

activate

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Newspaper at Rhodes University

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Guards challenge CPU

Les Reynolds and David Charteris are in the process of conducting meetings with the entire Campus Protection Unit staff after complaints were filed by a group of dissatisfied employees. *Activate* attended one such meeting and conducted further investigations into this matter.



The first of many meetings between management and guards investigating allegations of racism amongst many others

■ Gregor Röhrig

■ Nic Haralambous

A handful of Campus Protection Unit (CPU) guards have lodged complaints against CPU Management to the Vice-Chancellor as well as to the Rhodes Human Resources department.

The complaints range from allegations of racism within the CPU ranks to a dictatorship-like operation being run by the management of CPU. These charges were made public when a representative for the CPU street guards approached *Activate* with their complaints. Since this time, the same representative has sent letters concerning the same matters to the Vice-Chancellor among other organisations and people within Rhodes University.

One of the many complaints laid against CPU Management is that promotions have allegedly been given to coloured staff on a colour basis. This issue was given strength after a senior CPU employee passed away earlier this year and a coloured staff member was given the post. Mr David

Charteris, one of the three members that form part of CPU management, said that a notice was in fact placed in the CPU offices to alert staff of the temporary nature of the post. Charteris maintains that the post is still being advertised and that proper procedure will follow in regard to the position. "The position could not be left open," stated Charteris when probed about the allegations.

Other concerns raised by the letter sent to the VC is that there are guards who are still working for CPU who have been caught drunk while on duty and vandalising Rhodes property. The Rhodes Disciplinary Code of Conduct states that should any member of CPU staff be found to be drunk on duty they are to be removed from service immediately. When asked about this issue, Charteris stated that the Rhodes Disciplinary Code of Conduct is merely a guideline for management to take action.

Apparently, the CPU staff has been given no forum within which they are

allowed to voice their opinions. This allegation was quickly dispelled after a meeting was held between available CPU staff members, management and the Head of the Estates Division, Les Reynolds, where these issues were openly raised.

Activate was given permission to sit in on this meeting and concluded that there is, in fact, a fairly open relationship between the staff and management. There appears to be small matters of communication that need to be resolved, but nothing that exceeds the norms of communication gaps between staff and management.

Another major concern raised by the anonymous group of guards is a three-tiered rift that exists within CPU. This gap apparently exists between black and coloured staff, the management and the street guards and the

head guards and the street guards. However Charteris strongly denied these racist charges and said, "the allegation itself is racist in nature." Charteris, however, offered a tense response when probed about the

nature of the rifts. He emphatically stated that no such rift exists. The racism experienced by a few of the guards has apparently not been experienced by all of the employees

of CPU. One guard stated, "there is no need for us to fight amongst ourselves." This clearly illustrates the rationality of the guards in relation to their colleagues. When asked about the racist rift that exists, members of the CPU street staff denied that racism exists and stated that, within each shift, there exists a close relationship between every member of the team.

Stellenbosch University was asked to partake in an ongoing investigation of security on Rhodes campus. However, Stellenbosch representatives stated that Rhodes University is far more advanced in the protection of their students than Stellenbosch has ever been. An investigation into the many allegations is underway. This investigation hopes to ascertain whether the claims are valid or simply an attempt by a few guards to create waves of concern within the Rhodes community.



Sikhumbuzo Ncula

"Communication is good, but I have only heard this story from one side, so it is difficult for me to justify it."



Ramsy Morris

"The racism is between the guards, it is not between the management and the guards, the relationship between the management and the guards is good."



Anonymous CPU guard

"I don't understand how our management works. They don't see us as people enough. There is no consideration for the workers."



Les Reynolds

■ Gregor Röhrig



Editorial Closing Time...

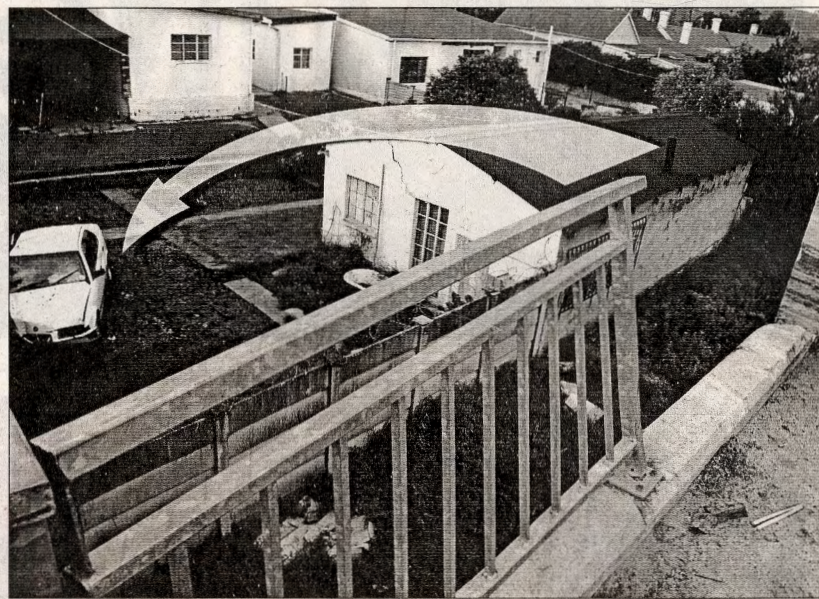
■ Carly Ritz

The only exercise I seem to do these days is jump to conclusions. In my misguided youth I went through a bit of a 'Wimbeldon wannabe' stage which was abruptly ended by a tennis ball between the eyes on the day I eventually felt brave enough to approach the net. Then I tried running, but it's not safe for young girls to run alone and running clubs make me feel slow. So I took up scuba-diving to challenge myself, and although I love diving, it's not something you can do every day unless you bow out of life, move to Tofu in Mozambique and spend the rest of your life reminding people to breathe (I have enough trouble reminding myself). Therefore, my current exercise routine is non-existent.

With exercise in mind, exam time makes me laugh. People suddenly remember their gym contracts that their parents unknowingly paid for at the beginning of the year (ode to a student account) and swimming laps at the pool becomes the new pink. I too fall victim to the hype and try to re-instate my spinning career. So far I have had little success (apologies to Roald). But besides this mad trend to clear your mind with exercise as exams approach, the end of the year is also a time for reflection. While working on this last edition of *Activate* for 2004, I found myself evaluating what has been achieved this year, what has not, and why. Where did I go wrong and where did the past year go? Realising that you are still far from fulfilling your potential is an unnerving feeling, one with which I am still grappling. But besides personal reflection, *Activate* has also undergone some major evaluation and changes this year in terms of our design, internal structures and content. Our university has undergone evaluation in terms of its security, and even friends are reflecting on their drinking habits (although such individuals are few and far between) But reflection is hard. Reflection forces you to deal with yourself. It's easier to make judgements and decisions about things and people around you (check out the gossip on page 6 if you're not up for reflection) than look at yourself and own up to your flaws. It's a self-scrutinising process that no-one else can do for you and while its a painful process to go through, it is one that we all have to face at some point.

The end of the year also signals home time. At my friend Sam's 21st birthday party, two weeks ago, I was reminded not only about the dangers of vodka punch, sharp earrings and dance-offs, but also about the importance of family and friends, who, in the chaos of our everyday lives, are often sidelined, forgotten or taken for granted. Our success is not really worth anything unless we have those we love behind us. So with the long vac just ahead, use this time to do something that matters. Whether it's personal reflection or spending quality time with those you love, reconnecting with old friends or picking up a tennis racquet again after years of fear (highly unlikely). Use this time well because, as Benjamin Franklin once said: "You may delay, but time will not."

Travel safe. See you next year.
Carly



Grahamstown resident Mrs Haarhoff woke up to "a terrible noise" last week, when a car being driven by Rhodes students crashed into her back yard. Megan Cottrell and Mark Scholefield were in the white BMW which flew through a street railing, across a railway line and over the barbed wire fence enclosing the house. The accident took place in the early hours of the morning on African street, near Kingswood College. Haarhoff called the ambulance and police who "reacted immediately" and took the two students to Settler's Hospital. Besides Ms Cottrell, who was bleeding through her nose, there were no other injuries. It is not known whether a case has been opened, as police were unavailable for comment and when contacted, Ms Cottrell refused to comment.

■ Gregor Röhrig

SRC elections: fair?

■ Taryn Zieseniss and Gisela Wolff

For the first time in Rhodes' history the legitimacy of the newly elected Student Representative Council (SRC) has been called into question in light of the recent SRC elections.

A group of concerned students, who wish to remain anonymous, drafted a document alleging that "the current SRC is not a legally constituted body".

One of the issues noted in this document is that during electronic elections a computer programme automatically counts and totals the number of votes each candidate receives. This programme can only be accessed by the use of an encrypted code, which only David Siebörger, of the IT division, is entitled to know. The voting system is run on a web server, controlled by the IT division, which leads to the potential for tampering, as Siebörger is apparently not the only person with access to this particular machine.

In electronic voting, a quorum of 40% (the sub-minimum percentage of students that need to vote) must be reached in order for the elections to be deemed valid. This year, when both part- and full-time registered students votes were combined, the percentage reached was below quorum, which means that the elections would have been illegitimate. However, the concerned students noted that due to the fact that quorum was not reached, the computer code was changed the day before elections closed to count only full time registered students in the quorum figure.

By excluding the part time students, the number of students who voted was effectively decreased, yet the number of votes remained the same. Thus the sub-minimum quorum of 40% could be reached, allowing the election to be seen as legitimate. If the number of students had not been manipulated, according to the students, the quorum may not have been reached and the elections may have been invalid.

Also noted by the students is that it would seem that the computer programme itself makes errors when counting votes. This can be seen by comparing the election results with those of the by-elections; these results indicate that the constants fluctuate. The constants represent students

registered at Rhodes, and it is almost impossible that this figure changes every day. In an election where there are a large number of votes separating candidates this does not necessarily affect the outcome, but in cases, such as the recent SRC elections, where votes are close, these discrepancies may influence who is admitted to the SRC body.

Also, according to the SRC constitution, nine scrutineers (independent people who are in charge of overseeing the polling stations, and ensuring the efficient implementation of the voting process) who are senior, independent students should be appointed to oversee SRC elections. This year there were only four appointed scrutineers, including Dominic White (of the 2003 SRC) and Siebörger. The fact that both these people were not independent from the SRC, or the voting process, brings to question their impartiality in the election. Complaints and objections regarding the voting process could therefore not be lodged effectively.

When combining these discrepancies, the group of students felt that the legitimacy of the SRC was questionable.

White and Thamsanqa Moyo (SRC President 2003) submitted their own report as a response. They argued that 40% of the full time registered students did in fact vote, yet they failed to address the allegation of changing the quorum to exclude part-time students the day before the close of elections. This document also denied the fact that the actual website allowed any campaigning and argued that physical campaigning in the computer labs on campus could not be prevented.

White and Moyo maintain that scrutineers were present at the counting of the votes, and mentioned that the voting programme itself acted as an electronic scrutineer. However, the concerned students, feel that Internet elections should be audited by completely independent individuals.

Both opposing documents were presented to Dr Motara, who, according to the students found no grounds for further action, claiming that the SRC constitution is merely an outline and not law. However, if this is the case, what can be said for other societies on campus who draw their constitutions from the SRC's?

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Concern over Union's future

■ Leon Schnell

Last year, Dulcés signed a contract whereby they would renovate both the Day and Main Kaif. At present, the Day Kaif is open, but the Main Kaif (scheduled to have been opened in May) is closed. This situation has arisen because it isn't Dulcés that is footing the bill for the development, but rather an investor by the name of Rocky Reynolds, and the Day Kaif hasn't turned out to be as profitable as initially projected.

Although Reynold's contract was initially only meant to cover the Main Kaif, it was thought that including the Student Union in the deal would be more effective. The Union's future is uncertain at the moment as Mel Tarr, current manager of the Union, was given notice by the University during the tendering process. His contract also expires at the end of this year.

Dr Iain L'Ange, Assistant Dean of Students, says Reynolds has been touring selected universities including Stellenbosch and Wits to analyse their facilities and attempt to find an alternative development. Failing this, he may find another investor to replace him. Reynolds has refused to comment on the issue, saying that it is confidential, but said he could confirm

that, "between now and December there will be no further movement at the Union building."

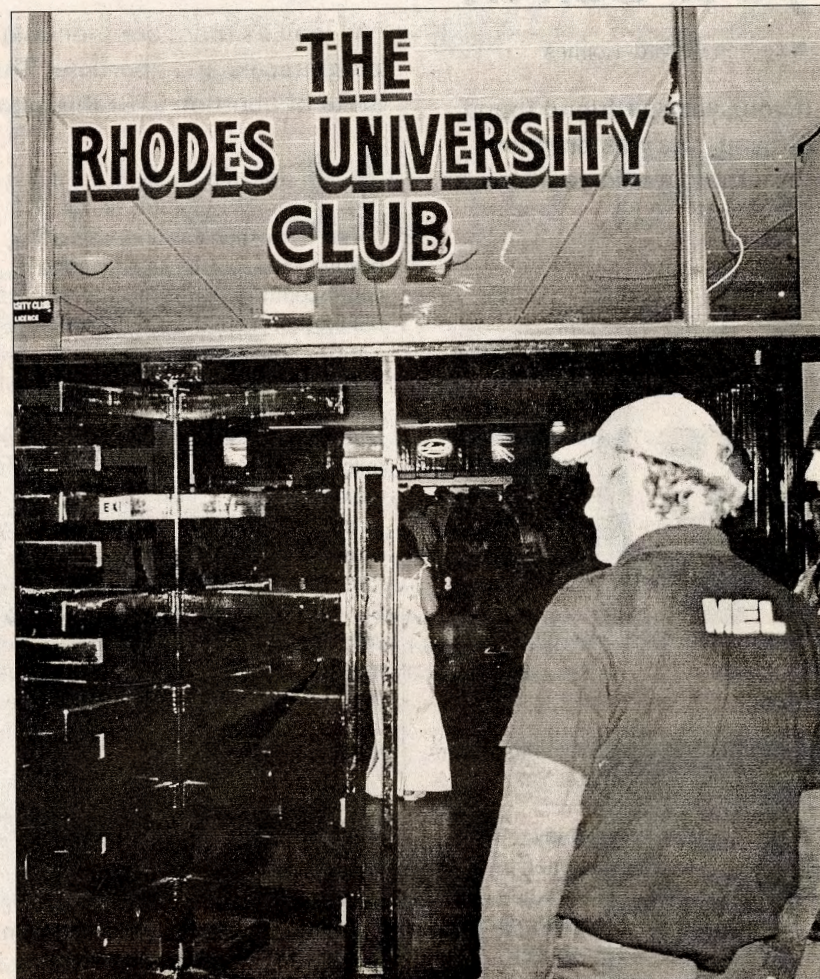
The central problem facing an attempt to acquire investment is that the Main Kaif/Union combo does not appear to have a chance of being profitable enough to warrant the high capital outlay. As it is now, the Union is only open three nights a week, and is only really busy for two hours – between 10pm and midnight. In addition, the Student Union membership sits at only 700 for this year, with membership fees of R75 per person – all R52 500 of which goes straight to renovations. The new owner can only expect students for nine months of the year (if the June and December vacations are excluded) and will also be expected to charge reasonable prices.

A forum was organised by the SRC on October 7 in the hope of having greater student input into the matter. Although poorly attended, the forum did manage to raise some interesting propositions. Ideas for the Main Kaif's restructuring included the ever-popular bowling-alley, a 24-hour multi-purpose shopping outlet and a chill-out lounge and/or dance venue. It was also suggested that students should

play a greater role in the management of the facility, which is something that the SRC is pushing for.

To counter the financial problem, it was proposed that all of the approximately 4700 students attending Rhodes University could each have R100 charged to their accounts and the money raised could pay for the development of the Union, or possibly act as an incentive for further outside investment. This move is yet to be considered by the Council. However, students need not worry about their favourite drinking spot closing just yet because Dr L'Ange made it clear that, in light of no further developments, Tarr was welcome to stay on if he wanted to. Tarr would be willing to stay on, according to one of his employees, Darshan Weerasinghe.

As students, we need to decide whether we want the Union to be a safe place to drink, a chill-out venue, a place to buy peanut butter at two in the morning or another restaurant. We need to think of some inventive fundraisers. If we do not make the decisions ourselves, by giving the SRC feedback or attending forums, we have very little right to complain if we don't like the results.

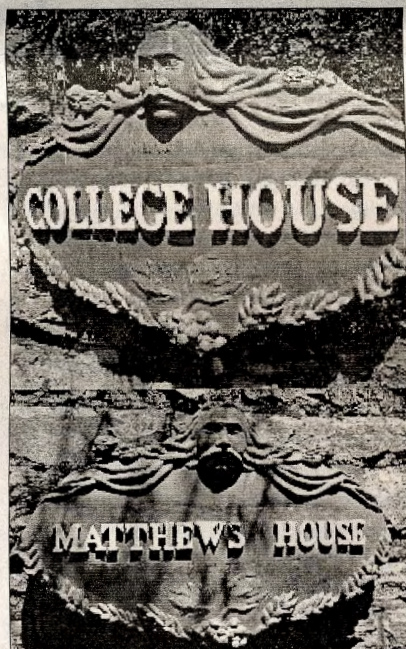


Without funding the Union may have to close down

■ Matthew Middleton

Founders Hall warden under fire

■ Jenny Pettenger



The majority of students in the four houses of founders hall (College and Matthews pictured above) have signed a petition against their Hall Warden ■ Pic Supplied

Members of Founders Hall have drawn up a petition in an attempt to remove Mervyn Wetmore from his position as Hall Warden.

The three page document, signed by a significant majority of the hall's residents, cites various grievances against Wetmore. These include invasion of privacy, providing inadequate funding for entertainment purposes, such as the Founders Garden Party, and failure to take responsibility for disciplining students who commit offences. A student was caught cheating in his November exams, and during the third term of this year a resident of College House was found to have stolen clothing from another student. Neither incident has been resolved.

The document's main focus, however, is Wetmore's perceived lack of interest in the hall itself and the students in his charge. Reference is made to a seemingly unfriendly attitude toward residents and failure to attend such events as hall balls and the opening of the 2004 Founder's Challenge, as well as his common absence from the Hall due to regular travel. It is reported that Wetmore does not know the names of several of the 35 residents of

Cory House, where he also serves as House Warden. According to the petition, Wetmore in general fails to interact with students on a personal basis, causing a general lack of respect for his position, and a breakdown of hall spirit and comradery.

A sub warden in Founders Hall, who wished to remain anonymous, criticised the sense of bureaucracy that Wetmore has instilled in the hall with, what the sub warden referred to as, a suffocating amount of paperwork. "He invades the running of absolutely everything," he says, adding that "nobody has respect for him, and this leads to rebellion." In his opinion, people feel isolated and inferior around Wetmore.

When asked how Wetmore could have been more involved with the annual Founder's Challenge, the sub warden said, "I think the biggest contribution he could give is: 'Hi guys, how can I help?' He's never done that. We can say: 'No that's actually fine we're alright, but thanks for the offer.' We've never had an offer." He also stated that he believes the damage to be irreconcilable, and the only way to "get this hall back on track" at this point is to "fire [Wetmore], get someone new."

Wetmore had not yet seen or heard of the petition against him until *Activate* visited him for an inter-

view. Skimming over the copy of the petition that was provided to him, he expressed his sadness at the situation and said, "if I can, I'd like to solve it." He denied claims that he had ignored protocol by personally selecting a new house warden for Botha House – another point of contention in this discord. He stated that the Botha House warden, Dr Wilhemi, did in fact undergo the rigorous screening process applied to all potential wardens, but that this was done near the end of last year when students were preoccupied with work and exams, which might explain why they were unaware of the interviewing process. In the way of explanation for his apparent animosity towards Founders residents, he explained that he has two high pressure jobs as the hall warden of Founders Hall and the Counselling and Career Centre Administrator, and to maintain a balance between the two requires a lot of time and effort.

Though Dr Motara (Dean of Students) was contacted for an interview, he declined to discuss the issue. Although he had seen a copy of the petition, he had not yet had the opportunity to discuss the situation with Wetmore, and as such felt that he was not in a position to offer comment.

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What you said:

■ Lauren Clifford- Holmes

If you/ your girlfriend found out you/she was pregnant tomorrow, would you have an abortion?



Rachel Stols. 1st Year
No. I think it is sinful and murder.



Siya Mpambani. 1st Year
Yes. I am not ready to direct someone else's life when I can barely direct my own yet.



Kauser Ticklay. 3rd Year
No. I am Muslim and it is against my religion.



Rebecca Davies. Masters
Yes. I am not emotionally, mentally or financially stable enough for parenting.



Wesley Maurice. 1st Year
No. I believe every being has the right to life.



Natalie Menezes-Warlick. Masters
Yes. I believe freedom of choice is one of the most important and fundamental of human liberties.

The reality of abortion

"As long as there are men and women, there will be pregnancies. As long as there are pregnancies, there will be unwanted pregnancies and abortions. The only question is, will they be safe or not?"* Jade Brennan and Lesley Odendal investigate the state of abortion in Grahamstown.

Unwanted pregnancy is a reality. Whether it is due to your irresponsibility or something beyond your control, such as rape or contraceptive failure, you and your sexual partner have the right to choose.

In Grahamstown, safe terminations of pregnancies (TOP's) are freely available at Settlers Hospital. There is a procedure, however, that needs to be followed should you wish to pursue this option.

Confirming that you are expecting by having a valid pregnancy test, is the first step. These are available at the San for R30, which will be charged to your account as 'San charges' and not as a pregnancy test. It is recommended that this be done first thing in the morning, as the morning sample of urine is more concentrated.

If you decide that having a TOP is the best option for you, you will be referred to either the Springtime Pregnancy Crisis Centre or to the Career and Counselling Centre for pre-counselling. This is very important, as the decision to have a TOP can have future emotional consequences.

According to SRC counsellor Lisl Foss, abortions are often mistakenly seen as the easy way out. For many, the initial reaction is relief, but emotional problems can arise later. Feelings of guilt, regret, anger, depression and hopelessness are often experienced. According to Dr Bull, who performs the TOP's in Grahamstown, certain individuals are more likely to experience post-abortion trauma (POS) than others. "Vulnerability factors include lacking partner or parent support, adolescence, repeat aborters, those with pre-existing psychological problems, those who are pressured to abort and those keeping their abortion a secret."

The decision to have a TOP is often made under difficult circumstances. Emotional confusion and time constraints mean that some people choose to have a TOP because they think it will immediately solve the problem of having an unwanted pregnancy.

Foss says that a TOP replaces one set of problems with another — hence the importance of counselling. It is also vital that you go for post-counselling to help you through the emotional stress, as it is common for people to only deal with the reality of their decision a while after the abortion. Dr Bull says: "I have seen a couple of women who started to struggle with the reality of their decision at the one year anniversary of the procedure."

One student, who has had a TOP and wishes to remain unnamed, said that she could not speak about the experience even a year later because it was too traumatic. She does not regret having the TOP, however, as she fears that having the child would have been even more traumatic.

Having made an informed decision that a TOP is the right option for you, you will be referred to Dr Bull. Without being referred, a once-off R117 consultation fee will be charged if you are not on medical aid, after which the procedure is free of charge.

Legally a TOP can be performed up to 12 weeks into the pregnancy at the request of a woman. The law also states that minors are able to give their own consent, and be treated as adult women. Between 12 and 20 weeks into the pregnancy certain conditions, such as the woman's physical and mental health being at risk, abnormalities in the foetus, rape or incest apply. Only under life-threatening circumstances will a TOP be performed after 20 weeks, and then under very strict regulations.

There are various ways of having a TOP. Before 12 weeks pills, such as Misoprostol, can be taken orally to terminate the pregnancy. These pills deplete the lining of the uterus and will induce minor bleeding.



Pregnancy is the reality. What to do next is your choice.

■ Pic supplied

At Settlers Hospital these are given the night before the TOP, preventing cervical scarring which may lead to problems in subsequent pregnancies, such as cervical incompetence. A process called Dilation and Curettage (D and C) is then performed the next morning. In this process the neck of the womb is gently opened and a thin plastic suction curettage is inserted into the womb, removing the products of conception.

Due to the care taken whilst a TOP is being performed at Settlers, the procedure is relatively safe. "I have not had any problems in the abortions that

I have done since coming to Grahamstown," says Dr Bull.

Dr Bull warns, however, that a TOP is only safe when conducted properly in a sterile environment, as most complications occur during backstreet abortions. If an abortio is

performed illegally by means of a backstreet abortion, the maternal mortality increases by 100-500%, according to the South African Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

Some are worried that, because Grahamstown is such a small town, stories of your decision will spread. Dr Bull assures that, while nurses at Settlers Hospital will know why you are there, the process is done confidentially.

Some turn to Marie Stopes Clinic in PE instead. This option is a lot more expensive and costs between R1000 and R1500. Unlike Settlers, they do not admit overnight patients. "With all due respect, I don't think it's done as properly as it's done here [Settlers]," says Dr Bull. This option is also difficult, as you would need someone to drive a car for you after the TOP.

On a worldwide basis over 30 million abortions are performed annually. In most cases TOP's are performed due to social or economic circumstances and a small percentage are performed as a result of rape, incest or mental and physical health risks. On average, Dr Bull performs six abortions a week, many of which are carried out on Rhodes students.

Most of these are first time TOP's as Dr Bull believes that a second-time termination should not be necessary because of the time she spends coun-

selling her patients about methods of contraception.

"The ideal would be to prevent unwanted pregnancies occurring in the first place. In my eyes, the biggest effort should be put into family planning services, making contraceptives easily and freely accessible and educating people about the necessity of proper contraception - not only for unwanted pregnancies, but also for the prevention of STD's, such as AIDS," says Bull.

While there are other options should you be faced with an unwanted pregnancy, abortion is the right one for some. Resources, such as trained counsellors, can help you make the choice that is right for you. After all, it is ultimately your decision.

*According to a public statement released by the World Health Organisation

For more information contact:

- Career and Counselling Centre Eden Grove Building
- SRC Counsellor, Lisl Vos at the Union Building
- Springtime Pregnancy Crisis Centre 1 A Anglo African St (046) 6222752
Hours: Wednesday 8h00-12h00
Friday 8h00-15h00
or by appointment
- Settlers Hospital Milner St (046) 6222215
- Dr Bull 120A High St (046) 636 2063
- Marie Stopes Clinic (041) 4870524 or 0800117785



I in the Sky

■ Andrew Whitfield

What next? In my last column I emphasised the uncertain future that awaits us. My intention was not to create a pessimistic outlook on the future of our world, but rather to create awareness among students about problems that exist.

A question that is currently predominant in the lives of students is the 'Where to from here?' We all enjoy our seclusion from the outside world here in this bustling metropolis in the Albany District, but when does reality kick us in the butt and say "wake up"? Well, that time is approaching for many students, and quicker than most would like. The hunt for jobs is one through thick and thorny bush, leaving many job-thirsty youngsters dehydrated from despondency. The words, "we'll call you", send a wary hunter home to contemplate his uncertain future. Dragging his wounded ego up off the floor he returns to the hunt only to be shot down time and time again. What more can this poor employment-seeking soldier do?

Well, for one thing, he can keep getting shot by returning to interviews, or he can get on a plane and head to less harsh *veld* where job procurement is met without the thick, thorny bush he is accustomed to. This tendency to travel abroad on a quest for cash is a logical step for a somewhat damaged self-esteem. The chances of returning are slight, but the decision to leave will haunt the individual for years. Johnny Clegg will torture him, reminding the traveller of what he has left behind. Drowning his sorrows with a sundowner at 3:30pm, probably a warm frothy beer, while his friends *gooi* it around the braai, not needing Johnny to comfort them because they are content.

The unique cry of the lower Albany farmer best sums up the state of this desperate individual: "Hell boet it's baaaaaad you know". Shit happens to everyone, so get over it and get on with it. Your approach just needs to be that your shit is better than everyone else's.

People often respond to what I am studying by saying: "Politics? What the hell are you going to do with that?" The honest answer, and the only one I know, is that I don't know. It is terrifying to be uncertain, but reassuring to know that what I am studying exists everywhere. For every negative outlook into the future of employment there are many other positive ones, you just have to put on that positive BA cap and extend your mind to any ridiculous possibility. The politics of employment are complicated and exist in a society that is just as complicated.

Is leaving the only answer? No. Avoid the politics of travel and confront the politics of employment head-on in order to avoid warm beer and boring people. To the 'employment tourist' I would like to quote a good friend of mine, Frank the Tank, who said, "just keep on trucking". These deep words epitomise the attitude we need to adopt in the face of aridity because a positive attitude is the key to a positive future.

Bachelor of Celebrities?

Natasha Joseph knows too much about Britney Spears. Instead of seeking therapy, she decided to write a little rant about gossip and pseudo-celebrities. *Activate* kindly humoured her...

I am a Journalism and Media Studies graduate. I read the newspapers. My mum thinks I'm smart, and she's usually right about these things. But I can't remember important things like who's invading who or why Tony Blair has taken so long to get involved in Sudan. Bugged if I know who is currently chairing the African Union - an oversight that would horrify anyone who knew that I studied Politics during my time at Rhodes; an oversight that implies I can't retain vital information about the world around me.

Ask me about Britney Spears though and I can talk for hours. She married Kevin Federline recently in a secret wedding ceremony. She'd been married once before that, for 55 hours to a childhood sweetheart. They shagged a lot and then had the marriage annulled. Britney's hen party before her marriage to unemployed dancer Federline was scheduled to be a 72-hour bender - that's 17 hours longer than her first marriage. Federline's ex-fiancée, Shar Jackson, who has just given birth to a second child, has said that Britney will be an active step mom "over my dead body". Now Federline is learning how to use a handgun so he can protect his breathy, buxom bride.

I didn't have to look any of that up. It was right there, contained within my treacherous memory banks. I also know about Christina Aguilera's alleged engagement; I know about Missy Elliot's abuse at the hands of her father when she was younger; I know that Eminem is about to buy a house in Hollywood, after vowing that he would never leave Detroit.

All things considered, I'll never meet these bright stars and pseudo-celebs (so I don't like Eminem - pistol-whip me, which is what the real Slim Shady did to a man he caught snogging his estranged wife, Kim, in 2001. I didn't have to look that up either). I shouldn't know more about Posh Spice's sex life than I do about her dubious musical career. But I do, and you do, too. You've been nodding as you read, and maybe correcting my spelling of Shar, which I was too lazy to look up. You, too, know about what happens in the lives of celebs, because gossip, *skandaal*, *skinner*, *koch* (it's Yiddish) sells. South Africa's own tabloid, *The Daily Sun*, sold more than 301 000 copies per day for the first six months of this year.

That means every day, 301 000 people are buying a newspaper that deals specifically with stories of witchcraft, brutal family murders and sexual intrigue. It's the sort of thing 'real' journalists spit at. It also means that gossip, which has for a long time been kept to the back page of another local rag, *The Sunday Times*, is coming home. We don't have to read about Brit and Kev. Who cares about Justin Trousersnake and Cammie Diaz? Finally, South Africans have their own celebrities to adore, to look up to and to stalk obsessively, salivating over the sordid and petty details of their lives. Ten years after South Africans surprised just about everyone by making a mostly peaceful transition to democracy, we can celebrate our emancipation by boasting our very own local schlebs. 50 Cent is so last continent - we have Zola and Mandoza and the other bad boys and girls of the kwaito industry who keep millions of S'efricans glued to their newspapers with tales of sex, drugs and thundering beats. Even white folks have something to smile about - we can read *Huisgenoot's* "fascinating" tale of *onse* Charlize's rise to fame from the dusty backroads of Benoni. We even had the Springbok Nude Girls - for a while.

The sad and sordid truth is that we are secretly all gossip-mongers. Whether you're a quiet observer who hordes gossip, but never tells, or the biggest mouth on campus, there's a little bit of Gwen Gill in all of us.

If you're being gossiped about, you're a celebrity. The fame may be fleeting, and the backlash may be messy, but for one or two glorious days, you are recognised. Then some other berk bails out of his girlfriend's window while trying to avoid a rabid warden, and you're plunged back into obscurity.

But do celebrities create gossip, or does gossip create celebrities? Paris Hilton's biggest claim to fame was her hotel-mogul daddy. Then came that infamous video and now Paris is the star of her own reality telly show. And what does she do? She's professionally Daft. She spends squillions of dollars on ugly shoes. This, people, is not a career. Damn it, why can't I have a reality TV show? For that kind of money I'd gladly halve my IQ.

Pamela Anderson, another pneumatic blonde, really isn't very famous at all.



“Who cares about JustinTrousersnake and Cammie Diaz?”

Baywatch was a joke; her movie roles have been awful; VIP wasn't half bad, but it wasn't half good either. But Pammy stays on the gossip A-list. Why? Well, between her marriage to bad-boy rocker Tommy Lee, the numerous breast enlargements, a wedding night porn video and her battle with Hepatitis C, which implied some dabbling with naughty illegal substances, she's a newspaper editor's wet dream. Her lack of talent and inability to make a relevant contribution beyond making a lot

of teenage boys hard is beside the point. She sells papers, and that can't be a bad thing.

I was one of the millions who watched Oprah Winfrey interviewing Brad Pitt a while back. I like Brad Pitt. He has a great bum. His wife is pretty hot, too. But I was rather interested to hear what Oprah (we're on first name terms, of course) would ask of the luscious Mr Pitt. What was his most challenging movie role? Did he want to win an Oscar, or was he aiming for a Nobel Peace Prize? Who would play Brad Pitt in the movie of his life? I'm so naive. Oprah spent an hour fondling the poor man, and was more interested in what he had in his boxers than what might be lurking between his ears. Why would you ask an actor about, erm, his acting career? What a bizarre concept. Celebrities must be objectified. If they start bleating on about artistic integrity, everyone gets bored. And god forbid that celebrities should complain. "It comes with the territory, you whinging little twerp. Now take off your pants and bonk a supermodel. Oh, and if you could develop a cocaine habit that will culminate in rehab and spiritual maturity before you run off with your father's third wife, that'd be nice, too."

The sad and pedestrian truth is that people want to be distracted. 'Ordinary' folks like you and I are secretly fascinated and often horrified by the antics of the rich and notorious. *Heat* magazine sells thousands of copies nationwide, and I saw you skulking around CNA pretending to look at the *New York Times* while stuffing the latest on luscious Liz Hurley and her love handles into a green P&P bag. Not that I was there, of course. But if I had been, I would have stalked up to the shelf and proudly claimed my own copy of the gossip rag because I'm a revolting celebrity voyeur, and I'm not afraid to admit it.

Towards the future

The Pan African Parliament, the first step of many towards the realisation of an African Renaissance.

■ Bianca Camminga

What is it?
The 265-seat assembly of the Pan African Parliament (PAP), formed in the image of the European Parliament in Strasbourg, will be Africa's first continental representative body. Each of the 46 current member states are expected to send five national assembly members, one of which must be a woman, who accurately represent the political diversity of their respective countries. The tenure of each member of the parliament will run concurrently with their tenure in their own national assemblies.

How did it start?

In November last year Senegal became the 24th country needed to ratify the PAP's protocol in order to bring it into being. By reaching the threshold, the protocol became legal and in turn constructed the PAP as a legal entity.

Where is it?

After much deliberation between Egypt and South Africa it was decided that the PAP would be based in South Africa. For the next five years it will be housed at the Gallagher Estate in Midrand until a suitable and financial-

ly sustainable parliament is designed and built.

Who is in charge?

Former chairperson of the UN World Conference on Women, Gertrude Ibengwe Mongella, fondly known as 'Mama Beijing', is the first president of the PAP. The Tanzanian delegate was the only candidate to be nominated for the post. Her four vice-presidents are Fernando Dias Van-Dúnen of Angola, Dr Mohammed Lutfi Farahat of Libya, Ms Elise Loun of Chad and Mr Jerome Sacca Kina Guezere of Benin.

How does it work?

The PAP will initially advise its possible 53 member states on policy issues specific to Africa. These include debt, AIDS and ethnic conflicts. It will eventually seek to generate legislation and harmonise laws across Africa. Its main focus will be infringements on democracy across Africa and combating the abuse of human rights. It is comprised of ten committees, which include Rural Economy, Trade, Health, Peace and Security, Justice and Human Rights, a Central Bank and the Court of Justice.

Objectives?

The main objective is to promote democratic principles and institutions,

popular participation and good governance. It is meant to be a parliament in which the voices of all Africans are heard.

It is the establishment of a strong democratic institution within the growing environment of high hopes and expectations of a united and a well developed Africa.

What are the setbacks?

Due to the diverse nature of languages across Africa, language barriers have hampered the initial formulation of policy and the functioning of the Parliament in general. The language barriers have also led to the 94 current rules falling victim to wide-ranging interpretations and understandings. Another area of contention is the procedure with regards to varying debating styles adopted by countries.

Who pays and how much?

South Africa was awarded the responsibility of the parliament and in turn it is responsible for its financial resources. The financial responsibility will be divided among the Departments of Foreign Affairs, Arts and Culture and GCIS. The expected cost per annum as of next year is R61 million. This includes start-up costs of R7.3 million, annual rent of R18



President of the PAP, Gertrude Mongella

■ Pic Supplied

million and R3.1 million for transport over a five year period.

What does it mean for the world, Africa and us?

This parliament has two options. It can either become yet another venue for politicians to be paid to sleep in, or a viable resource on the road to the rejuvenation, unification and growth of Africa. In order for them to function properly within Africa, they will need to forge a new future of representation and break away from Africa's historical problems. Within Africa they plan

to be a voice for its people and the centre of democracy; on a world scale, a representative force that will unite Africa under one banner, much like the EU. For South Africans, the belief of many economists is that this will eventually align Africa's trade policies and help to structure viable economies throughout Africa.

It is early days for the Parliament, which already seems to be faring well in the tough African terrain. The next five years will be trying times for a continent trying to pull together.

Would you like fries with that locust?

■ Bianca Camminga

Food is disappearing faster than one can say "dinner is served", as uncontrollable plagues of locusts devour their way through countries in northern and western Africa. Military forces have been mobilised in countries such as Benin, but the use of heavy artillery does not seem to deter the thumb-sized monsters. As pesticide and defence supplies run low, food shortages become an ever-increasing possibility. What is there to do when there is a severe lack of poison and gunning them down just doesn't seem to be working?

"eat them" according to Dr. Martin Villet of the Rhodes Zoology department. The locust is a solitary creature, yet when there are good rains it generally leads to a population explosion. As their numbers increase they come into greater contact with one another.

This, in turn, causes them to grow large wings and begin to exhibit pack behaviour. A desert locust eats its own weight (two grams) of food and travels more than 100 kilometres on any given day. A swarm generally varies from a few hundred million to several billion.

A few hundred million, if caught and preserved, could feed Chad (population nine million) for at least two months. Villet asserts that there "is nothing wrong with insect protein; it is the West that looks down on it. Many countries see it as a delicacy." The best time for locust hunting is in the morning when it is still quite cold and they can't move as yet. For particularly tasty dishes try chocolate-frosted locusts or grill them in a light garlic sauce. But whatever you do, "eat them before they eat your crop".



A side order of locust kebabs

■ Pic Supplied

Pheasants for presents

What do you consider to be the most unlikely gift you have ever received for Christmas? Yes, there is indeed life beyond the knitted jersey.

■ Melissa Tardivel

At a time of the year when the insurgence of advertisements are preparing to attack our television screens with Christmas gift suggestions, it is important to note how most people are given things that they rarely use and therefore discard like worn-out rubber tyres. How many can attest to their smiling reindeer socks being given to their dog as playing-pulleys, that apartment block of books without finger mark creases on every page, or what about being given CDs, which, instead of being inserted into a player, are placed upon coffee tables as coasters?

It also seems that gifts have become somewhat clichéd — people may even claim to be clairvoyant in their ability to determine what present they will receive before its appearance under the Christmas tree. Every year the same presents are given, with the only variations being the colour of the wrapping paper.

This year, however, certain presents are not in need of wrapping paper nor can they fit underneath the Christmas tree. They can be purchased for a price, yet are priceless in their purpose and normally on Christmas, they relate more to the act of eating and less to the incentive of giving. The idea of such a gift has been proposed by the charity Oxfam in an attempt to combat poverty in African countries. This organisation believes what people really want for Christmas is to be the proud owner of a live goat or chicken in all its feathered glory. Through a donation scheme one may purchase a chicken for £25, which will then be sent to Africa and given to those in desperate need of food.

The purchaser therefore buys the animal on behalf of a friend or family member who will then receive a voucher stating that a chicken has been bought in their name. It is a peculiar gesture, seeing as most

Westernised people would probably think that a chicken voucher was a kind of free meal ticket for KFC.

With the option of Christmas shopping on Oxfam's website, one is assured that their gift will be beneficial to its receivers. The gift of a chicken is one of life, as one African family may be able to sustain itself by depending on the eggs produced by the chicken.

When two Rhodes University students were asked to comment on how they would react if their boyfriends bought them each a chicken for Christmas, it was interesting to note how they responded to the question by laughing uncontrollably. Busisiwe Mahambehala, a first year science student, said, "It would be sweet of him to do such a thing but I'd still expect something a bit more substantial." Gill Padi, a third year business student, commented on how she "would think it was funny yet slightly disappointing at the same time".

Africa In Focus

■ Bianca Camminga

- Wangari Maathai became the first woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize for her groundbreaking work in leading a campaign to plant millions of trees across Africa in order to curb de-forestation.
- Zimbabwe has closed its controversial youth training camps due to lack of funding.
- Al-Qaeda aligned Islamic Tawhid Brigade has claimed responsibility for the triple bombings at resorts on the border between Egypt and Israel. Egypt is one of the few Arab countries that has a peace treaty with Israel.
- The UN Security Council has agreed to bolster its troops in the Congo with a further 5900 men.



Mime time at the Box

■ Acty Tang and Zanele Nyingwa

On Wednesday October 27 and Friday October 29, the Rhodes Drama Department invites all to attend the Honours mime, choreography and contemporary performances at 7pm at the Box Theatre. According to Acty Tang, the media co-ordinator for this event, this year's emphasis is on the individuals' creative vision and imaginative explorations of their physicality. Honours Physical Theatre will present *Slow Loris* (this title is provisional) choreographed by Juanita Finestone-Praeg, which is adapted from a children's illustrated short story about a curiously slow creature. The work is a light-hearted look at animals living in a zoo, and raises questions about boundaries – who are behind cages and who is watching who? The music is from Zap Mama and the Little Death Orchestra and is combined with a fun, tongue-in-cheek design by artist Tanya Poole.

Honours Mime students present both solo work and an ensemble piece (*Good Person of Sechuan*). The Honours Mime students put together a programme in which they explored their personal obsessions by means of corporeal mime. Join them on this fun-filled journey in which you might just recognise a bit of yourself. Bertolt Brecht created this extract as a response to the well-known play by the same name. Themes such as greed, exploitation, the

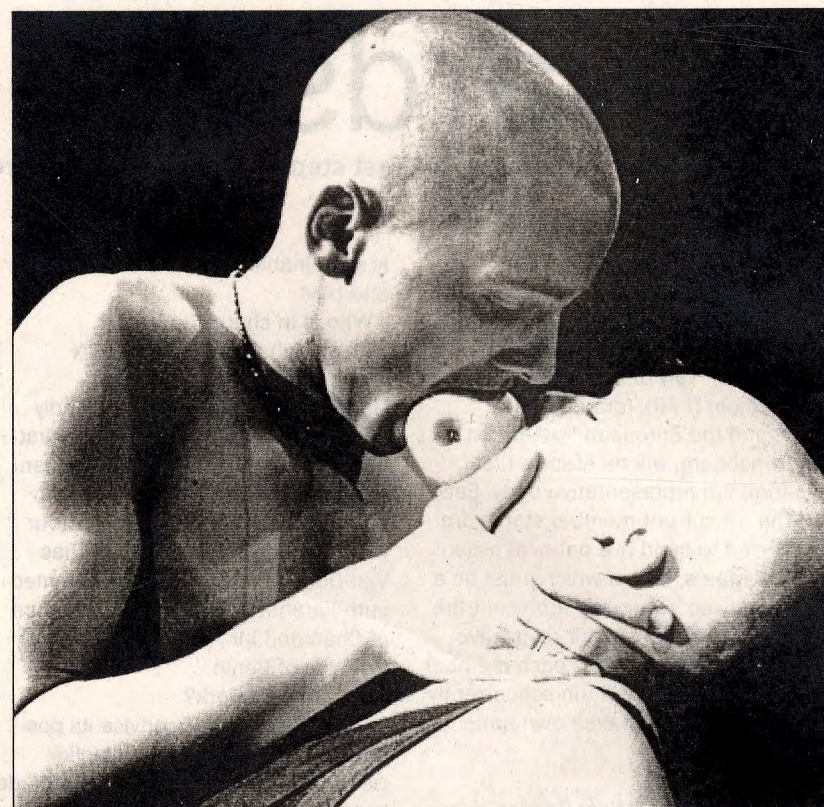
need for recognition by others and the quest for goodness are explored.

Honours Choreography brings us four aspiring choreographers: Dorian Burstein's *Exhibit L23: 26-43*, which is a critique of fascism and religion and the hypocrisy that it inevitably breeds. Bridget Scarr presents *Dark Waters*, an exploration of depression and the dark side of human consciousness. Hermien Potgieter's *Toorbos: Die Vlugg* episode seeks a balance between classical technique and expressive physicality. It is a young woman's journey of escape, a flight from home and a return to the treacherous paths in the forest – a forest of her longings, her spirit and her youth. Sarah Spies presents *Baptism of Solitude*. Baptism is a spiritual purification, but also a severe ritual of suffering. An ordeal that she suggests transforms a person.

A third-year dance repertory ensemble of 12 dancers performs *As the sun rises so the shadows fall*, a new work by Gary Gordon, with music from Dead Can Dance.

Roux Engelbrecht designed the stage, which transforms into an expansive winter landscape. The choreographer comments on the action through a voice over in the style of David Attenborough investigating the wonders of nature.

Dance Mime Theatre 2004 is the climax of the year's work; a culmination of the creative voices of South African theatre of the future.



A climax of individual creative vision that promises to unlock the imagination

■ Jean Phillippe

Book review

■ Zanele Nyingwa



Beautiful ones are not yet born (fiction)

The 'beautiful' ones are truly not yet born according to Ghanaian-born writer Aki Kwei Armah. The story is centred on life in Ghana. It follows a poverty-stricken man who is in search of the 'gleam'; his meetings with an individual whom he calls teacher and his struggles with work and home life – both inseparable from his soul. By immersing oneself into the book, one discovers how the unnamed protagonist struggles to find any truth or meaning in his surroundings, which, to him, are devoid of beauty. Armah is a patient writer and focuses on descriptions, without unravelling the story too quickly and leaving readers with no images to remember it by.

Rating: @@@@ out of 5

Designers add spices to their mettle

■ Thabisile Ntombela

Carrol Boyes is the founder of the Carrol Boyes Functional Art (CBFA) collection, which was established in 1989. With its innovative designs in kitchen and homeware in pewter, aluminium, stainless steel and, most recently, leather, CBFA produces a variety of items, which are both handy and beautiful to own. The company is inspired by the idea to create functional items where objects like jugs and serviette holders are conduits for trendy African style. CBFA managed to break into world markets in early 1993 and now reaches as far as Scandinavia, but their motivation remains firmly entrenched right here in Africa.

To further cement their commitment to African art, the CBFA has revealed the birth of an art competition, which is dedicated to the discovery and nurture of South African talent. CBFA METAL 2005: New Designer Search is CBFA's novel initiative to encourage

designers to create functional art. Boyes sees this competition as an original initiative to identify and nurture product design talent in our field and to provide them with an opportunity to develop their careers and product lines under the wing of an already established company with an international reputation.

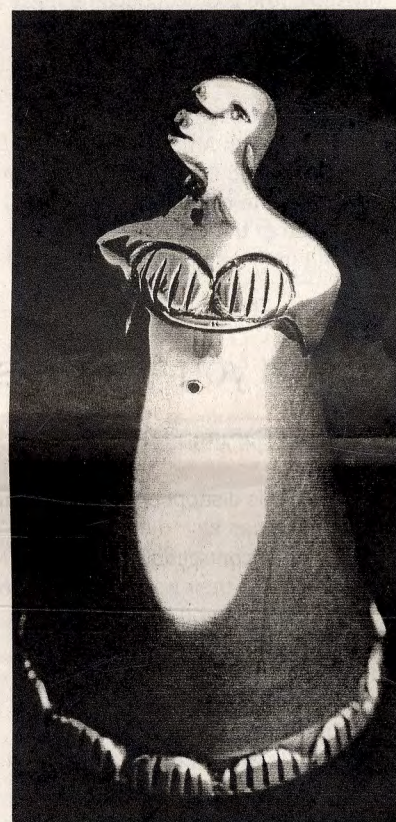
Entrants are required to produce a prototype of a set of salt and peppershakers using any of the materials with which CBFA works. The competition is dedicated to the discovery of new talent as entrants have been discouraged from mimicking Carrol Boyes and are, instead, encouraged to communicate their artistic talents in a unique style. Furthermore, entrants are warned that functionality must not be sacrificed at the altar of creativity. After all, people have pondered the question 'Which fork do I use?' for long enough to now mistake a spoon for a miniature Zen garden shovel.

Great rewards are in store for the top three entrants. The two runners

up will receive cash prizes of R25 000 and R15 000 respectively, while the overall winner will receive R50 000 in cash. The winner will also receive hands-on training in the business regarding manufacture, marketing and distribution of the product they designed; a great opportunity to build up one's career. CBFA is interested in the improvement of South Africa and is assisting in the only way they know how – paving the way for artistic renewal that has the unique African signature: product designers with mettle.

The competition is open to South African citizens over the age of 18 only. For those who are interested, entry forms are available at all stockists of Carrol Boyes products, tertiary education institutions and community art centres.

For more information call (021) 462 3129 or visit www.carrolboyes.co.za. Entries opened on October 1 and will close on January 31, 2005.



Designers are encouraged to break barriers and unlock their minds

■ Pic Supplied



Capoeira: a visual Martial Arts and dance display

■ Pic Supplied

Capturing Capoeira

■ Nomathamsanqa Mbekwa

Jan Keulder arrives at our meeting place, comfortably clad in military print tracksuit pants and a fleece top with the hood draped over his bulky dreadlock-filled knitted cap. He scans the room, blossoms into a brief smile and extends a warm greeting to us.

We are here to talk about Capoeira, what it means to him and its relevance to him as a hip-hop artist. The ancient Brazilian Martial Arts dance has of late formed somewhat of a movement among young people and, even more recently, become a training activity at the Dakawa Arts Centre in Grahamstown. Keulder, who is a member of "the bionic b-boys" and a self-acclaimed hip-hop fanatic, was born and bred in Grahamstown and was introduced to Capoeira by a friend. Although he only began training this year, his insight into its history can be likened to that of a veteran's. He tells us about the relationship between Capoeira and break dancing: "Not only does Capoeira resemble b-boying / break-dancing; one could even go as far as to say they are contemporary Capoeira."

According to Keulder, the link between this ancient art and the modern hip-hop lifestyle does not stop with the dancing aspect: "You'll find all the elements of hip-hop in Capoeira," he says. Graffiti, free styling, mixing, and, more importantly, knowledge of the self are such elements. Playing instruments corresponds with deejaying/mixing, rock painting with graffiti, chanting expressions resembles MCing/free styling and if one does not familiarise oneself with the history, you cannot truly embrace it.

Keulder reveals that Capoeira's dance origin contained

an underlying significance. Brazilian slaves disguised their form of fighting as dance from their capturers. In reality it had two main functions: to revolt against the injustices imposed upon them and to sort out disputes among themselves.

His loyalty to the hip-hop culture is unquestionable. Keulder explains: "The thing about Capoeira is that, unlike other forms of exercise, it carries with it a spiritual aspect as well. The fact that you stand in a circle while a pair dance together in the middle, the music, the energy, it requires interaction among all involved. It is also a very humbling dance that brings all people down to one level, regardless of class and physical appearance."

For those of you who would like to join, Keulder insists: "It all depends on focus, if you focus hard enough and put yourself in the right mindset you won't even realise how much time and power you have put into doing it." But then again, one cannot disregard the existence of apathy and indifference among students. Keulder agrees with this while shaking his head and says, "it has all got to do with willpower, if people are not willing to go out and see things and do something new for a change then they are limiting their boundaries. Even if it is only once, people should come and check it out."

He informs me that the training times are rather irregular at the moment, but he will let those who are interested know when the next lesson is. Take it from a true hip-hop head and stop confusing yourself with the ever tiresome "booty hopping" seen on television.

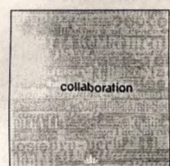
JSK CD reviews



Masta Ace — A Long Hot Summer

Talk about under the radar: this is Brooklyn MC Masta Ace's fifth and final album, yet what's the bet it won't get more than a passing notice. More's the pity because *A Long Hot Summer* is the shit. Ace has constructed an album based on a movie about a long, hot, crazy summer in New York City, using the tracks and his effortless, honest style to craft the perfect concept album - he even has outtakes. Tracks like *Beautiful*, the off-centre *BKLYN Masala* and the absolutely stunning *H.O.O.D* prove that Ace is indeed still a Masta. This isn't just an album - it's an experience. Get it while it's hot.

— Rob Boffard @@@@ out of 5



Various Artists — The Coca-Cola Collaboration

Over 30 amazingly talented home-grown musicians have collaborated for *The Coca-Cola Collaboration*. Disappointingly, a similar sound is shared by many of the tracks, making this album tedious at times. All is not lost however as there are some brilliant collaborations on this album. The best of these definitely being *Be With Me*, a soothing offering by 340ml, Jah Seed and Khethi that flows more smoothly than an ice-cold beer in 40 degree weather. Other songs to listen out for are *Lover's Groove* (Karen Zoid and Bongo Muffin's Thandiswa), *Thina Kayi One* (H2O, Bouga Luv and Lira) and *But I'm Free* (Tumi, HHP, Zoe and SK). This album has something for everyone and is well worth a listen. — Clayton Swanepoel @@@ out of 5



Seether — Disclaimer II

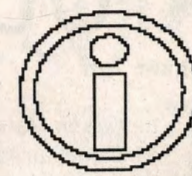
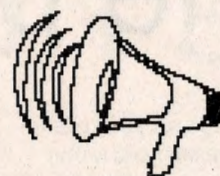
If this isn't a blatant attempt to make more money out of loyal fans, then I don't know what is. The official press release claims that lead singer Shaun Morgan was unhappy with the first release of *Disclaimer* and this album, a re-recording of the 11 tracks and an additional eight tracks, was to correct that. But wait, wasn't *Disclaimer* essentially a rerecording of *Fragile*? This album is, for all purposes, an attempt to keep interest in Seether alive as well as promote their recent success on big movie soundtracks such as *Freddy Vs. Jason*. On the bright side, it comes with a free DVD showcasing all the band's music videos and a show they had in an anonymous dingy bar. — Conrad Feris @@@ out of 5



Yellow Card — Ocean Avenue

Yellow Card: not awful enough to deserve red card treatment, but still not fair play. Think Blink 182 meets Tweak meets Linkin Park. Add a small dose of Green Day and mix well. Yellow Card have taken a whole range of original sounds and managed to create an unoriginal commercial blend of something that's trying to be punk. They aren't all bad, there are a few tracks that are stomachable. If you like commercial drivel, buy this album. — Jacqueline Nurse @@ out of 5

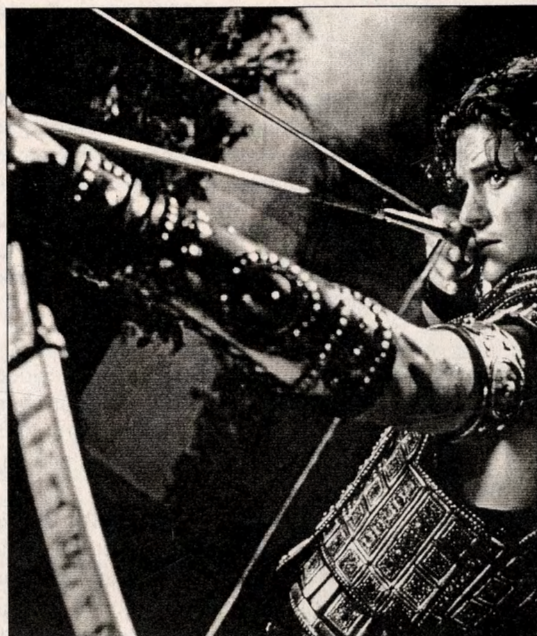
JSK ENTERTAINMENT JUST SAY KNOW



Is history what it used to be?

■ Maire Bonheim

The recent *Texas Chainsaw Massacre*, starring Andrew Bryniarski as Leatherface, tells the story of a psychopathic who slaughters his victims with a chainsaw and then constructs (and wears) facemasks made out of their flayed skin. A remake of the 1974 slasher flick, director Marcus Nispel claims that the film is based on the story of real-life killer Ed Gein who, in fact, did not own a chainsaw. Gein used a good old-fashioned pistol to slay his prey, possibly because a heavy instrument like a chainsaw can be quite difficult to manoeuvre, especially when you do not want to damage something that can be hung up in your garage later. Disgustingly, however, it appears that the skin part is actually based on truth. In fact, the moviemakers kindly toned it down a bit, since the real-life Ed Gein covered most of his body with the homemade birthday suit. The American psycho apparently donned the skin coat in an attempt to become a woman. Cult film *The Silence of the Lambs* and the 1960s hit *Psycho* are also based on Gein, who would have been surprised at the amount of money his strange obsessions would make for Hollywood some day. In fact, it's astonishing just how much filmmakers are cashing in on the re-interpretation of novels and real-life situations. This year saw the release of, *Around the World in 80 Days*, *The Stepford Wives* and *The Cat in the Hat*, which are just a few of the films that have exploited and altered the storylines of well-known novels or true events. This appears to have made a lot of people very unhappy. I,



Robot, starring Will Smith, takes a few good ideas from Isaac Asimov's 1950s novel, but critics have lamented the loss of the book's discussion of deep ethical issues surrounding artificial intelligence. I was disappointed that they didn't exterminate the annoying robot at the beginning of the film, so I wouldn't have had to listen to it moaning poignantly about its feelings the whole way through.

The blind Greek poet Homer's epic tale, *The Iliad*, written around 800 BC, has allowed movie moguls to prosper with this year's lucrative smash-hit, *Troy*.

The movie is exhilarating, mostly because Orlando Bloom (Paris) is so good at playing the tortured hero role we worshipped in *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy. It reportedly took Brad Pitt six months to get that physique into Achilles-worthy shape. There are many dramatic testosterone-driven talks about power, silent agonising moments and extras having their heads sliced open with shields. In other words, it's a lot like *Lethal Weapon*, but using swords and a wooden horse instead of machine guns. The film is, however, misleading. Although it is likely that Troy did exist and the Ancient Greeks did flatten it, it was probably a political economic decision rather than an act of love. When it comes to Homer's storyline, director Wolfgang Petersen has not been overly concerned with getting the facts straight. People who are supposed to make it back home die, and Helen (Diane Kruger), who in the movie escapes, should get herself recaptured and hook up with her ex again.

Presumably, that is the point; Hobbits do not exist. This makes it slightly embarrassing to be enormously upset that Frodo is misrepresented in the film documenting his life. And it certainly appears irrelevant to the *Texas Chainsaw Massacre* exactly how the real-life Gein chopped up his housemates. Personally, I did not watch that movie for its factual realism. Furthermore, I was slightly more fixated on examining Brad Pitt's muscled arms ripple as he fights Hector than on whether the script was accurate or not. Although I was extremely thankful that such meticulous care was taken to ensure the authenticity of the costumes, I found Brad Pitt's little leather mini fascinating. No purism there.

JSK GAMES review

■ Peter Barlow

Crouching knee-deep in mud, you call down fire support while bullets punch holes in the foliage around you. Within minutes fighter jets, obscured by the thick jungle canopy, are screaming low overhead and the whole area goes up in flames, silencing the enemy. No game can put you in Nam, but this one comes pretty close. From the jungle floor to the tunnels of the *VietCong*, you lead your team of crack Green Berets through 20 kill zones. The weapons are true to life and realistically balanced and each member of your team has their own unique personality and specialisation. If one of your team members dies the mission is over, which makes the game's iffy Artificial Intelligence extremely frustrating as it sometimes feels as

VIETCONG

though you are fighting with a bunch of boneheads. The amount of damage you can take is also frighteningly realistic. If you are shot you die - unlike most first person shooter games today. Mix all of this with a soundtrack that sets the scene and, all in all, despite the somewhat dated looking graphics, you get a truly gratifying gaming experience.

@@@@ Out of 5

System requirements

1.6GHz Pentium 4

Processor

256mb of RAM

64mb Graphics card with

Direct x 8.1 compatibility

JSK GIG GUIDE music

■ Alexis de Coning

Friday October 22

■ Head bangers: come one, come all to Champs Action Bar as they are holding their rocking Rocktober festival once again. This means lots of drinks specials almost every night of the week - a definite must for Grahamstown's rock fans! DJ Bruce will be there to entertain you all night long on Friday.

Monday October 25

■ Thus Far and new band Toby's Ghost are set to play an acoustic gig at Under da Tree tonight. R5 will get you in so come along and show your support. This will be the last gig from Thus Far this year and Toby's Ghost's big debut.

Friday October 29

■ As this is the end of Rocktober,

Champs may be holding a Bands Evening. Although as of yet unconfirmed, look forward to Grahamstown's best live music acts. Keep your ear to the ground for details.

■ If rock just isn't your thing, support local music of a different kind with the Hiphocalypse Charity Mix-tape Launch. The first 50 copies sold come with a little something extra, so make sure you get your copy early. Albums will be on sale at the event, with performances from the Innovators, Rob One, Blakrok and many more. Venue to be confirmed.

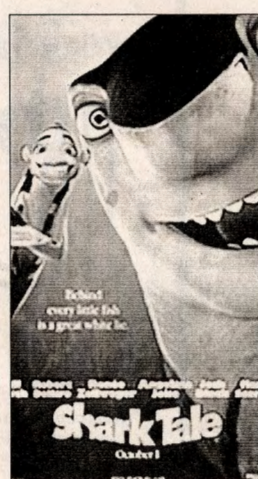
All information was correct at the time of going to the press.

JSK MOVIE coming soon

■ Conrad Feris

Hitching onto the success of movies such as *Shrek*, and more specifically, *Finding Nemo*, is *Shark Tale*. Like *Finding Nemo*, this tale takes place under the sea and follows the misadventures of Oscar (Will Smith) and Lenny's (Jack Black) rise to fame and infamy respectively. The story is nothing new - Oscar

becomes a public shark slayer giving him fame and recognition while Lenny plays the shark that Oscar repeatedly slays. It's *The Boy Who Cried Wolf*, but under the sea and with big names like Angelina Jolie and Robert De Niro. If you go in expecting a good laugh and nothing too mentally taxing, then this movie looks promising.



JSK DVD review

■ Michael Kaeflein

The widely acclaimed release from director Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu's of *Amores Perros* (Love's a bitch) fame, *21 Grams* charts the personal tragedies of three disparate individuals; a recipient of a new heart, the grieving widow of the heart donor and a born again ex-convict who caused the acci-

dent that precipitates the events of the movie. Under Inarritu's masterful direction, this tense and atmospheric drama draws the events to a climax, leaving no doubt as to the intentions of a sometimes confusing non-chronological plot line. This is a definite must-see for the sheer humanity and reality it depicts. @@@@ out of 5



Around the block for Mandela

■ Shane Torr

The Nelson Mandela Hall has introduced a new sporting event, which will take place between the various residences within the hall. Male and female residences will team up and compete against one another in the launch event for the introduction of the shield, known as "Around the Block". For the first time, men and women will need to work together in order to beat their competitors to the chequered flag and reign victorious. The provisional date set for this event is October 27, 2004. The one simple rule for this event is that each participating team must have a balance of female and male members.

Each combination of residences will supply two teams that must contain three male and three female competitors. The residences that will be teamed up for the Mandela Sports Shield are Ruth First and Centenary, Helen Joseph and Stanley Kidd and Victoria Mxenge and Guy Butler.

For the 2005 Mandela Sports Shield, touch rugby, soccer, hockey and

basketball could be introduced to broaden the playing field and maximise the number of students taking part in each activity. Each of the events will carry equal points allocations for first to third places and the points will be tallied up to find the winners. The Shield will be awarded to the winning team at the annual Leavers' Dinner.

Nelson Mandela Hall is trying to continue their perceived success of themselves as one of the best halls on campus. The wardens of Mandela Hall have introduced this sporting event in the hope that it will increase student participation in university life. Jon James, co-organiser of the event, anticipates that a large number of students will take part and hopes it will act as a gelling mechanism, enabling team building within and between the residences.

It is hoped that this event will become as successful and 'high profile' as The Hammer, which is a contest between the Kimberly Hall residences. It is sure to be action-packed, competitive and enjoyable. The decision whether or not to implement the Mandela Sports Shield remains with the Mandela Hall sports events committee.



First for Ruth and gold for Goldfields

■ Melissa Tardivel

The overall winners of this year's female and male inter-residence sporting competition were announced two weeks ago. Both victories seemed suited to the names of the respective houses.

For the female residence trophy, Ruth First claimed victory with an impressive point tally over second placed rival Canterbury, who sported a consistent performance throughout the year. The same can be said for the male team from Goldfields who showed the same dominance in their streak of wins with a resounding lead over their competitors. The team from Jan Smuts, which achieved second position overall, did not fall prey to easy defeat, at times threatening to dethrone the eventual victors.

The constant contention between the second, third and fourth

placed male residences made for an interesting result as the positions on the scoreboard were decided by the slightest difference in point accumulations. Salisbury were unlucky not to achieve the two points needed to equal with Jan Smut's total of 79, whilst Piet Retief, in fourth place, lagged behind with only a four point deficit of 73.

The same can be said for the female teams from each residence who, similarly, contested for the top three positions. However, Ruth First's early lead, which continued to strengthen, left little opportunity for the other teams to catch up. The competition was therefore played out between second and third place for the runner-up position, which Canterbury deservingly acquired with its marginal victory over the team from Helen Joseph, whose effort subsequently secured them third place overall.

The 22 female and 17 male residences showed great commitment and support by representing their houses in the various sporting activities each week. It is impressive to consider how most participants engaged in sports that they had never attempted before. From archery to volleyball, there was a focus on team-work, which reiterated the whole idea of residence spirit. Hopefully, next year's events will see even more participation.

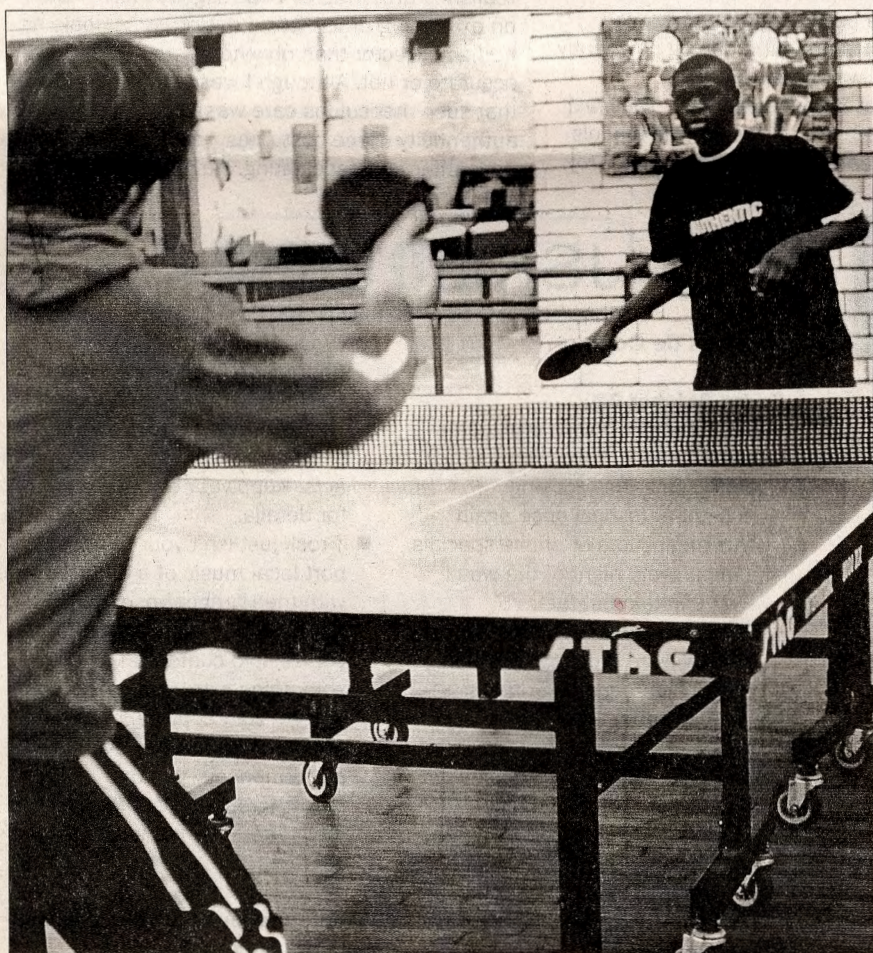
A quick round up of the final point standings:

Female Residences:

Ruth First with 100 points
Canterbury with 64 points
Helen Joseph with 59 points

Male Residences:

Gold Fields with 98 points
Jan Smuts with 79 points
Salisbury with 77 points



Putting paddle to ball.

■ Erin Veldsman

Rhodes students dominate

■ Jennifer Turner

On Saturday October 9, 2004 the Rhodes University Table Tennis Club held its annual Rhodes Open tournament. The scene was set at The Rhodes Aerobics Hall where a great time was had by all.

The 20 players competed for their titles in men's, ladies' juniors and doubles. The men's open title was won by Mike de Kock for the second year running. Dave Holness came second, Olumide Alebiosu, third and Felix Eleblu took fourth place in the same event. All of these players represented Rhodes University. Tiffany Adams (Alphendale) won the ladies' open title with Carol

Holness and Samirah Dhoothat coming second and third respectively. Both women also represented Rhodes. Adams won against Kurt Adams (Alphendale) for the junior's title. Alebiosu and Eleblu won the doubles titles. Winners were presented with medals and floating trophies.

Vouchers were kindly sponsored by local businesses and other participants were shown a fantastic time with great action and lucky-draw prizes.

The Rhodes Table Tennis Committee extends its thanks to all those who supported the event, especially those who made the trip from East London and Port Elizabeth.

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Rhodes women dominate

■ Jenna Viljoen

On the 4th October 2004, both Rhodes' men's and women's Rowing 'A' crews embarked on a tour that would prove to be exhilarating and definitely an experience worth remembering.

The crews were attending the Zambezi Centenary Regatta to be held on the Zambian side of Long Island and were set to compete against the likes of top international crews; that of Cambridge and Oxford as well as the winners of Boat races 2004, Rand Afrikaans University (RAU). This demonstrates a major part of the significance of making boat race finals as, selection for this Regatta comprises of the teams who place in the top two.

Training for the event was intense and the crews were on the water up until the day before their race, Saturday 10th October. On speaking to Rosanne Thornycroft, a member of the girls 'A' crew, she said that "it was an amazing experience" and "at one stage we had to stop practice as there were a heard of elephant crossing the river in front of us!" There was also a safety boat that accompanied the teams as they practiced on the Zambezi in case of a crocodile or hippo attack.

This extreme dedication to the sport was reflected in the results the two crews produced. Both crews competed in the 500 metres and 2 kilometre events and did exceptionally. An honourable mention must be made of the Women's 'A's, however, as they managed to claim victory in both their races, winning the Tongabezi Trophy for the 500m and the First Quantum Minerals Trophy for the 2km. Achieving such premier positions when competing against internationally renowned crews as Oxford and Cambridge is a phenomenal feat and undoubtedly made the tour that much better.

The men's 'A' crew managed a second place in the 500metre event and a third in the 2km. These are also very strong achievements considering there were rowers in the international crews who had competed both in the Athens and Sydney Olympics.

Opinion:

SA Cricket — a complete contrast

■ Patience Hlongwane

Iam sure that many cricket followers remember the night the South African national cricket team, otherwise known as the Proteas, was dumped out of the 2003 Cricket World Cup. I had thought on that day that we could not possibly have lost to Sri Lanka. "I mean just look at them – they are probably intimidated by the large home support. And anyway, aren't we like the second ranked country in the world?"

I am very sure that almost all South Africans shared similar thoughts with their friends before the match, but the dialogue that would have followed was missing the arrogance that had infiltrated the country with the hosting of the tournament.

The solemn image of a disappointed team captain, Shaun Pollock, holding his head in his arms dominated the following day's news. Most South Africans could sympathise with the horror of watching H.M.S. Protea slowly sink on that rainy March evening.

It is now almost a year since that traumatic night and South African cricket has a vibrant new captain, Graeme Smith, to steady the team. Yet I have to wonder at the quality of the captain's leadership and the wisdom of coach Eric Simons for placing a man in his early twenties in such a demanding position.

Even with humiliating losses to New Zealand, the West Indies and, once again, to the Sri Lankan team this year, Simons refused to doubt himself or his tactics. He has been the hopeful, if not deluded, guide of the team this year, commenting: "I will never walk away from the challenge facing South African cricket, and it is an incredible challenge that we face."

Indeed, it is an incredible challenge that South African cricket faces, as it is not the Proteas who are setting the world on fire right now, but the rarely mentioned South Africa 'A' team. This is a squad that has, in the past year, won matches both at home and away. So perhaps the problem with the Proteas is not that of developing players, as it is with the national soccer team, but that of the players in the senior team lacking desire to win.

An example of this is the inclusion of Charl Langeveldt to the senior team from the South Africa 'A' team. Langeveldt became a sensation when he was given the opportunity to play for his country. It may be an insane fan's wish, but I want players who want to wear the green jersey representing me on the international arena.

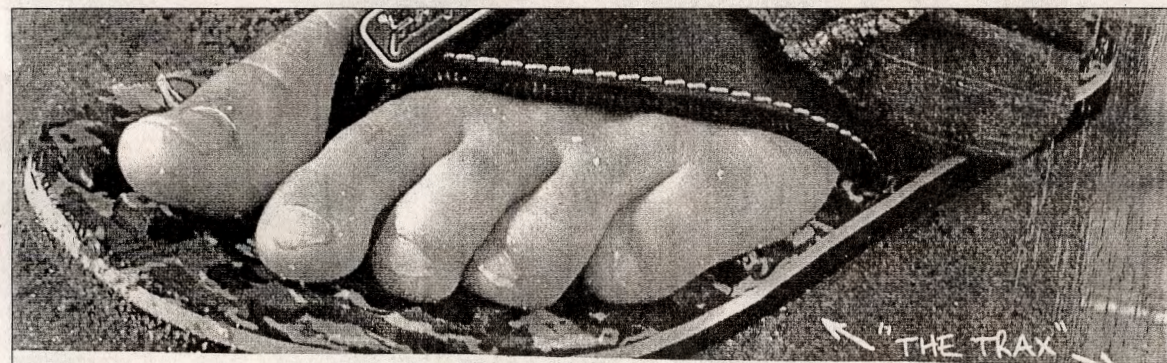


Smiling at success

■ Madelaine Shama



Team RSA vs. West Indies at the ICC Champions.



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Thank you to all those who submitted pictures. This page is dedicated to the highlights of 2004

