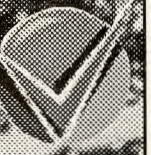


# activate

Independent Student Newspaper  
Edition 5 – 28 May 2003



pic staff photographer

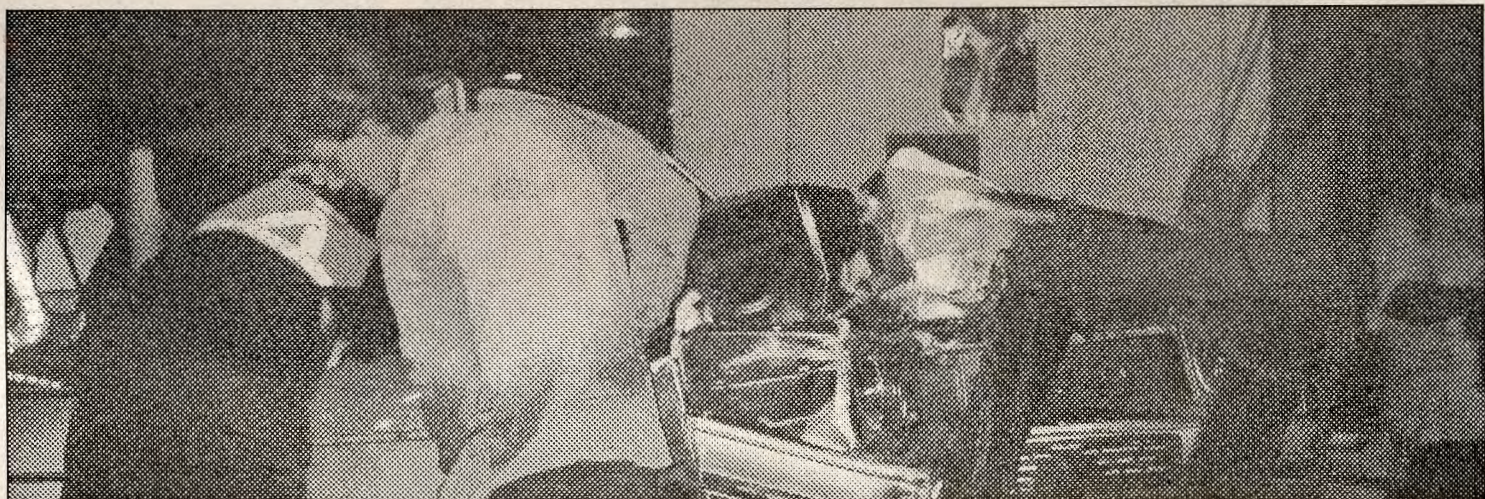
## Student commits suicide

by Lesley Odendal

**T**wenty-three year old Konrad Kulesza was found dead on Saturday afternoon at the back of the Great Field. He was found hanging by a belt from a hockey goal post on the campus sports field behind the Student Union Building.

Kulesza, a fifth year BComm graduate from Poland, was completing courses in History and Economics. He was admitted to Fort England psychiatric unit in Grahamstown last month after attempting suicide. On Saturday 26 April Kulesza drove into Drostdy Arch (see right). He suffered a severe concussion. Vice Chancellor, Dr David Woods, said Kulesza was released from Fort England on Friday 23 May for the weekend. He was due back the following Sunday.

He is survived by his mother and a brother who are living in Poland. A memorial service will be held once his brother arrives in South Africa. ☼



### Matter of fact

Activate apologises for the tone of the headline "Ripped Off" and caption "UPB takes advantage of the fact that they are a monopoly and so charge exorbitant prices".

The caption, in particular, was not substantiated by the story and we sincerely regret any potential distress caused to UPB. We accept that UPB's 50 percent mark up price includes many other fixed costs – although we do not know what percentage their net profit on books is. Our original articles were motivated by our concern about books being very expensive for students to buy and we remain concerned about the pricing of books and how students can benefit from cheaper alternatives. We are sure UPB shares this concern.

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Sometimes we learn the hard way that things in life are not always as they seem. Ideals drummed into us by our parents, friends and lecturers do not necessarily have a place in the real world – as great as they may be. We are taught and encouraged to be different – daring; to stand up for what we believe in and ask questions. It is part of being human; part of being free and being active.

But as we grow older and cynicism slowly catches up with us, we realise (unpleasantly) that these ideals are not always practical. In the world we live in today, you cannot always have your cake and eat it too. Lady Luck is not always on your side, and you learn that factors like one's age, race, sex, geographical location, occupation (or lack of) and economic status determine how you are judged and perceived by others in this sometimes cruel and unfair world.

What is the point of life if we cannot test boundaries, exceed limits and express ourselves without getting our heads snapped off? Every corner you turn there is always some obstacle that gets in your way.

No one warns us of the disappointment we'll feel when we apply what we've been so diligently taught in lectures. The ideals embedded in philosophy, history, psychology and yes, even journalism carry only so much weight out there – if any at all.

Perhaps it is all part of growing up – becoming even more cynical with every wrinkle that taints our fading youth. It really is a bitter realisation, but at the end of the day, money talks. Sometimes it is the colour of your skin or the language you speak. Sometimes those who have the cash get away with murder and those who don't suffer the consequences.

In Grahamstown, students are usually sidelined, ignored and not taken seriously by those who do not or cannot identify with us. The fact that we are students works against us (sometimes).

But "power belongs to the people" and to a certain extent that's true. It happened in South Africa with the end of apartheid. It is sort of happening in Zimbabwe – in a warped and twisted kind of way. It will happen in Iraq sooner or later. George W. Bush better not cloud his peanut-sized brain with false thoughts of victory. Revenge will come. People never forget the wrongs done to them.

I will risk disappointment again and dare to believe what Hegel, a well-known theorist, wrote.

As idealistic as he may have been, he believed that workers (those not privileged or in power) would ultimately change the world. In their fight for recognition, they would rise up against their 'masters' and lead themselves to freedom. But before those who study politics have a go at me – I agree this is a very simplistic interpretation of Hegel. I never said I was a political theorist nor do I want to be.

Like I said earlier, the older you get the more disillusioned you become with life, the institutions we are a part of, the very things we used to believe so passionately about. Perhaps one day there'll come a time when we will be able to turn round and say 'F\*CK YOU' to the world and not give a damn.



There'll come a day when we will turn round and say 'F\*CK YOU' to the world.



## Columnists draw sharp criticism

Dear Editor

Although the last edition of *Activate* had its strengths and appears (overall) an improvement on the previous editions – what with actual content and better written articles – I must ask if anyone reads the opinion columns before they go to print. 'Anti-apathetica' is (as always) a tiresome rant from the writer's apparently superior position. I do not deny that the unemployment in Grahamstown is at a ridiculously high level, and that the majority of students couldn't be asked to give to beggars on High Street the few cents in their pockets. Yet someone should let Ms. Cruywagen know that lecturing people is as effective as an elephant in a tutu doing "Swan Lake" on ice. It doesn't work! All it achieves is getting people up in arms – not shaming them into action. Perhaps she should use her precious few words to inform people of the things they can do.

Not enough people know that there are boxes for donations in both the *Activate* and SRC offices or that Duet (a shop on the 'Arch end' of High St) collects donations to give to a charity that feeds the "tiny mucous-streaked" children. Now on to my favourite person, Natalie Oram. Wow! What a load of drivel. No one is quite certain what 'Off Centre' is supposed to be about and apparently she hasn't a clue either. Last year, she wrote about how lucky she was to find a boyfriend in the holidays; now she's naming the aerobics classes she attended. No one is interested in her condescending attitude towards her 'dear' first years, or that her columns consists of bitching about exams, "shopping and having salads with mom".

Surely there is someone on staff who has an opinion worth sharing????!!

Yours sincerely,  
Kate Thompson

Dear Editor

*Activate's* Anti-apathetica columnist replies:

Kate Thompson

Thank you for your thoughts. It is the nature of columns that they are not necessarily comprehensive as would be the case with, say, feature articles. It follows that the piece under discussion need not necessarily include complete listings of active charities. The column was an attempt to arouse interest in a social issue by addressing students on a more personal level. I did not mean to be pretentious and even admitted in the actual column that I sounded like a screaming banshee. It is open to opinion whether or not the method employed, in fact, hit home.

Yusuf Motara

Thank you for clarifying the Resnet issue. I do not dispute what you are saying and realise that different projects are actualised through different sources of funds. I was hinting that if the various sectors of the university were more aware of what the others were doing, perhaps decisions like the Resnet issue could be reconsidered given that females in residences have safety concerns.

Jane Cruywagen

## A world with no segregation

Dear Editor

As a person who grew up in a relatively closed society, I found your recent editorial on segregation very refreshing. Unfortunately, nine years isn't enough time to see the abolition of racist statutes translate into a world of perfect harmony. But that doesn't mean we shouldn't keep trying. I'm reminded of the day that I tried to sit at the 'black' table in my high school cafeteria and how I received looks of disapproval from my fellow white classmates – apparently, I was acting either too self-righteously or out-of-the-box for their social taste. That was in Mississippi (USA) in 1990, nearly half a century since our schools were integrated. I hope South Africans can do better.

And as for Affirmative Action, we white Americans 'suffer' from that too. I've lost many an opportunity to a rival candidate based not on qualification but on skin color. But just think of the old days when under-qualified, rich whites sailed into positions of power based on their ethnic legacies. A certain, unelected president comes to mind.

Zach Wales, foreign news correspondent, Cape Town.

## OutRhodes welcomes everyone – not only gay people

Dear Editor

In the wake of reports of 'gay-bashing' at Stellenbosch University campus, I am forced to ask myself what support structures are in place at Rhodes? This is not just a matter of concern for gay, Jewish and black students – even liberal students have been intimidated. Every student with even a stroke of tolerance must pull together and ask themselves how safe their campus is. We must take an interest in this for the sake of our friends, ourselves and our very humanity.

The Grahamstown's community, both on and off campus, is, as far as my experiences go, liberal and supportive. Those who do not feel this way are not obnoxious or violent about it. But what do people say out of earshot of the family

and friends of gay people? And what makes us care what they think? Do they feel there is some shame in being gay? Is it a negative reflection on your parents?

It is offhand, heedless remarks that stop my friends from showing each other 'too much' affection in public. These remarks make everyone hold back – not only gay people – for fear that they might be aligned with being gay.

You may think that the incident of the sort that took place at Stellenbosch University recently does not affect you as a straight person, white person, a Christian or as a member of any other group that was not directly targeted by these vigilantes. It does.

It shows that we have to be wary of people in our society and specifically, we have to be wary

of ourselves.

In Grahamstown, there is only one society that deals with gay issues, but they are well equipped to help you handle any concerns you may have. OutRhodes is a society on campus for gay people and people who are supportive of them. The society aims to create a safe place for people who are gay and to create awareness of gay issues.

OutRhodes welcomes everyone, not only gay people. You can also be straight, bisexual or any other variation. The society promotes being gay as a single aspect of someone's life and that it is important to be 'Proudly Me'. Maybe this will begin the process of breaking down stereotypes and prejudices.

Claire Rousell

## Matter of fact

In the last edition of *Activate*, a story in the sport section on the Freedom Day football tournament was written by Chris de Kok, but was incorrectly credited to Nicola Cane.

Apologies also for awarding the title of last year's national red-pointing climbing champion to Kathy Fourie. She was, in actual fact, the national speed and sprint climbing champion and has red-pointed 24/25 on rock.

**-SPECIAL-**

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# Student Union revamp in motion



by Nic Haralambous

The University has finally noticed the Union building. Monday 12 May marked the beginning of renovations that will take place in and around the Union building over the next few months.

Painting of the interior walls in the vicinity of the RMR studios, SRC and the other societies' offices began two weeks ago. This is the first stage of what appears to be a large project that will recreate the Union building for all students.

It has taken Rhodes University approximately two months to begin work on the Union building. Mr Andy Hatting, the Manager of Building Maintenance, gave justification for the delay as a lack of funding. The building maintenance department has apparently spent the last two months recruiting funds for the project. Rhodes University has apparently not supplied the relevant departments with sufficient funding necessary to repair the problems that campus buildings may have.

Future stages for the revamping of the Union building include the sanding and replacing of wooden floors, correcting problems in the ceilings, bringing in electricians to solve electrical problems and replacing the shoddy porcelain toilets in the men's bathroom.

Long term plans for the building include repainting the exterior of the building as well as waterproofing it. However, this will only happen if the Department of Building and Maintenance locates more funds after completing the interior of the building.

The Union club will not be closed for repairs as long as students are making use of the facility. Mr Hatting stated that repairs would only take place around the hours that the building is not in use – purely for the comfort of the students. The Kaif will also remain open and repairs to the Kaif will not inconvenience students in any way.

pic Chris Czipionka

**RENOVATING:** Builders at work in the upstairs corridor of the Union Building. Incidentally, workers have been busy in Activate's office since the beginning of last week.

## Spar owner criticises corporates for being stingy

by Mike Loewe  
courtesy East Cape News

Bigger companies or 'corporates' were urged to get behind smaller companies in supporting local communities in small towns, prominent Grahamstown and Port Alfred Spar outlet owner Mark Shelton (pictured on the far right) told the Grahamstown Citizen of the Year awards held at the 1820 Settler's Monument on Saturday night.

Shelton, the outgoing Grahamstown citizen of the year, announced that the 2003 citizen of the year was local Trinity Church presbyterian minister reverend Glen Craig.

In an impromptu speech to business and community leaders attending the gala dinner, Shelton said it was mostly the smaller, struggling businesses in Grahamstown who were involved in community projects – and that the "bigger boys in town" were not playing their part in assisting local initiatives. In an interview afterwards, Shelton said he was referring to financial institutions and other corporate chains with branches in the city.

Shelton handed the Rotary Club of Grahamstown Sunset back his original award of R5 000, plus another R15 000.



**HONOURED:** Glen Graig (left) – citizen of the year.

pic Mike Loewe (ECN)

## Murder suspect out on R15 000 bail

by Mike Loewe  
courtesy East Cape News

Joseph Makuvaro, the 21-year-old Zimbabwean pharmacy student accused of murdering Boitumelo 'Tumi' Manyadioane, 22, appeared in court on Friday 16 May to face one count of murder.

He was granted R15 000 bail. Makuvaro was ordered by Magistrate AF Maxham to report to his investigating officer daily between 08:00 and 20:00 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and not to leave the Albany magisterial district without written consent from the investigator. He also had to hand in his passport.

Prosecuting the case is Johan Conradie. Makuvaro's defence attorney is Mike McCallum from Nettletons in Grahamstown.

Makuvaro's father is in Grahamstown and declined to talk to the press.

## St. Raphael's attracts international attention

by John Hutton and Serena Chaudhry

The Hong Kong Shang Hai Bank Corporation (HSBC) has donated £30 000 (approximately R437 000) to the St. Raphael's Centre as part of its Charity Christmas fund programme.

Richard Adcock, CEO of HSBC in Johannesburg and Janet Coppin, the HSBC Media Relations Officer, handed over the

cheque last week.

The St. Raphael's Centre, located on Donkin Street, teaches Aids victims how to be independent and sustain themselves, and also offers free voluntary counseling and HIV testing to people living in the vicinity of Grahamstown. HSBC heard of the centre through a proposal made by two staff members of the Diocesan School for Girls (DSG), Lynn Oberholzer and Kim Nel. Besides corporate donations, the centre relies heavily on volunteers to assist with its work. Many Rhodes societies like the Hindu Students Society, who were there when the cheque was handed over, also assist.

Part of the donation made by HSBC will be used to set up a trust fund, and some of it will be used to renovate the centre. In addition, the donation will be useful in improving the services provided by the centre to the community.

## A heated issue

by Alex Maughan

At least five rooms in Adamson House are without working heaters and other maintenance issues are also being neglected.

Problems include broken chairs, wardrobes, drawers and a tumble dryer that has been left dismantled and out of order for some weeks. The list extends to the satellite and M-Net decoders which have broken remote controls.

The Director of the Estates Division, Les Reynolds, said that poor maintenance was not the culprit of delays in getting heaters fixed. Reynolds explained that his division was having problems with sourcing a new supplier of the

uniquely fireproof glass-crystal elements used in the heaters. This is because the sole local supplier of the materials recently went out of business. Reynolds said that it is now simply a matter of finding a substitute supplier. The acquisition of a new supplier depends greatly on the price and exchange rate.

Reynolds admitted that Adamson House seems to be an isolated case and said that this was in no way a result of neglect. He cited the problem as a possible breakdown in communication, saying, "If we are not informed of things that are broken, we won't know that they need fixing."

## Mr and Miss Friar Tuck's 2003

by Maire Bonheim

Friar Tuck's is holding a fashion show on 29 May at 19:00. The fashion show will be used as a showcase for local designer Lee-Ann Biller's evening wear called BeDazzled.

About 20 men and 20 women – mostly Rhodes University students – will compete for the title. Contestants will model beach wear sponsored by Bean Reef, casual wear by Mr Price, business wear by Edgars and evening wear by BeDazzled. They will also model personal wear designed by themselves to demonstrate their own individual style. Natasha Joseph will MC the evening.

The contestants are being given free training by Port Elizabeth modeling agency Mod-Scene.

Tickets will be about R25. For further details, contact Lee-Ann Biller on 082 535 9377.

This fortnight's rant is about adbusting. Adbusting involves taking a logo and modifying it for a particular reason.

These reasons may vary from one advert to another. A particular 'busted advert' may be intended to serve as a social commentary that educates people about corporate evils. Alternatively, it might simply serve to entertain without seeking to attack the particular corporation in a malicious manner. Lastly, it might be to overturn not just a single product or company, but whole ways of life in society. An example of the latter is Buy Nothing Day, held annually by anti-consumerists.

A logo represents a particular product's brand by giving it a face or identity. As people slowly realize that many companies uphold farcical images to promote their brands, they start to seek ways to express that they do not necessarily buy into these contrived images.

There are three major stakeholders in the adbusting process – namely the corporation being adbusted, the adbusting group and the audience. In order for adbusting to work, the audience must be familiar with the original advert's discourses and contexts. Companies that are being busted, and the designers who create these brands and logos are seldom, if ever, thrilled with the adbusting concept.

Companies that are being busted are seldom, if ever, thrilled with the adbusting concept.

Adbusting undermines the money that has been invested into the designing of a logo or advert. It follows that if a logo is being busted, the reasons and motives behind it should be clear and valid.

The Laugh It Off case is of particular interest to Rhodes students, as the company's founding member, Justin Nurse, is an ex-Rhodent. Laugh It Off busts adverts on T-shirts. They recently lost a lawsuit to SAB because of their "Black labour, white guilt" T-shirts and are now making a number of seemingly conflicting anti-brand statements.

Laugh It Off claims, amongst other things, to attack corporate brands and address social issues. One method they employ is to bust the logo of a company, creating a message unrelated to the initial logo or product. An example of this is the "Black labour, white guilt" logo, which alludes to the Apartheid era, and not Black Label in particular. On the other hand, in the case of their "National Robbery" T-shirt, the National Lottery's logo is being related to the same company's ethical principles while making a broader social commentary. Laugh It Off has also created T-shirts that are mere humorous variations of existing logos, like the "Standard Wank" spin on Standard Bank.

It appears that Laugh It Off, essentially a T-shirt brand, is jumping onto the bandwagon of whatever issues its T-shirts may raise and using this hype as a platform to sell more T-shirts. A fellow student pointed out to me that activism is the new trend and as companies tap into new trends to plug their products, Laugh It Off is no different. If we are to make serious statements against corporate giants, the more credible and responsible those messages are, the better. Otherwise we are no better than they are.



**Anti-Apathetica**  
Jane Cruywagen



# Oliver with a local Twist

by Lauren Oshry

**A**fter the 100th cup, my hand strains. The steam burns my cheeks; I squint at the person taking the scalding cup from me. His eyes are bloodshot but grateful.

\*\*\*

"Curry and stew today," one man says jovially as he smiles and accepts his cup of soup. We all chuckle but his jest probably stems from a deep, hungry wish.

\*\*\*

It's like the story of Oliver but with a pitiful twist. "Please, some more" someone asks. The soup ration barely fills the rusty can with yesterday's meal still congealed at the bottom. "No, no, sorry" says the volunteer. He implores her with hungry eyes. "Some more, please," he stands there, refusing to budge while scores of other people wait patiently behind him in the queue that winds out the door and down the street. "No, I can't," the volunteer says more forcefully. He persists, holding the dirty can in front of her. "I wish I could give you more, but then I must give everyone more and there's not enough!" exasperates the volunteer. Monika marches out of the kitchen and yells at the man until he skulks out of the door, half a can of soup for lunch.

Monika Rensburg is a sprightly woman with an impressive voice. She is busy as a bee but has an eye like a hawk — and she isn't afraid to assert herself! I've seen her send men twice her size dashing out the door when they have attempted to put a foot out of line. She runs the three daily soup kitchens funded by the Grahamstown Feeding Association (GFA), a registered non-profit organisation whose aim is to help indigent adults in the town.

The kitchen works on a system of one cup of soup and three slices of bread in exchange for 10 used plastic shopping bags. The rationale behind this, explains GFA Chairperson Brian Gaybba, is that patrons of the kitchen will clean up the town in which they live to earn their meal. The bags are washed and recycled for weaving bags, hats and mats, which are then sold at places like Under the Arch. This is a purely environmental initiative. It also helps to create a sense of civic duty in the people who frequent the soup kitchens. What it doesn't do is bring in money to keep the kitchens running.

There is a financial solution, Gaybba notes. The GFA sells booklets of 10 meal vouchers, which are available for R5 apiece from the SRC office, public

library, Videotronic and the Mustard Seed health shop in Peppergrove Mall. Each voucher (worth 50 cents — less than the cost price of the meal) entitles the bearer to the same helping of soup and bread. The voucher system also works because it generates income (albeit not very much) to fund the GFA and helps, according to Gaybba, to "counteract the incessant begging-for-money problem" we have in Grahamstown.

It's quiet again today. It's pension day. Four grubby children scamper in and ask for food. One holds a toy gun. Monika is a small woman, but she towers over these kids. Her arms are folded and her neck craned, like a schoolteacher about to give a scolding. The GFA soup kitchens do not cater for children of school-going age.

"We've been asked by schools to enforce this rule," Gaybba explains. "Otherwise we'd have hoards of children not in school." GFA simply does not have the resources to cater for this whole other market of indigent youths. There ought to be feeding schemes within the schools themselves, but "some have broken down almost completely. Bisho is not delivering," Gaybba laments.

But how can you refuse a child a piece of bread? Monika feeds them, but makes them eat it in front of her to ensure no-one else can take it from them. She then gives them a stern warning to go straight home and to school.

"I feel torn," admits Gaybba. "Some people believe you should give a man a fish, some say teach him to fish," he sighs. "Here we need to do both at the same time."

A man staggers in reeking of booze. He strides right past Monika and slams his container in front of me, swaying slightly from side to side. "Ay-ay-ay! No, don't give him!" Monika yells, "He's got no plastic bags!" There is an awkward pause while he turns to Monika and rubs his stomach plaintively. "O, mama, please, I'm so hungry". He grins almost ironically at her. "Where's your plastics?" Monika demands. He tugs at his trousers, which are about four sizes too big for him. A 'belt' made from plastic bags, threaded through the loops and tied tightly at the front, holds them up. Monika's heart melts. "Well, no-one else is coming today anyway". She waves her hand at him in a poor act of disgust. "Ay, give him soup!" So I do. He grins and staggers out.

\*\*\*

It's nearly 10:45 and the crowds have finally subsided. A late entry comes in the door. "Give him more," Monika instructs, "He's sleeping on the street." I dish him a double helping and he glides out of the kitchen as if he's on cloud nine. "How do you know he's on the street?" I ask. "I know," Monika sighs, inspecting the crumbs on the wooden floor. "I know them all."

**But how can you refuse a child a piece of bread?**



GRATEFUL: The soup kitchen run by GFA relies on volunteers to keep going.

**Volunteer at the GFA soup kitchen.**  
Pop down to the City Hall weekdays between 9:15 and 9:45 and ask for Monika.

## How students can help

Beverly Sebastian is a student with a mission. Last year, she did her anthropology study on the soup kitchen and became involved with the GFA, who also runs a project providing food parcels for particularly impoverished families. "When I heard that the food parcels were running out, that disturbed me," she says. She has since drafted a plan by which she hopes that Rhodes students can help the GFA. "You just take the cost of a food parcel [about R38], multiply that by 52 [weeks in a year] and divide that by the number of students in a res." In a res of 50 students, this works out to R39 per person per year (or R10 per person per term) to supply a family with regular food parcels. "In the grand scheme of things, what is R10?" Sebastian asks. The scheme could also work for societies instead of res's.

"Isn't it nice to know that you're contributing?" says Sebastian. "I know that some students are really disturbed and care about the community. This is the perfect way to give back."

Contact Beverly Sebastian if you are interested in helping implement her scheme — bevsebastian@hotmail.com

## Talking Heads 04

by Olerato Moreosele  
pics Linda Schonknecht

With the campus rumour-mill churning out 'reports' of rapes around campus recently, *Activate* decided to poll students and ask them whether or not they thought rape was an issue on campus.



"Oh ja, there were a lot of rapes happening last year — do you remember? People are dodgy about CPU, I think the criminal records should be checked. Thomas Pringle girls have to walk up late at night from the labs — it's a recipe for disaster."

(Candice, ex-BJourn)

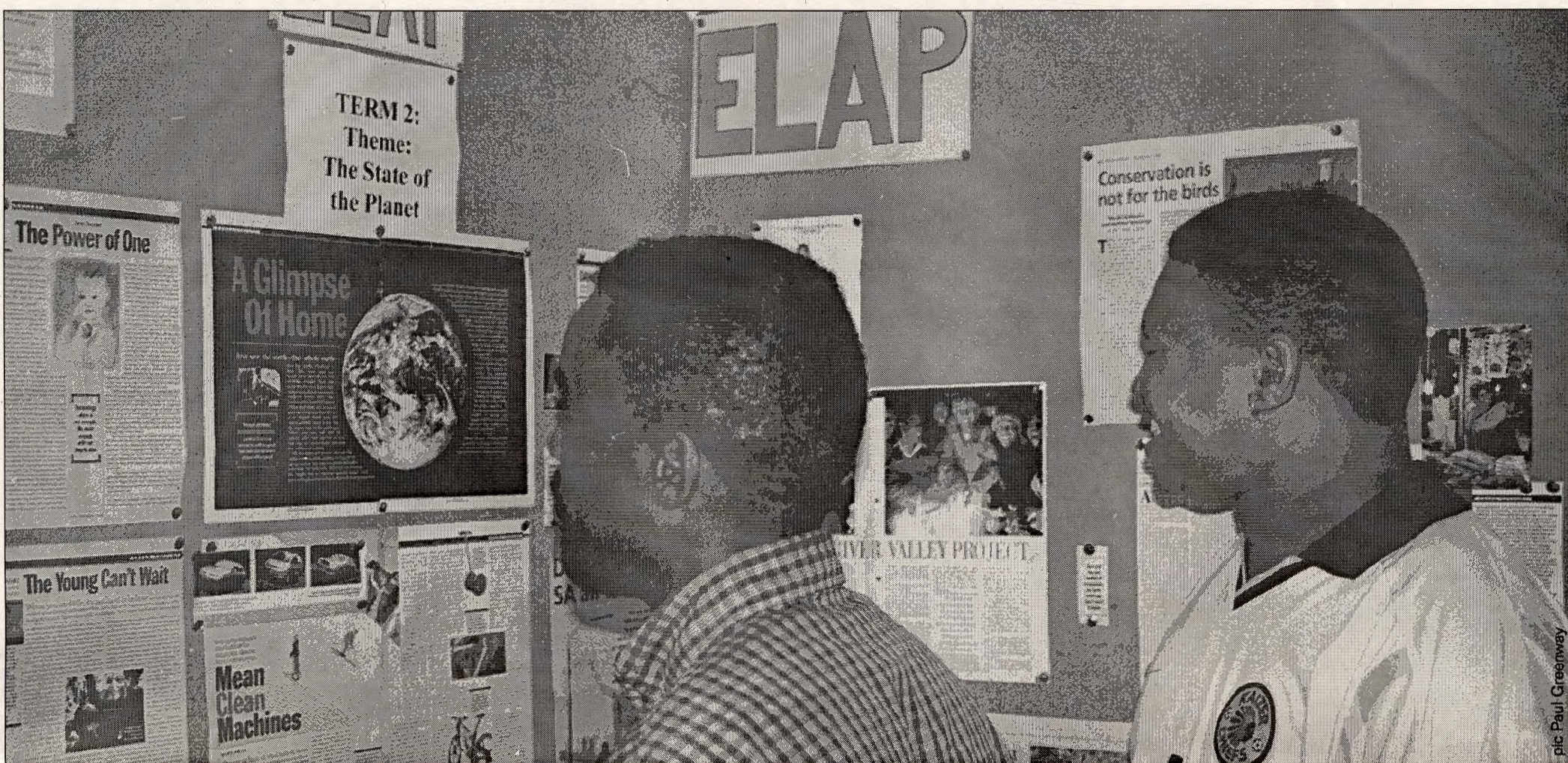


"No, I only heard about one issue last year and I haven't heard anything since."

(Bianca, BJourn 2)







EMPOWERMENT: Students read the ELAP notice board in the Linguistics Department.

# ELAP Discrimination or development?

by Ongama Mtinka

**T**his is the ninth year since South Africa became a democratic country. It has been praised by many for its ability to maintain a peaceful transition from being an apartheid-ridden state to one of democracy. Despite this, however, there is still one more road to cross.

The education system in South Africa, particularly for blacks attending schools in rural areas and townships, seems much the same today as it was during the apartheid days. Back then the [black] education system was characterised by various setbacks. Among them were minimal levels of education, insufficient government funding, inadequately trained and few staff as well as the absence of laboratories and libraries – all of which hindered conceptual development. In rural areas and townships, current systems are still underdeveloped and below standard.

The subordination of black education was one of the objectives of the Bantu Education Act of 1953. According to Hendrik Verwoerd, then Minister for Native Affairs and later president of South Africa, this Bantu Education Act was an attempt to teach Africans at a young age that equality with whites was not for them. This education system was designed in such a way that it would make it difficult for Africans to achieve careers like being doctors, professors or other professionals, because according to Verwoerd, "there was no place for the 'Bantu' in the European community above the level of certain (subordinate) forms of labour".

The apartheid government managed to subordinate black education in South Africa by spending less time and money on it. The materials that they provided to rural and township schools were insufficient. Non-whites were prohibited from attending 'privileged' schools as they were for whites only. This racism was not limited to schools. There were also tertiary institutions that were for whites only, including universities like Rhodes, Stellenbosch, and Wits. The government changed these policies when South Africa became a

democratic state and schools and universities became racially integrated. Nevertheless, today only a minority of non-whites can afford to send their children to these institutions, as many of them are owned by private companies and are expensive.

A big problem for black students who come from rural and township schools is that one of the requirements for being admitted into a former 'whites only' university is to have studied in a former 'whites only' school. The reason for this is that the education is seen as superior to that received in a rural or township school. As a result universities have implemented 'Extra' or 'Foundation' courses, to 'upgrade' black students' education. Rhodes offers English Language for Academic Purposes (ELAP) (mockingly called 'English for Lazy African People' by some students) which is intended to increase the students' understanding and proficiency in the English language for study purposes.

**English Language for Academic Purposes is mockingly called 'English for Lazy African People' by some students.**

The implementation of these courses does not solve the education problems in South Africa, however. There is also an added economic cost: ELAP students spend four to five years on degrees that usually take three to four. The course is seen by many students in various faculties as irrelevant to their path of studies. "Students find it difficult to transfer what they have learnt in a general course to a specific course," said Penny Niven, a tutor for ELAP students in the linguistics department. For instance, ELAP has no point of reference to BComF students. BComF students are

made to do the foundation courses – hence the F, before they can continue with a regular BCom degree. ELAP has no relevance to commerce students, as it appears to be a cultural studies course which does not deal with business matters. On the other hand, BAF students – BA students doing the foundation course, benefit greatly, as it relates to their syllabus.

Professor MacDonald, Dean of Humanities, argues that it helps some students adjust to the tertiary contexts at varsities. Other people believe these foundation courses are biased and unnecessary. "These programmes are tainted with prejudice and they tend to

exclude students by creating the impression of universities as elitist," said Xolisa Vitsha, a researcher at the Public Service Accountability Monitor at Rhodes.

For instance, some of the students who undergo these courses matriculated with merit but because they come from black schools they have to do the course regardless of their good results.

What one should also take into consideration when criticising the education system in South Africa is that the government is not disregarding this issue because according to Nelson Mandela, "when South Africa's first ever democratic elections took place in 1994, it became a priority for the new government to transform education. The imbalances of the past created by apartheid education demanded urgent and immediate correction. Not only in the provision of resources and infrastructure but also by restoring the culture of learning and teaching".

According to Vice Chancellor of Rhodes University, Dr David Woods, there is a difference between black students who matriculated in Model C schools and students who matriculated in rural or township schools. Following this, Prof MacDonald believes that education should be improved in primary and secondary schools. The difference referred to would be in the quality of their education as students who went to Model C schools would generally have a better or broader knowledge, allowing them to cope more easily at tertiary institutions. Students will struggle more at university if they do not have enough grounding. By raising the standard of education in schools, the government would eradicate this problem, eliminating the need for foundation courses at universities.

Xolile Dyanti, president of the Peddie branch of SADTU (South African Democratic Teachers Union), believes that it is high time that the government began working in cooperation with the private sector to improve education at both secondary and tertiary levels in South Africa. He feels that the dependency of the education system on government is another cause for the poor education standards in the country.

As the former president Nelson Mandela once said, "Quality education will equip Africans to raise their own living standards, to participate in the economic growth of the country and to compete in the global economy."



"Well, I heard about a rape last year, people are scared to say much and the university will be quiet if there are bad things happening [on campus]."

(Dawood, BPharm2)

“ 3



"Not really, haven't heard anything much; one last year and another one last term. I think a lot of people aren't reporting it – the university wants us to believe we're in some safe haven so they keep it on the DL [down low]."

(Gillian, BEcon)

“ 4

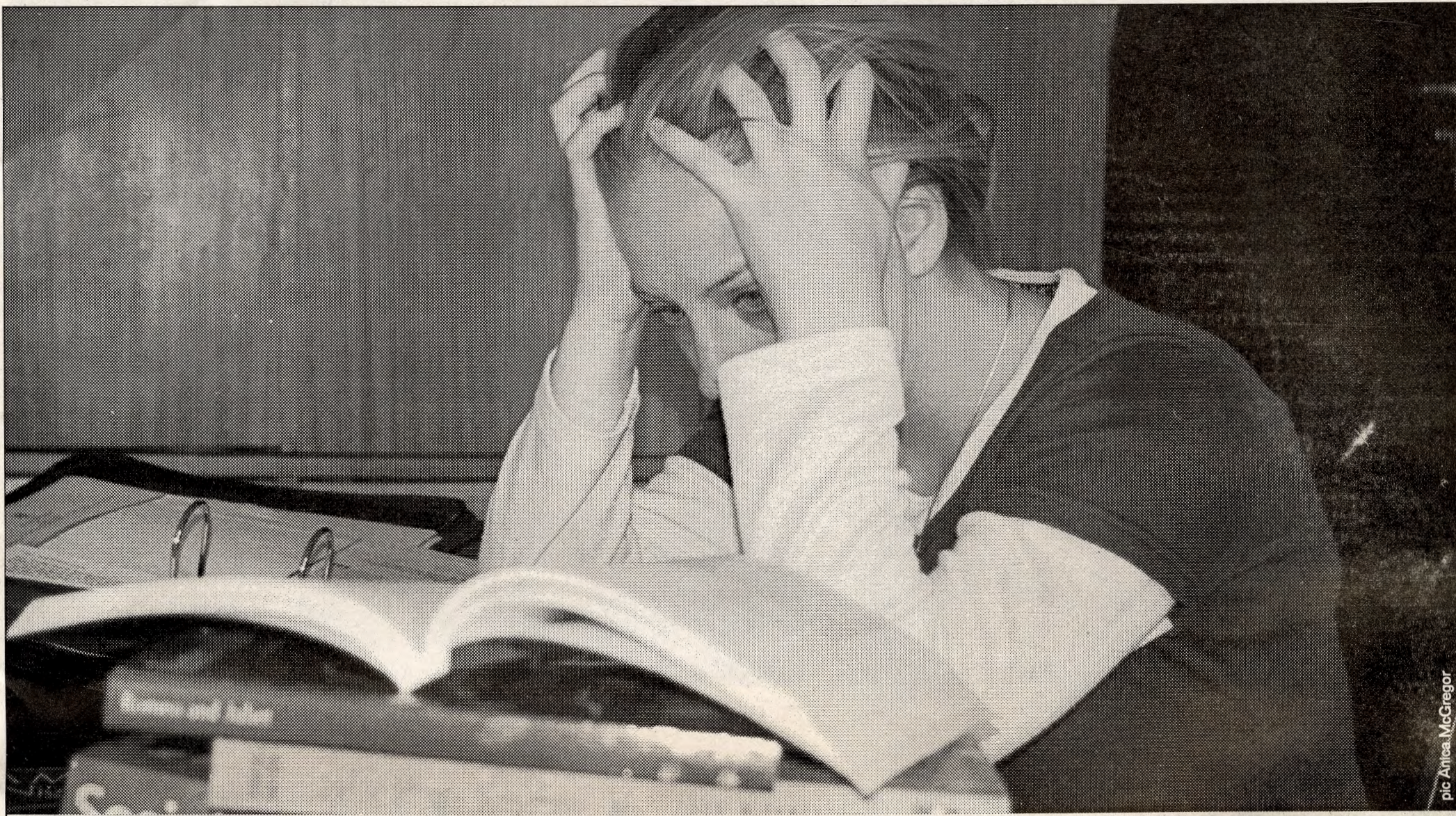


"The problem, I think, is because victims keep silent. I've heard about two rapes committed by one guy this year – I was told as a warning not to walk by myself at night."

(Mandisa, BA 1)

“ 5





ANXIOUS: Help is available for stressed-out students at a number of facilities on campus.

pic Anica McGregor

# The STRESS factor

by Khumo Ntoane and Sarah Duffett

"I see dead people, I see them everywhere. I hear voices too, please help me, they are coming." This was found in Allan Gray's message book the day after the release of the exam timetable. Actor Haley Joel Osmond once sat beneath bed covers shivering and uttering these very lines. Even as we speak, multitudes of fellow students shiver, not from the torment of ghosts, but rather the torment of the approaching exams. The latest exam timetable has struck terror into the hearts of Rhodes University's would-be graduates and with timetable terror, comes immense exam stress.

Often trivialised by those who do not find themselves faced with hundreds of assignments, masses of tutorials, mounds of readings, as well as the looming exams, the effects of stress on students should not be underestimated. According to a pamphlet distributed by Lisl Foss, the SRC counsellor, stress can result in such extreme phenomena as alarming heart palpitations, phobias, restlessness and itching. Continuous diarrhoea, cramps, gas and constipation are also known symptoms.

Perhaps most importantly to an institution with

a reputation of alcohol consumption, alcohol abuse can be added to this list of symptoms of stress.

Laureen Rautenbach, Drostdy Hall Warden, agrees with this, saying that in previous years she noted a marked increase in drinking during exam terms. For many students, the prospect of boosting their self-confidence by indulging in a drink

before an exam is an attractive one. For others, drinking socially is simply a means of relaxing and de-stressing. As Richard Taeuber, second year BA student explained, "There is so much free time...we get bored studying for two days straight. We would rather go to the pub and be with friends." What is of immense

concern to Rauntenbach, however, is that during the less stressful first term of this year, the amount of alcohol students consumed seemed to be far greater than that of previous years. If the levels of drinking are already so high, who can predict how drastically they will increase during the exams?

Other students use alcohol as a way of escaping. Many first years find the change in social and educational environments so overwhelming that even during the first term they experience high levels of stress. Added to this is the realisation that learning methods used at school level may be inadequate to deal with the amount and type of work they are

faced with. By the time they encounter that first petrifying university exam, the accumulated stress is so intense that it could negatively affect their ability to perform at their best. According to Foss, "they are scared to be tested and have performance anxiety".

The reality of the situation is that it is not only first years who experience this much stress. In the weeks running up to exams, students find it difficult to handle the preparation for exams as well as the amount of work they still have to complete. "Almost every day I find myself working on three-page assignments for a number of my tutorials," said one second year BJourn student, "I don't have any time to even think about starting to study for exams." These sentiments are shared by a large number of students, but from an educational point of view, tutorials do, in fact, serve a purpose. Second year student Noma Makhanda feels that tutorials do help when you prepare for exams, if you attend them and do the work.

The revision of work in preparation for tutorials is, in fact, an investment. When talking to Foss, she said that memory research has proven that more than 80% of information is stored in long-term memory if revised within 24 hours. If left until just before the exams, less than 20% of what students study is stored at a time. This means that they have to waste more time trying to understand their work – something earlier planning would have prevented.

Very few students are actually able to master the combination of early revision, infallible planning and perfect preparation for tutorials. Others are able to, but to a lesser degree and then there are those who simply never get it right. With the approaching exams, no matter which category you belong to, there is still the probability that stress-related anxiety will have a major effect on you.

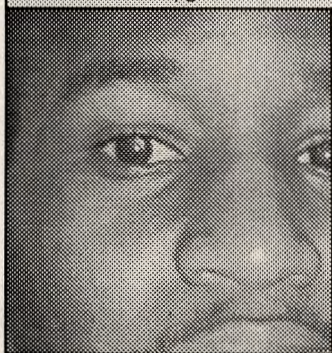
To help you cope with this anxiety, the SRC Counselling Centre is running a workshop titled 'Anxiety Management and Exam Preparation'. Watch out for further details of this closer to exam time. For one-on-one consultations, Lisl Foss is available at the SRC Counselling Offices opposite RMR, or students can go to the Career Guidance and Counselling Centre below Eden Grove. Students can go to the Psychology Department or talk to their wardens, sub-wardens and members of House Comm if they are in res.

Exam stress is not something to be taken lightly. The above-mentioned symptoms are proof that it can be highly detrimental to your health, mental well being and prospect of surviving your exams. If you begin to feel the mounting pressures of the approaching exams, rather speak to someone before it is too late. As the old saying goes: 'Prevention is better than cure'. Maybe a bit naff (as that old saying almost goes: Preparation is better than cursing?).

Good luck for your exams.

**If you begin to feel the pressures of the approaching exams, rather speak to someone.**

Continued from pg 5>



"Err...well, there are lots of rumours – like the Jac Labs story, but nobody knows."

(Tony, BALaw)

“ 6



"Oh sure! The only reason why we don't know of any definite cases is probably because the university is covering it up."

(Hayley, BJourn 2)

“ 7



"Yes, but it's very underground; students don't report and I think to an extent, the varsity also covers it up."

(Juliet, BJourn 2)

“ 8



JSK  
2003

# Get Reloaded

The first time I saw the original *Matrix*, I didn't move for the entire movie. I'm not talking about just sitting in rapt attention. I'm talking about not moving – not shifting, not blinking, barely breathing. When the credits rolled, it took me five minutes to move my legs. It was that good.

Now, four years later, *The Matrix Reloaded* tops the box office. As with any sequel to a superb film, expectations were high. Could the promises of mindblowing special effects be exaggerated? Or would it set a new standard for action movies?

Without going into the (vast) back-story of *The Matrix*, the plot of *Reloaded* centres around the fact that Zion, the last bastion of human civilisation, will be destroyed by 250 000 machines. Neo (Keanu Reeves), Trinity (Carrie-Anne Moss) and Morpheus (Laurence Fishburne) have 72 hours to prevent this catastrophe by finding the 'source' of the Matrix. Oh, and Neo's old nemesis Agent Smith can now clone himself. Here we go...

Of course, what you really want to know is if the special effects are worth it. Let's put it like this: imagine the most incredible effects – in scenes where Neo has to fight off hundreds of Smith clones in a courtyard and then takes flight (yes, takes flight) – and one of the best car chases in history, then multiply it by a hundred. It's impossible to describe just how good they are – you really have to see them for yourself.

Admittedly, the script isn't brilliant, and the acting can be a bit wooden, but really, if you go see *Reloaded* for Oscar-winning performances, you need your head examined. The effects and action sequences alone are reason enough to see, what is in every sense of the word, a landmark movie. In 50 years time, they'll be celebrating this (and hopefully it's sequel) as one of the all-time classics.

And hang around 'til the end of the credits. Trust me.

– Rob Boffard



MATRIX  
RELOADED



**M**any issues have been plaguing me lately. These issues vary, of course, due to the time of the day, the mood I am in, etc. At this very moment, it is a Wednesday and I am trying to decide if going out is a smart idea due to the whole exam issue and all. Exams, exams, exams, please let us not talk about exams!

Studying has become the bane of my existence, and I am at varsity where studying is what we mostly do. My mother constantly asks, "Are you studying hard?", and my father asks, "Are you having fun?" My response is yes to both because naturally I live a balanced life. Despite this, I lack the basic knowledge of cultures that surround me. To strive for balance, one should understand what makes up the art of a person.

There are many different cultures surrounding us at Rhodes University. I, myself, am a single white female from a small urban area of Joburg called Roodepoort, which is mostly Afrikaans. This means that I have, on occasion, experienced a good sokkie, and sorry for those who are not Afrikaans-blooded, but only they really know how to twirl a girl on the dance floor!

If you were to see my English rose complexion, you would never guess that my immediate cousins are Greek. Their whole house is blue and white and after a Greek Christmas, I can assure you about the good food. I still learn about Ancient Greece in Classics, but I know for certain that the Greeks are not impressed with the Turks. You can, of course, imagine my uncle's reaction when I told him that one of my favourite soccer players is the Turk Ilian Mansiz.

My favourite soccer player is the Spanish athlete Raul. After doing Spanish dancing for eight years, I can understand the passion of the people. I am sure that not everyone knows just how varied the Spanish people are as they are not just ruffled skirts and castanets. I have personally danced dances from the Basque region, which is all stiff in posture and uses the tapping of sticks; and dances from Andalusia, where soft shoes and shorter skirts are worn. Europe has a variety of cultures but so does Africa.

At Rhodes, there are people from all over, including but not limited to: Namibia, Zambia, Kenya, Zimbabwe and even Malawi. I, myself, have learnt so much about how different Africans are from one another. There are so many unique customs and lifestyles.

A friend from Malawi tells me that they return to their country in the tiniest plane, and all the locals gather to watch as if it is a real welcoming party. In Malawi, there are many exotic fruits and 'The Lake' is always raved about.

Like an image of colonial Africa, there are many missionaries who, in particular, help at the schools and Aids orphanages.

These are just some of the cultures I am directly affected by, so now I definitely am geared to go out where I can explore more fascinating cultures – and study for exams of course.

**I have on occasion experienced a good sokkie**

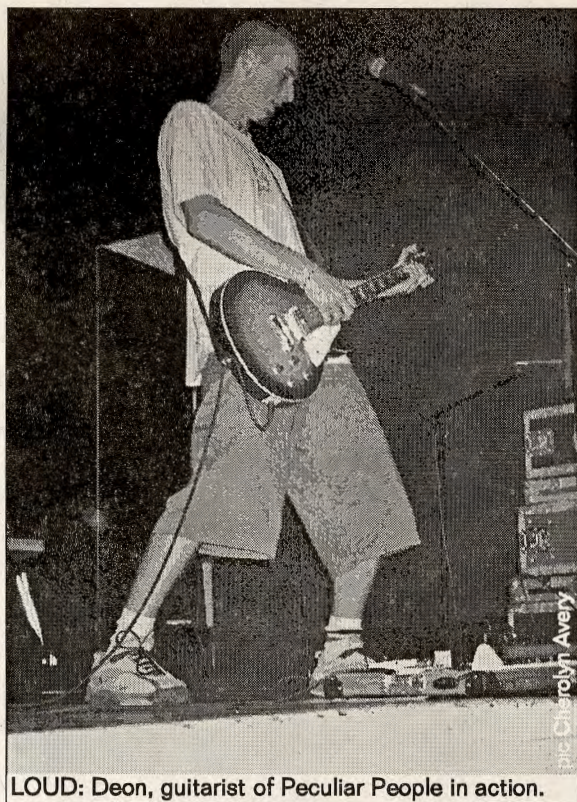


pic © Cuepix/Trevor Oughton

**AT ITS BEST:** Never have drunkards waxed so witty on a Wednesday night in Grahamstown. Zoya Mabuto is sublime as Feste, the quick-witted fool, spinning words with liquid ease. Sir Toby Belch, played by drama lecturer Dion van Niekerk, and Sir Andrew Aguecheek, played by first year student Nicholas Wilcox, complete the drunken trio. Wilcox shines amongst a glittering cast, putting paid to any concerns about a lack of experience. These large-living layabouts are part of the household of Countess Olivia, played by the beautiful Ashleigh-May Kok. Simone Lewis, as Maria, and Cornelis Vaandrager, as an unforgettable Malvolio, play Olivia's competing servants with perfect malice and melodrama. Director Paige Newmark choice to set the comedy in the Eastern Cape, was borne out by various modifications to the script and the inclusion of Xhosa songs. *Twelfth Night* will run for the first four days of the National Arts Festival (28 June – 1 July) at Kingswood College. – Tom Mapham

## Christian band rocks city

by Verashni Pillay



**LOUD:** Deon, guitarist of Peculiar People in action.

**C**ape Town based Christian rock band Peculiar People performed for one night only in Grahamstown as part of their six-week tour of the country.

The three-piece band played at the Scout Hall on Friday 9 May. High school and university students alike gathered to hear Gary (lead singer and bassist), Deon (guitarist) and Darrel (drummer).

The band, which has released six CDs to date, has been in existence for five-and-a-half-years – with good reason.

Longevity is a rare thing for most South African bands, but Peculiar People definitely has an 'It' factor that has kept them on the scene. Their music ranges from mel-low rock ballads to more pop/rock tunes; and then there are the harder bang-your-head numbers that leave the crowds shouting for more.

This versatility is important for a band's survival, and together with their originality, ensures that Peculiar People has gone from strength to strength as a band. But talent is never a guarantee for success, as too many

bands belatedly realize. If there is one field that demands discipline and dedication, it would be the route of the independent rock band.

At one point in the show, the sound in the microphones cut. Without getting flustered, Gary soon had the crowd singing the lyrics for him in a true display of professionalism – this despite the fact that the crowd was somewhat insipid to start off with. But the band would have put Pink to shame in their ability to get the party started.

A nice touch to the show was the addition of several of the band's older tracks for their longtime supporters. The gig ended way too soon for most people's liking, but the rock fans were content with the injection of real moshing power that had been so kindly brought to their obscure corner of the world. The band members, who had just returned from a tour in the UK, were on their way to release their new CD in Cape Town.

After that, they will be powering off to the US, no doubt to give American audiences a taste of shock and awe in good music. ■

## Dept of African Languages: Nation Building 101

by Cherolyn Amery

A number of Rhodes students are actively adding a little culture to their lives – but not in the way one would expect.

Karen Roux, a first year BA student, is one of 40 who have elected to do Xhosa I as a subject and is positive about her choice.

"I thought it would be quite interesting to learn [Xhosa], because I live on a farm in the Eastern Cape and both my parents speak it fluently," she says. Karen feels that Xhosa will be useful if she teaches in the future and also believes that being able to speak to a Xhosa person in their own language is an essential part of gaining their respect.

There is also a large group of international students taking Xhosa, which at Rhodes is geared towards non-mother-tongue speakers.

Bulelwa Nosilela, a lecturer in the African Languages Department, explains that many foreign students want to be exposed to South African cultures and learning a language is an integral part of that. "I believe that language and culture are very closely linked," she says.

Nosilela enthusiastically describes how students are exposed to cultural as well as grammatical aspects of the language as part of the African Languages curriculum. They are taken to museums, learn about important aspects of the Xhosa culture such as funerals and various clothing and focus on the differences between African and Western cultures.

Most students taking Xhosa do Journalism or intend to teach, but Nosilela is adamant in her belief that everyone should be able to communicate with people outside their own groups – especially in multi-racial South Africa. She also

stresses that being able to communicate with someone of a different race in their own language has great relevance in the workplace, as employers prefer to hire multilingual applicants who are able to deal with a diversity of people.

Many people believe that learning an African language is difficult and therefore do not consider it. But Nosilela assures that the department starts with the basics.

She is passionate about her subject and all that it encompasses and encourages students to make the effort to improve their communication skills and understanding of others around them.

To strengthen her argument, Nosilela quotes Nelson Mandela; who at his inauguration urged people to learn each other's languages. "This would be the best way to contribute to nation building and reconciliation." ■



**Off  
Centre**

Natalie Oram – Arts & Culture Editor



## Lockerbie compensation deal imminent

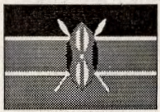
by Sean Naidoo

Libya has reached a political agreement with the US and Britain to accept civil responsibility for the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 219 over Scotland. Under the agreement, Libya will compensate families of the 259 predominantly American passengers and crew killed in the mid-air explosion over Lockerbie, Scotland.

11 people killed on the ground when the aircraft crashed will also receive compensation.

Each family is allegedly set to receive \$10 million USD. Libyan agent Abdel Basset Ali al Megrahi was charged with the bombing and sentenced to life in prison. The only condition attached to this agreement requires the United Nations to lift all sanctions imposed against Libya.

Rahman Shalgham, foreign minister for the Libyan government, said civil responsibility had to be accepted by his government because of the actions of Libyan citizens in the Lockerbie affair. ■



### Thousands left homeless after floods in Kenya

by Sean Naidoo

According to officials, small piles of mud were all that remained of dozens of makeshift shelters in a northeastern refugee camp near Dadaab, Kenya after recent floods swept through the area.

Relief agency Relief Web has estimated that the floods have caused about 60 000 people to flee their homes and have left 49 people dead.

Many of the victims were children who could not escape in time.

"The situation is bad," says Halimo Siyad Elami, a Somali who fled to Kenya in 1991.

Wide scale looting is also happening but dealing with it is not high on the government's agenda, locals say.

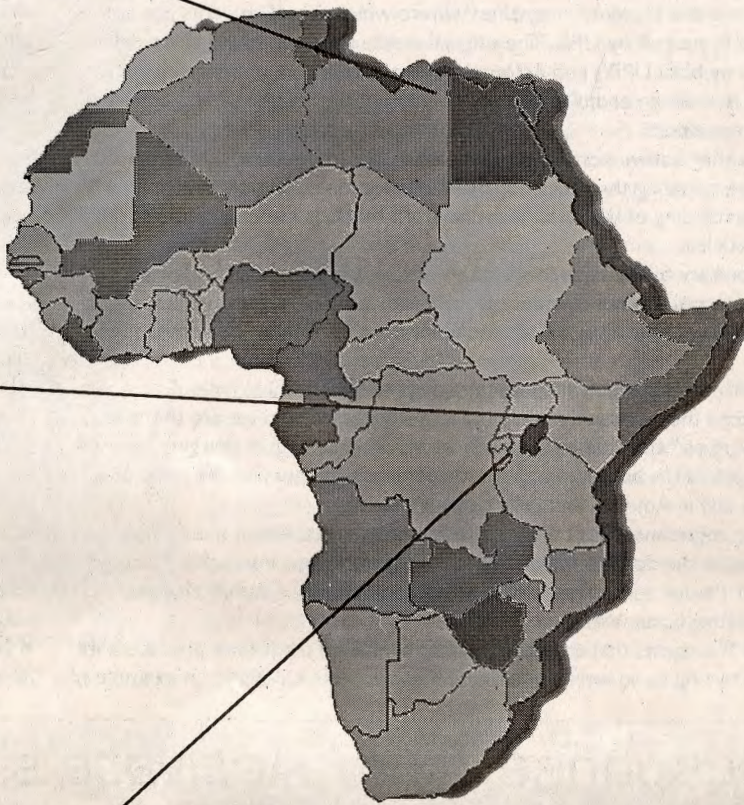
The International Red Cross Foundation has pleaded with the international community to donate approximately \$619 000 USD to provide displaced families with food and water for the next two months.

Chaos and starvation reigns in what is left of many cities.

Millions of people do not have access to clean water after the flooding brought down the wall of the Sasumua dam, which supplies water to most of Kenya.

The organisation Doctors without Borders believe that many flood-ravaged areas are already contaminated.

So far diarrhoea and dysentery are the most frequently treated ailments. ■



### Peace in sight for Burundi says SA government

by Sean Naidoo

The South African government says war-torn Burundi is closer to peace now that African Union peacekeepers have been deployed in the country.

This is after Domitien Ndayizweye was installed as Burundi's second transitional president. Ndayizweye has taken over from the outgoing Tutsi president Pierre Buyoya. South African Vice President Jacob Zuma says, "The Burundi people should celebrate because they have moved so far." Zuma, who is the chief mediator in the conflict, also adds, "It is a miracle that without a peacekeeping force you did not have an out and out war."

Ndayizweye, a Hutu, will serve as the country's president for the next 18 months until general democratic elections are held. It is believed that Ndayizweye, being a Hutu, will be able to send a clear message to citizens that Burundi is geared for change. ■

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My digsmate Sam often laments bitterly that "the world has been a madhouse too long". I have my suspicions that his cynicism is due to the fact that his diet consists solely of lentils, bread and cabbage and that bad digestion and lack of vitamins has affected his brain. However, there does seem something worryingly true about his statement. This world has indeed been a madhouse too long, and it doesn't show any promising signs of letting up any time soon.

However, in this column I have decided to turn over a new leaf. No longer shall I barrage you, poor reader, with my apocalyptic rants about the world which really just amount to the sublimation of the poverty of my love life into verbal diarrhoea.

No longer shall I sow the seeds of my disgruntlement far and wide in the hope of growing poppy fields full of discontent around Grahamstown (well, at least not until the next edition). Instead, following in the footsteps of Mike Lipkin and Deepak Chopra, I shall now offer a Dystopian Mantra to help us find motivation and meaning in this insane world. It is suitably Zen-like and incoherent to give the appearance of spirituality while being catchy enough to impress people in Pop Art. It is a tailor made solution for our fragmented, post-modern consumerist consciousnesses. It is a guide to finding peace and meaning in life, and should be chanted everyday after breakfast.

The Dystopian Mantra...is catchy enough to impress people in Pop Art.

Note: The Mantra has been fully tested on Sam my digsmate. No animals were injured in the process, except for our cat Squid.

#### THE DYSTOPIAN MANTRA

Wake up / Balk at fat sheep / Drive cars through puddles / Eat mountains / Drink fish / Lie awake thinking about dawn / Break in half / Interface with the night / Dream about love / Trod on bread loaves / Bead necklaces / Talk about vaginas / Insult your clothes / Stroke computers / Annihilate thoughts / Grow basil / Be less efficient / Announce nothing to nobody / Feel sad when you see a parking lot / Think about time / Think about lost jerseys / Wash your bed linen / Touch your own body fluids without being afraid / Feel anxious about buildings / Eat chocolate / Give apples to people / Paint a bench / Read a book about people you like / Pretend your life is a book / Watch movies that make you disappear / Think about blind people / Breathe / Belch when you see a beautiful sunset / Speak to children / Speak to dogs / Write SMS's to people in the middle of the night / Eat spinach and feta pies / Feel happy when you see a leaf / Donate blood / Forget about something / Sleep

\* This Dystopian Mantra was only a part of the full Dystopian Programme for Peace, Enlightenment, Wealth and Insincerity. The full programme, including a glossy magazine and a DVD is available from Activate publications at a cost of R666.25.



# Dystopian Diaries

Matt Wilhelm-Solomon

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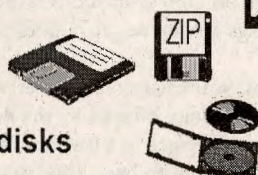
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## DIGITAL MINILAB

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# The story so far...

Published in *Grocott's Mail* on Friday 28 March 2003

Academic book store and lawyer David de la Harpe sue Rhodes student press over price reports

by Mike Loewe

Rhodes University student newspaper *Activate* ignored a defamation threat this week from local attorney David de la Harpe representing academic bookshop UPB Booksellers and Stationers over a story protesting high book prices charged by the shop.

*Activate*, which took over from the liberal-leftwing *Rhodeo* some years ago, was distributed throughout campus on Thursday – in defiance of De La Harpe's letter demanding that the paper deliver "an undertaking in writing" to his office stating that they would withdraw the 12-page edition.

De la Harpe, of Netteltons, is a well-known figure in Grahamstown who sports a gold front tooth.

In the mid-80s, he defended detained Grahamstown anti-apartheid activists and a detained and banned journalist. Ironically, he still defends major Eastern Cape newspapers from defamation suits.

In his two-page letter, De la Harpe demanded that *Activate* put out a "publication apologising and withdrawing all defamatory statements made against my clients". However, editor Haru Mutasa said they stood by the three reports into prices charged by the university town's leading academic bookshop which is owned by Grahamstown business couple Irene and Peter Ellis.

"I stand by my reports and my staff," Mutasa said. She said De la Harpe and his clients had agreed to meet the students next week, but that the legal threat still stood. Up to 80% of the store's business is widely believed to come from Rhodes University.

De la Harpe claimed that it was defamatory to state that his client "is a monopoly", charged "exorbitant" "ridiculous" "inflated" prices, "ripped off" customers, and marked up books in a way which was "grossly out of proportion".

He threatened to apply for an urgent High Court interdict against *Activate*, "and its editor personally".

Rhodes Journalism and Media Studies head, Professor Guy Berger said: "Legal threats ought to be the last resort of anyone who feels aggrieved by the media."

He said *Activate* were "only too happy" to discuss the reports directly and "address any concerns the bookshop might have of the coverage".

He said: "The reports seem fair, but if there is another side to the story which they feel is not there, they have a right to raise them. One would welcome direct discussion rather than legal threats."

He said the issue of differential mark-ups for books was of interest to students.

While the headline 'Ripped-off?' "might be presented beyond its weight, it is in the public interest and if the media can bring to the attention of the public issues around prices, it should do so."

He said of De la Harpe's demand that the paper be withdrawn: "In principal, it is wrong and ill-advised to do this. It looks as if they (UPB) have something to hide, are oversensitive, and makes them look like they are trying to close the door after the horse has bolted."

• Article edited for space – sections were removed that described the original articles which appeared in *Activate* as we feel that our readers are familiar with these stories.

• UPB worded an apology for *Activate* which we and our legal advisor did and do not accept.

Negotiations are still in progress.

*Activate* has apologised for the caption and headline as originally agreed upon (see cover page of this edition).

## UPB – The facts

by Peter Ellis, UPB owner

On the 28 March, *Grocott's Mail* published an article by Mike Loewe, with comments by Prof Guy Berger about the prices of books at UPB. The article and comments were based on a publication in the students' magazine *Activate* which asks if students are not being ripped off by UPB. The original article has been found to be defamatory by both UPB's and *Activate*'s legal advisors and as a consequence, UPB is making needful legal steps to protect their personal and commercial reputations.

Neither Loewe nor Berger contacted UPB to get their side of the story before releasing the article for press publication. UPB believes a better understanding of the facts might have led to a less inaccurate and misleading article.

Contrary to the comments in this article, UPB did in fact meet with *Activate* and it is quite evident from these discussions they had a pre-determined objective, to cast aspersions on our honesty and business practice.

With this objective in mind, they then collected "information" to substantiate their claims that our prices are excessive and we are therefore "ripping off" the students. Their conclusion, that UPB is charging "exorbitant prices", is based on a simplistic comparison between the price of a book still in America and UPB's selling prices.

No cognizance was taken of the following costs, which need to be added to the dollar price: Air or sea-freight charges; Insurance; Forward cover (hedge against rate of exchange fluctuations); Courier charges; Operating costs; VAT; Net profit.

UPB suggests that the *Activate* reporters learn from their predecessors by referring to an article published in *Rhodeo* (March 1994), an example of

a well-researched article by objective students. Heading: "Juggling the books by Angie Lazaro" 1st paragraph: " " Geez, UPB books are Expensive," and UPB has no competition, that's why their prices are horrific." If this is your attitude then read on.

*Rhodeo* compiled a list of some popular textbooks and compared UPB and Van Schaiks (a nationwide bookstore specializing in university books) prices"" unquote

A comprehensive, well-researched report on problems facing the books industry (affecting prices) then follows. Conclusion: "Where UPB is cheaper than Van Schaik, differences are marginal." (Edited because of limited space). UPB still uses the same fixed pricing system and guarantees and market related pricing on textbooks. If this were not the case, our competitors would have hot-footed it to Grahamstown to take advantage of this so called 'lucrative industry'.

The ideal opportunity for other academic book retailers to have set up shop in Grahamstown would have been when University Publishers & Booksellers went into liquidation in 1995. In fact, due to the difficulties experienced in managing a specialised business with marginal returns, a number of our competitors have either closed down or are presently restructuring their businesses.

This unfortunate incident could have been less traumatic for all the parties concerned if only *Activate* had firstly been honest and constructive in its approach and secondly listened to the advice of its legal adviser, which was to react pro-actively and apologise immediately.

*Activate* has finally admitted that the article was defamatory and has unconditionally apologized to UPB, which is to be published shortly in the magazine. UPB – The Facts.

• This letter was originally published in *Grocott's Mail*. It has been reproduced in its entirety with NO edits or changes made by *Activate*.

## Response from *Activate*'s editor, Haru Mutasa

Dear Editor

During our discussions held with UPB last term at which both our legal representative and the legal representative for UPB were present, it was agreed by both parties that *Activate* would apologise for the tone of the headline "Ripped off?" and the caption (12 March 2003).

It was agreed that UPB (already represented in our initial coverage via an interview with Mrs Irene Ellis) would be re-interviewed by an *Activate* reporter to provide further perspective on the stories.

Since then, a reporter has attempted to interview Mrs Ellis on two occasions. The first time, she was told that Mrs Ellis was not available. The second time, Mrs Ellis herself told the reporter that UPB had decided to write a response themselves.

This response was not received in time for the subsequent edition of *Activate* (7 May), and has still not been received.

Instead, the wording of a draft apology was sent to *Activate* by the UPB lawyer (via our legal advisor). Because this is a departure from the agreements made, we wish to underline that we did not accept this wording. Negotiations over amended wording are still in process. As a result, it is incorrect for UPB's Mr Peter Ellis to say in *Grocott's* (20 May)

that *Activate* admits the articles were defamatory and that we have unconditionally apologized. This is not our position.

First, only a court can rule what constitutes defamation, and when such defamation is false and not in the public interest. Second our legal adviser did not advise us to react pro-actively and apologise immediately as Mr Ellis stated. He advised we meet with UPB, which we did.

As stated, we apologise to date only for the tone of the headline and caption and are negotiating any further apologies. We would need further information from UPB about the specific points they feel are unjustifiably defamatory in order to resolve any further issues with them.

We would be happy to carry UPB's response to the stories in our next editions, and we are requesting our legal representative to convey this to Mr Ellis. However, he should know that if the article by him in the *Grocott's Mail* (20 May) is the UPB response that he would wish us to carry, we will need to present, alongside it, the information detailed above. Further, we are conveying the information in this letter to *Grocott's Mail* requesting them to publish it in response to Mr Ellis' article.

Yours sincerely, Haru Mutasa – *Activate* Editor

## Response from Guy Berger – Department of Journalism and Media Studies

Peter Ellis misses the point. In his letter to *Grocott's Mail* (May 20), he says that I (and Mike Loewe) did not contact UPB to get their side of the story before releasing an article for publication in *Grocott's Mail*. He says further that the article in question was inaccurate and misleading.

Firstly, I, myself, did not release any story. Instead, I was only interviewed for it. Secondly, and more importantly, the comments I made were not about UPB's pricing policies, but rather about the company's response to a student newspaper article on the topic.

I expressed no view on the merits or otherwise of the student's article. My argument was simply that the heavy-handed lawyer's letter which UPB sent to the students should have been a last resort. I also cautioned that in rushing to adopt such tactics, before meeting with the students, UPB was not doing any good to its image. On the contrary.

This remains my position.

The actions of Mr Ellis were reminiscent of the days of old. (Besides which, they also gave quite unnecessary business to the legal community).

What Mr Ellis should know is that legal threats are not in the spirit of a free South Africa nor of a university community which values unfettered debate. In contrast, he and UPB could have scored top public relations points by upholding free expression and by seeking to resolve their problems through direct dialogue with the students. This is the point, and I hope that recognising it becomes the reality of Mr Ellis' future reactions in the dispute.

Prof Guy Berger – Head of Department, Journalism and Media Studies (Rhodes University)

## Response from East Cape News

I find it extraordinary that a business which relies heavily, if not entirely on the university community should overreact as UPB has to the report in *Activate*. Peter, you and your lawyer, David de la Harpe, have set the wrong example for our university town and our business community by threatening, intimidating and attacking the student press over an essentially fair piece of student journalism.

You have flouted the rules of fair play by frustrating the students' attempts at getting your side of the story. Your attack on ECN and its client, *The Herald*, for daring to report on UPB's vexations and repressive defamation claim against *Activate*, brings further negative publicity to the town.

Instead of answering their questions, you have simply posed more for investigation. Instead of taking the opportunity offered by the *Activate* story to present your business and its challenges in a free and fair exchange – a debate Peter – you have chosen to herd your views to the page with the threat of a legal whip. I can't see what personal pleasure or

financial gain is to be derived from bullying the student press into a groveling apology – for doing what they will do regularly in the professional world.

Grahamstown is home to the biggest university school of journalism in Africa. This is where student journalists begin practising their craft in print, on radio and television and on Internet. I believe the business community of Grahamstown should be big enough to embrace student journalists and use the opportunity they present to try and win over student and academic opinion. Our business community needs to move with the times. We need to create a culture of acceptance, discussion and negotiation. We can only gain from an approach which sends media and our graduates, that Grahamstown is a "cool" place to be and that the business community, at the very least, values its student and academic community, warts and all. I think the majority of business people in this town would agree. Certainly those I have spoken to, do.

Mike Loewe – Editor, East Cape News



# A superb season of hockey

by Rob Sach

Rhodes 1st XI Hockey played UPE and Gelvan on Friday 9 May and Sunday 11 May respectively. Both oppositions have high calibre sides containing no less than three capped South African players. Rhodes rose to the occasion and displayed champion hockey in both matches – narrowly defeated by UPE but coming back well to run out convincing winners over Gelvan.

The young Rhodes side was still finding its feet, and the team played within themselves for the first quarter of the match until a penalty strike was converted by UPE. The rain started to come down, but the spirits never dampened as Rhodes hit back with a fine goal by Tristan Hunt. Poor marking at the back by Rhodes subsequently resulted in a soft goal being conceded to put Rhodes behind while away from home again.

However, they hit back with a superb set piece, mastered by Carl Thomen and finished by the ever present and gritty Brett Green. Rhodes should have gone ahead and wasted a handful of opportunities up front. In a cruel

blow, Rhodes conceded in the last five minutes and the end result of 3-2 was not a true reflection of the game.

At this point, the 1st XI had only managed to gain three points from three games and was in trouble of fading early in the title race. A clinical win at home on Sunday against a strong Gelvan side restored title hopes.

The display of hockey produced in the first half had the spectators permanently cheering and gasping on the edges of their seats. Rhodes went up 2-0 in the first half courtesy of Bryce Kennard and Patrick Forbes, but after the break, the quality of hockey being played by Rhodes started to degenerate.

The defence was resolute with captain courageous Greg Pitt putting in several vital tackles to repel the constant Gelvan offences. Kyle Black banged in yet another goal to give Rhodes an unassailable 3-0 lead before Gelvan scored a consolation goal in extra time – much to the disgust of keeper Slater.

The side continues to grow and improve with every performance, and these encouraging signs are promising for Rhodes hockey and ominous for the opposition in the future. ❧



ON THE BALL: Hockey stars playing in wet conditions at the Rhodes field.

## Founder's challenge

• Continued from page 12

A first this year was the involvement of female athletes, with Kath Walker and her team doing themselves proud and local school representation coming for the first time from Graham College youngsters. The schoolboys competed admirably against older and wiser opposition and it will be interesting to follow their progress in the years to come.

The Fun Run was as much of a success as its more illustrious brother, with enthusiastic entrants competing in zany outfits – from 'Appabands' to multicoloured overalls with matching hairpieces and accessories. A sprint finish in the men's race, with Jason Kidza emerging victorious and Jeannie Fox's victory in the women's event, left the crowd thrilled and boisterous, as did the Boerie rolls on sale. Many other runners posted great times and even the walkers enjoyed their stroll around Grahamstown.

Highlights of the Founder's Challenge included the remarkable running of Sergeant Peter of the Military to pull his team from 15th after the canoeing leg to 3rd place over all; the amazing display of power paddling by SA sprint canoeist Nick Burden (Smuts); and Kimberley Hall's Mike Bailey who pedalled hard to regain the lead and ensure his team's successful defence of the title. About the only 'lowlight' was the painful fate of many cyclists, including a Founders' team member who ended up being sewn together in Settler's Hospital. The man is fine apart from a few bumps and bruises – he should be back in the saddle in no time at all. All this and more was captured by the Journalism 4 TV students who put together a video on the event. Details will be released shortly.

The biggest plus of the day was the fantastic support provided, as mentioned by Vice Chancellor Dr David Woods in his prize-giving ceremony speech. Many athletes attested to the fact that the roar of the crowd inspired them to their spectacular finishes. A parting shot from a grinning James: "If you thought this year's event was good, just wait until centenary 2004 – what a 'wang-tastic' day!" ❧

## Rhodes domination wanes at SA Rowing Champs

by Barbara Couperthwaite

The build up to the South African Rowing Championships at Roodeplaat Dam in Pretoria culminated in the Rhodes crews embarking on the traditional 17-hour train ride to Johannesburg. The trip was rather tame as the majority (C-crew and coxes excluded) tried not to jeopardise their fitness and hard work before the big event.

The Men's A crew arrived in Johannesburg the Friday before to give them time to acclimatise and make friends with the primordial swamp they were to row in. Thursday and Friday were much needed recuperation and training days respectively, and it was only on

Saturday that the races began.

Unfortunately, the results for some of the crews were rather disappointing, considering the amount of training and effort they had put in. But on the whole, Rhodes put on a good show for the crowds. The Men's A8+ and B8+ crews were both narrowly beaten into fourth place, while the Women's A8+ came in sixth.

On Sunday, the Women's B8+ gave the spectators the surprise of the day when they powered through the field to claim second place. They were the first varsity crew across the line – beating UCT, UPE, Wits, and UND in the process.

The Men's pair provided more to cheer about as they won their heat and went on to come second in the

final. Meanwhile, the Women's pair provided Rhodes with a title as they rowed their way to victory in their event while the Men's coxless four also came out of their event at the head of the field. The Women's C4+ performed incredibly well to come second in their heat and it was possibly only a steering breakage which prevented them from making their mark on the final.

The Men's C8+, with only five sessions on the water under their belts, came an impressive fifth in the C division and added a well-earned third place in the D division.

Apart from a few disappointments and a four that would not steer left, it was a satisfying end to the 2003 sprint season. ❧

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Juventus silenced their critics emphatically two weeks ago, setting up the first all-Italian final in the history of the European Champions' League. The men from Turin will face AC Milan after turning around Real Madrid's 2-1 victory in Spain, to crush the defending champions 3-1 and advance to the final 4-3 on aggregate. In the last month or so, Italian football has come under increasing criticism from fans and experts in other European countries due to their negative style of play.

The Italians have certainly shown a different type of approach to the attacking finesse and sheer audacity of a team like Real Madrid, but for all their dazzling skills, international superstars and the tendency of Roberto Carlos to fire a shot on goal pretty much every time he gets within 35 yards of the target, Real flattered to deceive as Juve exposed some fundamental and highly costly defensive frailties.

Luis Figo will look back on his penalty miss as one of his worst footballing moments: the second away goal would have seen Real through, but Figo spooned a hopelessly weak shot straight at the ever-impressive Gianluigi Buffon in the Juve goal. David Trezeguet continued to enhance his reputation with a first half strike that was doubled by captain Alessandro del Piero.

After the break, Pavel Nedved scored an absolute scorcher, but when Zinedine Zidane scored against his former club with one minute to go, the stage was set for a nail biting finish. The Italian crowd was not to be disappointed, however, as Raul headed wide in injury time and Juventus held on to secure an unlikely triumph.

AC Milan overcame rivals Inter in the other Champions League semi-final, and the two Italian giants will meet in Manchester on 28 May to see who is crowned King of Europe. How the Italian media must be gloating: the performance of Juventus showed that when they want it to be, the Italians' style of play can be just as expansive, if not quite as majestic, as that of the other big teams around. Couple this with their infamous ability to 'kill' a game once they take the lead, and it makes the possibility of an Italian football renaissance altogether not unlikely. Whether or not remains to be seen, but Italian managers and players alike know that in Italy, it's all about results.

With this in mind, it will be interesting to see how next week's final will pan out. Finals are rarely the most open matches, with teams preferring to feel each other out and probe for weaknesses.

Neither side will be willing to risk the possibility of being caught on the break, and this promises a cagey start from both. What the final (and Italian soccer) really needs is the attitude shown by Juventus against Real – rather than the stifling game plan incorporated by most Italian teams after taking the lead. Hopefully, the crowds will be provided with a fitting culmination to the season – although there is one man who is sure to feel more than just a slight pang of regret on the night: Pavel Nedved – having scored the crucial third goal against Madrid, picked up a needless yellow card and will miss the final through suspension.



# Rowan's Rambles

Rowan Watt-Pringle – Sports Editor



PADDLING: A participant in the Founder's Challenge rounds a corner while canoeing in Jameson Dam.

## Founder's live up to their challenge

by Nic Haralambous and Nic Symes

1 3:30, 11 May 2003. The place: Kaif lawns. The event: the Founder's Challenge. The Challenge consisted of five events in a relay format.

Competitors took part in orienteering, cycling, canoeing, swimming and running – a full house of disciplines that provided maximum entertainment for the spectators. From its humble beginnings in 2001, the Challenge has grown almost threefold – much to the excitement of enthusiastic event organiser James Ball.

Massive banners placed at strategic points around campus in the weeks preceding the event drew the crowds, and none left disappointed after witnessing the prowess and dedication displayed by the athletes of Rhodes and the greater Grahamstown community. What most don't know, however, is the amount of time and effort spent by Ball, his committee members and various volunteers in ensuring that the event was properly marketed and completed. These committed folks, amongst them more than 80 marshals for the various checkpoints along the course, were busy setting up for the event in the cold and rain while most were still nursing a hangover. Luckily, the rain abated for the duration of the event – a small miracle for which James is eternally grateful – offering his "thanks to the weather gods for ensuring a shining success of a day".

It is a testament to Rhodes University that it has produced students capable of organising such an occasion without any outside help, especially when one considers that the Challenge continues to grow from year to year. The number of athletes competing has tripled – a trend that should ensure a spectacular Founder's Challenge for Rhodes' centenary next year. The spirit shown by the competitors attested to their pride in taking part in something that was truly 'for students by students'.

After an early scare from Stuart Laing and his College House team in the orienteering, defending champions

Kimberley Hall took control of the event and never really lost it. As the cyclists neared the changeover, the wet weather of previous days made the road treacherous, and the race was not without incident: Founders' second team cyclist crashed nearing the end of a long ride, while other cyclists met the same sticky fate. Eventually, the medics on the scene decided to move the end of the cycle course to avoid further injuries. However, other cyclists did not manage to make the whole route with their bikes. Onlookers were amazed to see one cyclist running the majority of his race after suffering a puncture. In true Founder's Challenge spirit, the unfortunate cyclist, Richard English, never gave up and kept his team in contention for a top five spot.

The canoeists provided a thrilling race around Jameson Dam, partly due to many being under the impression that they were to paddle around the dam twice. The route was, in fact, two-and-a-half laps – which entailed another portage and paddle. This left many in disbelief and tested their resolve to the limit. All showed resilience and came out weary but smiling. Support from all sides was well received by athletes in dire need of inspiration. The acknowledgement and support from the community was an integral part of the success of the Challenge this year.

As the swimmers hit the icy water, nerves were the order of the day, but luckily, the suspect weather conditions turned out to be forgiving. This did not save competitors from the icy waters and what looked like an invigorating wake-up call. Meanwhile, the 12km run was no sweat for Chris Felgate, as he finished off a fine defence of the title for his hall.

Ball was "amazed by the quality of this year's field". The Kimberley Hall machine, powered by high calibre athletes such as Felgate (SA u/24 triathlon champ) and Mike Schuil (Zimbabwean swimmer), comfortably fended off first runners-up, Smuts I.

• Story continues on page 11

## Briefs

### Jenkins quits international rugby

Welsh flyhalf Neil Jenkins, the all-time leading points scorer in test rugby and the country's most capped player, has retired from international rugby. The 31-year-old, who scored 1 049 points in 87 internationals, made his decision after being omitted from the Wales squad for the World Cup warm-up tour of Australia and New Zealand.

www.superrugby.co.za

### McNish wants to get back to racing

Former Toyota driver Allan McNish believes he has what it takes to get back into Formula One racing after an impressive season as a Renault test driver. McNish was left without a drive for 2003 after a poor first season with Toyota last term in the team's debut year. "I have a contract with Renault until the end of the year, and, of course, I would love to get back racing because that's what I am, a racing driver," the driver told *People* magazine.

www.planet-f1.com

### Srinath signs with Gauteng

It was announced on Friday that the Gauteng Cricket Board (GCB) has signed Indian bowler Javagal Srinath and South African all-rounder Derek Crookes as part of its strengthening programme. Srinath, the 33-year-old quick bowler, is one of the top bowlers in world cricket. "He is also a man of stature both on and off the field and will bring a wealth of knowledge to Gauteng Cricket," the GCB said. His role besides playing will be to coach the young up and coming quick bowlers in Gauteng.

www.supercricket.co.za

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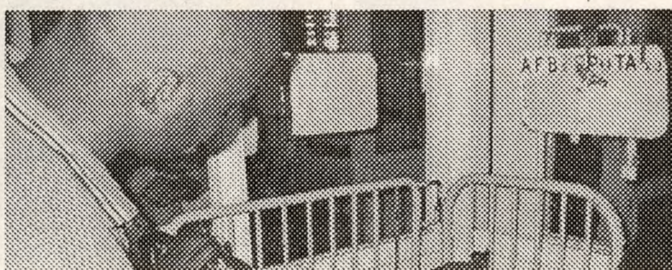
## Societies policy review

Part of the driving vision of the SRC 2003 has been to make a longer term impact than that of its single year term. This motivation coupled with the SRC's closer working relationship with campus societies has led to the further development of the Societies Policy. Some brief history of the Societies Policy tells that the document was drafted in by the SRC of 2001 and has been guideline by which all societies are meant to operate. It was felt by the SRC 2003 that sufficient time had been given to the document to see it in action and it had be reviewed to patch up any flaws in the current text and reapplied to meet the needs of the campus as a whole. So what difference will the changes make to the ordinary society member? The main answers are equity and accountability. The current policy tends towards

societies with larger memberships which have been operating for more than three years. The new policy will incorporate smaller and/or newer societies by recognising the size of the contribution they make to Rhodes and rewarding them accordingly. In terms of accountability, measures have been placed to ensure accurate reporting and feedback to the student body from both the SRC and the societies themselves whilst making it easy for the reporters to do so.

In effect we hope that this new policy, which is yet to be completely ratified, will allow for more students to benefit from engaging in society activities offered on Rhodes campus.

- Tham Moyo





## SRC update from councillor Lexi Fincham

Thamsanqua Moyo, our Societies' councillor, has successfully updated and ratified the Rhodes University Societies' Policy.

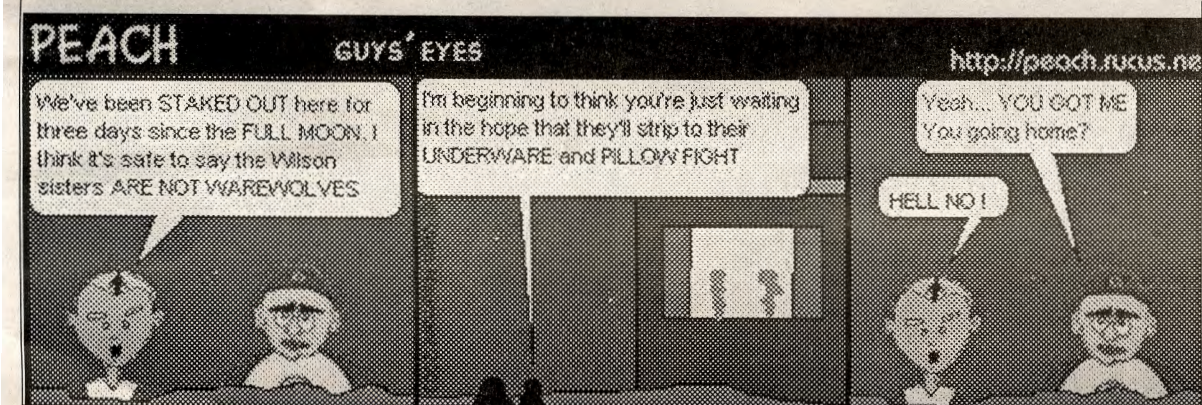
The SRC's Go Yellow Campaign, in conjunction with the National Hospice Association, was held last week. The SRC's Community Interaction Councillor Nyasha Mashozera headed the initiative. Rhodes students were encouraged to wear yellow and pay R2 to support Hospice. The event was a great success, and a fair amount of money has been raised for the Hospice Association.

The SRC Oppidan bus is FREE, not R5 as reported in the last issue. The bus is being sponsored by First National Bank. It leaves weeknights at 20:30 and 10:30 from the library area outside the stairs to Olive Schreiner. It will take you to the door of your digs.

Held this past week was the SRC's Rape Awareness Day organised by our Gender/HIV councillor Kirsty Hunter.

There was be a lecture at 1pm on Wednesday in the General Lecture Theatre by the gender violence unit: they gave advice on how you can protect yourself from a would-be attacker, as well as what you should do if you are raped.

Pepper spray was on sale at the library at R25 a can: The cans are quite small and can fit easily into a handbag or pocket.



## Wellness Corner

### WHAT YOU SHOULD DO IF YOU ARE RAPED

- 1) Report the rape to a trustworthy person as they can later be called upon as a witness
- 2) Don't wash yourself before reporting the rape, no matter how violated or dirty you feel. You could destroy evidence against the rapist.
- 3) Seek medical attention ASAP.
- 4) Report the rape to police/university authorities: this will be kept confidential.
- 5) Get emergency contraception/HIV treatment ASAP.

For further info, check out:

[www.rapecrisis.org.za](http://www.rapecrisis.org.za)

[www.powa.co.za](http://www.powa.co.za)

[www.crimefree.org.za](http://www.crimefree.org.za)

And a story on surviving rape:

<http://iafrica.com/highlife/herlife/resources/116533.htm>

### COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

Please feel free to contact us at:

SRC Office

Phone: (046) 622 7122

Fax: (046) 622 4162

E-mail: [council@src.ru.ac.za](mailto:council@src.ru.ac.za)

## So, who is on the SRC and what so they do?

There are 15 councillors on the SRC. There are nine Hall Reps, one Oppidan Rep, and an executive body consisting of five members. These five include the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and Academic Councillor. Hall Reps have two portfolios: one as Hall Rep, and one other. Hall Reps and their additional portfolios are as follows:

Kirsty Hunter – Oppidan Rep/Gender and HIV/Aids  
Thamsanqua Moyo – Founders Hall Rep/Societies  
Thami Sibisi – Allan Webb Hall Rep/Transformation  
Nyasha Mashozera – Hobson Hall Rep/Community Interaction  
Matirasa Chasi – Jan Smuts Hall Rep/Residence  
Andrew Elliot – Drodsty Hall Rep/Media  
Privani Moodley – Oriel Hall Rep/International Affairs  
Michael Shama – Kimberley Hall Rep/Sports  
Mirriam Goeieman – St. Mary's Hall Rep/Entertainment  
Bryan van Wyk – Nelson Mandela Hall Rep/Student Benefits

### THE EXECUTIVE:

James Chipunza – President. James is a 5th year LLB student.  
Earl Hodges – Vice-President. Earl is a 4th year Bcom student.  
Lexi Fincham – Secretary. Lexi is a 3rd year Journalism student.  
James Rycroft – Treasurer. James is a 3rd year Law student.  
Morgan Botha – Academic Councillor. Morgan is a 2nd year Business Science student.





# ALL ABOUT OPPIDANS OPPI.NYON



## You mean we have to get wet?!

by Lauren Oshry

I'm not really a 'naturey' kind of person. I don't like to get dirty. I like my own bed, don't do cold showers and keep meaning to look up 'exercise' in the dictionary but too lazy to get round to it. So how I ended up in a canoe halfway down Kowie River, I'll never know. In any case, I've been asked to share my newfound camping wisdom. The single most important thing when planning a trip like this is to be prepared. And I mean taking the right stuff. Bush-bogging is no fun without Twinsaver Triple Ply. You can't have a braai without matches. There is no vending machine in the bundu, so take a 24-hour supply of chocolate. Get the picture? Read on for more wisdom.

• The hard bit

We set off around 11:00, which is not the best

time of day to canoe. It's hot, windy and too close to lunchtime for such strenuous activity. You don't really have to have any canoeing experience for this trip, but it does help. The wind was in full force against us as we began, and it worsened as we got tired. Some of the waves were rather intimidating and feminine shrieks of "Ack! I'm wet!" harmonised with the males' "No, man! Your other left!" The stronger of the twosome sits in the back. If you're in front, beware: you're going to get sprayed with water (and if you manage like me to pair with a pro, bashed on the head by your partner's oar). All your stuff goes in the canoe with you so wrap it very well in double dustbin bags. Pack an extra roll. Leave lunch accessible though; a picnic on the riverbank is the perfect time to really appreciate the beauty of your surroundings – mountains covered in lush vegetation, all sorts of

interesting birds and of course lots of small crawly things who want to share your picnic. Rolls are good for this meal, just remember to pack them on top otherwise you'll be enjoying a ham and cheese pancake.

• The hut

We arrived well before dark, having canoed for about three hours with a lunch break of an hour. The facilities are basic. I mean basic. Rustic means quaint wooden furniture with a fireplace and coarse woolen blankets. This is just plain rugged. The cabin sleeps 16 in metal bunk-frames. Mattresses are provided, but that's about it. There's no electricity or kitchen facilities, so I was delighted to discover that the boys had gotten carried away at a second hand shop and had brought enough paraffin lamps, gas cookers and army gimmicks to keep us vaguely civilized. >>>

*Oppi.Nyon* is an independent publication and is not affiliated with *Activate*.



## We get letters

Dear Editor

On Thursday morning (15th May 2003), while walking to campus at 07:45 to a 'dawny' lecture I was mugged by two guys who were walking along the street. It happened on New Street, across the road from CJ's. Had it not been for a masters student-lecturer, they would have stolen my cellphone, and they could have hurt me. The student-lecturer bravely took on one of the muggers, the other got away. Campus security was there almost immediately and the mugger was arrested.

Last I knew, they were searching for the second boy (they looked like teenage street kids). There were several other people on the street at the time, and they still tried to mug me. I know lots of other oppidans, mostly females like me, who walk to lectures, and I would hate for the same thing to happen to them.

Thanking you  
Shehnaaz Asmal

Dear Haru

I'd like to use your paper to thank the SRC 2003 for the fantastic job they have done in response to, in particular, oppidan student concerns about safety. The SRC Bus has made my life much easier, and the pro-active stance the SRC has taken in addressing numerous other issues on campus is, in my opinion, really commendable and much appreciated.

Yours sincerely  
Dianne Tipping-Woods

# The really-useful stuff guide

## Successful Ball

The Oppidan Ball was held on 17 May 2003 at the Graham Hotel. It was a highly successful event, and fun was had by all who attended.

## Oppidan benefits

Tea and coffee (10 to 11am and 1 to 2 pm) every weekday during term.  
DSTV in the common room (down the hall from the Kaif doors)  
Comprehensive digs lists and lease guides  
Vacuum cleaner  
Daily newspaper  
SRC suggestion book is in the common room and can be used to make suggestions or raise oppidan issues that one may have.  
For the moment, the SRC shuttle runs from 8pm to 10.30pm. It is FREE and leaves every weekday from the main library.

## Notices

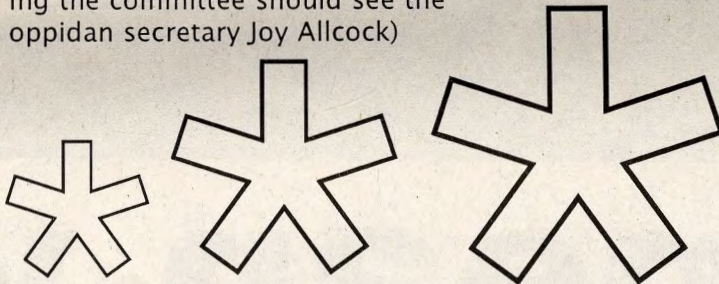
Check out the new Oppidan notice board at SuperSpar.

## Contact details

- Oppidan warden - Gordon Barker - 603 8443 (g.barker@ru.ac.za)
- Oppidan secretary - Joy Allcock - 603 8229 (j.v.allcock@ru.ac.za) She works mornings only from 8.30 to 12.45pm.

## Oppidan committee members:

Charity Ncube (Head student)  
Kirsty Hunter (SRC oppidan representative)  
Shavonne Randall  
Donate DeBruin  
Catherine Smith  
(Committee members organise balls, cheese and wines, sporting events, etc. Anyone interested in joining the committee should see the oppidan secretary Joy Allcock)



## Quick 'n easy recipes

Lentil Soup A la Can - A ridiculously easy way to make tasty soup in seconds, really.

### Ingredients:

2 cans lentils (juice and all)  
1 can tomatoes  
Lemon juice  
Salt & pepper  
Coconut milk  
Chopped coriander

### Method:

Combine, liquidise, add stuff to suit your tastes. If it's too thick, add a bit of water.

• e-mail your recipes to g01m0259@campus.ru.ac.za



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### DO I REALLY HAVE TO GET WET?!

- The shower

You're going to be sweaty and dirty when you get there. Nothing like a good cold shower? Only if you're brave enough! Someone in our group best described it as "mountain-spring fresh" and if you ask me, that's a shameless euphemism. There's also an "enviro-loo". BYOB (Bring Your Own Bogroll).

- The braai

BYOB applies here too. There's pretty much nothing to do after dark but sit around the braaiplek, eating, drinking and generally being Rhodes students. Firewood is supplied, but we found it was a little green so bring some fire-lighters and, of course, matches. If you need plates, cutlery, pots, pans or the kitchen sink to prepare your food - take it with you! Little gas cookers came in very handy for us, especially to boil water for two-minute noodles. The atmosphere is actually very pleasant, huddled round the embers, full-bellied and bottles in hands, chatting and singing until we were exhausted. One tip on the outdoorsy thing: take mozzie-repellant. Trust me. If you have monkey-repellant, take that too. And don't leave food out or it might disappear...

- The next day

Pack warm clothes for the night as the temperature gets almost as cold as the shower, and if you're smart you'll be getting up around 5am (no, that's not a typo - 5am) to canoe back before the wind has a chance to rise. The water is like glass at this time and there's something magical about gliding along the surface while the sun rises around you to a chorus of hadedas taking their morning flight. Your arms are probably going to be very tired and tender, so you'll doubly appreciate that the tide is in your favour at this hour. When the fish begin to wake up they're really friendly. We had one jump right into the canoe! It's really great for the spirit to savour the crisp air and peaceful surroundings before you head back to ecos/journ/micro/etc.

In retrospect the trip was a really fun, cheap adventure with a bunch of very cool people. I'd recommend it to any mad sadomasochists who want an outdoor bondage (I mean bonding) experience. Overall rating: Two blisters and a miley face :)