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Students abuse security measures



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Going anywhere this vac?



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Welcome to hip-hop 101

Where are the police?

Rhodes University has told students it has stepped up security measures, but what does this mean? Are effective systems in place yet? Two staff reporters spent a Friday night on the streets to determine exactly what is or is not being done, and why (despite indicated) there was such minimal police presence.



■ Natasha Boddy and Jacqueline Lazic

Rhodes University has warned students to be on the lookout for an increased police presence on and around campus, and in particular to be aware that drunk and disruptive behaviour on the streets and in the pubs of Grahamstown could mean spending the night in prison.

Following a series of events and the subsequent demands made of Rhodes University to improve security on campus, the Vice-Chancellor issued a statement warning students to carry their student cards out with them at night. Furthermore, according to an email sent out to staff and students by Dr David Woods on September 7 2004, "the SAPS will enter local pubs and nightclubs to remove inebriated and under-age patrons, including students."

Two staff reporters decided to investigate police presence by monitoring the scene outside Friar Tucks on Friday September 24 between 11pm and 2am. Only one police car was seen driving past the establishment. Private security

company Hi-Tech, however, had a stronger presence with two cars patrolling the area, although none of the nightclubs are known to have employed the company.

Police spokesperson, Inspector Mali Govender, said Rhodes University has approached the police and given permission for police to patrol the campus on Wednesday and Friday nights. Govender urged that this initiative is not aimed at victimising students or pub owners, but supervising areas that students frequent by organising patrols on these nights in particular. "We are very concerned about the safety of students because the risk of them being a victim of crime is greatly increased when they are under the influence of alcohol," she says.

Govender adds that criminal charges will not be laid against drunken students nor will they be arrested, unless they become disorderly or uncooperative, which is considered as a contravention of the law. In this attempt to improve the security and safety of students, students under

the influence of alcohol will be dropped off at Campus Security where a warden or friend will be notified. It is therefore crucial for students to carry their student cards with them at night to avoid imprisonment.

Owner of both the Rat and Parrot and CJ's, Mynhardt van Dyk, stressed that the Provincial Liquor Act requires the police to gain a blanket warrant before entering drinking establishments. This warrant allows police to search all drinking establishments in Grahamstown on a given night and arrest under-age, as well as drunk and disorderly patrons. "You don't have to sit in the Rat and Parrot and worry that you are going to be arrested," van Dyk said. Currently, police do not have access to these warrants, as they are waiting to consult with their legal advisors.

Some sections of the Criminal Procedures Act, however, do allow the police access onto certain premises following the SAPS' national priority to prevent crimes against women and children. The Grahamstown Police, together with the

University, hope to establish a relationship with pub owners to ensure the safety of students at all times.

According to Richard Hall, the proprietor of Olde 65, neither the police nor Rhodes University have informed him or the management of the intended police presence in his pub. However, Hall said, "we don't have a problem with the police, as long as they don't harass the clients".

Although the police have said to have increased patrolling, their presence is still limited, as noted by our two staff reporters. This may be because the police have to patrol the entire Grahamstown area, and do not yet have a formal structure in place, as they are still waiting for Rhodes University to set up a meeting with them.

When asked whether students would appreciate this initiative for their protection, Govender replied, "some might appreciate it, but students shouldn't look at it as the police policing them but rather as serving as their personal bodyguards."

Editorial



From
where I'm
standing...

■ Carly Ritz

Climbing to the top of a sand dune, via a little forest in Kenton during the 'long enough to drink a considerable amount of gin, but too brief to really work' holiday in September, turned out to be just the right kick for this here editorial of mine. But I admit that I resisted — climbing the dune and writing the editorial — and bitched and moaned all the way to the top of the dune. But my ever so bouncy friend, Jen, told me that the harder the climb to the top, the better the view.

At this point, with the bottom of my jeans damp and sandy, and with thorns in my slops, I didn't really give a damn about the view, but rather than be left alone — clearly another insecurity — I kept climbing. Finally, breathless, annoyed and so over the natural environment, I was the last one to reach the top. Typical. Waves crashed onto the sand and the wind pumped, but in that moment, my world was peaceful. Sitting on the dune watching my friends run around like five-year-olds tackling each other in the sand, I realised the following: beach sand is overrated, I bitch and moan way too much (many people are nodding their heads at this point) and the cliché is true — the harder the climb to the top, the greater the view.

Having become Activate Editor for the next year, I am still far from being "at the top" and the view from here is actually quite frightening. To accommodate 5 000 or so students on a campus so rich with diversity, opinions and criticisms is an intimidating feat. Do we stay on campus or do we cover issues concerning the greater Grahamstown community and townships? Do we move off campus because it is PC or because it's what students really want? Do we introduce a page three girl/guy and a classifieds? Do we shy away from politics and religion or take controversy head-on? Do students know about the recent government travel scam? (see alongside for a new spin) Do they care? Do we give opinions or facts? (see some raging opinions in this week's Flip Side on page five) These are some of the questions that torment me into the early hours of the morning as I toss and turn and wonder about how I am going to turn Activate into what you all want and deserve. Sometime in the third term, my friend (and Deputy Editor) Nic, whose advice and wisdom I am eternally grateful for, told me that I need to learn to listen when other people speak — especially to the quieter amongst us because as observers they usually have something very insightful to share. Sitting at the top of the dune, all I could think about was his advice and how I could implement it. This paper belongs to you, the student body, but my team and I can only make it better with your help. We want to hear what you have to say and if you can take the time to complain constructively then we're all yours to listen. Take me up on this — I dare you. Corner me and tell me what you want. I won't bite... hard!

Email Activate at
activate@soc.ru.ac.za

ANC sues newspaper

■ Jenny Pettenger ■ Cartoon by Guy Williams

The ANC is suing *ThisDay*, a national newspaper, for R48 million following the publication of a controversial list of those involved in the recent Travelgate scandal. The suit also requests an unconditional retraction and written apologies to all parties negatively affected by the article in question. Printed on September 2 in *ThisDay*, the list, comprised of 136 names, included many who are aligned with the ANC, such as various ministers and deputy ministers (including those of Education, Security, and Home Affairs), premiers, and speakers of Parliament. Also named were the chairpersons of various portfolio committees in Parliament.

The publication of such a list has been the source of much controversy in parliament and the media in past weeks. Parliament has consistently refused to release the list, despite pressure applied by the Democratic Alliance (DA) in particular. DA chief whip Douglas Gibson stated that the list must be made public in order to avoid any suspicion of a cover-up in South African government.

Although many ANC MPs have been implicated, the ruling party has largely remained quiet throughout the so-called Travelgate scam. When faced with questions on the subject from the DA at the National Assembly on August 19, Deputy President Jacob Zuma even went so far as to condemn the scandal as a witch-hunt against MPs, and stated that he would "never participate in the campaign against people when they are not found guilty ... if there is no evidence conclusively that says yes, they have erred." His response prompted cheers and applause from ANC parliamentarians.

The Travelgate issue has inspired speculation regarding alleged misuse of travel vouchers. These vouchers were provided to MPs for the purpose of air, rail, and bus travel. However, records have surfaced that show how vouchers were, in fact, being used for luxury accommodation, car hire, foreign exchange and expensive meals. It also appears that flights had been booked under the name of certain MPs, only to be cancelled, and eventually taken by someone else.

It has yet to be discovered whether the MPs themselves are to blame for the fraud, or if the travel agencies who book the flights are at fault. So far, four travel agencies have been named in the investigation. Parliament has lodged a claim of R4.5 million against one of these agencies, the ITP (which has since been liquidated), in an attempt to recover some of the losses incurred. In early September, National Assembly Speaker, Baleka Mbete, announced that the amount owed to Parliament was then estimated at R17 million.

With the ANC's lawsuit against *ThisDay*, the question of media freedom has been raised. Professor Midgley, Dean of the Rhodes Department of Law, stated that the media do not actually have any special privileges allowing them to "say whatever they want". He also explained that if the ANC can show that the statements might cause people to think less of the party as a whole, adversely affecting their reputation as ruling party, there is "no problem with a political party suing for damages", and that the real issues lie in the justifications



offered by each party in the suit. In order to succeed in the opposition of the lawsuit, *ThisDay* must prove that the publication of the list was justified, and that the information was vital to the public's understanding of the issue at hand. If *ThisDay* can prove that it was in the interest of South African society to know about the list, the article will be protected by law, and the lawsuit brought by the ANC will likely be dismissed by the courts. The connection between truth and public benefit will most likely be the issue upon which a final decision is made in this high profile lawsuit.

Regardless of restrictions on the media to avoid statements being made without consequences, a cornerstone quality of democracy is the citizen's right to openly criticise their government, and no political party has the right to suppress such sentiments. As such, the motivations behind the ANC's lawsuit might be considered dubious. "In my opinion, the ANC is just trying to cover themselves" said Sean Ramsden, an employee of the Rhodes Legal Aid Clinic. The progression of the lawsuit in court and the argumentation presented will likely bring further insight into the intentions of both parties.

The ANC was unable to comment at the time of publication.

Centenary Charity Concert set for October

■ Leon Schnell

One of the final Centenary events, the Centenary Charity Concert, will replace the annual Vice-Chancellor's concert. Scheduled for October 16 at the 1820 Settlers National Monument, the concert aims to raise funds to buy a playground for the children of Hlanani, Vukani, Fingo, Newtown and surrounding areas. The concert is being co-ordinated with the assistance of the Rotary Club of Grahamstown, Round Table, the SRC Give 5 campaign and the Rhodes Rotaract Club amongst others.

Highlights of the programme include a performance by Nicky Maclean, a contestant in the 2003 Coca-Cola Popstars contest, 'Symphony Makuvatsine', an extensive choral and orchestral work written by former Rhodes student Anthony Caplan, and a member of Andrew Tracey's Steel Band. An enjoyable musical narrative, 'Peter and the Wolf', conducted by Peter-Luis van Dijk and narrated by Malcom Hacksley, will be performed by the Rhodes Chamber Orchestra. Additional pieces include The Victoria Girls' Choir, the Kucha Marimba Band and two mime performances — one by Lindiwe Matshikiza and the other by Richard Antrobus.

Tickets cost R50 for adults and R30 for students/scholars and are available from Kodak Express, Makana Tourism, Video Spot, Albany Sports and the Rhodes Student Bureau in Eden Grove. Members of the Grahamstown community are encouraged to participate in this fun-filled evening, which supports a worthy local cause.

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Race to decide the new VC?

■ Serena Chaudhry

The Rhodes University equity policy states that "equity must be recognised as an integral component of the future of the University". The policy affects all students and staff. In effect, this means that the University has to take one's racial status into consideration when making decisions about appointing staff and accepting students to the University.

The current Vice-Chancellor, Dr David Woods, is due to retire at the end of May 2006 and elections for the new vice-chancellor will take place next year. The equity policy states that: "The University recognises that for a variety of social, political and economic reasons, people from designated groups seldom have had the same access to opportunities as white males." Can it therefore be said that, in line with the South African government's Black Economic

Empowerment policy, the next vice-chancellor for Rhodes University will be appointed from a previously disadvantaged community?

Dominic White, former vice-president for the Students Representative Council, says, "there is likely to be pressure to elect a non-white vice-chancellor on the selection committee".

Changes according to the racial structure of the student body at Rhodes University are already evident. With regards to 'Recruitment of Students and Access', the equity policy states that: "The University is committed to changing the demographic profile of students at the institution to more accurately reflect that of the population of South Africa."

It further states that the University is closely monitoring "the different population groups with the objective of increasing success rates particu-

larly amongst those students from designated groups", (Blacks, Africans, Coloureds, Indians, women and the disabled as per the Employment Equity Act 1997). According to the equity policy, strategies, such as the tutorial system and mentoring schemes, are being used to achieve this.

However, if student success rates are proving to be unequal across different racial groups, this raises concern as to whether or not there will be a similar problem with people employed in executive positions, if the appointments are made according to the equity policy. White says he does not think the selection panel will compromise on academic qualifications, adding that "there has been trouble getting black academics nationwide."

The equity policy declaration, however, does include the following: "The University's

African identity will be affirmed through: its commitment to the social and economic transformation of South Africa; its acknowledgment of the problems created by the legacy of apartheid". The University also recognises that "inequalities do exist within the University as a result of Apartheid practices".

One can therefore question whether or not this will mean that in order for Rhodes University to keep up with changes across the country, future employment within the University will have a stronger emphasis on one's race, rather than on one's capabilities.

Anyone wishing to view the Rhodes University equity policy can do so at <http://www.ru.ac.za/intranet/policies/#Staff> and then click on the 'Equity Policy' link.

Deliberate abuse of security measures raises serious concerns

■ Gisela Wolff and Taryn Zieseniss

On September 21, 2004 a Rhodes student was apprehended after he deliberately set off the new experimental panic button on campus without justification. He is the first person to have done this.

Three weeks ago the University installed the first trial panic button on campus in response to demands for increased security made by students last term. The panic button, situated in the Salisbury House car park, was set off during the day by an anonymous student for

no apparent reason, sending Campus Security Unit (CPU) guards rushing to the scene. An eyewitness confirmed this fact. According to David Charteris, manager of CPU, the student in question was apprehended and the matter has been sent to the University prosecutor, who will deal with it according to the Student Disciplinary Code. Charteris said, "it [students' abuse of security measures] is a big worry, especially as this is the first panic button installed". He added that should students continue to abuse these security measures, it would become impossible for CPU guards to distinguish between a prank and a genuine cry for help.

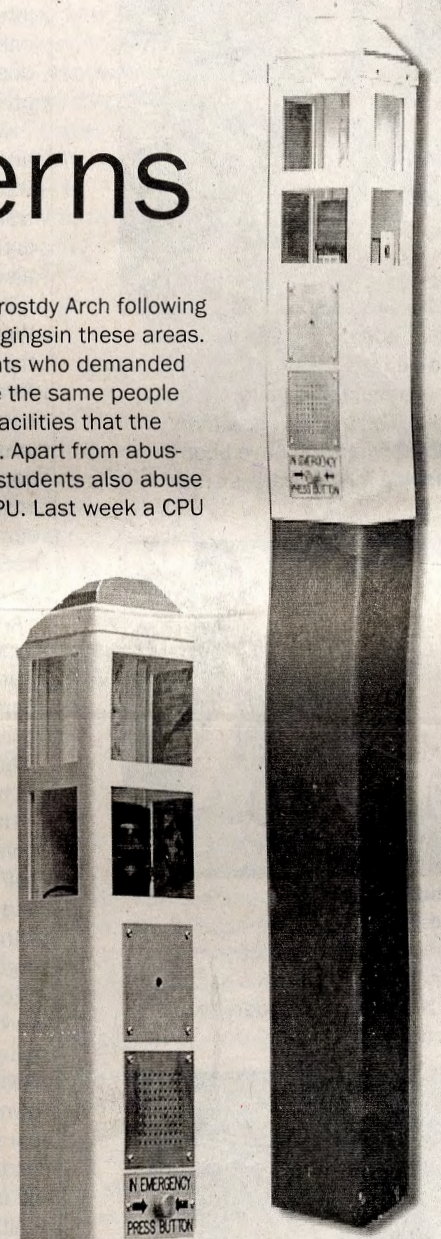
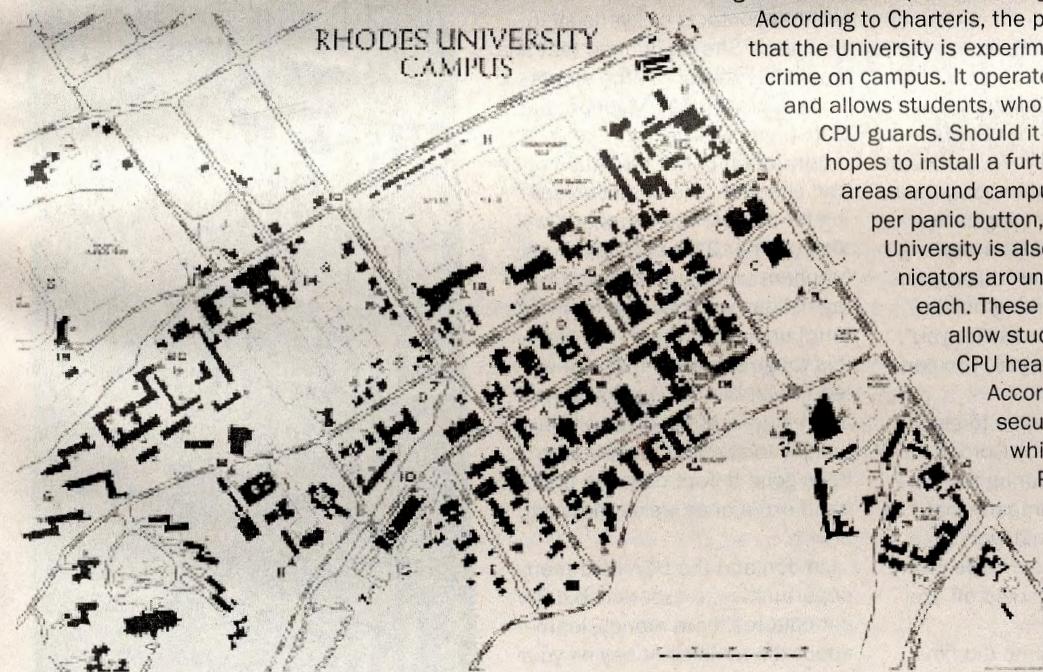
According to Charteris, the panic button is one of the measures that the University is experimenting with in an effort to curb crime on campus. It operates much the same as a fire alarm and allows students, who feel they are in danger, to alert CPU guards. Should it prove successful, the University hopes to install a further 19 panic buttons in strategic areas around campus. However, at roughly R3000 per panic button, this will be a lengthy process. The University is also looking at installing 16 communicators around campus, at a cost of R20 000 each. These are similar to intercoms and will allow students to communicate directly with CPU headquarters.

According to David Brown of CPU, other security measures are the Green routes, which have been established along Prince Alfred Street and Eden Grove to St Peters lawn. Several new closed-circuit cameras have also been installed to monitor certain buildings, computer labs and strategic streets and intersections. Guards have been stationed along Somerset

Street and near the Drostdy Arch following a recent spate of muggings in these areas.

Ironically, the students who demanded improved security, are the same people who are abusing the facilities that the University is providing. Apart from abusing the panic button, students also abuse the help offered by CPU. Last week a CPU guard was assaulted when he attempted to break up a fight between two Rhodes students. Brown summed up this attitude poignantly, "the students were the first to say 'CPU where were you,' and now they beat us up".

Plans are being drawn up to install a variety of security devices on campus such as these seen here (right). The proposed locations of these devices are shown on the map as numbers (left) this map can also be seen on Studentzone.



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What you said:

■ Dominique Schäfer

What do you think of the teachers strike?



Brynley Coetzee
1st Year

"I didn't know about it."



Lynette Mabote
3rd Year

"It is about time they went on strike. Getting paid less than R3500 when you have been teaching for 10 years is crap."



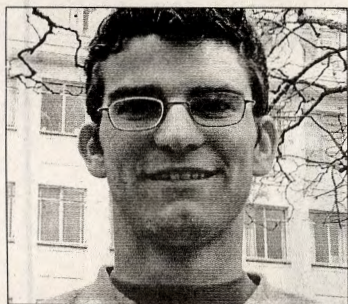
Maughin Lord
2nd Year

"I believe teachers deserve to be paid higher salaries as they are teaching the leaders of tomorrow."



Thembeke Bopi
3rd Year

"What strike?"



Zane Plescia
2nd Year

"It's justifiable. The timing was bad, but in the end it didn't really seem to negatively affect the students."

What are you doing this vac?

How does living it up on a great job in a fancy restaurant, partying your night away at popular nightclubs and exploring foreign countries and cultures sound to you? Like a dream come true or something only wealthy people do? Europe and the USA are only an aeroplane flight away and if you can beg, borrow or steal that fare, you are well on your way to having the experience of a lifetime.

■ Stacey Nel

Bumming around Europe for three months may sound like the ideal holiday programme, but unless you (or your parents) are made of gold this is unlikely to happen. Instead, many young people go to London or the USA on a working holiday.

Hard work generally means hard cash and if you are getting paid in pounds or dollars, you can come home with a couple of extra zero's on the end of your bank balance. Alternatively you could spend it on train tickets, French pastries, German beer, Swiss chocolate or the sweet smelling herbs of Amsterdam. For those who have worked abroad, it has proven to be an invaluable experience. Apart from working to earn foreign currencies, you have to live in a different country without mommy and daddy there to pay your rent, cook your meals or take you to work. It is freedom with responsibilities — just like the real world.

Working overseas may sound like the perfect way to spend your holiday, but there are few things to think about before you go. London and the USA are the most popular working holiday destinations and the tourism industry offers many job opportunities. There is a lot to organise when going overseas and you can either battle through form after form by yourself or join an organisation that does that for you. CCUSA is one such agency and can send you on one of seven programmes.

Nicholas Haralambous, a second year BJourn student, and Courtenay Farquharson who is in the final year of his BSC degree, have joined CCUSA and will be flying to the USA at the end of this year. They chose CCUSA because it is the most prominent and well organised programme. It also has a high rate of getting people overseas successfully. Haralambous and Farquharson are going on the Work Experience USA Programme and have chosen one of the two packages that CCUSA offers. CCUSA will find you a job before you leave for the USA on the Placement Programme, but Haralambous and Farquharson have chosen the Independent Option, which allows them to arrange their own jobs. They are planning to work on a ski resort in Aspen, Colorado. They also hope to work two jobs for the first two months in order to earn as much as possible. Applying for a CCUSA package is a relatively simple process. Both students applied online at www.ccusa.com and paid the fee for their J-1 visa. It is necessary to go for an interview before you are accepted and Haralambous and Farquharson have both been accepted.

An area of possible concern is the cost of such a programme, but you are expected to make the initial expenses back during your working holiday. Haralambous said that South Africans are well-received overseas as they work hard. Along with this perception, CCUSA has a contact list, which makes finding a job painless. Obviously the point of such a trip is to make money. Farquharson plans to buy music equipment, which is cheaper in the USA; Haralambous wants to buy camera equipment and save money to kick-start his freelancing career.

The experience of living alone and making money to survive makes a working holiday an "invaluable lesson", and according to Haralambous, you "throw yourself into the deep end and see if you can cut it". Organising a working holiday is a lot of work, but Haralambous noted that "CCUSA makes it so easy for you". Although an agency like CCUSA does all the work and worrying for you, you can organise your own working holiday.

London is a popular destination for young people with a few months to spare, no objection to hard work and a desire to earn lots of pounds. Kirby Gordon, a second year BEcon student, spent two months doing just that during the December vacation in 2002. Gordon found a job working for a company that owned three restaurants. His shifts were organised so that he could work as a barman, waiter and "unofficial and underpaid" manager at all three respectively. Understandably, he "worked like a dog". Gordon's hard work ethic paid off and he came back with an extra R18 000 to his name.

Although Gordon was responsible for the organisation of his trip, he did have help from a travel agency. He got an international driver's licence and a two year working permit for which you need to have enough money in your account to survive for two months in England, three months before your departure. Like many other working holiday veterans, Gordon's parents transferred the money into his account. Gordon arranged accommodation with some friends before he left South Africa. He stayed with seven other people in a two-bedroom flat.

“ French pastries, German beer, Swiss chocolate and the sweet smelling herbs of Amsterdam! ”

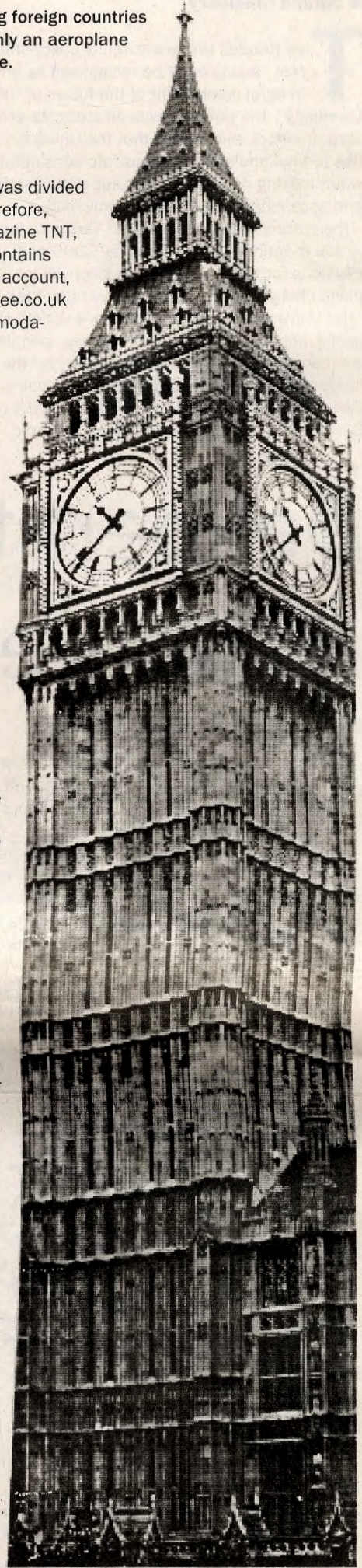
Although it was cramped, the rent was divided between eight people and was, therefore, cheap. Gordon mentioned the magazine TNT, which is published in the UK and contains information on how to open a bank account, pay taxes and find jobs. www.gumtree.co.uk also lists available jobs and accommodation.

Gordon's working permit is a Multiple Entry visa and allows him to work in the UK as many times as he likes during the two year period. He is making full use of this visa as he is going back to London at the end of this year. This time, however, he hopes to find different jobs that will give him experience and "extend [his] CV".

For some a working holiday in the USA or London is only a dream, but for Kate Mapham, a second year BSC student, this dream is becoming a reality. Mapham aims

to spend this December vacation working in London. She wants to go for the experience, to make money and "to have an adventure with one of [her] mates from school". A friend of hers worked in London last year and Mapham plans to use her contacts or agencies to find work. She mentioned that she would like to work in the sports section at Harrods. Mapham has a British passport, which makes the organisation of her trip much easier and cheaper. She has been saving for the last two years and will also use her 21st birthday money. Mapham understands that a working holiday will "have its moments [and] ups and downs", but even if it is tough she feels that she will learn. Mapham advised anyone interested in going on a working holiday to speak to people who have gone before because first hand experience yields the best advice.

London and the USA hold many opportunities to experience different cultures, earn money, learn about the realities of paying your own way and grow as an individual. A working holiday includes all these elements and many more. Remember the phrase: 'the world is your oyster'? go out and make the world your pearl.



■ Gregor Röhrig



To go to the UK or USA on a working holiday you need:

- Passport
- Visa
 - UK: Two year Multiple Entry visa
 - USA: J-1 work/travel visa
 These visas allow you to work and travel in the UK or USA for a specified period of time.

Tax information:

- UK: National Insurance (NI) Number

- USA: Social Security Card
- These numbers allow you to be paid by your employer and claim back benefits.
- Job
- Accommodation
- In order to obtain a NI number you need to have a confirmed place of residence.
- Return plane ticket

The flip Side

Battle of the Sub-Wardens

A controversial issue exists about whether men and women can run annexes of the opposite sex. An opinion was sent to Activate, in the quest for fairness we asked the individual to whom the article was at aimed to respond. Matthew Gibson did know the identity of the the writer when he wrote



Ncebakazi Manzi

Pics by Gregor Röhrig

Trust me, from years of experience, I have mastered the art of smelling a racist or sexist comment long before it permeates the air and chokes those to whom it is directed. It's simple really. As soon as a person puts on their most righteous expression, looks at you with the most apologetic of eyes and says, "well, I don't mean to sound racist/sexist/homophobic or anything, but...", you can be pretty certain that what will follow will be an undoubtedly racist/sexist/homophobic comment. Beneath the thick veneer of apologies and justifications will lie what I believe to be the most potent kind of opinions. Potent because they are not presented as prejudice, but rather sugar-coated as fair comments that *could perhaps* be *slightly* offensive, even though their intention is not to harm anyone at all.

I am always on guard for the "well-I-don't-mean-to-sound" preamble and I was just as alert when I was sitting at a hall meeting a couple of weeks ago. You must understand that these meetings are not quite as captivating as most people believe. So, as soon as I heard the preamble, sirens went off jerked out of my trance. "I have mastered the art of smelling a racist or sexist comment" were penetrating through, female sub-warden would a residence annexe filled with course, is a male sub-warden annexe and, judging by the fact complained to the body about I suppose he's handling things

If at this moment you're imagining that the seven or so women in the room left in an outrage or, better yet, attacked him with brutal words for his unfounded statement, then I am sorry to disappoint you. Apart from my almost inaudible wince of objection, what followed were concurring nods from everyone in the room, including the seven or so women you may have been too optimistic about. After all, it made perfect sense that a woman would just not have a strong enough ruling hand over male students.

After what I found to be an unbearable silence, it was clear that the point had been made and we quickly moved on to another issue. No one in the room, and I include myself here, questioned the misguided young man about what exactly it is men inherently possess, that gives them an advantage over their female counterparts when it comes to administering discipline. The point was made and we quickly moved on. We accepted the comment without question in the same way we accept everything we are told about women's inferiority by the media, our mothers, fathers, pastors, teachers and anyone else you can think of.

So, what then, is the point of the dozens of awards that are given to women on Women's Day, if most of us cannot even see prejudiced comments against us for what they really are? Or even worse, see them, but not have the courage to speak out. What is the point of poets and songwriters waxing lyrical about the power of women if these very same women shy away from opportunities to showcase that power?

The point is that the seeds of a revolution are not necessarily violent actions against a powerful force. Simply refusing to accept an unfounded and prejudiced comment has the potential to sprout into a revolution. What women need is not a female president to change the way they see themselves in the world, but a coup against the powerful forces in their heads that govern them into accepting male domination as the way things ought to be.

That is the beginning of a true revolution.

It is interesting to note that an article directed at a male sub-warden in charge of an all-female annex, was directed at me in a feeble effort of anonymity. So, in order to eliminate any confusion as to who the so-called 'culprit' may be – it was me, Matthew Gibson, sub-warden of Jan Smuts Hall annexes (both male and female). But for the purpose of my assaultant's letter, the male aspect has been ever so conveniently omitted.

I must first of all commend the writer's orating skills, however, you merely write an anonymous article in which you adamantly remonstrate that people should have protested. Furthermore, this at a meeting which took place over two months ago and required a certain level of confidentiality and privacy. As a hall committee member, which you clearly are, surely it is your duty to abide by these rules to listen to all, if not any, stions between the Hall (even if not "captivating"). rather not listen, preferring collect their sub-warden each month. Is this in itself members in our hall? Well, of such a trance need not sub-wardens have been for the annexes, so sit back and trance away.

The writer must be commended on her writing skills. Not only have you managed to target the so-called sexist remark by the culprit (that's me), but you have also very conveniently created racist and homophobic connotations. Is that just to beef up your real gripe or because I am white and from an all-boys res? I mean, while we're at it, why don't we add that I've been in Jan Smuts for the last four years. Heaven forbid! The culprit must indeed be a terrible person. After four years of residence life, two of which have been as the Annex Sub-Warden, surely this "misguided young man" must have some experience. I would like to think so, having been a sub-warden for two years and seeing both sides of the coin has indeed been a challenge, and something I do not wish on any sub-warden. Being a male sub-warden in charge of some female annexes has been difficult and has sometimes seemed impossible. It has, however, been accomplished with immense help from other female sub-wardens and wardens within the hall who have taken time to fill my role when a male sub-warden was not appropriate and where help was needed. I do not think it has been entirely fair on the girls in my annexes to have a male sub-warden and I don't think that it would be fair in the future either. The same goes for guys having a female sub-warden. I also don't believe that it would be fair to give a female sub-warden male annexes to deal with. I don't think that at 4am on a Saturday morning, a female sub-warden should have to break up a rowdy drunken brawl, or stop two individuals from breaking down a door – incidents, which I have seen too many times. So, what started out as something I believed to be a fair and decent remark, aimed at the best interests of all concerned (male and female alike) has snowballed to this. Sad that it has to be drawn out and used for entertainment rather than the greater good of all, don't you think? You decide what's fair...



If you have an argument/debate/disagreement/flip-side that you and a friend would like to submit, please send your 'flip-side' columns to g03r1189@campus.ru.ac.za

I in the Sky

■ Andrew Whitfield

In this line: "Inaction is a weapon of mass destruction", Faithless highlights the urgency for participation in our world of war and conflict. Whether or not we like to admit it, our world is in a state of chaos. Global warming is consuming our planet at a rapidly increasing rate, terrorism is a constant threat and wars are being fought throughout the world. Global conflict is the order of the day and it exists between states, religions, in the environment and amongst individuals. But is this a modern phenomenon? Thomas Hobbes, the 17th century philosopher, argued that without a state and civil government we exist in a state of war against all. But states and civil governments do exist, so why does a 'state of war' so accurately describe our present situation? The fact is that not all states exist as civil and independent governments. Their power has been taken from them and so any structure that existed begins to crumble. Iraq is a case in point.

The realist school of thought maintains that the international system is in a state of anarchy. The word anarchy may not be the most accurate description, but ideological warfare certainly ensures that the international system remains insecure.

The fact is we are facing a global crisis that manifests itself in a combination of factors, from environmental issues to demographics.

Although populations are growing, there is increasing concern that we face the possibility of a severe population shortage in the not-so-distant future. A growing trend to encourage people to have children is countered by fast-moving professionals who have less and less time for children. First world countries will increasingly see their populations getting older while the consumer and production base begins to decline. An uncertain future awaits us as this global crisis unfolds.

So, as the polar ice-caps continue to melt and hurricanes tear apart pieces of our planet, we continue to dismiss the cries of environmentalists as exaggerations. Safe, warm, cold and wet here in our consistent climate in Grahamstown, we sit back and enjoy life as summer creeps in from a dull, dark winter. Immune to the rest of the world and its problems, we simply exist to pass — or pass out — in our little enclave in the Eastern Cape. Amnesty International is an example of the proactive contribution we as students can make to the rest of the world. Yet they stand outside the library and are constantly ignored by passing students who have 'something better to do'. This is not good enough. The most inspiring act of student representation I have seen in three years was the impassioned march against violence on campus last term. This united spirit behind a cause would give anyone goose bumps and is proof that active student fortitude is present on our campus. Social responsibility is an obligation, not a choice. So get involved in something other than the Rat for a change. Let us not rely on tragedy to awaken the student spirit that is clearly dormant. Take some initiative and make a difference.

Balance of the Bands

Name one thing that is consistent on campus or around town — other than dried vomit — and you will inevitably come up with rock band posters. But where's the advertising for the other genres? Does the answer involve genre-based poster wars? Or is it perhaps simply a question of focus that determines what we see?

■ Rob Boffard

It's been damn difficult to write this intro. Every time I've sat down at a computer, determined to finally finish this music article that has been giving me so much hell, I've hit a blank. So bugger this, I'm going to cut the crap and come straight out: why the hell do rock acts get so much publicity in this town, while other genres, such as kwaito and hip-hop, are left on the side?

Relax, this isn't going to be a pro-hip-hop, anti-rock rant. But perhaps it is best to use the familiar genres of rock and hip-hop here to illustrate the point, although the problem is by no means confined to them. Here's my beef.

At times, it seems as though there is a kind of rock overkill in Grahamstown. Every time any band pops up, no matter how small, it seems that they instantly become the hottest thing around and everybody is talking about them. A case in point was the Mark Gabriel Band. Having appeared on the band circuit, they seemed the talk of the town — everybody wanted to see them. However, as it turned out, that particular band had a live show wetter than a Cape Town winter. Oops.

Look, I've been a bit long-winded, but the point I'm trying to make is this: when a rock band comes out in Grahamstown, they are almost guaranteed some form of exposure, no matter how good they really are. When something in another music genre crops up — I used hip-hop earlier, but it could be (and indeed is) anything from kwaito to dance — the exposure is minimal at best. Concerts and events seem to be promoted more by word of mouth than anything else. So, the question then is: why the imbalance?

Even as I write this, I can foresee Activate readers becoming disgusted. Forum users are probably

loading up a new thread right now about what an idiot I am and how the standards of this newspaper have plummeted yet again and how cool their ironic-funky new avatar is. But I am fully prepared to admit that what you've just read is highly opinionated and probably very biased. So, before you turn the page, give me a minute to explain myself. My intention is not to knock Grahamstown rock or the bands themselves; indeed, there are some, like the Bubbahoons and Hollowscene, who are seriously talented. So once again, I'm not going to get into a "rock-is-shit-and-you-should-be-listening-to-hip-hop"

The Grahamstown music industry is a small one, and it needs all the support and exposure it can get

rant. Quite the opposite, in fact. Maybe the reason for the imbalance is simply a difference in focus.

Case in point: the local music industry itself. Any rock band has always got to start small. Songwriting, acquiring equipment and rehearsing take time and money. Music Industry Rule No.

3687 is that success will never happen overnight, and this is even more pronounced in the rock sphere. Any band worth its salt will start playing for a hometown crowd, working with small stages and gigs and getting paid very little, if they are lucky. Nic Haralambous, bass player for Thus Far and Deputy Editor of Activate, says there is definitely a high exposure of rock over other genres. "There is a massive amount of advertising, but I think it also has to do with the kind of market in Grahamstown and what places like Champs and Die Taphuijs cater for." Haralambous goes on to say that despite this, there is no reason why people would not attend a hip-hop gig at places like Die Taphuijs. Whether or

not that is true, it would be hard not to admit that there is a huge rock culture in this town, and any band will instantly have access to a large group of people willing to hear their music. This is all well and good, but for other genres it is quite the opposite.

As before, let's use hip-hop as the counter-example. I'm not saying for a moment that hip-hop artists and rock bands don't go through the same hard work on the path to success. What I am suggesting is that hip-hop's focus tends to be on how far you can reach. How many people have heard you MC? This is especially true of small town rap acts like those in Grahamstown (and I believe I speak from personal experience here). Why spend energy on a town where the hip-hop crowd is small, picky and short of cash to buy your music anyway? Why not just try to get your music played nationally instead of wasting your time in little G-town? Good question.

A prime example of this is a local group called The Innovators. At last count, MC duo TNG and Second Son had just released their fourth album. But most people in this town, hip-hop fans or not, just didn't hear about it. Why? Because The Innovators — easily the biggest hip-hop act in the area — have been marketing their stuff elsewhere, such as Jo'burg and Cape Town. TNG says, "I think national exposure is more important. Grahamstown is a nice base to start off from, but there is always an opportunity to do things nationally, and this is more important than focusing on your buzz in Grahamstown". Despite the fact that we all have to start small, this strategy is undeniably working for them. In December they made it onto a national compilation and got to perform with heavyweights like Cashless Society and Skwatta Kamp. They are still a Grahamstown act; they just realised that they are bigger than Grahamstown.

Before I get lambasted by the forum users (again), let me state right here and now that I am in no way implying that, by playing for a Grahamstown crowd, any act is jeopardising its chance at national suc-

cess. The whole point is... well, to return to the original point. Maybe the reason that rock gets so much exposure and other genres don't, is that rock bands are too focused on this town and hip-hop acts are focused on doing bigger things. With the best will in the world, this can't go on. Rock bands need to do more to market themselves nationally or risk getting trapped in a tiny Eastern Cape industry, while other genres need to remember the town they came from or they will end up spreading themselves too thin.

In fact, we can take this further. We, as music fans, need to make an effort to support local acts — whatever the genre. I'm not saying that a die-hard Breach fan needs to head-down to a hip-hop gig wearing a doo-rag and baggy jeans, and neither does an Innovators fan need to be spotted head-banging at Die Taphuijs. But make an effort to support your local music — whatever your tastes. Go watch or participate in Wordplay at The Suite. Check out Battle of the Bands. Drop in at Electrosoc's DJ workshops. Hell, even give local township kwaito group, M2Gs, a listen.

The Grahamstown music industry is a small one, and it needs all the support and exposure it can get. Rant over. Goodnight.

■ Matthew Ackerman



Africa uncensored

■ Aretha Phiri

If there is anything that Michael Moore's controversial documentary *Fahrenheit 911* seeks to achieve, and does so quite convincingly, it is to reveal just how obviously unintelligent, yet manipulatively calculating the self-proclaimed "war president" of the millennium is. From extended holidays (beneficial in aiding the development of his golf swing) to idle chatter at many elite functions hosted to capture his rich "base", George W. Bush comes across as nothing more than a bloody joke. Images of lip-smacking, gum-chewing, married-twice-within-nine-months Britney Spears, help to reinforce this perception of the American President.

Now walking in his daddy's political shoes, George W. appears to lack any real political backbone. Yet he sure does talk the political talk. "War on terror", "weapons of mass destruc-

tion" and "Osama bin-Laden", which, if this failed businessman from Texas is re-elected, are sure to lead us into the second half of the decade.

Robert Mugabe drew cheers at a meeting of the United Nations by commenting on the rest of the world: "We are now being coerced to accept and believe that a new political-cum-religious doctrine has arisen, namely that there is but one political god, George Bush, and Tony Blair is his prophet."

It is not every day that I would agree with Mugabe, but to deny that he is right, would be to admit to Mr Bush being my Saviour who would deliver me from evil. Iraq would, in fact, have been found to be harbouring weapons of mass destruction.

You see, this 'war' is not just a war for nationalist Americans or for the royal British, but it is a war whose rhetoric has multiplied at such speed so as to make its consequences global. Its ricocheting effect means even

virtually non-existent little towns, such as Grahamstown, have a good chance of getting drawn into it, albeit indirectly. Just look at Indonesia or Russia as recent examples.

If South Africa's anti-terrorism stance is anything to go by then chances of involvement are likely. Not just for the country, but for the continent as a whole. South Africa is not altogether unfamiliar with 'religious' wars; think back to the fundamentalist bombings in Cape Town some years back that rocked the nation. Furthermore, the hasty arrest and subsequent embarrassing release of businessman Johan Meyer for allegedly trafficking nuclear material, seems to have set South Africa firmly in the war. One congratulatory pat too many from the powers that be and South Africa will, in all likelihood, lead the rest of Africa, resistingly, into the war.

Yet, the niggling question that will not go away is just how do we define

"terror"? Who has the authority to define it and why exactly are we fighting this war? If we understand terror in layman's terms then we may whole-heartedly justify a need to stop it. However, if we define it as a calculated revenge tactic, strategically orchestrated in order to forcefully acquire natural reserves of sovereign countries, showing disrespect for the religions, beliefs and peoples of those countries in the process, then



Dubya's war could start to affect South Africa

we must ask ourselves; just who is the terrorist?

The United Nations – a Western construct?

■ Aretha Phiri

Close to two million people in the Darfur region of Sudan have been displaced as a result of what has been described as a religious cleansing mission involving the mass genocide of Black Africans by Arab militia. The Sudanese government has denied any involvement and has not taken any visible action to stop the atrocities. While thousands of people die and women and children are raped, the United Nations (UN), together with the United States and Britain, has pressed the Sudanese government to "sort itself out" and threatened sanctions should nothing be done to alleviate the escalating humanitarian crisis.

Established in 1945, the UN claims to promote peaceful international relations in anarchic world politics. It is responsible for the enforcement and maintenance of international law in multilateral relations. More importantly, it is responsible for the respect and protection of human rights and freedoms. An ideologically gratifying concept that is realistically proving to be difficult to enforce, for it is in this sensitive area that the UN appears to consistently fail the Third World.

With a large proportion of humanitarian needs coming from Africa, it is ironic that the continent does not have a permanent seat in the organisation that would enable the voice

of Africa to be heard and her needs addressed. Instead, Africa must contend with the authoritative voice of her Western counterparts who choose to sideline the underdeveloped continent in favour of more pressing concerns, such as the 'war on terror' and 'investigations' into the manufacture of nuclear weapons in Iran.

African leaders are increasingly expressing dissatisfaction and growing impatience with the organisation's attitude of inefficient action in times of need. President Thabo Mbeki expressed as much at the 59th session of the UN General Assembly last week when he said: "every year many of us who have spoken and will speak from this rostrum make an annual pilgrimage to this great and vibrant city to plead the cause of the poor of the world, hopeful that this time our voices will be heard. Every year, after a few days, we pick up our bags to return to the reality of our societies, whose squalor stands out in sharp contrast to the splendour of New York and this majestic precinct that constitutes the headquarters of the United Nations Organisation."

According to John Bolton, the UN is a "deeply flawed institution" that serves no real purpose if it does not advance the needs of the United States of America. It has no legitimacy or permanence other than that which its members choose to give. With the five permanent members holding

crucial veto votes comprising Western powers, it is obvious that it is the needs of these countries that will be prioritised at the expense of others.

And yet, this makes perfect sense considering it is these countries that possess the financial and material wealth that actually make the UN a worthwhile organisation. Heavily reliant on contributions from members by way of assessed contributions and "coalitions of the willing", a lack of financial resources has made the UN a convenient weapon of mass destruction for those nations that call the shots. The UN has consistently been caught up in political bickerings and been subjected to pressure and bullying that has seen it dance to the tune of the piper with the loudest and shiniest pipe.

According to Professor Peter Vale of the Rhodes Politics Department, the problem with the UN is that it is a "fundamentally western creation that is inherently structured around states". What is necessary is a restructuring of the UN, and Senegal and Nigeria want in.

What Africa wants now is to make a meaningful contribution to its own growth and development. A 'hand up' rather than 'hand downs' is essential to placing Africa on the world stage. As President Thabo Mbeki so aptly puts it, we must now "abandon our wheelchairs and begin to walk unaided".

Rhodes honours Eastern Cape Premier

Her trademark is distinct – bare feet and traditional garb. A bundle of joy and energy, you would hardly expect her to be the Premier of the Eastern Cape.

■ Aretha Phiri

Nosimo Balindlela received a Doctorate of Law from Rhodes University on September 10 this year for her significant contributions to the Eastern Cape.

This is not the first doctorate under her belt as she also holds one from the University of Fort Hare. Balindlela has been active in politics, but is more influential in education and assumed the position of MEC for Education in the Eastern Cape in 1994. During this time she introduced the Breakthrough to Literacy project through the Rhodes University Institute for Studies in English in Africa. She has also made great contributions to the education system: combining six former departments, breaking down former Model C school barriers, constructing new schools and classrooms in disadvantaged communities, establishing basic adult education and training centres and renovating schools throughout the province.

Her charming, easy-going demeanour is not to be laughed at. She has reportedly taken a tough stance in tackling the problems inherent to a province characterised by poverty, high infant mortality and unemployment rates and corruption. People are at the heart of her cause. This is evident in her statement: "I will never neglect the poor. Together with my team, I will strive to bring a better life to our people."

She is a warm and generous person whose personal attributes and hard work have been recognised and revered in all circles. She has been described by the Democratic Alliance leader in the Eastern Cape as "a fine example of honesty, integrity and humbleness".



■ Gregor Röhrig

Africa In Focus



■ Bianca Camminga

- Sanctions placed on Libya by the US after the Lockerbie bombing have been lifted in order to make way for payments to the bereaved families.
- An anthrax outbreak has killed almost 100 wild animals in Botswana and Namibia, and has led to the closure of national parks.
- The Sudanese parliament has warned the West against any interference in their country. It was stated that if any involvement should occur, they would "open the gates of hell".
- A young woman has been arrested in Harare on the grounds of impersonating Zimbabwe's First Lady, Grace Mugabe, in order to enrol herself in a nursing course. The woman was charged with fraud and granted bail of \$18.

Who put a bicycle shed on our lawns?

■ Devin Burger

En route to Eden grove, one strolls past a shiny, rather odd system of mounted bicycles. Few know who built this piece of art, and even if they do stop to read the plaque in front, even fewer know anything specific about the artist. Perhaps the question students should ask is: why do we have a collection of stainless steel bicycles dangling in the air? What is the meaning behind the structure? Surely the money commissioned to pay for Gavin Younge's, "Century's Prytaneum", a collection of three art pieces at Rhodes, could be used in more important areas such as security? It seems the biggest question is whether or not such displays are worth it.

As students, we have entered a phase in which we are capable of looking beneath the surface and uncovering the truth and hidden meanings in life (granted, a modernist view). In reality, however, most of us look for the easiest route to success without challenging our mind to its full capacity. Luckily, we have others that express themselves creatively, such as Professor Gavin Younge.

Younge, who has worked around the world, is a recognised author, filmmaker, artist and cura-

tor. He was also the director of the Michaelis School for Fine Art in UCT, and has exhibited in Paris, Munich, Lisbon and Stuttgart. According to the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco), his "outstanding work" involves pieces like "Force Favourites" (1997) — in which Younge arranged a series of bicycles in a circle with monitors where the baskets would have been. On viewing the exhibition one would experience a video journey through the streets of Cuito Canaville during the war in Angola. His work is widely respected for demonstrating social, political and cultural problems. Unsurprisingly, he was a "principal activist against the regime", says Unesco.

"Life Cycle", "Bee Walk" and "Grounded", the three pieces commissioned for Rhodes' Centenary Year, refer "to the importance of the community in the life of Rhodes University", Younge notes. So why is there a giant bicycle shed on our lawn, which cynics call a commissioned, stainless steel garden gnome? It is about the message of creating a "cultural campus". In a sense, it may not be more crucial than our security, since such displays help to inspire a sense of pride in being a Rhodent.



A beautiful display but was it worth all the fuss?

■ Gregor Röhrig

Dance Fest gets mixed reception

■ Zoë Reeve

The annual Dance Fest hosted by The Rhodes University Drama Department and the First Physical Theatre Company is meant to showcase "an exhilarating diversity of dance." Yet, disappointingly, it was mainly a display of physical theatre.

Programme one, performed on Thursday September 23, was a disappointment on various levels. The withdrawal of the Guild Theatre Dance Company, Border Youth Dance Theatre, Aliwal North Ballroom Dance and the Pantsula dancers resulted in a show that consisted mainly of physical theatre. This could obviously not be helped, but personally I had hoped to see a variety of dance styles. The technical side of the Fest was abysmal, as the lighting directions were clearly audible over the dance music, but even this did not result in the correct lighting as inkos'yam (My Saviour) — choreographed by Shaun Murphy — was danced with half the stage in darkness.

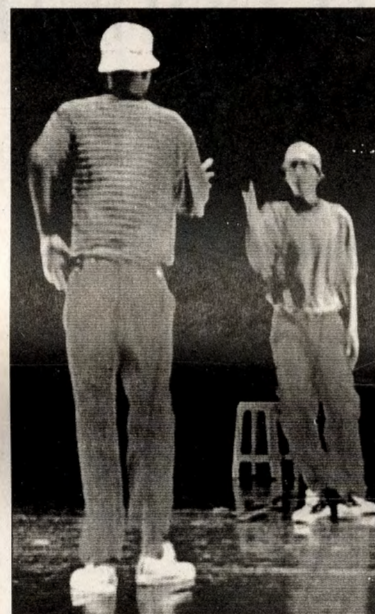
Despite all the disappointments there were highlights from both programmes. Acty Tang's "The Beloved" was the piece that redeemed Programme One for me. It was a poignant and evocative piece in which Tang was not scared to reveal himself to the audience. "Silent Movie for Two", choreographed by Bailey Snyman was a wonderful take on the silent movie genre — a touching and humorous combination always loved by an audience and a wonderful ending to programme one. "Her face was half in the darkness" was a piece by an outside company, Free Flyer, which had an interesting fusion of physical theatre and modern dance that felt like a breath of fresh air after so much physical theatre. It lacked polishing, however.

The performance of "The Easter Paper, Orange Juice and a dead body in my bed" by the First Physical Theatre Company was appealing and opened Programme two on a high note. The humorous parts balanced the morbid subject of death and the murder of Chris Hani. The Aliwal North Performing Arts Foundation was impressive in their performance of "Respect the Ancestors". I also enjoyed the Grahamstown Township Dance Group. Their piece was "Hear my Voice" and the young girls were focused and well rehearsed. The choreography by Anna Morris and Janet Buckland (assisted by Daisy Spencer) was simple but pleasing and the young performers looked like they were enjoying themselves.

"Kasi Style" was a piece performed by the Mnyama Dance Company. It was promising, but too long and became unpleasant. The music of the final ballroom dancing piece was inappropriate, as was the dancing.

On the whole, Dance Fest 2004 could have been a lot better. This is a pity because the festival is meant to showcase Eastern Cape dancing and create a platform to expose the extensive skill and talent that abounds in the province. It felt as though this was just a platform for physical theatre. The program lacked synopses for each piece being performed, leaving the audience wondering what they were about.

Some comments from the audience highlighted the mixed nature of the performances. Lucy Tingay, a BFA 3 student, commented that it was a bit disappointing, while first-year BA student, Sarah Paice, said the performances had "conceptually some good ideas, but I got the impression that some pieces were under-rehearsed."



■ Cindy Stocken

Why are such great minds still on campus?

■ Dr. Louise Vincent (l.vincent@ru.ac.za)

Restlessness is an important motivator for the young - to see other places, broaden one's experience and so on. But at a certain point it becomes clear that life is everywhere rather than elsewhere. New York, Oxford, Cairo, Paris, Florence, Venice, Washington, Cape Town — some of the places in which I have lived, worked, loved and played — are all made up of day-to-day interactions between people, a small sphere of influence and activities. Even very big places are made up of a myriad of small interactions.

I think that 'settling down', as one tends to do after a certain period of restlessness and searching for where life might be, has to do with the important recognition that a good life is to be sought in the quality of one's relationships. The time and peacefulness in which to love and parent one's children with dedication, the space in

which to think and write and contemplate, the opportunity to nurture friendships and a sphere of influence in which one is able to give of one's self to one's fellows. If one lives in this way, believing that it is what we seek and find within ourselves and in high quality interactions with fellow humans of substance, then there is a far greater likelihood of living a fulfilled life in a small place like Grahamstown than most other places on the planet.

I am surrounded by good brains and good hearts. That seems to make up for the absence of Thai food, being able to listen to late-night jazz on a whim, walking in Central Park, watching Midsummer Night's Dream in the gardens of Magdalen College Oxford on a summer evening and browsing through book stores that flow over several city blocks. I have done these things and they are not to be sneezed at. But I think I am learning more and being challenged

more — right now, right here— intellectually, emotionally, spiritually and physically than at any other time in my life. There is the sensuousness of Venice on a warm evening and then there is the smell of my daughter's hair after a day on the beach at Kenton. Which would you choose? I say no contest. I have eaten fresh fish on the sands of Foligandros with a lover while watching the sun go down. And I have had my son take the precious sweet from his mouth to offer me half because he loves me. Which would you choose?

Why am I here? Why not? Life is here and there and there and there. In other words, where you make it, where you build it. A good life takes time, commitment, love and paying attention to the small things. A restless search for a nirvana that is just on the other side of the next airport is to miss the point entirely.

These are my thoughts.

Book Reviews

■ Zanele Nyingwa

Bitter Fruit



Achmat Dangor

Bitter Fruit
by Achmat Dangor
(fiction)

Set in post-apartheid South Africa in the home of Silas, Lydia and Michael Ali, this story revolves around a family

who decide to lock their haunting past in a closet. But it is re-opened by one man, who allows the family's secrets to visit each character individually. The author is South African and can therefore tell this story as it should be told. His storytelling is flawlessly compelling and blurs the line between fiction and non-fiction, without hesitating to step on any one's toes, be they Mandela's or Tutu's.

Rating: @@@@ out of 5

340 million groupies swooning...

■ Staff Reporter

340 million groupies swooning sounds like an overstatement, but on Tuesday September 21, thanks to sponsors such as Axe and Die Taphuis, one of the best musical performances from the National Arts festival returned to re-capture the souls of their entire new-found fan base in Grahamstown. The band, known as 340ml, is largely referred to by those with untrained ears as hip-hop, although the correct term for their sound is 'dub'. To define this genre would be to remove the true essence of what this band offers. If you really want to know, you have to see them live.

340ml are a South African-based band with members hailing from Mozambique. Their identity, they say, is one the media love. The evening at Die

Taphuis started off on uneasy footing as everyone could see the band, but we all had to feign patience so as to allow the artists to settle. The atmosphere was relaxed with a more mature crowd — and not a head banger in sight.

"Friday night and I am all alone". With these words from Pedro Pinto (vocalist) the crowd began their musical journey with the band. Tiago Correia (electric guitarist), Paulo Chibango (drums) and Rui Soeiro (bass guitarist) helped to seduce the crowd by displaying a sense of fluidity and enjoyment in their show. It was hard to keep up with the number of T-shirts that were being signed, but there was a general message on all of them along the lines of; '340ml loves G-town'. Thanks guys, we love you too.

JSK CD reviews

Hoobastank — *The Reason The Reason*, Hoobastank's second album, takes rock to the extremes with hardcore

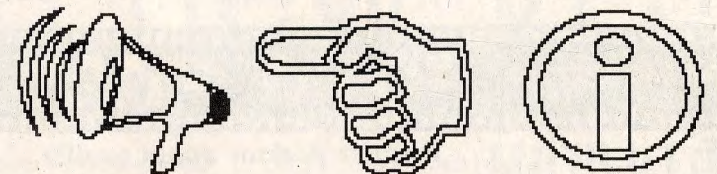
tracks like *Out of control*, as well as songs with a softer vibe like *What happened to us*. Unfortunately, the CD cover only has one picture of the band members, so the eye-candy rating is low, but although the guys are hot they aren't just another boy band. All of the album's lyrics are written by the Los Angeles-based band's lead vocalist Douglas Robb, with music by guitarist Dan Estrin. The tone is chilled, contemporary rock with a similar sound to Creed. While not upbeat enough to listen to while pre-drinking with friends or roadtripping, the album is a must for any self-respecting pop-rock fan. — **Maire Bonheim** @@@@ out of 5

Alanis Morissette — *So-Called Chaos* She's been angry, grateful, forgiving and now she's simply being. *So-Called Chaos*, the fourth studio album from the previously angry, ever-wise rock-goddess Alanis Morissette, sees her come full circle. Her happiest offering to date is filled with introspective and sometimes surprisingly cheesy songs about being in love and letting go. Songs like *Knees of my Bees* and *Everything* are sure to be a hit with the mushy-love types out there. The album takes a few listens to get into, but is worth the effort. If you loved *Jagged Little Pill*, this one probably won't do anything for you — sit tight and hope that her marriage to Ryan Reynolds is rocky. — **Clayton Swanepoel** @@@ out of 5

The Hives — *Tyrannosaurus Hives* Their 2000 breakthrough album *Veni Vidi Vicious* introduced the world to five strangely named hyperactive Swedes. With their stylish dress, speed metal tunes and small town attitude, they were dubbed as the 'next big thing'. Along came the ever-treacherous second album and surprisingly they, unlike many who came before them, have truly conquered. A pure evolution in their already well-defined rock sound, the album, albeit short, is dubbed as one of the finest releases this year. As with most second albums it smacks of something missing from the first, but it gives more than enough to assert its fantastic mark on the world. — **Bianca Camminga** @@@@ out of 5

Zola — *Bhambatha* After a not-so-successful second album, *Khokhovula*, the Super Guluva has been resurrected. This album, which seems to be a follow up on his first album *Umdlwembe*, is already rocking the airwaves with tracks such as *Don't cry* and *X Girlfriend*. Zola's collaboration with different artists from other music genres has really intensified his talent as a musician. This is not another one of the usual kwaito albums with the traditional one-line songs. The lyrical content has been well thought out. With the addition of rocking beats, this album rules. So, go check it out and Hola 7! — **Palesa Mopeli** @@@@ out of 5

JSK ENTERTAINMENT JUST SAY KNOW

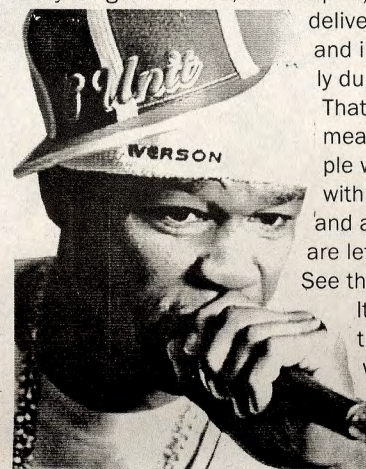


Hip-hop 101: a fan's 50 cents worth

■ Rob Boffard

50 Cent and the G-G-G-Unit have come and gone, leaving a whole bunch of hyperactive, posturing teenyboppers in their wake. Their concert in Jozi earlier this month was a pedestrian exercise in gangsta rap for wannabes, but at least it was peaceful and ran smoothly, unlike a certain Mr Rule's. Ja seemed to be under the impression, on his much publicised tour last year, that he and his entourage were not only free to treat our artists like crap, but also deliver a four-song set that was not worth the extravagant ticket price.

That was a rant, but the point is this: we've had three big name rap acts come to South Africa in the past two years (I'm not mentioning Cream Puff Diddy for good reason, or Ludapiss) and all have



delivered mediocre, and in one case, highly dubious, live shows. That's not cool, and it means that the people who enjoy hip-hop with slightly less bling and a bit more skill are left out in the cold. See the problem?

It's time to rectify this situation and we can only do it one way: education. If you are a hip-hop fan, or

even think you may be, here are some good artists to get you started on a more — how shall I put this — balanced appreciation of the art form. Welcome to hip-hop 101.

A good place to start is Rawkus Records, who hold artists like Mos Def and Talib Kweli on their roster. The significance of this is that they are supremely easy to get into. The rhymes are easy, laid back and funky, and both Mos and Kweli (actually a partnership called Blackstar — their debut album is absolutely essential) work with some of the best producers in the business, including a man named Kanye West.

If you're looking for the ultimate crossover between jiggy rap and the 'underground' (the generic term used to describe non-mainstream hip-hop) Kanye is the best place to start. He works with damn near everybody in the business (most notably Jay-Z) and his super-catchy tracks are a great introduction for the casual listener.

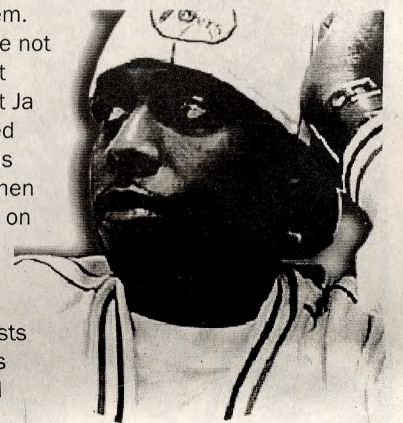
An MC I've only recently discovered is a man named Masta Ace. The Brooklynite rapper's lyrics are amongst the easiest to get into I have ever heard, and what he says makes a hell of a lot of sense. He's just released his fifth (and final) album, *A Long Hot Summer*. Pick it up, it rocks. And if that fails, there's always Snoop Dogg and Dr Dre (pre-1994 of course). It's not rocket science, it just sounds damn good.

As for South African hip-hop, Tumi and the Volume and Skwatta Kamp are two of the best groups to start off with. Skwatta's *Mkhukhu Funkshen* is one of the most successful South African hip-hop

albums to date, and the Volume just needs one listen to work out why they are among the best. And let's not forget G-town. Local hip-hop is alive and well here, with groups like The Innovators making noise nationally. *The Hiphocalypse Mixtape*, a charity compilation album of Grahamstown talent, should be out soon, so pick it up (shameless self-promotion, but there you are).

Admittedly, these are only a few artists, and yes, it is a personal opinion, but if you start listening to some different artists, you'll eventually notice a guest verse on a track. You'll look that rapper's work up, start listening to him/her and then others, and so on and so forth. Believe me (and I speak from personal experience here) it's one of the coolest journeys of discovery you can take. Buy the albums, bootleg them, steal them — whatever it takes, but get hold of them.

Look, if you're not convinced, just remember that Ja Rule misspelled the name of his record label when shouting it out on one of his songs. What better reason to get into artists that promoters are too scared to bring to our shores?



JSKGAMES review

■ Conrad Feris

Broken Sword: *The Sleeping Dragon* brings this classic adventure series into the 2000's by updating the game engine to a fully 3D interactive environment from the previous point-and-click hand drawn animation style of play.

While it may be the third incarnation of the series, it continues the plot of the first game, *The Shadow of the Templar* (1996). It seems that our protagonist, George Stobbart, didn't actually manage to defeat the menacing Order of the Templar but only weaken them. You know the rest.

The game has all the hallmarks from the series, from its sidesplitting humour to its insane logic (I had no idea that all you needed to get past a locked door a pencil and an old newspaper). In the end, this is still a straight forward game, playing more like an interactive movie complete with bad lip-sync and average voice acting, and because of this linearity the 3D environment seems superfluous. As a result, the 3D only confuses, so perhaps the game should have stayed 2D.

In the end, this game will make you laugh and cry. It will make you wonder what the developers were smoking when they created certain puzzles. Overall, this is an enjoyable experience (despite small annoyances) and a definite must for fans of the series.

@@@ out of 5

Requirements: 128 MB RAM, 8X CD-ROM, 64 MB Video RAM

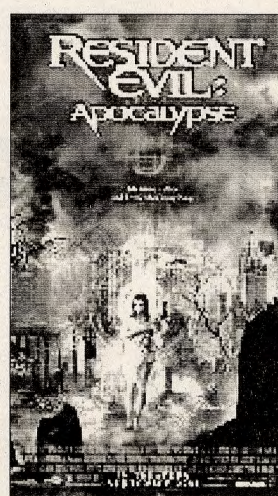
JSK MOVIE coming soon

■ Peter Barlow

The hive has been re-opened and Raccoon City is now nothing more than a city of living dead. Alice (Milla Jovovich), who narrowly survived the lab incident from the first movie, has to once again fight for survival along with the rest of the survivors: Carlos Oliveira, Jill Valentine and Nikolai Sokolov. The city has

Resident Evil - Apocolypse

been sealed off and they must now find a way out and away from the Nemesis. The story plays out in a largely computer generated Raccoon City. Hopefully this time round this addition to the Resident Evil story won't feature in-film bloopers, such as pieces of film equipment poking into scenes as seen in the first movie. Truly a must see for fans of the video game series.



JSKGIG GUIDE music

■ Alexis de Coning and Jeanette Moutl

Friday 8 October

■ If you don't already know about this gig, where have you been? Hog Hoggidy Hogg are skanking it up at Die Taphuijs along with locals Undone, Captain Kidd's Adventure Galley and PE's Shinobi. R20 at the door or R10 for Live Music Society members.

■ Breach will be rocking it up at Jack Hammers in PE

Saturday 9 October

■ SA metal rockers AGRO will be playing at The Frontier Hotel at 8pm, with supporting acts from Breach, Hollowscene and Chemical Bliss. Only R10 entry for four great bands. However, if you're into something a little saucier, check out the Los Habaneros Latin Jazz band at Die Taphuijs — prices and times still

unknown.

Tuesday 12 October

■ Come be merry and make a complete toss of yourself as Die Taphuijs is having a Karaoke Night.

Thursday 14 October

■ Up for something to put the swing in your hips? Rhodes Big Band will be at Die Taphuijs — prices and times still unknown.

■ Wordplay at The Suite provides an open mic session for poets, singers and MCs.

Friday 29 October

■ *The Hiphocalypse Charity Mixtape*, in association with the Rape Survivors Support group, will be launched. Listen to the Hiphocalypse on Saturday nights at 10pm for further details.

All information was correct at the time of going to the press.

JSK DVD review

The Rocky Horror Picture Show

■ Bryce McNamara

The Rocky Horror Picture Show is the ultimate musical, which allows its audience to embark on a sensual, albeit camp, journey with Brad Majors and Janet Weiss as they spend a rather sexually confusing night at their host, Dr Frank-N-Furter's, castle. A night filled with rock 'n roll, trashy make-up, cross-dressing

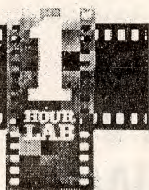
and midnight madness. The double DVD was released to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Rocky Horror. The DVD features both original and new editions of the movie itself, commentary by its creators, games, trivia and bonus features such as a brief documentary on the movie. "Don't dream it, be it!" with this excellent DVD of a timeless cult-classic.

@@@@ out of 5



Further pictures can be found on: www.ru.ac.za/gallery/awa2004

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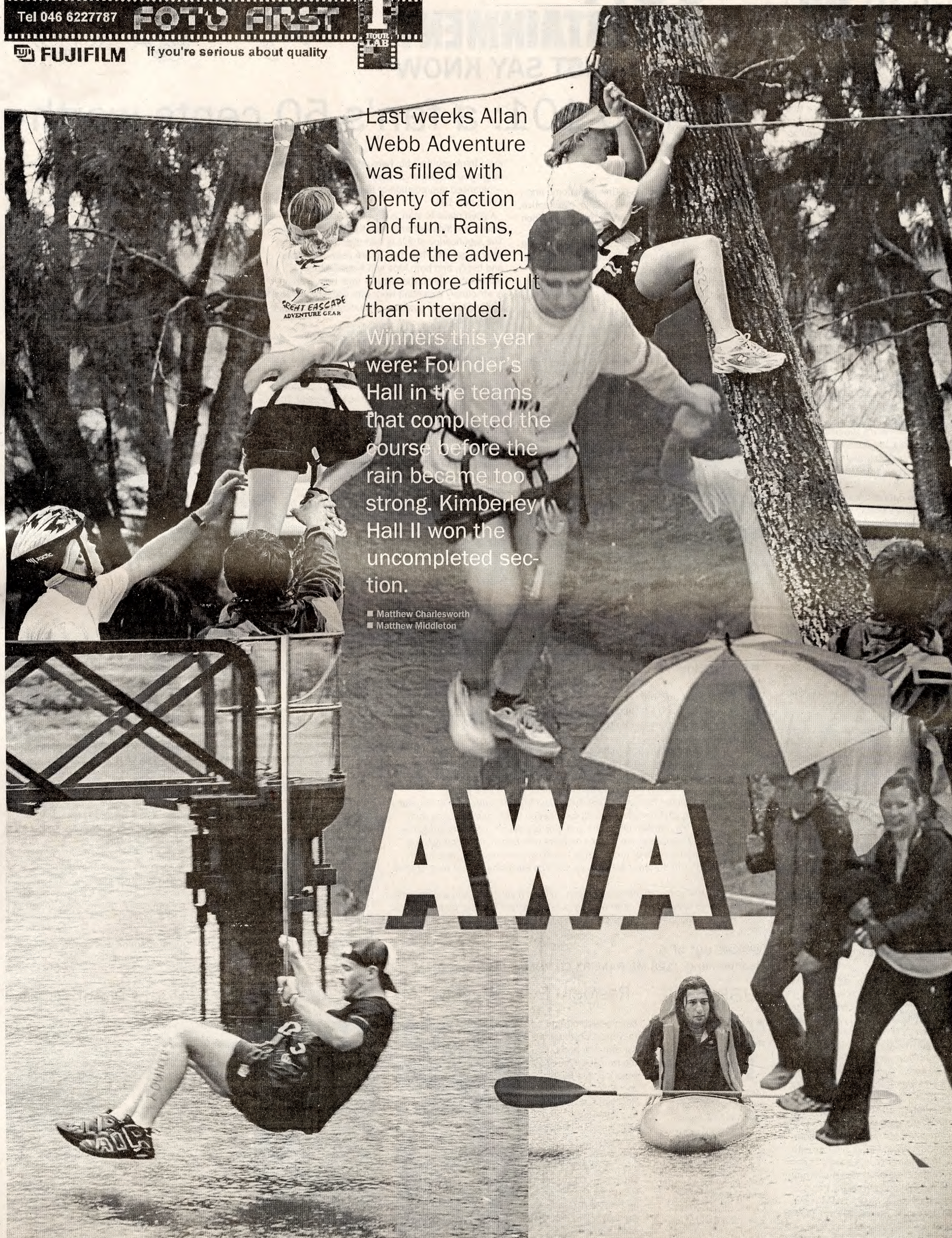
If you're serious about quality

Last weeks Allan Webb Adventure was filled with plenty of action and fun. Rains, made the adventure more difficult than intended.

Winners this year were: Founder's Hall in the teams that completed the course before the rain became too strong. Kimberley Hall II won the uncompleted section.

■ Matthew Charlesworth
■ Matthew Middleton

AWA



24 hour hockey: it just gets better and better



Whittling away the hours on the Astro

■ Dave Colley

■ Cath Lewis

This year, the annual September squash tour party, consisting of five male and two female players, made its way to Natal to challenge some local sides to a few social fixtures.

The tour started off in Durban, where we were accommodated by ex-Rhodian squash player, Shaun "Gunner" Geils. Despite the fact that the first fixtures were played straight after the long drive from Grahamstown, overall, Rhodes emerged victorious. Tim "Stompie" Hasluck's particularly poor performance earned him the good fortune of wearing the loser's leopard-skin vest for his next match. The weekend was well spent, including rounds of golf, and undoubtedly, the various Durban nightspots appreciated the Rhodes support.

Next we headed on to Blythedale Beach on the North Coast to stay with fellow tour member Bruce "Benson" Hedges, aka "The Vision", and to play a fixture at the Salt Rock squash club. Again, the Rhodes team was triumphant, although after having won only five points in her match, Cath "Bergie" Lewis was no doubt the next recipient of the loser's vest. Again, a round of golf was on the cards for rivals Stompie and Andrew "Doggie" Blake.

It was off to the Midlands next, where we played our next match against a Michaelhouse side, combining staff and pupils. This was a particularly interesting match, as the Rhodes side consisted of three Michaelhouse Old Boys and a staff member's daughter. Despite the minor pressure, Rhodes managed to pull

it out of the bag once more to secure their third and final victory. That evening, some of the local pubs were treated to some lively Rhodes behaviour, as we sampled some of the lively local brewery concoctions. For those who could manage the early start the next morning, another round of golf was what they had to look forward to; for others, it was a welcome sleep-in.

The next stop was Pietermaritzburg, where an entertaining night was had at the popular club, Crowded House. We were slightly restrained, despite the Pigs' night specials, as the drive to East London the next day was sure to be fairly taxing. We made it with few problems however and soon arrived at another ex-Rhodian squash player, Stuart "Floss" Junor's digs, where we stayed that night. Although two stalwart tour members only arrived home in the early hours of the morning, for most of us, a week of tour seemed to be taking its toll and it was an early night. Perhaps this was a wise decision as Boat Races were the destination for the next and final day. Needless to say, the Races were fairly chaotic, and despite the Venture being broken into and half the belongings being stolen, it was a good end to a great tour.

All the tour members enjoyed themselves immensely and got involved in the fun and games wherever they could. The squash, too, of a high standard, and Rhodes deserved, and appreciated their three wins.

Thanks go to all the tour members and all those who made the tour possible. We look forward to seeing as many people who are keen on next year's tour.

SA wins a different kind of gold

■ Linda Burton

Rhodes University first-year BSC (Software Development) student, Nick Pilkington, was part of the South African team that took part in the International Olympiad in Informatics in Athens, which returned home with a gold medal. The team of four South African students was among the 296 participants from 79 countries taking part in the 16th International Olympiad in Informatics in Athens. Richard Starfield from Wits University was the gold medal winner.

The International Olympiad in Informatics is a competition for young computer programmers, which is held in a different country each year. South Africa was the host in 1997. The participants need to demonstrate their ability to solve problems by writing appropriate computer programmes. Each

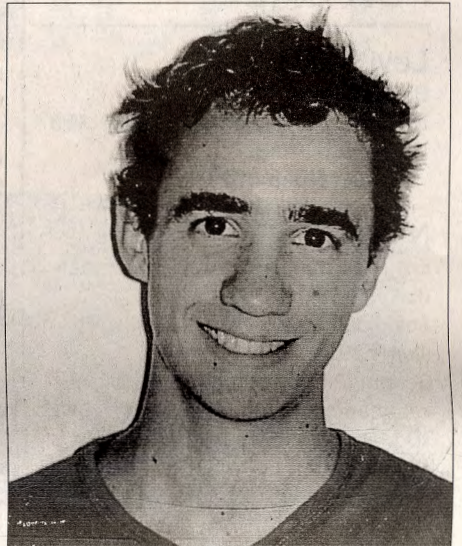
participating country sends a team of four students selected through a national competition.

"Just making the South African team is a tremendous achievement", said Peter Waker, Chairman of the Olympiad Committee. "The four who were sent to Athens were the top performers who came through a selection process that started with more than 12 000 participants in the first round of the South African Computer Olympiad."

According to Pilkington: "The Olympiad was a very challenging experience and great exposure to what is happening out there in the programming field. Over the two competition days we had to solve three problems within five hours and the emphasis was on fast and accurate programming, which had to solve the specific problem in under one second". The theme of the problems was

based on the Greek gods. For example, Hermes had to deliver a number of messages to different gods sitting in different cafes in Greece, but in a specific order. "This was the hardest programming that I have ever had to do. Day one went really well for me and if I had sustained this I probably would have got a medal," said Pilkington.

The teams stayed in the Olympic press village. "There was still a lot of Olympic glamour around and the Para-Olympics were starting as we were leaving. We could see the stadium all lit up at night from our rooms," he said. The team got to see the sights of Athens during some free time, including going on a cruise on the Aegean Sea and visiting the Parthenon. Pilkington will now be involved in coaching next year's team, which will visit Poland.



Nick Pilkington "An amazing experience but happy to be home" ■ Pic supplied

Triumph over water

■ Zama Hlophe

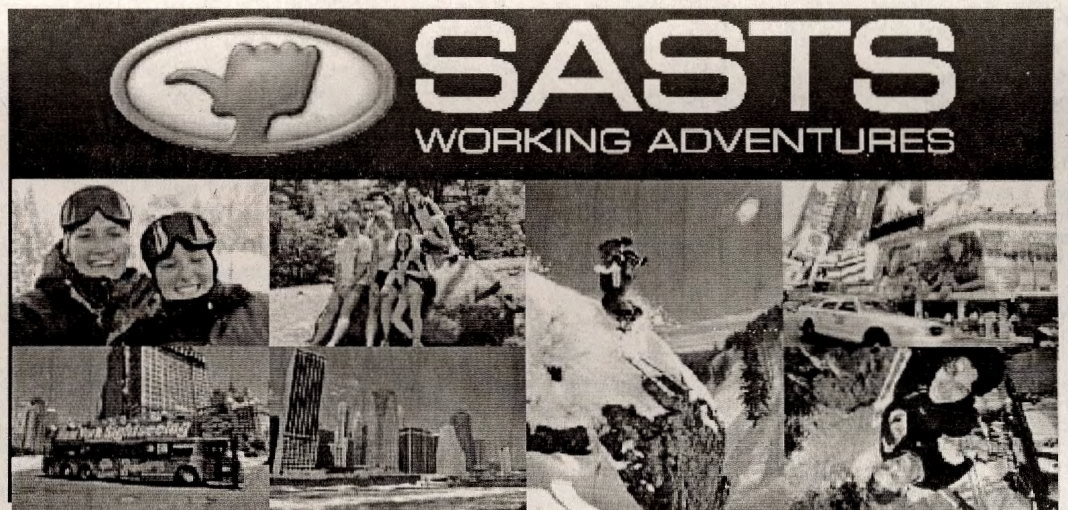
It never rains, but it pours, as the saying goes and this was true of the Allan Webb Adventure (AWA) on Saturday September 25. Held at Grey Dam, just a few minutes off campus, teams from Rhodes and various schools in the Grahamstown area braved the cold and wet conditions to participate in the second running of this annual charity event.

The course, as emphasised by the organisers, was a team-based exercise that included mountain climbing, paintball, fire-making, orienteering and swimming. Matthew Charlesworth, the organising committee's observer member, described these events as being "physically and mentally challenging". This was the objective of the event and with the help of the 50 marshals from Allan Webb Hall, the day ran smoothly, despite the cancellation of certain events due to the weather. Perhaps one of the unique features of the AWA is its charity aims. This year's profits were to be given to the Amasango School, which removes children from the streets and it seemed fitting that the school send a team of four boys to compete on the day.

It was evident that generous sponsorship went into the AWA and when asked how the committee managed to acquire such sponsorship, Charlesworth said that it was made easier by the support that the organisers received from the Eastern Cape's Premier Dr Nosimo Balindlela and Rhodes vice-Chancellor Dr David Woods. Thus, the involvement of the Grahamstown schools teams, Graeme College/DSG and Nombulelo Primary School, was integral in the focus on the community outreach aspect of the AWA.

Luke Strugnell, a fourth year Zoology student who entered as part of an Oppidan team, said the "rain added to the challenge and made the event more intense". He further emphasised that it was very "nice to work as a team". Despite the pouring rain affecting the determination of an overall winner, the event was an all-round success with the honours going to Founder's Hall in the teams that completed the course before the rain became too strong. Kimberley Hall II won the uncompleted section.

If one were to have searched for human spirit, perseverance and heart, AWA had it in abundance and it was a fitting tribute to Heritage weekend. Perhaps if the rain holds back next year, it will be possible for more spectators to support this event and contribute to its admirable aims. The organising committee must be commended for a well-planned event despite the weather set-back.



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NOTICES

Movie Showing

All are invited to the first meeting and Neko Anime film screening of the up-and-coming Anime Soc next week.

This is the first of many movie showings, which will only be open to members next year.

To find out more visit our website:
<http://nekoanime.rucus.net>



Rhodes and RAU dominate

Painting the waters purple, Rhodes rowers do well again.

■ pic supplied

■ Olivia Waterkeyn

Masses of Rhodes students flanked the Kowie River to witness Rhodes' rowing talent competing in the Mutual & Federal SA Universities' Boat Race from September 18 to 20, 2004. The event attracted 30 crews from various universities, including Rand Afrikaans University (RAU), Wits, University of Cape Town (UCT) and Stellenbosch.

Although Rhodes were the defending champions, they had to take second place in the Men's 'A' eight final, after losing to RAU by 18 seconds over a six kilometre course.

Ben Whitfield, a member of the 'A' crew, was "highly disappointed with the result, as training for an event like this is strenuous and time-consuming. The crew expected RAU to be strong competition, but still felt confident before the race." The crew recently returned from France after competing at the World Championships in a two kilometre sprint. This meant training for a completely different length and style of race. This was a difficult transition for the crew to make in the short period of time between the World Championships and Boat Races.

RAU also took first place in the Women's 'A' eight final, with the Rhodes crew

coming second by 33 seconds. The banks of the Kowie River at the finish line were crowded with cheering students dressed head to toe in purple. These supporters showed their excitement when both the Men's and Women's 'B' eight crews won their races. The Women's 'B' eight crew beat RAU by 27 seconds.

One of the bigger margins of victory of the day was the Rhodes 'B' crew's 80 second win over UCT in the Men's 'B' eight final. The crew demonstrated great form as they crossed the finish line a considerable distance ahead of UCT.

Walter Mullins, the crew's cox said, "winning the race was a memorable moment for the crew." He added, with a huge smile on his face, "as we were nearing the finish, I asked Sam [crew member Sam Wells] where the UCT boat was and he replied that he couldn't see that far".

There was a clear indication of which universities are leading South African rowing at the prize giving, as Rhodes and RAU took all the winning spots of the day. The rowers accepted their awards from South African rowing legend, Donovan Cech,

who recently competed in the Olympic Games in Athens.

After a long term of hard work and training, the Rhodes' crews showed supporters, once again, how strong the University's rowing really is.

“The crew expected RAU to be strong competition...”

Green and many golds

■ Jenna Viljoen

The night of Thursday September 23 saw the South African Paralympics team claim their 17th medal. Nathalie Du Toit swam to her third gold medal of the Games in the 200 metre individual medley, setting her second world record of the 2004 Paralympics. This performance followed the 100 metre freestyle and 100 metre butterfly events, which Du Toit won earlier in the competition. To further add to these three golds, she managed to secure a considerable defeat in her strongest event - the 400 metres freestyle - and stated "I've swum my best times here, what more could I ask for?"

Du Toit competed in her first Paralympic Games in Athens and felt the pressure of being away from home, stating that all the athletes "are missing

home right now, but as the competition goes on we're getting more and more used to being here". The positive results and huge accumulation of medals is undoubtedly a boost for the team's confidence and spirits.

Du Toit is from Cape Town and began her swimming career at an early age. One of the early highlights of her career is her participation in the 1998 Commonwealth Games that took place in Kuala Lumpur. Three years later she was involved in a scooter accident in which she lost her leg. This did not stop her die-hard attitude and it is with this same determination and courage she has risen to be a star and an inspiration, not only for South Africans, but others the world over. A fast pace and high standard has been set for future Paralympic swimmers and Du Toit looks set to smash further records.



Nathalie Du Toit setting standards for future swimmers to strive towards.

■ pic supplied

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