

Rhodes' most studied student newspaper

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# activate

Independent Student Newspaper

THIRD  
Edition



illustration: Olivia Johnson

# GOOD LUCK FOR EXAMS



# RMR Temporary Licence Extended

## Activate Reporter

**RHODES** Music Radio (RMR) had its temporary broadcasting licence extended on May 14, after a tense meeting with the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) in April. RMR was represented by the Station Manager, Celeste Dickinson, the RMR Editor-in-Chief, Jeanne du Toit and the station's executive committee. The hearing was conducted by national IBA councillors Luthando Mkumatela, Nikiwe Mphomela, Qetello Zeka and the IBA regional councillor Ndzuta Sabelo. Du Toit said in her presentation that RMR has the responsibility to serve the Grahamstown community as well as its internal community, Rhodes University. "We are not a student society anymore, we can't see ourselves in isolation from Grahamstown," Du Toit said. However, the IBA councillors

criticised the demographic representation of the station. RMR acknowledged in their presentation that 20 percent of their membership is non-white and that this is a problem. The IBA also said that RMR's music should be "reflective of the colour of RMR's community." Sabelo said the station must attend to the needs of the community and questioned RMR on how they plan to rectify the racial imbalance. Dickinson referred them to the RMR Rules (4.1.c.5) which states that special auditions will be held in the event of vacancies. Sectors of the community least represented at the time, whether it be racial, linguistic or gender-related, will be targeted for those auditions. Such auditions were held during May 12-16. In order to obtain a community broadcasting licence, the radio station must not make a profit. The IBA questioned RMR's funding. The executive said the station was striving for financial independence.

In the past, RMR's main sponsor had been Rhodes University. The University stopped subsidising RMR this year and, instead, had given them a loan. Dickinson said the station generated income from advertisements to cover their costs and remains a non-profit organisation. The hearing was also attended by Radio Grahamstown, who have not been allowed to apply for a licence. They complained that their application had largely been ignored for the past 14 months and demanded to be heard. The IBA complained about time constraints and abruptly closed the meeting. Mkumatela, the chairperson of the hearing, said that the IBA is currently researching the possibility of increasing the number of available frequencies in the Grahamstown area. It is possible that more than one frequency may be available in the future.

# Campus Rape Rumours

## Sikelelwa Mgabadeli

**IN THE PAST** two months, Rhodes University has been overwhelmed with rumours of rapes on campus. This reached a climax when the Vice Chancellor, Dr David Woods, wrote an open letter to the students reassuring them that there had been no reported rape cases on campus. Head of Campus Protection Unit (CPU), Dave Charteris, said the CPU acknowledged that many rape victims do not report the crime. Charteris urged rape victims to come forward and report the crime even if all they require is physical, medical or emotional assistance. In the event of a rape, the CPU organises medical attention for the victim at the Sanatorium. He said if victims wanted to press charges, the CPU would assist by calling the police who would pursue the matter. "In the 11 years that I have been here I have heard of only one reported rape case," said Charteris.

A few students, who did not want to be named, expressed their views on rape. "Rape happens and a person is very lucky if they don't get raped - especially in this country," said two first year women. They felt that men understood "no" as a "maybe". A second year law student said "most middle class males perceive rape as a 'push and shove in a dark alley' and if there is no physical harm, then it is not rape. The sad thing is, they manage to convince their victims of the same thing." A first year male student felt that rape was for "niggers who can't get none." A third year male student said, people needed to realise that rape is about harming another person, which also makes it a moral issue. University offers many services which are designed to assist, not only rape victims, but also students with general problems. One form of assistance is the SRC counselling service, which is found upstairs in the Students Union. The Student Advisor is also available, offering confidential counselling 24 hours a day.

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The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs and local MP, Mrs Lindiwe Sisulu, was in Grahamstown last week for the annual AGM of the town and campus branch of the ANC. She was asked to give a speech on "Is government delivering?" before the commencement of the AGM. Sisulu, wife of politics lecturer Dr Rok Ajulu, pointed out that the ANC had inherited a very debauched system but that they had managed to rectify a lot of the problems. She highlighted the fact that more people had water and electricity than ever before. She admitted that housing was still one of the main concerns and that the government could not keep up their expected pace in this initiative. Sisulu also pointed out that the government never made any outrageous promises before the elections as mentioned by opposition parties.

Pic: Ilja Groulich

# Street kids in Kaif

## Teresa Alho

**THERE** has been an increasing amount of street-children coming to Kaif, not begging for food, but for money to play video games. "Street-children aren't hungry, they're just bored," says Peter Boshoff, owner of Kaif. He says that adequate food and clothing from shelters in town and near the location are available. "What they want is entertainment, it all comes down to boredom," he says. By regulation, street-children are not allowed on campus. However, this is not why Boshoff has asked Campus Security to tell them to leave. "Customers don't like to have begging eyes stare at them while they eat, they'd rather go to the Spur to get away from that," he said. Many customers feel irritated when they are pestered for money. There is a degree of sympathy, but mostly annoyance, especially when they find out that many of these children do have homes. "I get very pissed off. When I sit down to eat I don't want to be bothered," said fourth year student, Mary Lou Minnaar. Journalism student, Ian Rowett added "it is private property which is there for the students. It should

be kept that way." Campus security said that the street-children do not pose a serious problem. When they are asked to leave, they do. However, there is a serious problem with children loitering around town getting up to mischief. "Don't give them money, give them food," urged Erica McNulty, manager of the Grahamstown Area Distress Relief Association (GADRA) feeding division. Most of the children spend the money they are given on petrol and glue, not food. GADRA feeding division runs a soup kitchen on Cobden Street which is open six days a week providing sufficient food to all hungry street-children. Unfortunately, GADRA does not have programmes designed to occupy the children, although they do recognise the need for them. Some attempts have been made by the Round Table, who provide games and bicycles, and occasionally students volunteer their time by playing soccer with them. Some children have also been employed to wash cars. But McNulty said that it was difficult to organise these children who have become accustomed to roaming the streets and committing petty crimes.



# Valli Moosa comes to Grahamstown

*ACTIVATE* reporter **Celine Cloete** caught up with Minister Valli Moosa to ask him a few questions about his involvement in the SRC's new Fund.



HONOURED... Minister Valli Moosa

pic: Ian Rowett

**Q:** What made you get involved in the Fund?

**A:** What impressed me was that students took the initiative to raise funds. It is important that people realise that they cannot just rely on other people to provide for them.

**Q:** In your speech you said that students should give something back to society seeing that it is society which keeps tertiary institution alive. Is supporting the Fund your way of giving something back to society?

**A:** I was also lucky enough to get a bursary when I was a student, so yes, I do think we should contribute what we can.

**Q:** How do you feel about the trust fund being named after you?

**A:** I am extremely honoured to be associated with the Fund. Government plays a role in financial assistance but students must also play a role. The fact that the SRC is launching this Fund shows that students are involved in building our nation.

**Q:** Are you contributing any money toward the Fund?

**A:** This is a difficult question. I had discussions with the SRC and I have promised to use my influence to get donations for the Fund.

**Q:** Only R200 million has been allocated to universities for financial aid. Do you think the timing of these cuts was appropriate?

**A:** All departments of government have experienced subsidy cuts. Tertiary education is important, but basic education is even more important. The constitution provides for the right of basic education.

**Q:** Will there be more cuts in the future?

**A:** I can't look into a crystal ball but all I can say is that we do need skilled labour - that is why tertiary education is important for the growth of the economy.

## Youth and the Constitution

**Celine Cloete**

**THE YOUTH** have a responsibility to make the Constitution work, said Valli Moosa, Minister of Provincial Affairs and Constitutional Development, in his public address to Rhodes University on May 17.

The Minister gave a lecture on "The New Constitution and The Role of The Youth In Entrenching the Constitutional Principles" as part of the launch of the Valli Moosa Bursary Fund.

The Constitution grants rights, but at the same time it imposes duties and obligations. Moosa said that students are a privileged section of society and they must remember that it is the massive resources of society that keep tertiary institutions alive.

"An average student should ask... what contribution can I make towards the Constitution in order to give something back to the community?" said Moosa. Students have an obligation to educate the nation in terms of the Constitution and constitutional awareness, because the ordinary men and women of this country are the ones who can really safeguard constitutional values. In answering a question about transformation at universities, the Minister said that many universities were still very far from

being transformed. He stressed that transformation must be pursued in a democratic manner. Non-democratic actions could not be justified. "It is counter-productive and against the revolution," said Moosa. "The revolution is about contributing to democracy."

Moosa said that the struggle for democracy is far from over. There will only be true democracy "when the poorest of the poor have houses and jobs." He said that our new found democracy is the vehicle to do this.

Since the New Constitution came into being, it has established the Gender Commission, the Human Rights Commission and the Constitutional Court. Moosa said that provisions for gender equality in the Constitution is one of the few of its kind in the world. "The South African Constitution is home-brewed and therefore unique."

South Africans must learn to love and pay their loyalties to the Constitution, he said. "The Constitution is not only the law of the land but it should be seen as a legal instrument which embodies the hopes, the dreams and the aspiration of our society." In the past, the Government made it impossible for people to be equal. "Never again can the state dehumanize people as in the past," said Moosa. "That is why we have the Constitution."

## Bursary Fund Launched

**Celine Cloete**

**THE VALLI MOOSA** Bursary Fund was launched by the Minister of Provincial Affairs and Constitutional Development, Valli Moosa at a fund-raising cocktail party on May 17.

The Fund was established by the Rhodes Students Representative Council (SRC) in an attempt to raise money to assist students in financial need.

According to SRC Educational Councillor, Wamkele Mene, the bursary was named after Minister Moosa in recognition of the role which he played in the constitution-making process.

The SRC said they acknowledged that the University's lack of funds was not the sole responsibility and burden of the Government. It was also a concern of the student leadership. In his speech at the cocktail party, SRC President, Chicco Khoza said that through this project the SRC have proved to students that they are willing to lend a helping hand.

The highlight of the event was when the Vice Principal, Dr Michael Smout, donated a cheque of R5 000 to the Fund on behalf of Rhodes Administration. In his speech, Dr Smout praised the SRC for the initiative they took in establishing the Fund.

He also said that the administration completely supports the SRC in their attempt to raise funds to assist fellow students.

Khoza said they aim to raise at least R10 000 to start off the Fund.

They had raised R3 000 before the cocktail party and guests were urged to pledge money to the Fund.

"We hope that the Minister and his buddies in Parliament will contribute to the Fund," said Mene.

Although the qualifications for the bursary have not yet been specified, Mene said that the bursary will definitely be awarded to financially disadvantaged, academically sound students.

"The money will be awarded to a number of students so we don't disadvantage other students by limiting the Bursary Fund."

He said that at the end of the year, there are usually students who need to pay their fees in order to write exams, but cannot afford to. The SRC intends to help the students in this position.

The Fund account will be managed by the Financial Aid Office and the SRC will not have access to the account.

The SRC has been working on this project since October last year.

"When we started with this project I don't think we realized how much work it would actually be. Chicco and I were just speaking one day about inviting a speaker to come and talk on the role the youth should play in the constitutional development. The idea of the Fund developed from that," said Mene. The Premier of the Eastern Cape, Rev. Makhenkes Stofile and the MEC for Education, Nosimo Balindela, were also invited to the cocktail party but could not attend the event due to a meeting with Deputy President, Thabo Mbeki.



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# Rhodes on Zaire

**Sivuyile Mangxamba**

**ZAIRE**, one of the biggest countries on the African continent, is on the brink of collapse. Ever since the outbreak of civil war last November, the rebels under Laurent Kabila have captured all the major cities: Goma, Kisangani, Mbuji-Mayi, Lubumbashi, except for Kinshasa.

According to The Economist, as far back as last November "on Kabila's mind was the prospect of sweeping across Zaire and overthrowing a government in Kinshasa."

A Newsweek journalist quoted Kabila as saying "we are still advancing...we must liberate the whole country. That is our aim."

Four Rhodes University analysts from the Law Department, Politics Department and International Study Unit, examined the political developments in Zaire, analysing the significance and the impact of the Zairean crisis for the Southern African region and the whole of Sub-Saharan Africa.

According to political analyst Mr Ivor Sarakinsky, what we see in Zaire is the decay of a dictatorship. "The people of Zaire are tired of Mobutu's misrule and the victories of Kabila do not necessarily reflect his popularity but rather the rejection of Mobutuism."

"The prospects for democratic rule in Zaire are bleak," said Sarakinsky.

"What you have in Zaire is the hard political reality of having a

clear loser (Mobutu) and a clear winner (Kabila) and according to the theories of democratic transition, if democracy is to emerge, there must be power stand-offs between the competing forces." Only when a political stalemate is reached, is there an incentive to negotiate.

For the past 30 years Zaire's democratic political culture has not been tested. Professor Rob

"If Zaire breaks-up, that will have a lot of implications, not only for the Great Lakes Region, but also for Southern Africa and more particularly South Africa, the dominant power in the region.

"The break-up of Zaire could create unprecedented human misery in sub-Saharan Africa, adding to the refugee crisis."

Dr Ajulu adds that stability in Zaire is crucial for to the future of Sub-Saharan Africa.

Dr Paul Bischoff, an international relations analyst, looked at the crisis from another angle. He said the involvement of South Africa in the Zairean talks enhances South Africa's international status.

"Even if these peace talks appear to have failed, they have shown that South Africa is capable of appearing as a major peacemaker in the region." The impli-

cation of this, according to Dr Bischoff, is that the United Nations and the Organisation of African Unity, from now on may approach South Africa to give a similar response to future crises on the continent. Commenting on the prospects of a post-Mobutu period, Dr Bischoff said a unified and eventually democratically elected government will spell peace for the area as a whole. "Disunity and instability at the centre of Zairean politics may encourage secessionist tendencies in the area of Shaba," but in the region as a whole "the Hutu-Tutsi issue remains unresolved, and in the present political context it does not appear that it will be resolved."



Midgeley, an international law analyst, said that even though the rebels seem to be winning the civil war "a political solution as opposed to the military solution is necessary."

"The last thing Zaire wants is a situation where one dictator replaces another," he added. Political-economist, Dr Rok Ajulu, said that whatever happens in Zaire will have major socio-economic implications on the rest of sub-Saharan Africa.

Given the huge economic potential of Zaire, Dr Ajulu said that if Zaire is left to disintegrate, economic revitalisation of Sub-Saharan Africa cannot occur as it should.

## Tukkies BTF Trouble

**Die Perdeby Reporter**

**THE UNIVERSITY** of Pretoria's Broad Transformation Forum (BTF) is experiencing problems with the South African Students' Congress (Sasco) and the National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union (Nehawu).

The problem started when Sasco lost their position in the BTF due to their withdrawal from the Central Student Council (CSC).

Associate chairperson of the BTF, Professor Uys said that Sasco's involvement in the BTF was important for its legitimacy.

She said the BTF had delegated a task group to meet with Sasco but they did not turn up for the meeting.

According to Jacob Mamabolo, chairperson of Sasco Gauteng, Sasco believed that management was manipulating the BTF and other stakeholders to pursue their own agenda. He said that Sasco would only participate in the BTF once the issue of power relations had been properly addressed.

Graeme Tosen, the Freedom Front's BTF representative, said that Sasco surrendered their position on the CSC in order to bypass the BTF and pressure the Council personally. Both him and Bennie Waldeck, Hart's (House Alliance Round Tuks) BTF representative, felt that Sasco should not be allowed back into the BTF.

Abrie Botma, Associate Chairperson of the BTF, said if Sasco was truly committed to transformation, they should be more readily involved in transformation processes and structures, such as the BTF.

## Inter-Campus Briefs

**University of Pretoria**

Dr Chris Stals, Governor of the South African Bank, has been appointed to succeed Dr Anton Rupert as the new Chancellor of the University of Pretoria.

Stals holds a BComm, MComm and DComm from the University of Pretoria. Apart from being the Governor of the Reserve Bank, Stals is also a Governor of the International Monetary Fund, a member of the Economic Society of South Africa and Fellow of the Institute of Bankers. He has received many awards including Honorary Professor in Economics from the University of Pretoria.

**Madiba's son gets law degree**

President Mandela's son, Makgatho Mandela, graduated recently with a law degree from the University of Natal. Nelson Mandela also read law and obtained his degree in 1943 at the age of 25. Makgatho, 46, was the second oldest student in the class of 1996.

**Wits Paid SRC members**

Students at Wits University were up in arms over the University's continued payment of salaries to members of the SRC. The SRC receives incentives in the form of bursaries. One student noted that these "salary packages" give an impression that the SRC was a charity organisation.

Wits Sasco chairperson, Mike Fatuli, believed SRC members should not be thanked by Admin in salary form as this could lead to them endorsing ready made Admin decisions. He was concerned that controversial agreements may be signed, between Admin and the SRC without the SRC having consulted its constituency.

Salsa also felt that although SRC activities make it impossible for members of the SRC to get part-time jobs, there was no reason for them to be paid.

SRC President Hennie Van Vuuren said he was more concerned with serving the students than getting paid. He would rather have SRC incentives in the form of essay extensions, deferred exams, taking into account that SRC members are involved in many student activities.

**UCT's Varsity shares media skills**

University of Cape Town's Student newspaper, Varsity, has undertaken to assist community members who need media skills. Varsity will assist a secondary school, Uxolo, in Khayelitsha to start up its first publication, Uxolo News. They have held workshops with about 20 pupils teaching them skills in news gathering and writing, design and layout, and basic computer literacy.

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# A New Youth Day

Jak Koseff

**IF THIS MESSY** miracle that is the new South Africa pans out, history may one day mark us as the "generation of reconciliation." As the first lot to see the walls laid by three centuries of racial oppression brought down, we may be regarded as the leaders of the first real charge towards something akin to normality. In less than a month, we will encounter a testing ground. It is a date that will provoke, at the very least, an interesting response - June 16.

Before we began lauding such things, it was dubbed "Soweto Riots Day" - a day for unofficial and often violent protest. As we moved beyond the confused politics of the early '90s to the reconciliation-focussed new South Africa, the government put June 16 down on the calendar as "Youth Day". How does our generation react to this day? If the day's spirit is to extend beyond mere commemoration, it must have some relevance to our generation. I asked Thembiso Lehloesa of Sasco what the relevance of youth day *should* be.

"The relevance of [June 16] 1976 is that it highlights the role the youth, and students in particular, played as far as bringing about democracy, and in raising issues around education and repression. But, although the day was mobilised around issues of education, the focus was not only on this but on society as a whole. Another achievement of that struggle was the realisation that the thoughts and opinions of youth should be taken into account.

Should June 16 still have a place on the calendar if all social issues and conflicts seem to be resolved?

"It is difficult to say whether June 16 will ever be forgotten," Thembiso responded. "As long as there are inequalities in society, that day will serve to signify that the youth organised against them. The youth of today does not link up with issues that were raised in 1976, with the problems of society as whole. After the '94 election people felt things are okay, we don't need

to struggle further. We must still involve the youth in such things as aids-awareness campaigns and anti-crime campaigns. Youth should have the awareness to take on issues coming up in society."

This is the challenge the day presents: the youth of the past were a more fired-up entity than we seem to be. June 16 reminds us that the youth are society's ethical guardians, at least in fields such as social attitudes - a pretty rough job description for a bunch of unashamed party animals.

But what about everyone else? I took to the street to get some other opinions on the whole thing, and met with some interesting reactions from the above-mentioned "reconciliation generation".

***"It's the first time in the struggle they really stood up and said 'fuck you'"***

"It's part of our past and we should remember it as such, but I don't like it used to lay blame on 19- or 20-year-olds who weren't even old enough to cross the road at the time. Every time you walk into a lecture these days it's like all the problems of the world are caused by white middle class males," says second year student Andrew Rae.

Andrew points out, like just about every other white student I interviewed, that he does respect the struggle. But his statement illustrates one of the main problems facing our generation: latent anger. It has become glaringly obvious with submissions to the TRC that the "guilt" of white South Africa, specifically the charge of "non-action", cannot be avoided for ever. The animosity it is bound to bring, may be a threat to our government's cherished non-racist ethic. Thankfully it probably won't count for our generation. Germany proved that we should not be held responsible for the crimes of our parents - but many might find it difficult to remember that in the face of the emotionally-charged memories stirred up by June 16.

First year student, Jono Hall offered a more

positive approach: "I feel the emphasis should be more on a youth day."

It's what we're trying to achieve anyway - cut the animosity and move on. It is the most idealistic approach to the whole thing, but there are obstacles involved.

"The bottom line is that they shot kids - that's unacceptable in any context. I think it's a shame many people don't know the details of what happened," said first year student, Andrew Burden.

What we have is the "forgive-without-forgetting" dilemma we have seen after so many conflicts this century. Some handle it by focussing on the day as an example of twentieth century heroism.

"The people who were killed in those riots were the same age as my parents at the time, and lived in the same general area. Those people could have been my parents. Those people who died were heroes. We should remember that kind of heroism everyday," claimed first year student, Francois Rank. But some are sceptical about the net results that the day's "symbolism" achieves.

"The trouble with celebrating days like these is that they have no real effect on people's lives," said third year student, Yvette Bezuidenhout. She added that symbolic public holidays, though important to our historical memory, will not help solve housing problems, unemployment or other challenges facing the country.

Most students saw it as just reflecting an important historical event.

A black Zimbabwean student, preferring to remain anonymous, claimed: "It's not really that relevant to me personally - I was never oppressed like that."

Of course, there is always the romantic appeal of defiance, as fourth year student, Steven Grootes pointed out.

"It's the first time in the struggle they really stood up and said 'fuck you'."

There are many thoughts that should be drifting through our collective social minds on June 16. As it falls in the middle of exams, there will be no real symbolic events. We must just mentally celebrate how far we've come and hope for the best for where we're going.

## src update



**THE SRC** has set up a student trust fund, which will aid students who need financial assistance. The Student Trust Fund was launched on May 17, and was named 'The Valli Moosa Trust Fund. The Minister of Provincial Affairs and Constitutional Development, Mr Valli Moosa, attended the launch.

The Minister addressed students on the Role of Youth in Entrenching Constitutional Principles, and the talk was followed by a cocktail party in the Senior Common Room. The party was open to everyone and proceeds from ticket sales went into the fund. People were also asked to mail pledges to the fund. We would like to extend our thanks to everyone who supported this important event.

The SRC has requested that the Union be opened on Friday afternoons. The Union will now be open from 12pm every Friday. This decision may change during the coming months subject to student conduct.

Still on the subject of entertainment, we have added one more entertainment venue to Rhodes. The Resource Centre was opened on May 10. Societies will be able to use the place for functions. The SRC will be catering for all tastes in music, from R&B to Rock; Kwaito to Hip-hop. Drinks will also be sold at special prices. A competition will soon be running for a new name for the centre. If you would like to suggest a name, please speak to the SRC secretary.

Kimberly Hall has managed to maintain a working relationship between senior students, the house committees and the SRC. They hosted a Kimberly Hall Bash, which is the first of its kind in the Hall. We would like to encourage students from other halls to work together to achieve common goals. Residence and hall rules have become an important issue, with most students wanting the rules changed. The SRC has been visiting the residences and have conducted meetings to find problem areas regarding house rules. The house visits have been extremely successful, and we will be putting together a list of changes that need to occur. We would like to thank students for their participation at the meetings and the wardens for allowing us to have these meetings.

For a while, *Activate* has been restricted from printing certain advertisements in their publications, such as cigarette and alcohol advertisements. This meant that the newspaper was unable to take advantage of the income that could have been derived. The SRC took it upon itself to discuss this issue at the Senate Student Liaison Committee. The meeting was unanimous in its recommendation to Senate that there should be no restrictions attached to the adverts that *Activate* can print.

We have been trying to be available to students at all times, and we would like to encourage you to forward your suggestions, problems and thoughts to us. We can be approached through the mail, our suggestion boxes, by telephone, and our latest communication link, E-mail.

Our E-mail address is: SRC@ru.ac.za.

We welcome students to write to us.

**Nivashani Chetty  
Media Councillor**

# Haunted Memories

Roman Lipták

**AMID THE TRC FRENZY** which constantly grabs the headlines of the South African media, Rhodes seems to be indifferent. But two students do remember. It wasn't until the early 1980's that Ndileka discovered more about the noisy trucks, lights and hostile voices that disturbed his nightly sleep. The police patrolled their township and occasionally launched raids on P.W. Botha's "nests of terrorism." Mornings were the happiest times in Ndileka's childhood. It was then, when sitting on Malume's lap, he listened to the breath-taking stories of Thembu kings who once ruled a swath of Africa. "One morning," Ndileka recalled, "I didn't find Malume smoking on a bench next to the only township well. After a few days of his absence, I confronted my father with a direct question." Ndileka was left without an answer. What happened to the alleged terrorist, only the policemen could say. The alluring world of the Thembu kings sud-

denly broke into a thousand pieces which... scattered all around, covered the floor of a one-room 'indlu', where Zandile's family lived. As the youngest sister of six brothers, Zandile experienced hard times.

"I wore clothes my brothers threw away and washed myself last in the common bath" she said. "Yet there was something on earth which belonged only to me. A polka-dotted dish." When on Christmas Eve a young man in camouflage trousers took refuge with Zandile's family, she shared her dish with him. "No one had ever paid so much attention to me before," Zandile continued. "Once, in the middle of his telling a story, I asked him naively, 'Why don't you ever leave the room for a walk?' - 'I'm working Zandile,' he replied, 'so that one day you can dress like a lady and drive a car'." On the same evening he was gone. "The police came only a moment later and turned our house into litter. This is all that's left." Zandile points to a shard of polka-dotted porcelain on a windowsill in her Rhodes res room.

Both Ndileka and Zandile realise that their

stories are too insignificant to be considered by the TRC but, at the same time, too difficult to forget. They attended all three public hearings the Commission held in the Grahamstown City Hall in April. They could, perhaps more intensively than most other observers, feel the pain of the testimonies delivered, particularly the one by Mrs Koliti, whose 13-year-old daughter Nontle was shot dead by a policeman in a Grahamstown township in 1986.

Whether we now feel compassion or dismiss the TRC 'stuff' as irrelevant today, our attitude towards the victims, official or hidden, should take the form of respect. The truth is unveiled. For this is what reconciliation is about. They don't require special treatment - Zandile, Ndileka and others simply don't want to go through it again. Polka-dotted memories may easily break into more pieces and one's sleep may still be haunted by images of noisy trucks, lights and voices.

These days. At Rhodes.

*Names have been changed on request.*



## Campus Voice

*Pissed off, stressed out? Speak out!  
This is your space.*

**HAVE YOU EVER STOPPED** to consider why you drink at Rhodes? The drinking I am speaking of is the drunkenness of every party on this campus. Why is it that alcohol is such an entrenched medium for socializing? Alcohol is used to have fun, to introduce people to each other and to break down insecurities - but why? People seem incapable of relating socially to one another without it. Somehow alcohol has been justified, everyone feels safe knowing they only drink and do not, for example, take drugs.

You might not be addicted to the substance, but you have become addicted to the idea that no party is complete without alcohol. Why do people think that they will never become alcoholics? Maybe it has something to do with the notion that alcoholism is a disease you catch when your spiritual immunity is low, due, for example, to a bad family life or an addictive personality. Strange how almost everyone seems to have low immunity.

Well, if alcoholism is a disease, it is the only disease that is contracted by an act of will; that requires a licence for distribution; that requires outlets for its sale; that promotes crime; that is habit-forming; that is spread by advertising; which causes death on the highways and is contracted without a bacterial or viral cause. Seems like Rhodians are living in an infected area.

Everyone becomes the same when they are drunk and there is safety in numbers. When will we stop and see that humans are desperate? Their good time involves headaches, throwing up, bowel irregularity, aggression, falling, passing out and lunch time fallacies of what a good time it was.

"It's not always like that, in fact that is only when you over do it." Well, everyone has over done it, if not by quantity, but mere fact of regularity. How many nights a week do you feel at least tipsy? When will people take their heads out of the sand and face the fact that Rhodes cannot even hold a decent rugby game without indecent manifestations of "fun"? Vomit buckets can be decorated in tinsel, but you will always find vomit at the bottom.

Before you all scream, "okay smartass, what are you going to do about it?" I have a solution you might not all agree with. The church says never drink, but Jesus says do not feel you have to be different from what you are. The church says you will go to hell, but Jesus says "I am the way, the truth and the life." The church requires you to say your prayers regularly every night, but Jesus says He wants to talk to us always, as a real person, not because we feel it is our duty to pray. The church will make you confess, but Jesus will forgive you.

Alcohol is the symptom of a greater "disease", human pain. The fear of ourselves and others. Before you turn the page, pause and consider. He who created you knows you, is aware of the battle to exist and offers you an opportunity to tap into an absolute truth that will establish you in faith. Establish you in certainty of your existence; give you power over your circumstances; love you out of meaninglessness; secure you in an identity that does not change with the tide and will allow you to destroy the form that dictates your soul. God is the quiet conscience that points to an absolute truth - Him. Do not take my word for it, just ask and you will receive.

**Bern**

# Pizza's Posh Man

**Darshani Panchia**

**MILISILE BYRON KEPE**, or the "Posh Pizzaman" as he is more commonly known, is a familiar figure on campus, zooming here and there on his motorcycle.

Most of us (unless you're immune to res food) encounter Byron (31), always in a hurry but always polite, on a regular basis.

It's Tuesday night and, *ehh jo bangani*, it's happening! The music's pumping and Byron and Mitchell, William and Lungile (the rest of the crew) are groovin' to the tunes.

Things are HOT!!! - never mind the Hydro, doll! Try a Sauna à la Posh Pizza oven. Forget the Pyramid *ma gents*- there's a definite buzz in the air (the constant ringing of the telephone, that is).

I just managed to catch up with Byron and find out a little more about the man of few words but lotsa pizza!

**How long have you been working for Posh Pizza?**

About a year.

**What did you do before you joined Posh Pizza?**

I worked at the Victoria Hotel, Gino's and the Rat & Parrot before starting at Posh Pizza.

**What made you apply for the job as delivery man at Posh Pizza?**

I was born in Grahamstown and I'll die in Grahamstown. I wanted to learn more about the place so that's why I applied for the job.

**When did you learn how to ride a motorcycle?**

In Std 8. My father was interested in motorcycles and taught me how to ride. He bought me a 50cc motorbike in 1984 so that I could travel to school.

**Do you enjoy your job?**

Yes, but I don't enjoy the long hours because it means I can't spend so much time with my wife, son (5) and daughter (1).

**What do you earn?**

R1 400 per month.

**What do you think about while you're busy delivering pizzas?**

I only think about the job I'm busy with. (A lesson for everyone - no dreaming about Mr X during your Ecos exam!)



SALVATION...Byron delivers pizzas at all hours

pic: Ian Rowett

**What do you do when there are no deliveries?**

I help out in the kitchen.

**What do you think of Rhodes students?**

Oh, I like them. All of them are so nice. (Huh?!!!!...I promise I didn't hold a gun to his head.)

**Which residences do you enjoy delivering to?**

Beit and Prince Alfred House (*Jam Alley style* "Sorry A.G") because they are close to the road so I don't have to waste time and lock my box when I deliver pizzas.

**...And which ones would you prefer to give the skip?**

Top floor, Cullen Bowles.

**What problems have you experienced on the job?**

Dogs (Lock ol' Lassie up)

**What are the highlights of your job?**

Meeting all kinds of people from different places like Zimbabwe and The "Nicest Customer" award should go to Rama from de Beers. (Sorry, no free pizza)

**What do you do in your spare time?**

I take my family to town or I take them to Rhodes and show them some of the places I deliver to. I also work on my car ('74 Datsun 180i) and I enjoy listening to jazz or gospel or watching *Days* or *The Bold and the Beautiful*.

**What do you think of pizzas?**

Oh I like them. Bacon & Avo is my favourite! (Cowabunga dude!)

**If you had 3 wishes, what would they be?**

1. Money
2. More time to spend with my family.
3. A good education. (Listen up, y'all)

**What are your future plans?**

I was unable to study further because my matric marks were not good enough to get a bursary, but when I have enough money I want to train to become a traffic cop. (Watch out, Reckless Rhodents!)

**Do you have anything to say to the readers of *ACTIVATE*?**

They must keep on reading *ACTIVATE*! I always read it!

**What Byron's co-workers have to say about him:**

William- "He's a nice guy."

Mitchell- "Forget the whales - save Byron!!!"

Lungile- "He dances well ... especially after good tips." (Hint Hint...)

... and before I can say PIZZA, Byron's off again.

## Fretting over Finances

**Karen Basson**

**I'M SURE** most of you are familiar with the following bumper sticker: "Money talks, but all mine says is goodbye!"

Ha, ha, I thought when I first saw it, some poor soul has no financial discipline whatsoever. Now, after just two terms at Rhodes, I don't find it quite so funny anymore. My money doesn't simply say goodbye, it gleefully bids me farewell. Don't get me wrong, I'm not particularly attached to it. The problem is that I have no idea where it all goes to. Although I seriously suspect that ATM's are involved in the conspiracy....

On first arriving in Grahamstown, the ATM was the greatest thing - this machine that just fed you money. No questions asked, no parent-like sayings such as "Don't you think you should keep some money for the end of the month?" No complaints ... well, not until the following message one day: **YOU HAVE INSUFFICIENT FUNDS**

**FOR THE REQUESTED TRANSACTION.** It was then that I discovered that I had exactly R13,74 in my savings account (not that much saving goes on in there).

What really scared me though, was when I tried to establish what I'd spent my entire monthly allowance on: I could not come to a comprehensible conclusion.

It was then that I sat down and worked out that it is not only possible, but highly likely, for the average student to spend over R400 a month and have absolutely nothing to show for it (and this does not involve flinging R10 notes out of your res window in a semi-inebriated state).

***My money doesn't simply say goodbye, it gleefully bids me farewell.***

First on the list of expenditure is alcohol. If you go out on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday nights and spend R15 each night on drinks, it adds up to R180 a month.

As far as soft drinks are concerned, if you buy one daily (and we all do) at R2,50 it

comes to R72 a month. That is already a total of R252 a month on beverages alone. Then there are the times when you miss meals or the dining hall meal is simply inedible (this also applies to your digsmate's cooking). If you buy yourself lunch or supper twice a week at an average cost of R10 a time, it adds up to R80 a month.

It gets worse...if you're a smoker and smoke only three packs a week, you're shelling out R60 a month on lung cancer. The last common expense comes in with those late night munchie attacks. A trip down to Wellies or your res tuck shop twice a week, spending only R5 a time comes to R40 a month. The result? R432 a month spent on absolutely nothing of permanence. So, what is to be done about this whole sad scenario? Maybe I should speak to my bank manager about building a facility into my account which does send out parent-type messages when my financial state becomes a bit grim.

In the meantime, I reckon I'll be dodging ATM's. Well, trying to at least.



# For whom the alarm clock tolls: the idiot's guide to first year anxieties

*We came here, the bold and the youthful, expecting our last stand of a life free from horrible concepts such as haranguing bosses, office politics, responsible living and monogamy.*

*Instead we found escapist alcoholism, borderline weird sexual practices, caffeine overdose levels and DP warnings.*

**Jak Koseff and Andrew Burden** dedicate this, the idiot's guide to first year anxieties, to all those who still let out alcohol-induced howls of student woes at the bitter moon. Traditional disclaimer (this article does not reflect the views etc), plus: this is not an attack on people who actually lead organised, sane lives - good luck to you - you bunch of serene bastards!

**ALARM CLOCK:** ask not for whom the bell tolls ... It tolls for thee.

**BYGONE DAYS:** unprotected sex; quality *Simpsons* time; food; your own bathroom; orientation-week resolutions like working, not drinking too much, and keeping your room tidy.

**COMB:** something you vaguely remember being able to operate.

**CAFFEINE:** comparable to a woman of mystery with a vicious streak - will pass briefly through your life, shooting you to incredible heights, then leave you lying in a crumpled heap on the floor.

**DAWN:** roughly the time of day you should be waking up. By a strange quirk of fate you will always see it when essays are due and miss it by miles when they're not.

**EXAMS:** much like lousy sexual encounters. They come around when you least expect them. The moment they start you wish they were over, and you find your usually brilliant performance hampered by lack of inspiration.

**ENTHUSIASM:** much like a Porsche 911 or clothes by Versace - something you'd always felt you'd possess one day, but secretly knew you'd do no more than stare grudgingly at those that did.

**FAR-IN-ADVANCE EXAM PREPARATION:** put in the fantasy closet with "My Little Pony" and Medusa - it's a sad, sad myth.

**GORE:** that which, along with blood, will result if *anybody* touches your Bioplus supply, more essential drugs, or cigarettes during exams.

**HARM:** (grievous bodily) - see GORE.

**INVINCIBLE/INDOMITABLE:** 1) your will, when you arrived at varsity.

2) your desire to crush any person with a will as described in (1), after 3 months at varsity.

**JUNE:** beware the Ides of ...

**KAIF:** 1) refuge for those seeking political asylum from lectures.

2) sanctuary for those unblemished souls who haven't quite realised they're at varsity yet.

**LIFE:** like virginity, something most first years used to have.

**LOVE:** like antibiotics, best not taken with alcohol.

**MIND-OVER-MATTER:** I am stronger than my 300 page economics textbook!

**MOULD:** see res bathrooms, and for more extreme examples - res food.

**NOTES:** like a romantic partner in life - something everyone else seems to have.

**OLD BROWN SHERRY:** an economic boon to hangover medication.

**PARENTAL CONTROL:** sort of like bad taste in music - the kind of thing you laugh at friends back home for having.

**QUANTUM PHYSICS:** something Rhodes males will understand before they understand Rhodes females - and vice versa.

**RELIEF:** awakening from the nightmare in which you were a commerce student.

**SILENCE OF THE LAMBS:** the horrifying stillness of first years no longer boasting about their love-lives during noise hours. Sets in just before exams and reminds everyone they'd better get some more work done.

**TELL-TALE SIGNS:** 1) of essay due dates: black rings that ain't eyeshadow.

2) of the need to evade exam pressure: claiming *A Low-Down Dirty Shame* is a movie you've always wanted to see.

**UNTIMELY:** crashing ends to relationships which come right before a major test.

**VIRTUAL REALITY:** life as viewed under the combined effects of caffeine, nicotine and low-grade hallucinogens.

**WEATHER:** only thing in Grahamstown less certain than passing your June exams.

**XYZ:** eXamine Your Zero (overheard at the site of the latest maths marks being released).

**REMEMBER ALL THIS WHEN D.P. BEGINS TO STAND FOR "DULY PISSED OFF".**

**RIDE WELL, FELLOW TRAVELLERS (i.e. GOOD LUCK).**

# Bow to the King

## Toast Coetzer

**HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN** the K.I.N.G, but now he is also officially the most popular DJ on RMR. He's got class, skills and a voice that says "groove and bob yer head" and other totally chill thangs. Yes, you've got it, its the one and only Chaka D.

Chaka D. Kureva recently won the finals of the RMR Coca Cola DJ of the Month Competition with 147 phone-in votes. He left Tom Grey with 78 votes, Vivian with 75 and Dr J coming in with 54 votes, fighting it out for second place.

The other two participants in the finals were Chris Verrijdt and Gil.

You could say that Chaka got all his mates and thousands of female fans to phone in, but you would be wrong. The K.I.N.G. (as he likes to call himself) truly has a massive following on campus and is always a smash at parties and discos.

So who is the man behind the mike? Well, he is every bit as cool as he sounds. His surname is Kureva, but what the "D" in

Chaka D stands for is a closely guarded secret. He once told me that his father was Chaka C and his grandfather Chaka B and that his son will be Chaka E, but I now know that he was lying to me. He is from Zimbabwe and has been dee-jaying at parties since he was 13. He has been at RMR since 1995. R&B is his forte with his favourite acts being

*Blackstreet, Warren G. and Foxy Brown.*

Chaka is now R2000 richer after his victory and R5000 more beckons if he can pull it off at the nation-wide finals on May 21. The showdown will take place in Johannesburg and will feature the best DJ's from UCT, Matie FM, Cam-

pus Bay FM, RadioTuks, TNT, Turf, Radio Shimla FM, PUK and Durban Youth Radio.

The battle will be broadcast live via satellite from the Network Radio Services studios, and you can listen to it on RMR from 6pm onwards. The winner will be announced the following morning at a champagne breakfast.

Oh, did I mention that he's already got a girlfriend?



DJ Chaka D.- K.I.N.G of the airwaves pic: Toast Coetzer

**DON'T GIVE PIMPLES A SAY.  
CLEAR THEM AWAY**

*I hate pimples*  
*DON'T LOOK*  
*HELP*  
*UGLY SKIN*

**THE VISIBLE DIFFERENCE  
IN THE TREATMENT OF PIMPLES**

Quinoderm acne cream treats pimples, and NEW Quinoderm face wash for that "clean skin feeling". Available at selected pharmacies.

**QUINODERM**  
Micro Wash  
500ml

Cleans Pores  
Removes Grease  
Leaves Skin  
Feeling Clean  
Concentrated  
Formula

**QUINODERM**  
cream 25g

Quinoderm Cream  
Ref. No. 2805 (Act 101/1965)  
Per 100 g: Potassium  
hydroxyquinoline sulphate 0.5 g  
Benzoyl peroxide 10.0 g

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# Grim and Ghostly

Abbey Warner and  
Nicole Sochen

**GHOSTS** - is it madness? Too much home-brewed punch? Or the supernatural? Aerodynamic waste-paper bins, unearthly presences and uncanny drafts led us to believe that this was more than just a passing craze of delusional minds. Ask the girls at Canterbury House, one of the oldest reses on campus. Most of them believe it is haunted. Corridor Five, or "the dungeon" as it was called at the beginning of the year, went through a haunting scare. Many of the first years now leave their lights on at night and refuse to sleep alone. One girl on the third floor often heard her name called at night and once woke up to find a tall woman in a red dress standing at the foot of her bed. Despite reassurances from the warden that this could not possibly be a ghost, she no longer sleeps in the dark.

"It messes with my mind!" said another Canterbury girl. "I'll be using a pen the entire evening, go out for a second and when I come back it will be gone. I'll leave the room again and it'll be on the desk when I come back."

Her friend who lives in the opposite room confirms the presence of a spirit. "You just have to sit in the room to sense there's something there." She has also woken up in the middle of the night because she thought she felt someone lying next to her.

"Suddenly it was trying to push me out of the bed!" But these eerie encounters don't bother her much. "My house is haunted, so I guess I'm used to it." Other students also claim to have had ghostly experiences they cannot explain. A former resident of New House saw what



she believed to be a fellow res-mate step into the shower cubicle next to the one she was in. After finishing her shower she stepped out and peeked around the separating wall expecting to see the girl whom she had undoubtedly seen, but to her

amazement and horror, the cubicle was empty.

Perhaps one of the most frightening occurrences took place in a male res. One night before exams, a couple of guys decided to conjure up spirits, little expecting the dreadful consequences it would have. No spirits appeared, so they parted and went to sleep.

Later an apparition as tall as the ceiling, clad in pink, with deep-set eyes and a condescending gaze appeared to one of the guys. The figure pointed to the mirror in the room and then disappeared.

The next morning the student removed the mirror from its stand and found behind it photographs of himself which he had never posed for. In another incident, the same student woke up and saw his dustbin flying across his room.

The result of the "evening's entertainment" was that a priest had to be called in to exorcise the room in which these beings from the unknown appeared.

From a religious point of view, Reverend Nigel Desmond of His People Church said that according to the Bible, two types of spirits exist: angelic spirits such as God, and demonic spirits. Demonic spirits are the ghosts we see and are not the

disembodied spirits of humans.

He also said that Christians have the power given to them by Jesus to perform their own exorcisms.

Fact or fiction? Believe what you want, these students know what they saw.

## Travel Trauma

Joanne Skelton

**HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED** where the hordes of students who converge on Grahamstown during term time come from? And where do they go to once minor complications such as lectures and exams have been cleared up? Even more mysterious is the manner in which this mass migration takes place. Surely there must be some great Master Plan directing the ebb and flow of human traffic.

Apart from those fortunate souls in possession of one of the greatest and most desired twentieth century inventions (all credit to Henry Ford), the average student must resort to braving the South African public transport system which, despite popular opinion, actually does exist.

Not having a car of my own and never having made the trip before, I set out to find the easiest (and cheapest) way home. After some investigation, somewhat limited by the shortage of travel agents in Grahamstown, two of my friends and I decided to "budget" and take the train. We booked a return ticket in advance, through the local travel agency, and set off for Johannesburg.

All was well on the way there, apart from a minor case of frostbite (future train travellers be warned: take a sleeping bag!) It was on the way home that the problems began.

We arrived early at Johannesburg Station along with a colourful collection of Rhodes-bound students to find that our names were not on the list and a compartment had not been booked for us. A mild panic ensued, prompting the conductor to find us a compartment on the already booked-up train. He said that such hitches occur regularly with Grahamstown bookings. The Grahamstown travel agency denied this and should receive the benefit of the doubt since this does seem to be a fairly isolated case.

We were fortunate, there was an available compartment and we made our way back to Grahamstown in a steady 19-hour fashion (this time with sleeping bags!). But this is beside the point. We had paid our commission to the travel agent in good faith, expecting to be booked through without a hitch. I approached the travel agency in search of some explanation. The woman who received my complaint, kindly offered to look into the matter and said she would phone me the following Tuesday. I did not receive that call.

Some time later, I went back to them where I was served by a different woman. She promptly looked up our booking and phoned the train service to find out what had gone wrong. It appears that the problem was twofold. We had booked and paid on different days and thus paid "too late" and our booking was cancelled. What really happened was that we tried to pay on the same day but due to a workers' holiday, Spoornet would not take the booking until the next day. I would argue that the mistake was on the travel agent's side. Surely it is their responsibility to check that their bookings are in order.

OK, I'll stop griping and put this into perspective: if you are going to brave the train (which, by the way, is great fun) make sure you confirm your bookings, or your holiday could end up being somewhat extended - and we wouldn't want that now, would we!

## Free Travel with Rhodes Transport

Helene Dancer

**THE MAJORITY** of students studying at Rhodes are from different parts of the country or from foreign countries. Therefore, travelling back and forth from University for vacations is inevitable. Rhodes University has funded a means by which students can be transported to and from Port Elizabeth airport and the bus

terminal, free of charge.

Transport clerk, Colleen Schafer, says Rhodes Transport provides vehicles for society and sporting outings as well as providing the vacation service. With their substantial fleet of vehicles, they claim to be able to satisfy the students' needs.

I asked various students who had made use of this facility how they felt about it. According to Helen Scott, "Rhodes Transport was very accommodating and

efficient," but another student who did not wish to be named, disagreed.

"It is a wonderful system for the benefit of the students. However, I refuse to take it due to the extremely unfriendly woman in charge who treats her staff and students with no respect."

"I found it very efficient, except the buses themselves were not in good repair," said Catherine

O'Grady.

A number of students mentioned an incident after the April vacation when students had to wait over an hour at the airport for the bus to take them back to University.

Schafer responded by saying that students are advised of a possible maximum wait of three to four hours before departure from the airport, due to the fact that planes land at different times.

It is more economical for Rhodes to wait until the bus has a reasonable number of passengers before leaving, to save petrol and money.

Schafer said that if the students work according to the rules and regulations of Rhodes Transport, it should work for them. Rhodes Transport has decided to provide a free service since "without charging, the demand is different," she said.

"If students were paying, they would not want the wait and admin would have to be more involved."

Students are penalised a fee of R50 if a booking is late or if the student does not arrive to take up the arranged transport. These penalties bring in a limited revenue. Schafer has also investigated the student transport offered by other universities and has found that no other university she questioned offered transport facilities for taking students to and from the nearest airport.





# Editorial

**EVERY TIME** I write an editorial, something is about to happen, and so I have to resist the temptation to start off with well, it's that time of the year again... And of course, I wouldn't want to be the one to remind you that exams are creeping up with the speed of a hangover after a hectic night.

**ACTIVATE** has recently taken a long, hard look at itself, well, as long and hard a look as can be expected of an eyeless newspaper, but we have come up with some changes which we hope will make the paper more enjoyable and easy to read. For a start, we have limited the paper to 20 pages per edition, and have tried to make it less text intensive, with more photographs and graphics. We hope that this will improve the standard of writing, as stories will have to compete to make it into the paper. This time, as always, we had an enormous number of articles submitted, but because of the shortage of space, some of them had to be cut. To those of you whose stories didn't make it in, it was not because they were not good enough, but because we were cronicly short of space. It's all about quality rather than quantity (sorry about the momentary lapse into cliché, but it does say what I mean quite succinctly).

Plans are also afoot to jack up our distribution, so that cries of **ACTIVATE**, **ACTivate**, **Activate**, **activaaaaaaate**... stop echoing around campus. As always, we are interested in what people think about the newspaper, so if you have something to say, pick up a pen or a keyboard, and send it off.

**IT WOULD SEEM** that the issue of beauty contests is just not going to go away. This is distressing. In fact it is very distressing when you consider the trite justifications that the SRC offer for what is clearly not a cut and dried issue. As with most things, there are people who have objections, there are people who don't, and there are people who have no opinion. The problem here is that the people who object are mostly feminists, and unfortunately, the word 'feminist' has become a dirty one in today's society. This is, I believe, because most people (both men and women) do not understand the real issues. These are as many and varied as the different species of insects, but it doesn't mean that any of them are irrelevant.

The thing with beauty contests is that people are free to enter or not, as they please. But what they don't realise, in their quest for 'fun' and 'entertainment', is that they do an awful lot of damage by parading up and down the ramp. As with any competition, there are certain requirements, and if you don't have 'em, you can't join 'em. In this case, these are a beautiful face and a body that most people only dream about. The point I am trying to make is that these competitions encourage normal people to think that they are inadequate, because they cannot achieve the perfection of Cindy Crawford. That the judges ask competitors questions they can answer does not necessarily mean that the contestants are clever, or that the judges will necessarily know how clever they are. The beauty with brains argument just highlights how far people need to go to justify the existence of these 'prostitution' parades.

The fact that men are involved in the Mr and Miss Rhodes contest does not make it any less sexist. The main focus is still on women, and judging from the comments that I have heard (from men), there is great consternation that there is to be no swim-wear category this year.

I just think that there are so many more ways of making money and entertaining people, that are far less damaging and offensive to others. And it would make me a lot happier if I could be sure that the SRC was taking the objections to the contest seriously. They are there after all for *all* students.

# Creditorial

Lineke and Francoise (we just realised that we're really old women), Jason (it's my primordial instincts. I like to fight for women and food), Ian (I'm very sensitive to women, being an honorary woman and all), Mboneni (fair milk and not too much coffee in my coffee), Carlien cheesecake Vavruch, Joanne (I'm tired of being a good journalist), Philani (oh my goodness, men are suffering), Mary Lou (this appeals to my macabre sensibilities), Brigid, Ilda, Sharon, Celine, Gina F, Liezel, Chantelle, Tina, Marco (you've got to be worried when your psychiatrist says you're the most fucked up person he knows), Ilja the criminal, Jak, Roman, Nivashni, Sivuyile, Toast and marmite, Andrew, Karen, Darshani, James H, Lauren C, Sue Powers, Babushi, Jamie, Harriet the Hairy Feminist, Jason K, Maev, Shannon, Geoff, Cathy, Bruce, David, Chris, Len, Teresa, James M, Thandi, Ndundu, Angie, Heather, Gina W, Olivia our new cartoonist, Abby, Taryn, Joanne S, Helene, Julia, Cuma, Daniella, Bern, Nicole, Aaron, Sikelelwa, Byron (our saviour), Mary Lou's kettle, bouncing olives, censored headlines (Driving Mr. Penis), coffee breaks, New Dawn and earplugs, and hear's to the most stress free pasteup - the computers even worked. Thanks to Die Perdeby and Varsity on-line.

# Dear Activate ...

## Travel Troubles

**HAVE YOU EVER FELT** that students are being treated with rudeness and contempt, as if they are second-rate people?

On a recent trip to the local travel agent I was treated with disdain by the young, blonde woman at the front desk.

At first I was lulled into a sense of false security when she asked if I needed help. When I said I was thinking of travelling to Europe next year and was looking for brochures on various tours and programmes,

she sourly said that those brochures were at the back. Her sigh indicated that it was asking a hell of a lot to disturb her comfy seat at the front.

After tidying her desk for five minutes, she painstakingly brought back a couple of brochures, rudely saying I could page through the thicker one in the shop as it was only for people serious about going. Gee, I should have known, students are never serious about anything!

But that is not the worst: when I asked her about various programmes, she asked - with an obvious glint of evil in her eyes - if I was still at school. My digsmate, waiting patiently in a chair behind me, dissolved into a muffled fit of laughter. It was my turn to sigh now. No, I muttered, I'm in my final year at varsity.

Up until that moment, I had never supported the often ludicrous idea that one needed a degree before going into most jobs - but she definitely could have used a few lessons in PR. At the very least, she could have practised the under-utilised art of smiling.

This event made me think of other examples of bad service in Grahamstown. I thought ordering the gown and hood from the not-so-friendly clothing distributor was bad enough - but that was before I experienced the superb service upon returning my borrowings. I rushed in there in the early afternoon, expecting a long queue, but discovered there was only one man before me. A woman was dealing with him and, in the far recesses of the upstairs shop, I could see at least five giggling shop assistants. Ten minutes later (nine and a half after first noticing me) they were still giggling and my blood had just about reached boiling point.

Eventually, my dirty look paid off and one sauntered slowly to the front desk. The look she threw me told me in bold, neon letters that I should not forget that she was doing me a favour.

Okay, I thought, I had looked at the cloud - but surely there had to be a silver lining. And that was when the friendly beaming smile of a certain foreign photographer in town filled my mind. Superb service with a smile. And then there is the fruit-and-veggie-man in High street - always helpful, always sprouting ('scuse the pun) loads of good advice. At last. People who have realised that we lowly students provide their livelihood and more importantly, that we are also human beings entitled to a bit of courtesy and decent service. And I know that they are the reason that my usually friendly demeanour has not degenerated into the scornful one of the travel-agency girl.

Nicky Blatch

## Two Stations - One Licence?

**I WRITE TODAY** with a couple of concerns. The first deals with the article published in your previous issue, written by Gunther Deutsch and Tseko Moloi (Two stations - one licence). Although I have calmed down considerably since I first read the article, I still feel that as Station manager of Rhodes Music Radio (RMR) I have a responsibility to clarify some of the issues raised in the article.

The article deals with the fact that there are two stations in the Grahamstown area, but only one frequency. This is true at present, and the licence which has been issued - the one belonging to RMR - is what is termed a temporary licence, ie lasting for a period of one year.

It seems that the IBA is going to be accepting applications for permanent licences in the next couple of months (not "in May this year" as the article stated), but it is still fairly unclear as to whether there will be more than one frequency available or not. Essentially, RMR supports what Radio Grahamstown is trying to achieve, and we sympathise with their frustrations.

There is no doubt that RMR and Radio Grahamstown have two very different communities, RMR's Rhodes University, including all staff, students and their immediate families.

Radio Grahamstown, on the other hand, has more of a geographical community, with their focus being on developmental issues. Quite clearly, it would not benefit either station if we were to share a licence, and in the event that there is only one frequency available, the two organisations will be working together to lobby for more.

Meetings have already been held in preparation for this.

While reading the article I found myself constantly questioning where the writers got their information from, and my blood boiled when I read the closing comment: "RMR was unavailable for comment".

I had a meeting with Gunther Deutsch on 27 March at 2pm. He walked into the office, never said why he wanted to speak to me, and asked me two very vague questions. As for Tseko Moloi, I've never even met the man. RMR was not available for comment simply because RMR was never approached for comment.

We provide our active members with the opportunity to discover the world of radio. We provide a platform for our community to be heard through our talk shows and on-air competitions - why else would over 300 people phone in during the Coke DJ of the Year competition?

And we provide Radio Grahamstown with three hours of air-time to develop their productions skills for the day when they get their own licence.

Finally, all of us at RMR are tired of defending what we are doing. Surely campus media, especially at Rhodes where we are trying to foster credible journalists, should strive to seek out the truth, supporting one another, rather than creating a false conception of what an organisation is all about.

Celeste Dickinson  
Station Manager



# The Market Place

## Con

Julia Paterson

**THE SRC** has taken it upon themselves to organise the Mr and Miss Rhodes pageant this year. For an organisation who's mission statement includes non-sexism, this is very hard to digest.

According to Ntombi Mhangwani, Gender Officer for the SRC, the competition is "more integrated and better organized" this year. But why have a contest at all? What is the point of having a Mr and Miss Rhodes? Sure, you receive R1000 if you win and instant recognition, but is it worth it?

The main organisers of the pageant include SRC members James Ledwaba, Gunther Deutsch and Unathi Malunga. They feel that the pageant will find Rhodes adequate representatives for external functions and will raise money for their student fund. According to Unathi, to have a Mr and Miss Rhodes contest is not sexist, because both a male and female competition is to be held. (But they are still stereotyping both men and women into a particular role of beauty.) She also feels it is good for the people to enter, because it "boosts one's self confidence".

Gunther said that people had previously approached him with the pageant idea and had urged him to take it up. "Students get what students want," he said. When asked if he thought beauty contests were a good idea, he replied: "That is irrelevant. I merely do as I've been ordered to do."

Surely as an SRC member he is expected to consider the consequences of his actions? And did he bother to hold an open meeting about the issue before he went ahead and organised the event? This contest is as controversial as any political issue, but it does not get the same form of discussion or outraged reaction. Why are women and men happy to sit back and be accepted just as objects of beauty and desire?

STEP, an organisation set up because of the need for information on sexual stereotyping and orientation, is completely opposed to the idea of a pageant. Carla Tsampiras, a member of their executive collective, compares beauty pageants to a meat market.

She said that at a STEP meeting it had been suggested that they should design posters opposing the contest, consisting of "gay men perverting the new Mr Rhodes". This would directly oppose the posters which are spread all over campus, showing two very pretty models, who only straight men can relate to.

Beauty pageants perpetuate the ideal that looks are more important than anything else. The R1000 is to be handed out to the winners because they look a certain way. The image of prostitution comes to mind...

Carla goes on to say that neither the women nor the men are seen as individuals, but just as a "babes in swimming costumes".

*In August last year, a Miss Rhodes competition was held, causing an uproar on campus. It was organised by students acting independently of the SRC, with the result that the SRC refused to acknowledge or support the winner Wendy Kahla. The reason for all the controversy was the bad organisation of the event, and that it only catered for and appealed to one group on campus.*

*This year, the SRC has taken it upon themselves to host an official Mr and Miss Rhodes contest. Once again, it is a controversial issue, but this time, for the reason that it is a 'sexist meat market'. In this feature, we bring you both sides of the story, opinions from around campus, and a review of what you can look forward to (or not) on the night of Saturday May 24 1997.*

Carla was told when she complained about the pageant, that women have got such "chips on their shoulders"



and that they have "ugly-women syndrome" if they do not agree with beauty contests.

Women who do not agree with the idea of these pageants are seen as insecure about their own beauty. But anyone with any self-respect or dignity, would not approve of them. The issue of the prize money also comes to mind. Where does all this money for prizes come from?

When questioned, the SRC claimed

that the R1000 prize money would come out of ticket sales on entry to the pageant and from previous funds collected. But couldn't these funds have been put to better use by supporting a gender conference or by actively helping the community. The thought of parading people to receive money...

And what is the actual community role of these future Mr and Miss Rhodes?

What about the other people who have worked hard for the community and who have earned funds for the disadvantaged? Why do they not receive recognition?

And, if these funds come directly from the students, then why do we not have a say about where our money goes?

Why have a pageant to raise funds when you can have concerts or parties where more money can be made anyway.

Beauty pageants are an old fashioned and inappropriate way of generating funds.

We are now living in a democratic South Africa, or so we think ... sexism is not considered anymore - we just sit back, relax and assume that gender equality is now a fact of life.

But this is the time for females to work on the anti-sexism drive. Everyone knows that there are far more females than males at Rhodes this year. Why don't we stand up for ourselves and say enough is enough!

Pageants are not as glamorous as people make them out to be. Although people have the right to participate in them, do they ever think of the implications of reinforcing the stereotypical role of women as sex objects?

Entrants should make informed choices and have valid reasons for entering. You do not have to be beautiful (or to be recognised as beautiful by entering a contest) to be accepted. Why are we standing back and accepting the traditional role of women as objects?

Beauty contests perpetuate the idea that looks come before everything else. They also symbolise the idea that only women of a certain age are considered beautiful enough to be acknowledged.

Whatever happened to the dignity and pride of older women? Where does their recognition come from? Beauty contests detract from human qualities like intelligence. People don't care who you are as a person or what you think.

All that counts is beauty, poise, body, clothes, make-up and hair.

And anyway, why should someone who is more aesthetically pleasing necessarily make a better ambassador?

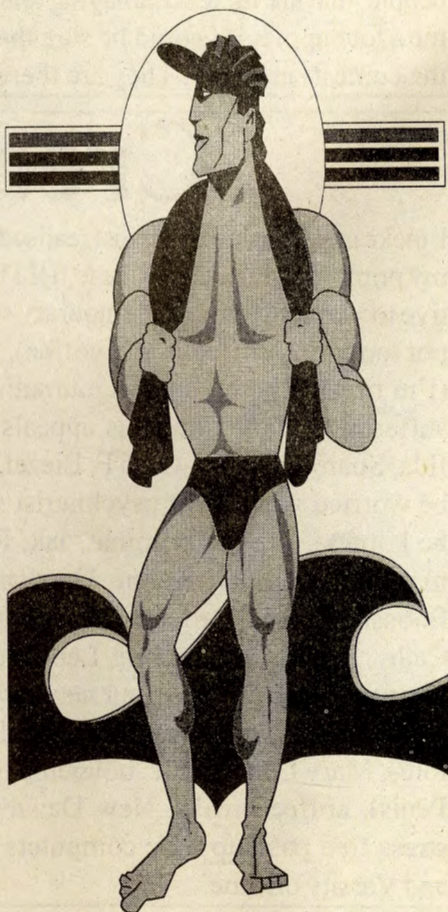
## Pro

Cuma Mashicila and Jak Koseff

**THE CRIES** of "sexist cattle show" that have been flung at the Mr/Miss Rhodes pageant from certain factions, reflects the breed of tragic 90's paranoia. This creates hype where no hype is necessary. It's pretty ridiculous to claim, living in possibly the most politically and socially conscious age in history, that something as trivial as a beauty contest can actually be subversive. This is not the 80's when encouraging people to attach importance to the physical was a social danger. Back in those bad old days, humanity was a more hormone-driven, sexual god/goddess seeking culture. These days people are far more aware. We *know* that someone's spiritual worth isn't measured by how good they look in a bathing suit. We *know* that the girls and guys on the catwalk's stunning appearance is no guarantee of how they rate personality-wise. We *know* that we cannot classify people in the real one-to-one world the way we classify them on the pageant stage. We *know* we can laugh when modern beauty contests try to advocate slush such as "BEAUTY WITH A PURPOSE" - because everybody knows what it's about - we all got tired of this debate a long time ago!

We know the real rules now - give us credit for being socially educated. The "Revenge of the Nerds" revolution happened a long time ago, surely a beauty contest can do nobody harm. It's all in the name of fun!

The pretty-in-pigtails/tough-in-leather and axle grease lyrics of the tunes from *Grease* seem to belong in another century, but that doesn't stop anyone dancing to them. Let the parade of shallowness take the stage, it won't change anyone's lives, but it will give people something to cheer and hiss at for a couple of hours - and if the whole thing makes you feel inadequate, tune in to the late 90's, people! All we can say is GET A LIFE...GET A REAL CAUSE.





# The Official Version

## Philani Vince Masuku

**THE FIRST** official Mr and Miss Rhodes competition will be making history on May 24, when 27 students (20 female and seven male) contest for the two titles at the Great Hall. Four out of the 27 will be from the Rhodes East London campus: "It's about time," said an East London student. The show will cost R10 and the audience will be able to enjoy an after party at the Crossing.

Although the SRC organising committee have put a lot of work and effort into the pageant preparations, they have been unable to silence those who oppose the event. Many students feel that the pageant is an improper and stereotyped way of defining beauty.

Two contestants, Lorraine Manuel and Phumulani Mfenyane said that the fuss from opposers was unnecessary and uncalled for. "They are close minded. The beauty element will not be the most important issue at the contest! We will be out there to display our personalities to a

very large extent, not our bodies," said Lorraine, who felt that the pageant was about fun, entertainment, and not competition.

With a certain number of students opposed to the beauty pageant, the SRC has been called upon to neutralize the developing tension.

There are reports that some feminist groups intend to protest and block the entrance to the Great Hall. "We didn't receive any formal complaints in good time. If we had, we would have considered not going ahead with the contest," said an organiser.

The winners will have a certain role to fulfill but, said Unathi Malungu, the SRC Secretary, "I don't know what their duties will be. We are looking into it."

Opposers are concerned about the duties to be undertaken by the title holders. They maintain that without a role to play after the event, the winners will be nothing more than beauty objects who lack intelligence.

"Wendy (controversial 1996 Miss Rhodes) was beautiful, but do you know

that she was academically excluded?" asked Emma, a B.SocSci student.

Lorraine, who believes that title holders have a role to play in society said "If I become Miss Rhodes, I will be influential in terms of assisting street children and the community".

Another concern is the complete absence of white contestants. Some white students do not intend to recognise this years title holders: "I've got nothing to do with them. They definitely won't be my representatives," said a white student.

Lorraine said that the female contestants thought it unfair to have an absence of white contestants. "Maybe, they don't like the idea of black organisers," she said.

"We even printed a black and a white face on those posters to make them (white students) enter, but they didn't. Last year it was not open to everyone, but this year it was!" said a concerned Unathi when asked to comment on the racial breakdown of contestants.

According to some contestants and many other students, the pageant is expected to be a lavish and unforgettable affair.

"Quality decorations and high standards will be maintained," said an organiser.

The organisers confirmed the participation of Carol Becker, former Miss Universe South Africa as one of the judges. She will be paid R800.

Tsepo, a TV presenter from SABC 1, and first runner up to Miss South Africa, Babalwa Mneni, were said to be still considering invitations.

The only local judge expected at the contest is Shelly Samuel from the Rhodes Marketing Division. "I've no idea why I was chosen," said Shelly.

Contestants wearing sport, casual and evening wear will be seen dashing up and down on stage. The bathing suit category has been scrapped as the organisers believe that its presence might create a frenzy from the male audience.

Contestants will wear clothes from Edgars, Foschini, and other local stores, which the SRC will provide.

The SRC is offering the R1000 prize money and is covering various other costs. However, they refused to make public the amount they are spending on the pageant.

## ...and what the rest of campus said...

**I THINK** it's like a cattle parade. For me, as a Hindu, it has religious connotations - we would not parade in front of men, especially in a swimming costume. Personally, I wouldn't participate.

**Asha Manga, Lib II**

It is a matter of choice.

**Slash, Lib II**

If people want to go, it's good fun. It's not serious. If they enjoy it, than go for it.

**Nick, BJourn I**

What? I wasn't aware of its existence. I am not against it, but I don't think it is necessary, unless they are raising funds for charity.

**Lisa, Biochem IV**

It is degrading and I am against it - women parading around like pieces of meat! They judge you solely on what you look like. The contestants just say what the judges want to hear.

**Mina, Biochem IV**

It is an overdone topic. I think that for some people it is fun. I do enjoy watching it, but it is still a competition for beauty and that's not going to change.

**Abbey Warner, BJourn I**

I think if they want to do it, let them do it! It is a self-confidence building exercise. I also think that it is great that there is Mr

and Miss Rhodes, there is no gender slant. Nobody is forced to participate.

**Jonathan, BJourn I**

I don't think it is a very reported event ... it's quite low-key, not a big event. Nobody looks forward to it. No one is forced to enter. If they

have something to show off, why not? But they must not enter unless they can show it off!

**Gareth, HMS II**

Beauty pageants are great! It is important to recognise beautiful people in society.

**Craig Hallet, BJourn IV**

It's pathetic! Treating people like meat... It's like 'ooh look at me! I am so beautiful!' In my opinion it

is stupid! If people don't make the grade they feel inferior.

**Rosemary, BA I**

I really don't care! I hate all that politically correct stuff. You can have it or not.

**Ben Wikner, BJourn IV**

It's alright. A good idea, definitely, for the sake of charity. For the sake of

commercial gain, I am against it.

**Innocent Mutandwa, BPharm I**

In fact, I am interested in that kind of

entertainment. I would like to do it, if I had

the face for it. It gives you confidence. They don't judge you just on looks, they judge you on how you present yourself.

**Sieglinde Kavaka, BPharm I**

I think it's a good idea, but apparently there are no white

students.

**Sherman Strydom, BAIII**

I was asked to enter, so I did, basically for the fun and the money.

**Morne Allison, Contestant**

It's about time guys got humiliated for a change.

**"Duke" BA II**

If people want to enter, they must enjoy it.

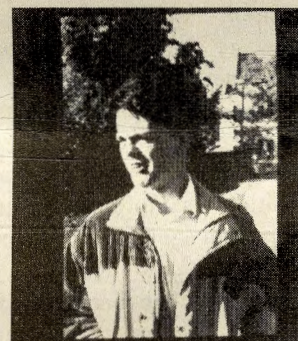
**Helen, BJourn II**

I think it's a good idea, because it is very entertaining. I don't think it is sexist, and would go and see it if I had the money.

**Nadia, BSc III**

It's about time guys got to model for the girls - I think it's good for the guys.

**John, BJourn II**



Ben Wikner

I can't believe the SRC are going ahead with it. It encourages people to idealise others, women especially.

**Cheryl, BA II**

My name is Cindy, and I want to save the children.

**Anon, BJourn III**

I can't understand why anyone would put themselves through that.

**Dave, B.Comm I**

I was quite surprised when I heard about it. Coming from an organisation that is

always going on about equality, it smacks of sexism. It took them about three days to get posters of men out. The men part seems to be a token gesture - the focus is clearly on women.

**Celeste Dickinson, BJourn III**

I think it's great - is there going to be a bikini contest?

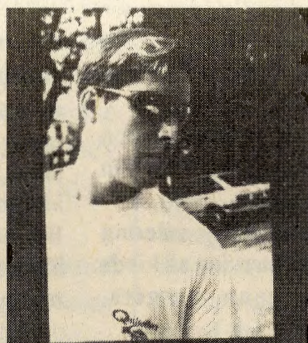
**Paul Llewellyn, BJourn II**

**words: Daniella Borkum**

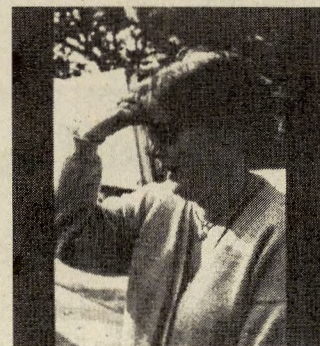
**pics: Olivia Johnson**



Slash



Craig Hallet



Rosemary



Lisa and Mina



Sieglinde Kavaka



# Alternative Nights

*In a desperate quest for an alternative to the get-drunk-bar-hop-and-pass-out drudgery of a typical student night out, Carlien Vavruch discovers what Grahamstown has to offer.*

IN CAPE TOWN there is a little place which serves sinfully rich hot-chocolate and wedges of lemon meringue pie dreams are made of. They stay open until about 3am, there are tables outside and the theatrical bathroom (props include spider webs, hanging plants and shadows) is definitely an excuse to go to the loo *en masse*.

After a late movie, the theatre or when you're just sick and tired of smoke and lecherous gazes, Roxy's is a sweet haven to escape to. And it's no greasy take-away chip-joint.

When I heard some places in Grahamstown were extending their hours, I was hesitantly thrilled... could there possibly be somewhere to go where you know you won't step in vomit or have beer accidentally spilled down your arm, and where you can ease midnight hunger pangs, discussing high-minded things like cheesecake?

I have basically been mourning the loss of Ella's in Hill Street. It was perfectly situated, stayed open late and served legendary cheesecake and coffees.

I found some new places (no cheesecake), and some well-known Grahamstown spots (with cheesecake) who are now staying open a little later - but not much.

I couldn't sample everything, but my undercover agents and I visited each place and this is what we found.

**Madhatters** has changed the face and feel of High Street with their colourful patrons spilling out into the open.

You are drawn in from the street by the warm colours - larger than life paintings on blushing tangerine walls, green tables and large bay windows.

They are open from 9am to 11pm, and serve all kinds of drinks and sandwiches, pitas

and salads. They also have carrot cake, lemon meringue pie, cheesecake (excellent!), muffins and scones.

The latest addition to the menu, which owner Giles recommends, is the toasted pita with bacon, banana, cheese and onion. Their aim by staying open later is to cater for the alternative supper crowd who don't want formal meals, but rather something lighter and different.

**You are drawn in from the street by the warm colours - larger than life paintings on blushing tangerine walls, green tables and large bay windows.**

It has an arty feel to it, a bit zany, uninhibited, somewhere where you can be sure of interesting-looking people at the table next to you. But it isn't exclusive or cliquey either.

Unfortunately Giles has sold Madhatters and is moving on to new ventures in June. The new owners are expected to keep up the Madhatter's vibe as well as expanding the menu and hopefully opening up a wine bar.

Coffee (filter, de-caf, instant) R3,50; Fruit juice R4,50; Don Pedro R9,00; Slice of cake R7,50; Sandwiches R7,50 - R9,00.

**Peppers** in New Street, opened on April 1 this year. No joke, there really is an alternative for Rat 'n Parrot types.

Owners Terri and Alan are trying to create more than just a pub 'n grub for students. Their biggest attraction is the Trivial Pursuit network. It provides a new type of entertainment not seen in Grahamstown before, and has already got several devoted players addicted. Another feature is sport via satellite TV.

They will soon be opening another section of the pub, which will be quieter, but still in the same vein.

The vibe is relaxed and friendly, catering for a variety of people and serving all kinds of pub food: salads, soup, burgers, sandwiches and vetkoek.

It is a place to go where there is actually

something to do, apart from sitting and staring at the bottom of your glass or at other drunk people.

They are open from Monday to Thursday from 7pm, and Friday and Saturday from 12:30pm until late. The kitchen closes at 10pm.

Coffee R3,20; Toasted sandwiches R5,50 - R6,50; Burgers R13,95 - R15,95; Vetkoek R8,95 - 12,95; Chips - small R5, large R7.

**The Little Coffee Shop**, next to OK, has existed for years, but came under new management this year and began to stay open at night. It has a (pink) classy-country feel to it, and has recently opened up a bar in the evenings.

Owner Gordon wants to create a place for people to come and relax, with "lots of booze available" but in a comfortable, quiet atmosphere. He aims to cater for all of Grahamstown, and always has a wide mix of patrons.

The menu now includes steaks and a prawn special. And they still offer carrot cake, chocolate cake and pancake-size crumpets. The Little Coffee Shop is open from about 7:30am until 9pm or later, depending on how busy it is.

Coffees R2,80 - R4,00; Don Pedro R7,50; Cakes R5; Crumpets R6,50 - R8,50; Steaks R25 - R28,00; 12 Prawns R28,50.

**It is a place to go where there is actually something to do, apart from sitting and staring at the bottom of your glass or at other drunk people.**

**Churchills** is another newcomer to Grahamstown and is situated next to His Majesty's in Hill Street. They are open for lunch and supper and then stay open until about 2am catering for all kinds of tastes and thirsts!

Barman Frankie claims they have the biggest pizzas in Grahamstown and also recommends the Eisbein (a large piece of pork!) - only for the very hungry.

There is a fully stocked bar and also a lot

of space to sit down. The best spot is upstairs on the enclosed balcony where you can overlook the street.

The decor is quite unique - blue-grey and burgundy, with bulldogs on the walls, and they have some truly beautiful features (look up at the window as you go down the stairs).

The whole of the upstairs area would be great for a 21st, and owners Mias and Erica are happy to hire the whole venue out for functions.

Coffee/tea R3,00; Don Pedro R6,30; Pizzas R14 - R20,00; Toasted sandwiches R6,50 - R7,00.

**Die Geel Kafee**, in Beaufort Street opposite Victoria Girls Primary, opened at the end of last year as a restaurant and guest house. Owner Teens closed the legendary Ella's to start Die Geel Kafee, but on Saturday and Sunday mornings you can still have tea and cake Ella's-style.

The cheesecake is still there in all its glory, as are the wide variety of teas and coffees. In the evenings Teens has added a supper menu, and one usually needs to reserve a table to get a seat, even if you're just going for coffee.

The venue has a comfortable up-market feel with some remarkable art on the walls (look out for sketches of local celebs). You have to save up to go to Die Geel Kafee. It is not a place students can go to twice a week. But for a special occasion and a bit of class it's perfect.

They are open from Tuesday to Friday from 7pm to about 11pm, Saturday mornings 9:30am - 1pm, Sunday 9am to 12am.

Coffee (filter) R3,80; Cappuccino R4,50; Special coffees (plungers) R5,50 - R6,00; Don Pedro R9,50; Cakes R8,50 - R8,90.

There are places to go at night when you're tired of the clichéd Union-Rat-Vic routine. Some of them you might have to be out by 10pm, and others are just milder, less jock-like versions of the Rat.

Such is life... June vac and Roxy's here I come!

*\*These prices are just a guide and are subject to change at any time.*

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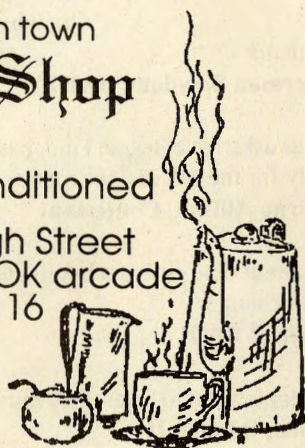
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## Holiday Cut Short

Teresa Alho

**THOSE DREADED EXAMS** are creeping up on us again. Nail-biting, zit-picking, hair-ripping exams, that make you dose up on Bioplus and 100% caffeine coffee. It's the time of year when the library becomes the place to be, boasting more visitors than the Union on a Friday night. All we can look forward to is a long relaxing holiday, to recover from the trauma. Right? No! The powers that be have decreed that due to public holidays and swot week, our vac will be one week shorter. This is what some fellow Rhodents had to say about it.

**Margaux, BA:** "I don't think public holidays are important, everyone forgets the significance of them. They're the same as before but reversed, it's all ideological."

**Geneveive, B.Comm:** "I would rather have swot week, because most of us finish our exams before term ends, so we get an extra week anyway."

**Thobile, BA:** "I definitely think we should

have public holidays, they have historic significance. They mark an important change in our country and should be remembered and celebrated."

**Tiffany, BA:** "What's the point really? I can see that swot week is useful in that it gives us a break between lectures and exams, but do students really make full use of it? Some just go out and get pissed. Who wants to stay in Grahamstown for an extra week anyway?"

**Fazila, BA:** "Public holidays raise the levels of awareness with issues concerning women and human rights. They help change people's attitudes positively."

**Julie, B.Comm:** "I love public holidays, but if it means cutting into my vac, then I'd rather not have them. A person or event needs recognition, but we don't need a whole day for it. Swot week is necessary because it's a stress reliever, you can't go straight from lectures into exams."

**Yvonne, B.Comm:** "We don't recognise the reason for public holidays and that's sad. Students see it as an extra 24 hours drink."



# Computer Complications

James Mckay

“COMPUTERS, computers everywhere and not one available to work on.” The following events are based on a real life experience. My rough work completed, I gaily dash off to one of the various computer labs that Rhodes provides, to type the fruits of my toil into a machine, in the hope that it will produce a beautifully double-spaced, neat copy that I can proudly hand in the following morning, before nine. Beaming, I stride into the lab clutching my essay. At first glance all appears to be fine, but soon it becomes clear that in the entire lab, there is not one available station. OK, so other people have essays to complete too. My lucid reasoning and triumphant frame of mind restrain the irritation I feel creeping its way into my system. I decide to wait, amused by the guy to my left painstakingly typing with one finger. Finally, after losing count of the number of times he types the same line over, and over, and over..... I get a computer. With a renewed sense of hope, I order my thoughts and begin typing the essay. Engrossed in the story, I bash away at the keys, not bothering to look up for at least half an hour. When I do happen to cast my eyes up at the flickering blue screen, the muscle controlling the bulging function in my eyes

goes into spasm! The text resembles a piece of cheese that a mouse (no pun intended) had nibbled at. All the “e’s” are missing. In disbelief, I turn to the person sitting next to me. He is quietly sniggering at me with a demonic smile creasing his soon to be unrecognisable face. I seriously contemplate inserting the modem into one of his small, hard to reach orifices. However, after glancing at his screen, I decide to pity him as it appears that the “a” key on his keyboard isn’t working. After politely pointing this out to him, I leave in search of greener pastures at another lab.

*Dreadful images of mass-murder and rampant, unchecked carnage flood my brain.*

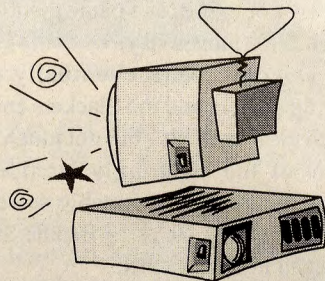
This time I don’t quite stride in, but rather nervously peer round the door frame, fearing the sight of a packed room. A ray of sunlight appears, a silver-lining to the ever-growing cloud that is beginning to form about my ears...a free computer! With renewed gusto, I sit down and cautiously begin to type. Things seem to be running smoothly, the words are properly formed, even the mouse is working. Then suddenly, the screen goes blank. Pain, suffering, anguish — what the @#\*\*! has happened? For no apparent reason, all life has suddenly been drained from the screen,

which a second before had been teeming with text. In utter disbelief I close my eyes and send up a silent prayer for the restoration of my essay.

*I finally flop into bed only to dream of demonic computers chasing me through a sea of micro-chips.*

When I open my eyes to peek at the screen again, a cold blue blankness glares back at me. On the brink of a total break-down, I trudge, deflated, to the final lab which is still open. By this time it is late and the dead-line is edging nearer. I sit dejectedly slumped in front of the last computer on earth. I begin typing suspiciously, constantly jerking my head up at various intervals to make sure that my essay is still on the screen and not in some other strange dimension of the network. Finally it’s completed and I save it in preparation of printing. I am beginning to feel a little more hopeful. All I need to do is to hit the print icon and watch my work emerge from the printer. Life is so cruel. I click on the print icon and a message appears from the depths of the evil computer’s dank innards: “THE PRINTER IS OFF-LINE — RETRY OR CANCEL.” Dreadful images of mass-murder and rampant, unchecked carnage flood my brain.

Giant beads of sweat form on my forehead. All I know is that I have to get out of here before I start systematically destroying the lab and beating the lab-assistant to death with his own shoe. With an insane grin on my face I walk trembling to my room and start furiously writing the essay out neatly by hand. I finally flop into bed only to dream of demonic computers chasing me through a sea of micro-chips. What, you ask, does this rather odd experience have to do with the price of a Wellie’s pie? Well, it portrays a sequence of events which undoubtedly happens to most Rhodes students at one time or another. And the message you ask? This situation must change. More computers should be acquired for the growing numbers of students at Rhodes and checks and services should regularly occur, for the sake of the mental health of the student population.



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# Slacking Off

Andrew Burden

**THE FIRST TRACE** of the now fabled Slackers campaign appeared as an innocuous-looking piece of paper, pasted onto a toilet door in the Drama Department. The mini-poster extolled the virtues of Slackerdom and bore a single pronounced "S". I thought no more of it until a few days later when more slackerphernalia began to appear around campus.

The ad campaign grew, as did speculation as to who or what was behind it all. Campus was rife with stories and theories that linked the Slackers to everything from a religious cult to a group of aliens preparing for an invasion.

And still more posters appeared, pasted up during the night. They were found everywhere, from bedroom doors to toilets. It was all anyone talked about and it was rare not to hear the name mentioned less than 800 times a day.

Certain people were eventually seen putting up posters and the Slackers enigma began to clear up a bit - but not much. The purpose of the seemingly omnipotent Slackers remained comfortably secretive. On Saturday May 10, at 13 Beadle Street, it all began to make sense.

The Slackers threw a party, or to be more accurate, an event, a phenomenon. For a R7 entrance fee, guests were treated to four live bands (*4 Ways To Skin A Cactus*, *One Large Banana*, *Quill*, and *Anthony*

*Caplan*), a dance floor complete with dazzling lights and great sound, live impromptu physical theatre, a photography exhibition, paintings, sculptures and free toxic sludge.

The audience gathered on the lawn and was amazed by the Fire Wizards, four incredibly brave individuals, who breathed, juggled and twirled fire. The question is why?

Jesse Knot, one of the organisers, is concerned that many talented people in

Grahamstown are not confident enough to perform. She hopes that Slackers will give them the opportunity to share their talent in a relaxed, informal, and creative atmosphere.



FIREBREATH...Luke Buckland

"Fuck complacency" is their motto, which is an easy thing to say, but quite another to change.

This group of Slackers proved that they are anything but slack, in what was obviously a very costly and exhausting venture.

Nevertheless, feelings on campus varied. The campaign impressed a lot of students, but they didn't come away from the party radically altered or enlightened. Although he felt that the

campaign had been successful, Ian, a fourth year student, felt that the much advertised interactive element of Slackers was lost. "There was so much entertainment laid on

that people didn't get involved. It was all done for them."

Bern, a second year student, thought that they based the whole Slackers movement on the "dark side of romanticism."

One student felt that the campaign and the whole notion of Slackers was "subversive and patronising" in so much as it "placed a higher morality" on students, and was simply "defiance for defiance's sake."

However, many students enjoyed both the party and the campaign.

"It was in-your face, and it made me want to find out more," said David, a first year Journ student.

Paul, also a first year, vaguely recalled the party for being "cool...well, what I can remember of it."

But, based on the posters, he felt that it was an anti-climax. "I thought it was going to be huge."

As one of their posters proclaims: "A celebration of interactive experiences. Be in it, of it, with it." That sums Slackers up perfectly, although on the night there seemed to be very little in the way of interaction.

Some people still see them as subversive, too far left of centre for comfort's sake. But what the guests experienced on Saturday night, wasn't subversive, it wasn't attention-seeking. It was energy, and although it wasn't what the majority of people expected, the Slackers remain a group of dynamic people doing what they do best. In essence it was...SLACK!!

## Splashing Out

Jak Koseff

**IT'S THE KIND** of phone call I've always wanted to make to the bunch back home: "Hey guys, I'm calling from a folk-rock festival in the Natal midlands."

It's the "kids, I was there"-material so many of us will want to remember when we're older.

Our parents, supposedly, had it easy. They not only had social upheaval, but a whole flower-child/modern bohemianism era to serve as a later anaesthetic to a comparatively lustreless middle-age. So often in the 90's I've wondered where our Woodstock is.

I found some small part of it at Splashy Fen.

The whole event is an enigma with 9 000 people, minimal chaos, no fights, no visible overdoses.

**...a sudden surging intro reminiscent in energy of the *Gin Blossoms* or *Counting Crows* got me and a group of other crazed souls up and dancing.**

Everybody's living in tents for four days, disregarding some usually vital points of personal hygiene (after all, there's a two and a half hour queue for the showers!), continually slugging their brains into blissfully altered mental states, and they're happy!

First reason for this has to be the music. The idea of a "folk festival" has started to fade. You'll now find traditional folk artists side by side with reggae and rock acts, and

those that you couldn't begin to define. There are limits, of course. At one point the PA system gave out license-plate numbers of all the cars which had been playing rave music, warning them to "Beware." The organisers, in an interview with RMR, objected to "car-boot music", even if it was Hendrix or Bob Dylan. Live local stuff was the focus here, and they did it well.

The big names were all there. *Arapaho* exuded the rock energy that they've made their mark, while *Famous Curtain Trick* dished up their usual polished blend of pathos and sharp tunesmithing. The contrasting serenity and "just-make-ya-wanna-dance" energy of *Landscape Prayers* hit audiences with speed-o-sound sax notes - making their latest album *Bush Telegraph* the number-one seller at the tape tent.

The whole thing was spiced up by experienced acts like *The Jungabees*, *The Interitmo Drummers*, *The Gito Baloi Band* and Canadian/ex-patriate South African band *The Global Village Trucking Company*.

A little nostalgia was also added with pop/rock, courtesy of *Keep the Change* and *Tim Parr and Friends*, as well as powerful folk artists such as Syd Kitchen (whom the festival guide claims remains one of the most balanced of all confused people taking the air) and Roger Lucey.

Fourteen-year-old Tara Feraar, backed by father Steve and band, took Splashy by the balls with her astounding voice.

A pair of talented street-theatre players named Ellis and Bheki penetrated the laid-back lethargy of the patrons with their got-you-in-stitches production "Holy Moses".

Other memorable acts were the thinking-person's lyricist Matthew van der Want and Chris Letcher.

For me, though, the most memorable band was Durban-based *Oil and Water*.

We lay sprawled in a semi-inebriated state across our blankets near the day stage, with rain beginning to tumble down on the open-air audience, and a sudden surging intro reminiscent in energy of the *Gin Blossoms* or *Counting Crows* suddenly got me and a group of other crazed souls up and dancing. Powerful stuff, ladies and gentlemen.

**Fourteen-year-old Tara Feraar, backed by father Steve and band, took Splashy by the balls with her astounding voice.**

But obviously Splashy ain't just about the music. It's about eating "karma-free" pizza made by a strange collection of Hari-Krishna's at the flea-market. It's about kicking back to the melodies as you stare out at the kind of rolling hills and clear skies you thought only existed in songs. And it's about chuckling as the organisers kid casually about the festival's notorious drug-use on stage.

The focus of the event is on a concept I thought we had lost when we hit the 80's - the brotherhood of man. It was slightly marred this year by petty theft, but overall the spirit endured.

As long as Splashy Fen remains with its tie-dyed shirt traders, schwarma stands, mountain vistas and genuinely good music, the world will get a much needed annual shot of goodwill.

## Battle of the Bands

Toast Coetzer

**THIS IS ONE** of those stories where you know more than I do. You could call it dramatic irony, but let's not go porno. Fact is, RMR recently held a killer Battle of the Bands competition in the Union with *Amersham* appearing as the guest act. Because I don't know who won it at the time of writing this, I shall only tell you what will happen to the winners.

The winning band will be going to Oppikoppi in August where they get to play with the best bands this subcontinent has to offer.

So either *Fuzzy Logik*, *One Large Banana*, *Karmik Drink*, *4 Ways To Skin A Cactus*, *Moonshine* or *Quill* will stretch their chords, wield their axes and clutch their crotches (now why would they do that?) in front of thousands of people in the middle of the Bosveld. Their little pilgrimage will be sponsored by Hunters, so a big jeeha to the beverage people too.

They'll play with other student bands on the aptly named student stage. CBFM, Matie FM and Radio Tuks will hold similar competitions to pick their representatives. RMR will have live phone interviews with the other chosen bands prior to the Oppikoppi event, so listen out for that.

It comes down to this: you can be in one of two places from August 7 - 10. You can be on campus with dawnies, tuts, essays, res food and all things evil or you can be at Oppikoppi with the most brilliant bands, people with piercing, people without piercing (there are only two kinds of people) and endless fields of green grass (allegedly). The choice is yours.



# Festival 'Must Sees'

*With the Standard Bank National Arts Festival on the horizon, Olivia Johnson browsed through the various productions and exhibitions, and picked out 'What Looks Interesting' for Fest 1997...*

## Dance

*Junction* - it's choreographed by Alfred Hinkel who won the Standard Bank Special Award for Drama '97 - which means that he's the flavour of the month in SA dance.

It takes on the challenge of mixing Western and African rhythms.

*Do or Die* (New Moves1) - only because it won Best of the Fest at the Jo'burg Arts Festival in '95.

*Nederlands Dans Theater II* - always great to have young dancers (17 - 22) who are supposed to be shoo wah! professional. Also received rave reviews.

## Opera

*Sacred Bones* - it's a world first: a safari opera. And it won't be awful because it's by Capab. If opera gives you the chills it is only 1 hour, 15 min.

*Magic Flute* - this has always been the most musically beautiful and easy-to-listen-to opera. Again, it's Africanised and has been well accepted.

## Music

*Sibongile Mngoma In Concert* - she is currently the one to watch with regard to music/singing (you can always tell by who wins the Std Bank Awards). I just want to hear her sing "Swing Low Sweet Chariot". She covers opera, negro spirituals and South African traditional songs.

*A Tribute to Gibson Kente* - music and dance that I assume follows his musicals.

## Jazz

*Clarence 'Gatemouth' Brown* - reportedly has seven grammy nominations. I want to know why they were only nominations. *Bayete* - just always really great.

*Gito Baloi Band* - was part of *Tananas* and has a beautiful voice and the typical *Tananas* guitar style.

*Boeraqanga* - featuring Basil 'Manenberg' Coetzee, so it must be worthwhile. Also Gito Baloi.

*Jonny Cooper Orchestra* - 19 piece big band style which you don't see much of. Really impressive.

## Drama

*Ubu and the Truth Commission* - animation, puppets, players and voices. Kentridge is at it again. If it's anything like *Faustus*, I would see it for the animation alone.

*Montreuil-Soweto, The Meeting* - this is street theatre; a meeting of two cultures over a game of soccer. Hey?

## The Studio

*A Concert 6000 Feet Under Ground - You Must Be Joking!* - sounds like it's really busy and noisy and seriously entertaining. They are the President's Award Gumboot Dancers too.

*This is what we are told!* - assesses the 'New South Africa' from a community viewpoint.

## Film

It's all worth seeing but you should try and see Jeroen Krabbe (Farinelli) who will apparently attend some of the screenings. Ariel Dorfman (*Death and the Maiden* -

which is my favourite film) will also be attending a special film viewing. Here are the ones that I would see if I had limited time.

*Burnt by the Sun* - director Nikita Mikhalkov, acts with his daughter, Nadia. *Immortal Beloved* - supposed to be a movie written around Beethoven's music. The music just takes over the whole thing, and if you know Beethoven, your hair stands straight up for the entire movie.

*Flame* - controversial Zimbabwean film about a famous female cadre.

*Jump the Gun* - won M-Net All Africa Film Awards.

*Death and the Maiden* - reminded me so much of the TRC and where South Africa is now. Sigourney Weaver is outstanding.

## Visual Arts

*Contemporary South African Printmaking* - presented by Pippa Hobbs and Elizabeth Rankin who both seriously know what they are talking about.

They will discuss, amongst others, John Muafangejo, a crazy Namibian who made the cleverest prints.

*The Gencor Corporate Exhibition* - they've been snapping up everything that's new and exciting for years. They also had Kendall Geers to collect for them - Penny Siopis, Helen Sebidi, Norman Katherine, Durant Sihlali, Robert Hodgins.

*Ubu 101* - Kentridge, Hodgins, Bell. It will be predictably professional and thought-provoking.

The list is endless, there is so much to see. Don't miss the **Gencor** collection and the **Madam & Eve Framed at Last** which everyone knows and loves.

# Hairy Horrorscopes

**Jason the Magnificent**, our very own closet star-gazer, once again looks into his little glass ball, to bring you predictions that will destroy your life...

## Aquarius (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

You are good humoured and hard working, dilligent and intelligent. Other people hate you for it. You have to decide: be rich and successful or lazy, happy and have lots of friends. Learn to act stupid.

## Pisces (Feb 20 - March 21)

You will get radiation poisoning from res food. Your hair will go green and start to fall out during winters. Your skin will get an auburn-brown tinge. Basically, you are going to change into a tree. There is only one antidote: Castle Milk Stout (Yuch!)

## Aries (March 22 - April 20)

Your month will be relative to your choice of clothes. Bright clothes will give you a good, exciting month. Blues and browns will result in a mellow, laid-back month. Black will lead to your lover leaving you, your house/res room being broken into and your big toe being broken. Wear red and be hit by a concrete truck whilst in High Street on a fateful Tuesday afternoon.

## Taurus (April 21 - May 21)

You will have a lazy and fun-filled month involving nights by log fires and days prancing through daisy fields. Actually, this is all bullshit, but I don't have the heart to tell you how shocking your month is really going to be. Get through it, however, and next month will prove much better.

(Yeah right, ha ha ha...)

## Gemini (May 22 - June 21)

You are feeling your age. You are over the hill and picking up speed. You are having problems getting up in the morning, and more troubles staying up. Don't worry, you can still be a productive member of society. Try needle-work.

## Cancer (June 22 - July 23)

Your "free spirit" is going to prove itself useful during exams, when you decide to rebel against the system and not study, spending your time in bars and pubs around the city instead. That's right, show them! You're better than them! Ha! Of course it won't be so funny when you get your marks.

## Leo (July 24 - Aug 23)

You are under immense pressure, and don't know how you can go on. Oh woe! But have faith, soon your obligations will be fulfilled and, being a good type-A personality, you will soon find more stuff to bog yourself down with. Don't fret, you are a tough person and can take it for a while. Of course, one day you'll have a nervous breakdown and be useless for the rest of your life, but it's a small price to pay for fame.

## Virgo (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

You are the sweet, quiet type. You move in the background, getting things done without any credit. Ever thought of the recognition you deserve? The people who's success rides on YOUR shoulders? Now is the time to unhatch that sinister and malignant plot to take over the omniverse!

## Libra (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

The balance of the cosmic scales is way out of kilter at the moment. Your emotions are changing faster than Grahamstown's weather. Your ability to judge right from wrong has been warped and you don't know which paths to take. There is only one way to enlightenment: Taoism. Trust your feelings, Luke. Use the force.

## Scorpio (Oct 24 - Nov 22)

No one will lend you their lecture notes just before the exam since you will backstab all the nerds in the class soon. That's one of the problems of having a star sign with a poisonous tail - you just can't control it. Focus on not being such a prick - it could help you pass the year.

## Sagittarius (Nov 23 - Dec 22)

The blatant need for escapism through any means - drugs, alcohol, religion - points to a basic lack of the acceptance of your reality. What is so wrong with your life that you can only be happy whilst oblivious to it, wrapped in a cocoon of haze? Oh well, whatever. Have another beer.

## Capricorn (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

Don't stress about exams - all should be cool. You'll either pass or fail, but freaking out won't help. Take a cup of coffee and your notes and study outside (during the day of course - it is winter).

The soothing sounds of wind whistling through the trees and birds making bird-like noises will be conducive to good studying.

Think green and blue, man, green and blue, and all will be cool.

# THE FLIPIDE

## Everybody wanna be...

**YEARS BACK**, when three was still the magic number, De La Soul said: "Everybody wants to be a DJ, everybody wants to be an MC." In 1997 the stakes in the music industry are higher than ever. A whole lot of people want a piece of the Hip-Hop pie with the hope that it will bring them money and fame. Last year in a column I predicted that the art of DJ'ing would be the next one to be commercialised. Less than a year later "Everyone wants to be a DJ" more than ever before.

Hip-Hop DJ's now resemble the people who recently commercialised raving (and ruined the underground scene). The same flashy clothes, the same flashing of money. Our underground DJ scene had been discovered and is now being considered "trendy".

Whenever an underground culture gets commercialised, the ones who do it are inevitably in it for the wrong reasons - ego's, money, fame, admiration, etc. The tenets which have been developed by the original DJ's for well-grounded reasons (such as maintaining longevity of the culture) are often blatantly ignored and even ridiculed. All the groundbreaking work that has been done to get the culture to a certain point is scavenged by these newcomers.

The cycle then starts with the media focusing on the commercially-successful (but not "true" or "original") DJ's, the general public gets mass-fed the wrong information, the culture becomes popularised, the original proponents and their work gets ignored, the public tires of the fad as any attempt at longevity has been ignored, the culture goes back underground and the original few who are still around at this stage are seen as "behind the times". Sounds familiar doesn't it? Just think of the way Hammer and Vanilla gave the world the wrong impression of what rap was all about. The factors that all but destroyed breakdancing in the 80's, and have been attacking rap in the 90's, are now exerting their greedy influences on the DJ sub-culture. As a Hip-Hop purist who cares about this culture and wants to ensure that it continues to exist beyond the lifespan of *all* trends, I think that we should take what we have learnt in the past and use this information to come up with a set of rules. So, I bring to you, "The minimum entry requirements for DJology 101" (aka "How to alienate yourself in a trendy crowd in four easy steps"):

1. Do you have a love for your music which you want to communicate to others by becoming a DJ? Do you intend to change perceptions of this culture in a positive manner.
2. Do you have extensive knowledge (and critical insight) of your music (its origins, history, evolution, performers, etc.)?
3. Skills - do you know what to mix, and how and when to mix it? Do you try to evolve the art form in an original way?
4. Will you still be doing this when the trend passes? When you no longer get paid to do it, when no fame is attached to it? I see no practical way that these rules can actually be enforced, but I have put them here in the hope that it will make people think hard. If you don't have anything positive to add to this culture and are only thinking of getting involved for your own personal gain, I beg of you: *think again*.

**Mass Dosage**



## Hairy Harriet H'ala

**Our feisty feminist gets her unshaven legs involved in some butt kicking**

**GREETINGS** my darlings - how goes it in the land of accepted sexism? What with the new constitution and all, I was just getting used to the idea of being able to go about just being me - but no!

A couple of things brought themselves to my attention the other day while I was stroking my armpit hairs and reading through the grad programme. I trundled gaily forth to see various friends being bopped on the head by the man in the throne, while all those men in red dresses, looked on.

Anyhow, after a while I got a little bored and read through the nifty little Latin hymn that was being heartily sung at the end of each ceremony, *Graudeamus Igitur*. As I watched the large number of female students graduating, I wondered if they realized that they were wasting their parents' money by bothering to get a degree - the closing blessing obviously had clear instructions to both men and womyn. The boys got a nifty little verse along the lines of "Live this university/Men that learning nourish!", while the girls got a definite pointer what to do with their degrees: "Live all girls a health to you,/Melting maids and beauteous!/Live the wives and women too,/Gentle loving tender true/Good industrious, duteous!"

There we go girls, forget the degree, it's time to be beautiful, get married or at least be hard working and duteous. Forget careers, forget about balancing your own personal advancement with whatever you choose - you can only be wives or mothers. Oh wait, silly me, it will probably go against tradition not to sing a Latin song, in a university in Africa, where most of the students are womyn.

While we're on the subject of beauty, I had a good laugh at those womyn trying to explain the issue of non-sexism and the problem of beauty competitions to the student masses. Good goddess girls, don't you know your SRC doesn't even regard it as an issue? Weren't you listening to the representatives - it's about ENTERTAINMENT! It's not about WHAT'S being done, but about HOW it's done.

Don't you know that when the SRC (theoretically a leadership body setting trends and influencing student thought) can't even acknowledge that there is an issue under debate, then there *is* no issue!

One also wonders how the mothers of the revolution feel, those strong determined black and white womyn who fought for their daughters' freedom, equality and rights?

I wonder if they realize that for all those years the struggle wasn't for gaining the right to be what you want, but for the "right" to put beauty over brains, personality and general contribution. But then if the new South African womyn wants to sell herself like a piece of meat I suppose that's what freedom is all about! Pity they haven't been exposed to any debate allowing them to make a more informed choice! That's democracy, I suppose. If students want to look to the West for acceptable ideas of beauty, while losing all the dignity for which their mothers fought - so be it. As for me, I'm going back to plaiting my armpit hairs and dealing with more important things like rape, sexual harassment and discrimination - you know, the things that affect womyn but aren't as "entertaining."

HHH

# Union Disunity

**Babushi Maimela**

**THE ISSUE** of multiculturalising the Student Union has not been articulated as part of either black or white students' agenda despite the fact that it is connected to other areas of transformation at Rhodes. What is meant by multiculturalising the Union? The Union, as a social venue, carries the responsibility to cater for all racial groups with regard to music.

*The different views students have about the Union imply that there are a myriad of factors that restrict its inclusiveness.*

As musical taste is all about identity, black students also have a cultural need to listen to the kind of music they identify with. As the Union is meant to entertain the whole student population, it has to play a role in enhancing unity among students of different racial groups. It has a moral duty to promote reconciliation and cultural tolerance, and needs to make an effort to satisfy all groups in order to end the present racial stereotypes.

Most black students believe the Union's failure to multiculturalise is because it is privately owned. They argue that the management's aim is not to satisfy student interests, but to make a profit.

"The present management is able to make profit out of white students alone, so as a result our interests as black students of this university are not being catered for. The University should take over and run the Union for the benefit of the student population as a whole," said a black Journ student.

"I think it's just the attitude of some black students towards the Union. There are black, coloured and Indian students who

frequent the Union, even when it is a white evening," said a white BComm student.

The different views students have about the Union imply that there are a myriad of factors that restrict its inclusiveness.

Culture plays a role in our everyday lives. And black students cannot pretend that they fit in with the present entertainment system on campus. Which means that those blacks, coloureds and Indians who frequent the Union are those who culturally identify with rock music because of their socialisation. So music is not about colour, but about culture.

Asked how valid the accusations of cultural exclusivity are, the Union manager from Posh Nosh CC, trading as the Rhodes Kaif, Pete Boshoff, said that they have tried to multiculturalise by allocating for different tastes of music on different weekend days. But the problem they encountered was that only a few black students frequent the Union as they usually have parties off campus.

While this is true, the off-campus parties are usually attended after the Union. We had "The Bell Air", now "Alaska" and "The Pyramid" as after party venues. Perhaps black students have the off-campus parties mainly because they feel excluded by the Union.

"The University is aware of the Union issue and, because it has proved difficult to cater simultaneously for a variety of interests, the two-dance-floor system may be put in operation. This is a system whereby white and black students will use the main Union and the resource centre, respectively," said Boshoff. But he recognised problems with this kind of system. It will further divide students and does not promote cultural tolerance and unity. "This kind of division has proved to be a failure. And the idea of the two dance floors is only a suggestion," added Boshoff.

SRC Entertainment representative,

Gunther Deutsch, confirmed that they had also suggested two dance floors in their meeting with the Administration last year. He said, however, that the implications of the system were not explored, and this year the university has been silent about the matter. "I think the debate around the issue should be re-opened between the SRC and the University, with the student body putting forward their opinion because, socially, the issue continues to polarise the student population," said Deutsch.

*As musical taste is all about identity, black students also have a cultural need to listen to the kind of music they identify with.*

Surely everyone will agree that the issue of multiculturalising the Union is not an easy one. It leaves the University with a dilemma regarding which side to take. They can either implement the two dance floor system, or continue with the current system unpopular amongst black students, who feel they are not treated as a part of the University population.

If the University continues with the present system it will be proving that it really caters exclusively for white interests. In the context of the new democratic dispensation, the onus is on Rhodes to ensure that it satisfies the entire student population. Students, black and white, cannot reconcile while they are still socially apart from each other.

The Union is jointly run by the University and Posh Nosh CC. But Posh Nosh is in daily control of the Union. How then, can Rhodes transform to become more inclusive?

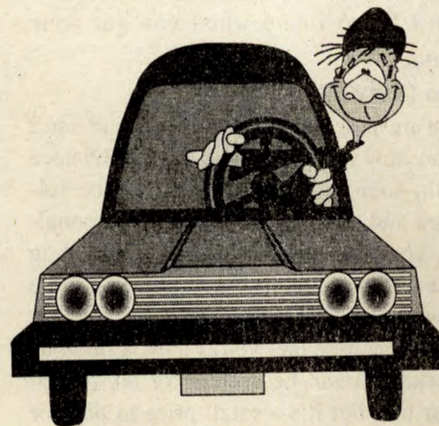
It has to alter its policies so that they reflect our national demographics. Otherwise, the whole issue of a multi-cultural University is a fallacy.

## Testosterone Driven

**Jamie Whittaker**

**NOT TOO LONG AGO** in a town not too far away, was an adventure that was not too adventurous. The sun was high, the trail was hot. A lone stranger, with big city expectations, swaggers into a one horse town. Well, actually, it was raining, I wasn't alone and neither of us expected much more than what Grahamstown is - a one horse town - but one cannot even say that without bending it a little, because there are actually two horses (if you're lucky you might actually get to see them both grazing just off African street), and about a hundred foul smelling donkeys trotting around. So much for big city expectations. And yet I was not to be denied all of my great expectations. Because, believe it or not, no matter where you hide or how far you run it will still find you...attitude. And even worse, attitude combined with bad driving. Picture it - a quiet Sunday evening. Our lone stranger driving down High Street behind a monstrous Ford Cortina which is travelling at all of five kilometres an hour. Now I ask you ... what do you do? Overtake him of course and think nothing more of it. Until he swerves in front of

you, going as fast as his bucket of bolts will take him, gesticulating profusely out of his side window challenging our lone stranger to a race. Now, not being one who feels it necessary to compare penis, car engine or bicep size to feel more of a man I ask you once more...what do you do? Change lanes and take a side road, rather



than perturb this testosterone-laden gentleman more than he already appeared to be.

It seems that this was the wrong course of action to take. Because now he takes it upon himself to cut off and pull in front of our hero. It appears that gesticulating is no longer satisfactory. He obviously feels his manhood has been challenged - and he

now needs to storm up to said stranger's car and threaten him with such comments as: "Ek sal jou bliksem, jou moer!"

Our hero is of course shocked by this turn of events. He obviously takes the only option open to him ... he politely asks the irate driver: "What in God's name is your problem buddy?" Expecting the worst while searching hopefully for any possible witnesses, our eloquent but perturbed driver realises that he has no answer. He promptly gets back into bucket and roars (well at least splutters and bangs) away into the distance - feeling perhaps that with this outburst, his pride had been repaired. Leaving behind a rather relieved but confused lone stranger.

The point of this story I don't know. It just seems that male drivers - although fabled to be the best - have no patience, no common sense and drive with what is in their pants rather than with their hands.

Now I know and understand that Grahamstown is a small place and most of the drivers here are not exactly used to lots of traffic. Hell, most haven't even seen a dual highway. But at 8 o'clock on a Sunday evening with only two cars on the road one would think that one would act with a little more self composure and dignity. But that's just my opinion. And what do I know?



# Festivities

*The lecturers at Rhodes Drama Department are making another exciting contribution to the Grahamstown Festival this year. Heather Ford spoke to Gary Gordon and Juanita Flintstone about their latest works.*

**PROFESSOR GARY GORDON**, head of the Drama Department, is putting on three exciting new works for the upcoming National Festival of Arts.

*Woman Gazing at Old Moon* is a full-length work which Gary is choreographing for the Fringe programme. This dance-play is based on David Storey's play *Home*, and it deals with the passing of time, old age and immobility.

Gary was inspired to produce this work by his ageing aunt who had been highly agile and active before a crippling stroke left her immobile. She said that the inability to move was one of the most dispiriting things that had happened to her.

The Old Moon symbolises degeneration and decay - during the three 'dark days' at the end of the cycle life is at an extreme low. Although much of the play deals with death and degeneration, it also expresses elements of the regeneration to come.

Gary describes the work as "half light on a darkening landscape where crooked feet walk and embalmed hands point to the slow passing of the old moon."

Leonard Praige, the composer of the haunting music for Gary's most recent work, *The Unspeakable Story*, will compose a new score for this dance-play.

"New Moves" is a programme of new, experimental dance work performed by four

different dance companies in South Africa. The First Physical Theatre Company has been invited to put on two works for the programme, choreographed by Gary Gordon.

*Writing For the Body*, the first of the two works, is in its first stages of conception. "Hidden gestures written on burning pages that are locked in whispering rooms" is the essence of the work, says Gary.

The second work, *Resting in the Trees*, has already been performed overseas. Last year it was presented in London at a new dance programme. This is a collaborative work which Gary choreographed and performed with Claire Baker. Claire will travel to South Africa to perform the dance-play for the first time in this country.

Andrew Cameron and Juanita Flintstone, Rhodes Drama Department staff, are collaborating on the new annual student festival drama *Corpus Vile*. Juanita describes it as image theatre, combining elements of physical theatre and acting, to produce a highly visual work. It is about a pathologist who discovers a corpse and begins to reconstruct its history in his mind.

*Corpus Vile* means "The Worthless Body" and deals with the social body and the constraints enforced on it. The body as matter as well as myth, and as a symbol with mystical elements are all explored in the play. Essentially the play is about "an archaeological dig". It is about discovery and the past and how we have denied our bodies in present times. "It is about pain and ecstasy, about transformation and alchemy. We create an image of cruelty though physical theatre," says Juanita.

*Rhodes drama students are always actively involved in the Standard Bank National Arts Festival.*

**Heather Ford and Gina Wilson** write about two innovative productions being written and staged by the students at the festival this year.

## GREEN SPOTS

**A production by the Avon Garden Theatre Company**

**THE FORMIDABLE** Avon Garden Theatre Company's James Cairns, Bevan Cullinan and Rob van Vuuren team up once again to bring us *Green Spots*, another hilarious comedy in the same vein as their *Squadron Marmite* and *Teatime at the Reykjavik Geezerdome*.

The play was written by the three drama honours students and will be performed by Bevan as a one-man show.

Andrew Buckland will direct *Green Spots* and his experience with the one-man-band-slapstick-situational-comedy form will provide the trio with much insight and guidance.

Bevan says that the task of performing a full-length play on his own is a great challenge in terms of comic timing and physicality.

"*Green Spots* is about a guy who lives alone in a tiny one-room apartment. He discovers a spot on his backside one day and fears that he has been the victim of an alien abduction. These frightening thoughts develop into an hysterical existential fuck out," Bevan said.

So, if you're wondering how a spot on one's

backside can lead one to questions about the meaning of life, make a plan to see *Green Spots* at this year's Grahamstown Festival.

## SINCERELY COLOUR

**THE ENTERPRISING TRIO** of Heather Ford, Nadia Kretschmer, and Candice Weiler are currently working on a play entitled *Sincerely Colour* for this year's Festival.

The work explores heterosexual relationships seen through the eyes of women.

Describing the work as "vibrant, colourful and experimental" the trio said that their writing does not squirm away from the issues of "sanitary pads, yeast infections or the almighty guava-pit."

It is a selective reflection of the shades of existence in their world, seen through the eyes of the three heroines.

The characters remain nameless: they represent all women. The play weaves a tale of the daily events in our lives which reveal the comedy of our existence.

"*In Sincerely Colour*, we celebrate the woman, essentially her birth, her anxieties, frustrations and sexuality."

Written, produced and directed by the drama trio themselves, the play promises a vivacious and lively hour's entertainment. However, they have a warning for audiences: "Reaction time is a factor in this play so please pay attention!"

*Bookings can be made through the Settler's Foundation. Get your booking kits now and find out what other exciting productions are in store.*

# Rhythmic Steps

**Thandiwe McCloy and Ndundu Sithole**

**THE VITA DANCE UMDUDO**, a production sponsored by First National Bank and presented at Rhodes Drama Department, was started in the Eastern Cape in 1995 to develop the standard of dance in South Africa.

This year's Dance Umdudo took place at the Rhodes Theatre on April 23, 24 and 25. On Thursday evening, The President's Award Dance Company presented a Gumboot Dance choreographed by Michael Mati. The company, which performed in New York and Germany in 1995, is South Africa's best gumboot dance act.

Another outstanding production on the Thursday evening was *The Brittleness of Bone*, choreographed by Andrew Cameron of The First Physical Theatre Company. This production certainly stole the show, as Rhodes Drama student Chris Thompson bravely exposed his naked body to the audience.

"That is what we call real theatre!" somebody exclaimed.

Friday evening had the greatest crowd attendance. Pilo Moeketsi choreographed the *pantsula* by "Young Kids on Fire".

The dancers were certainly young, and did look like they were on fire as pantsula dance is characterised by fast, small, jumpy steps.

Themba Nkabinde, a professional dancer from the Moving Into Dance Company believes "the standard of pantsula in general was good, but amateur dancers need more practice".

Unlike Friday, the Saturday show was characterised by traditional dancing. Masizame Cultural Group presented *Uhomolo*, choreographed by Khayaletu Faba. Dancers wore traditional Xhosa garb and moved vibrantly to the sounds of drums and clapping.

Vincent Mantsoe, winner of the IGI and FNB Vita Choreographer of the Year Award, and a member of the Moving Into Dance Company, did a sole performance of *Mpheyane*, which is about a man's torture. As expected, Mantsoe gave an outstanding performance.

*Gula Matari* was also very interesting, as it combined European, Asian and African dance influences.

The whistling that accompanied the movement made for a dynamic dance performance.

Although the standard of dancing was generally good, Andrew Buckland believes that it was higher last year.

"This year the dances were rather repetitive," he said.

Xolani Sibuta from Border Youth Dance Theatre Company thinks that the workshops conducted by various dance companies will help to improve the Dance Umdudo in future.



From left to right: Rolene (Bernadette Kesting), Miriam (Ntombi Mhangwami) and Mrs Dubios (Michelle Ferguson) pic: Angie Lazaro

*Curl Up and Dye* is the latest endeavour of the Rhodes Drama Department, directed by Michael Carklin. The play was workshopped and written in 1988 by the well-known South African actress and playwright, Sue Pam-Grant. Set against the backdrop of the political upheavals and injustices of the apartheid years, the personal and social experiences of five different women in a hairdressing salon are humorously explored. Although nearly a decade has passed since the play's inception, Carklin maintains that it has lost none of its original appeal.

"It is a comedy. People must not come expecting to see political theatre or an '80s drama. It is funny and people will enjoy it."

A discount on ticket prices will be given to patrons who arrive with unusual hairstyles on the first night. The play will run from May 21-24, with a matinee performance scheduled on the Saturday. Tickets are priced at R7.50 for students and R10 for the general public and are available from Grocott and Sherry.



## ilja's innings



**SPORT** is a funny thing. Thing? Yes, because I have no idea how to describe it. There are so many emotional and physical experiences involved in sport, that there is actually no conglomerate word that can be used to describe it, other than "thing".

Now, what I really want to talk about are the physical and emotional aspects of sport. I think it is the experience, or rather the opportunity for each individual to experience such unique feelings, that makes sport such a rare concept or "thing".

The excitement, the agony, and the relief does something to you that is only surpassed by a few other ordeals. Where else can people get together, get frustrated, let off steam and then rejoice at the experience of it all?

Look at big Frans (the rugby coach), off to Japan in some over-35 tournament, and to top it all, he was playing in a new unified SARU/SARFU side.

Further up the road, the VC is still playing competitive squash and across the big ocean at the recent US Masters golf, the oldest living winners of the tournament are still swinging the club.

Unfortunately, there are also less exciting experiences - Peter Shilton in England and his ability, or rather lack of, to kick a ball far enough.

To get back to the serious bit, isn't it frustrating that if sport is such a unifying concept, especially on campus, that at the same time it can be so disheartening and destructive? I know there are little cliques in various sports and that it is sometimes very difficult to become part of that group. Such minor aspects can destroy the love people have for sport. Little fault of their own, but unfortunately these factors exist and they are hard to combat. Notice that I have not used any examples, as I like my face the way it is.

But to everyone out there, who are part of this clique, remember, you are operating on a stereotypical level. Give it a long thought. You should be proud to teach somebody what you know and not disregard them for their lack of ability.

Getting back to the "thing", it is great to see the achievements we have accomplished, irrespective of all our faults. Walk into Sport Admin, look at the whiteboard, and relive the physical and emotional experiences of our sportsmen and women.

Keep it up, we are all proud of you!

**Ilja Graulich**

# Volleyball for Prison Inmates

**Geoff Lashbrook**

**IMAGINE** walking into a prison to teach the inmates about a sport that neither you nor they know anything about. To make matters worse, your coaching companion loses her confidence, leaving you to do all the hard work.

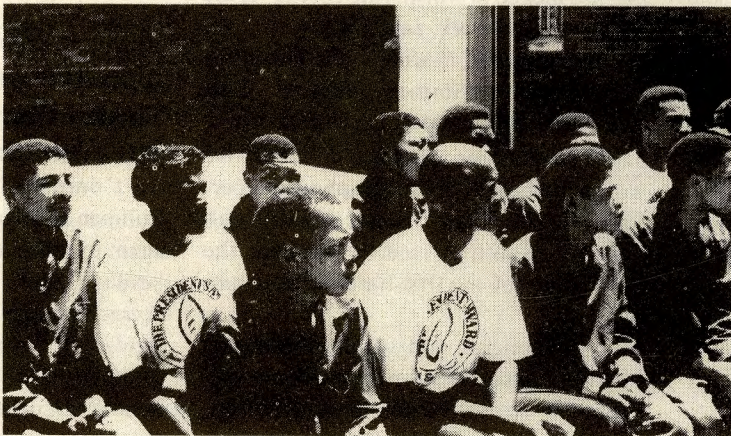
Stuff from a nightmare? Not for Fiona Williamson, who was the Rhodes Sports Development Officer last year. Along with her companions, Helen Shaw and Stacy Thomas, members of the Rhodes Volleyball Club, she bravely volunteered to teach the inmates of Grahamstown Juvenile Prison how to play volleyball, in an attempt to curb their boredom. The training was part of the President's Award Youth Programme. The programme caters for people between the ages of 14 and 30, and aims to teach a particular sport (in this case it was volleyball), a community service (for these prisoners it was driver education) and take them on a hike.

Incorporated into the programme is an award system. Each of the prisoners were awarded bronze medals. Because they were serv-

ing short-term sentences they did not have the opportunity to earn their gold medals. They did, however, leave the prison with a love for volleyball.

The prisoners that Fiona, Helen and Stacy were training were all younger than 21-years old and

were more interested in the stereotypical male sports, such as soccer and boxing. However, they were soon playing good volleyball. In fact they were so taken with the programme, that when it ended they sent a letter, written in a mixture of Xhosa and English,



Future volleyball players

pic: Fiona Williamson

serving sentences of three to six months. The highest level of education that had been reached in the group was a Standard 4.

Initially, the youths felt that the sport was too "girlish" for them. Perhaps a predictable reaction, taking into account their backgrounds and lifestyles. Fiona says that they

to the coaches, thanking them and asking for the coaching to continue.

Although the coaches said that they never felt threatened or scared, Fiona said that "it was quite an experience to see the door with that huge lock on it." Supervised by the prison social worker, Mr.

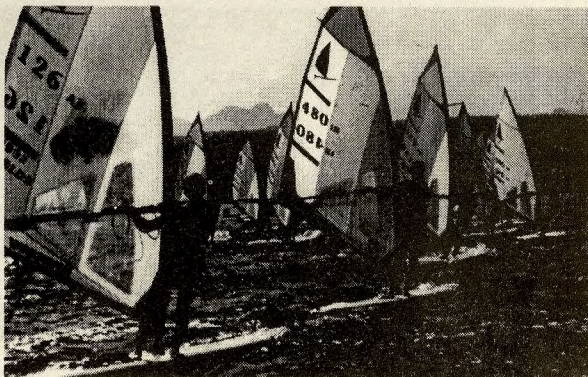
Bolete, the prisoners seemed happy and cheerful during the practices and it became an enjoyable experience to coach them.

This scheme, which ran last year from June to December, is connected to the Schools Development Programme which began on May 13 this year. This is also being run by Fiona, who is now the Governmental Sports Development Officer, and Nathan Davenport, an Assistant Sports Officer at Rhodes who deals predominantly with community development. It was felt that the schools would benefit from a league system of playing, because from a young age their potential can be easily spotted. The young talent could then be entered into the President's Award system.

Despite a teachers strike, school children from four schools still turned up for the first practice. This seems to bode well for the future of the league.

With the vast human resources at hand, there can be no doubt that volleyball talent will be exposed. Hopefully, a future world class player will have the efforts of Fiona and Nathan to thank for revealing this ability.

## Windsurfers sail to Victory



The Windsurfer Nationals at Swartvlei

pic: Len Victor

**David Wright**

**WINDSURFERS** Rob Laubscher and Renée Victor sailed their way into third position in each of their divisions in the recently held Windsurfer Nationals at Swartvlei in Sedgefield. The championship was held from April 11 - 15. The Rhodes University Sailing Club was also represented by David Ball.

The Sailing Club recently made a welcome return to the Sprog sailing scene, participating in the National Championships at Midmar Dam. With David Wright at the helm and Craig Peter crewing, the team managed to place themselves 17th in a fleet of 35 boats. This was a considerable achievement considering that they were competing against the likes of Bruce Savage (recent Olympian) and John Wright (previous national

champion). With moderate to heavy winds, Savage was in his element and he was the overall winner of the regatta. On the weekend of May ninth to 10, a team of Rhodes sailors visited the Stutterheim Aquatic Club to participate in their Frostbite Regatta and discuss the plans for the South African Student Sporting Union Regatta (SASSU). For the first time in the history of Rhodes University, the Sailing Club is hosting a national regatta. The regatta will be held at the Wriggelswade Dam in Stutterheim. The weekend ended on a high note with David Wright coming third and Rycherde Walters ninth in the regatta.

## Rugby Coach tours Japan

**Chris Walwyn**

**FRANS ERASMUS**, the Rhodes' rugby coach, was recently part of a 25-strong touring team of South African 'veterans' who took part in the annual Classic Tournament in Fukuoka, Japan.

A veteran must be over 33 years old and had to have played representative rugby for at least two years. The team was aptly dubbed the "Amakrokrokro".

The other countries that were represented were Japan, New Zealand and Australia.

The first round of play saw South Africa beat Japan (75 - 30) and New Zealand take out Australia. Four days later the "Amakrokrokro" and New Zealand clashed in the final. Erasmus described it as "a marvellous, running game with little kicking." New Zealand won 35 - 30.

The South African team was widely representative of both the black and white sectors of our population - approximately half of the players were black. The team also boasted legendary players from the past: Divan Serfontein, who coached and captained the side, Danie Gerber, John Villet, Eben Jansen, Burger Geldenhuys and Frans Erasmus himself. Only two matches were played but

all the members of the team had a chance on the field. This was because it was permissible to change players at random during the game.

The tournament was sponsored by a major Japanese corporation called Sanix. They have indicated that they want to repeat the exercise next year, with perhaps more teams participating than this year's four entries.

Erasmus hopes to be selected again and describes it as one of the best tours he has ever been on.

"The people were unbelievably hospitable, the fields were immaculate, the hotels almost better than five star, and we had a great deal of fun," he said.

Off the field, the "manne" had a great time. Frans said the sponsoring company had widespread interests and so the team toured the odd brewery and visited commercial farms where they raise cattle. They were also invited to two traditional Japanese meals. However, Frans is still not wild about raw fish and reckoned it's not so comfortable sitting on the floor to eat. One thing that struck him was the extent to which rugby is played in Japan. There are between 1 600 and 1 800 rugby clubs, catering for all ages.

"And don't think that Japanese are all tiny people," he smiled, "want hulle is rêrig groot."



# Men's Tennis Cracks Title

James Haydock

**FOR THE FIRST TIME** in the history of the Rhodes Men's Tennis Club, the team recently won the Port Elizabeth and Districts Premier Tennis League. This is after coming in a close second in last year's league.

Coming sixth out of 40 tertiary institutions at last year's South African Universities (SAU) championships, and ninth out of 40 in 1995, the tennis club seems to be continuing its good play. The Rhodes team (in which both men and ladies play) also won last year's Farmer's League.

These achievements have stemmed to a great extent from the efforts of the men's tennis coach, Chris Looock. Chris has instilled a new enthusiasm within the club and has improved standards both through his coaching and in the example that he sets for others.

He has been selected to represent the Eastern Province Veterans side for the last three years and in 1996 went to Italy as a member of the South African Veterans team. He is also the reigning champion and six-time winner of the Port Elizabeth and Districts Open Singles title.

Arne Hansen has also had a tremendous impact since his arrival last year. With Arne playing at number one, and Chris playing at number two, Rhodes now have arguably the top two men's players in the province playing for the club.



TRIUMPHANT TENNIS PLAYERS...back row: Arne Hansen and Gavin Linnette (reserve); front row: Chris Looock (coach), James Haydock (captain) and Graham Glover  
pic: Sue Powers

In 1996 Arne was selected at number three for the South African Universities side, after an excellent SAU Tournament, in which he was undefeated. His victims included the Stellenbosch number one, the University of Port Elizabeth number one and the Free State number one. He is also the holder of one of two Trustbank Sports Scholarships which were awarded to Rhodes students this year.

The veteran of the side is Graham Glover, who over the past six years, has made it his mission to put Rhodes tennis on the map. He is now finally able to bask in some of the success that is being achieved.

Graham has represented Rhodes at every position from number one to number four. The present side is fortunate that he is still around (now doing his masters in law) to

give the side the depth needed to be successful.

The captain for the past two years, James Haydock, plays at number three in the side. He has been selected for both the British Universities side (in his days at Reading University) and the South African Universities side, in 1995.

Together with Graham, he forms a competitive second doubles combination, which has contributed many vital points during the season.

Unfortunately the SAU Tournament as we knew it has been replaced by a regional tournament, but hopefully both Arne and James will be selected to represent Eastern Province. The tournament will be held in Port Elizabeth from June 29 - July 4. At the time of going to press the preliminary trials were in progress.

# Women's Hockey boasts Top Players

Lauren Collier

**THE RHODES** Women's Hockey club has some outstanding achievers in its ranks. On a national level, Caroline Birt and Parys Edwards recently represented the South African U21 side at the Junior Africa Cup in Zimbabwe. They won the tournament and will play in the Junior World Cup in Korea later this year. Dallah Edwards and Leigh-Anne Streak played at the same tournament but as representatives of the Zimbabwean U21 team.

The club also has a score of Eastern Province representatives. Five ladies were chosen for EP U21 team, namely: Parys Edwards, Caroline Birt, Dallah Edwards, Vicky Boucher (who could not attend the tournament due to an injury), and Kate Dancer (who was a late call-up, but who could also not make the tour).

Parys and Caroline, continuing

their outstanding performances, have also been chosen for the EP Women's side.

Dallah Edwards, who was a strong contender for this side, chose not to make herself available due to academic commitment.

The first, second and third hockey sides are quite competitive in their respective leagues and practice attendance is a serious issue.

The women have shown incredible enthusiasm this year, entering two teams at the annual Bohemian's Easter Hockey Tournament in East London. The first side won the tournament, with the second side coming a respectable third.

The following weekend, from April 5 - 6, saw four women's hockey teams boarding buses in freezing conditions bound for the National Addo Elephant Park, where an all-day tournament was held. The spirit was incredible, with some of the players disappearing to look for elephants! Their enthusiasm didn't end there.

A first team squad of about 25 girls has been braving the early mornings by attending a series of 6:30am aerobics sessions with the men's squad! Although the aim is to improve fitness so that they can brush up on their 'astro' skills, the amusement the men provide always makes it worth while.

Like last year, the club's large membership has allowed for a fifth hockey side. This hockey is more social, but practices and games are arranged weekly to keep the girls enthusiastic.

The Eastern Province League has since started with most teams off to a great start. The first and second sides have battled a bit because of some players having provincial and national hockey commitments and other key players being ill.

If all goes well a regular first and second side should soon be functioning at practices, preparing the teams for a successful final leg of the season.

# Sports Editorial

**THERE IS NOTHING WORSE** than having to sit on the sidelines, injured, and watch your team playing the game you're supposed to be in. In my case it's a bit different. I'm not injured but I almost wish I was. By some strange quirk of fate every Activate "paste up" the waves seem to be going off and here I sit, 55 kilometres away from the ocean, slaving my way through mounds of text, grappling with the mouse and swearing at computers. But for some crazy reason I keep trying to justify my actions.

I'd love to be the worlds' top seed woman surfer and spend the next 15 years of my life flying around the globe to surf perfect waves, earning loads of money in the process. Unfortunately though, I shit in my wetsuit every time the waves get over six foot, so I've had to modify my dream slightly. If I never wiped out it wouldn't be a problem, but I inevitably do and so I've chosen to leave surfing those heavy, growling monsters to those who like the thought of tons of water breaking over their heads and pinning them to the bottom for extended periods of time. The result is that I sit here trying to make sure that I'm just the package an editor of a surfing magazine would want. At least that way I still get to surf perfect waves (sometimes) and when it gets over 10 foot I can sit back and write about it. I'm also assured of a definite income for pretty much the rest of my working life and so my choice doesn't really bother me.

Sadly though there are those who are talented enough to turn professional but, because of the overwhelming odds facing them, decide to enter the world of business instead. One can't blame them. To make the break you are pitched against the very best and your whole career is dependent on your physical well being. As a result sports persons are pushing their way forward from as young an age as possible. Coming to varsity and studying a degree (to safeguard a career outside of sport), while continuing your game is becoming less and less of an option.

Paul Adams really has things going his way. At the age of 20, he is already enjoying the limelight and has the money rolling in. But should he be struck by a serious misfortune, a car accident, an irreparable injury, he really doesn't have anything to fall back on. And if by that stage he already has a family he could be in serious trouble. Admittedly professionals do take out major insurance policies as a safeguard but that still doesn't make up for the loss of their livelihood. Then of course if you do take the calculated risk of leaving school and entering the professional sphere there is always the chance that you might not make it or that you might be ousted by other up and comings.

I must admit that I've never understood people who undermine professional sports persons. In fact it really irritates me when someone comments: "It's ridiculous how much these people are paid when all they do is run around and catch balls/ throw balls/ bat balls/ hit balls/ surf." Not only are comments like this undercutting the risks that these people take but they also undermine the amount of hard training that goes into being the best. Our rowers train at least 12 times a week and wake up at 4.30am in winter to be on the water by sunrise. Us surfers are often up at that time as well, shaking as we climb into our wetsuits in the freezing parking lot - and we only do it for fun!

Those struggling to make it in the professional world of sport really deserve the money they earn. Their careers demand as much effort as any business venture, take as many, if not more risks, and therefore deserve the same respect. On that note, congratulations to Caroline Birt and Parys Edwards on their appointment to the South African U21 Women's hockey team.



# SPORT

Activate supports Rhodes sport

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

## Driven up the wall

Jason Krupp

**RHODES** students Jeremy Colenso and Shannon Law recently took the National Climbing Championships by storm. The competition, held in Cape Town, saw Shannon winning the



Jeremy at Coomb's Gorge

women's masters section and Jeremy claiming the men's masters section. They are both ranked first in the country.

But what drives them to defy gravity and to risk breaking their necks? Well, it seems there's more to it than just adrenaline.

"For me it's an obsession with movement. It's finding difficult physical rock climbing challenges and then finding the most efficient way to overcome them," explains Jeremy.

Shannon shares this point of view: "It's the immense pleasure I get from climbing at my limit, and knowing that when I first tried it, I couldn't do it."

pic: Shannon Law

But how did they get started? I mean, it's not like you wake up one morning and say ... "today, I assail a mountain".

Shannon and Jeremy both started climbing while they were in high school. Jeremy's interest sprang out of reading adventure books and going to a local climbing store where he was put in touch with another climber. And as they say... "that was that."

Shannon started climbing as an alternative to team sports. Since then, not even gravity has been able to keep them on the ground. Climbing is a well developed sport in Europe and America, but where is it going in South Africa?

Rock and sports climbing (the stuff done indoors) in South Africa has been around for some time. However, it is only recently that the transition from an amateur to a professional sport has begun. "It is still an amateur sport in this country, but it's moving into a professional sphere. I'm probably on the cutting edge of this generation

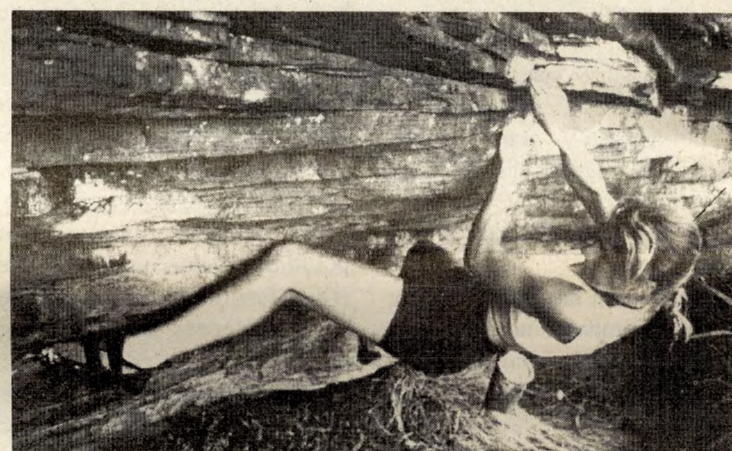
of climbers who are sort of semi-professional" says Jeremy.

So it's not just about lone wanderers, romping around the mountains anymore. Now it's open to anyone, with climbing gyms and walls popping up all around the country. (This has opened up debate amongst climbers. Some still cling to the notion that wall competitions lack the soul of rock climbing.)

More women climbers are also

getting involved.

"The standard of women's climbing is most certainly on the up," says Shannon. "Things are only going to improve in the future". Rhodes probably has the best climbing wall out of all the 'varsities in the country. So if you're interested, and looking for a great thrill (I can assure you that it is perfectly safe) contact the Rhodes Mountain Club for further details.



Shannon bouldering in Bots

pic: Cathy O' Dowd

## Hat Trick Victory for Rowers

Maev Allen

**THE RHODES** Rowing team recently walked away from the South African Rowing Championships with a host of triumphs and victories. Renowned for their history of success, they seem to have proved themselves once again with a hat trick at the National Championships.

The team entered five events, was victorious in three and achieved impressive results in the other two.

In a nail-biting race the Men's

A VIII, stroked by Richard Steele-Gray, won by half a boat length against long standing rivals, the Old Edwardians, in a time of 6.05 minutes. Rhodes has only won this event once before, in 1994.

The Women's A Coxless IV stroked by Nicola Davies, also won their race with an overwhelming victory over the Wemmerpan Rowing Club - a notably strong team, possessing two national heavyweight champions.

Rhodes Senior B VIII, stroked by

The championships were held at the Roodeplaat Dam north of Pretoria in Gauteng, and ran from 26 to 27 April.

Rowing clubs and university teams from across the country gathered to compete in the final and most important event on the

Sprint Race season calendar, where Rhodes came out tops.

The end of the regatta was marked by a prize giving ceremony, during which the Rhodes A VIII crew was awarded their hard-earned trophy, and the rest of the team

was presented with medals. This victory has not come easily to the dedicated rowing team.

This was naturally followed by huge celebrations (for which the rowers are notorious), that contin-

ued long into the week.

The Rhodes rowers could hardly have asked for a better way to end what has been an outstanding season.

Other highlights include winning the coveted Grand Challenge (senior A VIII) and the ladies' coxless four event at the Riviera Vaal Regatta.

It has been a committed season with intensive training about 12 times a week for the past four months, supported by coaches Justin Haggeman and Christian Felkel. Although the pressure is off for a while, the rowers will continue their independent off-season training in preparation for the upcoming boat racing season starting in July.

This is the Rhodes team's strength and they hold the prestigious title of undefeated champions of the National Boat Races for the past seven years. With this year's fine record of achievements under their belts, there is little, if any doubt, that the rowers will continue to perform in their customary winning fashion.

*Rhodes University Rowing Teams dominate the South African Student Rowing scene. Five of the nine men chosen are Rhodes oarsmen. The Rhodes Ladies Coxless four are all South African Students Rowing Association ladies.*

*At present, six of the nine Rhodes SASRA members have represented their country at at least one World Championship Regatta and totalling 17 international tours between them.*



Rhodes Men's A VIII at the SA Champs

pic: Bruce McKinlay

Steve Wardle, also notched up a first place, while the Senior A Coxless IV came third and the Senior B IV, sporting two crews, achieved second and third places in their race.

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