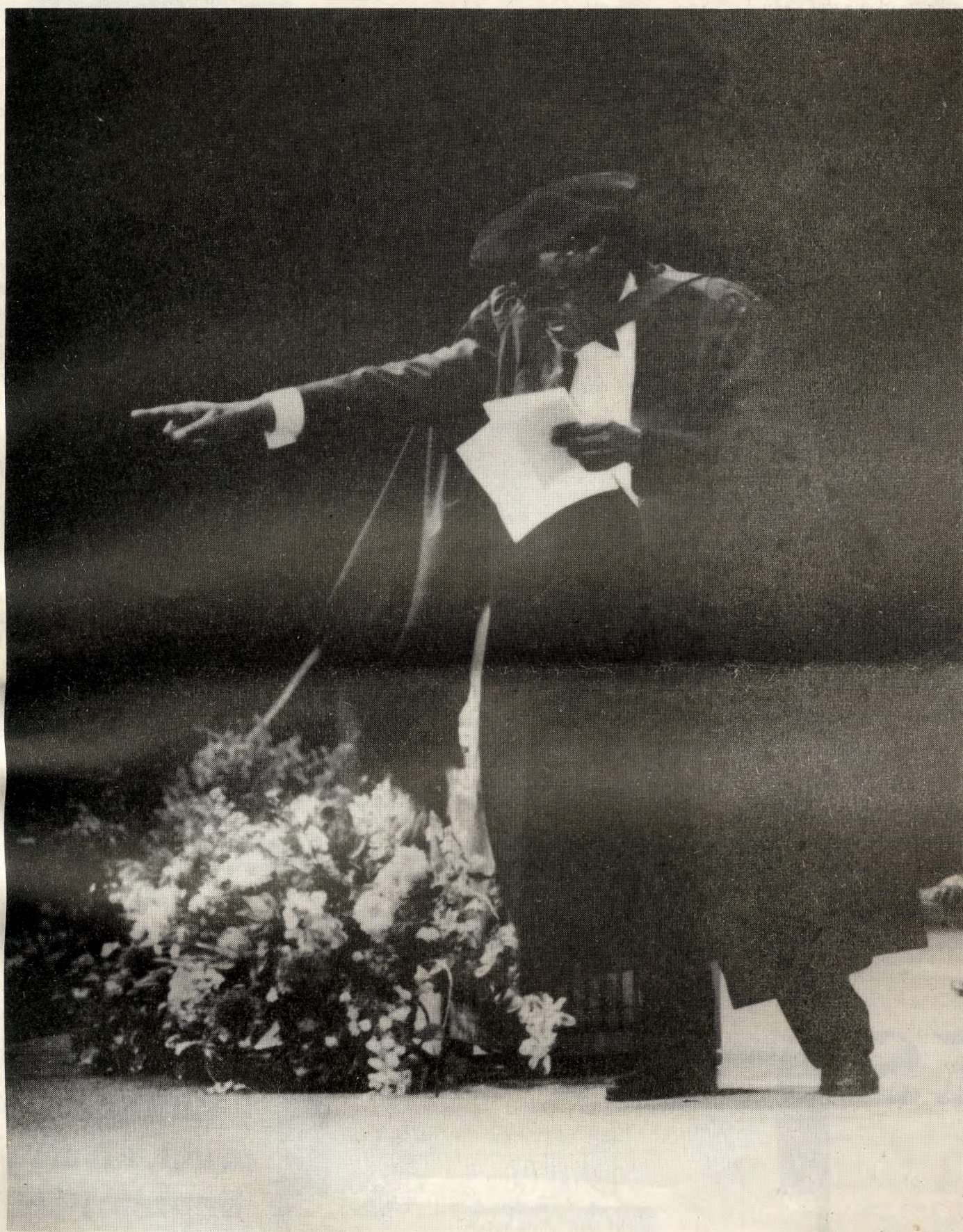


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Independent Student Newspaper

Fifth
Edition



pic:Taryn Cass

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Fak'i- 'transformation' hlez' ifumanek' i-education'
Usher in transformation then education will follow suit

see centrespread

New Gender Forum

Carlien Vavruch

On August 31 a group of about 15 interested women met to discuss the formation of a new Gender Forum under the co-ordination of Disa Dollar and Anthea Lesch of the Rhodes Psychology Department.

The aims of the workshop were to:

- 1) identify areas in which women are discriminated against at Rhodes, this would include students, academics and staff.

- 2) Prioritise the issues and formulate action plans to tackle each issue, and

- 3) formalise the Gender Forum structure and consider attaching it to the Transformation Forum or the Anti-Harassment Panel.

The workshop divided into smaller groups to identify important issues and these were then discussed in the larger group. The central themes which were raised were:

- * Harassment (which is currently being dealt with by the Anti-Harassment Forum)

- * Res rules - particularly the rules concerning weekend leave.

- * Health care for women - includes tackling eating disorders, contraception, availability of condoms and tampons, access to a gynaecologist on campus and awareness about breast cancer etc.

- * Discrimination through language - sexist and hetero-sexist language.

- * Human Resources - employment and promotion, women on

selection committees, staff development etc.

- * Curricula - women's studies research funding, marketing of interdepartmental Gender Studies course.

- * Sport - investigate inequality.

- * Safety - lighting on and around campus, night transport for oppies, includes safety for women academics and staff.

- * "Empowerment" - promoting self-esteem in women and making them aware of the support and opportunities available to them.

During the workshop it was recognised that it cannot be taken for granted that all women are equal - hierarchies are formed amongst women by race and class, and not just between women and men.

This workshop is part of an ongoing process and no final decisions have been made at this stage.

The next step is to formulate a document of everything that was discussed and record the important matters which need addressing.

The next workshop will include a report-back of a meeting with the Vice-Chancellor Dr David Woods, discussion on the suggestions listed above and the next steps to be taken. Any interested students and staff are invited to attend on the first Monday of next term, September 16, at 5:00pm in Room 113 in the Psychology Department.

The workshop does not claim to be representative of the entire Rhodes community. Comments and suggestions may be directed to Disa Dollar at the Psychology Department.

Award for Courageous Journalist

Activate Reporter

Phillip van Niekerk was this years winner of the South African Award for Courageous Journalism, held at Rhodes University on Tuesday 27 August.

The award is held in memory of Ruth First, the courageous journalist who was an ANC and SACP member and was killed by a South African Government letter bomb in Mozambique in August 1982. The award is administered by a fund set up after her death.

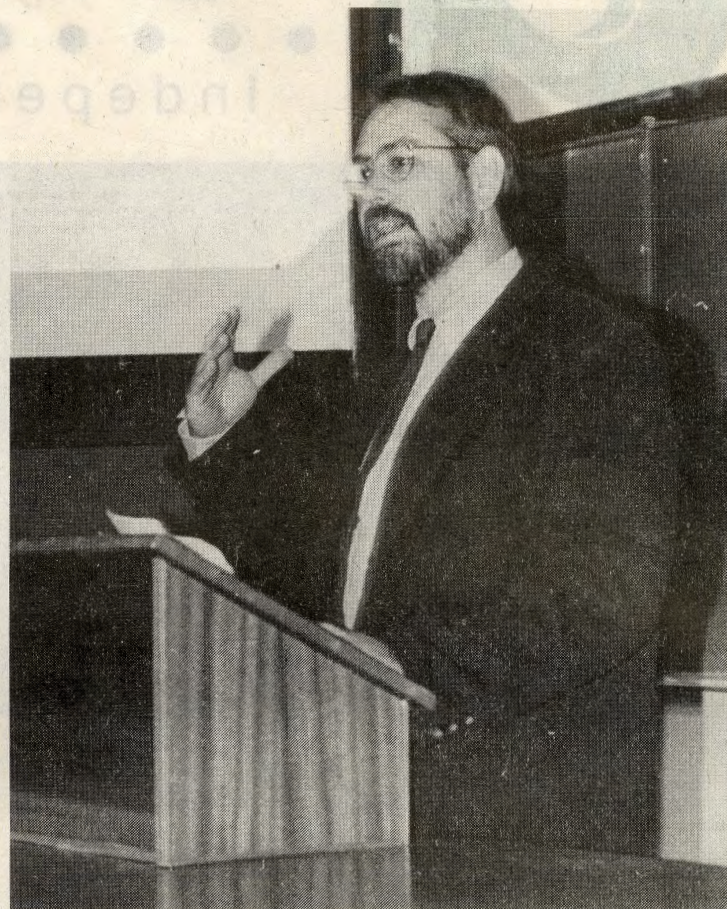
Van Niekerk won the R7000 award for his coverage of the diamond territory in Angola, and his reports on the civil war in Liberia.

"Despite a close call with death after being shot in the head while reporting in Evaton in 1994, Van Niekerk kept his journalistic nerve and has since reported in extremely dangerous conditions," said the judges.

He was trapped in a hotel room for four days in Liberia's capital Monrovia by street fighting outside, and it was only with the intervention of President Mandela that he managed to escape.

Honourable mentions in the competition also went to Evening Post journalist Bev Garson, African Eye newsagency editor Justin Arenstein and Star regional editor, Anna Cox, who will each receive R500.

Garson, a Rhodes graduate won recognition for her coverage of gang warfare in Port Elizabeth since 1994. Despite receiving two death threats, Garson is still following the story.



Phillip van Niekerk, this years winner of the South African Award for Courageous Journalism, giving his acceptance speech last week. Pic: Leigh Kilpert

Arenstein has uncovered four major scandals in Mpumalanga province, and has suffered racial abuse, burglary, suspected computer sabotage, and legal threats. At the moment he faces a potential R8-million defamation case brought by former Kangwane homeland heavyweights, Enos Mabuza and Mangisi Zitha for articles he published about their housing purchases.

Cox received credit for her reporting of events from within Alexandra township. The judges

were particularly impressed that she had managed to build up trust on all sides and was able to report many stories directly from the people involved. In one incident she was caught in the cross fire between residents and squatters, and had to run for her life.

Judges Guy Berger, veteran journalist Juby Mayet, and press freedom campaigner Jeannette Minnie said the four journalists had all shown sustained courage in the face of danger and intimidation.

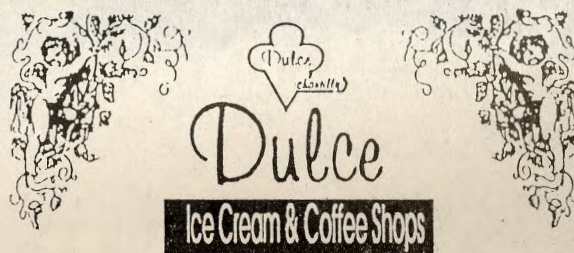
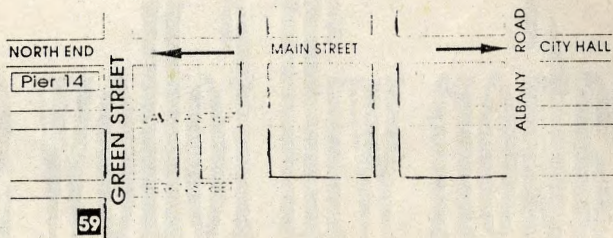
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NEW SRC 1996/97

National Community Media Forum Annual General Meeting

Mboneni Mulaudzi

THE National Community Media Forum (NCMF), held its second Annual General Meeting on August 16 in the Gauteng province.

The meeting was a follow up of the Community Media 2000 conference which was held on 14 May 1995 in Cape Town, where the Forum was founded.

The AGM came just after a media and development workshop held on July 31 which dealt with many challenges facing the structure such as sustainability of community media.

NCMF, "home of all the progressive media networks", has, as its main objectives, the task of promoting community media, to participate in the community development and to participate in the formulation of the government legislation through lobbying and putting pressure on government.

NCMF as a media organisation does not accept individual media projects, but instead projects have to be part of sectors like South African Students Press Union (Saspu) or Community Print Projects of South Africa (Coppa). On its founding it was composed of Coppa, National Community Radio Forum (NCRF) and Open Window Network (OWN), although in a subsequent meeting after the conference it was agreed that Saspu should have a representative in the National Executive Committee (NEC).

After a heated debate at the AGM, Saspu was accepted as an independent formal sector of the forum rather than it being part of Coppa, as it was before.

The constitution was amended and adopted in light of the changes and the problems the forum has faced in its operation since it began.

It was also resolved that the new NEC should work seriously towards the establishment of provincial structures.

In terms of the new constitution, each of the four structures have to put forward three representatives who would be elected into different portfolios.

A new executive committee was elected with Khanyi Mkonza from NCRF as President, and Tshepo Rantho from OWN as General Secretary.

Saspu President Robert Nkuna was elected as the International Affairs officer and Saspu Treasurer Ria Greyling as Outreach officer. Another member of Saspu, Linda Mandondo was elected as Resource sharing officer.

The conference also resolved that there has to be a conference to specifically deal with issues of sustainability and funding of community media.

Steven Moti

THE battle lines have been drawn, pensketches are gone, manifestos have been heard at grazzles and the elections are a thing of the past. Results for the 1996/97 SRC elections are out.

The results of the poll have now been declared and 45.12% of the students voted. The poll requirement was 40%, only 34% of oppies voted so they have no representative

In the general constituency; Linda Pledger won with 970 votes, followed by Chicco Khoza (694), Wamkele Mene (483), Gunther Deutsch (403) and Tshiamo Moela with 377 votes.

Three halls were contested: Smuts, Kimberly and Founders. In

Kimberly Hall, James Ledwaba and Feroza Omar came through, while in Smuts and Founders, Owen Sigauke and Brian Chindendere got the most votes respectively.

There were six oppie candidates and 10 general candidates at the grazzles. The large number of candidates was because "the Motara issue conscientised more people in the first and second term crises", said Ismael Mahomed Ali, election committee chairperson and 1995/6 SRC Deputy President. During their term of office, the 1995/96 SRC were outspoken about readdressing the financial maladministration of the previous SRC. This year's grazzle saw a shift in issues and Mahomed Ali says "this was a reflection of accountability about the past

SRC."

Outgoing SRC President, Vasco Ndebele, believes a large number of students wanted to get involved in the SRC because of the way the 1995/6 SRC "kept the institution together" over the Motara crisis, he also sees the crisis as sparking debate and interest amongst students so "everyone was interested in making a difference, that's why we had many candidates."

Ndebele sees the SRC as having brought "the SRC back to the students" by being at the forefront of issues that affect students, such as the Broad Transformation Forum, anonymous exam scripts and graduation dress code changes, so people who ran "realised the SRC is the vehicle to tackle student issues."

President
Chicco Khoza
Vice-President
Linda Pledger
Secretary General
Unathi Malunga
Treasurer
Feroza Omar
Education
Wamkele Mene
Entertainment
Gunther Deutsch
Resources Councillor
Brian Chindenderie
Sports Councillor
James Ledwaba
Promotions and Student Benefits
Owen Sigauke
Residence Liasion Councillor
William Sebothoma
Society and Culture Councillor
Lungelo Nabo
Labour and Community Councillor
Tshiamo Moela
Media Councillor
Ntombi Mhangwani

Admin to Become More Accessible

Paul Llewellyn and
Deborah Krueger

DEALING with administrative problems will soon become a less painful task thanks to the Registrar's plans to make his division more student friendly.

Registrar, Stephen Fourie, is currently negotiating with senior administration officials to embark on a project to restructure his sphere of administration to streamline general student administration and promote efficiency.

Ultimately, the aim of the project,

which is still being negotiated within senior administration, is to reduce the time it takes students to deal with administrative queries by providing them with a "one stop" service. This will involve the combination of the Admissions, Faculty and General Reception area into a single reception area closer to the entrance of the administration building. Negotiations with the Registrar of Finance may also see the relocation of the Student Fees office from its present position on the ground floor of Admin up to the foyer. In addition to these changes Fourie hopes to computerise general administration and administrative

registration. He hopes that the introduction of computers that will be accessible to students will enable new and returning students to perform the task of administrative registration on their own. Apart from registration students may also be able to programme dallas chips, join various student societies and access or update any information they may require throughout the year. Fourie estimates that the project will cost approximately R60 000 considering the need to refurbish the offices and install new computers. The restructuring will begin just after Graduation next year.



On August 20, a team of 26 bell ringers from the south of England stopped over in Grahamstown to ring the bells of St Georges and St Michaels Cathedral. By the end of their two and a half week tour, they will have rung eight sets of bells which are all the bells in Africa, except for Kenya. This time the bells only rang for one and a half hours, but next month they will be rung, for the first time in their history, to a full peal which lasts for three and a half hours. The past Vice-Chancellor, Derek Henderson, showed a keen interest in the restoration of the bells (which was completed in 1994) because of the mathematics involved in campanology.

pic: Kerry Irish

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Broad Transformation Forum Report

Activate Reporter

THE meeting held on August 17 to establish a Broad Transformation Forum ended with an agreement to appoint a convening committee to create the body. Some parties however foresee problems with the running of this committee.

Proposals were put forward by the Registrar, Steven Fourie, and by Sasco. After discussions and amendments a vote was held with 46 for and 28 against the appointment of a convening committee to establish a future B.T.F meeting. The committee will be made up of five students, and one representative each from Council, Senate, lecturers, admin, Rusa, Nehawu, Convocation, Grahamstown and an East London campus student and member of staff.

The task of the committee is to draft a mission statement and transformation agenda, to identify and consult with stakeholders to insure sufficient consensus on questions put towards it, and to draft the agenda for the next meeting.

Many of the speakers representing Rhodes Administration, Rusa,

Nehawu, Sasco, Paso, Salsa, DemSoc, SRC, Council, the Grahamstown TLC, the sports council, academics and the Convocation said they were not speaking on behalf of their organisations because short notice did not allow them to consult with their constituencies.

Fourie said this was because a meeting held with the student-senate liaison committee only gave him the mandate to approach people late on the Wednesday before the Saturday. He added this was not a major problem as the meeting had "a limited agenda - simply to get the forum underway."

DemSoc Chairperson Kim Coetzee said despite the opinion put forward that enough stakeholders were not consulted, the meeting was "relatively well publicised" and that on 2nd August student and staff organisations were invited to a meeting where a committee decided on stakeholders to invite to the August 17 meeting. So she feels if blame is to be apportioned it would be this committee's fault. Outgoing SRC President, Vasco Ndebele says this committee was

called by admin, in a short space of time and that in the committee "our role was to make inputs" by submitting names of stakeholders to contact and admin was to contact them.

The meeting was a "positive start that Rhodes has embraced the need for a B.T.F...the real work is to happen when it is officially launched."

Paso President Patrick Mahlangu believes the meeting "ended on a bad note because we did not have a clear structure established to carry the process forward...who is the convening committee, where is it?" Coetzee agreed saying it ended on an open-ended note as student representatives have not been decided on.

Ndebele says a date for the convening committee to meet has not yet been scheduled, but that it would be up to the newly elected SRC to give co-ordination and direction to the process.

Mahlangu feels there was not enough preparation on the part of students at the meeting, saying they should have consulted with each other to decide on student representation. Ndebele be-

lieves there should have been more effort on all sides "to ensure we informed the other stakeholders off campus."

Mboneni Mulaudzi, Sasco Chairperson is confident and says the meeting "reflects that maybe we'll be able to move." However, he believes the convening committee is too big to work practically and also expresses reservations about the representation of all the stakeholders at the meeting.

He says the convening committee shouldn't have been given the task of drawing up a mission statement as "that is an issue of transformation itself and at the moment we are only talking about establishing the structure and processes to deal with transformation."

Fourie views the meeting positively: "we have what admin were wanting, a vehicle for taking things forward." Coetzee doesn't see the meeting as achieving all it should have, but sees it as being more than what was in place before.

Salsa Chairperson Enoch Kamangira says "this is a move forward to us getting to the bottom line...what direction we want Rhodes Transformation to take."

Not advertising in Activate is like not getting drunk in Grahamstown. It's a bit silly.

CIRCUMCISION NIGHTMARE

Peter du Toit

WHILE the Eastern Cape remains horrified by the deaths of eight abakweta who died after becoming severely infected after the traditional Xhosa initiation circumcision ceremony, plans are being made to save both the tradition and the lives of future initiates.

In the first three weeks of June, when many boys go into the bush to become men, at least 85 abakweta in the Transkei were admitted to hospitals to have severe infections treated, of these 11 were so badly injured that their penises had to be amputated.

Now Eastern Cape health authorities are considering imposing a "state of emergency" to prevent more deaths and mutilations.

A circumcision task team has proposed that all qualified ingcimbis register their names with the provincial health authorities and it seems likely that strong action will be taken to prevent the ceremony taking place in areas where no ingcimbis have been registered.

Meanwhile, the Bisho government, together with the Red Cross, are sending an emergency team of medical specialists to Lusikisiki to help the young men. This team will include a plastic surgeon, two anaesthetists and a clinical psychologist, to reduce the psychological trauma of the young men who had lost their penises.

The spate of botched circumcisions also resulted in the arrest of a traditional surgeon who appeared in the Lusikisiki Magistrate's Court on two charges of murder earlier this month. The man was granted bail of R1000 but fearing for his life, he chose to remain in prison. - DNA

Food Privatisation

Steven Moti

THE Catering Investigative Committee (CIC), a student driven initiative, plans to rock the University's housekeeping and catering departments with radical plans for improvement, which may include the privatisation of services.

David Newton, Tony Long, Bruce Smith, Jennifer Kann and Julius von dem Bussche, the master-minds behind the CIC, got together at the beginning of the year. The committee says the university would be relieved from the responsibility of household management in reses if they appoint a private company to take care of catering and housekeeping.

"We are trying to find out about food, at the moment Rhodes is the only institution that is still funding itself," said Newton.

The CIC's main problem so far has been inconsistency. On the one hand, it encourages privatisation, improvement in the quality of food and open-choiced menus for student benefit, on the other it is concerned with the job security of the service staff employed by the catering and housekeeping department.

The committee conceded that wherever privatisation has occurred, one of its main features has been rationalisation and retrenchments of staff, which would add to the unemployment problem in Grahamstown.

Private companies have been carefully scrutinised by the CIC - notably Sodaxo, Fedics and Xolani Xholisa's Super Food Services. The committee is also trying to find out how students feel about the introduction of a new catering service.

If this proposal gains support from Admin, the student body and other parties involved, the committee will forward proposals of what they envisage for the new system, said Newton.

General Manager of the Catering and Housekeeping Department, Jane Dalton, said the decision over what was going to happen to labour would "come out of the committee. The staff have been very insecure." Catering officer, Heatcote Warwick, said: "Privatisation cannot go on lightly. You cannot bring the infrastructure you have here, back."

A case in point is the privatisation of Fort Hare and Unitra, where Warwick said they "are going back to their self-catering style of

approach."

A partial sale or privatisation, for example, would allow the university to keep an interest while raising fees and attracting the skills it needs to expand services.

Newton is confident that this is a good idea as it would mean a better life for students and they can get change refunded from unbooking meals.

Dalton believes the catering division has made some changes. September is also going to see changes coming through, but the point is "we have 2 000 students against a limited staff, who are working in shifts."

"We want a happy student body, we are also trying to be cost effective since we have a fixed budget."

However, Warwick stressed that at least 50% of the food is being cooked in the small kitchens. It is only big meals that are cooked in the big kitchens. "So the question about the deterioration of food is well taken care of," he said.

A catering service survey has been going around. The method of privatisation is particularly important. The result of the survey will determine the start of things to come.



A new exhibition at the Albany Museum entitled *Contact and Conflict* embraces the history of the Ama-Xhosa from the early Stone Age through to their contact with the British in the 1800's.

pic: Kerry Irish

SASCO Boycott Vice Chancellor's Inauguration

Maria McCloy

RHODES' South African Students' Congress (Sasco) appealed to students and officials to boycott the inauguration of David Woods as Vice-Chancellor, because of the manner in which the University dealt with the issue of arbitration and investigation surrounding Dean of Students, Moosa Motara. In a statement to the press, Sasco said participation in the inauguration legitimised Woods' "evil and malicious actions" in recent developments on campus. Sasco doubted that Woods was "committed to transformation of the institution" and accused him of wanting to dictate the administration of Rhodes as well as the transformation process at the university. April's demonstrations by Sasco and Paso against Motara culminated in arbitration by IMMSA arbiter Wesley Pretorious. Sasco believe the report should have resulted in Motara appearing before a disciplinary hearing. Sasco said the case against him was unilaterally dropped "because we had objected to the management being the player and referee at the same time by judging one of their colleagues." The students saw Admin's decision to force the protesters to appear before a disciplinary committee, where some students received

suspended exclusions and community service, as criminalising the students through a Disciplinary Committee "appointed and sanctioned by Dr Woods".

Guests invited to the inauguration, including President Nelson Mandela and Regional and National education ministers were asked not to attend, by the regional and national branches of Sasco, but they did not respond.

not surprised by Mandela's decision to attend

Sasco (Rhodes) chairperson, Mboneni Mulaudzi, said he was not surprised by Mandela's decision to attend the inauguration: "To him reconciliation is overriding everything... he is more than ready to accommodate people who are more reactionary than progressive... I would argue that we cannot blindly talk about reconciliation, negating all other aspects."

respected the integrity of the SRC

Commenting on the fact that former SRC President, Vasco Ndebele, attended and spoke at the event, Mulaudzi said his organisation respected the integrity of the SRC and that the Council "constituted a constituency which is beyond Sasco".

Supps for BA students

Karen Makgamathe

ARTS students at Rhodes often feel cheated because they are not awarded supplementary examinations as easily as their commerce and science counterparts.

However according to the Head of the Faculty of Arts, Professor Ian Macdonald, Arts students could be given the option of writing a supp under certain conditions, although the matter will have to go to Senate before a final decision can be made.

The move to change came from Professor Antrobus of the Economics Department who suggested making changes in awarding supps to social science students. Because of this he felt that changes should also occur in the Arts Faculty to make the system more consistent.

The faculty board met on the 7th of August to discuss changing the conditions under which supps can be awarded to Arts students.

According to Macdonald, they agreed to allow Arts students at first and second year level to write supps for subjects in which supps are being set and if the student has passed at least two subjects. For instance they would be allowed to write supps for Economics, but they would not be allowed to write supps for subjects like Philosophy. Macdonald said that previously the conditions under which Arts stu-



dents were awarded supps were similar to those under which Science and Commerce students were. But this was scrapped because the Dean of Arts at the time realised that the students would either fail them or would not write, so he felt that the students were not benefitting from the supps.

After this system was dissolved, non-continuing passes for BA students were introduced. This means

that students who received a minimum of 48% or 49% for a subject would be awarded a credit for that subject but would not be allowed to carry on with that subject in the following year.

Now students awarded a non-continuing pass could also be given the option of writing a supp if they did wish to continue with that subject and if a supp for that subject was set.

STUDENTS USE STREET KIDS TO GET DRUGS

Andiswa Nyobole

RHODES students have been taking advantage of Grahamstown's growing population of street children to buy dagga for them in Rini Township.

This was confirmed by the Grahamstown police who say the children are being "used" by the students to take the risk and ultimately the rap for providing them with drugs.

The Development News Agency (DNA) spoke to a 14-year-old boy, who has managed to shake off his life on the streets by moving into a Luxolweni (Where there is peace) Shelter for street children run by Nombuyiselo Vulindlu.

The shelter currently houses, clothes and feeds 28 children and offers them schooling up to standard three.

"Before I moved into the shelter I used to be a drug dealer," the boy

said. "They (the students) would give me R10 to R50 per trip and send us to buy dagga for them in the township."

Describing life as a drug peddler, he said street children often took over the habits of their customers and many had become addicted to a wide range of substances, with glue sniffing topping the list.

"Glue keeps us warm and steals hunger pains," he said.

"I never smoked dagga until one of the students gave me some to smoke and told me it would make me feel better."

He said students rewarded the children by giving them some of their dagga, but the children also frequently helped themselves to the students' stash.

The children are also paid by suppliers to sell dagga in the town and they add to their earnings by inflating the price when they sell to students. "I usually sell the dagga

for more than the price they told me to charge so that I can have some money."

Grahamstown director of Welfare, Karen McGarth, said street children were believed to be one of the biggest contributors to the country's escalating crime rate. "It's shocking that an estimated 15 000 children have no homes in the 'New South Africa'."

Police in the town say the problem is extremely difficult to manage.

"The children have a number of areas where they wait for the students to give them money for dagga, then they go into the township to make the purchase and either go to the students' homes or meet them at pre-arranged spots."

"Even if we arrest the children it is virtually impossible for us to pin the crime on the students."

"These kids are just being used. They are taking the risk for the students."

- DNA

Mid-year exclusions hit Durban students

SASNEWS Reporter

THE disappointment and frustration that dogged many Natal University students, who crammed the SRC offices seeking assistance against academic exclusion, continued until the third week of this term.

UN-D's administration has cited incomplete forms, outstanding fees and other administrative issues as the reasons for withholding results. The students, mainly first years, have been referred to Financial Aid counsellors to resolve some of the problems.

Although the University Executive agreed that to reverse the exclusions of first year students, after an outcry about the unfairness of the assessment procedure, no settlement has been reached concerning other students as the Broad Transformation Forum (BTF)

has yet to finalise a new policy on exclusions. BTF members were divided on the question at the Forum's most recent meeting.

Some BTF members supported the suspension of the present exclusion rules until the end of the year when the sub-committee considering the issue can make final recommendations.

The disagreement led to the issue being deferred to the Durban centre for further discussions as other centres are not affected by mid-year exclusions.

Panyaza Lusufi said, "I believe it is unfair to exclude students in terms of the rules that are still under discussion. The exclusion of the first year students is unfair as no genuine assessment of their potential is available yet."

The policy must be accompanied by democratic and effective structures that will facilitate consultation.

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CHICCO IN THE DRIVING SEAT



Karuna Gopal

CHICCO Khoza knows how to make a noise. When the arguing skills he picked up from reading for an LLB degree fail him he just sings himself out of tight spots. Chicco, 25, has just been elected SRC President for the 1996/97 term of office. And if this doesn't keep him on his toes his other commitments will. Currently completing his final year of an LLB, he already has plans to read for a Masters degree in law. But if things get a little tough he will no doubt seek out divine inspiration to pull him through. A devout Christian, Chicco sings tenor in the Voices of Glory choir. He was also a member of the Rhodes Chamber Choir last year. Chicco has difficulty remembering when he took an interest in singing but it is, he proclaims, his "best hobby".

He claims that he isn't a serious person - his reason being that he watches too many British comedies... However, despite his friendly smile and soft-spoken manner, his strong commitment to resolving many issues that plague students on campus make it evident that he is, in fact, a very serious person indeed.

Initially I had intended to draw out and expose the political rhetoric that most SRC candidates spew forth in a bid to be voted into Council - after all, Activate is supposed to be a watch-dog over the SRC... However, Chicco's energetic sincerity rapidly gnaws away my agenda. He needs little encouragement to state his position on the variety of issues I put to him.

Chicco on:

Transformation
"When we talk about transformation there are two stages to be considered:

- 1) Issues can be handled at a national level so that changes can be uniform in all tertiary institutions. These are admissions and funding. In the case of admissions, for example, the plight of the students from former DET (Department of Education and Training) schools must be considered. How can these people be admitted to and acclimatised to varsity. Also, the issues of funding and transparency of the governing body of institutions....there is a need for a division of power in these bodies that must be uniform for all tertiary institutions. This power should be defined at a national level.
 - 2) Then there are issues at campus level. We must set unique issues for transformation at Rhodes. All the students have to change their perceptions of each other. They all belong to this university and therefore should have equal recognition of each other. We need a new culture of debating issues. Students need to acknowledge that there are people who for a long time have not been allowed to participate in the way they should have been. White students need to acknowledge this. There are people who do not want to do this or move forward. We cannot wait for these students. We need to redefine our policies as students...we have to make democracy work on our campus and we must not be confrontational in order to do this.
- There are other issues of transformation, for example, students need to lead a balanced life. In student life on campus and in res there is a need to make students feel accepted. This entails changing res rules. Certain traditions in res are entrenched and tend to be biased towards certain people, for example, formal dinners are Eurocentric. Values in res need to accommodate everybody.

Entertainment

Entertainment on campus should cater for all. All entertainment centres need to adapt to the demographics of the campus.

Sport

The starting point is students should be able to control what goes on in Sports Admin. It should serve to emphasise common points as students. Sports Admin will never know how to cater for the diversity of campus. Black students need to be integrated into sports they are not familiar with because of the past. They have to go an extra mile to satisfy students.

Academics

There is a need to add cultural values to the academic curriculum; a need to recruit more black academics who will introduce African values into how academics are taught. This will strengthen academic support. ADP needs to be reviewed. It is a good programme but it can be strengthened to attend to the problems of all students.

Gender Issues

I believe that the constitution as it stands grants equality to all people. I believe for a long time women have not been given the positions in which they can play a role in the world in general. Rhodes cannot be seen in isolation. There is a need for the Gender Portfolio of the SRC which will promote gender relations and sort out gender imbalances.

Homosexuality

People, because of their socialisation, will frown upon certain things. We need to recognise that there is a discrepancy in our socialisation and we have to overcome it. Homosexuals are people and they have rights. I don't believe that anyone should be discriminated against.

Harassment

People are talking about harassment but they don't know what it means. We must educate people as a starting point. Those who fall foul should be dealt with. It is the duty of the SRC to conscientise students to desist from engaging in certain kinds of conduct.

Motara

This SRC will not detach itself from this issue. It is a student matter. Our primary concern is students and we are the people who should be championing their cause. The Motara issue raised legitimate concerns. It should be a concern to Admin that students reached a point when they reacted on a certain way. I put the responsibility for all that happened on Admin. Admin failed to play the role it was supposed to play and shifted the blame and responsibility to stu-

dents. Admin dropping the case [against Motara] shows a neglect of their duty, it shows them running away from the problem. Impartiality in the matter was not shown. It was a bad way to conclude the matter and I will not be surprised if the matter surfaces again.

SRC's Main Objectives For Its Term

The starting point should be that all students should see the SRC as their government. We should be accountable and do exactly what the students want us to do. What I mean by this is that we should acknowledge the diversity of students. There are different ways of doing what they want and we should explore this. I personally respect all the people who have been elected as Councillors. We have a great aspiration to work as a team. We may differ on some issues but we should learn to debate and explain issues and then agree.

On Getting The Highest Poll Of Any Recent SRC

I respect the outgoing SRC, it revived student interest. Maybe the poll was a bi-product of this. They were well-organised in the election process and deserve praise for this.

The Environment

We are lacking community responsibility as students. Those people who have a strong feeling for environmental issues should facilitate this role. The SRC can highlight to these people that they have a role to play. I'm happy that we have a Community Rep to attend to these issues which affect our environment.

Activate

I look at it as a community newspaper and I'm sure that is its primary constituency. Activate should become a watch-dog and try to make the SRC as accountable as possible. When we are doing good that good should be reported and when we are doing bad that should also come out.

His Current Concern

Disabled people: The lack of facilities is an embarrassment to the university. If the intention of this university is to accommodate everyone then in planning they should have these people in mind because they should have equal participation in all areas of the university.

His Weaknesses

I have many just like any other person. I believe in being reprimanded, consultation and criticism - it's not a negative thing, it's a positive thing.

His Strengths

My strongest characteristic is that I believe in "loving thy neighbour as thyself".

Street Law or Justice?

SASNEWS

Varsity spoke to **Tasleem Russ** chairperson of the Islamic Society at the University of Cape Town.

What is your opinion on the Staggie killing?

"Due to the inability and the defect of will on behalf of the justice system something had to be done, people in the community were fed-up of the situation." Tasleem is also a resident in the area and says he and his family have been directly affected. "It is easy to sit in an affluent suburb and say that what had happened was wrong but when your family and friends are killed then why is this not wrong?" Tasleem says that killing Staggie was justified but the manner in which he was killed was wrong.

How do you view the role of Pagad?

Pagad has played the role of a catalyst thus far not that they want to take the leading role in the prevention against gangsterism and drugs instead they had no choice because of the 'slapghed' of other organisations and the police.

What has Pagad achieved by this?

"They have achieved a lot, initially people were apathetic and afraid to come out but when they saw the impact that Pagad had not just nationally but internationally, the fact that they can mobilise and conscientise. They have given people courage not just to Muslims but non-Muslims as well."

How have you been affected by the Staggie incident or the actions taken by Pagad?

"No one has come up to us and said that we are Islamic Fundamentalists, I am down at Med -School and my non-Muslim friends have come-up to me and asked why this has happened, their concerns are strong and they are very understanding because this is not a Muslim problem, it affects everybody." To conclude the Islamic Society is in total support with Pagad, there is general unity among the members and their concerns are not related to any party politics.

UCT guest lecturer and religious leader in the Muslim community **Imam Achmat Cassiem** also responds to Varsity's curiosity.

It is part of Islamic principles, that no Muslim would produce, distribute or consume any intoxicants. You really want a society which is sober from birth to death as most of the violence in society actually stems from the use of alcohol and drugs. With regard to the killing of Staggie. Let us mention that Islam out-laws torture, mutilation and the burning of bodies. Having said that, it means that no Muslim will engage in such actions...among

Cape Town has rocketed into the international spotlight through the actions of Pagad (People Against Guns and Drugs). Community policing took on a different perspective when Pagad members took up arms against local drug dealers involving, themselves in the ruthless killing of Cape druglord Rashid Staggie. Because of its proclaimed links with Islam and its public call for a jihad (holy war), the movement has expanded across provincial borders. The fundamental question which remains is whether the group's intentions to eradicate the drug problem in the Cape justifies their actions. UCT's student newspaper Varsity explored people's reactions to Pagad and Staggie's death.



gangsters torture is a normal procedure, part of their way of life and so is mutilation and burning people. Why then do we want to over emphasis an incident which was not pre-meditated. That incident happened after these marchers were shot at.

The public generally, I am appealing to Muslim, Jews Christians, Buddhist, agnostics and even atheists are morally bound to support the movement against drug trafficking and gangsterism because not even their lives are secure in the society.

Two Shawco personnel, Faried Hoosain at Manenberg and Anne Peters talk about how Shawco has been affected by the recent Pagad activities.

How have you been affected by Pagad events and what do you think of Pagad?

Faried Hoosein: Ground administration has been curtailed by Pagad activities. Pensioners are too afraid to come in and collect their money. We reduce our home

activity in areas which the police have told us are unsafe. The media have tended to over sensationalise the violent role of Pagad, the Staggie home is four hundred metres down the road and we have never seen any violence.

If we had stricter laws the Pagad incident would not have happened. The Pagad shock has helped wake up the community to the high levels of crime and violence; the Northern Cape is now the focus of the world.

Anne Peters: There has been no Pagad action in Kensington. The problem here is gangs. The gangs use a lot of young school leavers between the ages of ten and fifteen as their runners. These kids have all kinds of drug and glue-sniffing problems. Because of the high level of violence we have made no home visits for the last two months. People don't come to us either. Since the Pagad incident the violence has died down, the gangs are united against Pagad. Many people are relieved for the

interference of Pagad, it has calmed things down in the gangs. It has been quiet for a while now, but you can't trust the quiet... The media has presented a very one-sided perspective of the Pagad incidents. Varsity has decided to give you another perspective, that of the Islamic society, Shawco and His People.

Spokesperson of UCT's His People, Michael Swain also comments on Pagad saga.

What is your opinion on the Staggie murder?

We understand the frustration of the community because the problem (gangsterism and drug trafficking) has not been properly dealt with by the authorities. We have no problem with peaceful protest but disapprove when citizens take the law into their own hands.

Does Pagad have a role in society?

South Africans should be against gangsterism and drug trafficking but Pagad are not truly representative of the whole community. We disagree with their violent protest.

Does your church have any suggestions on other ways to solve the drug crisis on the Cape Flats?

There are problems in the system which is in place and problems in the legal process. Many of those who are arrested are released without being charged and justice does not seem to have been done. The law needs to be closely examined by the state to ensure that it performs its function.

We believe the state, NGO's and churches should also look at the area of rehabilitation of drug users who tend to be victims. A serious problem is that there are possibly not enough drug rehabilitation centres. This whole issue has to be dealt with responsibly, decisively and effectively by the authorities or many more will be hurt.

How have you been affected by the Pagad incident?

His People ministries span across the Western Cape, therefore this is our own community and we are concerned at the stress which the community has suffered.

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Life is too short to be mediocre

Pharm Talk

DIET PILLS: ARE THEY GOOD FOR YOU?

WITH spring and summer just around the corner, there is no doubt that you or someone you know is on a diet, or is about to go on a diet. Also with society's focus on "skinny being fashionable", there is a lot of pressure on women to lose weight and for many, diet pills play a huge role in this weight loss scheme.

There are many diet pills on the market at the moment. The most popular ones include Thinz, Slimming Mixture, Redupon and Acutrim and all of these are readily available from pharmacies.

Apart from being used as appetite suppressants, diet pills are also used by ravers, to stay awake, to provide energy and for its addiction properties.

However, these pills are not always good for you because their side-effects include restlessness, irritability, anxiousness, insomnia and dehydration.

In a survey done by some pharmacy students, it was discovered that young women aged between 18 and 25 are the most extensive users of diet pills and they are also most likely to abuse or misuse these pills. They are also more inclined to double the dosage for the stimulant CNS (central nervous system) effects, hence the use of diet pills for raves and also to provide energy. It is interesting thing to note, though, that when diet pills are used for weight loss, there is hardly any significant amount of weight that is lost and very few women actually achieve their goal weight. Furthermore, once you stop taking these diet pill, you appetite increases quite substantially. The use of diet pills needs to be curbed and the point at which it can be controlled is by pharmacists or pharmacy assistants since most women purchase their diet pills from pharmacies.

Pharmacists could help combat the abuse by counselling women about diet pills and their potential harm and also by focusing on alternate forms of weight reduction. A register should be kept in pharmacies and the names of people who buy diet pills should be recorded together with the quantity bought. In this way, a stricter control can be kept on the sale of these pills.

However, difficulty in the implementation of this measure of control may arise since if people really want to buy these pills, they will find a way of getting them.

Women and weight continue to be and will almost always be a battle and in dealing with such a sensitive issue, care must be taken to guide women along the right path.

For effective weight loss, a low kilojoule diet which is high in fibre and low in fat, supplemented with exercise is a sure way to lose weight. Of course a little will power helps too!

Compiled by RUPSA with special thanks to the women who did a project on this! Once again we will be available for any advice on Pharmacy Day next term.

Does Rhodes Disable Campus?

Lineke Moen

HAVE you ever thought about all the stairs on campus? No? Well they are all over the place and at the top of them are tea rooms, toilets, lecture halls - you name it. This is fine if you can walk up stairs, but for those in wheelchairs it becomes an almost insurmountable problem.

Brian Peckham and Washington Mvundura have to negotiate wheelchair hurdles on campus every day. Brian, a lecturer in the law department, is wheelchair-bound after an accident left him paralysed. He says he was fortunate that, when he was appointed in the Law Department, facilities were already in place that had been used by previous students. These facilities include an adapted bathroom, ramps to some lecture theatres and special parking. Unfortunately he has to fight a constant battle with able-bodied people who thoughtlessly use these facilities.

The ground floor of the Law Department is completely accessible to him, but the building was designed in such a way that he has no access to the top floor, which includes the staff reading room and staff tea room. Unless there is someone to carry

him up with his wheelchair, he can't get there. Brian says the law faculty has been very helpful, but when he suggested some years before that ramps be put up to facilitate access to the second floor, the Grounds and Gardens Division had felt that this would detract from the building's appearance.

Washington is a first year BSc-student who suffers from osteogenesis imperfecta, a bone-deficiency disease, which confines him to a wheelchair. He had initially been placed in Goldfields, because the new residences are all equipped with ramps. Unfortunately there is no transport system in place for someone in a wheelchair to get to and from lectures. Washington was moved to Graham House where a room was specially fitted out with a sliding door and an adapted bathroom.

It is interesting that, while the University claims to have an affirmative action policy, disabled people's rights are not included in this policy. When questioned, Assistant Dean of Students, Rev Ian L'Ange, admits that Rhodes does not have an official policy on disabled persons, because "the matter has never come up."

According to Les Reynolds, the director

of Estates division, all new buildings are built to be "wheelchair-friendly". Allan Gray, which was built in 1992, has a ramp to the lower floor and an adapted toilet, but no bathroom facilities.

"As people identify areas which are not 'wheelchair-friendly', the Estates Division will attempt to modify it," says Reynolds. The CSD building has also recently been converted and a ramp has been installed in the Great Hall.

Washington says that most of his lectures are held in buildings that have ramps. The library is equipped with a special door and a lift, but as Brian points out, the bathrooms are all on half-levels that have steps leading up to them. Some areas, like the upper floor of the Union building, are completely inaccessible. This includes the Union, SASTS, SRC and Activate offices.

Brian suggested that a special project be tackled for National Handicapped People's Day. If someone in authority in Admin would be willing to spend a day wheelchair-bound, it would highlight some of the difficulties that disabled people experience every day. Perhaps something could be done to make the University completely "wheelchair-friendly."

Racism All Round

Philani Vince Masuku

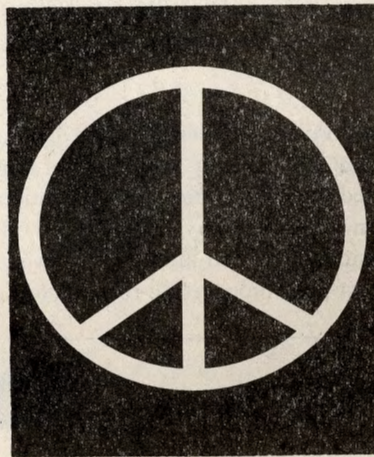
"I THOUGHT to myself that if that hitch hiker had been white and not black, I would have given him a lift," confessed a guest lecturer from the Management Department in front of more than one hundred students. Does this lecturer also mark his students' tests, assignments and exams in a racially biased manner?

A racial cold war seems to be sweeping through the campus community. During the SRC Grand Grazzle it became evident that racial tension amongst students had reached an explosive situation. Racism was one of the most talked about issues, with candidates offering somewhat vague solutions to combat it. The Rhodes administration seems to be either unconcerned or innocently ignorant when it comes to the matter at hand.

It was not exactly the best day to be white, except for those candidates who seem to have acquired immunity (like that which was given to Joe Slovo). During the Grazzle, the mostly black audience constantly intimidated, interrupted and insulted some of the candidates, apparently on the basis of colour. If you could interpret any of the Nguni languages, then you would have been shocked by the many racist slurs uttered by some members of the audience. It has become the norm to associate racism with white people, which is surely a biased definition.

There are racists on campus and colour is not a determinant when it comes to identification.

It is alleged that, out of racial hatred and anger, two white Salisbury House occupants forced their way into a fellow black occupant's room. They totally messed it up, his belongings haphazardly scattered all over. According to credible sources, these two offenders are known to be extreme rac-



ists who secretly follow a neo-nazi-like life style. Both the incident and the offenders are known by the house and hall wardens. There are reports that Professor Surtees, the hall warden's husband and a prominent member of the University disciplinary committee, is aware of the incident. The house warden claims to have taken the necessary disciplinary steps, but at the end of day the two offenders only had to apologise. The victim claims to be

satisfied with the apology, but anonymous informants maintain that he was intimidated, threatened and forced to accept it.

In another incident, a student used his bursary funds from the university to buy a book for a friend. When the disciplinary committee discovered this, the student was prosecuted and given a suspended exclusion. Maybe that student should have apologised!

During class disruptions, Sasco/Paso activists made it clear through their singing that this "land" (SA) belongs to them and their grandfathers. The songs went on to say that those without the right colour were not welcome to stay.

"They (whites) killed thousands of our people through slavery and other evil means, but when OJ Simpson kills two of them they make it world wide attention. They are illegal immigrants and are definitely not Africans. They should go back to Europe," said a visibly angry Mr X who is an executive committee member of a reputable student society.

If you are born in Africa are you not then considered an African? Surely one's place of birth directly affects one's culture.

Racism at Rhodes is not always visible and clear cut. A general increase in the number of racially motivated crimes seems to be pointing to an enlarging problem. The new SRC should be strongly advised to prioritise the issue. The administration has to enter the limelight when it comes to activating viable solutions.

explicit Talk

JUST when I thought students had taken a vow of apathy I got a rude awakening. It was probably during the NUSAS/BSM years that SRC elections had so many candidates and attained such a high poll. A peculiarity about this year is that it had one of the largest student protests, which could also have belonged to the NUSAS/BSM era. The race in the past, relatively quiet years had seen a very small, at times just sufficient candidate response which meant that those elected gained little student credibility, leading to further constitutional hiccups. At one stage the whole SRC was elected unopposed, meaning that no student needed to vote them into office and no poll needed meeting. Are we witnessing a death to apathy or is this a natural, temporal reaction of the timid? Ours isn't the only apathetic campus, most SA campuses have succumbed to this deadly virus. UCT hit the past year without an SRC which raised national concern about the future of SRCs. One school of thought holds that SRCs have outlived their purpose. The argument is that the struggle for transformation is now being taken at a governmental level, and student political organisations are stronger and an adequate and effective means of communication for students. Another aspect that played a major role in the discrediting of SRCs was their notoriety for embezzling funds. Student representation amounted to little aside from hosting flashy rock concerts, hiring luxury cars for "factfinding missions"; the height of it was when the executive of the national coalition body of SRCs suggested funding of their cellphones from affiliation fees of SRC member affiliates. Thus many students re-assessed their commitment to political organisations who appeared to be doing something constructive with their meagre budgets. Accompanying this corrupt idiosyncrasy was the slowness of transformation in universities. Most universities, especially the former "white" universities have not begun transforming. White, old, Anglo-Saxon men still hold fort, feeding us colonial liberal orthodoxies and value systems, strategically excluding disadvantaged communities. We cannot decide whether we are witnessing light at the end of the tunnel or an oncoming train. Ultimately with a credible number of candidates running, the success and failure of the SRC lies with the constituency's judgements. The election of an effective SRC is our prerogative. Naturally with the SRC having gained disrepute, one expects every Tom, Dick and Harry to play politician but not every Tom, Dick and Harry is a politician. By politician I mean good leadership and charisma. Manifestos and gruzzles may not give good insight into candidates. We must pay more attention to credentials and past experience. This is not confined to SRC experience but includes past influential positions within campus. It is amazing how clowns manage to win students' hearts and get away with it. Do we not only have an apathetic student body but a gullible one as well? One's eyes fill with despondency and defeat when the election results show names of unknown or dubious figures. The people capable of putting back the 'R' into the SRC are ignored. We need to re-think our needs and aspirations. It is unfortunate that the future relies on the most nonchalant and irresponsible generation of people. In the final analysis, SRCs are a reflection of the student body and of each of us.

Tiro Mokoditso

How African is Rhodes?

Zandile Nkutha

WITH the current South African debate about the Africanisation of higher education institutions, perhaps it is time we asked what Africanisation means for Rhodes University.

Since this notion of Africanisation has not yet been formally defined by Rhodians and other interested parties, we should look at how others perceive it.

In *The Sunday Independent* Education supplement of May 19 1996, Karen MacGregor draws our attention to former University of Durban Westville Professor James Moulder's meaning of Africanising South African tertiary institutions.

Moulder argued that Africanisation is about changing the composition of student, academic and administrative bodies.

Firstly, while black student numbers have increased steadily since 1980, academics and administrators remain predominantly white.

Secondly, Africanising universities is about changing the syllabus. Moulder writes, "the biggest problem is that our teaching and learning is dominated by geriatric northern hemisphere culture."

Thirdly, it is about changing the curriculum, which refers to the way in which teaching and learning are organised.

And finally, Africanisation is about changing the criteria that determines what is excellent research. Moulder qualified this statement when he said, "Someone who pleads for Africanising our research programmes is not pleading for the lowering of standards, but simply asking that South Africans focus on problems that have their roots and significance in Africa."

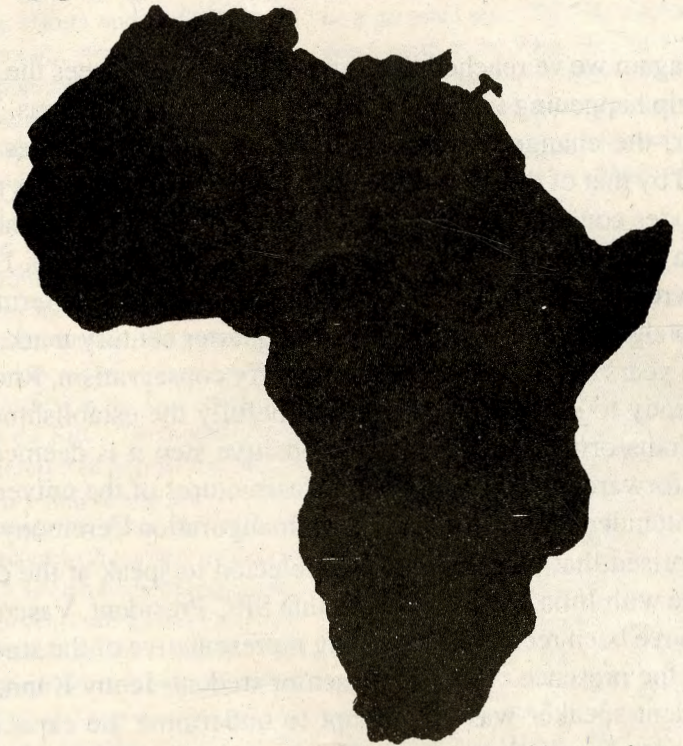
Moulder argued that Africanisation needs a theory of organisational change and a new set of assumptions. "Change the set and you change the view, and a whole new way of looking at things may emerge".

Another crucial idea is that a paradigm shift occurs because anomalies are generated by working with assumptions that seem to be in order, but actually contain tensions and inconsistencies. These give rise to ad hoc solutions which do not address the root of the problem and a crisis arises. "The only way out is to adopt a new paradigm," suggests Moulder.

Moulder referred to the use of Academic Development Programmes (ADP) for disadvantaged students in universities as an anomaly because disadvantaged students make up the majority. Degrees need to be changed and levels of learning lowered while still striving for excellence.

Moulder put forward a set of 11 assumptions within which higher education should operate. These include the following: South Africa is essentially a third world country; has a growing number of young people; there are marked differences in standards between institutions; universities are pitched at too high a level; high priority should be given to teaching excellence; research findings should be implemented; graduates should be prepared for a care or vocation and institutions should accept less autonomy.

Rhodes Vice Chancellor, Dr David Woods acknowledged the growing demand for the Africanisation of South African universities in his inauguration speech last week. He said that the more extreme proponents of



Africanisation envisage universities teaching in one of the nine official African languages.

Woods said that the language of instruction at Rhodes University will continue to be English "but that does not mean that we will not be offering students the opportunity to study African languages and literature in the appropriate African language".

"There is no doubt that universities must re-examine curricula and make alterations which take into account the background of their students and the local and national context. Curriculum development is nothing new and should be carried out on an ongoing basis in any good university," he added. Woods explained that changes in the curricula did not "imply a sacrifice of scholarship but should be undertaken to enhance academic excellence."

Woods suggested that the most difficult problem facing South African universities is the Africanisation of academic staff. "Given the demand in industry, commerce and government for capable black graduates and the high salaries being offered to attract them, we cannot expect to easily enrol black graduates into PhD programmes with a view to a university career. Academic salaries are just not competitive and unless something is done about university salaries, young black graduates simply will not enter the academic profession. The reality is that it will be well-nigh impossible for universities such as Rhodes to rapidly change the academic staff profile."

However, he mentioned that in order to rectify this position in the long term, "Rhodes will be expanding its postgraduate schools by making them more attractive for young South Africans, particularly black and female postgraduates to study in what is a unique scholastic environment with very few living hassles such as traffic jams, air pollution and expensive real estate".

Wamkele Mene, a member of the SRC, says Rhodes elevates the English culture above all other cultures with all the garden parties and formal dinners that are traditionally English. He said that we are not in England but in South Africa, so we should live as such. "We need to have more African cultural events. Administration should promote and initiate this."

Wamkele said that he does not feel at home at Rhodes because there are factors limiting him, such as the composition of the administration which is purely white. "You feel that no one understands your problems as an African. They do not relate to the kinds

of problems we have so how can they even help you," asks Wamkele.

"If you do attempt to encompass diversity by providing African dishes, at least do it properly, cook the pap correctly," he added. He said that the challenge facing Rhodes is to develop the institution so that no particular culture dominates. Once this is achieved, then it must be maintained. "We can all sit under the same sun. We can be diverse in unity," concluded Wamkele.

On the other hand, a post graduate foreign student who did not want to be named, said that Africanising an institution did not mean lowering the standard of education nor merely replacing white by black because that just won't work. Rhodes, by Africanisation, has to address and narrow the gap between the advantaged and the disadvantaged students. He said the Rhodes current evaluation system does not give an equal chance of success to all students, but favours the more advantaged students. "My fear is that if they lower the standards, those who have the advantage at the moment would not benefit from the change."

He said that he was intrigued by the high number of Rhodes lecturers who are former Rhodians. These lecturers bring with them the very ideas that they learned from Rhodes and therefore perpetuate the philosophy of the institution. "It is as if they are here to ensure that some kind of tradition is carried on and that shows that the institution is unwilling to change. For change and growth, you need new ideas to broaden the scope of the students and the institution. After all, university is the market of ideas and knowledge. It does not help to have the same ideas over and over again."

He says that "the argument that there aren't sufficient black academics to hire is not valid at all because they could always go across the border to other African countries, as has been done with some of the white lecturers. They did it with the Nigerian librarian, why can't they extend it to the lecturing staff?"

Thami Tisani, from the ADP, said that the atmosphere at Rhodes was very far from African. She said that people at Rhodes were hiding behind the fact that the concept of a university is European instead of working on an identity that is specific to Rhodes.

This article does not even begin to cover all that has been said by several people on campus but shows clearly just how complex the question of Africanisation is and that it is an issue that we at Rhodes should consider.

Editorial

ONCE again we've reached that time of the year that sees the change of leadership happening in the various organisations on campus. This year, however, the changeover of leadership in student societies has been matched by that of the Vice-Chancellor of the university. It is refreshing that Rhodes could boast the inauguration of a new Vice-Chancellor, the last such occasion having been in the seventies when Derek Henderson took the reins. Almost 25 years later it is a relief that the term of office has been significantly reduced from the quarter century mark, to a term of seven years only. After 25 years of stuffy conservatism, Rhodes, now seems ready to surface for change. Hopefully the establishment of the Broad Transformation Forum is the positive step it is deemed to be in moving forward and changing the infrastructures of the university. Having attended the Vice-Chancellor's Inauguration Ceremony, Activate was surprised that two students were elected to speak at the ceremony. We agree with Julia Wells' comment that SRC President, Vasco Ndebele, should have been recognised as being representative of the student body and that the presence of residence senior student, Jenny Kann, as a second student speaker was an attempt to undermine the capacity of the SRC as a leading student organisation. Activate also found it difficult to comprehend the point behind the attempted Africanisation of the ceremony. Because it was not a reflection of the state of Rhodes' campus (which remains fundamentally Eurocentric) we can only wonder if it was not simply an attempt to pull the wool over the eyes of the guests. As the new Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Woods has made a range of strong promises geared towards readjusting Rhodes to reflect the new state of the nation. We look forward to the fulfillment of these goals. We were surprised that while Dr Woods' speech was hailed by guests to have been groundbreakingly positive, Vasco Ndebele, who touched on the same topics of reconstruction was condemned by student guests at the ceremony as having inappropriately hijacked the platform with matters that had no place being discussed at an event of that nature. We beg to differ with these students. Those who have have been involved in student politics will agree that it is a rare occasion when one is confronted with the entire academic congregation who are obliged (if not always willing) to be enlightened on the plight of the patrons of their institution. It is vital that when the opportunity arises student leaders grasp it rather than veil the issue in an attempt to pander to protocol. ON A level closer to students, Rhodes recorded its highest SRC election poll in the last four years. Along with Woods it is a new era for Rhodes' leadership. We commend the 1995/96 SRC for the manner in which they handled the issue of student exclusions and SRC elections and the mediatory role they played in April's negotiations between the administration and the Sasco/Paso coalition following the student protests on campus. We look forward to the new SRC following in these footsteps.

creditorial

Brigid (people are always mistaking me for a blow-up doll), Taryn (get a grip as long as it's nowhere near me), Tess (there's something cold on my knee), Karuna (I'm going to the loo to fill up the kettle), Carlien (I ate warthog last night), Brendan (You have no idea what you can do with electric blankets!), Claire, Jo and 33 pages of politics, Ian, Kerry, Madge, Leigh, Dror, Maria (my name's Maria and I want to save the children), Maria K, Swapna (I love them and I miss them; kiss, kiss), Roy, Jason, Paul of the disappearing story, Deborah, Vince, Zandi (you need me, you want me...take me), Lineke (stumped again), Natalie, Mboneni (what still needs to be done?), Karen, Steven, Ilda, Catherine, Ilja & the elusive black box, Tiro, Robin (hell, you *did* blow a few minds at least), Mark (I'll be back...), Rory (Brigid will stop hounding you now, or... maybe not), Adoma (an electric blanket can't substitute for a man), Chris(for scintillating conversation), Rycherde,David (far too penis-centric for us), Petra, Sheila, Stephen Grootes (WE love hairy men...), thanks Monty for the jazzy festive spirit, Faith, GRAB, Vuyo (one of the President's men), Madiba, politics essays and Ramaphosa, permanent markers, lemon tree, RMR, pizza & grogs, cameras, And to whoever stole our vodka - may the fleas of 1000 camels nestle in your armpits!!

Dear Activate...

Criticising Activate

ARE you *Activate*, journalist type news poodles not supposed to bring out 8 (eight) issues of *Activate* per year? The SRC gives you money for that!!!! Where are they? I want my money back!!! How about some articles on issues falling outside the ambit of rave, Sasco and drugs. Why does Maria McCloy write almost all of the articles? Does no-one else do anything in that huge section of wasted space you call an office? How about an article on some academic issues. Quite frankly, I read Rhodes to keep up to date with what is going on. You received in the vicinity of R38000 from the SRC this year if my memory serves me correctly, and together with adverts (which should be declining at the same rate as your readership to the power of the relative innocence of an edition) you must have in excess of that. Could Chris Walwyn please reply to this news group and inform us what the size of his budget for Rhodos (per issue) is!!

The Chancellor of Globania

Dear Chancellor

FIRST, we'd like to congratulate you on finally getting something published in *Activate*. However, may we suggest that when in future you choose to publish such inflammatory material on the internet you take precautions to ensure that they are factually correct. *Activate* would like to correct some of the errors in your letter. *Activate* does publish eight editions each year. These are brought out over a period of nine months. So far this year we have published an Orientation edition, a Special Edition covering the campus protests and an SRC election Special edition, along with four other termly editions. Our eighth edition will appear in October next term. A quick look at each of these editions will reveal that as well as containing articles on raves (there were only three this year), drugs and Sasco, *Activate* also included articles on the abortion debate, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, consistent coverage of the Motara issue, national student news and general news, feature, culture and sports stories. Agreeably, Maria McCloy, our News Editor, does contribute many of the articles in *Activate*, but being a watch-dog yourself you must surely agree that it is the quality and relevance of information that often counts more than who writes it. You may be interested to note that our August edition of *Activate* included the contributions of 28 writers, seven photographers and two graphic artists. We wish we could support your statement that *Activate* received a budget of R38 000 from the SRC this year. However, although *Activate* does receive a large budget in comparison to other SRC societies, it serves only to cover our printing and workshop costs. We hope that you will continue to read *Activate* as you evidently have been thus far. We also welcome any further criticisms you may have. *Activate* does not claim to satisfy the interests of every one of the diverse groups of people at Rhodes and in Grahamstown, but we do maintain our goal of challenging and informing as many of them as we can.

Activate

Appalled and impressed

I WAS appalled at the photo of a naked woman who died from a failed abortion attempt which appeared in the centrespread. I feel that there are certain parts of the body which should not under any circumstances be put into print and feel that this, coupled with the fact that the photo was most degrading resulted in this photo being in very bad taste. I was also disappointed of the stance which *Activate* took on the issue of abortion, being strongly in favour of the bill legalising abortion in South Africa. I was however impressed by the article written by James Adlard of His People which successfully highlighted the atrocities of abortion. Life is sacred and under no circumstances should any human being take the life of another into his/her own hands. I accept the fact that abortions have been a reality for many years, however I believe that it is more important for us to recognise the roots of the problems, namely the deterioration of moral values, rather than to take a step which in the long run is merely prevention rather than cure.

Concerned about the future

Dear Concerned

We respect your opinion on abortion. *Activate*'s decision to publish the photo of the victim of a botched and backstreet abortion arose from what we saw as a need to present our readers with an accurate sense of the traumas suffered by women because of the illegalisation of the procedure. Our pro-choice stand on abortion and our support for the passing of such a bill on the issue is based on two of the governing principles of this newspaper - non-sexism and democracy. We perceive men and women to be equal and as such should enjoy equal access to control over their bodies. For women the alternative to a safe and legal abortion is often an unsterile, backstreet operation that results in horrific emotional and physical scarring, and often in death. We are not condoning an act of killing, which is what you seem to liken abortion to, but rather supporting the right of the woman to choose to either bear a child or, due to unfavourable circumstances, apply for a medically safe and legal abortion.

Activate

Question events

I WOULD like to commend Zandile Nkutha on her article concerning the Miss Rhodes Beauty Pageant. I have heard a great deal of criticism of this article from students who thought it to be too critical and condemning. However, I feel that the time has come for people to question events such as these. We are at an institution where we are encouraged to think. We are encouraged to question integrity. We are encouraged to develop opinions, even if these opinions are not in line with what the majority dictates. We are living in a society which has come to accept the objectification of its members as being normal, a fact which I feel has sadly led to the diminished importance of personal integrity.

Beauty without cruelty

Howdy, folks. When I rocked out of the jail house the people said I was nothing but a hound dog in blue suede shoes; but I ain't no wooden hearted fella and if you're all shook up and need me to love you tender, that's what I'm here for. And you know, wise men say that only fools rush in so, I is gonna take my own sweet time to help you with your problems. Ain't that right, Priscilla?

PS: Most folks thought I was dead, but after I shot up my TV, I bought a nice pair of raybans, got some surgery done on my pelvis and moved to Roodepoort.



Dear Elvis

I attended the lovely inauguration ceremony at the monument yesterday and there was this delightful but very distinguished gentleman who seemed to be quite a hit with the crowd. The audience gave him a standing ovation and seemed thrilled that he was there but I can't, for the life of me figure out who he was. Er...is he important or famous, by any chance?

Sherlock Holmes



Dear Duvet

IS this a serious letter or are you trying to pull the wool over my eyes? Tell me...is your blankey luminous green with pink elephants doing naughty things with their trunks on it? Because I think I saw it on the dashboard of the VC's new Mercedes. But I could be mistaken; those might've been Panda Bears masquerading as elephants. By the way, please return my Kama Sutra's and the condoms.

Dear Elvis

MY boyfriend thinks that all these woman want to sleep with him, he even thinks that all my neighbours are after his "boerie". I feel really embarrassed for him since they all laugh in his face and he thinks they are just being bashful, yet are consumed with passion for him. Tell me, is this normal and should I continue our relationship?

Suzy Q

Dear Suz

I take it this is not just about a little roll in the hay and, you are obviously distressed by his distorted thinking. However, if it is a guy by the name of Neil, you are in serious trouble, my girl. He is dangerous. He could be another Jeffery Dahmer, for all you know since he is fixated on a particular variety of meat. Take care.

Dear Sher

NO, shit, Sherlock, are you stupid? Did you eat too many of those fermented pineapple halves, moist chips or dried sandwiches served at the monument or have you just been beaten over the head by a rabbit wielding a spade? That particular distinguished gentleman, just by some coincidence, happens to be the esteemed Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, leader of the ANC. If this is still unclear he is the president of South Africa, you twit! Geez, and I thought, or at least I hoped that Rhodes students were clever. Hmmm, rather silly of me.

Dear Elvis

I have a problem and as I heard that your column is confidential I thought that I would write to you. You see, I have a confession to make...I er...I can't find my blankey. Well, that's not what I'm really embarrassed about. I also have a tendency to get very excited every time I see anything that looks similar to it in people's cars and I eagerly smash the little triangular windows of the cars in the desperate hope that I will once again be reunited with Fluffy. Although, on the up side, I have acquired 102 Kama Sutra's, 89 t-shirts, the odd used condom, 15 inflatable dolls and a Rhodes rugby sticker. All I really want though, is my Floofy.

Duvet Dan

Dear Elvis Madge

Dear Elvis

I have just thought of something so funny that it sends me into a fit of giggles..hehehe...whenever ..hehe hhahah I ah...hahahaha..think of it.hehehehehe. We have Chico the clown, we have a Chico golf, and now we have Chicco the president...hehehehehe. Doesn't that just tickle your fancy?

Hootie, the Blowfish.

Dear Hootie

TICKLE my fanny? TICKLE MY FANNY? Hell, you're rude...oh...my fancy, sorry about that. Hmm, it does have a slight humourous ring to it, I must admit, but my sense of fun and laughter is more refined than that. Chicco is going to be the new SRC president. It is a challenging job and we need to take him seriously and not pick fun at him. Have you got that clear?

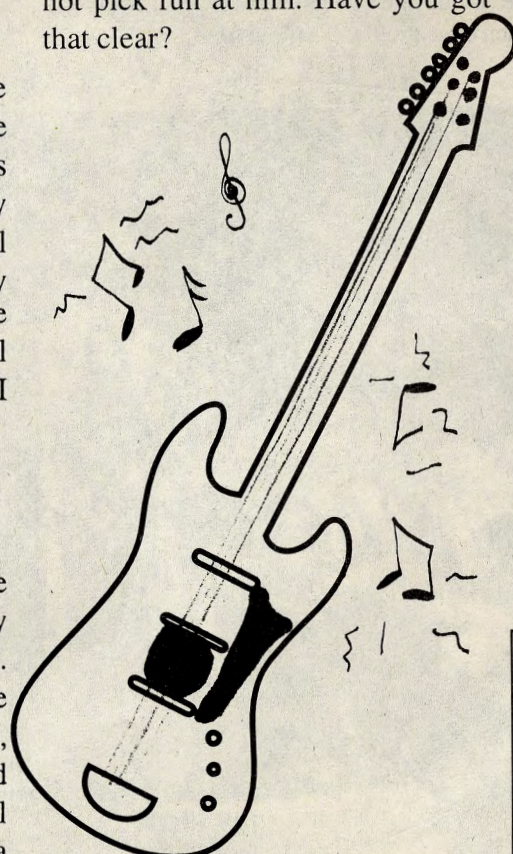
Dear Elvis

I don't know if I should say anything because I could have been hallucinating at the time, nevertheless, a little while back, I was near the rugby field and...and I saw a few rugger buggers doing obscene things to a blow-up doll. Are they trying out a new way to combat unwanted pregnancies as the Chancellor of Globania has decreed or are they taking the name Dolly Rockers just a bit too far?

Not just hot air

Dear Not just

WELL, well, this is definitely an interesting snippet of information; perhaps they were hallucinating - imagining they were raping a 'defenceless female that can't fight back', just the way they like it. I wonder if their actions were a result of what I think is called the Inflatable Ego syndrome. These boys need to be educated, it's obvious that Rhodes is doing nothing on this score. I suppose they love throwing their toys around in public, every now and again.



My prize possession

◆ Elvis has decided, however, that he will be retiring after this edition. He is tired of giving advice to people because they often take his words of wisdom to literally. He has decided to move to Cuba and learn how to play a new instrument called the Fiddle Castro.
Ps: Elvis has left the building!

Taking Over The

Singing Woods' Praise

The highlight of the Inauguration Ceremony was the praise song in Dr Woods' honour Professor Peter Mtuze (seen on our front cover). This translation from Xhosa was obtained from the Rhodes Public Relations Division.

ATTENTION, honourable ladies and gentlemen of our country,

Attention, young boys and girls of RhodesUniversity,

Lend me your ears that I may welcome a man as another man,

I say he's because he succeeds another man,

The son of Henderson played his part and left the scene,

And left his mark, give the man his due he deserves it.

Good evening David, good evening Dr Woods, hello Sir,

We saw you growing up at Michaelhouse in Natal,

We saw you rise sky high fetching scientific knowledge,

You danced in the clouds like a star with your degrees,

When the English young maidens saw you they sung and danced,

If they were Xhosa maidens they would have made you beads galore,

But well done because you won Charlottes heart, welcome to her,

Even Oxford saw you and Acknowledged you Woods as an expert,

Even experts agreed: "David Woods: A rated scientist".

Today we welcome you to Grahamstown and its environs,

Good that you have come, we've long been waiting for you;

Makana's people waiting in peace and patience for their share,

Hear all the people saying to you "welcome" "welcome tuis",

Of course we've already noted your strides and steps

Active man as you immediately started preparing the dishing mats,

And you counted with your fingers so as not to miss out anyone.

Call out the people, the day has come to give each group its share,

one dishing mat must go to the East to serve the hungry,

One dishing mat must go to the South to serve the miserable,

One dishing mat must go to the North to serve the poor.

One dishing mat must go to the West to serve the have-nots,

One dishing mat must go to the Centre to serve the destitute,

One dishing mat must go round to serve the wealthy people,

We dish regionally because we are scared of the Constitution,

We use one dishing mat because we hate dishing racially;

We would have liked to start with blacks, the disadvantaged,

We abhor the old disgrace of favouring one's own when dishing,

While the poor are looking on as you seek out your own first;

Welcome home, son of Woods, our requests are few, welcome home -

welcome home and give us what you have and we'll do the same,

We are poor but proud people because we have a president,

Africa has come back albeit with murders and corruption.

We've got one request to make since you've just arrived -

Rhodes should be accessible to all the children in our time,

Open the doors, we're knocking at "Admissions" doors,

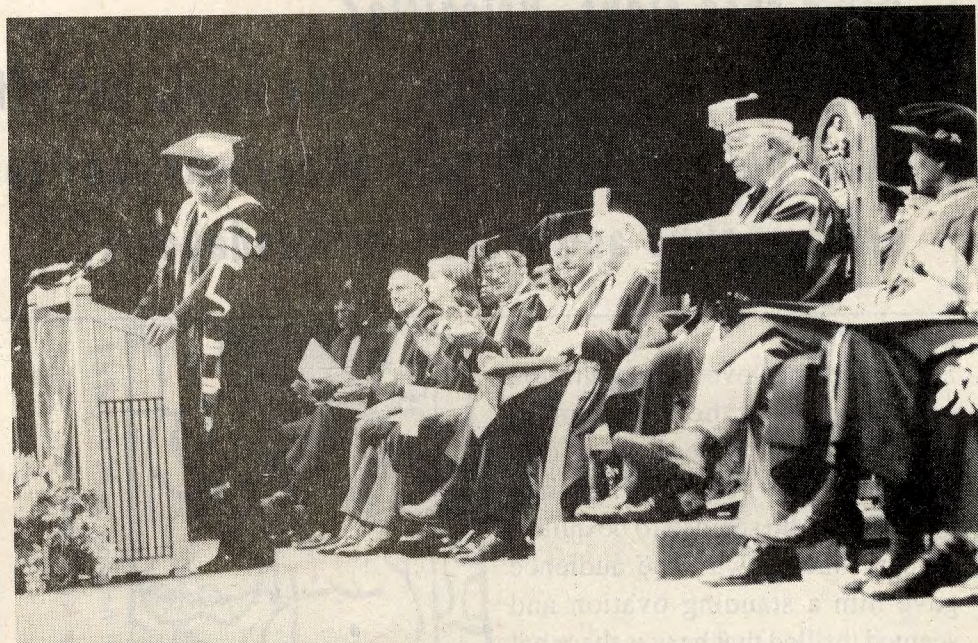
They talk about 'Swedish points', we talk about 'exemption',

They talk about 'Matric points', we talk about 'education',

The fees are unaffordable, we have no one to turn to,

Usher in transformation then education will follow suit.

Finis.



Newly hooded Vice-Chancellor and Principal, David Randall Woods, delivers his inaugural lecture to the congregation of Rhodes University and guests at the Monument. **pic: Taryn Cass**

What They Had

The morning after the speeches when bright academic dress had been packed away, and celebratory banquets were over, Catherine Born scouted around to get people's general impressions of an event that has only occurred four times in Rhode's ninety-one year history.

Professor Roger Southall (head of the Political Science Department) pointed out that, "The sound system was appalling so I can't really comment. Everyone on the stage couldn't hear a word. How on earth they managed to mess it up I don't know. I think the attempts to Africanise the ceremony were rather fun."

Dr Julia Wells (lecturer in the History Department) commented: "It was a big event for Rhodes. Communities have to go through such rituals to get to new places. It was a step in the right direction to Africanise the ceremony, although I don't think it broke significant ground. Sitting in the auditorium, looking up at the stage I was overwhelmed at how dominantly white and male the staff was. Some lip service was given to change this. I thought it was strange it that two students were were chosen to speak, surely the SRC representative was enough? I think this may be an attempt by Admin to undermine the SRC, it was 'apartheid-like'."

"Really interesting." is what Indressa Naidoo (student) had to say, "I was impressed by the outgoing SRC President's speech, it was challenging. I was really embarrassed with Ms Kann's speech, it wasn't right for the occasion. Seeing Madiba was wonderful, but it's sad to see him getting old. Dr Woods sounds interesting although the SRC speech was the most interesting. The ceremony wasn't African enough - the praise singer was wonderful - especially when I discovered what he said!"

Natalie Dixon (student) said: "I was just very emotional to see Madiba for the first time. I thought the Vice-Chancellor had some very interesting comments about integrating the university with the community. The representative of the senior



Left: Members of the Rhodes Music Department added an unusual touch to the evening with a musical rendition on kudu horns. **pic: Taryn Cass**

Reins At Rhodes

SRC President's Address

YOUR excellency, Vice Chancellor, I am honoured and deem it a privilege to address you all. I would like to officially welcome and congratulate Dr Woods in my capacity as the outgoing President of the SRC in this institution, and also on behalf of Rhodes student body.

Dr Woods, as a former scholar, lecturer, head of department and current Vice Chancellor here at Rhodes, you are most probably familiar with the problems which this institution has experienced in the past, and those which it is still experiencing. The present problems facing Rhodes are not necessarily different from those of the past, except that they manifest themselves in a different form.

When Rhodes University was conceived, it catered for a specific kind of people. That is, people of common background, culture and heritage. All the rules and regulations by which Rhodes University was governed at that point in time, although not of national standard and approval, were none-the-less suitable and conducive to the homogeneous

To Say

student of residences was embarrassing- I was cringing."

Sandile Ncube (student) did not go as he had other commitments, (he was preparing for the dating and courtship seminar.) "But I hear it was really nice except that they were a lot of empty seats which is disappointing as I had decided to try and get a ticket at the last minute and they told me they were all booked up."

Tuli Mkatshwa (student) "did enjoy the ceremony but David Woods talks about involving more blacks in the university. Speaking isn't doing! They've talked about doing this for ages. There are many societies which need recognition and could have been called in to do something. HSS could have danced, and Creative Arts could have sung. They tried to Africanise the ceremony but the choir is all white singing white songs, the only black people involved in entertainment were the Marimbas and they weren't inside the auditorium."

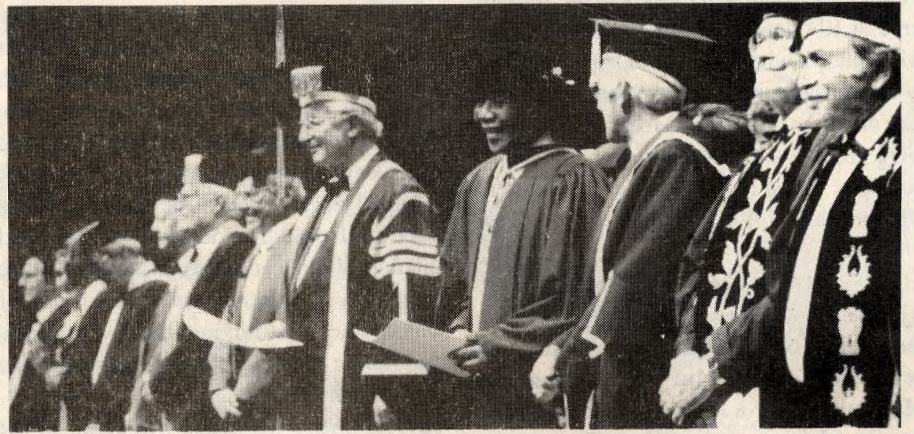
Joanne Levitan (student) said: "The ceremony made me feel proud to be a Rhodes student. I enjoyed all the speeches except Vasco's, as it wasn't appropriate for the occasion, although I do realise his claims were legitimate. I didn't think it was necessary for the ceremony to have a religious aspect. It was unnecessary and excluded those who are of different religions."

"It was lovely. Very inspiring. It made me feel proud of where I am and that I can get ahead in life. It's a start [the Africanisation of the ceremony]. I'm sure it's different from all other varsities in the country. People are becoming more open, more accepting," said student, Peace Nganwa.

community which comprised this institution, because the rules had the backing of governmental legislation.

However, with the passage of time, which saw the absorption of people of different cultural backgrounds into this institution, such rules and regulations become absolute, despite their governmental backing. It was and still is, regrettable that many people had to pay an exorbitant price, including expulsion from university and sacrifice of their lives to get rid of such obnoxious rules. They made such sacrifices not because they did not value their studies and lives, but simply because they valued human dignity over human degradation.

It is in the light of these facts, Dr Woods, that I am saying that the present prevalent problems confronting the student body in this institution are no different from those of the past. The only difference is that, the current problems have not legal justification or even governmental backing. We now live in democratic era and a country, where the principles of openness, accountability, fairness and natural justice reign supreme. As students of this University, Prof Woods, we are, mindful of the fact that the task ahead of you is a mammoth one. We are



President Nelson Mandela, special guest of Dr Woods and Rhodes University received standing ovation when he greeted the auditorium of guests at the Monument. pic: Taryn Cass

also not oblivious or ignorant of the fact that providing solutions to some of these problems, is not an overnight achievement. However, we believe that these problems are not insurmountable. They can be overcome, if serious genuine and honest efforts are made to that effect. The efforts can be seen as serious, genuine and honest if all the interested and affected parties, together with all stake-holders, can avoid pre-judgement in dealing with any of the issues affecting the student body and the staff alike. Also, they can be seen as such, if all the parties negotiating, do so with

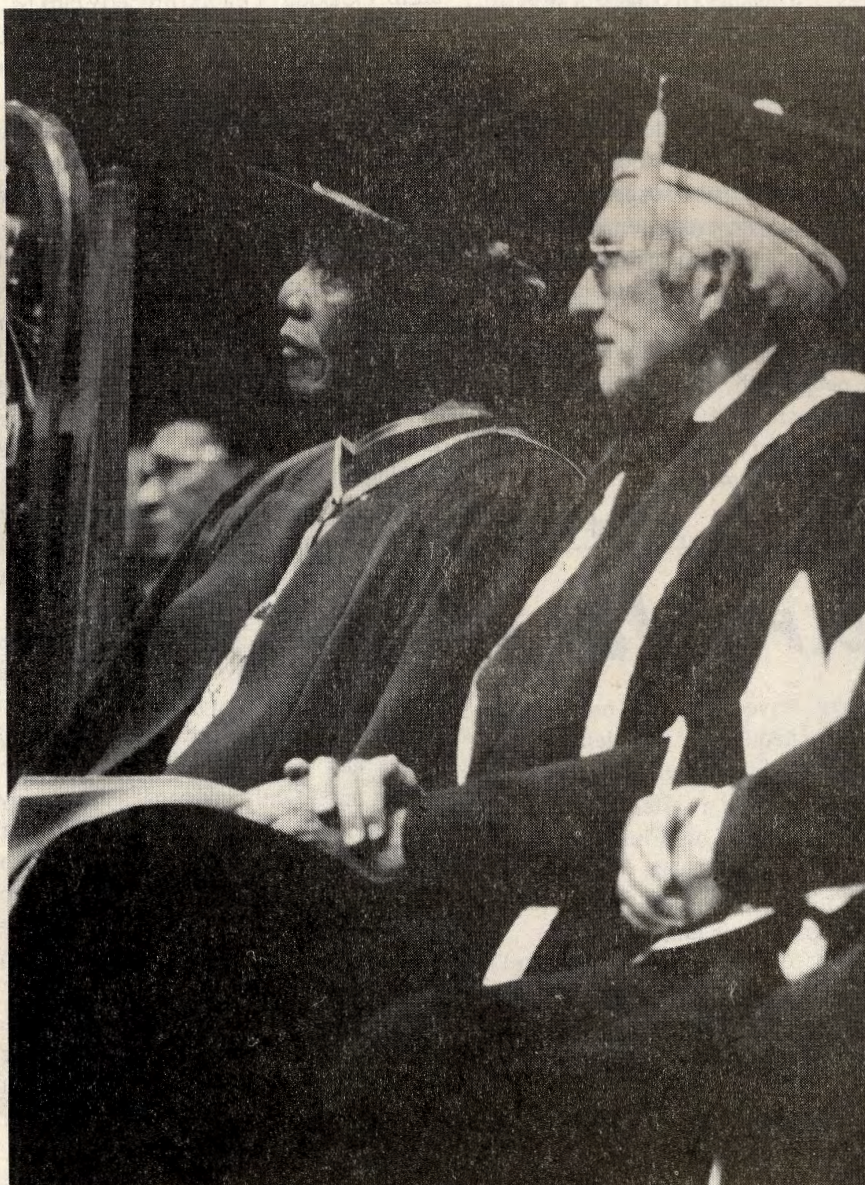
the interests of the students and the Administration at heart. Furthermore, efforts can be seen as genuine and honest if all the parties involved negotiate in good faith and spirit, and without any deceit. Without spoiling this historical and great event, Dr Woods, it is with regret that I have to say that the element of seriousness, genuineness, honesty, trust, openness, accountability and good faith are lacking in the administration of this varsity. We hope and trust that your official assumption of office, will bring about the introduction of all these civilized values which are not only nationally recognized, but internationally enshrined as well.

We have no doubt Dr Woods, that with your academic achievements, international exposure and your experience as the necessary expertise to breathe these values into this institution. We the students of Rhodes University, promise to lend our support to you, Dr Woods but this we can only do if you are really committed to, and honest in providing solutions to all the prevailing problems in this institution. We believe that such co-operation is indispensable in the attainment of unity and progress in this institution.

Ladies and gentlemen, before I conclude my speech, allow me to draw the honourable President Mandela's attention to some of the hurdles we are, the whole country is undergoing a process of transformation. Rhodes University, and all the other learning institutions, especially the tertiary institutions in this country are no exception to this process. On behalf of all the students in South Africa, I would like to say, we are not hooligans, nor irresponsible vandals and/or arsonists as you may have been made to believe. We resorted to methods of the past, which were seen by some at that time and which are still viewed by some today as irresponsible and uncivilized, not because we do not see and view them as such, but because of the intransigence of the schools and universities administrations. These administrations continue to deal and treat students, especially those students who were previously disadvantaged, in the same manner they used to treat them during the apartheid era. This kind of attitude, erodes students unity and widens the racial gap instead of bridging it.

I have great confidence in the institution and have faith that we will all transform into a positively democratic one as we approach the 21st century.

Vasco Ndebele



President Nelson Mandela and Rhodes' Vice-Principal, Dr Michael Smout, listen attentively to the inaugural speech of new Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr David Woods. pic: Taryn Cass

Campus Voice

Pissed off, stressed out? Speak out!

COURAGEOUS JOURNALISM AWARD: CEREMONY OR JOURN I EXERCISE?

The 1996 South African Award for Courageous Journalism was held for the third time at Rhodes University, and passed by with barely a whimper. The only people there to honour a man who has been shot in the face and risked his life in Liberia and Angola, were Journ I students who were forced to be there, and a handful of Journ lecturers who probably felt it was their duty to show their faces.

The award is given in memory of Ruth First, a journalist who worked bravely to expose the horrors of apartheid in the sixties and seventies, and who was killed in Mozambique by a letter bomb, sent by the South African authorities. The whole atmosphere of the award ceremony made a joke of all the men and women who have put their lives in danger so that the truth may be known.

The ceremony was held in Arts Major, one of the more up-market lecture theatres, but still clearly a lecture theatre. The guest speakers, Saul Friedman, a Pulitzer prize-winning journalist, and Gerald Shaw, a former deputy editor of the Cape Times, were squashed behind the podium, with a dehydrated palm (poor attempt to disguise the stuffy lecture hall), tickling their ears. Professor Guy Berger, Head of the Department of Journalism and Media Studies, introduced the ceremony by putting a badly designed poster with a grainy photo of Ruth First onto the overhead projector. Squew. If the atmosphere did not already proclaim a lecture, that certainly did it. There was little mention of who had been nominated for the award, who the judges were, how many finalists there were, and the ceremony was forced to start without the winner even being there. The only evidence of the nominee's work were photocopies stuck up on the wall outside the lecture theatre. Hardly a suitable recognition of people who have received death threats and bullet wounds "in the line of duty".

This award may not carry the prestige and monetary weight of a Pulitzer Prize, but R7000 is not to be dismissed lightly, and the courage of the winner is not to be passed off as all in a days work. Berger was the only judge out of three that attended the ceremony - the two others, Juby Mayet and Jeannette Minnie were too busy in Jo'burg

to attend this prestigious event. Also absent were the three runners-up, Justin Arenstein, Anna Cox, and Bev Garson, and last years winner Louise Flanagan. The affair was such an anti-climax, that the cheque may just as well have been sent to the winner by post. The whole ceremony - if one could call such a low-key event a ceremony - was treated as a media exercise by all the students present (i.e. most of the audience). The jacket and tie dress of the guest speakers and the winner were definitely not mirrored by anyone there, because being aspiring journalists and students they have no idea what it means to dress smartly. Most students sat there, clearly under duress, with notebooks open, scribbling desperately, in an attempt to record EVERYTHING that was being said. Bungling television students clomped up and down the stairs, shifting cameras from shoulder to shoulder, and amateur photographers tried to creep close enough to get a 'really good photo'. All of which was so distracting that it was almost impossible to keep focused on the speaker of the moment.

The ceremony is held at 5 o'clock in the afternoon, and cannot be longer than an hour because the students who have been coerced into coming will miss res dinner. The winner was finally announced by Guy Berger, with yet another overhead projected squonkly up onto the screen. It proclaimed the Winner of the 1996 Award for Courageous Journalism, with a piece of paper stuck crudely over the winner's name. But his presence at the ceremony and the hush-hush atmosphere of the Journ Department that day makes one wonder why it was necessary to conceal the winner from a bunch of disinterested Journ students.

The whole ceremony lacked any kind of suspense, and with hardly anyone there who had anyknowledge of the work that Phillip van Niekerk has done, there was really no one to give him the credit that he must be due. It was a very disappointing affair, and by reducing it to a Journ I writing exercise in order to fill up the hall, the organisers are making a mockery of an award that it should be an honour to receive. It is sad to see that a university which is supposed to have a great reputation for its journalists, could not muster more than five lecturers to honour one of their colleagues. But perhaps it is not surprising, when advertising for the event consisted of A4 pieces of paper, blandly stating when and where it was to take to place. Hardly inspiring.

I feel very strongly that Phillip van Niekerk, and the people to be honoured in the future deserve more than 250 news stories telling an apathetic tutor when, where, why, who, what and how it took place.

Brigid Martin

Booze Bonding

Paul Llewellyn

THE mass consumption of alcohol and Rhodes students naturally go together. Evidence for this can be found in those ever so illegal organisations, Rhodes student drinking clubs. These mini-institutions offer their members the monthly opportunity to consume vast amounts of alcohol in as rapid and formalised a manner as possible. The promise of communal vomiting and radically altered paralytic states apparently acting as the only escape within the boundaries of Grahamstown.

The history of student drinking clubs is as hazy and unclear as the memory of its participants. Those legends of old Rhodians challenging the forces of sobriety, funnelling a yard at record speed, three cases of conquered Castle tucked comfortably beneath the belts of the greats. The old, elite clubs all give rise to what today has become an underground movement.

Membership in these silent groups with highly selective leaders is somewhat of a status symbol. Acceptance into the ranks is an honour. A potential member must have an impressive track record, social wine drinkers are out. Sipping is definitely not allowed.

Ideally applicants must be:

- a) Of sporting background (as they love their sense of team spirit). Rugby watchers, rowing fanatics, even the hockey stars are welcome.
- b) An already impressive status among peers is favourable (no losers allowed, unless the rest of the group are socially stunted).
- c) Willingness to involve yourself in all manner of games and escapades (violence to your fellow man, the wearing of idiotic attire, breaking of public property etc).
- d) A high alcohol consumption capacity is a bonus (if you're heaving over a toilet bowl after two beers you face serious ridicule).
- e) Membership to a recognised Medical Aid scheme is vital (if you think your mates are paying to get your stomach pumped when they too can't stand, you are misinformed).
- f) Unattached (partners become critics when you come home and feel the urge to decorate the room with the contents of your stomach. Also you mustn't chance alienating your chosen peer group, people who can hold down a relationship must be odd because established members of the club tend to turn prospective partners off).
- g) You must be able to keep a secret (they don't really want everyone to know the kind of asinine things which take place once the doors are closed).
- h) Never let anyone know that you possess any qualities which may be detrimental to your man/womanhood (you don't wash dishes and you talk dirty about "chicks" all of the time).
- i) Most importantly you must never in any way, shape or form negate the group or attempt to gain an independent status within the group (you will act as much like a sheep as is humanly possible, barring the wearing of sheep costumes unless specified when in a state of inebriation).

Bearing in mind these ideals, it is my duty to question what leads relatively sane individuals to such extremities. It seems that social pressure on campus to maintain our reputation is so great that people willingly enter into these glorified, yet truly perverted boy scout-like movements (we've all heard it "Rhodes had the world record for the most alcohol consumed in 24 hours until a while



ago"). And I hesitate in my exclusion of women in such activities.

One women's drinking club I heard of is renowned for pouring numerous bottles of wine down eager throats, at 10 in the morning, prior to their lectures.

I am sure at this point that all you budding young alcoholics are drooling at the thought of joining such a club. But before you all run for a bottle, take heed of the initiation processes which have to be endured. A case in point is the enthusiastic little fellow whose initiators funnelled a case of beer down his throat and then proceeded to beat the shit out of him. When asking the person who told me of the incident if the lad was injured badly, the reply was "nothing major, I don't think they broke any bones." Generally however these little endeavours are kept in good humour. If you are found naked somewhere you're lucky and anyway you probably won't remember anything which may have taken place.

Once inside the club you are at liberty (in the most domineering sense of the word) to dress yourself up on a monthly basis in anything from a shirt and tie to a worker's overall and march on down to whatever secret corner of campus or digs the meeting has been arranged at. Once there, doors closed behind you, secret processes of consumption initiated, vomit bucket comfortably sitting beside you, you must finish every drop of booze which has been laid on. Failure to do so results in everyone comforting each others perverted egos the next morning.

Granted, Grahamstown is a small town, often unbearably limited and just sometimes plain boring. I cannot fathom however, what leads three guys of 1ST XV rugby playing size to assault a first year student as was the case at the Union a couple of weeks ago. Surely these individuals, of presumably under sized genitals, can vent their drinking club induced tension upon something more appropriate, perhaps the purchasing of a ticket out of Grahamstown? The issue remains that if such individuals are going to come out of their holes they must disguise themselves as the rest of us, or expect to see their institutions fall victim to our constitution.

We ignore DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE, we ignore ALCOHOLISM IS A DISEASE, we ignore ALCOHOL KILLS all in the name of fun. None of us could raise any viable objections if those nasty sides of inebriation: the violence, the obscenity, remained within the confines of the club. For all we care you can drink yourselves over a cliff and live out your days with your old liver in a pickle jar on the mantelpiece. We will not however, be sympathetic when your activities mean that we take the brunt of your drunkenness.

Funk Jungle

Activate Reporter

THURSDAY August 22 saw the biggest media blitz for any function in Rhodes history. With radio advertisements, full colour posters, the painting of a massive 6ft lion on the library wall and Internet discussions, the Funk Jungle was launched. The initiative, headed by Drostdy Hall Senior Student, David Newton, was a result of intensive fundraising to gain local and national sponsorship.

By August 30, the day of the ball, over 120 double tickets had been sold to all members of the University, not just Hall members. Newton says "the Greek Ball had just been held which slowed down sales, the VC's inauguration was on the same evening and

the posters arrived late. Yet, on the other hand, we invited Nelson Mandela and that boosted sales...even though he didn't pitch." Mandela had been invited to accept a cheque on behalf of his Children's Fund. Newton is unsure as to what will happen to the money now. He is not certain that a substantial profit was made after all. The function itself was definitely successful with champagne handed out to each couple as they entered, live music and a feast of buffet dishes.

The Great Hall was transformed into a tropical jungle with plants, water features and spectacular painted backdrops. Despite the R90 ticket price, the Drostdy Hall Ball was one of the best campus events of the year. It will be interesting to see if they can top it next year!

THE APATHY DISEASE

Natalie Dixon

IF YOU'VE ever attended a girls only private school, or worse yet, a Catholic school you'll know the feeling of Sister Whatever-Her-Name-Was shouting for you to move your unfit teenage body around the athletics track one more time. I'm not passing judgement on Catholics or Catholic schools but rather on the firm determination of those nuns and brothers that you **should** participate and enjoy everything that was on offer at the school.

But as your metamorphosis takes place and you move away from strict school regimes, university offers you a choice. To participate or not to participate. Simple. Well, when the biggest girls res on campus decided to round up some players for a volleyball team, out of 117 girls, not even 5 were prepared to get out of bed on a Sunday morning for a game of social ball bashing. Yes, I'm referring to the all-too-common concept of apathy.

Rampant on Rhodes campus, and painfully obvious during the recent SRC elections. Oppidans couldn't even summon up enough votes to make the poll, let alone elect a rep-

resentative. Despite the large number of oppie candidates oppidans weren't enthusiastic about the elections. The general feeling is that voting procedures need to be far more accessible. In other words people want voting stations to be directly on the way to their lectures or at the door of their res. They don't want to have to search around for the nearest green canopy to cast their precious vote.

So what is the source of this apathy? Linda Pledger, the media representative for last year's SRC, believes that apathy has a lot to do with the person you are. In her first year she wasn't prepared to sit back and "let things happen" so she became involved in the SRC to make a difference to other people. So why do only a handful of white faces stare out from the mass of black fellow students at the Grand Grazzle?? Because the SRC doesn't affect their lives directly so why pay any attention? It's only once YOU'RE stopped from going to YOUR lectures that you sit up and take notice. Another student told me that black students have more to change and can't afford to be apathetic. The transformation process at Rhodes hinges on students pushing forward on issues like exclusions and admissions. A black student commented that she

appreciated the efforts and dedication of the SRC and thought them instrumental in the whole transformation process. (Pledger herself went around to residences to tell students exactly what was happening during the mass action in the first term.) A white student viewed the SRC as superfluous and if students need to attract attention "all we have to do is storm admin."

Pledger believes the prospect of finding a job in an affirmative action environment is daunting for many white students and results in a disinterest in the University and bodies such as the SRC. For students who don't take an interest in politics the SRC is seen as far too political and the less they have to do with it the better. But students who are frustrated with various aspects of the University need a body of representatives in order to vent their feelings and have a voice within a recognised structure. With the stigma of oppression still lingering, black students are prepared to pledge themselves to changing things for other students in the future. Pledger added that members of the SRC are more willing to assist students who take a keen interest in aspects affecting the University than students who only appeal to the SRC when they have no other choice. The crux of this apathy problem appears to

be a personal one. "Priorities amongst students seem to be what they're wearing to the next garden party rather than voting for the new SRC president." Perhaps garden parties are the top priority of many students at Rhodes, and who is to judge whether or not it shouldn't be?

But what about taking an interest in a community that you are part of (and you are a part of it whether you like it or not). Are apathetic students only prepared to get their degree (or not) and leave Rhodes without making any contribution at all to other students? The argument against this is that societies and the SRC don't offer them anything. There are no tangible differences that have been brought about by the SRC. So why vote? Because the SRC do make a difference and if they knew that a motivated student body was behind them they could do even more. Students who are like pigs in poo now, may have a rude awakening when they need help and don't have an SRC. The fact that the SRC at UCT at the moment is a gathering of bitter enders who refuse to believe that only 25% of students voted, should be warning enough for students at Rhodes to cast the dreaded disease of apathy aside and take the initiative.

Foreign Exchange

Have you noticed the foreign exchange students on campus and wondered who they are and where they come from? Zandile Nkutha set out to find them and ask these questions, but only managed to hunt down three of about ten that we know of. This is what they had to say about themselves.

SHAWN McKnight is one of six American exchange students who will be staying at Rhodes for the second semester. They are all on an exchange programme run by Interstudy, an English organisation that arranges programmes to universities in the UK and around the world.

Shawn comes from Muhlenberg College, Pennsylvania, where he studies communications. He will complete his BA degree in 1998.

When asked why he chose to come to Africa and specifically South Africa, he says: "I was always attracted to Africa and my plan is to see the Meerkat, my favourite animal found here". He had little choice in deciding on which South African university to go to as Rhodes is the only one that offers journalism.

Rhodes is bigger than his home university which has about 2000 people. He finds Rhodes slightly different from Muhlenberg, but familiar in some ways. "I see the same things here as I see in the States. The people are literally the same. Campus life is the same everywhere."

He believes universities are different from the rest of the world. They are a world within themselves. However, the recent Zimsoc party illustrated what he finds to be the biggest difference. He was shocked to see that musical tastes were differentiated according to race. He does not understand how music can be described as "black" and "white" music.

"I guess growing up in a separated world, you only get exposed to a specific kind of music which you perceive as whatever race you are brought up to have a personal preference to."

Shawn misses American fast foods. "Spur frightens me. I can't travel so far to come and eat Tex-Mex."

"Wimpy must go. Their hamburgers are horrible, miserable and Kentucky just doesn't

taste like American Kentucky," he adds.

He does not feel homesick but misses his dog Jojo. "If you don't miss your dog you are not human."

He hopes to work on print media and is taking Journalism III and IV, and graphic design classes at Rhodes. He believes media is the most powerful instrument of public and political influence. "Its capacities are shattering but I don't like the way it's being used at the moment," he says. Instead of being a social tool it is being used as a private tool by politicians. "I would like to be a part in changing that," concludes Shawn.

Aimee Breed from Le Moyne College in Syracuse, New York is also on the Interstudy programme. She says there are 13 exchange students altogether in various South African universities this year, including Stellenbosch, UPE, Fort Hare and Natal.

Aimee came to Rhodes because of its variety of journalism courses which are better than those at her home university. "You can

do journalism as a major here."

She is a third year student majoring in English with concentration in communications and a minor in Business.

"I love it here and I am absolutely fascinated by South Africa and the changes that have occurred in the society. It is refreshing for the country to be starting over," she says.

Aimee chose to stay and see President Mandela at the Vice Chancellor's inauguration ceremony instead of going to Zululand for the weekend.

"I think that I made the right decision. I love Madiba, he seemed big hearted. It was great." "Sometimes I walk around and I don't think that I am at university. University here is very strict. The rules and regulations are outdated: no alcohol on campus. There is a lot of tradition involved here, garden parties. I guess these things have been there



Exchange students and friends in the lounge of Lillian Britten House : (from left to right) Nicky Devarenne, Ben Becker, Brendan McKenna, Adam Kraft, Aimee Breed and Daphne Davis.

for a long time and no one has thought to change them. I think it is ridiculous that if a woman falls pregnant she has to leave this University but nothing happens to the guy. It is disgusting. Pregnancy is one of the most beautiful things of nature and this turns it into mockery," Aimee says.

She says Rhodes is bigger than her university, but it "is nice, it isn't too overwhelming. It's nice the drinking age is 18, at home it is 21."

Coming to South Africa was her first major trip and it was just something adventurous. She does not miss America but "is more people sick that homesick". She misses the food back at home and she cannot stand the sauce put in the burgers here. "I miss McDonalds."

Magali Dubois, is a Swiss masters student who studies "Memoire", the equivalent of a MA at the University of Lausanne in Switzerland and is here for the year. She is taking two papers in English honours and is tutoring in the French department. She intends to write her thesis on South African literature and came to Rhodes because it was the only university that accepted her application to study in South Africa on an exchange programme.

"I am very satisfied with the way things have turned out. I didn't even have a topic to work on when I came here." Her topic is on

"conflict of land possession" and she is concentrating on three South African writers, Olive Schreiner, Alan Paton and J.M. Coetzee.

She says living in Truro is fine but "I wouldn't do second year in res. We do not have res in Switzerland. This was all new for me."

"Rhodes is a beautiful university and I really enjoy it. The people drink too much. I am very satisfied with all my classes, but my experience is limited to the English Department. It's small and I found it easy to fit into it, although most of my friends are not South African. Nothing about Rhodes makes me want to go back, but the violence in the whole country puts me off," says Magali.

She went to the VC's inauguration ceremony and said she found it unique and interesting. "I am not used to such ceremonies at all. We don't have such ceremonies in Switzerland. It is probably a waste of time to have them but it is very nice as well. I am not sure that I was impressed with the SRC speech. I found it inappropriate in such circumstances. It was as if he was warning the VC and I think that is rude. Dr Woods is not blind to the problems at Rhodes. It was a patronising attitude, I didn't like it."

"I would recommend this University to a friend," concludes Magali.

Singing the Praises of Africa

What is your musical background and training?

I do not have training, I am self-taught. My brother who knew our music taught me, I learnt from him.

Ubuti wako omdala?

Ja , ungangam [Yes, he is about the same age as me.]

So you've always had music with you ?

My father had a choral band like Mambazo, so I grew up in an environment whereby I was immersed in music.

When was Bayete formed and at whose initiative?

Actually I found Bayete in 1984 seyikhona, having been formed 1983. Mduduzi Mkhombe who is now in Mango Groove was one of the founding members.

So it's not the original band , there've been some changes?

A lot of changes. Actually I was left with the original members for nine years, after nine years they decided to pursue other careers. I decided to keep the name Bayete and continue.

Define Bayete, what is the band all about?

Bayete is about maintaining and retaining ubuntu wabantu [the culture and soul of the people]. It is a band that is conscious about i-belongings zethu thina, a band that is trying to keep the people on track of themselves, bangazilahli ,ngizama ukhuthi ivikele i-culture, ivikele i-tradition, ivikele ubomi [protect the culture, protect the tradition and protect the life]. We have to be proud of our identity.

And the name Bayete itself?

It tells.

The invitation to perform in London's Royal Albert Hall recently, at the "Two Nations Celebrate" concert, tells that Bayete is recognised as one of South Africa's premier bands. How did Bayete get to where it is today?

You know it was not an easy way, not an easy life...in the past, under the government in the old South Africa , we were the most undermined band by the media because of the message we carry across to the people. We managed to survive nine years, but that was too hard. Some of us felt that it was time to leave the band, but I said to myself that I believe in what we are fighting for.

Did you find dealing with the old SABC and the censors difficult?

Yes, because most of our music was banned. For us to have the song *Umbombela* idlale [to play] we had to fight the SABC and try to show them ukuthi ayina [no] political agenda under. It's just an old song that Miriam Makeba sang, the song just told of how most of our fathers came to Johannesburg and how we were born sizalwe elokishini [born in the location]. So they tried to ban *Shosholoz*a because of the train again. They banned *Mzabalazo*, [struggle for liberation] and they banned *No Work* for obvious reasons. In those days we had to force the SABC to play our songs.

Wasn't it difficult for you to maintain yourselves?

Very difficult. The shows were very scarce. We survived on political rallies, charity shows, corporate gigs...we even forced ourselves into jazz.

The concert in London must have been

quite a moment sharing a stage with Quincy Jones, Hugh Masekela and Phil Collins. Can you share your experience? It was...an experience I will never forget.

ubudiniwe, but Jabu on stage was a totally different person.

That is one thing I believe in that e-stagini uyasinikezela [you give of yourself on

*There is culture disgrace in our land
People lost their identity
Traditions and customs are gone
Gone with the wind
Tipped into the sea...*

(lyrics from *Culture Disgrace*)

After 12 years of struggle against an oppressive political system and an unreceptive music industry, South Africa band *Bayete* have now truly broken ground locally and internationally, stealing the show at the Two Nations concert in Britain in July this year. UCT newspaper, *Varsity*, spoke to **JABU KHANYILE**, the founder, lyricist, lead vocalist and inspiration behind *Bayete*. This story brought to you courtesy of **SASNEWS**.

For all that hard work and hard times we finally got the recognition we deserved. Into engiyibulele [something that I was happy] to read in the paper the next day was "Bayete steals the show in Albert Hall from Phil Collins." When Bayete came out, we changed the mood. The whole hall imengenyawo beshaya izandla kwajayiva iPresident [stood up and clapped their hands, and the President danced] it was on my set, you see. When everyone else came in, the show went down. When I came back again, for Shosholoz, everyone stood up again, it was on my set, Ja, sometimes uyanyamezela nge siXhosa [said in Xhosa, you endure], like the President, after 27 years, yonke lento ayitholayo uyayideseearva [he deserves all of the things he is now getting.] So nam [likewise for me] after years of starvation, Bayete is getting what it deserves.

So how was Bayete received by the London audience?

As I've just said, ukuthi we got a standing ovation. Before I came here I received a letter from Prince Charles. He says he has seen some bands play before, but this band is the first ukushukumisa inwele [that made his hair stand up]. He said if he comes to South Africa he would love to see the band that moved him again.

What is it about Bayete that has this effect on people, that you can take it to London and they don't even understand the words but you have this response?

The music is played with feeling. We are musicians who believe in music and who believe in the concept of a band. So when we perform you can see that. We carry our culture, ubuntu bethu in our music. So when we play we feel ukuzinikezela ebantwini e-stagini [giving of ourselves to the people], that is what makes Bayete different.

What I noticed the last time I was here, was how you were tired before the show,

stage], because ngihamba ne ancestors zam namandla ka Nkulu-nkulu [I am walking with my ancestors and the power of God]. You can wake me up ndilele [from sleep], I'll go up on stage kuphele ubuthongo [I won't even feel drowsy] something will come up, sonke e -stagini siyashintsha [all of us change on stage] God will be with you, your ancestors will be with you; your ancestors are your angels so your angels will be with you.

At the South African music awards Bayete has done itself proud. Could you tell me what awards Bayete has received?

The first award we got was the OKTV award in 1989, for "Best Township Music", which category was wrong anyway. I took it anyway! Mmalo we got three awards, "Best Producer", "Best Performance" and "Song of the year", on the Coca-Cola Full Blast Show Awards. Then Umkhaya lo walked away with "Best Producer" and "Song of the year", the second time we got "Song of the year".

Do you think the South African music industry is getting enough support?

Ja, they are trying their best. They are beginning to support the industry.

Where do you see the industry going?

It should get bigger if thina [we] the musicians know what we are doing. The quality of the music - it looks like there is a big rush of new acts...

Thina, we know what we are doing. Because no other country will recognise you if ucula [you sing] like Mariah Carey, no other country will take you if you try to be Luther Vandross. The only way is to come with yourself, something different. You've got to stretch yourself. The industry is always searching for a different sound.

Who writes the music and lyrics for Bayete?

What I prefer is to get ideas and tastes from other people, so I write with my producer. I come up with a song and the producer will sit down and give the groove, ayisebenze [work at it], and afterwards we'll work on it again.

What musical influences does Bayete draw on ?

I can say I'm influenced in music by the West African people mostly, like Yossou Ndour. The first time I listened to the radio I heard the Dooby brothers and I listened to Elvis Presley. Fortunately, I was born into a staunch African house, so even if I listened to the radio, when I went back home there was African music.

Do you think it's ironic that the youth, which has become caught up in the Western culture, can still respond to your music?

You know, as I see it, you the youth doubt yourselves. You wish you were white. You believe your colour is wrong for yourselves, because the white man managed to conquer your identity. You feel inferior about yourself. What I have sensed is that abazi thandi [they don't like themselves] the way they are. There is nothing you can't do, you can go wherever you want to go. But if you don't know your belongings, you will end up Urana ne papa ihamba emoyeni [like paper blowing in the wind] because awuzubanayo i-groundforce yokuzibamba [you won't have the groundforce to hold yourself]. The country will be like a floating country on the sea, and at the end of the day South Africa will go back to white society because anyibambanga [you haven't maintained] i-culture. Some of you have learnt a wrong history, which is written by a white man. So how can you trust your oppressor? He can't give you good news, he will never ever give you good news.

So if that is the way you see the Youth, how can they possibly relate to your music?

Because I trick you. I use your grooves, the beat ka *Thabo* is the beat ye *House* and I've used your terms in some of the songs. Because you got to know Thabo, you got to know *Mmalo* we, and hear the message ngaphakathi [inside]. It makes you proud of yourself, doesn't it? So by being proud of that song, when *Umkhaya lo* came, you managed to like *Umkhaya lo* because it has the same message.

What future projects does Bayete have in store?

There is no one else doing this music and spreading the "gospel", I'm still doing this alone. The only other person is Hugh Masekela, but most of the youth don't listen to Hugh Masekela. I managed to capture the youth's attention, I'm happy to have the youth, I love the youth. For the next 10 years I will try and get half or a quarter of the country's youth to follow the struggle. From there I would like to do workshops on African culture, if you give me a chance I will go to UCT and teach iculture yesiZulu, because I believe the history books are wrong. I was lucky to have a father who knows History. So the knowledge I have, I want to share. I'm not saying don't go to school, go and learn and get your degree, but whilst you're learning, know who you are, know where you are from..

NEW DIRECTIONS

ACTIVATE Culture Editor - Claire Smith - reviews the 1996 Honours Productions

EXTREMETIES

Directed by Megan Brummer

EMOTIONALLY chaotic and provoking. Extremeties grasped at the hidden turbulent emotions buried in performers and audience. Brummer was fighting against the notion of the passive 20th century western audience who sits meekly in its seat and waits patiently to be entertained. The play drove at the emotional and intellectual boundaries, how does one fight evil without unleashing that evil inside of us, how does one protect one's self against threat without resorting to violence. Nervous, uncomfortable laughter often escaped from the mouths of audience members, although not gruesome or shocking in its actual form, the underlying content was unmistakable. The turbulent scenes were interspersed with some excellent moments of comedy, ever challenging the audience, dragging them from emotional lows to highs in the space of five seconds. Brummer was digging at the sub-conscious of all of us, sure everyone knows about rape, about the horror stories and consequences, but what is the emotional reality. Extremeties lured the audience into a world of anger and hatred, forgiveness and understanding, pushing the acceptable emotional extremes, psychotic and powerful.

THE ONE SIDED WALL

Directed by Emily Amos

20TH CENTURY theatre has been a continuous struggle to remove that barrier between audience and performer, taking away that fourth wall of a private room and allowing the audience to become a part of

the events and emotions within the situation they encounter. However, in doing so, you tread dangerously on the ever diverging and uncertain lines that divide the world of the theatre from reality. In *The One Sided Wall* Amos pushed the boundaries between theatre and reality to the limit, removing all aspects of theatricality, she demanded that the audience use their imagination to transform the Box Theatre into the Hearing room. They became part of the establishment, amongst the judges who were to decide whether Theresa Seymour, housewife, mother and attempted murderer was in fact mentally insane. By bringing the play into a realist mode, the audience was forced to acknowledge that the play is actually based on a true life story, it did happen and the woman involved is still to this day incarcerated. By moving beyond the boundaries set by modes of theatricality, the play moved beyond intellectual theorising about the underlying meanings, it exists primarily at the surface level on stage, its the story that counts. Jo Melton Butler's sincerity and brevity added to the emotional and comical appeal of this play. In a word, challenging.

THE BIRTHDAY PARTY

Directed by Glen Vaughn

A MACABRE, thrilling reality twists intricately into your mind and soul as comedy, action and powerful dialogue transport the audience into what at first seems the normal lifestyle of a delirious old age couple. The lines that separate reality and absurdity of another realm are distorted by the arrival of an ominous Goldberg and

McCann. The distortion of lines innate in the set design echo the atmosphere of the occasion, *The Birthday Party*. There is a spiralling degeneration which occurs overtly yet surreptitiously, twisting and warping in a continuous motion towards an end which resembles the beginning, you are left questioning what you saw, was any of it real, did it even occur. The actors became one with their characters and so engulfed the audience, trapping them inside another timescape. Sarah Seddon was inspiring and brilliant as every inch of her being was consumed by Pinter's charming character, Meg. Justin Greenburg and James Cairns were powerful in their presence and drove the action forward confidently yet mysteriously. The power of the theatre to distort and transcend our everyday realm was reaffirmed.

THE CABARET

Directed by Anthea Carolus

THE HAUNTING strains of Debbie Rivett's voice, the dimmed, warm lighting and glasses of wine embraced me as I hovered outside to the entrance to the Box Theatre, and drew me into the enchanting, sensual world of *The Cabaret*.

Written and directed by Honours drama student, Anthea Carolus, this production was both refreshing in content and form. The notion of cabaret and musicals as a form of theatre seems to have been scrapped from the Drama department's vocabulary over the years, their explorations into physical theatre and postmodernist forms seems to have left no room for a theatre where the meaning lies no deeper than surface level.



"Ze Madame" From The Cabaret recently performed in The Rhodes Box Theatre.

pic: Donna Cobban

In her set and seating Ms Carolus broke down that barrier between audience and performer, the relaxed, informal seating facilitated an honest, comical and sometimes tragic portrayal of human relationships and interactions. The narrative was a collaboration of bizarre events that occur within the lives of five people who live above a cabaret club. The music and song take these believable, realistic interactions and experiences into a theatrical and mysterious world that transcends reality, moving into a surrealist landscape. Katie King as ?Mildred? (ask Katie) was charming and strong in her ability to draw the cast and story together. Together the cast and characters were sincere if not brilliant in their acting abilities. In one word, entertaining.

Dista 3105- Oom Kosie's Greatest Hits

FOR V. ALIVE. Dead. Dreaming:

Outside the Spur, the aroma of marinated meat fills the air. I'm standing in the drizzle, killing my last pack of Stuyvesants. Cleaning the small flecks of blood off the serrated edge of the knife, and wiping the excess moisture on my denims. I slip the knife into its sheaf and step inside ... As I reach for a pre-coffee mint, a voice announces.
"Table for one?"
I quickly identify its source ... it's a waiter ..
"Errr someone will be joining me later ... thanks ..."
"god? ..." He asks, frowning noticing the flecks of blood on my pants ...
"Yeah ..."
"About time someone killed that little bugger ... (pause) .. smoking I presume?"
As I take my usual seat across the aisle from P .. who always seems to be here ... I make a mental note to ask him whether he owns the place or just rents a seat here like the rest of us. P leans over and displaying an uncanny ability to read my mind .. whispers ... "I'm actually employed by the Spur to make animal noises whenever someone orders the rump steak."
He grins ... flashing a set of hesitant teeth

... possibly false.
I grin back.
He's still grinning ... definitely dentures ...
Mmmmm 1014km to the Melville Spur ... didn't know that.
He's still grinning.
I make small-furry-animal-caught-in-a-bear-trap type sounds ...
He grins.
I make more small-furry-animal-caught-in-a-bear-trap-death-throes type sounds ...
He suggests a couple of boiled eggs.
A feather floats by. The music finally changes.
Suddenly a flurry of red and white stripes erupts out of the corner of my eye ...
Aaaaaagh! It's the Slovakian Olympic Underwater Hockey team.
"Hi, can I get you anything to drink?"
"I'll have the rump steak please."
"Moooooo Moooooo Moooooo ..."
Strange cow-like (but not really) sounds erupt out of P's corner ... the waitress looks at me ... I grin ...
"Make it a double ..."
"Mooooo Mooooo Mooooo." The sounds are starting to get frantic.
"Bloody." I add.
"Moo Moo Moo ..."
The waitress shoots me disapproving

glances that would have put Hannibal Lector off his supper, and quickly disappears behind the counter ... off to snort some Tex-Mex or whatever it is that waitresses do when they disappear for hours just when you want your bill. The Springbok Nude Girls greatest hits are blasting out of the speakers and everyone's heads bob in unison.
P eyes me strangely. I grin. He doesn't grin back. Just stares. Maybe he doesn't like the Springbokkies ... I bob my head along with the waiters and play with my Spur knife under the table. Slashing the seat and carving my initials into the table.
The steak finally arrives dripping in white sauce ...
"Moo Moo Moo ..." screeches P hoarsely .. I stare at the steak contemplatively .. knife and fork poised ... ready to strike ... suddenly recognition filters through.
"Jaysee, is that you ole buddy? How've you been doing? .. great guns ... I almost didn't recognise you under all that sauce ..."
The mooing finally stops ... P looks at me strangely ... making small-furry-animal-caught-in-a-bear-trap type sounds ...
"When did they get you?"
"..."
"Yep, Easter is generally a bad time .. the

road death toll and all ..."
"..."
I cut a large chunk out of the still bleeding steak .. the serrated blade making a satisfying ripping sound .. chew 97 times for good luck and in almost perfect communion, swallow it. P looks on horrified as a self-satisfied look overtakes my face ...
He stands up, puts down his coffee and starts moving towards me. I indicate that the Heimlich manoeuvre will not be necessary ... Oblivious to my wild gesturing he gets closer. The bokkies break into Bruce Bleed...
You know, sometimes I'm not even sure whether god is a he, she or it. Possibly, he is the strange looking guy on the dimly lit street corner of my peripheral vision, always looking for spare change for a sex change operation.
It's dark. I'm outside the Spur searching my pockets for a stray mint. I encounter a Stuyvesant, but it won't light. It starts to drizzle. I bend down and take the steak knife out of my sock where I had hidden it, clean off the sauce and wipe the excess moisture on my denims. Its late, time to go home ... goddank vir weekends.

Xiola Blue

THE 30129117

HIP-HOP : THE 4 CHAMBERS.

RAP music is a part of Hip-Hop, but Hip-Hop is not necessarily a part of Rap music. Confused? You're not alone - many people out there don't even know what Hip-Hop is, incorrectly thinking that it's either some kind of 80's dance music or some local thing. Far from it - Hip-Hop is an entire culture, a way of living, that was born in the BDX (Boogie Down Bronx) in the late 70's.

HIP-HOP IS AN ENTIRE CULTURE, A WAY OF LIVING

From these humble roots as a form of boasting over beats at parties, it moved into the parks of New York where DJ's got involved behind turntables whilst the MC's experimented with rhyming to move the crowds. At the same time, graffiti and breakdancing, which were there from the beginning, started evolving. These four facets (rapping, DJ'ing, graffiti and breakdancing) are now represented to varying extents under one unified banner called Hip-Hop.

By its very nature, graffiti breaks rules and is regarded by many outside of culture as nothing more than vandalism and wanton destruction of property. These people have never felt the thrill of popping open a spray can and creating a piece that will be seen by thousands of people (or more, depending on the ambition and courage of the graf artist!) Graffiti is *not* sloppily scrawled obscenities, but rather huge, colourful masterpieces - often with a message behind them. If rap is ghetto poetry, graffiti is ghetto art at it's finest - with no money for fancy canvasses and oils, graffiti emerged dictated by economics as pure, untampered youthful expression. It appeared wherever it could be seen (walls, subway trains, and there is even a rumour that an aeroplane got done!) as there were virtually no other mediums available (art galleries in the middle of Compton? Please!). Graffiti went through a phase where galleries decided it was trendy to display these urban works, but graffiti on canvas just wasn't the same as on a subway train and the 'arty crowd' soon proved their fickleness and moved on, shrugging the artform off as a fad.

IF RAP IS GHETTO POETRY, GRAFFITI IS GHETTO ART...

Breakdancing underwent a very similar process - becoming commercialised in numerous Hollywood movies, sitcoms etc. Once again it was dispelled as a fad and kicked back into the ghetto from whence it came. Towards the end of the 80's the big moment came for Rap music - a few artists managed to garner some commercial success and America and then the world latched onto this latest 'fad'. Out of the four disciplines of Hip-Hop, this one blew up in a way that could never have been expected - not only did the artists sell millions of albums, but a slew of record companies, TV shows, clothing labels, and numerous related 'industries', sprang up. Rappers had the entire world beating down the doors of their record labels to find out the reality behind their lyrics. Then came the problem: once again the fickle crowd who dubiously deemed Rap cool, deemed it uncool, but this time Hip-Hop just wouldn't listen. It refused to pack its bags and go back home. Instead it invoked it's instincts and metamorphosed into many forms, ensuring survival. Rap was no longer Rap, it was now Jazz Rap, Gangster Rap, Reality Rap, Commercial Rap, Metal Rap, Weeded Rap etc. And just when the anti-Rap lobbyists thought they had it cornered on grounds of being too violent and drugged, it splintered into the many regional sounds that have now become the focal point within the culture: specifically the East Coast, West Coast issue.

RAP...METAMORPHOSED INTO TO MANY FORMS, ENSURING SURVIVAL

Unfortunately this strength has also proved to be its weakness and the Rap industry is teetering on constant evolution through competition on the one side, and divide and conquer on the other. And just when the entire culture seems to be hanging in the balance, the 4th chamber gets ready to unload. With the recent release of DJ Funkmaster Flex's "60 minutes of funk" - the demand for DJ mix tapes has focused much attention on this sub-discipline which has been developing nicely in the underground. Whether this will follow the same cycle and garner much commercial success still remains to be seen. But what it does prove is that Hip-Hop as a culture will never die - try to commercialise one aspect and the other three will go underground, evolve and come out strengthened. Because this, Hip-Hoppers always need to be clued up on *all* aspects of their culture as they support and rely on one another - united they stand, never to fall!

Mass Dosage

HIP-HOP IS WORLDWIDE

Dollies Rock G-Town



Greg Donnelly, founding member, lyricist and lead singer for the Dollyrockers, in performance at the Tin Roof Blues in Grahamstown
pic: Ian Rowett

Paul Llewellyn

A PACKED Tin Roof blues applauded raucously last weekend as South African band, *The Dolly Rockers* finally left the stage having been called back for no less than three encores by a hyped up and seriously enthusiastic audience. *The Dolly Rockers* who performed two gigs here in Grahamstown as part of their national tour left leaving a clear impression, in the minds of their audience, on the bright future of South African music. Not to mention the quality of their own music.

The band was originally formed in 1990 by singer/songwriter Greg Donnelly who felt that he must steer away from the synthetic sounds which were so prominent in the 80's and get back to the reality of guitars and drums. The band still seriously objects to the use of a keyboard, having excluded it quite emphatically from their sound. Their tone becomes one of self mockery as they remind themselves of how the original *Dolly Rockers* lineup donned the very instrument which today they so object to.

The other members of the band, Anthony Bull (base), Dave Ferguson (harmonica), Peaches Rommelaere (guitar) and Alan Lloyd (drums), are quick to remind their front man, however, that the current lineup includes only him from those first *Rockers*. The band has undergone no less than 8 changes since its formation. Donnelly explains how at one stage he would turn up to gigs where posters advertising, *The Dolly Rockers Live*, would confront just him and his guitar. He stuck out this period of playing on his own however and through perseverance managed to put together their present format.

For three years running, from '91 to '93 the band played the Grahamstown festival. Capacity audiences at the Crillion Hotel in '93 along with late night jam sessions together with another SA band, The Mavericks, sparked the beginning of a gentle upturn of fortune. David Ferguson skipped across bands joining the *Rockers*, cherrying the cake of a successful festival. It was at this stage that the band looked to producing their first CD. The last *Dolly Rockers* single produced on vinyl is heralded as being the last single to be published on vinyl in SA. The new CD simply called *The Dolly Rockers* was

produced by the band themselves in a make do studio set up in Alan's garage. Having recorded the album the *Rockers* faced the problem of finance in producing more albums for distribution. Life savings were all that salvaged the demise of *The Dolly Rockers* who managed to get 1000 copies mastered and pressed in England and the USA. According to the band however, distribution of these CDs has posed a problem, the members themselves having sold more copies than their distributors. Thus the current tour.

A major factor which stunts their growth according to Greg is the fact that people are unable to place the faces with the music. Their aim is to "create an awareness of their music so that people can link them with the band."

The tour so far has been a successful one. Their recent gig in Port Elizabeth brought out people in large numbers despite the obscure and inaccessible venue. They were surprised also at the fact that their music was familiar with the audience, some of whom approached them with requests to play songs which they had not included in their sets for over three years. This along with the diverse nature of their audiences has raised their spirits in anticipation of the bigger venues which follow in Pretoria, Bloemfontein and Johannesburg.

As far as Grahamstown goes it has been the high point of their tour thus far. On the Saturday night, backed by local band Lurk and unfortunately in competition with various Balls taking part on campus, *The Rockers* managed to pull in a full house. By the end of the evening obviously pumped up, with the adrenalin of the occasion they broke into an earth shattering rendition of their hit single *Suicide Annie* which literally almost achieved the shaking of the Tin Roof down to its foundations. Having returned to the stage a multitude of times at the will of the crowd, they finally struck their last cord leaving the room echoing with applause. They had truly given a wonderful display of tight and technically beautiful music.

The band who have pulled through so many obstacles and who at one stage found themselves in a garage, like David says, "now we're in a car park", they truly are out there in the open for all to see and enjoy. Finally out of Cape Town *The Dolly Rockers* will surely be rattling some serious popularity in years to come.

"local is lekker..."

Paul Llewellyn

IN ACCORDANCE with its current drive to promote radio with a South African flavour, student radio station RMR recently launched a weekly talk show which draws on an ever growing resource of national musical talent. The aptly titled, SA BandScan, is a thirty minute show which according to those involved aims to "expose and create an awareness around the various artists performing around the country."

The show, which has sparked great excitement within RMR and beyond is hosted by a team of 12 of the stations presenters. Together they create an enthralling mixture of features including weekly interviews with varying bands; a national and local gig-guide; the playing of RMR's no.1 national Top 10 hit and also the demos of up and coming SA artists. News and information on the various bands and an array of SA music complete what for local listeners is a first for community radio and indeed commercial radio on a national level.

RMR has placed its whole hearted support behind the team of dedicated presenters who when developing the idea were not entirely aware of the immense amount of time and effort involved in putting together such a show. One of the accused initiators of the show, who wishes to remain anonymous, replied when questioned on the issue, "my

girlfriend forgets what I look like, sometimes I wake up in the night and I'm subconsciously talking to Lithium on the telephone, I strain to remember that there is music beyond our national borders, and yet I feel complete."

An impressive factor which many involved feel has almost preempted the success of the show is the comradie and lack of autocratic domination within the BandScan ranks. Each member has been assigned a part, a character and an objective: from tracking down one of the 72 SA artists currently being processed in the BandScan machine to the air tight mixing involved in presenting the show live. This is one compilation of radio skill which only promises to get better. It is hoped that eventually the show will be expanded to a one hour slot with syndications of the show being sold to other radio stations and broadcast throughout the country.

Are these achievable goals? BandScan's Richard Holmes seems to believe that they are, "We have not undertaken a task which is by any means a gross distance from our reach, sure it's a challenge but with the amount of energy which is being put into getting this show on its feet and the recognition which we, believe it or not, have already started to create in musical circles, I can only predict good things for the show." A further feature which runs alongside the show is the upcoming creation of the SA BandScan homepage on the Internet. This



Durban band, Squeal, who took the Festival by storm, were first to be interviewed on the RMR Bandslam.

pic : Rycherde Walters

service will provide the visual stimulus which radio can never attain. Transcriptions of interviews conducted on air, details of bands and artists interviewed, along with a complete national gig-guide will be available to anybody with access to the Net, worldwide. Visitors to the page will also be provided with links to the homepages of the multitude of SA bands already online. This service can only strengthen the momentum which SA BandScan has achieved in its drive to become the leading force behind RMR's community orientated drive.

Never has such a project been undertaken by a radio station which is in many ways still in its formative years as far as catering for a listener ship beyond Kaif walls is

concerned.

It has been a year of growth for the station, having snatched the sole IBA licence for the Grahamstown area from beneath Radio Grahamstown and consequently expanding its signal to as far as Port Elizabeth. This together with the initiation of a more culturally diverse and representative team of on-air hosts will surely bolster RMR's position in the eyes of the IBA. SA BandScan can be seen as an inevitable spin off from a community powered radio station in the forefront of innovative and motivated broadcasting.

On its current route RMR could well become an icon for community based radio in a mere leap, forget the hopping and skipping between.

Stool Talk

"**WHO** reads this shit?" is the first thing I always ask myself before I start writing it. Hhmghph.

I was talking about blowjobs the other day. The victims of the conversation between myself and Miss DYMK were initially embarrassed, rehashing stories about how when they were young they thought blowjobs involved concentrating breath up the anus to cause the penis to rise. Jesus. I'm glad I never got one of those. Could you imagine, at the lovely age of sixteen - the age when your ass has probably started getting quite hairy - how you would frighten and horrify young penis-enviers with your bared sphincter, panting, "blow me, blow me".

Miss DYMK's advice in the end, was that there was nothing worse than a guy holding a girl's head while she committed the deed, pushing it and pulling it as if her head were some kind of raw chicken or something. Well, she didn't really mention the raw chicken thing, sorry, that's me ...actually, it was this guy I knew at high school who had some very strange ideas - besides what he did with the food his mother served for a family of five, he also used to fantasize about getting his entire head, up to the shoulders, inside a woman, and just sleeping there. Jsheez. But I tell you what, him and Joy, his girlfriend, are still together I hear. Anyway (and I usually tend to), I find it amazing what people come up with when they talk about sex, because its not what they say, but rather how they perform when they say it - there is a lot of telling in the body, y'know, 'cause this is essentially a show and tell thing. I always watch people's eyes when they talk, but when they talk coolstuff, like about first sex, worst sex, quick sex, then its all in the hands. The thing

is, your hands were probably the first to have sex.

When my brother was four I taught him the sign were you wedge your thumb between your index and forefinger. You see, when I was about four it had happened to me, only, some older no-life wanker kid at creche taught me that it meant "hello" to deaf people. So, before I tell you the fate of my brother and about 200 congregated members of the Old Apostolic Church of Africa, let me tell you a story about the hands currently punching the keyboard.

The creche I went to had a combi that took most the kids home at about five. It would stop outside our homes, hoot, and parents would usually come out and greet the driver and make some comment about how great the creche was.

Vicky was about three, very formative years for her, and her father would walk out to the combi proudly, and before going round to the swivel door, he would approach the window on the driver's side to say hello to the driver. I usually sat in the very back, with my feet squat against the emergency window, but on this particular day, no-life-wanker-kid had told me to sit behind the driver, against the window.

On the way to Vicky's home, he taught me the wedged thumb thing (James-Bond-in-action), and told me that it was a really nice way to say "hello, great to see you" to someone. I liked Vicky, probably had some crush on her, and figured that aside from my lovely blonde bob and blue eyes, I could win her over by impressing her dad.

As usual the hooter went, and he came strolling down the drive-way, smiling at the driver, not really seeing me right behind, trying to open the window. I only managed to get it open enough to fit my arm through,

so when Daddy was about a metre away, he was greeted by a four year-old fist with a thumb through it and a tiny voice from inside going "hello, hello!"

I remember seeing, in the space of a split second, his face suck into a sudden sharp breath. His mouth turned egg-shaped and his eyes popped; but that wasn't nearly as scary and surprising as the whack he almost broke my arm with. Stunned and shocked, I howled, and the driver, Sister Helga no less, who hadn't seen my fingers clenched in "fuck you", cursed the father. The whole thing was really messy and Vicky was taken out the creche.

But, back to my brother. We grew up under the roof of a Priest and that always made words like "shitface" really cool to say to each other when no-one was around. We often had brethren of the cloth come round though, so the thing to do was to say "shitface" without anybody hearing. The finger sign was perfect, and although he didn't really understand it, he understood that it was our secret little way of communicating during communion.

At the Old Apostolic Church of Africa on bright Sunday mornings, God and his followers were as stiff as steam-dried suits. The body of Christ (Ephesians 4, Chapter 4) was formally segregated according to bodily functions and order of ascendance. Choirs sat on the left and from under the nostrils of the Priests behind the pulpit, going from the innocent nose-pickers in the front to the old hands further back, sat my brother and I. He was about five rows in front of me, and behind me, about 30 more rows on either side of very full church. During a real boring part of the sermon, he stood up on the bench, turned to face me, and did the wedged finger number with his

thumb, all four years of him smiling brightly. The four year old in me just smiled right back. The fourteen year old afterwards howled when my mother whacked the hell out of me. With her hands. Hands come first and last in all sexual things - they make first contact, sent to the nether-nuptial regions like missionaries ...and if you didn't end with them, you'd look a fucking ape with your feet smacked against your face and a cigarette between your toes.

For guys, your poor hands have years of hard labour, monotonous jerking and what's worse, you don't even give them credit ...you imagine other hands, or for of those really talented, you don't even think of hands at all. Then you hit that open field of grope and feel-ups, and its at that stage when you're all hands and feet. Those gawky fumbings, untender and desperate advances ...its no wonder most guys aren't too good when it comes to pleasing a woman - those first sexual blueprints are like maps drawn with blunt coal, in dark caves.

You see, the thing is, a penis is not difficult to please. It hides little, its erect, and has a very basic pleasure curve. Nicholas Cage, was once asked in an interview what he would do first if he woke up and was a woman. In one word he answered - "Masturbate!" And I understand him. Learn where to put them.

I mean what do women do with their hands? At school they denied it, just like they never burp or fart, but surely?

Surely they do something?

Ah. This my second last StoolTalk column ever ...and Activate thought the last one was getting tame, and this one is tame. I think the last one will have to handle vagina's somehow.

Robin Kelly

RAW FUSION

grahamstown's new hip-hop groove

Maria McCloy

ASS-DRIPPING pants, back turned hats and the oversize clothing worn by rapping and rhyming fly girls and boys are not the usual Fireside Jam, well not till *Raw Fusion*, G-Town's rap, r 'n' b, ragga fusion of Rhodes students and township kids.

Imagine this scene: popular hip-hop DJ plays music over the air, people are calling in saying whether they give props to East coast or west coast rap or think this gangsta shit is just dumb, when a young caller phones in and says he's interested in rapping - "show me what you can do" says Mr DJ, and the boy rhymes over the air - the DJ is impressed.

It happened in our town; when Elvis Mali, a 19-year-old from Joza, phoned into ex-RMR DJ Du's show (Soul Kitchen). He told El to start flowing, "and the boy went off...I know something good when I hear it," exclaims Du.

Despite the laughs and chatter, and the excited, easy going vibe amongst everyone, the things these people bring up would blow a lot of peoples' minds - including yours if you think of G-town as some sleepy, pretty, pseudo-English hamlet. It is - but there is another side.

El (19), Lunatic (14), and MC Mac (18), started Black House Voices in 1994. The way El (who seems to be deputy Big Papa when Du ain't around) tells it, people got jealous of the five-boy rap crew who had performed at small concerts in their area, and it seems jealousy was a factor when two members were stabbed to death this year. Whatever happens, whether they blow up or not, El is clear on one thing "I will not perform in Joza".

Du heard the boys' tape, he figured they needed some direction and what with the resources and equipment Rhodes has.... Plan B was to get some sista-voices in the form of campus girls Black Silk (Martha Banda) and Black Sugar (Chioniso Mhishi) and Twice and Nice who go to Nolutando High.

El was mainly on a ragga trip like his favourite artist Shabba Ranks - he likes to "roar like a lion over the M. I. C". He used to act like a gangsta - "I was a hustler but I'm not now..." most of his lyrics are about love and good times.

Twice and Nice used to perform songs by their favourite rappers at school concerts, as they do now as part of *Raw Fusion*, BUT Noyise Madikwa (Nice), who's 19, says, she wants to rap about "men who fuck and go...who make babies and don't want to be responsible." Is this something her peers face? Yeah, it seems.

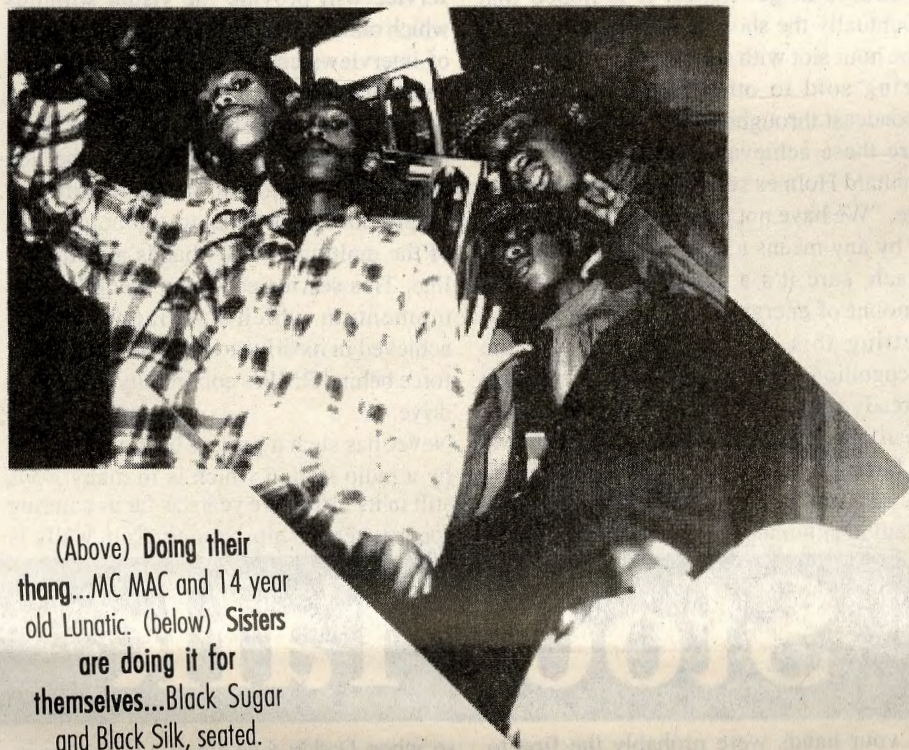
Twice (Zimbini), the quietest of the group says she likes American style, clothes and music. Lunatic tells her: "you must be proud to be South African."

"So why do you speak in an American accent Luni?" asks Nice, I ask for a rap in Xhosa. Mac and El become human beat boxes and Lunatic does his Xhosa rap - amazing; we all cheer.

Raw Fusion broke the stream of screaming boys with guitars. They sound way better on tape - sound at the union was bad, making the rhymes barely audible.

Some lyrics are original, the others are "copyrights" (someone else's). Instrumental versions of Chantay Savages "I will survive" and Biggie Smalls and Inie Kamoze are the back beats - Du believes there aren't the resources, money or time to make original beats.

Black Silk, better known for her basketball skills, and Black Sugar, two Zimbabwean second year students, had done their thing



(Above) Doing their thang...MC MAC and 14 year old Lunatic. (below) Sisters are doing it for themselves...Black Sugar and Black Silk, seated.

at the Union before.

Black Sugar also used to rap like her favourites, with their twang and their lyrics - and she sees that as part of learning and growing. But soon she wanted to do her own thing, laid back romantic-reminiscing type stuff:

With this many women in the group, the guys will never try any sexist shit in their lyrics. Black Sugar became part of a rap group in Zimbabwe called LPR - Love, Protect and Respect black woman. At Rhodes she did a jingle for Chaka D's radio show. The statuesque Black Silk is powerful on the basketball court, was into poetry and transferred this talent to rapping.

Black Silk believes women rappers in a sexist world must be promoted. Twice was part of the first girls at school to attempt rapping, which surprised everyone, but "people liked it." The sense of U.N.I.T.Y a la Queen Latifah and MC Lyte, gets a battering when I'm told of girls getting raped at school concerts.

It saddens Black Silk that music is seen as either "black and white music." Du thinks Fireside Jams have been seen as "A white thing." Raw Fusion are bringing in a new flavour - for everyone from B-Boys to Long haired hippie types, to enjoy themselves.

MC Mac (aka Moosa) is a 18-year-old Mary Waters student. Mac used to live the life of a "g" say - him, LV and Lunatic, all into gangsta rap, formed *The Ghetto Boys*, and they wrote about drug-

dealing hustling, pimping and "calling girls bitches."

"A gun in my mouth" is what caused Mac to change his ways and attitude. It turns out gangstas caught him alone in an alley after a disco, but the gun wasn't loaded. His hood is corrupt (the coloured area) because of "illegal smuggling of things."

The change in Mac brought about changes in the messages in his raps :

ryday type of operation

I thought about my destination my life is way out

I know I needed education

you better believe when I say there's no time to waste

and no time to play...

Gangsta rap has taken Luni, we ask whether he is living or just singing the style. Mac and El warn Luni about the dangers of such a life.

So are they just wannabe Americans? - *Raw Fusion* are illustrating their lives and feelings in their rhymes; they don't need America for inspiration.

Black Sugar says hanging out with, practising and performing with children from such different backgrounds and life experiences to hers is teaching her a lot, and she sees it as important that they get the spotlight to express these experiences.

Some people I spoke to at the Fireside Jam thought it was about bloody time there was something of this kind at the Jam, others felt Raw Fusion had potential. They want to perform round G-Town.

Du thinks *Raw Fusion* is a small part of the hot talent in this town. They imagine a situation where at the end of or during parties and braais, people would drop the Kwaito and hi-hop CD's and instead have free styling, singing and musical jam sessions - and create their own groove.

On a campus suddenly racked by what seems to be SA/Zimbabwean fights every weekend, in a town where the divisions of rich and poor are so stark, and a university that hardly any local township children attend - Raw Fusion are providing an example and lesson in how all of that can be overcome, this young group deserve props not only because of their talent, but because they represent so much, and are much more than just wannabees.

pics: Dror Eyal

"Know one Knowz"

Know one knows when he's going Corruption and too much blood is flowing

That's why the numbers of the murders is still growing

Life is one big road with lots of signs

You gotta get yours before I get mine

Everything is fine when I see the light shine

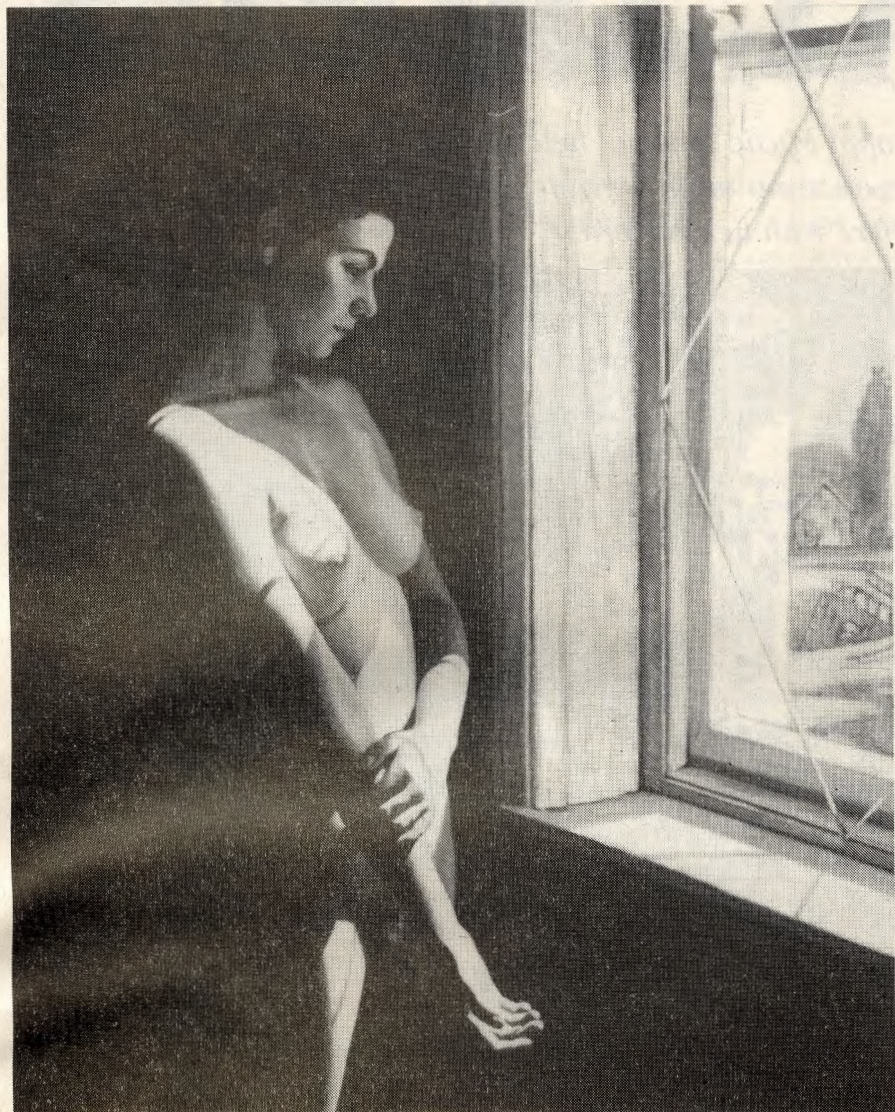
Ghetto Struggle yeah! I know that line...

I lived the same way but I'm still glad to be alive

I don't deny that corruption was my eve-



Chinese Impressions

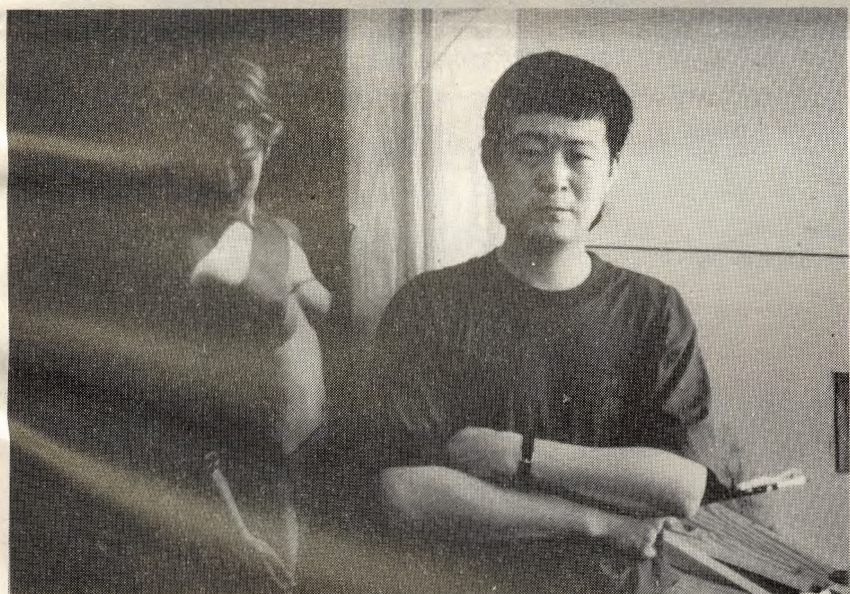


Nude girl at the window

ACTIVATE readers will remember the wonderful sketch of Nelson Mandela by Chinese artist and Rhodes student Cui Ning that we featured on our cover a while back. Cui Ning, who is a Masters student in the Fine Art Department, is presenting an exhibition of his work in October, and agreed to let *ACTIVATE* have a preview.

Cui Ning, winner of the 1995 Rowney Prize for painting, also exhibited during the National Arts Festival this year, where one of his paintings, "Nude Girl at the Window", sold for the highest price at the festival.

"In this exhibition there are three categories. The first category is Portrait and Nude Painting. The second category is Grahamstown Landscapes and the third, some small paintings from China. My style of painting is different. Some are neo-classicism, some are impressionism. It's very difficult for people to see that the paintings are from one artist's work."



Artist Cui Ning with one of his paintings

"I'm the first young Chinese artist to come to South Africa. I came here with my childhood memories, leaving behind my country and flying over the vast Indian Ocean to this beautiful country, and to the old and cultured Grahamstown."

"Art is my life. I depend on it to live. Art always gives me fresh blood and vitality. If one day I don't paint it will mean I'm dead. I think if even when I am dead my works give other people vitality and hope, then this is great art."

"Many years after, when I remember my studies at Rhodes I will cherish the memories. Campus is like a flute, the music surrounds me. I alone enjoy this wonderful music. It entrusts my emotion. It's sweet, it's caressing, it's beautiful, harmonious. It nurtures my art, lets my art's idea distill."

"I want more Chinese to understand South Africa and South African art. To promote both country's culture and art to exchange and friendship."



This painting is on permanent exhibition at the Rhodes Library.



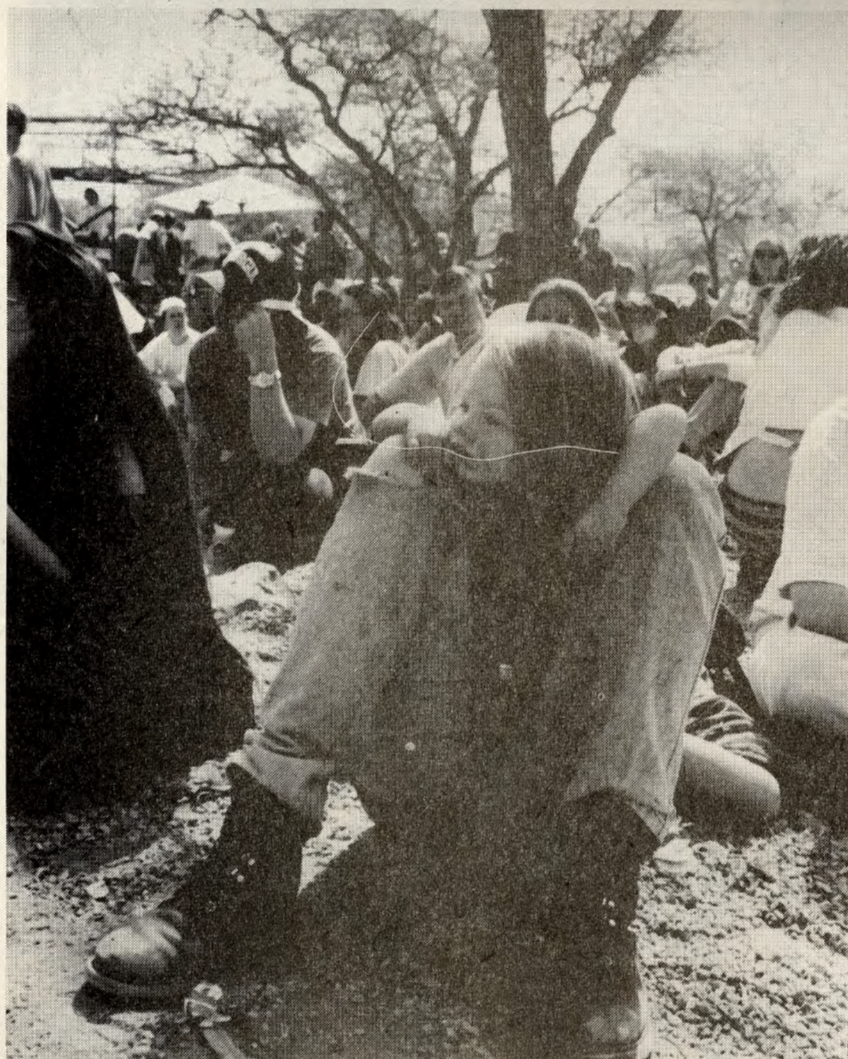
View of a Grahamstown street

Blues and Beers

Dust, heat, thorn trees, rock, blues and beer. The Oppikoppi Music Festival held during August with a record 6000+ partying attendants and forty bands, was an event to go down in South African music history. **Ronita Wilbert** was there with her camera.



Never a dull moment... "Five Ball" Mark and his trusty juggling sidekick ensure that the entertainment continues while the bands set up; in this case *Bright Blue* are waiting to play in the background. Over forty local bands performed at the festival, including *Squeal*, *Springbok Nude Girls*, *The Blues Broers* and *The Famous Roaches*.



Music for all ages... even the very young were intrigued by live South African music. By day the intense heat drives the crowds under spindly thorn trees in an attempt to find relief - and a good spot to see the bands perform.



Oppikoppi sunblock... Monique of *Back Door Initiative* paints the faces of adults and children alike to keep them in the festival mood.

The Final Whistle

THE Premier League, money, marketing, professionalism, improved standards, larger crowds, more money, improved standards, larger crowds, more money... this is the goal which the creators of South Africa's new Premier League are aiming for.

It started after South Africa's triumph in the African Cup of Nations. Influential club owners, in particular Kaizer Motaung of Kaizer Chiefs and Irvin Khoza of Orlando Pirates, came together to capitalise on the high level of interest generated by the victory and set in motion a drive to form a well funded, professional soccer league in South Africa.

After months of hectic preparation the Premier League kicked off on August 9. Its formation does certainly seem to have set off a snowball effect of money into the game. The SABC having paid R25 million for the television rights. Corporations, previously wary of financial involvement in the corrupt world of South African soccer have also been impressed by the appointment of Trevor Phillips as CEO of the new league. Phillips has the credentials of having been an instrumental driving force behind the huge success of the English Premiership.

Thus the major sponsorship deals for local clubs such as Reebok for Kaizer Chiefs. Even more encouraging have been sponsorships for smaller clubs. Jomo Cosmos is now sponsored by Sansui, Spar have put great financial backing behind Amazulu and Umtata Bush Bucks have signed a four year deal with Mizuno guaranteeing them R400 000 a year, as well as the six million rands set aside for them by the Eastern Cape government.

Wealthy business people have also gotten into the act, realising that now is the best time to invest in clubs whose value should rocket over the next few years. A consortium of business people have bought Bloemfontein Celtic and Port Elizabeth businessman, Michau Huiseman, bought the franchise of Durban team Crystal Brains, moving the side to PE and re-naming them Michau Warriors. Rap singer Sello 'Chicco' Twala and former player Mike Mangena have joined resources to try and revive sleeping giants Moroka Swallows, who also recently signed a sponsorship deal with Elephant Beer.

These 'Spaza shops' no longer have to survive by selling off their home-grown stars to the bigger clubs. More money for the clubs also means that players can be full time professionals.

The long term dream is for a rich league, packed stadiums owned by the clubs, watching well paid South African and foreign stars playing African football to it's full potential. For now, it remains just a dream.

Marc Strydom

Inter-res Sport

Lineke Moen

THIS term has once again seen the flurry of activity that accompanies annual inter-res sport. But this flurry seems more like a chaotic scramble to see who can do as much in as little time as possible. Inter-res has deteriorated into a hastily scraped-together event.

Inter-res has a lot of potential. People who do not usually get the chance to participate in sport can do so now and everyone can try out all those sports they have only ever heard about. Rhodes is unique in a way that it has such a variety of sport. A total of 19 sports are listed on the Inter-res programme.

In the beginning of the year all the sport-reps were called together to discuss inter-res. A list of all the sports and dates would be sent to the sport-reps. This list arrived late in the second term - with half of the sports followed by "date and venue to be confirmed". This is frustrating.

Sports clubs should not be expected to be able to perform administrative duties. The clubs comprise of people who are interested in sport - not communication. More than once it happened that something would arrive (by Rhodes' highly efficient internal mail system) on a Friday and cheerfully inform the sports rep that there is a match on the

Saturday or Sunday. Or better - a letter arrives on Monday informing you that entries have closed on the previous Thursday.

Why stress about it? Because a few sports reps are still trying to conjure up some spark of activity in their reses (which is probably a futile exercise in Rhodes' apathetic culture, but we might as well try). It also does not help if all the sports are suddenly scheduled for the same day at the same time.

The solution is really not that complicated at all. Inter-res could be run throughout the year, which would ensure that people could take part in the maximum number of sports. Different clubs could be assigned with a certain period during the year in which they must hold their inter-res. If they do not hold it in that time they forfeit their chance to hold it at all. If there is a problem with their dates they can change it as soon as possible. Communication must also not be left to the club secretaries - it just does not work. Dates and fixtures have to be determined in the beginning of the year to avoid the end-of-the-year rush we have experienced this year.

Inter-res could be such a great event, throughout the year, but people don't feel like taking part if everything is done at the last minute. Surely it is not such a hassle to organise something properly?

Sports Awards Dinner

Brigid Martin

Rhodes University's Sports Awards ceremony is due to take place on 4 October 1996 - "Oscar style", complete with the opening of a white envelope to the rolling of the drums.

To be held at the Monument, they are to be awards with a difference. For the first time, video footage of the clubs nominated for Club of the Year, will be shown on the night. In recent years, the winner was simply announced, with no explanation of what they had accomplished during the year. This year, a silent video will be shown, while the club's achievements are read out to the audience. The visual effect is purely for the audience's entertainment, and the judges will not use the videos when deciding on the three club finalists.

Clubs nominate themselves for the award, and are required to submit a list of their achievements ranging from team and individual events to development and administration initiatives.

The nominees for Sportsman and Sportswoman of the Year will not have a video shown of them, but a photograph will be projected up onto a screen to show the audience what they look like. Formerly, the nominee had to stand up and face the audience while their achievements were read out. This caused much embarrassment, and meant that the audience often couldn't see who had been nominated.

These changes will hopefully make the whole ceremony more enjoyable and informative for the audience. The guest speaker at this years award dinner is Kathy O'Dowd, who made history earlier this year, when she became the first woman from Africa to climb Mt Everest.

The Awards are an annual event and former guest speakers include the likes of Graeme Joffe and Mluki George.

The deadline for club nominations is 23 September, while the deadline for Sportsman and Sportswoman of the year is still open at this stage.

Sports Editorial

EXCUSE me while I shlurr these words across the page, I am not feeling too strong after the party last night. The reason? We avoided the white wash and we did it in fine style, I might add. But, I for one, will not be one of the journalists who will simply forget about the test series loss, simply because we won the last test. Neither am I going to analyse the game, I think that has been done ad infinitum in all the pubs around the country last night. One thing I do hope though, is that our esteemed Finance Minister is reading this paper - maybe we should send him a copy. He should concern himself with sorting out our economic problems, rather than shouting out that he is an All Black supporter. Hello, aren't we supposed to be talking about unity in this country and along comes Trevor!

A great round of applause must also go out to the Para-Olympic team, that returns from Atlanta as I write this. Twenty eight medals is simply astonishing and I hope that the sports mad South African public embodies this triumph as much as they would with any other victory we achieved. On the other hand, there are more pressing problems on the home front. This weekend is supposed to be inter-res sports. I for one, did not even know there was inter-res sport until I took over this editorial. I cannot remember one event where our sports rep came up to us in res last year and asked us to compete in the numerous sports on offer. It might partly be his fault but in general there still exists that famous bit of student apathy that is responsible for non-participation.

It is always the same people that sit on the sideline of the hockey, rugby or soccer matches. The five reserves and the girlfriends or boyfriends of the more popular players. Adverts for sporting events are either ridiculously small, non-existent or simply overlooked.

But there is hope for the future. Sports admin, in co-operation with the sports clubs and the sports reps of the residences and oppies has made a concerted effort to change this around. Okay, so participation is still not at the level it should be but at least there is the general knowledge amongst students that there is sport where all of them can participate. There is a whole new setup, moulded on intervarsity, where all the major sports, if I can put it that way, or rather let's call them traditional sports, are being played on a central venue, easily accessible for everybody, with no moving around. Soccer and rugby are played on the same field, a novel idea, surely to have the desired effect.

More positive news this year is that 44 sports people have achieved provincial colours or higher in their respective fields. That is one percent of the university and I think that such an achievement should be regarded with the highest respect.

And finally, it is good bye from me. I don't know if that is a good thing or a bad thing, I suppose it depends on who you are. I have had a wonderful 12 months working as sport editor of *Activate*, getting to know everybody involved in the sport. A great thank you from my side to all the clubs that I visited and the one's I neglected. Thank you also to Sports admin, for giving me the necessary support when I needed it. I hope that the new allegiance that I have formed with them will lead me further in my career as a journalist. Lastly, to the new guy or girl, enjoy and GOOD LUCK.

SPORT...

Activate supports Rhodes sport

Submitted details of all match fixtures and resulting scores will be appreciated.



Jan Smuts and Goldfields fight it out in the Inter Res soccer finals. They drew one all in a well matched game.

pic: Taryn Cass

Inter Res sporting weekend

Ilja Graulich

ATHERSTONE and Goldfields were the overall winners of an inter-res competition that provided hope for the future of this annual sporting event.

The highlight of this plus minus 4 week long competition was finals weekend, two days of sporting excellence, culminating in the rugby and soccer finals as well as the prize giving on Sunday afternoon. Adopted from intervarsity, the successful shift of the soccer from the sideline to the main curtain raiser was again welcomed. Although the can throwing events were non-existent this time, the knowledgeable crowd appreciated a game of high standards. The only flaw in the operation was the miscalculation of the outcome, and Goldfields and Jan Smuts had to share the trophy as extra time was not playable. The result of 1-1 was still a fair reflection on the game.

Goldfields and Jan Smuts met again 10 minutes later, this time with 15 men on each side and a slightly more odd shaped ball.

What was again a match of high standards and a never say die atti-

tude, Goldfields ran out winners 11-5 over the counterparts from further down the hill.

Although Athies were the winners in the overall competition, it was the oppie team on the ladies side that provided today's entertainment. They won both the hockey and the touch rugby events and were first to cross the line into the sports bar.

All in all 16 sports were competed in during the duration of the competitions, with all 32 reses competing in at least one sport.

Having a finals weekend like this one not only brought out the best in the sportsmen and women but also attracted a large crowd of spectators. Most sports were centrally located and no great trek was needed to and from the different venues. The crowd also provided the sports people with much needed encouragement and a sense of pride that they are giving it all for the respective residences.

A large number of these spectators then made their way into the sports bar, where the official prize giving took place.

One correction is still due though. Botha did not win the netball competition, they were uncontested.

Rhodes wins Intervarsity

Ilja Graulich

RHODES University Wine Cultural Society claimed back what rightly belongs to them, when they won the annual wine tasting intervarsity competition against UPE.

Having won the trophy on 7 consecutive occasions before losing to UPE by one point in a somewhat controversial competition last year, Rhodes thrashed their opponents at this years competition held in Grahamstown.

The only blemish on an otherwise perfect evening was the loss of the Best Overall Taster trophy. Bernd Sonnenberg, Rhodes top taster, dramatically lost the title in a double showdown or taste off to UPE's JC Smit.

The competition is an annual event sponsored by SFW and Nederburg. Nine universities compete all around the country, with the top

taster of each university being invited to the grand final at Stellenbosch, the home of SFW.

The reason SFW and Nederburg have gotten involved in the competition is to promote wine amongst all walks of life, including students, who, according to them are the new generation that will continue supporting the industry.

Furthermore, SFW is also very much involved in the education of people on wine. The competition is not about who can drink the most wine or can down a glass the fastest, that is left for the afterparty, but wine identification is the core of it all. Participants have to identify a total of 10 different wines, giving the cultivar as well as the vintage.

For Rhodes this year, all the preparation payed off and it is hoped that it will be another 7 years before UPE can come close to getting the trophy back.

Bouncing Rob

Lineke Moen

RHODES University has a brand new Sports Officer who seems poised to blow new life into some of the sports. Rob Benyon was born and bred in Grahamstown and majored in Human Movement Studies in 1991. After completing his degree he taught and worked in Botswana and England, before accepting the position of Sports Officer at Rhodes this year.

Benyon has been involved in sport since his school days. He dabbled in almost all the sports offered at school and ended up getting provincial colours for springboard diving and for trampolining. He then went on to receive Springbok colours for trampolining and went to the World Games in Germany in 1991. During that year he toured Germany, England, Russia and Switzerland.

Benyon will deal with the athletics, aquatics, aikido, kung fu, karate, surfing, rifle, rugby and soccer clubs.

