

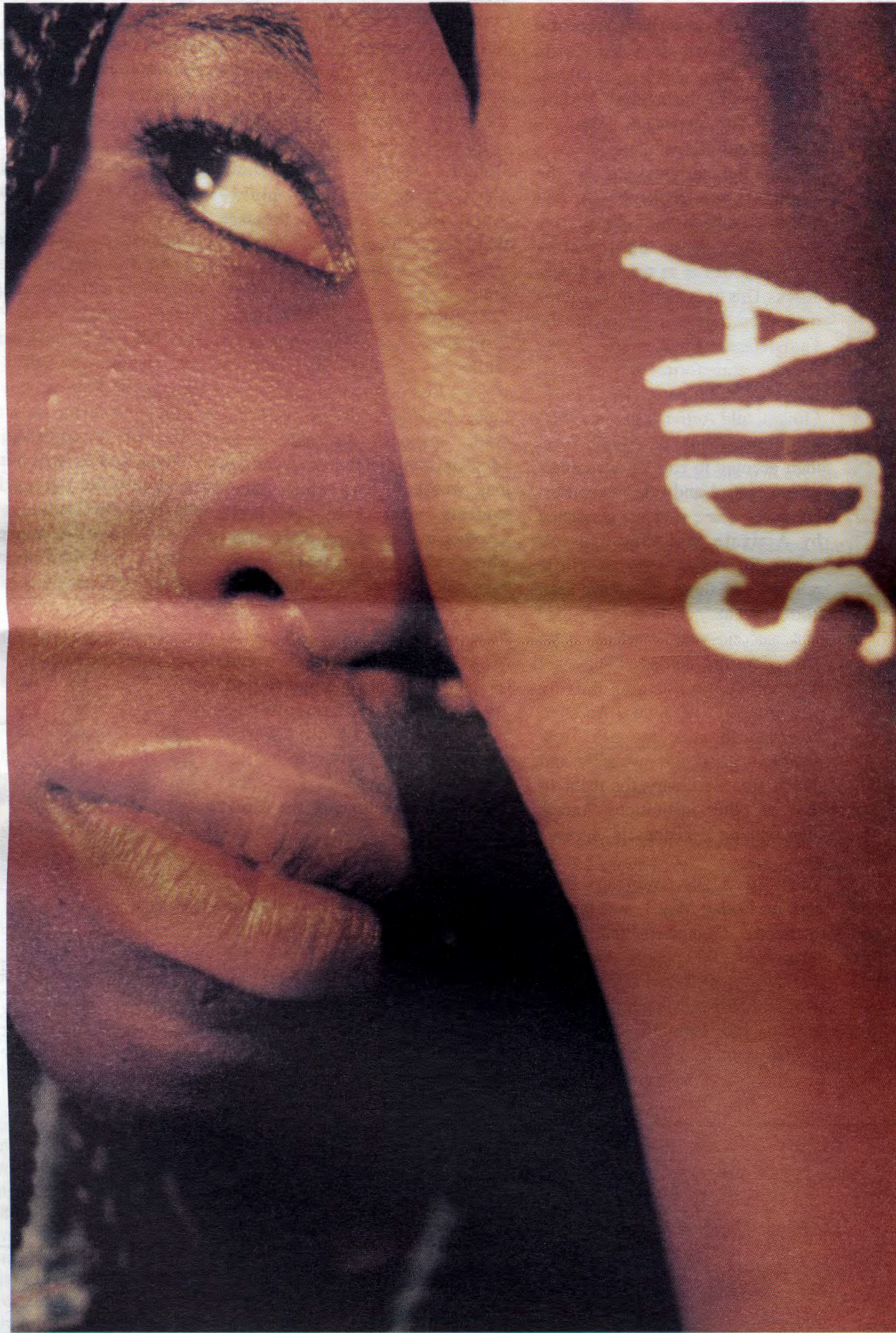
Rhodes' Most Responsible Student Newspaper

May 1998

activate

Independent Student Newspaper

3rd Edition



Pic : Toast Coetzer

PLUS

SRC

NEWS

SPORTS

CULTURE

BEYOND
AWARENESS

AIDS
WEEK
1998

ADDICTED TO FREE THINKING

Fire pulls down curtain on "His Majesty's"

Charne van der Merwe

"BEAUTIFUL yet apocalyptic," was how a by-stander described the fire which brought His Majesty's cinema to its knees during the early hours of Saturday April 25.

"The flames were huge. They rose about ten metres above the roof and sporadically, a big ball of flame covered in yellow sparks would puff out of the burning building."

It is of no surprise then, that the inferno reduced the 1000-seater cinema to a charred skeleton. In fact, the only sections of the building salvaged were the foyer area, manager's office and projection room which only suffered smoke

A black cat roams over the melted wiring - clearly not bringing the best of luck to the business' owner of twenty-two years, Target Sonne. The building, actually owned by Morgi Aroonslam, was not fully insured as the policy did not cover equipment or fittings - only the building itself.

The fire was first spotted by Constable Deon Peters who saw smoke billowing out of the back of the building. He notified the TLC's Fire Department at approximately 12:25 and they were immediately assisted by a tanker and tender from the military base.

Crowds thronged around the perimeter and watched as firemen battled for two hours to control the blaze. Precautionary measures fol-



Firemen examining rubble after His Majesty's fire

pic: Jacqui Pile

and water damage.

The auditorium itself is completely destroyed. Its interior is filled with the rubble of the collapsed corrugated-iron roof and massive central support. The damage, estimated at over two million rand, is evident with closer inspection of the sections of brick wall crushing the seats (thankfully empty at the time), the mangled girders and burnt stage area of the cinema.

lowed in six hours of "wetting down" the vast, smouldering wreckage.

A thorough police investigation was initiated the following Monday to ascertain the cause of the fire. Supt. Theresa Last and Sgt. Jean Martins conducted a three hour investigation of the site, sifting through the debris for evidence. The results of the forensic tests have not yet been released.

SRC Gravy-train off track

Hugh Ellis

MANY continue to question the way the SRC makes financial decisions, after a number of controversies on campus. A recent trip by a large number of councillors to Cape Town in the SRC minibus, as well as the recent Bongo Maffin/Lithium/Barney Simon concert and rumoured financial incentives for SRC members, have all come up for criticism.

Most SRC members recently undertook a trip to Cape Town, using the SRC minibus. According to the student government body's president, Wamkele Mene, the SRC members visited the universities of the Western Cape, Stellenbosch, and Cape Town, to familiarize themselves with the transformation process at these universities. This was done in the hope that they could implement the knowledge gained there in the Rhodes transformation process. Dean of Students, Dr Moosa Motara, told Activate that the SRC withdrew about R 9 000 from their account to pay for accommodation, petrol and other expenses. However, some students contacted by Activate said they had felt that the trip was of little relevance to them. "We have seen minimal changes this year" said one second-year student, who refused to be named. "They are misrepresenting us and abusing our money," she added. Another, however, felt that the SRC was "doing a good job overall", and that it was necessary for them to look at other institutions "rather than making decisions in a vacuum".

The SRC AIDS Awareness concert, on Friday May 1, was poorly attended. Organisers had hoped for around 2 000 people coming to the show, which included several well-known bands such as Bongo Maffin and Lithium, 5fm D.J. Barney Simon, as well as local

band One Large Banana.

With a much lower attendance recorded, rumours of financial problems circulated.

Confirming that a financial loss of approximately R 10 000 had been made, Mene said that, nevertheless, the event had, in some ways been very successful. "Those students who were there

"The SRC is not a profit-making institution".

thoroughly enjoyed themselves," he said, adding that another success was that the technical side of the show went "very smoothly", with everything being ready for Bongo Maffin. The show also had an unusually multi-racial audience, due to the fact that both "black" and "white" music was included on the program.

"The SRC is not a profit-making institution," said Mene, adding that while it should not try to make a loss either, this was sometimes inevitable. Mene said the main reasons for the poor attendance at the concert were the long weekend, over which many students went away, as well as other events taking place elsewhere, which drew people away from the G-spot. "The timing of the event was unstrategic," said Mene.

Mene said that the SRC would release precise expenditure figures on the party "as soon as we have reconciled our books". A well placed source within the SRC structure, described the financial implications of the show as "a disaster".

Motara confirmed that SRC members get financial incentives, saying that it was decided last year that being on the SRC was a job and a service to the university, for which students serving on the SRC were entitled to expect remuneration. Motara said this was not intended to be a secret, and that it would be heavily publicized in future to encourage students to stand for SRC positions.

The financial incentives are in the form of an amount credited to the member's account with Student Fees. The SRC president gets 50 per cent of the BA tuition fee, or R 4 675, whereas the "executive members" of the SRC - the Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Education Councillor - get 25 per cent of the BA tuition fee, or R 2 337.50, while the other SRC members get 15 per cent of the BA fee, or R 1 403.

Motara encouraged all ambitious students to stand for the SRC, not just because of the incentives offered, but also for the challenge of providing responsible leadership to the student body.

SRC logo launch

Bouie Leuner

This year, the Students Representative Council (SRC) felt that it was time to design a logo, since it has never had an identifiable image.

A competition was run last term, asking students to design a new "enhancing image".

The design finally chosen was Peter Coen's. Even though the SRC admits that it closely resembles that of the SABC logo, it was the best of the entries. "The logo has a professional, sophisticated appearance. Through this, it projects a similar image onto the SRC at Rhodes University," said a promotional document, describing the logo.

With this new, "original" logo, the SRC hopes to promote its professionalism and to be taken seriously when it comes to matters such as functions and its dealings with students. Though the logo will probably not take an instantaneous hold on students, SRC President, Wamkele Mene, believes that it will have taken its stand by the time he is out of office.

"This logo has been designed to eradicate the perception of an all black SRC and to promote the Council as it is: a progressive, vibrant, forward-thinking organisation" said Mene.



SRC logo

NEWS BRIEFS

COUCH POTATOES in the Grahamstown area will be able to enjoy the Arts Festival from their sofas. Cue TV will be broadcasting information about the annual Festival from the television studio in the Journalism department. Operated by Journalism students and staff members, Cue TV will run from 3-11 July 1998.

CAPE TIMES photojournalist, Benny Gool and his writing colleague, Roger Friedman, were the special guests at this year's International Press Freedom lecture at Rhodes.

The two talked about their latest project "True Colours", which involved interviewing 2000 South Africans from 150 towns about their views on transformation. They described the 12 page supplement as an 'uncomfortable' product that doesn't reflect the positive attitudes they hoped to find.

by Sneha Prabhakaran

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Internet @ Res

Hugh Ellis & Daniel Ambler

STUDENTS living in Allan Webb Hall, who previously had to walk all the way to main campus to make use of the Rhodes network, now have their own computer lab. This is part of a number of projects underway which aim to bring the Rhodes network service closer to students in res.

Other projects include the provision of internet connections in students' rooms in Allan Gray and Graham houses in Drostdy Hall, and a private project by Winchester house students to network their computers, in the hope of being connected to the Rhodes network one day.

The new computer lab in Allan Webb Hall is situated next to Canterbury house, and is specifically for students of that hall. It contains a number of pentium computers attached to the jackal server and was made possible by private donations, as the university's budget did not allow for the funding of this new lab.

The Allan Webb hall warden decided to search for private donors herself, after the possibility of funding from Rhodes evaporated in the face of more pressing concerns.

As a pilot project, Graham and Allan Gray residents can now plug any network-capable computer into a socket in their room and get direct access to the Rhodes network and the internet. The service is being managed through the Rhodes University Computer Users' Society (Rucus) and a large number of people in both houses

have connected up, with more to do so shortly. Rucus is also selling network cards at a reduced price to students whose computers do not have these already.

The service is, however, not without problems. Some students have complained that the R350 connection fee being charged is too high, especially considering that the cheapest network card on offer costs R200. "I thought about getting connected, but it was just too expensive," said one student, who did not want to be named.

A representative of Rucus, however, told Activate, that the fee only covered the cost of installation and maintenance of the system by the Information Technology (IT) division.

Some students also had problems with the fact that access to foreign internet sites from res is still limited, as in the public labs, from 6pm to 7am, in an effort to reduce congestion.

Meanwhile some students in Winchester House have set up their own network, at their own cost. This network allows them to send mail to each other but not to people outside the res and does not allow access to the internet. These students hope, however, that given time, Rhodes will provide a link to their res as well.

They may not have long to wait. If all goes well in Graham and Allan Gray houses, the system will be expanded - first to include the other houses in Drostdy Hall, then other houses on campus.

As Winchester already has a network set up, they may be near the top of the list.

ANC comes to Rhodes

Nadine Botha

MOST students felt apathetic about rumours of an ANC branch launching at Rhodes University.

Some students were quoted as saying that it was fine as long as the ANC were not agenda setting - "This isn't a breeding ground for future politicians," asserted one student. A few were a little confused as they thought that SASCO was fulfilling the function of representing the ANC on campus.

One anonymous source commented, "I believe in a Volkstaat. Things like this I find threatening to my peace of mind as I am an upright Afrikaner."

To dispel any misconceptions and rumours, we went in search of the true situation.

My first contact stood me up. Thanks to the helpful student orientated SRC, I was furnished with a second contact, Dr Julie Wells, a History Department lecturer, who is also the treasurer for the REC (Regional Executive Committee) for the Albany region.

A launch is classified as the Annual General meeting of a branch when card paying members are counted. The branch relaunches itself if there are more than 100 members.

ANC hoping to pull in more Rhodes members

The ANC have tried to launch a campus based organisation in the past, especially in 1993/1994, just before the elections.

Students, however, were too apathetic to become members, although there was a large amount of unofficial support.

This time, however, they are not launching a strictly campus-based organisation.

Membership support will come from non-students also, and they have enough numbers to go ahead with the launch.

As of yet, the date for the launch is unconfirmed, but they are hoping to get Lindiwe Sisulu, National Deputy Head of Home Affairs, to speak at the launch.

The ANC feel that the timing is right as their support is moving out of the township and more into the "Middle Class town," said Wells. Many students are members in their home towns, and the ANC would like them to feel at home here by making the facilities avail-

SASCO and ANC units to join hands

able to participate in the organisation.

The publicity drive is still going strong. At the Freedom Day celebrations, they had recruitment tables - which they will erect again soon. SASCO is collaborating with the ANC and are sending individual representatives to each residence to do a little door-to-door campaigning. Various other activities will also unite the two groups.

The fundamental difference between the ANC and SASCO is that SASCO deals with student orientated problems - although they support and implement the ANC constitution.

Members of the ANC will be concerned not only with student problems, but also with wider national problems and negotiations. The ANC will deal with real world and policy issues and will discuss things which are happening currently.

The launch comes at a time when the next election is looming. Structures are being put in place for the elections and they are hoping, once again, to have a candidate in all wards of the municipal election.

This be the verse...

Hugh Ellis

THE Rhodes Literary Society and Poetry group, after an absence of several months, was restarted at the beginning of this year, by a group of primarily English department students.

The society aims to promote the enjoyment and appreciation of literature, according to the convenor for the first semester, English Masters student Andrew van der Vlies. They plan to offer talks on a range of literary subjects, as well as poetry readings and evenings of student's own poetry.

The first meeting, held on 26 March, was a poetry evening at which people brought their favourite poem or prose piece to read to the group. Over 20 people convened in the Common Room of the English department.

Another poetry evening, consisting of student poetry, was organised for Thursday 30th April, but was not so well attended, although a good time was had by all, with several campus poets revealing their hidden talent. Poetry convenor Ursula Pais attributed the low turnout to the long weekend, and the fact that assignments were pending for several regular members.

This term the society also plans a poetry reading with well-known Grahamstown poets, Dan Wylie and Don MacLennan, on Wednesday May 20, as well as a movie showing during Swot Week. The first talk will be held on Thursday 28 May, with English department Professor and former Head of department, Malvern Van Wyk Smith, talking about the poetry of Sylvia Plath and Ted Hughes, a famous couple whose writing raised a considerable amount of controversy, especially after Sylvia Plath's death.

The previous literary society, also known as Seeds, disbanded at the end of last year. The current one was set up by some English honours students who were keen to hear some discussion of literature outside of tut groups, as well as by three undergrads who were keen to start a poetry group on campus.

Although the current committee is merely composed only of those who happened to be interested at the time, an AGM will be held at the end of this year or beginning of next year, at which new members will be elected. The SRC receives applications for budget allocations from societies only in September each year, at which time the society plans to put an application in. At present the society is relying on funds that were left over from the previous society's funds.

They are also looking into other sources of funds. Next year a fee may be charged to become a member of the society. This was not possible this year as the society was not registered in time for societies evening.



Ian Watson, leading axeman for Cape Town band Lithium, gives it a twang or two at the SRC logo launch party in the Great Hall.

pic: Toast Coetzer



SEE THE STARS IN THE GALAXY

Taryn Hickson

SO, YOU THOUGHT the Odeon was As Good As It Gets and that Grahamstown was like the Titanic, a sinking ship lacking the modern technology needed to save it? Well, fear no more for there is hope. Amidst Great Expectations, the Galaxy has arrived and is guaranteed to make yours A Life Less Ordinary.

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Imagine never having to lug a floppy pillow all the way across town in Hard Rain ever again. Better yet, imagine never having to wait months to watch that "new" release you've been dying to see.

The Galaxy is based on the Ster-Kinekor cinema style, and it even has an actual snack counter - mmm, "real" popcorn. Its cinema has two-hundred (comfortable) seats and air-conditioning.

With the opening of the Galaxy last week, there is no longer a need to spend an hour traveling to PE just to see a movie made in the last decade (didn't that make you want to Scream 2?).



Galaxy Manager, Johnny Kluivers, has something to grin about

Pic: Toast Coetzer

Movies will now be made available to us before they are to M-NET. And for all you art enthusiasts, you haven't been forgotten.

The Galaxy will show both commercial and art films.

For those of you who don't already know, the Galaxy is at the Monument, which leaves us with one complaint - the "hill".

Before you head off to buy your oxygen masks, the good news is that a shuttle service is being considered to transport all movie-buffs to and from the cinema.

The great news is that tickets still cost R10 - who else can beat that.

Even though it seems like His Majesty's could not take the Heat, the Odeon hasn't reached the end of its reel yet, so don't neglect it, after all it's been around longer than most of us.

Voices like angels

Solomon Makgale

SICELO MOYA is the 1998 choirmaster for the Voice of Glory (VOG) gospel choir.

"I sing because I am happy. Because I am free. I sing gospel music because I have accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour" he said.

He can't stop talking about his gratitude

towards God for saving him and blessing him. "I know that God has given me a talent to sing, compose songs and play the piano. It is for Him and Him alone that I sing".

Born and raised in Nelspruit, Sicelo's career in music started when he was eleven years old. His father, whom he admires very much and regards as a role model, realized his talent and encouraged

him to start the choir known as Lenient Sounds. When Sicelo is at Rhodes, his father looks after it.

"I joined VOG because I love their style of music. I love music and singing. I can't imagine myself doing anything else," he said.

With his leadership sparking a new sense of excitement amongst members, it is evident that Sicelo will take VOG places.

The Jackal Jostle

C Allan

LIKE HUNGRY scavengers they prowl the computer lab, drooling and ready to pounce on the next free computer.

They quiver and whine as they spot the tell tale signs of someone about to leave the computer in their clutches.

A second later, the fight erupts. Limbs claw, clutch and scramble. The weak fall and are trampled. Eventually there is a victor who sits triumphantly facing his prize. The other scavengers retreat disgustedly into the shadows.

It seems that with the introduction of a new computer lab, manners and a sense of decency have been given the proverbial drop kick "binnekant die kwartgebied".

I can't count the number of times I have been waiting for a computer when some git, who walked in three seconds before a computer was vacated, has taken the seat just because it was closer to him or her at the time. (Yes, you know who you are, feel the power of the press, heh, heh, heh.)

In all seriousness, let's have a little courtesy. Chances are you'll only have to wait a few minutes before discovering that the only mail you have is a chain letter promising eternal damnation if you don't send it on to ten people. And since you don't have the addresses of ten people, you find that eternal damnation means spending all eternity in the Jacaranda lab waiting for a free computer.



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Professor Pickles puns perfectly

Karyn Maughan

A TRULY DEMOCRATIC country is one that has both the ability to laugh at itself and the strength to encourage that laughter. If you can find humour in your national ridiculousness, you can surely cope with the defence budget, or so the theory goes. South Africa has supposedly attained democracy, but has yet to drop its national guilt and cultural inferiority complex. There are untold riches of potentially humorous material lurking within South Africa's cultural diversity and misconceptions, which are beginning to be explored by the newly-founded Professor Pickles Comedy Club.

If the stand-up comedians at the recent Professor Pickles evening are anything to go by, Leon Schuster's days are most definitely numbered.

The Professor Pickles concept originated in the mind of Bevan Cullinan and is into its fourth show. It arose out of a need Cullinan felt for the development of the intellectual aspect of humour, as opposed to the "clowning" of physical theatre. The show has moved from the relatively safe location of Rhodes Theatre to the unpredictable Union. What makes this different to performing in a theatre? According to Cullinan, a "certain decorum" exists in the theatre that almost completely evaporates in the alcohol-laden atmosphere of the club setting and the opportunities for disruption increase accordingly.

The relationship that exists between the performer and his/her audience is one that is both complex and personal. The essence of successful comedy lies in relating it specifically to the audience. A

large proportion of the Pickles humour is therefore Rhodes-based. According to Cullinan, "The beauty of the audience is that they are being slagged off and they don't know it."

Justin Easton-Groves, aka "Mousse", views the audience as a non-essential component of the stand-up experience. He doesn't care whether they like the show or not. "I don't give a fucking shit. If they laugh, they laugh. If they don't, they don't."

He is not charitable concerning the South African sense of humour, believing it to be "extremely poor" and based on second-grade American sitcom wit.

Mousse Easton-Groves emphasises the frustration of working within the constraints of political correctness, having to use sex and toilet humour to reach the audience and completely dodge contentious issues.

Both Cullinan and Easton-Groves stress the importance of preparation for stand-up, but as Cullinan says, "We don't write scripts, we write scenarios." He believes, however, that stand-up is the process of "pitching yourself to your environment" and thus being adaptable to that environment's specific mood. Easton-Groves is primarily a writer and prefers the conceptual role to that of the public comedian. For these comics, exposing their humour to the wider sphere of humanity is equivalent to "inviting rape".

Professor Pickles redeemed itself after a delayed start with new talents, Nadia Kretschmer.

As the first female comedian to grace the stage, Kretschmer was one of the evening's highlights. In the smoky and packed Union, with more than the fair



OOoH, BUT THINGS ARE LOOKING UP FOR PROFESSOR PICKLES!: Bevan Cullinan, who evolved the concept of the comedy club, is excited about the future of the movin' and shakin' event.

Pic by: Jacqui Pile

share of drunken would-be-wits, merely getting up to do stand-up requires either incredible courage or complete oblivion. Since a large portion of the Pickles comedy has been based on a male perspective and displays a strong element of sexism, this ballsy female drew a huge response from the grateful female crowd.

Though at some points harassed, she maintained her composure. "It was a terrifying experience. I knew some boy was going to whip his dick out... I'm not a man-hater. I love men... I just believe that if I want to grab my crotch, I should be able to."

Kretschmer insists that her piece was collaborative, being helped by both advice

and ideas from multiple sources, most notably from comedians, Donald Clark and Bevan Cullinan.

Donald Clark performed a spoof cover of "We didn't start the fire," tailored to the His Majesty's fire. It was one of the more intelligent pieces of the evening and clearly appealed to the audience.

The Professor Pickles series will continue at the Union at regular intervals, displaying new talent and hopefully pushing the boundaries of traditional comedy. It is definitely worth making the effort to watch.

Edgy, interesting and full of potential, this comedy can warp your mind. But you'll love every minute of it.

Splashy Fen: Melodies in the Mountain

Gina Schaffer

SITTING IN a stuffy car, in the blazing heat, surrounded by a million cars, I realised that I must be trapped in one of the happiest, most friendly traffic jams on the planet.

People smiled and waved, car radios blasted out Bob Marley and beers were passed around. The fact is that I was stuck in the long line of cars slowly chugging out of this year's Splashy Fen

OLD BROWN SHERRY FOR THE PAIN: Revellers at Splashy Fen brave the cold and partake in the joys of the 'high' life.

Pic by: Gina Schaffer

Music Festival and feeling (along with the 7000 others that attended the event) that this was as good as life gets.

The ten hour trip from Grahamstown was a small price to pay to be a part one of the country's oldest music festivals. Nestled in Underburg, just two hours from Durban, the Splashy Fen farm played host to the thousands of hippies, yuppies, ravers, rugger-buggers and undercover cops who all set aside their differences for four harmonious days in celebration of our local music.

Despite the disgusting pits that the locals called 'toilets' and the phenomenal amounts of mud that managed to penetrate everything from tents to clothes to body parts, Splashy Fen was, without a doubt, a perfect experience.

From the smell of the mountain air (tainted only by the gentle odour of blue gum wood smoke and dope) to the familiar music of top South African bands; from the taste of the exotic Indian and Hare Krishna fare to the beautiful surroundings, it all combined to set the scene for a truly "like-wow" weekend.

Arriving in the dark is not recommended. We managed, however, to pitch our tent with the help of neighbours (all in various stages of stoned-ness), and finally headed off to the main arena. There we stocked up at the beer tent and settled down to listen to some amazing SA music: Squeal, Sons of Trout, Colour Fields, Landscape Prayers and Henry Ate

are just some of the bands that Splashy offered. Unlike other music festivals, Splashy is essentially folk-orientated, which meant that we were able to experience the less-than-mainstream bands for whom a 'free-stage' was provided in the farm's own natural amphitheatre. The next few days were spent drinking draught in the river, playing drums in the teepee's, or just parking off next to someone's fire. It was amazing how many interesting people we met, some from as far afield as France and the UK, all partaking in this out-of-body experience. Leaving the festival and returning to normal, urban life was definitely a tear-jerking experience.

I know I sound like an ageing hippy, but never before have I experienced a more giving, peaceful and totally prejudice-free environment. The government have got it wrong: forget the RDP - send everyone to Splashy.



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Dance Umdudo's roller coaster ride

Heather Ford

THIS YEAR'S FNB Vita Dance Umdudo can be seen as a roller-coaster ride in the heights of its success and dismal depths of its failure.

Its success lay in the fact that, once again, the program provided a free and open platform for choreographers from all over the Eastern Cape to present their work in a celebration of dance and dancers in the region. It did, however, fail in its aim to develop an increased diversity in the realm of dance.

The traditional dancing was vibrant, colourful and clearly entertaining to the audiences, but there was a feeling amongst many that choreographers must try to develop unique styles and individual interpretation of the artistic context in which they live.

Organisers of this year's event couldn't have been too pleased with the result of their efforts in the recent choreographers' development program. The aim of the workshops was to explore aspects of choreography, creative movement and diversity in dance. They were also to receive an introduction to elements of lighting, sound, design and administration. This, however, was not reflected in this year's dances which seemed to be

almost exactly the same as last year's.

There was also a general mood of a negativity towards change and experimentation from the audience. This can only hinder dance from its potential development.

The criticism of this year's Umdudo cannot, however, overshadow the importance of such an event. The Drama Department had a record number of student entrants, all of whom did extremely well in producing highly unique work, choreographer Angela Smith of the First Physical Theatre Company continued to produce excellent dances and the audiences generally enjoyed the dance evenings thoroughly. Viva Dance Umdudo!



DANCE DYNAMISM: Shane Manilal and Kevin Fell of the Fellt Theatre Company performing *Planet Machine* at the FNB Dance Umdudo. The program had a record number of entrants, almost double the number of last year.

Pic: Jacqui Pile

Amersham rocks the Vic

Nadine Botha

"GET YA BOLLOCKS OUT!" It's Amersham. It's in the Vic. It's Wobbly. It's Brilliant Fantastic. It's a bunch of Monkey's prancing around the matchbox-sized Vic stage - well, rig platform thing. And you were there - or were you?

Well if you were, you experienced one of

the Rhodes electron swapping experiences called bonding. A unified machine which bopped, jived, jumped, chirped, churned and generally had an awesome time. You were impressed by how long they played for, mourned the end and wondered if the Vic had any concept of South African music beyond the My Generation CD.

The tangible mechanical spirit which

greeted the four Monkeys from Amersham jolted through the usually sterile Vic. Slowly the Bandscanners, Grahamstown Sluts Unite, groupies, curiosities, fans and students petered in to the twangs of Liquid - minus their Bass salad. Then Amersham. Brilliantly. Fantastically, the audience was subverted into a conglomerate mass, drawn into the evolutionary magic of this pop - as in

popular - music.

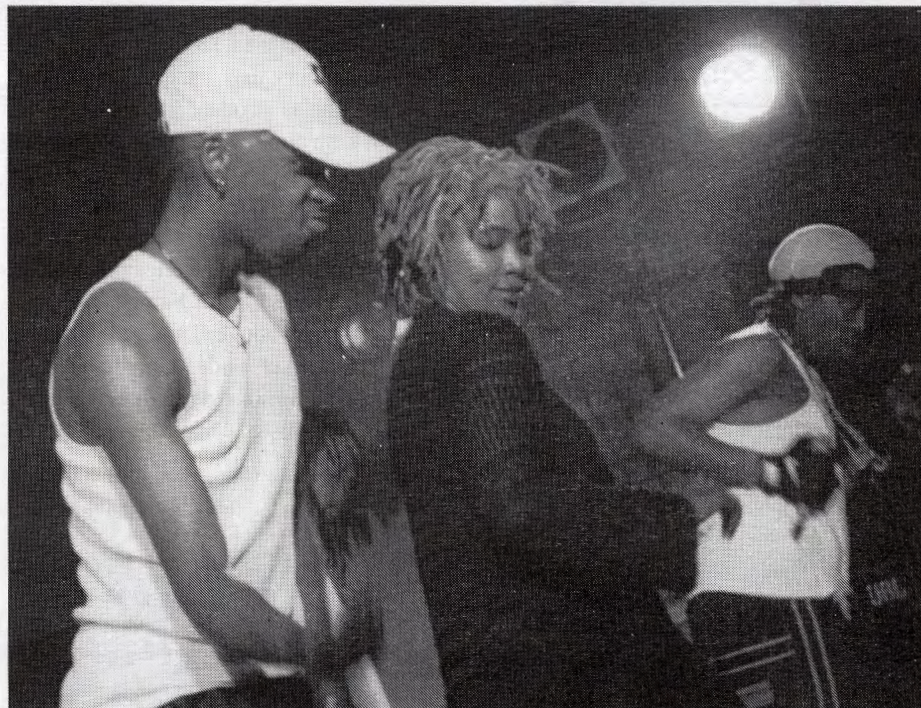
The friendly, open attitude of the band enchanted the mass and dispelled any preconceptions the audience may have had after the RMR advert. After a riveting gig of old favourites and a few new ones, the band was swamped by eager fans who were eventually swept out of the Vic by agitated staff.

And if you weren't there, you missed out.



AGNES OF GOD: Cailean Dooge and Candice Weiler in Rhodes Drama Department's latest play being shown at the Theatre. Director, Lindsay Reardon, describes the new work as "dark and riveting theatre with a psychological twist. The plot revolves around the discovery of a strangled newborn child in a nun's sleeping quarters. Having seemingly blocked out the memory, a court psychiatrist is appointed to establish her legal sanity or otherwise." So, be sure to catch it at the Rhodes theatre from the 20-24 May or during the National Arts Festival in early July. Agnes of God also stars Vicki Hastings (not in picture).

pic: Wayne Thornley



KWAITO GROOVESTERS: Bongo Maffin (above) was one of the numerous bands who performed at the concert to launch the SRC's new logo. Other bands who did their thing were local lads, One Large Banana, Liquid and (the very impressive) iTolofiya with the hard rock masters from Cape Town, Lithium, rounding off a night of good entertainment. In between live sets, DJ's, Mass Dosage, Q and the notorious Barney Simon spun some fat tunes ranging from kwaito to groove to severely hard rock. A good time had by all? Probably, but the turnout was a bit disappointing and, despite the fact that the bands cooked (especially Bongo Maffin), the sound really sucked piles. The SRC might not have made a lot of money from the event (to put it mildly - even though that wasn't the aim), but at least it was based on a grand idea - that of transformation by bringing all students together for a nice party.

Pic: Toast Coetzer

Ladies Soccer on the Ball

Mante Beryl Molepo

When Caroline Sithole approached me about organizing a women's soccer team at Rhodes I was surprised to learn that women here don't play the game, mainly because I come from the US where soccer remains a true varsity sport among many women.

Now, for the first time in history, women's soccer has come to Rhodes. Despite constant criticism, laughter, and undying discouragement, women have been determined to bring South Africa's most popular game to the women's level at varsity.

At a university where the female population exceeds the male, it seems only right that women are equally represented in sports. However, failure to maintain a team last year has resulted in sports administration not taking us seriously this year.

"I didn't care, I was going to make it happen this year," insists Caroline, the team chairperson.

A blueprint slowly unfolded as we launched a campaign to create Rhodes' first women's soccer team. Fliers and posters were plastered all over campus. Regular RMR broadcasts and interviews allowed us to invite women to our first practice.

The response was incredible. Many women who saw the posters and heard the radio promotions expressed eagerness.

"Finally someone is able to begin a women's soccer team here," said Nicole Veloso, now the team's right fullback.

Yet cynicism from several males did not evade us.

"I'm not a sexist but I don't play soccer with women," was one of many male comments.

"It's nice to see girls playing soccer since they're too busy sleeping and eating to be doing

anything else" came the laughter of others who felt women don't have the ability to play a 'male' sport.

Despite this, some men began to display interest in the idea of creating a women's team, several of whom offered to coach us and help with our promotion.

The team eventually settled on two coaches: Chicco Chitsike, a B Com major and Du Mhango, a B Com Accounts graduate and member of Wits League, the world's largest soccer league.

Turn out at our first practice was disappointing. Only 11 women pitched.

"Many girls felt intimidated. They thought that if they couldn't kick a ball they shouldn't come out for practice", says Mpho Majoro, the team's fullback.

Yet the "no experience necessary" written in bold across all the fliers and posters did encourage a few first time players to come out and play.

After three weeks of training we were invited to play in the Freedom Day tournament.

Our opposition were women who had played for years together. Although we entered the tournament with bruised confidence, we were determined.

"We all knew we would lose but we were still very confident", says Flinky Kochannek, the team's halfback.

After two 30 minute halves, no substitutes and our opponent's screaming spectators, Rhodes women's team won the game 3-1.

That afternoon we took home the Freedom Cup, our confidence re-vitalized by our first win.

Support has increased amongst both men and women.

"Since our win more people are taking us seriously and are inter-

ested in joining the team", says Caroline.

Sports administration officer, Rob Benyon, says the administration's initial reaction is standard when people are interested in forming a new team. The team must show initiative and seriousness in order to receive support from the administration.

He has displayed keen interest in women's soccer.

"It's nice to see the barriers are coming down. Women are establishing themselves by playing a traditionally male sport", says Rob.

He believes the best way to maintain the team is for it to merge with the men's league.

However, initiative will determine the fate of women's soccer at Rhodes. With the increase in attendance at practice there is potential to begin another team hopefully by the third term.

"Women's soccer wants to accommodate anyone interested in the game", says Caroline who continues to encourage women, to come out and play.

The future for women's soccer at Rhodes is bright. Increased funding and support from businesses and students will eventually set the foundations for a first league.

In the meantime winning the Freedom Cup remains our greatest achievement.

As for the laughter and criticism on behalf of some of our male counterparts I conclude with Rob Benyon's words: "women are taking the initiative rather than fitting stereotypes. They are going out and doing something."

Women's soccer practices are at 5:00pm on Tuesday and Thursday at King Field.

Frans Erasmus Trust Fund

Lee-Ann Barnes

The stereotype of the hard, brainless rugger-bugger has been forgotten as the players fund-raised for their late coach's children. This selfless action was started after Frans Erasmus' tragic death in a car smash on the Waainek Road just outside Grahamstown on 7 March.

The Frans Erasmus Trust Fund was set up by friends of the family in order to provide the Erasmus children with a decent upbringing. It has been marketed nationally and details appear on the SARFU Web page. A benefit breakfast was held recently in Port Elizabeth before the Super 12 rugby match, between Waikato Chiefs and the Coastal Sharks. Last month, a Beerfest was arranged at the Great Field and was a success according to organisers. Many

people drifted in and out of the Beerfest before going to The Union and it is estimated that R1500-R2000 was raised.

This profit will be put into a bank account for the three children who were left as orphans after the crash. They are presently staying with their grandparents on a farm in Oudtshoorn.

Frans Erasmus played 119 games as a prop for EP and he earned 4 Springbok caps during his playing career in the late 1980's. According to Benyon, "If Frans was still playing international rugby he would be a multi-millionaire".

Unfortunately, not much money is left after funeral expenses of both Frans and his wife (who also died in another recent car crash) and there are limited funds available for the children.

"The Rhodes rugby club is undergoing a metamorphosis" says Rob Benyon of Sports Admin. This will involve many plans for future fund-raisers in Grahamstown and a benefit dinner is planned in memory of this man, whose presence is sorely missed. The 1998 rugby season has been dedicated to their late coach and the players are responding well to fund-raising events. The organisers have requested that students support and attend future benefit functions.

If anybody would like to contribute to the Frans Erasmus Trust Fund, the account number is 0290158915 at Volkskas Bank North End. Details for donations can be found on the SARFU Web page.

Sports Editorial

Louis Luyt is a prick. There is no doubt about that. He proved it conclusively after the world cup victory when he told the New Zealanders that South Africa would have won all of the world cups, had it not been for the isolation period. That is why I initially supported the NSC's bid to have him ousted. But I think that their absolute hounding of him is immoral and should not have happened. It is a fact that Luyt was democratically elected and the claims that he rigged the vote etc. seem to be baseless. Despite all of his bad press, he has undeniably and single-handedly dragged rugby out of the mire of the isolationist period and into the modern era. The "Golden Lions" of Guateng are the richest and most efficiently run of the provincial teams, even if the players don't perform the best. Although his methods make Die Groot Krockadil look like Mahatma Gandhi, he has done his job well and been successful. Development has been taking place, and Muleleki only has to look at his own province to see that the Border Development side on the top of the u/21 league. Luyt's statement that, "I will bow to no man, only God", has got to be respected, if only because it shows that he has got balls the size of watermelons. Sure, if your Board does place a vote of no confidence in you, it is your time to go, but I object to the personal nature of Muleleki George's battle with Luyt. Louis is definitely an unsavoury character, but this is no reason to hound him out of office. Although I feel happy that a crisis has been averted and that politics will not spoil this winter's rugby watching, I think that it is unfortunate that the NSC had to resort to these personal attacks in order to get Luyt out of rugby. He gets my vote for the "I stand up for what I believe in" prize, everyday of the week. Now all I can hope for is that whoever takes over from Luyt does not hire the same PR manager.

The new astroturf is obviously a great boost to the sum total of Rhodes' sporting facilities. Apart from the advantages to the players, it will also run training camps for disadvantaged people. The exposure of different sports (the astro can be used for cricket, tennis etc.) to these people will surely make them happier and could also result in the uncovering of hidden talents. It is vital that institutions that are privileged, like Rhodes, play a leading role in the development of new talents. It is by putting this effort back into the community that Rhodes will gain not only a possible wealth of new talent, but also authenticity in its status as a development centre.

Perhaps a more exciting development is the construction of the new Sports Bar at the Prospect field. The potential for rowdy hockey support is mouth watering.

In keeping with this edition's focus on AIDS, we must remember that this is a real issue for sports people today. Apart from being the punch line of a few pretty lame jokes and the subject of some nightmarish statistics, AIDS exists as a no-go topic of conversation in the stinky changerooms. True, it is boring and morbid to talk of the disease, but it is also true to say that most sports have a high risk factor attached to them, by virtue of their up-front nature. This translates to the fact that sports people must now make decisions as to who they want to play with or against. So the next time you are sent to the "bloodbin" don't grumble about 'wussy refs'. Take a second to reflect on the dangerous implications of your blood.

SPORT

Activate supports Rhodes sport

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

HOCKEY CLUB GETS ASTROTURF

Geoff Lashbrook

IN CASE YOU were wondering what the noise and bulldozers were doing on Prospect field, don't be alarmed. The varsity is boosting its sports facilities by constructing an astroturf for the hockey club. The club is the last major hockey institution in the country to invest in this now essential artificial pitch. The idea is not a recent one. It all started in 1992 when it became obvious that Rhodes would need an a tificial pitch in order to keep up with the provincial competition. Since then, as all Premier and provincial league matches have been played on astro, the first team has not played at home. The original idea was that Rhodes would go into partnership with Kingswood, DSG and St Andrews and try to raise funds up front. The original site was the Lower Barrat field which would have given easy access to the players from St Andrews and DSG. Unfortunately, the schools had to pull out, as the funding became unfeasible. At this stage, Rhodes decided to 'go it alone' and managed to secure a favourable bank loan for the R1,8 million needed. This will be repaid over 10

years. The site was changed to the Prospect field as it had the existing infrastructure there. This includes the Sports Admin Building, change rooms and the grand-stands. And in case you were complaining about 'another Rhodes investment that I pay for but won't use', the "Sports Council has undertaken to repay the loan", says Pete Andrews, head of Sports Admin. This means that the varsity does not pay a thing and that the pitch is funded entirely by the Council. "This income will be generated by hiring out of the facility, the sale of advertising space on boards around the field and from funds taken at the new Sports Bar", says Pete. From a hockey perspective, the field will be used by all Rhodes teams and a majority of school and club fixtures. For these games it will be hired out. "The anticipated date of finishing is mid-June", says Pete. The official opening will be on the weekend of the 24-26 June. Since that is the last weekend of the June vac, there will also be a more student orientated opening in the third term. From then on, there will be hockey fixtures every weekend. Apart from this, the field will be used for the development of hockey through



Men at work: The new astroturf with the new Sports Bar in the background

the EP Hockey Academy and of other sports such as cricket, tennis and soccer. Combined with the construction of the artificial surface, is the refurbishment of the old lounge into a Sports Bar and function room. The Sports Bar is a general facility "this means that if you are a member of any sports club at the varsity, you are automatically a member of the Sports Bar", says Pete. The bar will have a club licence and be open on a daily basis. Asked if Grahamstown could

anticipate any international matches, Pete replies, "Unfortunately not, because those matches are now all played on water based astro." Rhodes has opted for the cheaper "sand dressed" surface, which is more abrasive. This results in grazed knees for foolhardy players. Despite this, Pete says, "We believe that we have the most hospitable hockey playing venue in the country." The men's hockey captain, Warren Potts, says, "This will put us on a par with other ter-

tiary institutions and clubs, whereas in the past we have been playing at a disadvantage. The club can only improve its standard of play. The hockey players would like to extend their grateful thanks to Pete Andrews for the ludicrous amount of time that he spent in getting the astroturf put in."

Sports Admin would like to add that the athletics track damaged by the construction work will be repaired and top-dressed.

pic:Toast Coetzer

PICK A CHOC

Pick a Choc is moving to Biscuit King's premises on 1June '98

We will still have our special on:

Milk tart
Cheese cake
Lemon Meringue
Quiche
Chocolate cake

1 slice for R3.50 with free tea or coffee

Martial Arts Clubs Move

**Helen Dancer
Pia Maragoni**

THE DEMAND for res accommodation this year has forced the martial arts clubs on campus to relocate. This is because Admin decided to change the original dojo, in which the clubs trained, into a women's residence. The old dojo building housed the Aikido, Karate and Kung-Fu clubs, as well as Table Tennis and Chess. The clubs agreed to move on the condition that the University provided an equivalent, or better place for them to train. Sports officer, Rob Benyon said that even though a dojo is a sacred place, the clubs realised the need for res space. Admin and Sports Admin

decided to change the weights room in the Alec Mullen's complex into the new dojo. A new sprung floor has been fitted and the tatami training mats are in place. Approximately R20 000 has been spent on the new facility. The dojo will be fully completed in about two weeks. Kung-Fu and Aikido have already had seniors in each discipline to approve the dojo by conducting formal training sessions. Karate is currently practising in the Aerobics hall. The move provoked strong reactions from the clubs, but Benyon said that they are happy in their new location. He said that he was not sure whether sentiments were considered in the decision to move the dojo but, "change is a good thing."

RESULTS CORNER
NETBALL:
1ST LOST VS. VISTA 11-18
2ND LOST VS. VISTA 8-9
1ST LOST VS. WESTELIKKES 11-31
2ND LOST VS. UITENHAGE 9-12
RUGBY:
1ST WON VS. UNITED 85-3
2ND WON VS. UNITED 42-13
1ST WON VS. MACLEAR 55-12
U/21 WON VS BUFFALO 15-10
HOCKEY: WOMENS
2ND WON VS. UPE 2-0
3RD WON VS. UPE 5-0
2ND DREW VS. THORNHILL 3-3
3RD LOST VS. OLD GREY 3-4
MENS
ROMANS VS OLD VICTORIANS LOST 0-5
OCCAIONALS VS RAMBLERS DREW 2-2