

Edition 8 16-29 August 2000

activate

INDEPENDENT

STUDENT NEWSPAPER



Questions of Freedom

The CHE report

The new oppidan policy

Editorial



'Matter of principle' can be a dirty phrase these days. It's the language of ideologues and fundamentalists. A breed of people the modern world tends to hate itself for having spawned. That's why I feel somehow outcast when I wear down barstools and clutter coffee shop tables for hours at a time bitching about the need to respect old-fashioned things like civil rights and individual freedoms.

I get a lot of blank stares, a lot of sneering - a lot of people more concerned with their comforts than their abstract rights.

This is why the questions that drive this edition are rough ones.

Many people don't have a problem with governments that fund higher education having a direct hand in how the construct their degrees. Some equally would not have a problem with a University Admin that empowers itself to enforce it's will on students living off campus if it's the reason they're there in the first place.

But to sad fools like myself, who tend to remember why liberal democracies weren't just another historical fad, authority structures stepping nonchalantly over lines like these set off a few critical alarm bells.

Taking our first alleged offenders - the council on higher education.

The heat on the size and shape report has died down by now. There are guarantees coming out of public statements from all corners stating flatly that it just wasn't isn't going too happen. But a strange, perhaps barely visible line was quite casually crossed. The report was about getting universities that had only paid lip service to transformation to start engineering the practicalities. It was about re-organising the fallout of the apartheid era higher education nightmare into something workable, clean and nationally viable. But there were some scarier questions no one seemed to be asking, such as whether or not a government should be on a hastily constructed soapbox dictating which universities deserved to have post-graduate programs. Whether the fact that

they foot half the bills means they have the right to run half the show. I leave it to our lead features piece to dissect the issue further.

Second alleged offenders: Rhodes University Administration and the new oppidan policy. It translates into the Assistant Dean of Students office being pumped up with Hall warden powers over students not living in res. That means the neat array of disciplinary measures previously cast only against those living on varsity property is now also available in off-campus versions.

I understand the varsity's position in terms of us being here as Rhodes students and identified as such. We're Rhodents whether we list our postal address as Allan Gray or African Street. The varsity has fore sworn themselves not to prowling the streets by dusk on witch-hunts for noise-violators. That in my eyes isn't the issue. The issue is that by the dictates of this new policy approach, they could. And we can cry out to the fates and the courts 'til our young throats are hoarse. The varsity is empowered to legislate as it chooses as regards students anywhere in this valley we've made our own. We were stripped of any right to objection in production line fashion when we signed our agreements to abide by varsity decisions during registration.

Perhaps what worries me the most about this is that there was no real student input gleaned or information sent out at any stage of it. Admin can't carrying on claiming it's getting student input on the basis that there are student posts on the committees that clear these kind of motions, when half the students don't even know those posts exist. They had to have known that this was going to raise a few hackles. Simply put, someone should have bothered to ask us in a way that had an outside chance of getting a broadscale response. That is what I mean when I talk of violating individual rights. In terms of this policy and it's implications, I can't help but feeling we were treated as subjects - not citizens.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Public tonsil hockey turns foul

There is something that has been bothering me for a while now that eventually reached a head a few nights ago at the Rat and Parrot. It could be described as the increase, make that the massive increase, of PDA by Rhodes students on campus. PDA for those of you that are not "with it" stands for Public Display of Affection.

Affection however seems to me to be a too soft a word for what I see going on around me every night I brave that drunken masses. Maybe it should be PDL, "L" for lust or even PDT, "T" for tongue.

It is not that I mind that these lucky individuals are "getting down" so to speak, exploring the back of each others throats, but it is the spit-tle running down their faces that gets a bit much after a while.

Some have even been seen to roll around on the bathroom floors in the pursuit of a little bit of action. But I don't think that this is their fault really. No place is provided for these poor individuals to get these animal urges out of their system. The outside of the R&P is closed at 12 and they are forced to accept whatever surroundings they find themselves in.

"So? This has been going on for years." you say. Well I decided after what I saw the other night that something had to be said. The other night, you see, the Rat reached new levels of PDA thanks to certain individuals. In the middle of a packed Rat stood a stocky young fellow, his T-Shirt around his neck dancing to the music while his girl suckled his nipples, yes you read right, his nipples.

Something has to be done.

Yours shocked and horrified

Anonymous

Retraction

The Hindu Students Society would like to apologise for any inconvenience caused by the notification of the AIDS walk on Wednesday, 2 August 2000, which was subsequently cancelled. This was due to factors beyond our control.

Changeover

Elections for the 2000/2001 ACTIVATE staff will be held on Saturday, 2 September in the RA room (Union building), at 14:00. Further details will be available on campus soon...

Contact details :

Tel : +27 (46) 622 7171
Fax : +27 (46) 622 4162 (mark att: Activate)
Snail mail :
c/o Students Representative Council
P.O.Box 94
Rhodes University

6140 Republic of South Africa

Section Editors' E-mail:

editor@activate.soc.ru.ac.za
pm@activate.soc.ru.ac.za (Prod. manager)
news@activate.soc.ru.ac.za
features@activate.soc.ru.ac.za
culture@activate.soc.ru.ac.za
sport@activate.soc.ru.ac.za
sasnews@activate.soc.ru.ac.za
photo@activate.soc.ru.ac.za
societies@activate.soc.ru.ac.za
interactivate@activate.soc.ru.ac.za
advertising@activate.soc.ru.ac.za
pr@activate.soc.ru.ac.za (Public relations)

collective@activate.soc.ru.ac.za
(goes to all of the above)

Cover Pic : Emile van Maltitz

Reasonable Anarchy

By Pollyanna-on-Speed



Sporting an education

And a thousand faces stared. Their eyes turned towards the sky. Their expressions motionless and restless in anticipation. Echoing through the air was a roughened European accent. And standing on the Village Green of Festival 2000, watching the loudspeakers at the top of the Information tent, waiting for the announcement of the FIFA World Cup 2006 host, I felt like I was in Germany, 1939, listening to Hitler announce World War II.

Frightening as it may seem, the sporting activities which have been heralded as the unifiers of the South African population have become our societies greatest obsessions, and thus vulnerable to political manipulation. A nation's hopes tossed around a negotiation table, and traded for international investment and friendly relations.

Along the same lines, but on a smaller scale, tertiary institutions encourage the manipulation of this obsession by promoting themselves as sporting rather than educational facilities. At this point in time, excited matrices are weighing up their options, choosing careers and deciding which University or Technikon will satisfy their naive ambitions. My brother is at present in this group, and his first question is, "What's their rugby team like?"

Maybe I'm one of those irritating, unsporty types who makes the assumption that tertiary education fulfills that exact purpose - to educate. And whilst I applaud the few who manage to achieve combining both sporting and academic prowess into one viable degree, by looking at the 'promising' careers of people like Wayne Fyvie who have been injured and suddenly find themselves bereft of

an education and a future - I wonder whether its worth the risk.

When I was at school in Natal, a young recently-qualified veterinarian, James Hill, was seriously injured during a rugby match. As he was leaving for overseas within a few weeks, he had cancelled his medical insurance. His injuries have left him in a wheelchair - but ultimately, he is a skilled professional.

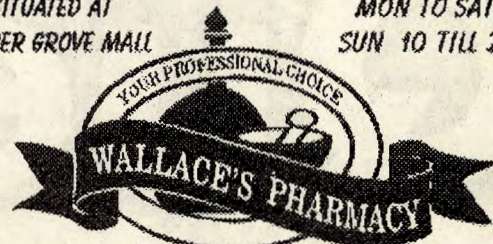
It leads one to question the mentality schools and universities are instilling in the pupils and students entering the system. If the situation was seen to be as seemingly unpredictable as a career in theatre, the 'fall-back' career would be pushed. But coaches and parents are unwittingly encouraging their children to step onto the quasi-stage of the international sports arena. Their lives became obsessed with acquiring skills and constantly 'rehearsing' for the audition-like trials. And the rejection is as crushing to the young ego as that of some starlet who never quite makes it.

No-one is saying give up your dreams - I of all people understand the desire to make it to the top, to be the best of the best - but there is no guarantee that Mommy's little Johnny who "runs like the wind" will ever wear a number 11 springbok jersey other than as a supporter.

Perhaps somewhere in the midst of World Cup Finals and Olympi Games, the powers that be should take a look at the effect abusing people's passion for sport is having on our country and its future leaders.

My little brother will make his own way and I only hope the distorted Nazi-type sporting politics I witnessed don't manage to crush his hopes too.

CONVENIENTLY SITUATED AT PEPPER GROVE MALL
OPEN TILL 8PM MON TO SAT & SUN 10 TILL 2PM



Student accounts and discount. Free Deliveries
Great gifts. Green Cross Shoes and most importantly
Friendly, Caring Service and Advice.

Tel: 622 7320 / 622 7373
Fax: 622 5836 A/h 636-1255

Student mugged on campus

By Tamara Kenny

In the early morning hours of Saturday, 12 August, 2000, a 3rd year student was mugged on Artillery Road, behind the Journalism/Drama building.

Walking alone, the 21 year old Journalism student, says that she was approached by a "coloured man of medium height, lightly coloured eyes and approximately 35 years of age, wearing brown draw-string pants and a Rhodes T-shirt". He asked her for money and, when she refused he threatened her with a rusty knife.

After searching her pockets, the student gave the man approximately R15 in change.

At this he insisted that she follow him to an ATM where she would be expected to give him more money. She attempted to explain to him that her ATM card was in her residence room, at which she was pushed to the ground onto a protruding brick as the man ran in the direction of the Drosty Arch.

The victim has since approached the Grahamstown police who regarded the incident as too insignificant to open a docket.

White boys can't dance

By Nicholas Neveling

Two Rhodes students claim that they were thrown out of a popular Port Elizabeth nightspot for "not dancing like white people".

The students were in Port Elizabeth for Tri-Varsity weekend and went out after the sports earlier in the day. They say that they were dancing when they were grabbed by doorman and thrown out. "We dancing when a guy grabbed us from behind and forced us outside" one of the students said. "We were going a bit mad but we weren't bothering anyone and we didn't even get a warning," he added.

A friend of the two students says that when he inquired as to why they had been thrown he was told that they "were not dancing like white people".

The manager of the venue, Donovan Noyle, said that he had spoken about the incident with the doormen on duty that night and was assured that no racist comments had been passed by any of his staff. "The doormen saw guys throwing water around and taking their shirts off and as a result escorted them out," Noyle said. He went on to say that normally patrons would be warned before been told to leave but added that if conduct became too rowdy doormen would expel offenders immediately. Noyle maintained that no racist comments whatsoever had been made and said that his venue had a good reputation as place where there are minimal incidents of violence and aggression.

Drinking? Get a buddy

By Elizabeth Ellis

A recent report revealed the alarming increase in alcohol consumption on many university campuses. As a result of these reports, Rhodes University formed a task force in connection with Alcohol Awareness week. One of their recommendations was the relaunch of the Buddy System on campus.

"We are not telling students not to drink," explained Dr Iain L'Ange, Assistant Dean of Students. "We are just encouraging them to drink responsibly." The Buddy System, which ended after Rag was disbanded, has been reintroduced to the campus under the guidance of the SRC. The system is essentially a compromise with the police, who can legally arrest any person who appears drunk in public, hapless Rhodents being among these. The Buddy System aims to sign students up as "Buddies", who essentially remain sober while out, enabling them to see their inebriated brethren safely home while also preventing them from being arrested.

Local bars and pubs have been approached by the organisers of this new campaign and have agreed to supply the on-duty buddy with free soft drinks for the evening. Admittedly this campaign will not come into service overnight but it is an active step by the students to face the growing alcohol problem on campus. The people who wish to sign up for this system need to be committed to making it work. Although there are still some points that need to be worked out, the Buddy System should be alive and well on campus soon, one more step towards keeping Rhodents alive and well, too.

AIDS debate tearing us to pieces

By Vanessa Rogers

The AIDS debate, held by the Rhodes Debating Society and the SRC during AIDS week, turned out to be a controversial and tense event. The leading academics and politicians expressed contradictory views on the disease and on South African government policy towards AIDS and HIV.

Dr. Costa Gazi had much to say about the indifferent government attitude towards the plight and suffering of South Africans and was vehemently against Mbeki's stand against the use of AZT and anti-retroviral drugs and his academic debate on the cause of AIDS. He openly stated that he administered anti-retroviral drugs to his patients even if it was against current South African law. In response to Gazi's comments on the President, the public healthcare system in South Africa and general government policy, the East Cape MEC of Health, Bevan Goqwana stated that Dr Gazi was not fit to be a medical practitioner in South Africa and that he should not

be recognized as such. Dr. Gazi promptly responded by donning a PAC beanie and giving a PAC salute. The contradicting views and tension aired, points to a lack of cohesion amongst medical practitioners, academics and government officials involved in the fight against this horrendous disease and any concise, practical and agreed upon policy for fighting AIDS in South Africa seems to be a long way off.

Rhodes offers MBA

By Gareth Roberts

Rhodes University together with the Investec Business School has recently launched its own MBA course under the guidance of Prof

Stade of the Commerce faculty. This course is to be run over a three year period and will be a coursework masters degree rather than a degree by thesis.

In an interview with Prof Stade, he said that as director of the business school he felt a flagship MBA programme was the best way to use the funding from Investec. He believed that one of the main reasons the university need this masters course was the extremely low conversion rate of undergraduate commerce students to masters students, and that the MBA course would make the masters programme a more attractive proposition. While preference would not be given to undergraduates from Rhodes, he hoped that the degree would create a carry-over effect amongst the students from this university.

The Rhodes MBA, which is structured around the Performance Excellence

Model of the South African Excellence Foundation, will be based on modules, and students will be expected to attend three 2-week teaching blocks every year. The course has also been restricted to 24 students in its first year.

Stay-away to cost Zim \$625 million

By Patience Ukama

The nationwide job stay-away staged by workers on Wednesday, 2 August 2000, will cost Zimbabwe's already shaky economy more than \$600 million, plunging the troubled Southern African country deeper into the economic abyss.

Business in all of Zimbabwe's urban centres came to a standstill on Wednesday as most employers and workers heeded calls by the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU) to stay home in protest against state-sponsored violence on white-owned commercial farms and in towns and cities. Isidore Zindoga, the acting secretary-general of the ZCTU, said apart from concern over lawlessness, the action was meant to protest against the rising cost of living. "I must add that the rule of law must be established," said MDC President Morgan Tsvangirai. "If it

takes action like the one being taken by the ZCTU, every Zimbabwean must support it as a step forward."

The capital, Harare, was a ghost town with shops, banks and factories closed and the usually bustling streets virtually empty. The situation was the same in Bulawayo, Masvingo and Mutare. Isaac Mutonga, acting president of the ZCTU said "only civil servants turned up for work after being warned that the strike could cost them their jobs".

Tim Henwood, president of the Commercial Farmers Union (CFU), stated that, while farmers prefer to work, they had no choice but to join the nationwide stay-away. He said the CFU had made all efforts to resolve the land issue. Tsvangirai said the decision by the ZCTU to reduce the mass action from three days to one showed the labour movement was a responsible organisation seeking nothing but the restoration of law and order.

G-town - Clean City

By Patricia A Jones

Grahamstown City council have something to be proud of. They have managed to keep air pollution to an absolute minimum in the town. Malcolm Grant, an environmental officer for the Grahamstown City Council said that there were only three or four businesses within the town that were occasionally cause for concern. Two of the laundry services, City steam on New Street and Harry's Laundry on Queen Street use boilers to power their machinery. Being fueled by coal, the laundries emit seemingly large amounts of black smoke. Is this a cause for concern for the council? Apparently not. Smoke emissions are strictly regulated by the government Pollution Act and both of the laundries seem to be within their bounds. The Pollution Act states that in the case of the laundries, chimney stacks have to be at least three meters above the tallest buildings in the area.

Grant said that only on occasion have complaints been made about the laundries. This only tends to occur when an unknowing employee at one of the laundries tries to stoke up the boiler too much and so puts a large amount of coal into the boiler, increasing the amount of smoke emitted from the chimney stack. Usually when this happens, the council will send a representative to the laundry to ensure the amount of coal placed in the boiler is reduced.

Grant also said that because the council had never had a problem with gaseous emissions from manufacturing industries, the council do not even have their own equipment to monitor or test levels of emissions. He said that if a test needs to be done, someone from Port Elizabeth will come and do the tests. Grant claimed that noise pollution in Grahamstown was more of an issue for the Council than air pollution was.

Briefs

- During the National Schools' Festival earlier this year, numerous Matric students were found to be drunk in public.

According to a manager at Pop Art Café, the club has a no under-18 drinking policy but cannot prevent under-age patrons from entering the club.

"Pupils came in and ordered soft drinks or coffee," he said, "we could hardly turn them away." Unfortunately, of the 150 Matric students at Pop Art, about 40 were reportedly drunk.

Pop Art Café owner, Carlos da Costa, was reluctant to comment on the issue.

- Saturday 29 July, 2000 signalled the launch of an ongoing Alcohol Misuse Campaign taking the form of an event held on the Kaif Lawns and in Prince Alfred Road and aimed at educating Rhodes students about the dangers of the misuse of alcohol.

The campaign launch was organised by Assistant Dean of Students, Dr L'ange and sponsored by Arrive Alive Road Accident Fund and the Industry Association for Responsible Alcohol Use to the value of R30 000.

- Rhodes University Debating Society sent 8 debating teams and 6 adjudicators to the National Debating Championships held in Stellenbosch. One of the largest turnouts ever, participants came from as far afield as the University of Botswana and from the majority of the South African Universities, with Wits sending the largest contingent. The Eastern Cape was well represented by Rhodes as well as Fort Hare and UNITRA. Three of the Rhodes debating teams made the semi-finals and six Rhodes adjudicators. Rhodes was placed second and third.

- Do you know that you have until 25 August to comment on the new draft Student Disciplinary Code. Comments can be directed to m.oelschig@ru.ac.za. Copies are available at the Dean of Students office and have been sent to all Sub-wardens, House Committees and Hall Committees.

Rhodes:

By Anonymous

The Arts & Sciences are the Destruction of Tyrannies or Bad Governments. Why should A Good Government Endeavour to Depress what is its Chief & Only Support?
(William Blake)

It all started with a report from the Council of Higher Education (CHE) to Kader Asmal on the size and shape of South Africa's institutions of higher learning. I'm sure you've picked up dribs and drabs. Grocotts' carried the front page story. The report was concerned with increasing the intake and productivity of tertiary education systems. It exemplified measures envisaged by the "Size and Shape Task Team". Rhodes would become a "bedrock university". As far as the campus grapevine could ascertain, that meant that there was a future possibility that government would insist on a merger between Rhodes, UNITRA and Fort Hare. It would also mean that all three institutions would have their postgraduate output limited to honours degrees and course work Masters Degrees - no dissertations, no Doctorates, no research, much alarm.

Despite the fact that government resolution on the issue was light-years away, UNITRA and Fort Hare vocalized their chagrin almost immediately. The gist of their argument was that they didn't want to become vassal institutions to the Rhodes powerhouse. They felt that they were established enough as institutions and that their history of esteemed graduates was enough to warrant their independence. Dr. Woods' reaction was to point out that Rhodes's demographics, the qualification of its academics, its social contributions, and its research output met up with the report's prerequisites in order to remain an autonomous tertiary education institution. He recommitted Rhodes to reformation and continued links with Fort Hare and UNITRA. He was reticent to condemn the scheme or the CHE for even suggesting it. It was a safe line to take. BUT, I hope it was the political implications of a full-scale attack that held him back, and not a blindness to the danger of the suggestions the CHE report made.

Recently I had the displeasure of reading the infamous CHE report. Ye gods! It was boring! 48 pages of bureaucratic Duckspeak. A sample: apparently, to get tertiary education systems "on the road to the 21st century...will entail extensive, integrated, iterative national planning as well as multiple co-ordinated interventions and initiatives". Yawn.... Of course, I'd heard it all before, just never in its natural and undiluted environment...a government council's report!

To my mind Rhodes University's restraint was justified because the "bedrock university" idea is just that, an idea. The merger is merely cited as an example. It's not going to happen any time soon, if at all. Why not just let it blow over? The CHE report's immediate intention is more than admirable. What it amounts to is that they want to make it easier for disadvantaged scholars to acquire a university education. Does anyone out there disagree? I know I don't. It's a moral and economic imperative. A highly skilled, young workforce is essential to the development and maintenance of South African infrastructure. No self-respecting, forward-thinking human being would dare to deny that this is absolutely necessary. Rhodes University has never said anything to the contrary. The problem arises with the reports suggestion that the government "intervenes" in tertiary education systems. The line between intervention and interference is a dangerously thin one.

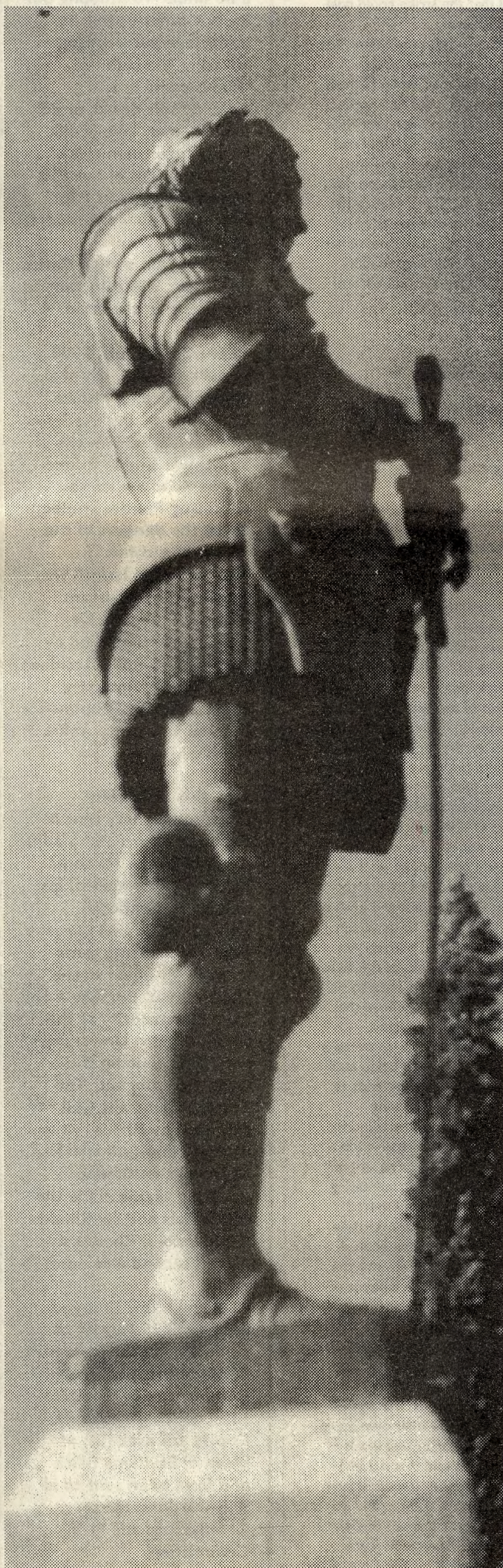
I'm not accusing the government of anything...yet, but I hope it's aware of the potential P.R. nightmare the CHE's scheme could turn into. For an example of blatant government interference browse through issues of The Rhodéo (The student paper in days of yore) in the Cory Library. They indicate that, even in the darkest days of the Apartheid tyranny, Rhodes opposed the

Christian Nationalist dismissal of the right of non-white students to a proper university education. In 1959, for example, the government passed the Extensions of the Universities Act. It banned all non-whites from "white" universities. Dr Alty, the VC at the time, led the Rhodes University staff, in full academic garb, on a protest march from the Admin. buildings to the Cathedral and back. You even have the honour of attending a University that the bad old dispensation found it necessary to legislate specifically against. In the late 60's it passed the Rhodes University Act that banned the formation of any political organizations among students on campuses. Doesn't that rock. The late sixties is also when the police crackdown on student protests began throughout the country.

This is not just a history lesson, Oh generation of mine. It's an indication of how a government can perceive a tertiary education system to be threat to its base of power. Why? Because universities are where freethinking radicals shape brand new freethinking radicals. Tertiary education systems, especially those involved in the humanities, like Rhodes, are where people form the opinions on ethics, morality, and ideology that they might one day use to subvert the policies of the fat cats in public office. It's not difficult to understand why a self-aggrandizing bunch of power mongers felt it necessary to put the thumb-screws on universities. It's completely understandable that they found it necessary to interfere and regulate to the letter of their draconian laws.

A paradigm shift later, we find ourselves in a prepubescent democracy. Academics are still the ones who facilitate the development of those opinions that freethinking radicals take into the world with them. The radicals are different, so are the criticisms, but criticisms they are. Nowadays, however, we would all like to believe that the government considers such a diversity of opinions to be a good thing. Any politics student will tell you that a strong opposition is prerequisite to an effective democracy. Any government that upholds the principles inherent to democracy must recognize and facilitate the freedom of individuals to develop a diversity of moralities, ethics and ideologies. It should guarantee them constitutionally. It should support their development financially, and under no circumstances whatsoever should a government limit the academic freedom of those institutions that forge freethinking. Limiting certain universities to a course work masters degree is limiting the potential for academic development. Sure, the CHE report doesn't suggest that all universities have these limitations imposed, the question is: do all universities have their academic freedom guaranteed? Apparently not. Taking the CHE report too seriously would open the government up to a lexicon of swear words: tyranny, censorship, brainwashing, and propaganda are just a few of the ones consisting of more than four letters.

Here's a factor that makes it all the more worrying. Am I the only one who's noticed a few tendencies creeping into the government's handling of criticism recently? Take for example the media being blamed by the presidential spokesman, Parks Mahlahlana, for the huge "misunderstanding" arising out of Mbeki's remarks surrounding the HIV/AIDS connection. In our own Red lecture theatre the MEC for health in the Eastern Cape stated that the immensely sympathetic anti-AIDS activist Dr Gazi, was not the sort of medical practitioner beneficial to South Africans. His justification: Dr Gazi had dared to state that the South African government is doing next to nothing counter the pandemic. My question is simply this: of what are these





What Leaders Fear...?

public officials all so afraid? Surely they understand that in a democracy it's tough at the top. For democracy to work, it's got to be tough. It's good that they're being criticised.

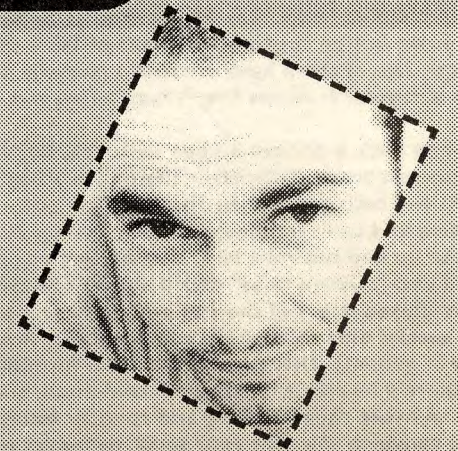
And in the midst of all this furore, the CHE hands a report to the government in which it is suggested that possibly, maybe, it might be an idea to limit the postgraduate degree output capability of certain universities. Such a move would be tantamount to placing limitations on academic freedom and might...no, scrap that... would be antagonistically received by academics. The way it's always been explained to me is that a masters degree makes you a "master" of whatever field it is you've studied. A doctorate means that you are responsible for the progression of that field of study. No, suggests the CHE report, apparently neither expertise, nor progress are important enough to be unqualifiedly supported. If South Africa has a brain drain problem now, imagine its scale if ever the government should give the impression that its intellectuals are of next to no consequence in the big old scheme of things.

I hope the government correctly identifies primary and secondary education as its first imperative. We've all heard the matric results horror stories. What will cutting down the highest possible qualifica-

tion level at universities, lowering the standard, having huge institutions almost entirely dedicated to churning out a proletariat of average qualification accomplish, if the majority of SA's youth isn't even eligible because their matric results suck. Beyond which, when and if the standard of matriculants increases, do you want universities that have had their standards curtailed? Of course, high schools and universities are not separate issues, but the government's duty to ensure that people can read strikes me as more important right now. I apologetically and satirically borrow some political clichés to get my point across: surely you have to have a viable grass-roots level before you can even begin to think about levelling the playing field. A wise digsmate of mine once said that raising the living standard of the least well off in society is indeed a noble pursuit, but that to maintain society at its highest level is equally noble. I agree. I hope the government sees the value in both pursuits.

Of course, it's only a report and I'm only a student. Of course, I can't claim to have enough of an understanding of all the issues involved. God knows that I look forward to the day when I might. God forbid that my or anybody else's ability to do so will ever be limited because the government took the CHE's "idea" too seriously.

The Bastard Diaries



Because life is dangerous:

Incident 1:
Mystic Boer Bar, Bloemfontein, last week. Arriving late and rushed, too sober to start with, tired since days ago. Albert Frost sticks a tequila in my hand, the venue owner slides a cider to my right, I slide a note to the barman and nod towards the rack of Tas bottles. Manning the stage with my two-man one-idea band, we confront Bloemfontein like hammerheads in a hardware store, chugging on that Tas, sucking it for confidence or madness, finally getting the crowd and the stubborn well-dressed girl at the bar to chant "Petroprys? POES!" in protest to what they've done to our traveling budget. Rolling off the stage I grab another bottle of Tas, then sing along to Valiant's set, digging it, loving it, downing Tas like water (Jesus in a bottle, walking on it, rolling green), then jumping up and down when the DJ plays Bran Van 3000, then mistaking a pool table for a car, then lying back on its bonnet, looking at the stars above, three girls blowing laughs down my navel. Then being helped outside, vomiting in someone's driveway, going home, to bed, speaking to God, passing out.

Incident 2:
NI southwards between Ventersburg and Bloem, last week.

Tired and hungry for good food, packing smoked mussels on a 5-day cheesebun and 1 hour of sleep, sore feet from Cut La Roc and all the fucking rocks, still taking the wheel on a stomach of Kentucky Rounder and Chumbawamba on the stereo. Concentrating on the white line, singing along to stay awake,

checking rearview mirror (for objects always...), sun stinging sleep to my eyelids, white line, cars, NI, traffic cops, indicate, hazards, concentrate. Waking after a second of sleep and finding the car's nose pointed at oncoming traffic, veering towards the wrong side, get a fright, correct, correct, avoid death and manslaughter by what? A second? A metre? And suddenly I'm awake.

Because life kicks:

Incident 1:
ATM in Northam, outside Oppikoppi, last week.

Dirty and dirty, smelling like seven nights in an army tank, I check my voicemail and I've got two. From a friend at an airport in Tel Aviv, wondering how it was, wondering whether we had drinks for him, spending his last money on his phonecard to phone a friend, to ask how it's going, to tell where he's off to, not even phoning his mother, but me. Just to say he's with us despite the distance. And I save those messages and I walk to the ATM and I think about what crying is.

Incident 2:
My bed, Grahamstown, this week.

Sleeping late to fit in with a schedule, hearing the phone, a knocking digsmate on the door, stumbling out, about to swear, but it's her on the phone from Paris and she just talk and I just talk and we're quiet and we laugh and the equator is nothing, the latitudes are everything and we say goodbye and my entire day becomes a better place to step into.

Toast Coetzer is neither here nor there. Neither with you or against you. He wishes you safe traveling and a happy life.



Know thy DJ



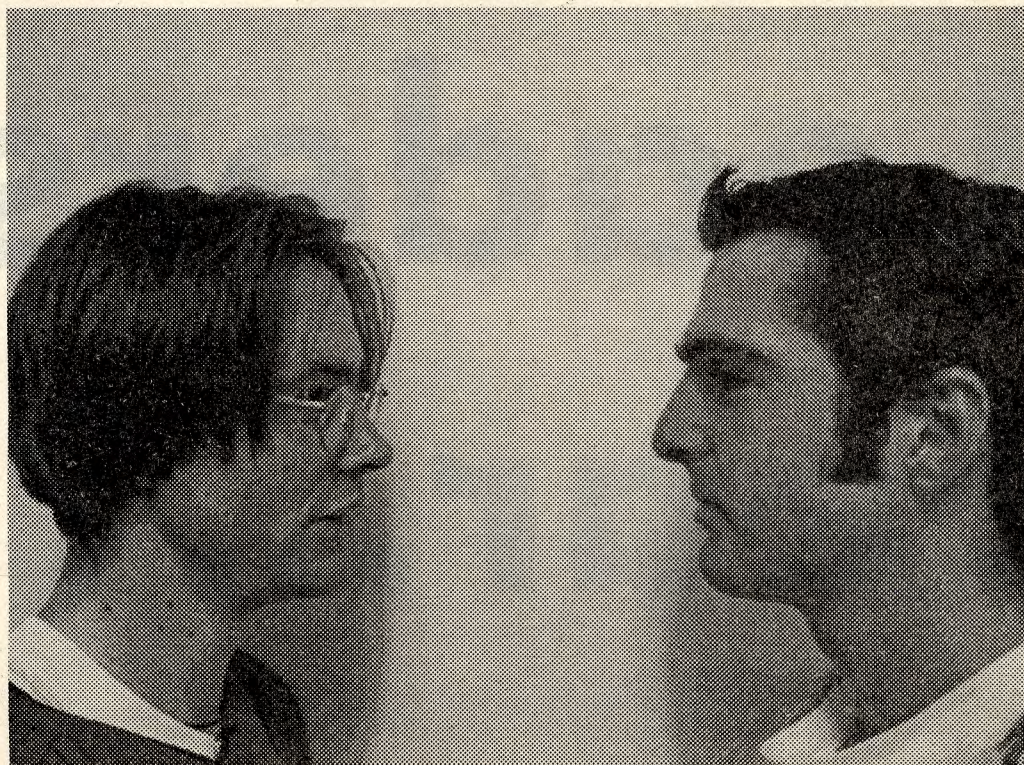
radio

1

One supports Man United, one supports Liverpool. One digs Hip-Hop and will tread the line between commercial and Indie rock as far as U2. The other gets off on the Crows, REM, Pearl Jam and just about anything recorded between 1970 and 1989. Sound like a rather with-it but somewhat bitchy married couple? Close. It's the Rob and Nick show, screaming out on RMR between 9 and 11 am on Fridays and 10-1 pm on Sundays.

Nick didn't plan it this way. He wanted to be known as the presenter of the Nick and Nick show, but he couldn't find another Nick. Resigning himself to life on the air with Rob, the two of them have created a playfully antagonistic on-air relationship. The result is regular features like "What would you do?"

Rob gives Nick a deviant and/or embarrassing hypothetical situation and a set of three possible responses. Example - "You have a best friend who's known for sleeping with people and telling everyone about it. You wake up next to him surrounded by used condoms and can't remember a damn thing. Do you a) Leave without saying anything? b) wake up and confront him? c) walk out, reconsider and confront him later?". Oh, there's also "twisted tales" - lurid stories of mishaps and mayhem cleaved from the behind-closed-doors of the campus social scene. Add to this "rant and rave" which is their special time to vent their furies about American Accents, KFC adverts and the world in general. They're a classic radio formula: two people who know with certainty that there'll be colourful arguments anytime they're in the same space together and who can make their bitching and counter-bitching broadcast friendly. If nothing else they'll convince you that your social dynamics might count as healthy by comparison.



Splitting Reels Me, Myself and Irene

2

Reviewed by: Nigel Tompkins

The Players: Jim Carrey, Renée Zellweger, Chris Cooper
Directors: Peter and Bobby Farrelly
Run Time: 116 min.
Rating: 7/10

Before watching this film there is one thing you must bear in mind; it is directed by the brotherly duo that brought us *Dumb & Dumber*, *Kirpin* and *There's Something About Mary*. So expect to see many gross and way out gags, and the odd chicken-in-guy's-ass as well. Jim Carrey (*Man On The Moon*, *The Truman Show*) stars as Charlie, a peaceful trooper with the Rhode Island Patrol. Through some unfortunate events he's left with three kids who have a "year round tan" and a wife who eloped with a midget professor cum limo-driver. The pressures in his life are building up and it doesn't take long for Hank to "come out" and take over Charlie's life. The word here is Dissociative Identity Disorder (formerly Multiple Personality Disorder), and in the worst sense. Charlie and Hank then both fall in love with the character of Irene (Renée Zellweger), and the rest of the film is about their cross-country trek to clear her name of a false accusation. Me, Myself and Irene relies on its shock humour to make audiences laugh. It starts off strong, but fails to maintain that energy. Jim Carrey is brilliant, but his three kids steal the show. It is painfully funny in parts, but not recommended for those who don't like the Farrelly brothers' other movies.

Final Destination

Reviewed by: by Robert Odendaal

The players: Devon Sawa, Kerr Smith
Director: James Wong
Runtime: 99 minutes
Rating: 4/10

This lame-brained attempt at reviving the teen slasher horror genre falls flat due to a poor script cluttered with hammy dialogue and general bad acting attempts. Devon Sawa (*Idle Hands*, *Casper*) plays a schoolboy who hallucinates about the plane he is on crashing before it actually happens. After warning his teachers and classmates to no avail he is removed from the plane before take-off. Sure enough the plane explodes and Sawa is accused by the FBI (probably the saddest agents ever put on screen) of malicious doings, after 'Death' literally continues to stalk the survivors in various over-the-top ways. Director James Wong teases the viewer for too long before the plane crash occurs and, after that, this mundane movie potters along predictably.

Just sa

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

Review this

WISIWYG
Chumbawamba
EMI

An old-school anarchist band with a pop-sensibility? Ja! Thank god for Chumbawamba, who wants you to have a good-time large-beer day first before you listen to their lyrics and realise that they're quite the aggrieved bunch of Britons. Pissed off with globalisation, the people who want to rule the internet, paranoia in the 'burbs and the superficiality of their own business, they coat their tensions with the sweetest of vocals, jolly tunes, sing-along choruses and good humour (the CD sleeve folds out to a pic of two dogs fucking). Hence 'I'm Not Sorry, I Was Having Fun', 'She's Got All The Friends', 'Jesus In Vegas' and 'Celebration, Florida' are pop gems. A Border Collie with a vicious streak for fetch and destroy - that's Chumbawamba. Not vital, but nice to have around the house to protect you from the state. And your neighbours.

guess that's irony: "are the words to this song concise enough to follow?"
Rating: 7/10.

Standing On The Shoulders Of Giants

Oasis
Sony

Joe. What a shit album. Not shit as in 'not very good music', but shit as in 'kak'. The brothers can string together a song, they can make it flow, they can even kind of rock. But the world at large is bored with all of that. On what can only be described as a disappointingly kak album, Oasis build on their strengths just enough to have another rolling hit in 'Go Let It Out' another Beatles-moment on the rather nice 'Who Feels Love' and fiddle with fun on 'Fuckin' In The Bushes'. But it leaves us without a 'Wonderwall', without glory and without passion. The song-writing is patchy, the tunes very absent and Liam should be lynched for writing such a crap song about his son.

Good one: "if there's a god/ would he give another chancer an hour to sing for his soul?"
Rating: 4/10.

In Reverse
Matthew Sweet
Volcano

Matthew Sweet, rings a bell? Possibly, for he's been on the fringes of being famous for more than a decade now, endlessly in search of the perfect quitar popsong, the hook that will rule the world, the chorus that people will whistle in shopping centres. This album almost does it: the lush production and sheer niceness of it reels you in after a couple of listens. There're sad songs, happy songs, it goes pop, it goes weasel. 'Hide' is great in an understated way, 'Future Shock' should be the hit you've heard on radio and 'I Should Never Have Let You Know' would've made the Beach Boys proud. Excellent, although sometimes a bit self-indulgent, guitarwork all around and the lyrics are sometimes a bit Twinsaver. But hey, your sister in school will approve. Sweet, bru.

Sharp too: "why don't you write your own song?/ if mine doesn't do it for you?"
Rating: 7/10.

4

5

6

Mission: Munchies

stuff

Coffee at Dulces

Dulces theme is one of old-world, continental elegance. There "coffee and pudding" possibilities tantalising and very bad for diets. Coffee-wise, whether you prefer espresso, cappuccino or straight filter, you'll find it. And you'll definitely enjoy it. If you'd prefer something else to drink, they have a variety of chocolate choices as well as a range of alcoholic drinks. Once you've ordered your drinks, sit down and drool over the sweet treats. From ice creams to cakes to sundaes you are sure to find something to suit you. Dulces' service is reasonable and, although their pudding prices are quite steep on a student allowance, they are definitely a once-a-week treat.

No of res meals worth unbooking: forget the meal, go have dessert!



"Rhodents" will soon be open downstairs in the Union building (next to Kaif). Finally, a restaurant on campus, especially for all those who can't (or refuse to) go back to res for lunch. Be sure to try it out as soon as you can...

Camel Ibiza Experience

Friday, September 1, 2000

21:00 (20:00 doors), Camel Ibiza Experience - Three Arts Theatre, no under 18's allowed, R165.00-R250.00.

Saturday, September 2, 2000

21:00 (20:00 doors), Camel Ibiza Experience - Gallagher Estate, no under 18's allowed, R175.00-R275.00.

Gauloises Essential Mix

Saturday, August 12, 2000

21:00 - Gauloises Essential Mix: Jody K / Troydon / Jason / Dror / Johnathan at 206 Live, Wicked Groove and Fresh House Selection, R20.00.

Sting

Saturday, September 23, 2000

20:00 (19:00 doors), Big Concerts and 94.7 present:

Sting: Brand New Day Tour at Sun City Superbowl, sting.compaq.com, R113.46-R242.50

Sunday, September 24, 2000

20:00 (19:00 doors), Big Concerts and 94.7 present:

Sting: Brand New Day Tour at MTN Sundome, sting.compaq.com, R110.00-R250.00

Tuesday, September 26, 2000

20:00 (19:00 doors), Big Concerts & East Coast Radio present:

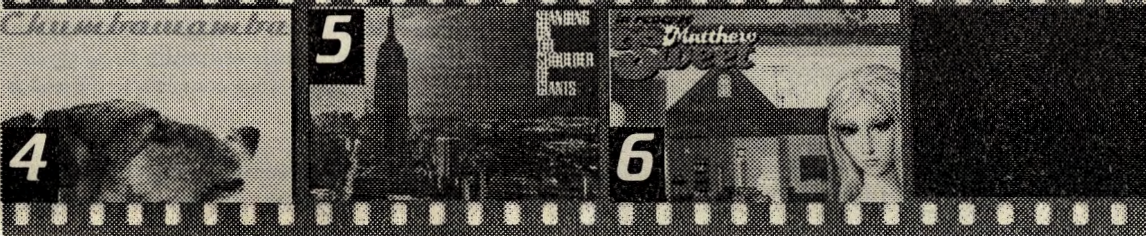
Sting: Brand New Day Tour at ABSA Stadium, Durban, sting.compaq.com, R90.00-R220.00

Thursday, September 28, 2000

20:00 (19:00 doors), Big Concerts and Kfm present: Sting: Brand New Day Tour at Bellville Velodrome, sting.compaq.com, R110.00-R250.00.

Know

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



RU Results

Rhodes University Results 31st July - 6th August 2000

HOCKEY

6/8/00

RUM1 VS RE. TECHNIKON
RUW1 VS PIRATES
RU OCCASIONALS VS UPE
RU THISTLES VS PIRATES
RUW3 VS ST PETERS
RUW4 VS VICTORIA PARK 'A'
RUW4 VS OLD GREY

DREW 1-1
WON 10-1
LOST 1-3
DREW 1-1
WON 6-0
WON 2-1
WON 3-1

SQUASH

PE LEAGUE:

31/7/00

RUM1 VS WESTVIEW 'B'
RUM2 VS CRUSADERS
RUW1 VS WALMER
RUM2 VS IMATU

WON 13-7
WON 9-7
LOST 1-14
WON 13-6

1/8/00

ALBANY LEAGUE:

1/8/00 RH3 VS PA4
1/8/00 RH4 VS RH5

WON 14-10
WON 20-1

1/8/00

RHI VS PAH1

WON 18-7

3/8/00

RHI VS GCI

LOST 10-15

TENNIS

ALBANY LEAGUE:

6/8/00

RU VS SEVEN FOUNTAINS

LOST 4-6

PE LEAGUE:

5/8/00

RU VS UPE

LOST 2-10

SOCCER

PE LEAGUE:

6/8/00

RUW1 VS BURNLEY

LOST 1-4

TABLE TENNIS

5/8/00

RUM1 VS VISTA1
RUM2 VS VISTA2

WON 25-7
WON 25-9

G On The G Spot



G was full of the joys of spring – it being the morning after the night she found out that another extra-solar planet had been discovered thus increasing zir chance of meeting ET. Now, all ze had to do was embark on zir plan for world domination and finally, universal control. G felt that it all started with the SRC. Pinochet the Chilean dictator had just been denied immunity by the Chilean government for his crimes against humanity – G wondered what that meant, but hoped it meant that soon democracy would reach Rhodes to and that the VC would finally be nailed for mass murder and corruption. Then G would have ultimate power. The inauguration would be heralded with a few public killings. The highlight will be Admin being burnt at the stake, all their useless papers fueling the fire and the chants of “We don’t want a F*&% job!” fanning it. Andrew Buckland will be mimed to death for fame and Prof Baardt tossed into a black hole for being a heretic. One has to set examples to maintain an iron fist on the state. Change is here to stay and to remain at the cutting edge of technology G had decided to assign new functions to the departments and reintroduce slavery. Theology will be shackled to the bar to serve the beer which Pharmacy will make, Philosophy will discuss, HKE will deliver, Ichthyology will label, Business will open and G will drink with the aid of zir slaves from Sociology, Anthropology and Reticuology. What about Drama? Oh, Drama can die as well. ACTIVATE would have to become the propagandistic mouth-

piece for G – renamed The Little Black Book and everyone will have to carry one in their top left pocket. Any mention or publication of Mel Gibson will result in mass screenings of “The Patriot” on every available wall space for 48 hours – punish the society, not the individual. Unlimited sexual freedom for all – except ugly people. In fact, on Woman’s Day, everyone will be able to apply for their complimentary shag at the library. Not only must all the restrictions on pornographic sites be removed but restrictions must be placed on non-pornographic sites and the art department will provide material during power cuts. The Kaif will sport playstation drinking games and only sell vitamin pills and meal substitutes. The Oppiden common room will be G’s own private leisure lounge and the Union will be zir office. The monument of G’s empire will be Eden Grove converted into a 2-storey in-door swimming pool with decks, free cocktails and dolphins. G’s first official action on zir position of power will be a diplomatic visit to Oppikoppi in the SRC limo to establish connections with the still growing political parties. The entourage will consist of Buckfever Underground on a donkey cart, spreading the ballads of the party as they drive into the looming movie sunset. Oh yeah, people will be prosecuted for not attending lectures. Will you nominate G for SRC? Will the Somerset Club pose any competition to G’s plan for world domination? Was the new building being erected in honor of G? Will G finally get shagged?

Oppidan outcry

By Lisa Witepski
Pics: Emile van Maltizs

Jen Davies (not her real name) has been living in digs for two years. “I moved out of res because I wanted to be able to come and go as I please. I think that living in digs makes you more responsible and teaches you to manage your affairs,” she says.

Most students living in digs share this view, so the University’s decision earlier this year to give Dr Iain L’ange, Assistant Dean of Students, the powers of a Hall Warden over oppidan students was generally an unpopular one. “Essentially, a significant increase in the misuse of alcohol by students (public disturbance, damage of property), giving rise to an increasing number of complaints from the public prompted the University to make this decision,” said L’ange, who states that there were 40 – 50 such complaints in the first term. Although this tapered off during the second term, probably due to exams, there have already been 10 complaints within this semester.

As Hall Warden, L’ange is entitled to impose penalties, usually fines or community service, on Oppidans after having investigated a complaint. However, many students resent this and feel that it is an infringement of their rights as private citizens. “I feel that Rhodes must understand the line of privacy,” says James Fry (not his real name). “A few weeks ago, my digs held a party. We sent letters to all our neighbours, explaining that there would be a lot of noise. The next night, we had a couple of loud visitors, they weren’t part of the digs, but one of the neighbours must have complained, because the next weekend L’ange knocked on our door, saying that our behaviour was unbecoming of Rhodes students. My problem with this is that before anything, I am a private citizen. I’m living in a digs that I am paying for, and I have constitutional rights. If people have a problem with me, they must complain to the police, not to the University.”

L’ange, however, replies that the police do not have the resources to deal with complaints from the public about Rhodes students. “Rhodes University is a community. Like any community, it has a

responsibility to both the members of that community as well as those who co-exist alongside that community. This is particularly true of the set-up here in Grahamstown – the student presence has a marked and distinct impact upon the town. Misbehaviour is thus more visible and has a far greater impact upon the lives of local residents than it would say, in Cape Town or Johannesburg,” he says. He is also keen to emphasize that he is not happy with the image of himself as a policeman. “I react only to complaints I receive about Oppidan misbehaviour – I do not patrol the streets of Grahamstown waiting to pounce upon unsuspecting students. I also want to emphasize that in investigating complaints, I adhere strictly to the disciplinary procedure established by the University to ensure that any action is procedurally and substantively fair.”

L’ange is concerned that an adversarial nature appears to exist between the Oppidans and the University. Tumi Mahlaela, treasurer of the SRC, summarises the problem when she says, “Most oppies feel they are excluded from University activities. They feel that the oppidan fee they pay (approximately R25), is wasted.”

Unfortunately, this appears to be the result of failed communication. According to L’ange, an Oppidan Committee, headed by Shingi Nyamukubva, has been in place since last year. “Shingi is a very keen and fierce fighter for Oppidan rights,” said L’ange. “The committee is constantly trying to improve the services available to students living in digs. Perhaps not many oppies realise that there is an Oppie lounge and reading room, fully equipped with DSTV. Tea and coffee are served three times a day. We also offer the services of the Oppie Accommodation Bureau, which assists students in finding digs. We’ve drawn up a standard lease agreement to protect Oppidans against conflict situations with their landlords.”

L’ange is eager to dispel the “us vs them” mentality he perceives among oppidan students. “It should be a case of all of us working together,” he says.



Will the new hall warden for oppidans make raucous digs parties a thing of the past?



Oppikoppi - in search of salvation (and Steers)



Rhodes' own Jon Savage Band performing at Oppikoppi and the Viewers...

Pics: Pia Marangoni



By Toast Coetzer

Nostalgia is what returning to the place is all about. Maybe because I've mixed girls and music here before, with great consequences. Maybe because I've shaped friendships here that will be part of my wrinkles until I die. Maybe because the music performed here tells me something about myself. Fuckit all, Oppikoppi is still the finest thing you can do with spare days of your life in August.

It's the smell of the place, that's important. Dust, smoke, weed, people, sunsets, farting in a tent, warm beer, cold sweats and that general feeling in the Bosveld air that you're part of something vital, even if you have to invent it yourself. But sometimes, there's some kind of hero up on stage behind a microphone and he tells you what to do, he points the way.

Like Paul Flynn, diamond at the head of Sugardrive, performing with Plum and taking both bands' music to a higher place. The crowd is with it, Paul is off his head with glee, he grabs at his heart and asks: "Can you feel that?" The crowd can and Paul reassures us: "Don't you worry about me, baby."

Matthew van der Want and Chris Letcher, not playing their best set, but still magnificent when they both

point their guitars in the same direction, dipping low in their frames, squeezing out everything from their soul-reserves. It makes you want to cry. And that's it.

Waddy Jones becomes the new king of cool, rapping off his white head, representing the sleight of hand, the art of the storyteller, the mastery of a stage which he treats like his bedroom where he's singing to posters of his heroes. I'll be his groupie anytime.

Brasse Vannie Kaap, who make white Afrikaans people sing along in Cape Flats slang, who make an entire crowd jump, who attack their material like it's always up for moulding, who rule the country because they have decided it's time to.

A one-man act called Lilo, unknown and new, alone on a stage in the hot sun with only three people clapping. But he's unperturbed, not giving a fuck, rolling lo-fi poetry off his darkglasses like it's nothing, like he's always known how to do this but only recently decided to tell people about it.

That's the kind of stuff you need to go there for. There is of course, also the road that takes you there, but by now you should know about it. Let's just say that there isn't a Steers in Kroonstad.

Why its more than skin deep

By Caroline Christerson

Take ten gorgeous women, eight sexy men, four stern-looking judges, two grinning MC's, and one belly dancer with a whole lot of chutzpah and what do you get? Pretty much the usual take on the age-old theme of beauty pageants.

Dressed in a range of sharp suits, tight sportswear and revealing evening dresses, the contestants managed to revive one of the world's biggest cliches with their sheer enthusiasm, confidence and Colgate smiles. The fact that those who competed for the title all possess considerably more intelligence than your average pageant participant meant that the event was filled more with a sense of fun than hard-core competition.



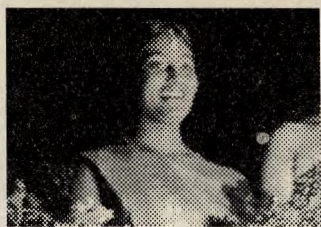
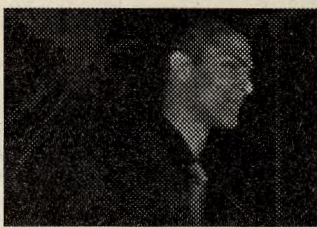
Stewart Leddy, a first-year BSCLs student who entered the pageant "as a bet" emphasized the fact that he took part not to win, but "just for fun". He described the atmosphere in the practice sessions leading up to the event as relaxed with "a lot of joking around".

"I was pleased with the outcome. I think it went smoothly", said Elmarie Fisher, SRC Transformation Officer and one of the organisers of the event. She explained that the various delays in the evening's proceedings were an unavoidable part of an event combining so many different elements.

After a lengthy wait for the judges' decision, Ishamail Esat and Alisha Naidoo were crowned Mr and Miss Rhodes 2000. Ishmail, a third year BsocSci student, came third in last year's Mr and Miss Rhodes. "I enjoy modeling and I want to get into it", he said.

Alisha Naidoo, a first-year Bjourn student described herself as "ecstatic" to have won the title of Miss Rhodes. She did not initially plan to enter the pageant, but a few days after entries closed, her friends managed to convince her to try her hand at being a beauty queen.

Judging from the audience response when she was crowned, it was a good last-minute decision.



The smiling, winning faces of new Mr and Miss Rhodes Ishamail and Alisha.

Pics: Stewart Stanbury

Elektrosoc-kie

By Lailah

It seems that third term is jam-packed with entertainment and now elektrosoc is packing in the jams on Tuesday nights at Pop Art. On any given Tuesday you can catch Pierre, Josh, Yetti, Will and Xreje mixing the beats and ripping up the dance floor without fail.

Opening night last week saw the DJs getting the crowd moving and shaking. Josh took it so far that the system blew before two. However it must be said that the crowd hung around for the next two hours in the hope that the music would make a comeback. These DJs offer a selection of house ranging from deep house to progressive house and some of it borders on commercial. For the more cultured among us, they even serve up some hard drum and base. There are so many beats in the music that even if you have no sense of rhythm - it will find you!

Entry is free, gratis and for nothing and if you're lucky there may even be drinks specials. For the usual Pop Art suspects Tuesday nights should be a fixed date in your diary. If this week's party was anything to go by the best is yet to come.

So, in true Rhodes style, realise the full potential of 3rd term; sleep on Sundays, work on Mondays and enjoy a five-day weekend starting on Tuesdays.

Disclaimer: ACTIVATE, the writer of this article (as well as Elektrosoc) will not accept any responsibility for the loss of DP certificates or sobriety or for any physical injury sustained by excessive bodily movement.

RMR Fashion Show

ACTIVATE Reporter

The Rhodes theatre was set alight with the fire of creative energy this term as models and designers took to the stage at the annual RMR Fashion show held on the 3rd of August

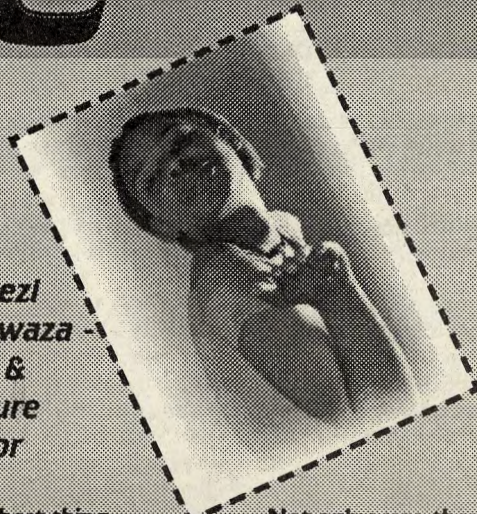
The Show sponsored by RMR, and SAB was a great success with student designers coming into their own with creations inspired by the theme, Altered States.

The show organisers Sorisha Naidoo and Floyd

Wood definitely put on a great show. The winning creations by Inga were an innovative combination of plastic and film and photographic materials and they well deserved their first place. In second place was Mojo and Jo and Ant was third. From pink polka dot funk to the American flag the inspiration and craftsmanship showed by these designers was truly from an altered state of mind!

Arts n' Culture

Counterculture



Kbwezi
Magwaza -
Arts &
Culture
Editor

The best thing about being at Rhodes is knowing that you won't be here forever, well for some of us anyway. We are living in a little village secluded from the rest of the world, which in essence makes us oblivious to the horrors which occur in and outside of our environment. It is this kind of false reality which fails to equip us for the outside world... and it is here that we love and we learn! Well, all that said, we all know that we love more than we learn, and that brings me to the point of why I was sitting at a PE bar last weekend desperately wishing I could be back on New street. When presented with the absolute grand opportunity to go and party in the windy city, me; loving 'izinto' like I do jumped on the bandwagon and went on the great trek to Tri-Varity. Once I got there all excited like a good little Rhodent, I was presented with one of the most harrowing party experiences of my short life. Don't get me wrong. Fistas and the crew at the Kraal played some good beats. The major problem was not what was happening inside but outside.

Not only were there more people trying to get in than there were inside, but even when there was a power failure that led to some deadly silence for at least 45 mins, there was still a stampede to get inside. To make the situation even worse, me being on the inside, discovered much to my dismay that I couldn't get out! After all is said and done, Grahamstown is a one-horse town with no life but at least the music plays at the Union. Well... actually after the speakers blew at Pop Art on Tuesday I knew I was jinxed! Even with all that trauma I am still glad to be a Rhodent and we definitely showed those PE people a thing or two about partying seeing as we made up more than half of the Tri-Varsity revellers anyway.

That's my bitch session for the week

Smoochies
Soprano from Hell
P.S. To the winners of Mr & Miss Rhodes, may you reign with honour and grace. Okay we all know the title doesn't mean jack but enjoy the prizes anyway (if you get them)!

Juice Bar Salad Rolls

now available
at

Wellies Cafe'

Cnr. Somerset and New Street

Open 7:30 am - 11 pm



Inter-campus

Wits Afrikaans department axed

Source: Kevin Scott in Die Matie

The University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) announced earlier this month that it would be closing, with "regret", the department of Afrikaans en Nederlands.

This comes after the university council unanimously approved academic plans which would see major restructuring within the university. Wits' Vice-Chancellor, Professor Colin Bundy, said the council's decision was a momentous step in the reshaping of the university. He said that the restructuring process was being guided by the White Paper on Higher Education, and that he saw the process as "proactive in a changing environment".

According to the university, the council saw the closing of the department as a response to a decline in the number of students. In Afrikaans en Nederlands, the number of registered students over the last eight years dropped from 521 to just four this year.

"Wits regrets the phasing out of the department, but sharply declining student numbers have forced us to look at its and others' viability," Bundy commented.

Language activist and ex-student of the department, Dr Dan Roodt, expressed his disappointment, saying that, unfortunately,

"What will be will be. It's just a sign of the times." A university spokesman went on to say that the department may be absorbed into other schools in the university's Faculty of Arts and Education, allowing students to continue their studies.

Bundy said the White Paper "encourages efficiently run universities, regional co-operation and partnerships among institutions".

In response to this, Wits is investigating collaborative partnerships with neighbouring universities in order to meet its contractual obligations to registered students.

Other departments that have been affected include Classical Studies, which showed a decline in students from 233 eight years ago to 103 this year, and Religious Studies, which had 1 036 registered in 1993 with just 69 this year. Bundy went on to say that although Wits is aware that Classics has been taught through the ages, "the reality is that there is no longer a demand for classical languages".

Also due for reshaping is the Department of Music, which is to be absorbed into the School of Performing and Visual Arts in the Faculty of Arts and Education.

Is Rhodes next?

Source: The South End

On September 1, a new smoking policy will become effective at Wayne State University.

Two new amendments to the current policy state that "no smoking is permitted within 20 feet of any building or exit" and prohibit "the sale or distribution of tobacco products in facilities owned or leased by the University."

University officials said, "The University's expectation is that all students, faculty, staff, other employees and visitors will respect the health of all persons by voluntarily complying with this policy."

According to a memo from the president's office, "the University recognizes the right that individuals have to choose whether they will smoke. However, for the health and well-being of all Wayne State University... this University policy has been adopted."

The policy defines smoking as "the carrying by a person of a lighted cigar, cigarette, pipe or other lighted smoking device."

Students and university employees who violate this policy they will be subject to disciplinary action, including ticketing by Public Safety.

Good news for aspiring musicians

Source: Kentucky Kernel

UK Computer Science senior, Rob Zimmerman, and his band, SMR, have done the unthinkable. Even though the band that rarely does live shows or has its members living in the same state, they have managed to land at number one on the Alternative Hip Hop chart at mp3.com.

The band took the approach of mp3s because they felt it was the best way to get exposure.

"Basically any band with a computer can get your music out there," SMR member Kyle Kruegar said. "The Internet is a marketing juggernaut. I think the type of people that would listen to us are generally wired to the net anyway, so this seems like something we'll stick with."

The band began in 1992 with idea of blending their various musical styles. "I think it's worked so well because we've know each other for years and are on a rather identical wavelength philosophically," Zimmerman said. "Our future is up to the listeners - SMR will probably exist in some form, but whether or not it goes someplace depends on how much support we get."

Police to protect students at UDW

Source: Kevin Scott

Members of the public order policing unit have been deployed in lecture halls at the University of Durban-Westville in order to prevent further disruptions of lectures. According to a police spokesperson, about 100 policemen, together with

campus security personnel, were deployed in the lecture halls.

The university has reopened after being closed as a result of clashes between police and students in which one student was killed.

Angry students on rampage

Source: Kevin Scott

7000 demonstrating students at the Technikon Northern Gauteng set two buses alight in protest last week.

Two public order policing unit members were also wounded by rocks and

stones, which thrown by students. Police then fired rubber bullets, dispersing the angry crowd.

According to the Technikon's SRC, one student was injured when he was shot in the leg.

Opening new doors

Source: Kevin Scott

African Virtual University (AVU), in the Kenyan capital Nairobi, is a World Bank initiative and links 25 learning centres in fifteen African countries with learning institutions in the US, Canada

and Europe, via video-conferencing and other Internet technologies. The "university without walls" is set to make a vast difference in the lives of many African students.

Remembering

Source: Die Matie

Iranian students in Teheran, handed out flowers in the city's streets and lit candles to commemorate last year's bloody raid of a university residence by hard-line security forces and vigilantes.

The raid came hours after students rallied against the

banning of a liberal newspaper. It triggered six days of nation-wide protests by tens of thousands of students. At the trial, students testified they had allegedly been "beaten until hallways became slippery with blood".

HORROR

Scopes

Aquarius (21 Jan - 19 Feb)

Ever heard of the 'ends justifying the means'. This is what you are going to have to say to your parents for a very long time after third term if you keep on missing lectures to go to PE, Boat races and all the balls you're about to spend your rapidly disappearing rands on.

Pisces (20 Feb - 20 March)

Next time you go into the library beware. There are books there, lots of them, thousands in fact. What ever you do, do not read any of them - this will lead to marks well over the 50% range and the loss of all your cool friends.

Aries (21 March - 20 April)

This is going to be a rather slow fortnight for you. Use this time to catch up on all the things you should have done but have not yet, such as actually doing some laundry, breaking up with your girl friend and opening diplomatic channels with her best friend.

Taurus (21 April - 21 May)

Your boyfriend is about to break up with you. It is time to enact the oldest phrase in the bible "do unto others before they do it unto you". Also, maim your best friend.

Gemini (22 May - 22 June)

Last week I apparently told you to go in for body piercing. I see many mistakes that you will make this week if you carry on listening to me.

Cancer (23 June - 22 July)

Cars are not all they are cracked up to be, they are expensive and pollute the atmosphere. There, now you won't feel shitty when I tell you that yours will be stolen while you are asleep.

Leo (24 July - 23 Aug)

Go to Russia, find a man named Boris (any one will do). Find the secret codes to the Rhodes mainframe and 'hack' all the exam papers. Charge R10 a paper and give half to me. This paper shall self-destruct after you read this ...

Virgo (24 Aug - 23 Sept)

Stay away from the Rat. The people there are not really your friends. They tell jokes behind your back and are slowly morphing you into one of them. This will ultimately cost you your friends, your family, your degree ...

Libra (24 Sept - 23 Oct)

Your life is actually run by aliens. This explains why you compulsively

BongBong got over his fetish-fetish and has decided that crystal balls are once again the way forward. As a result this weeks input is based on real readings, tailored to fit the whole student thing. It may be inadvisable to take this too seriously though, as toxic amounts of alcohol, the morning after, may have been involved...

go out at night and do genetic experiments on cows and res-food. Beware, people are starting to catch onto your secret and will eventually burn you at the stake. The only way out of this is to phone home and ask for a new job.

Scorpio (24 Oct - 23 Nov)

Lectures will soon become a regular part of your life, don't worry; this behaviour is normal for most students. You, however, are not a normal student. Go to Mark Rainier. Don't listen to his advice, its usually wrong.

Sagittarius (23 Nov 21 Dec)

Ever watch 'Deep Blue Sea'? If you have then you will understand why I'm telling you to stay away from underwater laboratories. If you have not seen it then do so, and pass up that new research post offered by the Ichthyology department.

Capricorn (22 Dec - 20 Jan)

You are about to be attacked by a horde of His People. Don't panic, the talk will only last for eight hours. On the upside, surviving this ordeal will give you something to tell your grand children. On the down side you will have to renounce a lot of what you really believe to get them to go home. After eight hours, it is worth it. Believe me..



Club Feature:

Aerobics

By Taralyn Bro

I have discovered the secret to the Aerobics Club's astounding measure of success. Not only are the instructors (aka slave drivers) professional, the equipment near state-of-the-art, or the times conveniently slotted into lunchtimes and most free but, ever so slightly, the designers of the Aerobics hall use self-awareness, self image and a lack of self-esteem as its ultimate weapon: full length mirrors cover every square centimetre of the cavernous sweat shop. When flicking back sweat-soaked hair from misted-over eyes, the shocking reflection of a fatigued and "very much in need of a workout" body cannot be ignored. And that is the secret to the success of the Aerobics club: that its members return day after day, including the day of rest, Sunday, hoping for a kindly reflection of a toned body.

The schedule is packed and caters for all fitness enthusiasts. For the fanatics there are fat-burning sessions, for the more calm at heart, Yoga. Tae Bo, an aerobicised version of Karate and

Kickboxing, takes care of aggression whilst spinning sessions gets the heart rate pumping. Step is targeted at improving cardiovascular stamina using a level platform that is repeatedly "stepped" on in choreography that takes an incredible amount of co-ordination. Step challenge, on the other hand, "makes you want to die", as quoted emphatically by a war-weary veteran of such a rigorous routine. Body Con conditions the body and Workout is literally that: a workout your muscles will not forgive you for the following day.

With membership numbering around 600, this is possibly the biggest club on campus. They are certainly one of the most organised, having won the title "Best Committee of the Year" in 1999. With instructors dedicated to the task of whipping res-food fed students into shape, the Aerobics Club has gained momentum and its creed of body-consciousness looks set to carry this club into the future, all the while stepping in time and sweating to the beat.

BRIEFS

SURFING – In the Tri-Varsity competition Jeff Clemens reached the semi-finals and was ably supported by regular surfers Andre Visser (3rd) and chairman of the club Patt Duff (4th).

RUGBY – according to Wallaby coach Rod Macqueen, modern rugby will demand more flyhalves in the Andrew Mehrtens mould.

RUGBY – Provinces in South Africa could face fines of up to R100 000 if they do not adhere to Sarfu's quota regulations.

RUGBY – Wallaby star Tim Horan may be forced to undergo surgery on his troublesome foot in order to get his career back on track. Horan hasn't played since injuring a ligament in his foot in Australia's first Test of the year against Argentina on 17 June.

Results

Tri-Varsity Results 4th – 6th August 2000

GOLF

4/8/00	RU1	VS	UPE1	LOST	5-19
	RU2	VS	UPE2	WON	18-6
	RU3	VS	UPE3	WON	19-5

SURFING

5/8/00	UPE	1ST
	RHODES	2ND

UNDER WATER HOCKEY

4/8/00	RU VS UPE	WON	2-1
--------	-----------	-----	-----

TENNIS

4/8/00	RUM1	VS UPE1	LOST	4-16
	RUM2	VS UPE2	WON	14-7
	RUM1	VS UPE1	LOST	8-10
	RUM2	VS UPE2	LOST	7-12

ROWING

4/8/00	RUM A8	1ST	UPE
		2ND	RHODES
	RUM B8	1ST	RHODES
		2ND	UPE
	RUW A8	1ST	RHODES
		2ND	UPE
	RUW B8	1ST	UPE
		2ND	RHODES

ROAD RELAY

4/8/00	MEN	1ST	UPE	30:42
		2ND	RHODES-1	33:33
		3RD	RHODES-2	37:02
	LADIES	1ST	UPE	37:22
		2ND	RHODES	45:30

SQUASH

4/8/00	RUM1 VS UPE	LOST	2-3
	RUM2 VS UPE	WON	4-1
	RUW1 VS UPE	LOST	1-4
	RUW2 VS UPE	LOST	2-3

VOLLEYBALL

4/8/00	RUM1 VS UPE1	LOST	1-2
	RUW1 VS UPE1	LOST	1-2

BASKETBALL

4/8/00	RUM1 VS UPE1	WON	75-58
--------	--------------	-----	-------

RUW1 VS UPE1 WON 69-31

SOCCER

4/8/00	RUW1 VS UPE1	WON	5-0
	RUM2 VS UPE2	LOST	1-3
5/8/00	RUM1 VS FORT HARE	DREW	0-0
	RHODES LOST 3-4 ON PENALTIES.		
	RUM1 VS RU (EAST LONDON)	DREW	1-1

TABLE TENNIS

5/8/00	RUM1	VS VISTA 1	WON	14-9
	RUM1	VS FORT HARE 1	WON	30-0
	RUM2	VS FORT HARE 2	WON	16-6
	RUM2	VS VISTA 2	WON	30-1
	RUW1	VS FORT HARE 1	WON	30-0

NETBALL

5/8/00	RU1 VS UPE1	LOST	14-24
	RU1 VS VISTA	LOST	11-13
	RU1 VS UPE2	WON	17-4
	RU2 VS FORT HARE	WON	13-12

KARATE (KATA)

5/8/00	RUM1 VS UPE	
	1ST	UPE
	2ND	UPE
	3RD	RHODES
	RUW1 VS UPE	
	1ST	UPE
	2ND	UPE
	3RD	RHODES

CHESS

5/8/00	RU VS UPE	LOST	3.5 – 4.5
--------	-----------	------	-----------

HOCKEY

5/8/00	RU4(MIXED) VS RU EAST LONDON(MIXED)	WON	2-1
	RUW3 VS UPE3	DREW	0-0
	RUW2 VS UPE2	WON	2-0
	RUW1 VS UPE	DREW	3-3
	UPE WON 3-0 ON PENALTY FLICKS.		
	RUM3 VS UPE	WON	4-1
	RUM2 VS UPE	DREW	2-2
	RUM1 VS UPE	LOST	0-2

RUGBY

5/8/00	RU EAST LONDON VS UPE3	WON	30-5
	RU u/21 VS UPE	LOST	7-8
	RU2 VS UPE2	LOST	17-42
	RU1 VS UPE1	LOST	0-59

RU Table Tennis domination continues

By Angela English (Table Tennis Correspondent)

Since its revival in 1995, the Rhodes University Table Tennis Club has remained unbeaten at the annual Inter-varsity competition- this year was no exception.

For the first time Rhodes sent 3 teams to the competition: 2 men's and 1 ladies' team. Each team consisted of 5 players and entering an extra team meant that some new players were given the opportunity to compete. Another first for the traditional 'Tri-varsity' competition was the participation of Vista University (PE).

Rhodes also organised to play league matches against Vista A and B, which ran parallel to the Inter-varsity triangular. The Rhodes ladies' team achieved a notable league victory over an all-male Vista B team,

while the men's side overcame their Vista A counterparts. The ladies' participation was only the second time that an all ladies team has represented Rhodes in the EP league. The ladies were captained by Jenny Kali, who recently returned with a team gold medal from the CUCSA games in Mozambique. Acting Rhodes coach and league captain was Dave Holness, who captained South Africa at the CUCSA Games and returned with 2 golds and a silver medal. The final placing for the Inter-varsity competition was: 1st Rhodes; 2nd Fort Hare; 3rd Vista; 4th UPE. The result confirms Rhodes' position as a powerhouse in South African Table Tennis and bodes well for the Club's forthcoming league and tournament fixtures.

