



Sodomy charge against SAPS member

by Verashni Pillay

In the latest in a spate of police related harassment incidents, a Rhodes student has laid sodomy charges against a police officer. The controversial charge was filed on the 21st of March 2004, towards the end of the first term.

According to communication officer Inspector Mali Govender, the student and police officer, both of whose names are being withheld, were friends. The incident occurred on a visit to the police officer's house on the 20th of March. The student decided to go back to his residence after the visit, but the police officer convinced him to stay the night. The alleged incident occurred at around 23:00.

Initially there was great reluctance on the student's part to go ahead with the charges. Sources close to the victim explain that he was wary of the unwanted attention that the case could cause. "He filed a withdrawal case at one point, but then changed his mind," said Inspector Govender. She went on to say that she was glad he had pressed on, because "it is our responsibility to protect the victim".

She was particularly wary of the media storm brewing, saying that the "plaintiff didn't want any media attention at all." However, whether it is the plaintiff or the police who are wary of the attention is debatable.

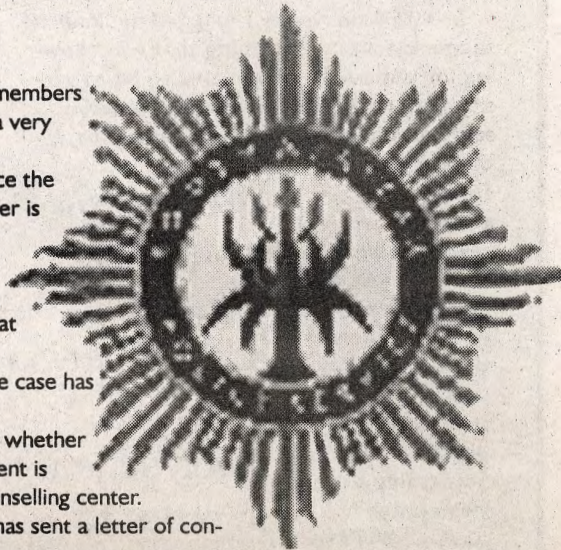
In a somber press release, Grahamstown's Area Commissioner Director Vakala Moyake stated that he

was "deeply perturbed by the allegations against members of the SAPS" and that "the matter was viewed in a very serious light."

Just how serious that is remains to be seen, once the outcome of an internal investigation into the matter is known. The internal investigation is a separate process conducted within the police department. Employees who are found guilty of misconduct are disciplined internally. Director Moyake said that the investigations had been priority.

In the meantime, the investigating officer for the case has indicated that the matter is at the District Public Prosecutor's offices, where it is being determined whether there are sufficient grounds to proceed. The student is currently obtaining counselling at the Rhodes Counselling center.

Rhodes University Vice Chancellor Dr. Woods has sent a letter of concern to the Grahamstown police.



WITS Erupts - Is this a racial thing?

Guest writer: Bruce Dixon

On the 28th of April, approximately 2 000 students demonstrated on WITS University campus to protest against a 50% cut in financial aid to needy students. The majority of the students gathered outside the Great Hall on WITS' east campus where a strong police presence looked on, armed with shotguns and rubber bullets. Although no one was to bear the brunt of any rubber bullets, the animosity and tension in the air was enough to make the threat real.

There's no getting around the fact that almost all of the students receiving financial aid are black. They have been requested by the university to pay fifty percent of their annual fees before the end of the term or they will not be entitled to write June exams. This amounts to over R10 000 per student: an amount which is well in excess of what they can afford. The WITS Vice Chancellor Loyiso Nongxa announced that the slashing of the fees was due to the fact that the University has overstretched this budget and can no longer afford to pay for all the students. The number of students on financial aid has increased from 600 in 2003 to 3 000 this year. You can see where the problem lies. The crowd at WITS, however, seemed to insinuate that this was all racially motivated.



Wits students are angry that financial aid has been cut by 50%

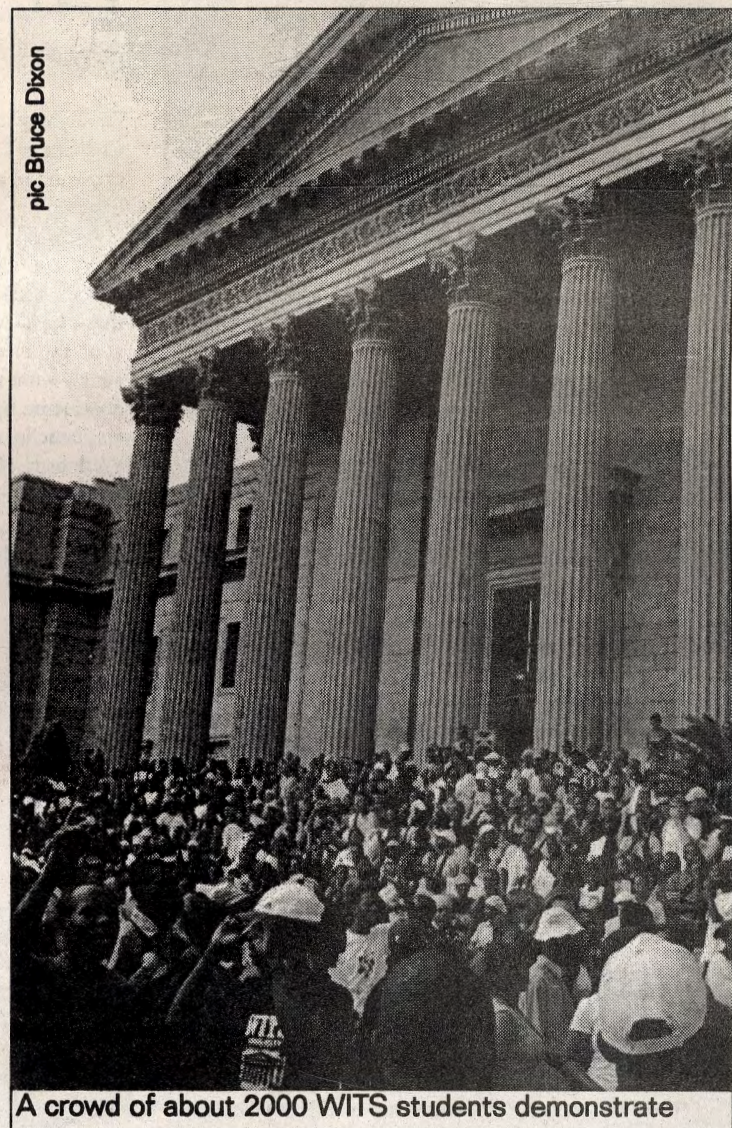
Many of the banners and posters used made reference to racial discrimination. "WITS kicks blacks out" and "1976 is back. 100% back" were just two examples. The students made it clear that they felt apartheid was back and they were being kicked out of WITS for the exclusive reason that they were black. However, I did speak to a white WITS law student on financial aid who was also involved in the protest because she had no way of financing the down-payment expected by the university before June.

The apathy coming from the other WITS students didn't help. Most of the students were upset that their lectures had been cancelled and just wanted the protest to end, but were happy to watch from a distance. To be fair, a lot of the students had been scared by protesters disrupting their lectures, beating sticks or poles against students' and lecturers' desks in the middle of class.

These students were fighting not only for their education, but ultimately for their only chance at a future better than their parent's past. They felt they had been seriously wronged by the university, and in some ways they were right. One would expect other students to understand, possibly even to support this initiative. But to the majority of the (admittedly) white student body, it was just something fun to watch on a warm autumn day. Some students may have been upset at lectures being cancelled for a day, but imagine that compared to being denied your education forever.

This is a situation that, from the onset, would never be resolved easily. But from this, a racial issue has been spawned which is working against so much of the past 10 year's successes. Questions must be asked of university management as to why they accepted to support so many financial aid students at the beginning of the year, only to disappoint them now? A completely over-whelmed and seemingly inept SRC is trying to calm the situation and establish negotiations.

Bruce Dixon is the editor of StudentVillage. For everything on student life, check out www.studentvillage.co.za



A crowd of about 2000 WITS students demonstrate

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I was talking to a friend of mine who was at WITS University when the protests were happening last week. The official version aside, he told me a funny story of how hundreds of black students were angrily causing a scene in lectures while the white students, as he put it, were like, "So...dude. I suppose we won't be like having class today. Should we like, you know like, go smoke a joint or something? Yeah, totally." I do not want to go into race politics here, but I do want to take a moment to reflect on apathy. (check page 1 for the full story on the WITS demonstrators).

While I do admit that this friend of mine does have a vested interest in demolishing student apathy, it made me think about what it is that makes people get off their butts and do something. Do we always have to be affected by an issue or be directly involved in it in order to get involved?

So WITS university retracted its financial support system-something that was allowing for thousands of students to be at varsity. Due to South Africa's past of racial segregation and oppression, unfortunately the majority of the have-nots in today's society are still black people, and so it was the black students who got the raw end of the deal again.

They got off their couches and did something. Something that interrupted lectures at WITS for the whole of last week. Why didn't the other half of the student body help make more of an impact? Why didn't they fight for the rights of their fellow students? Having to pay up R10 000 just so you can write the June exams is no laughing matter. The truth is that financing your varsity career is not easy. This could have been us, or more to the point, this could be us in the near future.

How many people took part in the Anti-Rape campaign? How many went to the discussions on gay and lesbian rights at Rhodes? Why is it always only the people who are out to gain something who take notice of other people's problems?

In Max Ehrmann's *Desiderata*, he writes, "Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune." On some level he is saying that you never know when the tides are going to turn and when you will be getting the raw end of the deal. We need to be aware of each other and of each other's problems. Because if we don't, we'll just be another number in a sea of people saying: "I didn't know it was happening."

And you can start by reading the story of Grant Griffiths on page 5 and doing something to help him. Last year we ran an article about a young boy with cancer. One female res, instead of saying that they wished they knew how they could help, started a car-wash outside what was then Spar. With the money they raised, they helped his family with the financial difficulties that chronic illnesses often carry with them. Let's try and do the same kind of thing.

Take an interest in what is happening right here. As corny as it sounds, if you are in third or fourth year, you will know what I mean when I say, we are the future. What we say and do will impact this world. Find out what Amnesty international, SHARC, OutRhodes, SASCO, Demsoc and other societies are up to. Chances are that you'll find a bunch of people who are dedicated to a cause, a cause that they believe will improve lives. And surely that's what it is all about.

Do we always have to be affected by an issue or be directly involved in it in order to get involved?



Rhodes student stabbed in heroic intervention

by Leon Schnell

Second year LLB student, Bruce Pringle, was stabbed in the neck on the morning of Saturday the 17th of April while coming to the rescue of Laura Lee, 4th year Psych (hons), at her digs in the Hillside area.

After returning late from The "Rat and Parrot", Lee discovered that the kitchen door of her digs had been broken into, and found two teenagers armed with steak knives rifling through the kitchen. They immediately rushed to attack her, but alerted by her scream Pringle, who had accompanied her, intervened and a struggle ensued between him and the would-be robbers. During the struggle, Pringle was stabbed in the neck by one of the teenagers and in the confusion, they escaped.

Soon afterwards, Lee pressed the Hi-Tec panic button, and the armed response arrived a short while later. Pringle was taken to Settlers hospital, where his neck wound was promptly treated and he was released. The thieves managed to escape with a small collection of items including some cheese and items of laundry. This has apparently not been the first such incident in these digs, but it is the first one involving force, as previous thieves were easily scared away.

Lee's digs-mates were asleep upstairs at the time, and were only woken up after the incident had taken place. Although a Hi-Tec security system was installed, it had been de-activated due to the students being in the digs. Lee says that she was informed that robbers of this sort specifically target houses that they know are occupied, as they know that the alarm-systems are generally de-activated, as in this case.

Police spokeswoman Milanda Coetzee says that although robberies are common in Grahamstown, there are actually many incidents of robbers turning violent. This is the first such case this year, while last year there were two such robberies. When asked why the police seemed to have so little effect in preventing these robberies, she said that the police act on a reactionary system whereby areas affected by a sudden numbers of robberies are assigned regular patrols. Also, the police force in Grahamstown is a lot larger than commonly perceived, with 200 local officers; as well as

further units devoted to surrounding areas and tasks that are based here.

Unfortunately the police were not able to receive any identification of the robbers from Pringle and Lee, but are currently following up other forensic leads found on the scene. The digs in question has been robbed three times in the last two weeks. This raises questions about the effectiveness of the systems that the police have in place for combating digs robberies.



Thieves are turning violent when robbing digs

Drowning Tragedy

by David Scott and Gisela Wolff

On Sunday the 18th of April 2004, Fortunate Chabata, a 21 year old Rhodes Student, drowned in an area off Port Alfred's West Pier Beach.

According to police spokeswoman, Inspector Mali Govender, four Rhodes students got into difficult situation at sea at approximately 15:30 that day. Three of the four victims were rescued by surfers and lifesavers, while the fourth victim went under. A search for her body was conducted by the NSRI as well as the police, and beaches were patrolled but to no avail. On Wednesday, 21st of April at about 09:30, a hiker

on Rufane's Beach discovered the body, six kilometres from where the drowning had occurred. Rhodes Assistant Dean of Students, Iain L'Ange and Helen Joseph Warden, Janet Kelly, later identified the body to be that of Fortunate Chabata.

Chabata, was a Zimbabwean second year student and a resident of Helen Joseph Residence. She was considered by Warden Kelly to be a quiet, hard-working student who had obtained exceptional results in her first year of studying. Kelly also said she had a wide friendship group throughout the campus. Head student of Helen Joseph and loyal friend of Chabata, Chiedza Makomva, expressed the difficulty of coming to

terms with such an unnatural death. Makomva describes Chabata as vibrant, full of life, funny, intelligent and pretty. Makomva will remember her, like most others, for her bluntness and ability to "tell you what she thought you should hear".

This tragic accident has touched not only those in Helen Joseph, but all who knew Chabata. Kelly said people should be warned that the sea is a force to be respected, especially as this is not an isolated instance to hit Rhodes. Activate would like to express its condolences to the family and friends in their time of mourning.

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Hit and run outside DEMSOC

by Victoria John

A first year student became the victim of a hit and run incident after the Demsoc party on the Monday, 26th April 2004.

A good time was had by all at the Demsoc party - except for one person, Cameron McLean. McLean, along with Nico Hendriks and Gareth Hopkins, all first year students, left the drill hall at approximately half past twelve and according to McLean were "dancing around a car parked nearby that was pumping good music". It was here that a white hatchback car driving "very fast and very close" to the parked car, hit McLean causing him to fly across the road and land some distance away from the scene.

While McLean waited for an ambulance to take him to Settlers Hospital, an unnamed witness chased

the culprits' car and recorded the registration number, which he then handed to the police.

McLean states that he plans to personally confront the culprit once he has been tracked down and demand an apology along with remuneration for his hospital bills. If the culprit agrees to these conditions, McLean will not press charges. However, if the culprit does not agree to these terms, McLean will sue.

McLean spent a night in hospital due to fractured bones on the inside of his knee and is now hindered by a leg in full cast. As a result of the accident, McLean, who was planning to play rugby for Rhodes University this term, will have to miss the whole season. He says about his ordeal: "I'm disappointed, but I have accepted what has happened and have come to terms with the fact that I'm going to be out for the next four months. I'll get that bastard!"



Give 5 again?

by Sally Evans and Ian Blunt

Money given to the Give 5 campaign by Rhodes students is allegedly not going to waste and students will not be left wondering when they will be getting involved in their communities, this according to Thamsamqa Moyo, SRC President.

Earlier this year the Give 5 campaign, which is being run by the Rhodes SRC, successfully launched their program, which is aimed at helping the underprivileged people in the Grahamstown community. James Chipunza, who headed the campaign, along with the SRC president Thamsamqa Moyo, are 'very happy' with the outcome and response given by the students. Roughly 20% of the Rhodes students have contributed five rand towards this campaign.

Many of the students have been asking questions as to where the money has gone to, and what it is being used for. Holly Blackburn and Jane Perry, first year students, who have both made contributions are 'upset and anxious to know what has become of their donations' as there has been no follow up to

the campaign. Having spoken to Moyo about the results, he is confident that this was unintentional and exact results will be released. He did however mention that the Grahamstown Centre of Social Development (CSD) would be receiving the money that has been raised by the SRC and the Give 5 campaign, and will be distributing the money accordingly.

This could create some controversy on the campus as it has been previously reported that the same institute has put limitations on the number of volunteers it takes in. There is a long waiting list, which is creating less and less opportunity for students to get involved within the community. Moyo finds this situation 'very worrying'. Students can rest assured, however, that when the SRC hold their 'Give 5 hours' campaign no one will be turned away as the SRC wants to create a 'sense of giving and helping'.

Local pre-schools will be benefiting from this project, as volunteers will be asked for a much more 'hands on' approach. The SRC is aiming at allowing students to be more practical in their volunteering, using them mainly for fixing and painting the buildings with the hope of bettering the lives of the underprivileged and the environment.

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Should the police always be trusted?

In a country where crime is rife, we need to believe that at least the police are there for us, ready to defend and fight for our causes. We want to be able to trust that the police have our best interests at heart, but do they always?

by Lesley Odendal

In a university environment, especially as editor of *Activate*, you hear a lot of stories. "A girl died in a motorbike accident last week" and "So and so was mugged and stabbed seven times on his way home last night", and the gory list goes on. You send a writer out and fill six square inches in the paper. Sometimes you realise that these are actual people and not just subjects of a story, and at other times you automatically remove yourself from it all. I often forget that these people have lives pretty much like mine. It could have happened to my friend, to my digsmate... to me.

And then a friend told me that a 3rd year BJourn student, Genevieve Sligcher (known as Gen to most people), had allegedly been sexually harassed by a policeman when she went to report a house robbery on the 21st of March 2004.

'Sexual harassment': such a clinical word. Nowhere does it hint at the hangover effect it has. It's bad enough when a guy you don't like is hitting on you constantly, but when all your favourite things have been stolen from your room and last night's booze is still curdling through your system, the last thing you need is for a policeman to make moves on you and finally push your shoulders against a wall and ask you if he can kiss you.

**'Sexual harassment':
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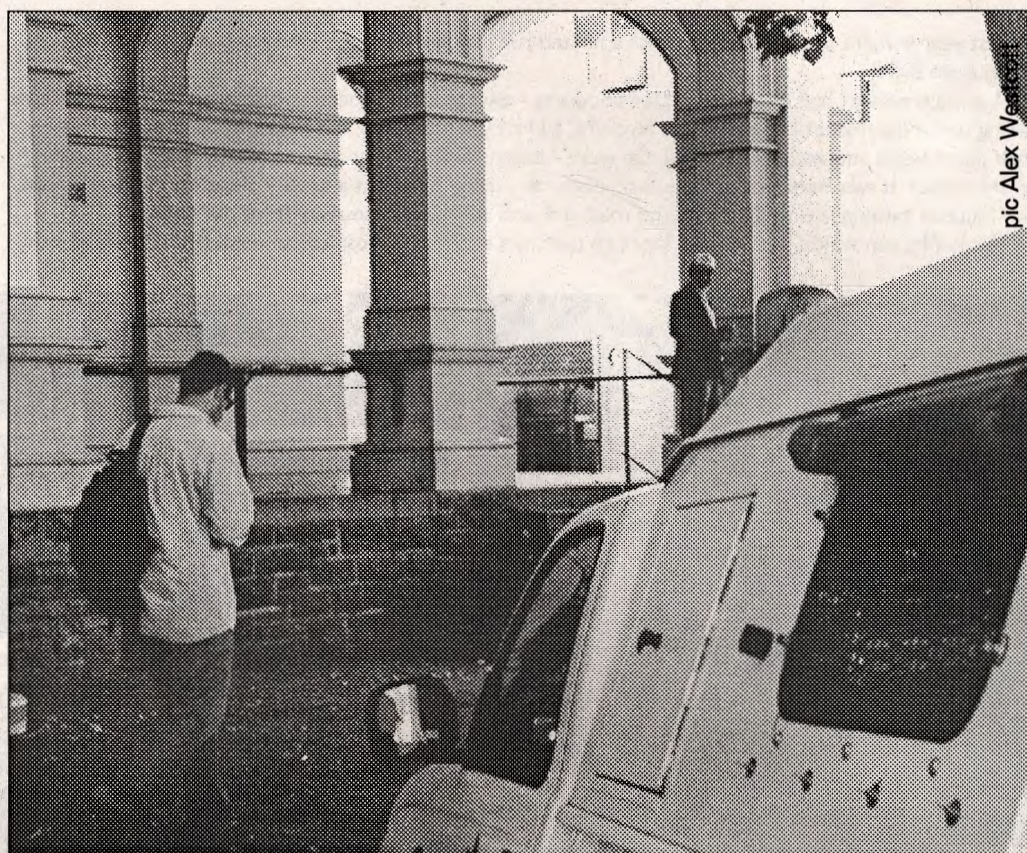
While taking her statement, the policeman asked the kind of questions any guy at a bar trying to get into your pants would ask, he even wrote 'I love you' on the back of the statement. "Where are you from?", "What are you studying?", "Do you have a boyfriend?", "Will you come visit me when I'm working?" and after taking her to a dark corner where she thought that he wanted to show her something relating to the case, "Can I kiss you?"

What he meant to ask was 'may I kiss you?', because with the way he was pushing Gen's shoulders against the wall in a cryptic corner with no watchful eyes in the building, gun bulging on the side of his pants, indeed he could very easily have kissed Gen. Luckily for her he didn't abuse his power any further and watched her go as she ran to her car, tears streaming down her face.

Later that afternoon, Gen and her digs mates (all girls alone in the house) were tanning outside. A

The underlying reality is that not only do we live in a world where people invade your private space to take your beloved belongings, but that we can't even trust some of our policemen who are supposed to re-establish some kind of order after such an invasion.

After Gen's room was broken into on that Saturday night, she went to the police station to open a case - the most logical thing to do, surely? She went alone because as she said: "You think you're safe going to the police station. Nothing is going to happen to you there."



Injustice of the police, who is left to trust?

policeman knocked on the door. Instinct told one of them that it was harmless to open the door for a policeman in uniform and logic told her he was there to take fingerprints in Gen's room.

He came outside and eyed the girls covered only by small triangles of bright spandex, lying in the sun. Gen saw that it was him and demanded to know what he was doing in their home. "I've come to visit you," he told her.

"We know what you did to our friend," one of the digs mates bravely said while Gen ran to her room, "you harassed her." The policeman then said that he had actually come to apologize. Frightened, one of the girls pressed the panic button. The officer of the law made a dash for it and ran back to the police station.

Morne van Wyk, a Hi-tec security guard, found him at the police station, dragging life out of a cigarette. Again he ran when he saw Gen.

But it didn't stop there. Gen's friends encouraged her to press charges against the policeman. To press charges you have to deal with more policemen, more of the very thing that created this situation in the first place. "I was very confused. I was petrified and crying a lot. He knows where I live and that's what got to me," Gen said.

Gen decided to press charges. "Maybe if I didn't say anything then maybe it would be happening to someone else and it could be worse. Just because he's a policeman doesn't mean that he has the authority to do this kind of thing," she said. But he does have her number and he does know where she lives.

Just when Gen thought that she was now protected from him, the phone calls began with heavy breathing and comments like: "Why are you doing this to me? Why are you doing this to me?"... and then cut.

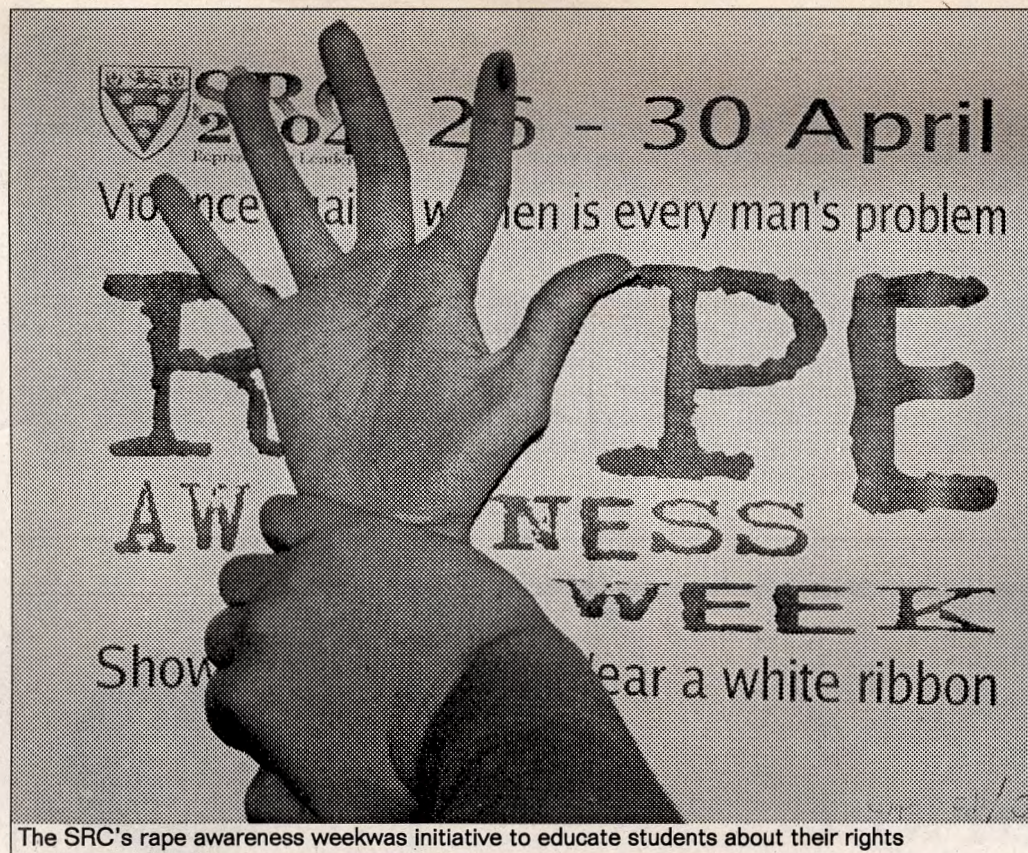
Relieved, she told me that he has been put under house arrest in the police barracks. A whole score of high rankers in the police department have called her to assure her that they're on the case and that "they are taking it very seriously because he is a policeman and he was in uniform at the time of the incident."

Caryn Dewing, one of Gen's digs mates, feels that it's not fair to say that you can't trust all the members of the police because of what this one policeman did. "The other policemen who helped us press charges were so helpful and friendly. They were only too ready to help us. This is obviously just an isolated case," she said.

When I phone the police, Inspector Mali Govender tells me that the case is still under investigation and that all media will be contacted as anything develops. However, Inspector Deon Bakkes, Grahamstown police spokesperson, did confirm that the incident is under investigation and that the matter would be forwarded to the Director of Public Prosecutions, who would decide as to whether the policeman involved would be prosecuted.

Retraction

In the 22 April edition of *Activate* it appeared in "Inducing rainfall: the wether withches of today" that Ayesha Omar follows the Hindu religion, this is incorrect as she is Islamic.



The SRC's rape awareness week was initiative to educate students about their rights

Talking Heads 06

pics by Siobhan Louw

What is your view on crime and theft in G-town?

Edition 2003/2004



"It sucks! It's getting worse and worse and something needs to be done."

(Steve Giles, BCom)



"It is unacceptable. Leaving your front door open for even one minute is an invitation for people to enter with negative intentions."

(Jaclyn Ross, BA)



R110 000 to mend a broken heart

Born blue in colour and with twelve holes in his heart, Grant Wayne Griffiths was diagnosed with transposition of the great veins at birth. Unlike yours and mine, Grant's heart worked "backwards". Fifteen years down the line and two heart operations later, new complications have been discovered and it will cost R110 000 to mend his heart.

by Carly Ritz

When you meet Gareth Griffiths, he is relaxed and polite, and there is simply no way of knowing that behind those dark glasses and calm disposition, is a man whose brother has a very serious heart condition. I had no idea. When Gareth approached me about how to help his brother, I realised that as one person there is perhaps very little I can do, but that if there is any place to look for help it must be on a university campus as diverse and energetic as this one. So here is Gareth and his family's story, which we are sharing with you in the hope that you will try to look deeper at the people you know, and not assume that just because all is calm on the surface, there is no current beneath.

Grant Griffiths is the fifteen-year-old brother of Gareth Griffiths, a first year student here at Rhodes University living in Jan Smuts. Grant was born on the 10th of January, 1989 in Harare, Zimbabwe. He was born blue in colour indicating a problem from the beginning. His condition was diagnosed as transposition of the great veins, a very rare condition. In other words, his heart operates, as what Gareth could only describe as "backwards", pumping deoxygenated blood around his body and oxygenated blood into his heart. It was not feasible to simply turn Grant's heart around because previous operations of this nature had proved unsuccessful and would limit Grant's life to a maximum of 18 years. Ironically, the only thing that saved Grant were the twelve holes in his heart that allowed the oxygenated blood to escape into his body. Open-heart surgery was performed on the 6th of February, 1989 when Grant was only four weeks old. Grant was only the third infant to have this operation, which was performed by a South African, Professor Kingsley. The operation was fairly new and the specialists who dealt with Grant were not completely certain about what to expect. The operation proved to be successful but Grant

"I know what life is worth now, I nearly lost mine"

was left with scars on the right side of his body and a scar running the length of his rib cage as permanent reminders of his health ordeal.

Grant was then subjected to annual check-ups, or what Gareth remembers as annual holidays to South Africa, following the surgery to monitor his progress. Grant's doctors were so impressed with his progress, that the check ups were rescheduled to take place on a two-year basis. Grant then had a minor operation where a camera was inserted into one of his veins. This operation was also performed to monitor his progress. The family was then informed that Grant could now have his regular check-ups in Zimbabwe. And so life continued for the Griffiths

family, until now...

Grant has recently turned 15, and while he would rather be playing rugby or hockey or practising with his new music band, he must deal with a grave heart condition which is enough to render anyone despondent. It was recently discovered that Grant's pulmonary artery has a restriction, resulting from scar tissue stitching and his increased growth with the onset of adolescence. This restriction has to be unblocked or his body will not receive the oxygenated blood necessary for him to survive.

This is why an urgent operation had to be performed on the 19th of April 2004 at the Sunninghill Hospital in Johannesburg by Dr. Harrisburg. This operation took the form of a catheterisation through the leg and involved the "ballooning" of his pulmonary vein in an attempt to open it. Gareth explains this process to me as the literal insertion of a "balloon" into the vein to create the necessary space. Once this was dealt with, it was then discovered that there was also a problem with Grant's coronary artery, which needed to be stented. Already under intense stress and anxiety, Nicole Griffiths, Grant's mother, was informed that she would have to make an immediate decision about whether or not to proceed with the stenting knowing she would have to pay an additional R30 000 to the already needed R80 000. This procedure is tricky because the body may reject the stent, a tube inserted into the vein to create space, but nevertheless was carried out via a very recent method of stenting, which opened the artery. The operation took just over five hours.

Grant will have to take medication for at least the next six months in order to keep his blood at the correct thickness and prevent clotting. Gareth says that Grant is in a lot of pain at the moment but has just started walking around again. Grant has emerged from his ordeal with a new affirmation: "I know



Brotherly love: Gareth (front) and Grant (behind) playing around in healthier times

what life is worth now, I nearly lost mine", he said. Gareth laughs and says how strange it is that a 15 year old claims to know what life is worth.

This last operation has been very taxing on Gareth, who expresses to me how hard it has been to be here at university while all of this has been happening with his family. He is clearly exhausted, "on edge and uncertain of how to feel, saying: "I don't know how to put it [his feelings] into words." He admits that you only realise how much you care for someone when the possibility of losing them exists.

Nicole has been running the family as a single parent for the past four years since her divorce and according to Gareth, is "always running around" as she takes care of Gareth's two younger siblings Grant and eight year old Kira. This ordeal has also been incredibly stressful for Grant who is struggling to deal with the fact that his father has left. To add further strain to the Griffiths family is the harsh financial reality. Good health never comes cheaply and the operation has now cost Grant and his family R110 000. Fund-raising attempts were started in Zimbabwe, but with the exchange rate and the tentative situation at the moment, it is ludicrous for the family to raise adequate funds there.

The money for the operation was borrowed and now needs to be repaid. Nicole is struggling to maintain her family and fund-raise on her own. Gareth and his family are appealing to anyone who is willing to contribute, or knows someone who is able to sponsor, to get in touch with him. Also, if anyone would like to be involved in a fund raising venture on their behalf, please let him know.

Gareth gets up to leave the table at which we have been chatting. He thanks me for my time and is so grateful, but I should thank Gareth. My thoughts shift to my own two younger sisters whom I adore, and I am reminded of the importance of gratitude for my loved ones but also the necessity of taking myself out of my bubble, because this is how I exist at times - removed from the fact that even though many people will try to convince me that the surface is calm, there may be a current beneath.

How to get in contact:

- To contact Gareth Griffiths: g04g2166@campus.ru.ac.za
- To contact Carly Ritz: g03r1189@campus.ru.ac.za
- To contact Lesley Odendal: g02o1390@campus.ru.ac.za
- Alternatively contact Activate, which is upstairs in the student union.



"To tell you the truth, res has been really safe this year, compare to all the crime they had last year. I can leave my room open and nothing will be gone when I get back."

(Hamza Tayub, BComm)

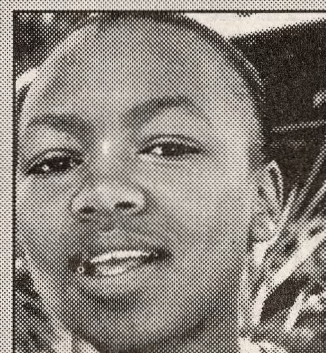
“ 3



"I haven't really been a victim. Hope I don't jinx myself!"

(Warren Foster, BJourn)

“ 4



"I don't think there is much crime, you see it happening about once a month. Where I come from it's every night."

(Polela Mdoko, BJourn)

“ 5

If you burned a litre of petrol on the way to campus this morning, consider this: it took 23 and a half tonnes of ancient, buried plants to produce that litre.

That's the equivalent of two and a half football fields of wheat, including every last root and stalk. Well, at least this is what Jeff Dukes from the Carnegie Institute of Washington, Stanford reckons.

According to Dukes, in 1997 we burned fossil fuels equivalent to more than 400 times the amount of plant matter produced on Earth in the same year.

So the moral of the story is: we're a parasitic race that won't be around for all that long, and quite frankly, in the bigger scheme of things trifles like Duly Performed certificates and marks out of a hundred don't really feature.

No, I'm sorry, that's not the moral at all. The moral is, and this is where people who spend time in Grahamstown do so well, the moral is: Don't Drive Around So Much. Stop driving and ride a bike. The fact that most of us don't have cars or bikes goes to show just how cool, and aware of the environment, we are.

And when you ask someone to drive an extra block to pick someone up or buy some frozen peas, they're quite justified when they mutter curses under their breath. It's not the hellish inconvenience of having to drive an extra 500m here or there that's the trouble, it's the flippin ancient, buried plants that we're worried about.

While our city-dwelling compatriots burn up whole prehistoric rain-forests, we're here respecting nature. While they traverse the equivalent of England every week, scooting from Camps Bay to Kirstenbosch, we stagger proudly across the triangle of moral high ground that lies between home, BP and New Street.

Who has ever thought of splashing out on a voyage to Mountain Drive, Bloukrans or Settlers dam? And who would ever dream of setting off on an epic expedition to Bathurst, Kenton or Cradock? Not all for the same reasons, but that's not the point.

It took three years for me to summon up the courage to set off for a place called Bloukrans - I don't even know how to spell it. Blaauwkrans? Anyway you say it like "Blow-Kruss". Only after gathering a crowd of eighteen or so adventurers did anyone feel that burning the fossil fuel was justified. We dusted off yellowed map-books, plotted a course, packed provisions, and everyone brought something to do during the journey.

And we had fun, so much fun we wondered why we didn't go on such excursions more often. And then we slapped our wrists for forgetting the ancient, buried plants quivering in their peat bogs or beneath the Iraqi sands.

After free-wheeling back, we all returned to our respective TVs and couches for the weekend to build up enough lethargy to make the next adventure seem all the more worth it.

And when yuppie friends stand next to their Datsuns at Cape Point and phone me to find out what's happening in the Eastern Cape this weekend, I'm proud to be saving the planet, and keeping the couch warm, for generations to come.

(t m-f l-r) n. pl.
tom-fool-er-ies,
1. Foolish behaviour; non-sense.
2. Balderdash, bilge, claptrap, hogwash, shenanigan, tommy-rot, trash



Tom-tomfoolery
Tom Mapham

Stirring the melting pot

Ten years after democracy, inter-racial dating is becoming increasingly common. With more people experimenting with different races and cultures, one wonders whether, in the light of South Africa's history of apartheid, this is genuine curiosity or just another fashionable trend in an apparent desire to keep up with liberal attitudes?

by Aretha Phiri and Bianca Camminga

Once you go black, you never go back; rhinos and cows don't run together." These are common phrases associated with inter-racial dating in South Africa. As distasteful as these phrases may be, they force us to look at the 'psyche' of inter-racial dating. How are these relationships defined and how do those involved feel? Is inter-racial dating really a novelty or simply the latest thing to do?

We are young and at university, living the pseudo rock star lifestyle of sex, drugs and alcohol. Whether we choose to admit it or not, university is about experimentation and stepping out of boundaries. You are able to make up your own mind because the reins have been relaxed. At university we are able to experience other lifestyles and cultures and interact with different people. However, some people are still stuck in a former South African mindset where it was condemned for races to integrate on many levels, let alone sexually. Different races were only allowed to start publicly dating after apartheid's Immorality Act of 1950 was abolished in 1983.

Ten years after the implementation of democracy, South Africa is confronted more and more by inter-racial couples. We are attempting to shake off the apartheid mindset and be open-minded to contemporary notions. Yet some couples are still hiding, afraid of being stigmatised, labelled and in worse cases, victimised. Rhodes University's "melting pot" was stirred when students were asked what they thought about inter-racial dating. It was apparent from the people interviewed, that inter-racial dating was generally accepted, with most people giving compliments, stating that they were fine with it. However, they said that people should avoid losing their identity by compromising themselves when trying to fit in. We even managed to get those involved in relationships to come crawling out of the woodwork to give us their opinions.

It was discovered that some people even enter these relationships to enhance their image. Stuart Silverman, a Canadian post-graduate student in the Department of Education believes some people are doing it for all the wrong reasons. That is, to impress people with just how 'open-minded' they are. Their intention is probably to 'shock' us with their unconventionality. He questions whether this is offensive or 'racist'. For him, the central debate is: when does race or creed cease to be important?

No one can deny that inter-racial relationships have a degree of novelty that surrounds them. A previous SRC representative, who wishes to remain anonymous, believes that cultures at Rhodes are so diverse that no one really notices. However Ms. Lisl Foss, the SRC Counsellor at Rhodes, confesses even she has sneaked a peek and that we are all guilty of staring. She believes when a person goes out of 'their group', people instinctively pay attention, "It is curiosity, not necessarily judgement," she says.

To find an inter-racial couple willing to talk on Rhodes Campus was a mission, almost as difficult as the US hunt for Bin Laden. We had to find out if they really felt like animals at the local zoo, subjected to the curious stares of the public, only minus the usual perks of an occasional peanut. After much searching however, we did locate a few willing to relate their experiences and give us some insight.

Kim Moodley who is doing a BA-Environmental Science has been in an inter-racial relationship for three years. She met her current boyfriend on a night out with friends. They were introduced and hit it off straight away. He asked to see her again and they haven't looked back since. For both of them race was never an issue. Their different backgrounds never posed any problems and they found their families very accepting. She says some people do see it as a novelty and therefore it attracts a few stares, but over time people, including her friends, have come to accept their relationship. She also remarks that most stares come from conservative old white people.

With more inter-racial couples surfacing, it is probably more common to see a black man with a white woman than the opposite. Siphokazi Ncama, a BSocSci student, remarked passionately: "It's like they (white women), take the last good men we have left". This leaves "sistas" with

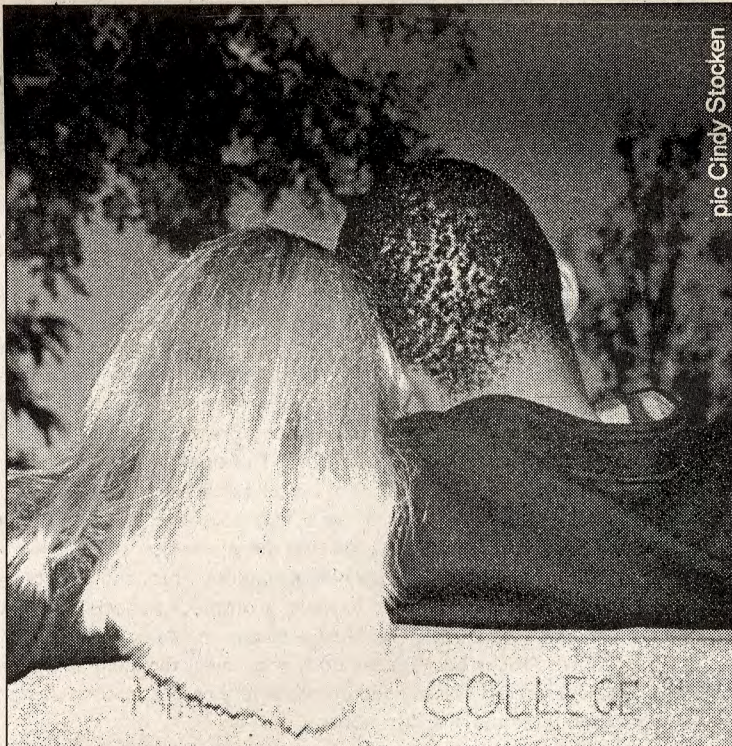
"riff - raff" as the only choice on a very limited menu. Dr Louise Vincent of the Rhodes University Politics Department gives an academic opinion and believes that this is probably due to a "construction of sexuality within racist discourse that infiltrates the perception of inter-racial relationships". For example, white women are seen as good and 'appropriate' whilst black women are perceived as wild and 'inappropriate'.

Students from other African countries maintain that any negativity concerning inter-racial dating is purely a South African mindset. In general, they are impressed with South Africans' liberalism but feel that it is the South Africans within the relationship and society who notice and create the stigmas. Mwakgosi T. Kgabi, a BComm student from Botswana says that in her country inter-racial dating is not an issue and no-one minds. She has found it much more of an issue here. A Ghanaian student, who wishes to remain anonymous, comments that it is society's labelling of these relationships that cause people to be curious. People look for something that doesn't necessarily exist. Indeed, a man from Kenya remarks at how in the East of Africa such phrases as 'inter-racial' do not really exist by virtue of there being so many mixed couples.

Are South Africans then wearing down the tyres on an old mindset? Are we born and bred on what our parents told us? Is this it? A South African student's response to these questions was: "My mother always said if we were all meant to be together, we would all be the same colour."

So it was them, the evil! They strapped you to that floral sofa and forced you to listen to the age-old tale of the birds and the bees. When they were done they made it quite clear that bumblebees and honeybees, well, they don't mix. Shock horror! You were brainwashed by your own parents. How dare they, right? Wrong! We hate to be the ones to break your black and white haze and welcome you to Technicolor. Sometimes our parents are wrong. You are the one who has to make the choice now. We can all live and be together. Different eyes, different colour, different accents and behaviours don't make anyone different from anyone else. We may look different in appearance but inside we are all just flesh, bones and palpitating organs.

We say jump in! There are more fish in the sea than you originally thought. In fact, you are spoilt for choice. It's like the Sun City food court: massive selection, massive taste. What are you waiting for? Get off the hamster wheel, hell, throw a stick in the works. Go out there and try something new.



Ten years of democracy in the rainbow nation, yet love is still a colour that guides couples to happiness

Continued from pg 5 >



"One's cell phone is no longer safe unless locked away."

(Treven Clunnie, BAcc)

6



"It's just petty crime, isn't it? At least we're not getting murdered, right?"

(Adam Jones, BEco)

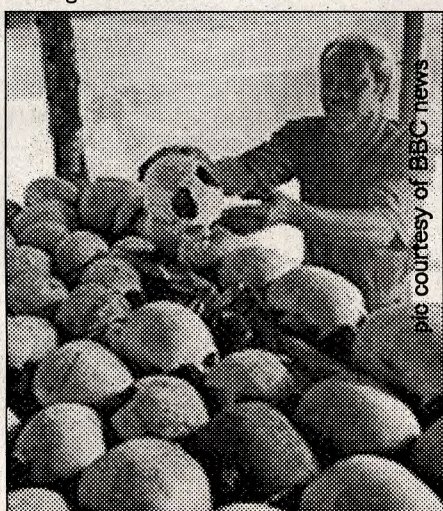
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Ghosts from Rwanda's past, revisited

by Sean Naidoo

April 2004 saw the world commemorating the tenth anniversary of the end of genocide in Rwanda. During the genocide, about 800 000 Tutsis and Hutus were killed by Hutu militias after the assassination of an ethnic Hutu leader. People were murdered, raped, tortured and burnt alive in a killing spree that lasted approximately 100 days.

Flora Mukampore is one of the survivors of the genocide but she doesn't know whether she is lucky as she lost 17 members of her family in one day. She clearly remembers how Hutu gunmen entered the church where she lived and started to butcher her family members.

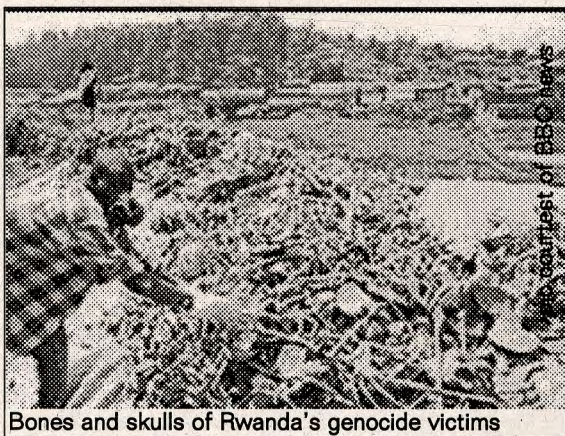


Pieces of human bodies started to fall on her as she crouched under a table. She was so drenched in blood that her family's killers thought that she had been slaughtered as well. One of the gunmen thought he saw her breathe and asked: "Is this thing still alive?"

Survivors of the 1994 genocide were able to bury their loved ones this month and give them ritual burials years after they were murdered. All the unidentified bodies have been stored in a memorial site that was built to honour the victims. President Paul Kagame held a special lighting ceremony at the memorial and was assisted by Cynthia and Sonia Dushime who witnessed their parent's heads being chopped off. Secretary General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan said: "We must remember the victims, the hundreds of women, men and children abandoned to systematic slaughter."

Rwanda continues to grapple with the consequences of the genocide and their road to recovery has not been an easy one. They have asked countries around the world to send back people whom they believe played a crucial part in the genocide so that they can appear before the tribunal that has started to investigate the genocide. So committed is the government to investigating what happened during the genocide that they have set up "gacaca" or village courts which go to villages around the country prosecuting perpetrators.

Even though they have not fully recovered from the genocide, the people of Rwanda have promised that never again will they let their country deteriorate into a place of bloodshed, terror and total disregard for human life.

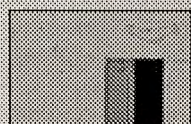


Bones and skulls of Rwanda's genocide victims

Africa in focus

Compiled by Patience Hlongwane

- A Zambian court has ordered the release of former president Frederick Chiluba. He was released on charges of stealing \$4-million in state funds, after the prosecution dropped the case.
- The United Nations has started a campaign to disarm 45 000 rebels in Liberia
- 8 Internet users in Tunisia were jailed for 26 years, for promoting terrorist attacks via the Internet.
- Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos is to make an official visit to the US to make plans for Angola's first democratic election.
- Studies in Uganda show that people who are HIV positive contract malaria more easily than others.
- An ancient slab bearing identical inscriptions, in three languages, has been unearthed in the Nile Delta.



Profile: Zambia

Compiled by Kate Fitzgerald

- **Capital:** Lusaka
- **President:** Levy Mwanawasa
- **Population:** 10, 421, 000
- **Area:** 752, 614 km²
- **Currency:** Zambian Kwacha (ZMK)
- **Main exports:** Copper, minerals and tobacco
- **Languages:** English, Tonga, Bemba and Lozi
- **Religion:** Christianity, Hinduism and Islam
- **Average life expectancy:** 50.2 years
- **Average annual income:** \$906 USD (2001) pa
- **Internet Domain:** zm
- **International dialling code:** +260

African athletes to watch at 2004 Olympic Games

With the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens slowly creeping up, the African Affairs team has decided to take a look at African athletes whom we believe will bring home gold medals. In the next few editions of *Activate*, **Tenesia Naidoo** and **Audra Mahlong** will profile numerous athletes who have the potential to catapult Africa into the global sporting spotlight.

Name: Hestrie Cloete (South Africa)

Event: High Jump

Why: In 2000 she won a silver medal in the Sydney Olympics.

In 2001 she won a gold medal in Edmonton at the World Championships.

In 2002 she once again won a gold medal at the Commonwealth Games in Manchester, as well as at the Athletics World Cup in Madrid. She reached a South African and African record of 2.05m.

She is currently the South African, African and Commonwealth titleholder.



Food Crisis In Lesotho

by Jenny Pettenger

The mountain kingdom of Lesotho has in recent months suffered a serious agricultural crisis. There was a drastic reduction in planted area this season, and large areas of high potential land were left uncultivated. The lack of seed, fertilizer, and tractor or ox-power due to poverty and lack of access to credit led to lower plantings all over the country last year.

About 700 000 people are directly affected by this food shortage. In a country that already has stifling AIDS statistics, the food shortage takes on an entirely new dimension. People who are infected are often too sick to farm their own crops. As a result, the crops do not yield as much food. In turn, infected people do not receive proper nourishment, making them more susceptible to the ravages of this disease. They grow sicker, and the following year are unable, once again, to work in the fields.

James Ntema, of the World Food Programme, spoke about the possibilities for international aid. He said: "We have appealed for emergency status, but Lesotho receives emergency funds every year. They are not willing to give us more."

Lesotho continues to seek other forms of international aid, and all hope for a better harvest next year so that the country can provide some resistance to all its other social problems.

Is it just me or is everyone else freezing their mielles off? Winter has descended on G-town in the usual way - fast and furious! Being a true sun-baby this is not my favourite time of year - out with the flannel PJ's, hot water bottles and extra duvets. I also find myself longing for res where heating is free. We have a ban on all heating appliances in our house - electricity is just too expensive and we all choose to spend our money on wine and spar sandwiches rather than electricity bills.

But that's it! That's how far it has to go. The extra duvet and blanket while watching TV is all the stress involved in the summer to winter conversion. Maybe you'll succumb to a chocolate flavoured quick pick-me-up but that's on a bad day.

So why do the Brits market a range of mood-lifting gimmicks to make those long icy nights not seem so bad? I guess the gloomy days and howling gales are too much even for them.

Yes, my sunshine-soaked Africans, the Brits have to buy a better mood. The products I question range from St John's Wort, which contains anti-depressant qualities, to the daylight simulator, a light bulb that plugs into any ordinary bayonet socket and emits 'bright white light', equal to daylight at noon. Yes it is that sad. I mean, it makes sense that many of our body's processes are dependent on light's natural rhythm, so when all we see is artificial light the body struggles to function at a healthy level. But really, I shed a tear for all those trapped in the darkness that is winter in the northern regions. Shame!

On top of these are the other favourite stimulants to help the proverbial Brit cope with the season shift. Essential oils provide the scent of summer which evokes a cheerful mood when inhaled. Some companies are even resorting to releasing these oils in the office ventilation systems to up the mood at work. Just in case this makes you feel too much like a lab rat, you can now buy (for approx 12 pounds) a portable canister of pure oxygen with a detachable mask. This is literally a breath of fresh air in a can.

Pollution in big cities like London and upper-class Hollywood is so bad that oxygen bars are springing up so that people can lift their energy levels without the hassle of having to carry that cumbersome canister around. Am I on crazy pills or does this feel slightly over the top?

Anyway, if you're feeling SAD (Seasonal Affective Disorder - very common in the U.K. and big North American cities) grab yourself a slab of chocolate, my personal favourite. Yes, this food for the Gods contains the substance pheylethamine which is produced naturally by the brain and is believed in scientific circles to raise the levels of the mood-enhancing chemical Serotonin and endorphins... and it doesn't cost the equivalent of R120.

Zimsoc - The future looks bright.

by Aretha Phiri

Having worked extremely hard to repair the damage done by last year's committee, Zimsoc (The Zimbabwean Students Society) appears to be on its way to recovery. The new committee has, by way of fundraising and help from the SRC, managed to effectively reduce its previous debts to a manageable figure. The society's positive attitude has been rewarded with approximately R24 000 in sponsorships from various organizations.

Although a dominantly Zimbabwean society, Zimsoc opens its doors to other nationalities in an effort to stop what its secretary, Ottilia Gadzikwa, calls "the negativity towards Zimbabwe and Zimbabweans". Zimsoc, according to her, is not a political society but a cultural one, intent on welcoming and teaching all those interested about Zimbabwean music, language and lifestyle. The society also seeks to bring together individuals of other nationalities who would like to be associated with the vibrancy of Zimbabweans on campus.

This year the society aims to become more involved with charity work. They have already adopted The Raphael Home as their charity and hope to work closely with other societies in this quest. "If Zimsoc's present attitude is a representation of Zimbabwe and Zimbabweans then we are optimistic about its [the community] future", says Gadzikwa.



Patriot Games

Justine Cottrell

I asked Christos Katsaitis and Vinny da Vinci what they thought of the Grahamstown crowd and the acclaimed DJs said, "They're great. They're educated. They know the music." This, my dear friends, was at the anticipated House Explosion gig some of us had been obsessing about for ages. The Drill Hall dance floor was empty. The DJs continued at 'The Suite' and the gathering consoled me while serving to confirm my belief that Rhodes students, despite their metropolitan origins, are sad souls left behind by the rest of the country and without the will to open up to new things. This shocked me as I had always believed that Grahamstown is the capital of acceptance. Clearly, I was mistaken. It is my belief then that Vinny and Christos gave me 'media-ready' answers, and not their honest opinion of what the Grahamstown crowd is really like. I know quite a bit about the Grahamstown crowd - I've been a part of them for a while now - and what I know is that they don't care much for the uncommon. What I mean is that they are entrapped by a whole lot of apathy - especially with regard to the arts and raw culture of this town. I mean, this is a crowd that leaves the club/pub at 3am. And this same crowd hardly gives the light of day to local artists. Local bands have been successful enough, but the rest of the creatives to whom I dedicate this column are all left to obscurity. Anton Scholtz is one such creative. An archaeologist with a Masters Degree, he has dedicated the rest of his days to art, painting all sorts of things - obviously inspired by archaeology, landscapes, human evolution and so forth.

Q: Are you originally from Grahamstown?
A: No, I was born in Cape Town and grew up in Stellenbosch - studying and working. I've been in Grahamstown for the past four years.

Q: What are your thoughts on Grahamstown?

A: Exceptional place. My first year was reclusive. I have since met very stimulating people, clever and the nightlife is just as stimulating.

Q: Your thoughts on the appreciation of the arts in Grahamstown?

A: Plenty of music, writing, performance and so on, but visual art receives little attention. There are very few paintings around and this town could be more vibrant. Murals, for instance, would be great!

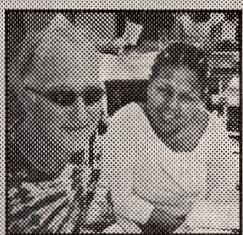
Q: You have said to me that you work on several paintings at once. How do you do it?

A: For one, I've never been as productive as I am right now and this is all because of the house I live in. My studio is a huge loft and the space has done a lot for my work. I am able to preserve the message of one painting and differentiate. See, within a few hours, one painting develops its own unique identity and thus leads the rest of the way.

Q: What elements of art do you think are the most important?

A: Colour is amazing - the change of colour in a landscape changes the whole atmosphere and you can use it to establish links and thus create meaning.

Check out some of Anton's work at the Red Café.



Silent Utterances
 Olerato Moreosele - Arts & Culture Editor

Wine tasting - it's a cultural thing

by Verashni Pillay

Did you know that Rhodes has the most drinking per Capita?! your friend confides, with the air of one in possession of greatly superior knowledge. Actually you did know that, it being one of the most quoted facts about our little town space - often accompanied with a perverse sense of pride. Well, whatever the dubious implications of that statement, we can certainly be proud of Rhodes performance at the inter-varsity wine tasting competition last Saturday, the 24th of April. No, this was not an opportunity to get trashed, though perhaps that was inevitable for most of the finalists. ("After a while it all just tastes like red wine" one finalist woefully said shaking his head, eyeing the array before him). A rather posh affair, it involved the wine-tasting societies from Wits and UCT coming to battle tasting skills with Rhodes' own connoisseurs. For all you Crackling and Tassies reprobates this is a whole other level, where colour, scent and aftertastes come into play in a delightful game of guessing. Being the token I-haven't-touched-alcohol-in-two-years amateur, I tried my best to keep up with the Chairman of the UCT society's attempts to educate me.

The competition consisted of a marking sheet where one had to rate the scent, colour and taste of different wines. Contestants had to take a stab at the possible type of wine too. "If it's white, that's a good start," another UCTer wryly informed us. Three white wines were offered followed by three red wines. The nine finalists were chosen, and - shock and horror! One of my fellow amateurs had somehow managed to get into second position. Dominic White, SRC Vice President assured the rest of us that it was pure fluke, and went on to the finals confident he wouldn't win.

In the end the Rhodes tongue won the day - or night at it were. In first place was Brian Fox, former Chairperson of the society, and in third, Ralph Pieper, another RU wine-tasting society member. And second place? Well naturally this story ends Disney-like with the underdog coming out tops... or second at least. Congratulations to Dom for inexplicably beating the top student tasters at two of the biggest Universities in South Africa with no previous training... must be that Capita thing.



Mox set to rock, hard rock, hard.

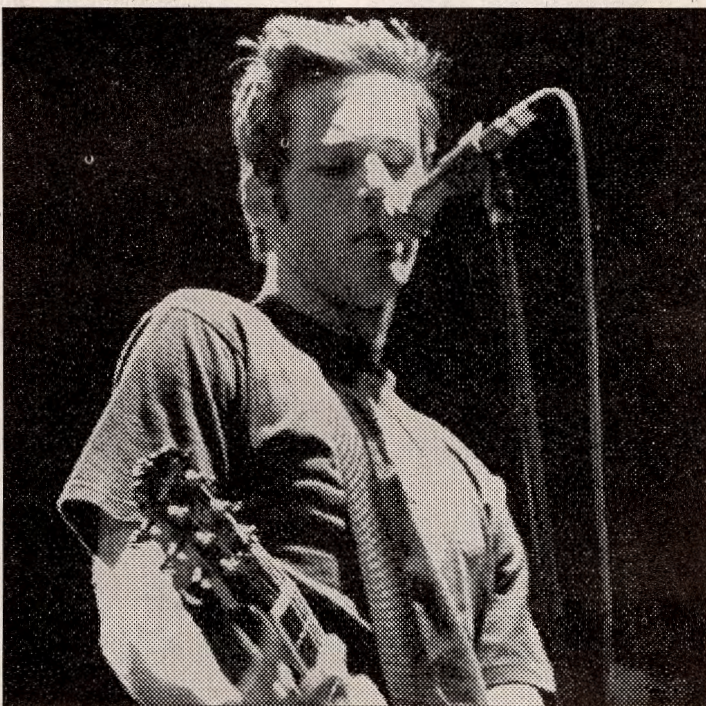
by Peni Dodo

Mox started jamming together four years ago but have only really started playing gigs together this year. The band has gained a wide following and promises to take the local rock scene by storm.

They have played at Champs, Taphuis and opened the Hard Rock session at the Old Gaol. Apart from their great love for music, they are avid fans of Anime, the Chinese and Japanese form of violent cartoons. Another of the band's pastimes is playing the card game, Magic.

The band that has been influenced by the likes of KoRn, Def Tones and Tool, consists of Andrew AKA Filthy on guitar, Gareth AKA Omo on drums, Warren AKA Texas as the lead singer and Rob on guitar. Andrew, who writes the lyrics for the band hooked up with Gareth and Warren, all ex Smuts boys (please hold all judgement on this until you give Mox a listen.). Rob later joined the band and Mox was born.

So, if Hard Rock is your scene watch out for posters of gigs and check this band out because these guys have spunk.



by Bianca Camminga

Wang, Worm and Ghomez. If these names mean nothing to you what boulder have you been shivering under? The PE trio, also known as the Finkelsteins, have been taking the South African rock music scene by storm. They recently embarked on one of the most ambitious tours that this country has ever seen by a local band - or anyone for that matter. The Jules Verne-inspired, 'A hundred gigs in eighty days', will be touching down all over South Africa, including a stop-off in Namibia. This tour will see guest bands join the Finks on the road as they travel through the country spreading their infectious brand of pop punk. The man cooking up the ideas behind the scenes is the band's manager Raphael Domalik. He believes it will give the band a chance to see some of the smallest towns in South Africa and meet their growing legions of fans. The Finkelsteins' success ranges from MTV coverage, advertising deals and Chinese investors and now includes insane tours. What else can be expected next from a band that has a reputation for trying anything?

The Unspeakable Story

by Moagisi Letlhaku

If the title doesn't grab your attention and whisk you away, then the story behind the captivating documentary sure will. It was staged at this year's graduation ceremony, just one of the many stages around the country and the world that this remarkable work of art has graced.

The Unspeakable Story was first written and staged in 1995. Its writer and choreographer is our very own drama Head of Department, Gary Gordon. It is a story based on an early traumatic experience in the life of the surrealist painter, Rene Magritte. His mother committed suicide by throwing herself into a river and disappeared. Her body was recovered 17 days later, a kilometer down the river, from an industrial polluted river. The dance play looks at the development of the artist and how he comes to terms with his childhood trauma.

Gary Gordon says, "The magic of theatre is the most important thing to me" and that is what inspired him to choreograph the play. As Gordon put it, "The Unspeakable Story deals with a lot of human issues and allows for imagination." In this way, this original play, with its original musical score, communicates quite artistically to its audience and allows them to relate to some aspect of the play.

As mentioned earlier, this epic production has graced many stages such as in France, Botswana, Cape Town, Stellenbosch, Johannesburg, Knysna and Grahamstown. It won the 1996 FNB Vita Award for the Most Outstanding Presentation of an Original Contemporary Dance Work and Gordon was nominated for the EMS Vita Choreographer of the Year. The dance play will also be staged during the National Arts Festival, so catch it there. Check the press for details.

The Unspeakable Story is definitely a complete theatrical experience and if movement be the flow of life, then, dance on.

Jules Verne and the punk band that escaped PE

"I wanna be a pirate..."



ZERO TOLERANCE: Police bulldoze pirated CDs

by Peter Barlow and Bianca Camminga

Every so often, journalists get lucky - even entertainment journalists. JSK received information from a confidential source (sounds good, doesn't it) that police were raiding people's cars. Not for drugs, but for pirated music. As it turns out, it wasn't quite as dramatic as that, but the police and the government are indeed starting to crack down.

Some facts first. The definition of music piracy: "The unauthorised duplication of original recording material." One in every three CDs sold around the world is pirated for commercial reasons. South Africa is among the top 20 countries where music piracy is estimated to make up to 50% of music sales. Unfortunately for copy-cats, this may be changing.

The South African government is now taking a much more hard-line approach to piracy. Their bark has now found some bite with criminal charges racking up in courts around the country against offenders as young as 14 years old. Cases have been opened against nine teenagers in Gauteng alone. If convicted, they could end up being tried in a criminal court. That's how serious the government is about eradicating piracy. As for the police, catching those who pirate music has not, in the words of one police spokesman, "become a priority focus... as there is no national directive on the issue." However, the Department of Arts and Culture and the Legal Aid Board recently joined forces, and contracted two new attorneys who will solely handle infringements on music artists' rights.

As in most things, it often ends up as a money issue. One 16-year-old pirate stated that he earns up to R4000 selling fake material, and believed that there was no reason to go to school if he was earning tax-free cash. Charles Kuhn, the MD of Gallo Records, said: "People think that the music industry's profits are huge, but they are not. Very few artists go on to sell CDs in any significant quantity. Perhaps only one in twenty recording acts can ever be thought of as successful. Those are the risks that the industry takes." Each year the local South African music industry loses about R350 million to piracy, and as a result, artists such as Mandoza, TKZee and Bongo Maffin become the victims. Legendary South African artist, Yvonne Chaka Chaka, is despondent about the state of the South African music industry. "There is nothing we can do. They [the police] can only destroy whatever they confiscate but people need to be told that it's wrong to buy stuff that is not authentic," says Chaka Chaka.

In response to the loss of revenue, Musica has cut their prices by 30% in attempt to win back consumers. But the real question is, will this work? Julian Howard, a recording representative from Gamma records, said: "We lowered our prices to meet the price of the pirates. They lowered theirs, we lowered ours. You can't fight them like that."

The question the public is asking is this: why have a CD writer if you can't copy CDs? Why have the option if it's illegal? And why then are certain music stores selling writable CDs over the counter? The question that the music industry is asking in response to this, in the words of the "material-girl" Madonna, "What the fuck do you think you are doing?"

Movie Review Monster

by Bryce McNamara

The much-lauded *Monster* is based on the true-life story of Aileen Wuornos (Charlize Theron); a prostitute turned serial killer after being violently assaulted by one of her clients. As she transforms from hunted to hunter, Aileen befriends a much younger and rather naïve lesbian named Selby (Christina Ricci), and the two soon become romantically involved. Selby looks up to Aileen as a seemingly strong and independent figure, while Aileen depends on Selby as a lover and companion, and relishes in being able to provide for Selby.

Although many people see Aileen Wuornos as the titular 'monster', this movie tells her story from a somewhat compassionate point of view, with director and writer Patty Jenkins focusing on the traumatic events in Aileen's life that led up to her highway-side killing spree. Jenkins depicts Aileen as an emotionally and psychologically troubled woman, a result of her dysfunctional and abusive family circumstances as a child and her hapless career choice as a prostitute.

Of course, it is Charlize Theron's most convincing performance ever as a butch bisexual serial-killer, and her physical transformation from hot to not that earned her a Best Actress Oscar. The critical acclaim surrounding this movie had prepared me for a new-age *Silence of the Lambs*, however, despite Theron's admirable performance; the film was nothing short of a disappointment. It chronicles Wuornos' murders in the late eighties and early nineties rather accurately, as it does accurately portray her social life and alcoholism, but this movie lacks suspense, thrill or any twists whatsoever.

However, perhaps this is a bit much to ask of such a factually accurate movie, and regardless of the disappointment factor, I would recommend that one takes a look at this movie, if only to gain insight on the life and psyche of a truly prolific and disturbed, but also incredibly human, serial killer.

@@@ out of 5



jsk

Just Say Know Gig Guide

by Margot Knight

Second term is well on its way and there's nothing better to do than to take a night off your heavy workload and party before exams kick in and the Rat is officially declared a wasteland. Take a look at the various things to do and take your pick... there are so many choices, you don't have any excuse not to check out the different scenes of G-Town nightlife these next two weeks.

Friday 7th May

- There will be a house party at The Suite with an RMR and guest DJ - no word who yet. There most likely won't be any cover charge here (a rare event at the club, which tends to breed exclusivity) so make the most of it.

Saturday 8th May

- Be sure not to miss great local talent with Bubbahoons and new band Evolver at Taphjuis.
- For a change in music style, a local guest R&B and hip-hop DJ will be playing at Suite.

Friday 14th May

- Once again proving that they are the prime venue for local bands, Taphjuis is hosting Breach, which promises to be a massive gig. Be there.

Saturday 15th May

- The Suite will be big, with an entertaining night of hip-hop, possibly with DJ Bionic and Max Normal (unconfirmed at the time of going to the press). There will be cover charge, but it will definitely be worth it for all the hip-hop heads out there.
- Switchback will be at Taphjuis, so pop in for some new talent if you aren't into the hip-hop scene

Thursday 20th May

- Bubbahoons are back at Taphjuis - again. No more details as yet but you can be sure there will be other local bands supporting.

Friday 21st May

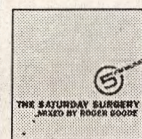
- Don't miss a great night with Cypher, Bubbahoons and Hollowscene, all performing at Taphjuis.

CD Reviews



R&B Hits 6 - Various Artists

Compilation CDs are usually patchy. There will always be one song that everyone likes, and the rest will be strictly average. This CD is no exception, but fortunately it has more than one 'favourite' song. There are songs for just about everybody on it, featuring artists such as R.Kelly and Missy Elliot, as well as Justin Timberlake's hit song, *Senorita*. For the patriots, this album will make you proud as it features the home-grown talents of Danny K and Pop Idols' Bianca. Altogether, a very well compiled CD, and so a secure buy. - Ian Blunt @@@@ out of 5



Roger Goode - The Saturday Surgery

Roger Goode once said that "Every dog gets his day, but the night belongs to the pussycats". This mantra is well expressed in his new album *The Saturday Surgery*. Surgeon Goode has mixed up an evocative selection of light, funky and jungle house tunes that will bring an electric fiesta into your headspace. The album is endorsed by 5fm, so if commercial music isn't your 'thing' beware. However, it features names like Percy Filtch and Ritmo, who blend soulful lyrics and exotic instrumentals with a precision that makes this pussycat of an album an essential addition to any dance fan's collection. - Lauren Wentzel @@@@ out of 5



Anke - By Heart

Idols II winner Anke's debut album, *By Heart*, is just plain horrible. It's a neatly assembled piece of unoriginal pop-formula garbage, complete with enough "oooh baby's" to make your stomach turn. Anke and her producers have failed to do anything remotely inspiring with her talent.

Her cover of Scarlet's 1995 hit, *Independent Love Song*, is the only track worth listening to. The rest is pop-tart trash that not even Madonna would get away with. Looking and sounding like an Idol just isn't enough, and the best thing about this album is the R99.95 you'll save by not buying it. - Clayton Swanepoel @ out of 5



A Perfect Circle - Thirteenth Step

This latest album from Circle takes a while to get into with the slow opening song, *The Package*. It is an acquired taste but those who are fans of the previous *Mer De Noms* or even Tool's *Lateralus* will appreciate the album's atmospheric, ominous sound. The mellow trance-inducing guitars, subdued percussion and expressive lyrics give it meaning and soul. The album does mellow out a bit, but is in no way less intense. If you enjoyed their previous work then *Thirteenth Step* is a lighter, more compelling and enchanting listen. - Megan Geldenhuys @@@@ out of 5

Top 20 CDs going for R99.95 or less
All new releases, like Dido, Norah Jones, Linkin Park and the 2004 Grammy Nominees.

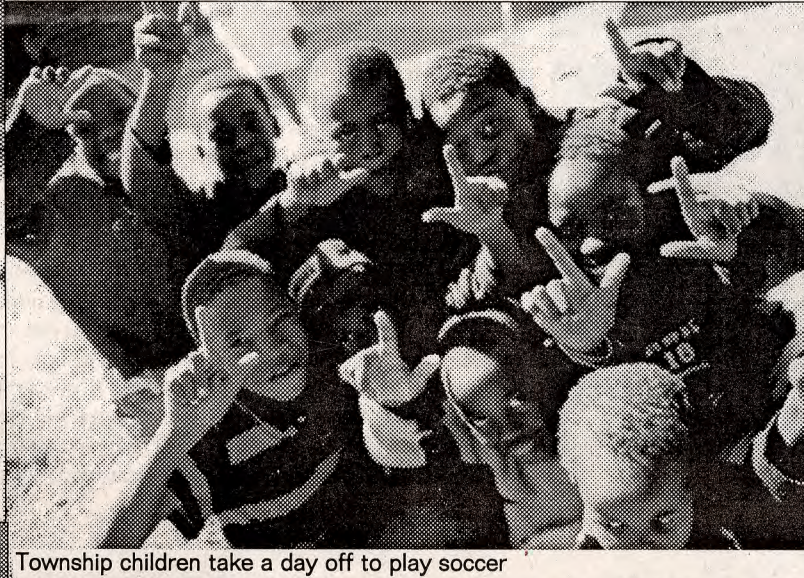
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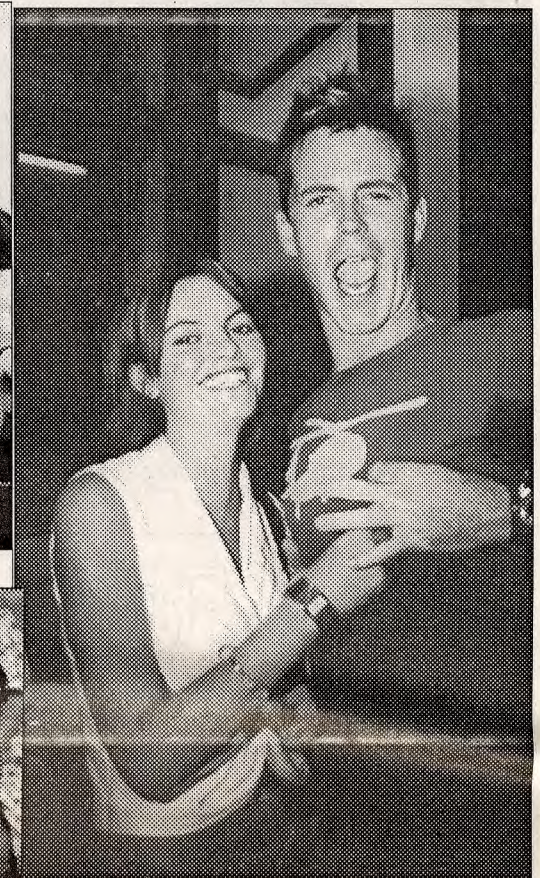
On the 27th of April, South Africa celebrated Freedom Day. Activate staff and photographers decided to do the same. There are many different ways to express freedom. What's yours?



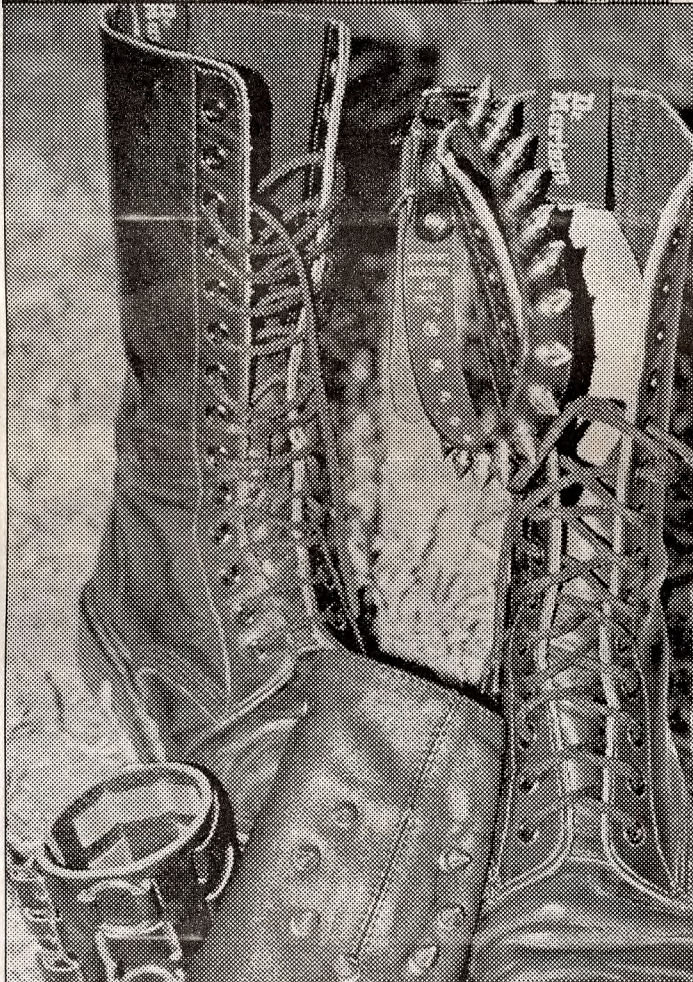
Lauren Clifford-Holmes chooses to use her license for artistic expression



Township children take a day off to play soccer



Activate editor chooses to celebrate her freedom by pinching celebs nipples



Erin Veldsman shows that we have the freedom to wear and look how we want



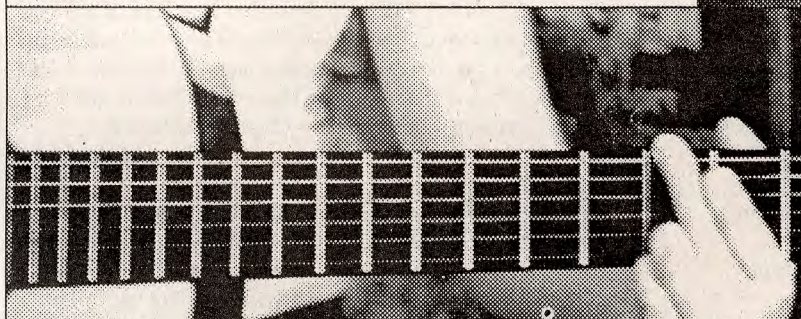
Rhodes students don purple and do what they do best



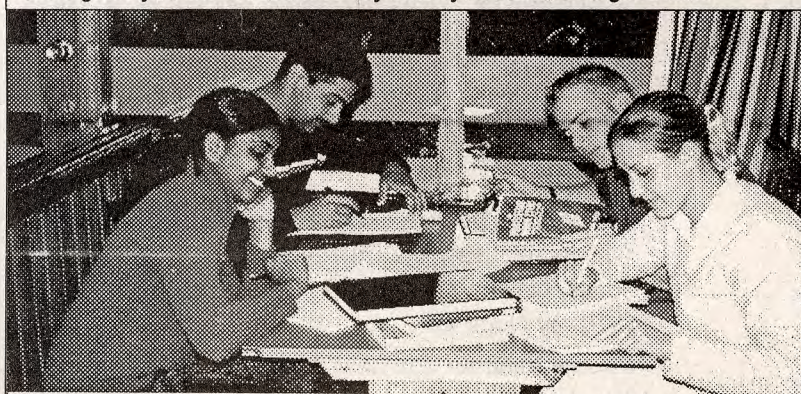
Life through a lense. Photography has always been a popular medium of expression. pic Laura Cooke



Freedom of the dance- expressing your soul with your body



Music gives you the freedom to say what you want, to a good tune



Building on knowledge and having access to free information. pic Alex Westcott



We now have the freedom to feel comfortable in our own skin



Pics editor finds a floppy hat and like minded friends

Health Suite Sweat Shop launched



The sweat shop will be bringing new life to the gym

by Michael Salzwedel

The Health Suite recently acquired something it has been sorely missing for a long time: a place where students and other gym-goers can freshen up, have a bite to eat or something to drink, and even treat themselves to a massage.

James Ball, Carmen Moorhouse, Kerry Wallace and Charles Atuahene have collectively started up a business to provide just this, and they've aptly named it The Sweat Shop. Located on the lawns directly outside the Health Suite, the mobile shop is open from 06:30-07:30, 12:30-1:30 and 16:00-19:00 every day and sports bean bags, posters, music and signboards with interesting articles and photographs to create an energetic student vibe.

Launched last Wednesday, the shop has been warmly received by gym-goers, and according to the company's CEO, Ball, many people have been commenting how something of this nature has been needed

for so long and how The Sweat Shop has filled the gap perfectly.

In addition to refreshments, The Sweat Shop sells its own range of active gear, which will "ensure that the customer looks and feels great before, during and after working out," Ball added.

Moorhouse and Wallace both have extensive experience in the Health and Fitness industry and work as instructors in the gym, and are therefore excellently suited to cater for the needs and wants of gym-goers.

They will also be offering massages in the near future at a rate of around R30 for 15 minutes or R60 for 30 minutes, a service sure to grab the interest and support of many.

Thanks to its portability, The Sweat Shop will be present at all major sporting events around campus, with the Founders Challenge this Saturday being no exception.

Zim soccer students wallop SA counterparts

by Mandla Masingi

It was a warm Freedom Day on the 27th of April when Zimbabwe beat SA 2-1 at the King Field soccer ground. This was the second victory for Zimbabwe since the two teams - made up of Rhodes students - first met some years ago. The game was regarded as a big derby because of the fierce rivalry between the two teams, as well as the fact that both teams had players from the Rhodes first team. This made the game even more fascinating as both teams wanted to prove a point.

It was the SA team who dominated possession in the first ten minutes, although they were not able to fashion any clear-cut opportunities in this period. SA had their first real chance in the 4th minute when Ayanda 'Ace' Ndinise's shot was blocked by the Zimbabwean goalkeeper who seemed to have an easy task in denying his

shot finding the net.

In the 16th minute, Zimbabwean striker Tariro 'Tari' Mudzayi opened the score, which made it 1-0. SA tried to make some moves, but Tari was as slippery as soap and scored his second goal in the 20th minute. A minute later the SA team came desperately close to scoring when Ayanda Ndinise received a through pass from Andile Mayekiso, but his shot was blocked by the on-form goalkeeper. The South African students were 2-0 down during half time.

Eric Maboza gave SA something to talk about when he scored in the very last minute of the match to make the score 2-1. The SA captain Dumisa Sihawu complained about his defence after the match: "We were not organised at the back and the fact that we were lacking two key players didn't help our cause. In our next game we promise to win".

Touch Rugby tournament kicks off

by Jenna Viljoen

The first warm up games of the Powerade Touch Rugby Tournament took place at the Great Field on the evening of Wednesday the 21st of April 2004 which enabled those teams who will be competing in this event to familiarise themselves with the rules as well as scope out the competition. The tournament games officially commenced on Wednesday the 28th and it is guaranteed to be a prominent weekly event. Powerade, advertised as South Africa's leading sports drink, are eminent sponsors in a large arena of sports played in and around the country. Rhodes Touch Rugby now boasts their backing.

There was a considerable turnout considering the fresh weather and both the girls and guys alike eagerly received the event. Various games were played concurrently so

there was action to be had at all times. As a requirement during the period of the game there had to be at least three girls on the field at all times and there were a maximum of ten team members allowed, meaning there was consistent substitution. At the warm up games there were some interesting choices of apparel, namely eye-catching fluorescent spandex, definitely amusing for those watching! However, at the league premier games it was 'serious game faces' on, as the intention became running circles around the opposition. The music provided a vibey atmosphere lending its energy to players and non-players alike.

Those teams that came out top of the log for the week were smiling victoriously while the underdogs went home to plan a new game strategy to pick up their performance for next week.

Sour grapes at Imola

by Shane Torr

As the drivers took their slow-down lap after the San Marino GP, Juan Pablo Montoya "applauded" Michael Schumacher for his race victory. Or so we thought. When the top three drivers, Schumacher, Button and Montoya went to the post-race interview it all became clear. Montoya was a sour man. The "over-taking move" he made on Schumi backfired and he was forced onto the grass. "It is very disappointing to see racing like that," said the Columbian. Whereas Schumi was his normal professional self, Montoya was on a mission to slate the German, blaming him for his trip to the grass. It is hard to believe that Schumi was the only one at fault, because Montoya had put his teammate's life in danger by closing the gap and pushing him onto the grass and yet claimed it was "racing for position."

People have said that Montoya is a future F1 champion, which is hard to believe, as he doesn't seem to have the maturity and professionalism that Schumi, Fernando Alonso and Kimi Raikkonen have.

With the improvement of Jenson Button and the BAR team continuing, drivers have started to watch their backs as Button competes at the front end of the grid. Ross Brawn of Ferrari said that when Michael Schumacher retires it could be a strong possibility that Jenson Button takes over the number one status at Ferrari. Brawn added: "When you're in the right environment and have the right people behind you who believe in you, it raises your game." If Button moves to Ferrari he could be as strong as Schumi is now and could be the best possibility for a replacement. Alonso and Raikkonen have also been linked to Ferrari as possible replacements for the champion. As Ferrari continue scouting for replacements for

Schumi after he retires, which isn't likely to be any time soon, Williams are experiencing problems with recruiting replacements for Montoya and Ralf Schumacher at the end of this year. Antonia Pizzonia, test driver for Williams, has said: "Ralf's leaving makes me very happy, because now I have an opportunity to drive for the best team on the grid." If Ralf leaves at the end of the year, it is impossible to think that Pizzonia could replace him, because he had a disastrous debut for Jaguar in 2003, which lasted only six months. Are Williams having problems with their driver line-up for 2005?

This coming Sunday the Formula One circus moves to Spain. Schumi will be watching his back as the performances of Jenson Button and Fernando Alonso grow more intimidating. But it goes without saying that Schumi and his Italian team will be the ones to beat, having scored 64 points out of a possible 72.

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The pressures of the latter stages of the Super 12 have evidently been quite intense recently, with a couple of our players getting themselves into a bit of trouble. But who would have expected that Corné Krige of all people would have found it necessary to involve himself in not one but two headbutting incidents when the Stormers met the Chiefs two Fridays ago? In most of our minds he is a fine example of what a rugby player should be - of how a rugby player should behave - but his rash behaviour has landed him an eight week ban and hence cut short the rest of his Super 12 campaign. This has been his last Super 12 stint: at the end of the season he is migrating northwards to play the twilight years of his rugby career for Northampton in England. Not exactly the end to a Super 12 career anyone would take pride in telling their grandchildren about! Krige has represented the Stormers for the past six years, captaining the side for the majority of that period, and now is surely feeling sorely embarrassed at this sad, premature and ignominious end. Granted, it is very easy for players to be caught up in the heat of the moment and act impulsively, but as a player with such vast experience and such an outstanding reputation, Krige has certainly surprised and even shocked the rugby world with his vastly uncharacteristic behaviour.

Krige has certainly surprised and even shocked the rugby world with his vastly uncharacteristic behaviour

The fact is that he is out of rugby for eight weeks. What is a little less clear-cut, however, is whether his behaviour was 'mere' recklessness, or if he in fact had malicious intent. Personally, the former seems more likely, the latter usually evidenced only by players with significantly lower standing and regard. Krige has said that "in the heat of battle things happen from time to time", and yes that is a fair thing to say and perhaps he could and should be forgiven for his little lapse of rationality. But no matter how you look at it, Corné Krige's Super 12 campaign is terminally over because he has been banned for eight weeks because he tried to headbutt another player. That is how the end of his career will be remembered. It is similar in a way to the career of cricketer Hansie Cronjé; he too had an exemplary track record before being disgraced out of the game within which he had become such a distinct authority. Maybe Corné's 'crime' was not as serious as Hansie's but they were both captains of their sides playing their game well at one moment, and at the next moment they find themselves gasping for respect and on the receiving end of perhaps disproportionately snide remarks. But as long as sport players are human and society is overly swift in its judgement, sporting perfection with respect to conduct will remain an illusion - strived for by all and attained by nobody. Corné Krige has served SA rugby magnificently and it is a monumental pity that his career here has been ended in a manner as unfortunate and distressing as this.

This Saturday the Stormers take on the Sharks at the Absa Stadium (Kings Park) at 17h00 in what will be the last fixture before the semi-finals. This has the potential to be a tremendously exciting match with a lot at stake for both sides, so don't miss it.



Between the Lines

Michael Salzwedel - Sports Editor

High quality squash at Rhodes Open Tournament

by Cath Lewis

The Ret Butler Rhodes Open Squash Tournament, which was held at Rhodes from the (23rd-25th April) can be said to have been a thorough success. In total, over 80 entrants, both men women and ranging in ability, competed, and enjoyed a true Rhodes-style weekend.

The event began on Friday evening with the first round of matches and was followed by a typical "bad taste" party in the Cowpat. Although most of the top ranked players wisely declined to immerse themselves in the wild party spirit, there was lots of enthusiasm shown by many players and supporters and, as usual, Basil-Anne - the team funnel - was out in full force. Special mention must be made of Sarah "Sherbet" Herbert who outdid everyone else with her bad taste outfit!

Saturday's matches began at 09h00 (a start far too early for some) and continued throughout the day, with matches getting more and more exciting as the competition increased and the opposition grew stronger. The sports bar was Saturday night's venue for a quiet bring-and-braai, which was also well supported. Basil-Anne's absence, however, was somewhat controversial.

Sunday saw the final rounds of squash being played, as well as both the men and ladies' finals at the end of the day. The winner of the ladies section was Anlen Jarman from EP who beat Juannette Le Roux, also from EP, 3-0. The men's final was won by Clinton Leeuw from EP who, in a tense and exhausting match, beat Kelvin Edwards, also from EP, 3-1. Although no Rhodes men featured in



Rhodes hosted some of the country's top squash players recently at the Ret Butler's Open Tournament

the top positions, Kierryn Gendall, last year's winner of the ladies section, lost in the semi-finals. The Rhodes participants were however, definitely streaks ahead of the rest in terms of off-the-court festivities.

On the whole, it was a great weekend, with a good balance of squash and partying for most. Special thanks must go to Tim "Stompie" Hasluck, the tournament director, and Kerry "Maggie" Gilliland (squash club chairperson) for organizing the weekend and for ensuring that everyone was accommodated and that everything ran smoothly.

Also deserving of thanks on behalf of the Rhodes University squash club are all of our sponsors, particularly Ret Butlers Pharmacy. Without their loyal and continued support and sponsorship, tournaments like this would be impossible. Congratulations and thanks to all those involved in the tournament - players, supporters, and organizers, particularly the members of the squash club.

We trust that this has been a good start to the year in terms of the squash calendar, as well as promoting both squash as a sport and Rhodes University.

It's time for the Founders Challenge again

The Founder's Challenge is made by the residents of Founders Hall - the oldest Hall of Rhodes - to the Grahamstown community to take part in a gruelling five-event race. Its aims are to unite and uplift the Grahamstown community through a day of sporting excellence, to promote a Founders' Hall identity and a culture of camaraderie, to inspire a new generation of leaders from the Grahamstown community and to

promote awareness of HIV/AIDS and help surrounding organisations fight the disease. This year's challenge is set to take place this Sunday the 9th of May, with about 30 teams expected to take part. The five constituent events are orienteering, cycling, running, canoeing and swimming. The Orienteering begins and ends on the Kaif Lawns outside the Student Union Building on Rhodes Campus. The Cycling leg takes the Challenge

out of town passing the Military Base and ending at Jameson Dam. The swimming and canoeing legs take place at the dam before the runners make their way back into town to finish at the Kaif Lawns. There will also be a fun run, which will start and finish at the Kaif lawns, the halfway mark being the Grahamstown golf course. Everyone is encouraged to join in on the festivities on Sunday, whether competing or not.

Results round-up



24th April

RUGBY

• Rhodes A vs Hamiltons
Won 70-0

SOCCER

• Campus League
RUWI vs Border Tech
Lost 0-3

TENNIS

• Farmers League
RUI vs Salem I
Won 9-4

25th April

SOCCER

• PEFA League
RUWI vs PE City
Won 12-0

• Campus League
RUMI vs Bortech
Drew 1-1

SA students vs Zimbabwean students
Lost 1-2

BASKETBALL

• RUWI vs UPE Vista A
lost 29-36

• RUW2 vs Vista Blaze A
lost 35-41

26th April

SQUASH

• EP League
RUW3 vs Westview
Won 11-3

S Herbert
Won 3-0

J Calder
Won 3-0



Ruth First won the girls inter-res table tennis recently, with Canterbury claiming second place and Milner and Thomas Pringle tying for third.

Briefs

CRICKET

After a month of top-class cricket, the Standard Bank Pro20 Series came down to a thrilling conclusion when the Eagles beat Eastern Cape by seven runs in the final in East London on Saturday night.

SOCCER

Orlando Pirates gained some measure of pride from an otherwise disappointing season when they defeated their arch rivals and Castle Premiership favourites Kaizer Chiefs 1-0 in a hard fought Soweto derby played at the FNB stadium on Saturday. However, Chiefs are still the favourites to win the championship. They still have a five point lead over second placed Ajax Cape Town at the top of the log.

RUGBY

The Stormers' hopes of semifinal qualification in the Super 12 are still very much alive but not because of anything they did in Christchurch, as they turned in a nightmare second half performance before slumping to a 24-9 defeat to the Crusaders on the weekend. The Stormers lost without garnering a bonus point, yet retain fourth position on the log after the shock defeat suffered by the Waratahs against the Highlanders.

GOLF

Jack Nicklaus and Gary Player, two of golf's biggest names, have been appointed Presidents Cup captains for the second time running. The 2005 match at the Robert Trent Jones Club in Virginia will allow the pair to settle unfinished business after Nicklaus's US team tied with Player's internationals last year in George, South Africa. A playoff between American Tiger Woods and Ernie Els of South Africa to settle the match was abandoned because of fading light.

TENNIS

Former tennis greats Boris Becker, Yannick Noah and Michael Stich have been signed to play in a 'Grand Champions' tournament in February next year, organisers said last week. Negotiations with other players including John McEnroe, Pat Cash, Johan Kriek and Mats Wilander were under way. The tournament will take place from February 4 to 6 at the Cape Town International Convention Centre, which will be transformed into a tennis arena with an imported rubberised surface.

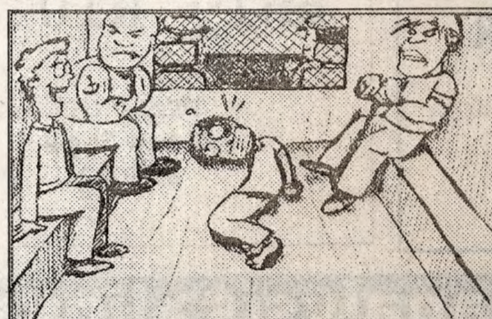
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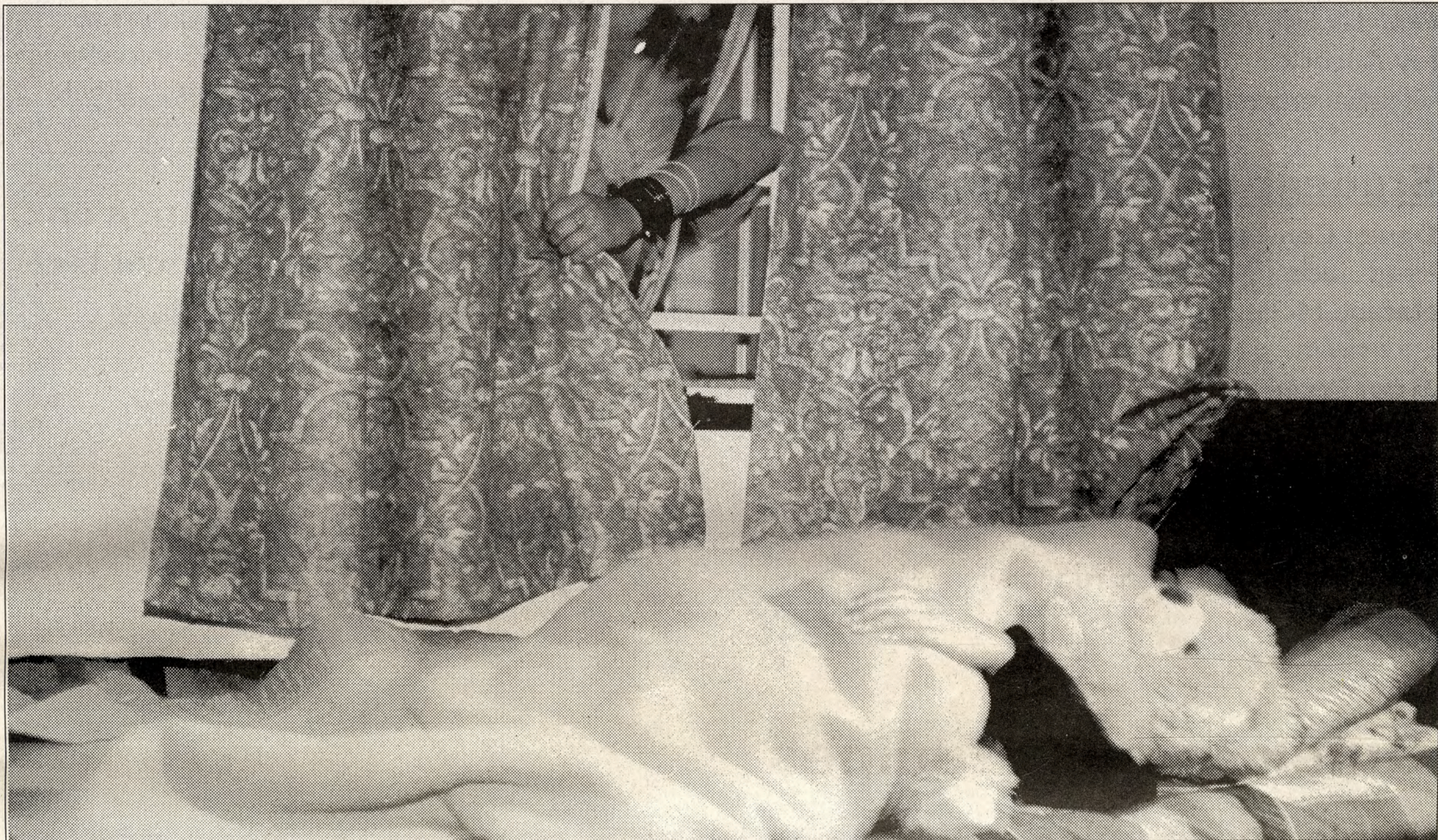
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Cartoon by Matthew Ackermann

For more Matthew Ackermann cartoons visit <http://activate.oc.ru.ac.za>

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ALL ABOUT OPPIDANS



Time to jump ship?

by Haru Mutasa

Digs issues getting you down?

It's been a couple of months and what had initially felt like a good idea has turned out seriously wrong.

The reasons for this are endless:

You can't stand your digs mates, their annoying habits and their insane house rules. Maybe they are just crowding your space?

Or is it the actual digs? You've been robbed an insane number of times you have just about had it. You've had just about enough of your neighbours who secretly wish you weren't there and despise you (maybe justifiably so) for your loud music and raucous house parties.

Whatever the reason, it's time to move out but you just don't know where to begin.

Don't kid yourself and think you can simply walk out of one digs into another. It is not as simple as saying "good bye" and slamming the door on whoever or whatever is driving you away.

Here's an action plan that has worked for some. It is not foolproof but it will lead you in the right direction:

1) What does your lease say? It could be difficult to get out of it this late in the game. Take a copy over to the Legal Aid Clinic in New Street and have them look at

it. They will let you know the legal ramifications of trying to get out of your lease.

2) Once that is sorted inform your landlord of your decision to leave. The earlier you do this the better. This gives them time to find a replacement and put him/her on standby until you have made up your mind. Usually you will have to find someone to replace you - so start looking.

3) For a list of available accommodation give Joy Allcock (the Oppie secretary) a visit. Her details are on the next page. She might even know of people looking for a place to stay in which case you're in luck.

4) Try the estate agents, they may have something

Remember there isn't much out there at the moment in terms of accommodation. Of course the best way to settle any dispute with digs mates is to talk it out before you make any life changing decisions. But if it has to be done, good luck with it!

Digs Evaluation

The Oppidan Union intends to evaluate those digs on its books that the owners would like to have evaluated.

Two Oppidans will evaluate each digs together.

Oppidans who have their own transport are invited to submit applications together with a motivation of not more than 300 words explaining why they would be the best person for the job.

Application forms may be obtained from the Oppidan Secretary at room B46 on the top floor of the Student Union Building.

Those appointed will be remunerated at the rate of R15.00 each per digs. You will be required to cover your own costs.

Please apply in groups of 2 students.

The really-useful stuff guide

Oppidan committee members

Gordon Barker

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Joy Allcock

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Shavonne Randall

g00r1946@campus.ru.ac.za

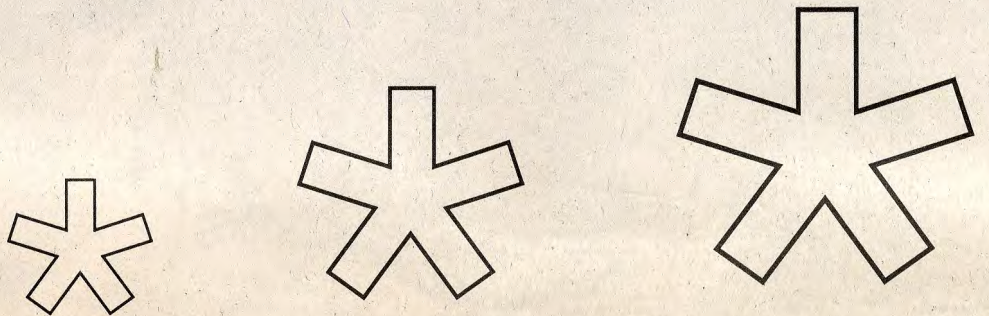
Sakina Nosarka

SRC oppi rep sakina@src.ru.ac.za

The SRC oppi bus

The bus leaves the main library weekdays at 8.30pm and again at 10.30pm. An SRC initiative, the bus takes you right to your doorstep, should you need it.

Students looking for information on digs or general enquiries can contact the oppidan secretary weekdays between 8:30 and 12:45



Quick 'n easy recipes

Apple pecan spice muffins

Especially good for anyone following a gluten or dairy-free diet

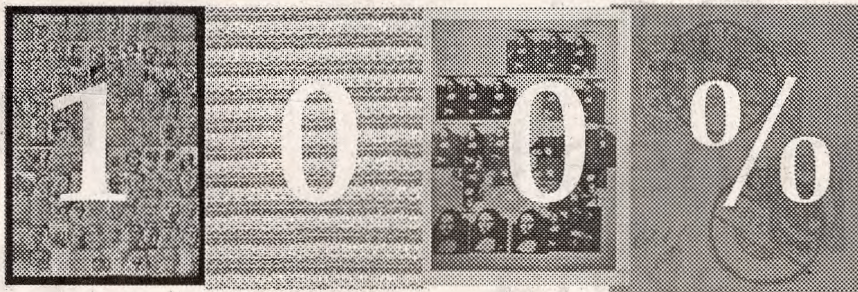
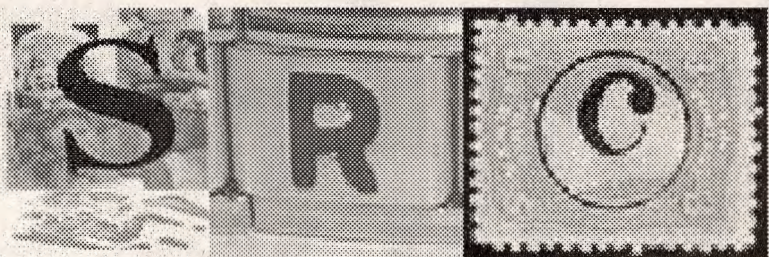
Ingredients

2 ½ cups Gluten free flour (found at any health store)
2/3 cup fructose (add a little more for a sweeter muffin)
¼ cup soy oil
¼ cup apple juice
¼ cup soy milk
5 small apples, roughly chopped or grated
1 cup pecan nuts
1tbs apple cider vinegar
1tsp baking powder
1tsp bicarbonate soda
1tsb vanilla essence
1 level tsp ground cinnamon
½ tsp fresh, grated ginger

Method

Blend all ingredients, except the pecan nuts, thoroughly. Then add the pecan nuts and mix for 10 seconds. Grease muffin trays and fill. Bake in the oven at 180 degrees Celsius for 30 minutes





2004

Independent Official Newsletter of the SRC



The members of the SRC march against Rape as well as corrupt policemen

Putting THEM behind bars

"You know things are screwed up with America when the best rapper is white and the best golfer is black," said basketball player Charles Barkley about Eminem and Tiger Woods. It is also a peculiar world when the people employed by the state to protect the innocent victims and citizens are abusing and violating them instead. If the people who suffer gross injustices are too afraid to call to the policemen for fear of further abuse then who are they able to call?

During the holidays there were some atrocious crimes committed against students at Rhodes by certain members of the police force and they apparently were not the first. The sensitive nature of the crimes means that the victims have been traumatised by this complete violation of their trust and are unlikely to trust the police again. The SRC 2004 decided to protest against these crimes as a demonstration of the injustice. The walk against the corrupt policemen was joined with the Anti- Rape March, because both these types of crimes are in contravention to Human Rights and Dignity. It is time that

voices were raised and joined in order to prevent this type of corruption in public office.

Those corrupt policemen of Grahamstown are being disciplined but this march was a future warning to corrupt policemen that the students of Rhodes University will not tolerate this form of exploitation. If they believe that they can abuse their position of power and breach the trust placed in them by the public then they are sorely mistaken. The action taken will not only be one of sympathy but will also include protests, petitions and ensuring that those policemen are never in a position whereby they can infringe another person's dignity again.

We, as the SRC 2004, are the voice for the entire student body and we also seek to protect that body. We would like the support of the students to help us fight against those policemen to prevent any future cases of similar natures occurring. We will make those corrupt policemen squeal if they think they are going to get away with this type of abuse.

Oppi counsellor Sakina

Dear Oppi,

A big shoutout to you. If you voted for me, you'll know who I am, and if you do not know me (especially if you are one of the many, many first year Oppis), I'd like to say 'hello!' This is my chance to let you know that if you are ever in trouble (and Oppis are frequently in trouble, especially when it comes to the notorious digs parties that are thrown), you can call on me to save you. I am talking about any trouble - legal trouble, academic trouble, trouble with crime, the university, your digsmates (ha ha) - you name it... Sakina to the rescue!

Of course, I will not be saving you on my own. If you are not aware, the Oppis have a warden too. His name is Gordon Barker (g.barker@ru.ac.za) and he works round the clock to help Oppis with their problems. Along with Mr. Barker, there is an Oppi Committee who help me with my mission to make your life more fun and less stressful (Oppi Cheese and Wines, Oppi Ball, Common Room, Sports, Media). And let me not forget the support I get from the rest of my wonderful and wacky SRC team.

2004 is a big year for Oppis, considering that there has never been this many Oppis before. We have almost 200 first year Oppis on board this year, which makes it all the more important to have an Oppi representative. Personally I see the fact that there are so many first year Oppis as a problem, and I know that many of you feel the same. Rest assured, there is a committee working on this issue and trying to figure out solutions to alleviate the problem in years to come.

If you are worried about transport from campus to your digs at night, the Oppi bus runs week nights from 8.30 to 10.30 from the main library, dropping you off at your doorstep. This is a service provided by your SRC to ensure the safety and comfort of our Oppi students. I am sure this service will come in handy for you, especially in six weeks time when exam fever hits Rhodes campus!

I am not only here to sort out your problems. I am also here to make your great ideas (regarding Oppis) materialise. So if you have any suggestions, please email me and I will make sure your idea is presented to the Oppi Committee. A few weeks ago I received a suggestion of an Oppi t-shirt or sweater idea (similar to res tops).

I am unsure of the logistics regarding this idea (i.e. numbers, sizes, price), but I think it's a wonderful suggestion, nonetheless. I would love to hear what you think of the idea. Would you wear a top saying 'Oppi 2004 - Rhodes University'? Would you pay for something like this? Email me your thoughts and I'll be sure to give you feedback.

As your SRC Oppi Councilor, I'd like to extend a big smile to warm your heart this winter. Snuggle deeper under your blankets, enjoy your home-cooked meals and be proud to be an Oppi on Rhodes campus. The experience is wonderful, so treasure it. And if you don't agree, then email me and I'll try my best to make it better for you.

Lots of Love...and Luck!!
Your SRC Oppi Councilor 2004,
Sakina Nosarka
sakina@src.ru.ac.za

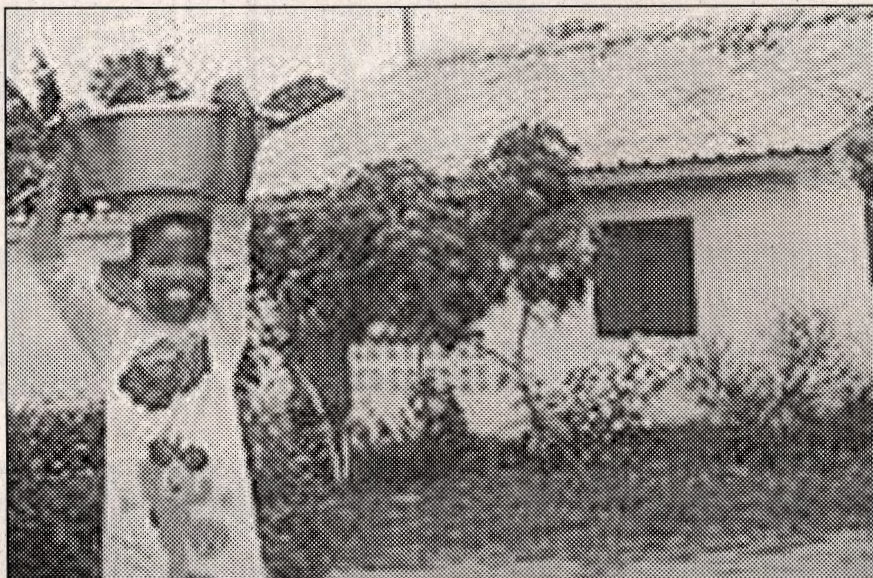
Habitat for humanity

One the community projects that the SRC are embarking on this year is the Habitat for Humanity Housing Project. UCT is one of the major universities involved in this project and this year Rhodes wishes to partake in this housing scheme. Habitat for Humanity is an international non-profit housing project. It was founded in 1976, and since then has built more than 150000 houses around the world.

Habitat is not a charity but a partnership. They do not give away homes. Through volunteer labor and donations of money and materials, Habitat builds and rehabilitates simple, decent houses with the help of the homeowner (partner) families. Habitat houses are sold to partner families at no profit, financed with affordable, no-interest loans. The homeowners' monthly mortgage payments are used to build still more Habitat houses. In addition to a down payment and the monthly mortgage payments, homeowners invest hundreds of hours of their own labor -- sweat equity -- into building their Habitat house and the houses of others (Laura Richter)

The planning stages are still in process and the original committee is composed of Laura Richter, Telana Halley and Matthew Ritchie. The first thing that we have to do is identify our community. This can be done in two ways:

- Through the local municipality, they can point out a sector in Grahamstown. This community must be able to pay an amount of R350-R400 per month per person. This will cover housing material costs. This community can be a group of about 10-20 people. She stressed that we should understand that Habitat is not a community "hand-out" scheme and it is teaching people to help themselves.
- By compiling a research survey, she offered to send us a copy of the survey habitat conducted. This survey will contain a number of ques-



account number or any other personal banking details, but habitat must have some proof that the community is taking action and has done some saving, before they can send down their services). There should be certified copies of the group members' IDs. The history of the land and how the people came to live there must also be provided.

This file will then be sent up to the habitat office in Cape Town, and a representative will come down and give us details on the project. We will thus be used as the go-between the head office and the community. The community will be trained by the Habitat module.

Other building schemes? Habitat does not target huge projects such as schools; they only focus on the housing sector of the community.

Sponsorship? We are allowed other sponsors to begin with but we must not make the community accustomed to "hand outs". We cannot expect the community to pay for R200 less one month and then pay the expected R350 another month. Personally I feel we should approach sponsors and raise money in the university.

If anyone is interested in joining this project please feel free to contact:

- Laura Richter at pokey@rucus.net
- Matthew Ritchie g01r0137@campus.ru.ac.za
- Telana Halley telana@src.ru.ac.za

The journey home

by Charmaine Jelbert

'The wheels on the bus go round and round; round and round; round and round.' This happy little tune may bring on a wave of nostalgia, as you reminisce about the days you were a lighty, heading out on a filed trip with your packed lunch. The days when you could play hopscotch without receiving skew looks, when you pulled up girl's skirts (some things never change) and when you said what you wanted without fear or being offensive or non-PC. But this article is not about those preschoolers day trips but about a bus filled with Rhodes Students going home. The SRC 2003 brought about the initiative of the FNB Oppi Bus, which runs about delivering Oppidan students at home after the sun puts itself away. The bus drops these students off at their door to ensure that risk of being attacked, mugged or harassed in any way is greatly reduced.

The FNB Oppi Bus was kept running by the SRC 2004, who sought out funding from FNB, due to its very worthwhile nature. Grahamstown may be small but it would appear that the number of muggings (some at knife point), the break-ins and harassment cases are not concerned with the littleness of

Grahamstown. The primary concern is the students who are vulnera-

ble prey to these attacks.

The most vulnerable are those students who live off campus and are without access to transport. The SRC now wants to increase the number of times the bus runs at night, which is currently 8:30 and 10:30. The more times we can afford to run the bus the less students are exposed to risk. So we are appealing to students, both oppis and to those living on campus, who have had personal experience of violence or crime in any form to please come forward with it. We even appeal to students who use the Oppie bus and would like it to be run more frequently to submit to us your personal motivation about how wonderful the bus is and what a great job it is doing. We have undertaken to do something drastic about these frightening attacks and we need your help. We wish to compile a report with regards to the number of attacks on students and present it to the University in order to increase

the number of times the oppi bus runs nightly and also to increase the number of campus security guards around campus. This is to increase the enjoyment of your studies within a safe and secure environment. So help us to help you and email either Dom at vice@src.ru.ac.za or Charmaine at charmaine@src.ru.ac.za.

You could alternatively go to the SRC offices (above

the Union) and fill out a statement to help us compile this report.

