliation to a political party.

## Nigerian price controls may lead to unrest

by Christopher Scott

Government-imposed control in the Nigerian forestry industry may lead to social unrest, alleges USAid. Shortages of wood (a basic requirement for the rural Nigerian population), as well as high purchase prices, may incite unrest unless the government supplies an adequate alternative.

The government of Nigeria has implemented strict trade laws and tariffs in an attempt to regulate the trade of wood. This trade has increasingly boomed over the years and recently reached a new market high.

The government price controls are in place as an attempt to get the highest market price for the commodity.

Trade with countries such as Britain and Germany has been ongoing since the 19th century.

However, the report states that "there

is no statistical proof to show that Nigeria has immensely benefited from [the] lumber/timber trade".

The demand comes at a time when deforestation in the country is increasing at a nearly unstoppable rate. Areas labelled as forest reserve, rain forest and swamp forest may soon become completely depleted.

However, the destruction taking place is not due to logging as is commonly perceived, but "is the result of government activities such as road development, arable farming and land clearing for pasture".

Deforestation affects the environment, not only the human population of Nigeria. The unique ecology of the forest and its wildlife is also being severely compromised – if not destroyed. USAid has identified several endangered and extinct species that are under threat; including the chimpanzee, gorilla, African elephant, leopard, water chevrotain and lion.

I write this now in the Jacaranda labs. All around me, the bleeps of cell phones flit through the air like sounds of insects. But there are no trees here – No rivers. Just these docile bodies breathing information, slowly being cooled into amnesia by the air-conditioning system. We are becoming blank screens. Our thoughts are dull vacuums through which electrons vacillate like angry universes.

Like automatons, our moods and emotions are tempered by these machines. We wait longingly for the flicker of cathode on the screens before us – for our phones to bleep with the promise of communication or desire. The messages that flicker through our cut-and-paste consciousnesses are irrelevant. It is the fear that is important. The fear that if the machines are quiet for too long, we will be forgotten and will fall from the paradisiacal numbness of these grids of information.

Aloneness has died because we are monitored everywhere. Not monitored by anything or anyone – merely registered. Our position is mapped out on some screen, some database into which life is sublimated and disseminated. What happens when aloneness dies? Does loneliness die too?

All around, on each computer screen; on the billboards alongside highways; in the voices on the radio and on towers in the middle of the Karoo are our monuments to communication. Or are these memorials? Genuine communication seems to have died and been replaced by the spectacle of communication.

Relationships have been reduced to fragmentary, hurried conversations due to the rising costs of telecommunications. We speak in soundbytes and sms's. In the vast wasteland of information that is the world we live in, nothing seems to mean much anymore. Language has become exhausted.

Our generation has no voices. We are not even a generation as much as an anti-generation – quantities of matter, redolent of life; taking the form of the images we feed on. The slogan for our anti-generation should not be "make love, not war" but "there are no new messages". The computer voice on our answering machines should be our icon.

History will record us as those who could not be identified because they were merely recorders of information themselves. Our times will be debunked as being 'artificial and insincere' – an accumulation of excess posing as time.

But we must not despair. We have perhaps reached the apex of human evolution. We will avoid the terrifying vicissitudes and extremities of human life by imploding into the unceasing monotony of perpetual change, speeded up until everything becomes blurred and undifferentiated. We will finally end the vicious, perpetual melancholy tide of human contact.

Note: The above incomplete passage was not written by Matthew Wilhelm-Solomon, but was copied by Matthew from an unidentified individual's e-mail program when she left the labs for a few minutes to chat to her mother on her cell. Matthew apologises for his lack of originality, but was on deadline and wanted to go watch 'Red Dragon' and then go to Champs. Matthew would also like Activate readers to know that he loves his cell phone and will fight anyone who says anything against it.



## Dystopian Diaries

Matt Wilhelm-Solomon

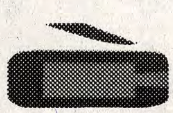
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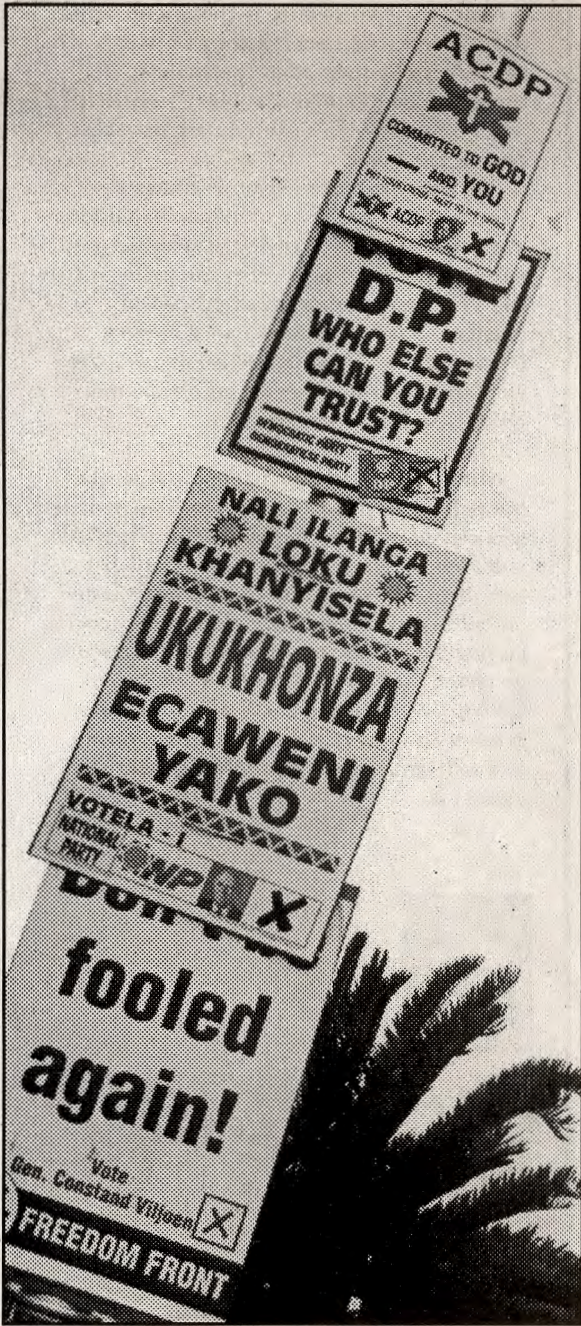
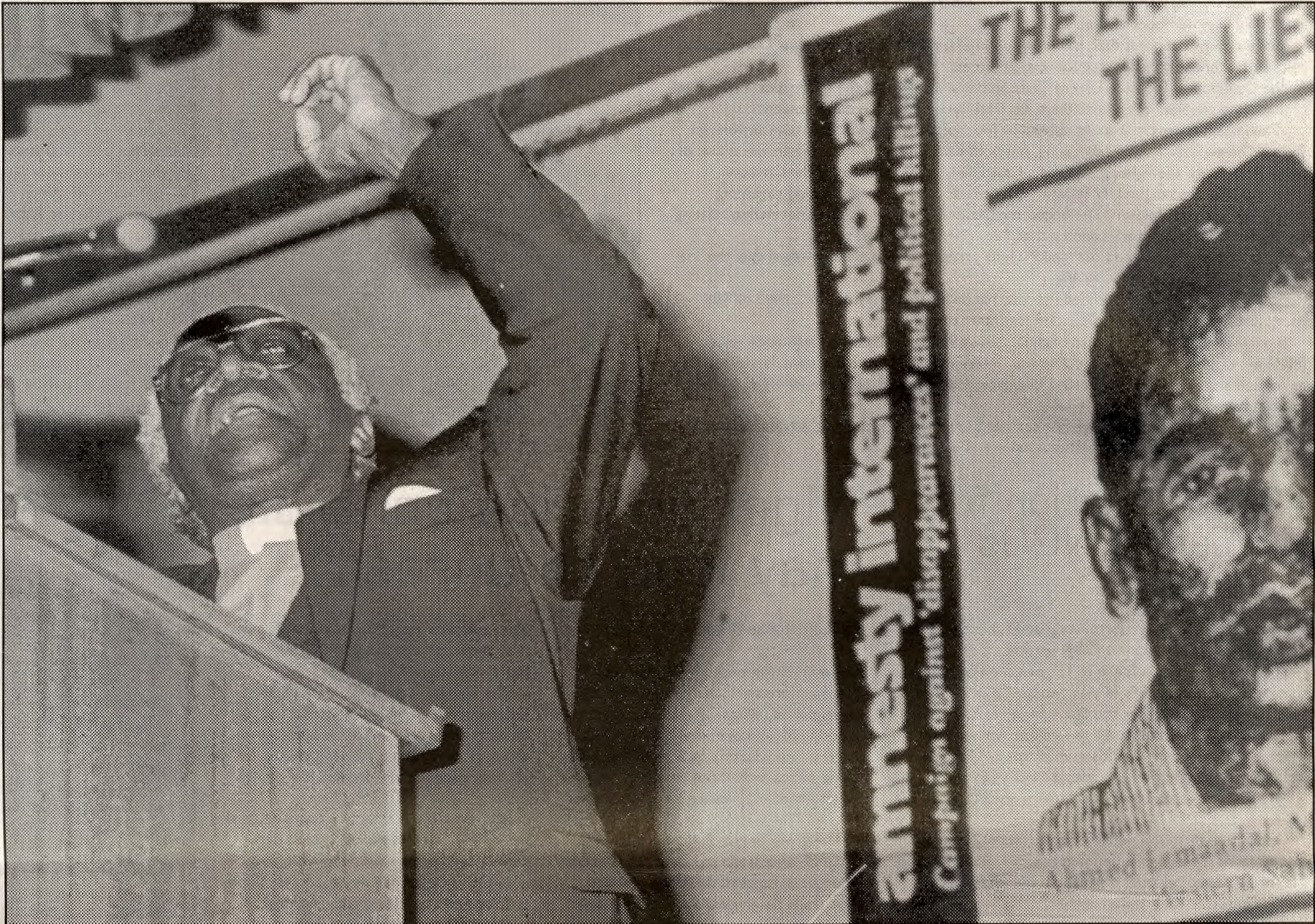


# Protests at Rhodes

21 March is Human Rights Day. At the height of the Apartheid days Rhodes students marched onto campus demanding to be heard.

Pictures (clockwise from right): Desmond Tutu addresses students at an Amnesty International rally; protestors outside the Drostdy Barracks in 1990 – Rod Amner (currently a Journalism lecturer at Rhodes) is in the foreground on the right; a strike outside Standard Bank on Church Square; a worker's strike in 1993; election campaign posters before the 1994 democratic elections; and protestors outside the main Admin building.

pics Activate archive





# Albany 10km Night Race

The Makana Brick and Tile 10km Night Race took place last Wednesday. Each finisher was awarded a medal.

**PROUD:** The first six women finishers (right) were all Rhodes University students. Many runners took part, and besides the front-runners, most ran huddled together in groups (below).

pic Chris Czipionka



## Colours Awards for archers

by Daisy Berkowitz

The Rhodes University Archery Club was awarded seven individual Provincial Colours at the Eastern Cape Archery Championships hosted by the University of Port Elizabeth (UPE) between 22 and 23 February 2003.

The first major tournament of the year saw Rhodes off to a flying start, with Pete van der Woude securing the Men's Compound Gold and Moira Japp the Ladies Standard Bow Gold. The unusually clear, calm and sunny conditions in Port Elizabeth on the first day of shooting resulted in excellent scores. These were unfortunately blown away when the tournament was cancelled on Sunday due to dangerously windy conditions. The first day's shoot proved good enough to raise the Rhodes Archery Club's total of Provincial Colours to an incredible 16 in just two short years.

Jan Nell and Kevin Lobb earned their Men's Standard

Bow Colours with Club Chairman, Gavin Tweddle, receiving a re-award. Rhodes' top scoring female archer, Moira Japp, claimed a well-deserved award for Ladies Standard Bow, while Dave Martin, Mike Wisch and Pete van der Woude did Rhodes proud in the Men's Compound Unlimited Class.

The committed training of the Rhodes Archers promises to make a noticeable impact in the crowd of archers that will be participating in the South African Archery Nationals, which are to be hosted by Rhodes University this year.

This high point of the South African Archery calendar remains financially unaided by Rhodes University sports administration, a great disappointment considering that this is the first time that an international archery tournament will be held in the Albany District. The indefatigable efforts of the Rhodes Archery Club will ensure that the 50 target buttresses and countless flags required will be completed in time for this prestigious occasion.

## Sport in short

by Rowan Watt-Pringle

On 22 February, Brett Rheeder and Zane Plescia competed in the Eastern Province (EP) Biathlon Championships. Brett completed the 2km run in 6 minutes 8.6 seconds and the 100m swim in 1 minute 2.2 seconds to come in third place in the senior section of the competition. Zane, competing in the u19 event, took 7 minutes 5 seconds for the run and 1 minute 5 seconds for the swim to claim fourth place. Brett was selected for the EP Biathlon senior men's team to compete at the SA Championships in a week's time, while Zane is a reserve for the u19 team. You can find out how they fared in the next edition of *Activate* on 26 March.

In other sports, John Oxley has been selected for the EP men's senior Underwater Hockey side, while Chris Felgate will be competing in the All African Games in Swakopmund, Namibia in April 2003 for the Zimbabwe National Triathlon team.

He was also placed first out of 120 participants in the South African National Triathlon Championships, with Brett Rheeder coming in 54th place (17 out of 30 in the 20-24 age group).

The rugby side was victorious in its first outing of the season, downing the Police 19-14, and the women's basketball team got their season kick-started by beating the team that was runner-up to them in last year's league, the Comets, 17-11.

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In 1999, South Africa's hopes of a place in the ICC Cricket World Cup Final were shattered when Allan Donald was run out with the Proteas needing just one run for victory. With the scores tied, Australia went through to the finals with a higher run rate. Four years later, who would have predicted that rain would re-create that rueful exit?

Ever since South Africa's re-admission to the international sporting arena in 1992, the World Cup has been a bugbear for South Africa. Elated after the heroic victory against hosts Australia in the opening match over a decade ago, hopes were shattered by the farce against England in the semi-finals. With South Africa needing 21 runs off 13 balls, our watery nemesis took centre stage – leaving Brian McMillan the impossible task of scoring 21 off just one ball. The injustice infuriated a nation and left even our fiercest adversaries shaking their heads.

The torment continued in England: Herschelle Gibbs' infamous 'drop' of Steve Waugh, followed by that excruciating tie with Australia in the semi-finals. This year, foiled once again, our boys watched as their dreams were flushed down the plughole. Once again, the scores were tied. Once again, South Africa was thwarted.

This could have been avoided. Had South Africa bowled within their allotted time against the West Indies and won, the result against Sri Lanka would have been irrelevant. As it was, world class players like Jacques Kallis had a disappointing tournament, while other stars have come to the party. Sachin Tendulkar is once again striking fear into bowlers' hearts, while Brian Lara has also hit form. Hayden and Gilchrist have shone, and while Gibbs has been unstoppable, the South African bowling attack has come in for some real stick.

Pat Symcox, former player and part of the national selection panel, recently claimed that this bowling attack is our weakest in 40 years. This team needs support rather than ridicule from their selectors and management, and this statement is unlikely to hearten an already despondent squad. It is also a tad unfair. A more pertinent observation would be that we are a bowling attack in transition. Now, before you groan, I am not making excuses for the team's failure. They would have gone through if they had played to their full potential. They did not. Now they are out, but I still do not take kindly to Symcox's notion.

Shaun Pollock and Makhaya Ntini are both in the top four of the One Day Internationals bowling rankings – therefore they can be classed alongside the likes of McGrath and Akram. Admittedly, Allan Donald has retired after a poor World Cup, and Monde Zondeki is too inexperienced to fill the gap just yet. Kallis, whose bowling had gone unrewarded until his three wicket haul against Sri Lanka, needs to return to his best, although Andrew Hall has provided some good support. The absence of a quality spinner continues to hamper the Proteas – could Graeme Smith be a temporary solution? The death of low, slow wickets, and the absence of a medium pacer in the mould of Hansie Cronje or Adrian Kuiper was also sorely missed.

I could write on this matter for hours, in fact, I have only just scraped the surface. All I can say is do not be too down hearted – only four more years until next time!



## Rowan's Rambles

Rowan Watt-Pringle – Sports Editor



BACK: The Rhodes Canoe Club will be preparing canoeists for various events during the year.

## Rhodents in the rapids

by Tom Mapham

After two years underwater, the Rhodes Canoe Club (RUCC) has resurfaced thanks to a group of dedicated canoeists at the University.

For the past two years, canoeists in Grahamstown were forced to join clubs in Cradock or Port Elizabeth.

The Rhodes club makes training easier for these athletes and also provides beginners with a chance to try their hand at this popular sport. The RUCC also caters for those with an interest in canoeing but with little or no experience.

With more than 100 beginner members, the RUCC is planning to double its entries for the Fish River Marathon being held in September.

Apart from being the closest popular marathon, the Fish is also the venue for the SASSU inter-varsity championship.

Last year, a team of 14 Rhodes paddlers competed in this event but were narrowly beaten to the podium by the universities of Natal, Stellenbosch and Cape Town.

In spite of the difficulties involved, Rhodes canoeists went on to achieve at national and international levels.

Despite the lack of a club structure last year, Rhodes student Nick Burden earned himself a place on the South African Universities Sprint Team. Nick travelled to the World Championships held in Europe late last year where he came up against stiff opposition. Although he was not placed, Nick is building on the experience as he prepares for the 2003 season.

The first phase of this program is happening on 15 and 16 March, when the club will run two canoeing workshops and braais at Settler's Dam.

The RUCC will also play an important role in the prestigious Founders' Challenge, which takes place on the second weekend of the second term. The club will prepare athletes from the University, various local schools as well as Joza township for the canoeing leg of the five discipline relay event.

For more information about this sport and the RUCC, e-mail rucanoe@hotmail.com, phone 072 260 0823 or take a look at the sports clubs' notice boards.

## Cricket World Cup update

by Michael Salzwedel

"Off, Off, Off!" chanted a group of desperate spectators at the disastrous match between South Africa and Sri Lanka. It wasn't that they weren't unhappy with the conduct of one of the players, they just wanted the ground staff to remove the pitch covers so that Mark Boucher and Lance Klusener could salvage a place for the Proteas in the Super Sixes. Rain, for the second time in four World Cups, denied South Africa the chance to continue their quest to lift the coveted ICC Cricket World Cup trophy.

If Boucher had scored one run off the last ball he faced against Sri Lanka, or if that ball had not been bowled, South Africa would have won the game courtesy of the Duckworth-Lewis rain calculations.

It seems harsh to depart from the competition in such unlucky circumstances, but like they say: "Anything

can happen in the game of cricket."

With the preliminary round completed, the competition steps up a gear with the Super Sixes. Two teams will be eliminated from this round-robin stage, leaving four to contest the semi-finals. Tournament favourites Australia are still looking formidable, with Glen McGrath claiming 7/15 against Namibia – the best figures ever at a World Cup.

They have, however, suffered the loss of two mainline players, namely Shane Warne (doping) and Jason Gillespie (foot injury). The other teams to progress are India, Zimbabwe, Kenya and New Zealand.

Strong contenders Pakistan, failed to progress after losing three of their six games, while the other established teams, England and West Indies, pre-

maturely returned home after below-par performances.

The final takes place on 23 March in Johannesburg. It's anybody's guess as to who will find themselves vying for the cup, although Zimbabwe and Kenya are definitely the underdogs.



Presumably, Australia will face Sri Lanka, India or New Zealand when the day of the

final arrives.

Either way, it is sure to be a fitting culmination to what has been an exciting, albeit disappointing, World Cup.

Make sure you're well stocked up with 'liquid refreshments', in the company of friends and enjoy the top class cricket coming your way in the next two weeks!

## Briefs

### Bafana's Portugal clash called off

The international friendly between Bafana Bafana and Portugal, scheduled to be played in Lisbon on 2 April, has been called off.

This was recently announced by South African Football Association (SAFA) national teams director of administration Barney Kujane.

Bafana Bafana will now play against Madagascar at FNB Stadium on 30 March. They will use it to prepare for the international friendly against Jamaica at the Athlone Stadium in Cape Town next month.

SAFA has decided to use the Cape Town game to launch the South African 2010 World Cup finals bid locally, and use the big game against England in Durban in May to launch it internationally.

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### Shaq not rushing to US Olympic team

Shaquille O'Neal and Kevin Garnett said last week, they won't be rushed by Karl Malone or anyone else into deciding whether to play for the US Olympic team.

Malone, an original Dream Team member in 1992, has committed to play in the Olympic qualifying tournament this summer and the 2004 Athens Olympic Games.

He said he couldn't understand why Lakers center O'Neal and Timberwolves forward Garnett are not jumping at the chance to play.

O'Neal said he wasn't bothered by Malone's candor or his comments. "Karl's a good guy... but my decision is my decision," O'Neal told reporters in Los Angeles.

Garnett's mind was more open than O'Neal's to playing.

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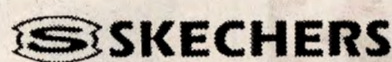
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