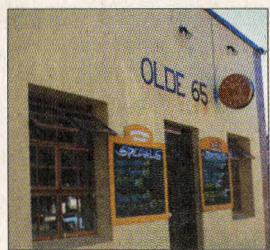


activate

Independent Student Newspaper at Rhodes University

Edition Eight August 2005

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SOUTH AFRICAN

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Olde 65 robbery



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Homophobia - run
for your life

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roadshow

Contraceptive health scare

■ Serena Chaudhry

The Rhodes Sanatorium is advocating the use of a contraceptive that is believed to be harmful to one's health and cause long-term irrevocable damage to the uterus lining.

Nur-Isterate, an injectable contraceptive taken every two months, is "an effective, convenient and safe method of contraception", according to a pamphlet available from the San. The injection prevents ovulation and causes a mucus plug to form at the entrance to the womb. The main concern, however, is that the injection actually prevents the build-up of the lining of the womb, and long-term usage may result in a woman not menstruating. The pamphlet states that this "is not harmful to your health".

According to three female students studying at Rhodes, this is incorrect. All three women have stopped taking Nur-Isterate because of the harmful side-effects they have experienced.

Jenna, a second-year student, started receiving the injections in May last year. After having three injections in six months, her menstrual cycle became erratic and she suffered from terrible period pains. Concerned, she went to the San, but was reassured by the sister that this was normal.

Jenna says she began to lose weight rapidly, had no energy and wanted to sleep all the time. After suffering from heavy bleeding for a month, Jenna went to see a gynaecologist in Port Alfred. He accordingly told her that the injection is dangerous in the long-run, and can prevent conception in the future as it removes the uterus lining

to the extent that it cannot re-grow. He added that he would "never recommend it [Nur-Isterate] to anyone".

Upon questioning one of the sisters at the San, *Activate* was informed that there is always a "hormonal imbalance" when one starts taking a contraceptive. The sister, who wishes to remain anonymous, says the side-effects vary for each individual. When asked whether the continuous use of Nur-Isterate results in infertility, she exclaimed "there is no such thing", and that one only suffers from "delayed fertility".

Dr Kriel, a gynaecologist in Port Elizabeth, explains that a big drawback for a new patient taking Nur-Isterate is that one cannot predict whether she will suffer from excessive bleeding, or whether her period will stop altogether. Dr Kriel strongly denies that the contraceptive leads to infertility, saying it is "totally wrong and untrue".

Simone, who is in her third year, began taking Nur-Isterate in mid-2004. She could not go on the pill as she suffers from chronic migraines. Simone says that when she went to the San, there was "no doubt in her [the sister's] mind that the injection is the best form of contraception". The sister told Simone that she herself had fallen pregnant on the pill.

Simone suffered similar side effects to Jenna's, and was put on different doses of contraceptive injections, none of which made a difference. "I bled for eight months straight," she says. However, the sister at the San told her to persevere as her side effects were normal.



While injectable contraceptives may prevent an unwanted pregnancy, the long term effects are questionable

■ Matt Middleton

Dr Kriel admits that prolonged bleeding is a major side effect of taking Nur-Isterate, but sees it as a pro, not a con, as continuous use of the injection can stop a woman from having her period.

After seeing two gynaecologists, it was suggested to Simone to have her uterus scraped out and to start again. The lining of her womb was so thin however, that she could not undergo the operation, as it would break and be irrevocably damaged.

Yash, another third year student, started taking the injections in 2003. She initially went to the San to go on

the pill, but the sister there convinced her to use Nur-Isterate because it requires less effort.

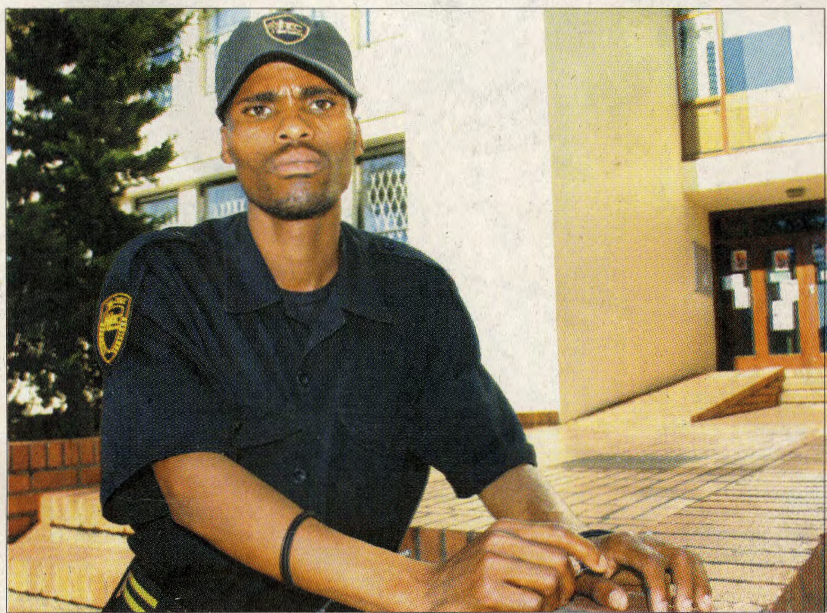
Yash began to lose weight rapidly, was emotional and often fatigued. She says the sisters at the San are "generally mean, and most of them are just not interested [in what they are doing]". Yash commented that the pamphlet from the San does not give exact information about the contraceptive. "It only says what the injection might do, not what actually happens," she says.

One needs to ask why the San is providing such injections. Although some

women may find it difficult to remember to take oral contraceptives, if Nur-Isterate prevents the re-growth of the uterus lining, is it really safe?

Dr Kriel comes to Grahamstown regularly to see patients and admits to seeing quite a few students with side-effects as a result of using Nur-Isterate. "I don't like it [Nur-Isterate] very much," he stated.

While Simone said she has "so far not heard a positive review [about Nur-Isterate]", she thinks "it works for some. [The San] should be careful about promoting it to everyone," she said.



Hi-Tec Guards such as Simphiwe Basi were part of a strike against current working conditions ■ Lauren Clifford-Holmes

Striking guards lose their jobs

■ Tami Duncan and Lindsey Tainton

The recent strikes across South Africa have also affected Grahamstown. Hi-Tec and Makana security guards participated in strike action on Saturday July 23 after refusing to work under current conditions.

A group of 39 on-duty Makana guards were to be picked up by Hi-Tec security, but refused to enter the vehicles. Instead, they marched to the Hi-Tec office in New Street to join other, off-duty, striking guards. An estimated 75 employees out of 240 participated in the strike.

Only some of the employees are members of the South African Commercial, Catering and Allied Workers Union (SACCAWU).

The union has been running for three months and is the fourth one the employees have been involved with for 10 years. SACCAWU's demands included: cancelling night shifts, not needing to guard previously broken-into houses, resignation of the current manager and the elimination of supervisory positions.

The area that was most affected was Fort England Hospital, where guards had to be quickly replaced. Hi-Tec honoured the contract, one of their biggest, and was able to keep Fort England and other locations well-guarded.

Makana guards are stationed at various locations around Grahamstown. They patrol the perimeter of Rhodes

University while CPU guards within campus.

All members who actively participated in the illegal strike were immediately dismissed. The majority have already been replaced by trained guards, who are normally on standby but have now been made permanent.

The strikers who were dismissed returned to Hi-Tec a few days later to apologise and ask for their jobs back. However, they were refused.

When asked whether or not the issue was resolved, André Willie, a member of Makana Security, said: "From an operational point of view it has been resolved."

No legal repercussions have resulted, as the strike was illegal.

Editorial Busted Olde 65 thief flushes loot



Nelly the Elephant

■ Carly Ritz

I woke up last Tuesday morning and couldn't breathe. It's not really an uncommon experience for me. I'm generally quite highly-strung and I smoke a lot. I thought about quitting, but I'm far from it, but I like to think about it anyway; it sort of lightens the burden of knowing that I'm damaging my body. But then I think about that guy who left South Africa for Australia because of the crime and died two months later on a golf course after being hit on the head by a ball – and I light up again.

But it actually wasn't the smoking that caused me to wake up in panic and unable to breathe – believe it or not. It was the bundle of secrets that I've bottled up inside and just can't keep to myself anymore.

You can only pretend that something doesn't exist or isn't an issue for so long. You can lie to yourself and to other people, but not forever. At some point you lose track of the lies and reality bites, hard.

Sometimes there's something that you just don't want to talk about. You and a friend/lover/colleague may know there is an issue at hand, but no one wants to broach the subject.

My friend Jen says it's like that big elephant that sits on the table between people. Everyone knows its there, it's too big to miss, but no one wants to say anything about it because the consequences are scary. You think that if you try hard enough to ignore it, maybe the elephant will go away. But it's not going to happen. That elephant isn't going anywhere soon. At some point someone has to take that step and say something, or the table legs eventually break and chaos descends.

The elephant sits on all our tables at some time or other. It could be the eating disorder you're trying to ignore, the unresolved issue with a friend that you're trying to forget, the relationship that isn't working, the family secrets that crop up when you're most vulnerable, your sexuality or the feelings to which you refuse to admit. But you know its there and even though you think you're hiding it well, everyone around you probably knows too...well at least those paying enough attention.

I guess it doesn't really matter what the issue is. We're all troubled by some fear or some insecurity. What matters is that we deal with it – that fear or anger or love, and even if we can't deal with it right now, at least admit that its there and that it exists. Admitting to something definitely doesn't solve it, doesn't make it go away and may actually make things worse, but the admission is liberating.

Rebecca Davis went to Scotland recently to protest against the G8. It seems that the world leaders have come to terms with the elephant on their global table – poverty and inequality – and they probably feel heaps better about the admission, but what are they going to do about it now? Turn to page 9 for more on the G8 summit.

So here's my advice – be honest. It's an old cliché, but the truth will set you free.

This editorial was based largely on the insight of Kirby Hamilton Gordon, Jennifer Wynne and Nic Haralambous.

■ Natasha Boddy

In the early hours of Sunday morning, July 31, a former Olde 65 employee allegedly attempted to rob the pub and grub of nearly R10 000.

Richard Taylor, manager of the pub, said he closed up at 3:30am and received a phone call from Hi-Tec about seven minutes later to report that an alarm had been set off.

Upon his return to the pub, he discovered a man hiding behind the bar. "When I opened the door, he ran out through the back and a Hi-Tec guard chased him," Taylor said.

The man attempted to flee but was tackled to the ground by one of the Hi-Tec security guards. A struggle ensued during which the guard was stabbed in the leg.

The man partially freed himself and tried to escape again while being pursued by the guards and Taylor, who

managed to trip him. The guards were forced to use pepper spray to subdue the man after a fight broke out.

The perpetrator then went to the bathroom to wash his face and upon returning was found not to be in possession of any stolen goods. Taylor searched the bathroom and discovered a knife and money in the toilet. R2 000 of the original R10 000 which the man had tried to steal was successfully flushed down the toilet.

The man is currently facing charges of breaking and entering, theft and attempted murder.

However, he has been released without paying bail as he does not have a previous criminal record or convictions against him.

If convicted, he could serve a sentence of up to three years, according to officer Sergeant Mwapi of the Grahamstown Police Service.

Baby when the lights go out

■ Amy-Lee Ducasse and Melissa Parkin

In the throes of the information age, people battle to get to grips with the fact that they actually can survive without electricity.

On July 25, when the lights went out in Grahamstown, panic struck the hearts of those who began to mourn the loss of valuable cellphone battery life. Others, who were alone and confused in the dark, left their rooms, lured by even the faintest glow of candle-light. Some arrived in Grahamstown to start the third term in darkness.

Local media reports stated that a technical fault was the cause of a fire that resulted in the power failure. The cause of the technical fault is still unknown, but assessors are working to find answers. On Sunday July 31 the power was terminated during the

day in order to rectify the faults in the power system.

While people flocked to purchase candles, matches and torches, many were greeted by empty shelves, as these items sold like hotcakes.

Some people roamed the streets in their pyjamas thinking no one would notice, others played hide-and-seek in the dark, and because the heaters failed others found the perfect excuse to cuddle up in bed with someone cosy.

Most of Grahamstown was debilitated by this loss of power, although some innovative pubs and restaurants managed to lure customers to their establishments like moths to a candle.

The night of darkness served to confirm just how powerless we really are in the hands of Mother Nature.

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Crime is down on campus – CPU

■ Delia de Villiers

The first two weeks of the third term have been unusually quiet for the Campus Protection Unit (CPU). Box-room theft, which is usually a big problem for CPU after a vac, has not been reported. David Brown, Senior Campus Protection Officer said last term's car theft problem seemed to be a thing of the past. The number of car thefts that occurred on campus during the second term was higher than the general annual average. On Monday July 25 the Student

Cycle Patrol became operational. On Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays their shifts run from 8pm to 2am. On the 'going-out' nights, they are on duty from 9pm to 5am. Presently there are two students per shift, although the initial plan was to have four. Lack of student interest, however, has made this impossible.

The relatively low crime rate is a positive start to the semester and should go some way to putting the minds of wary students at ease.

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Old 65

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First years only, please



Rhodes University residences: not enough to go around

■ Lauren Clifford-Holmes

■ Natasha Boddy and Jacqueline Lazic

As of next year, postgraduates and oppidan students wishing to move into residence will no longer be permitted to. The move comes as a result of increasing pressure on the university to accommodate its intake of first year students into the residence system.

Honours students and undergraduate fourth years will be unaffected by the decision, whereas Masters and PhD students will be "asked to move to residence accommodation that is allocated for postgraduates," said vice-Chancellor Dr David Woods. He stressed that no students will be

"forced out of residence".

Currently, only 40 postgraduates are accommodated in undergraduate residences, which means that these students will be asked to move into designated postgraduate residences in due course.

Students who have previously lived in digs will not be permitted to move into res. According to Dr Woods, it is assumed that "if you have lived off-campus until now, you should be able to do so in the future".

Dr Moosa Motara, Dean of Students, said the motivation behind the decision was due to an increased demand

for undergraduate residence places, particularly for female students. "The university is striving to provide all first-year students with an opportunity to live in residence," he said.

In a bid to secure an additional 170 residence places for first years in 2006, the university will be transferring postgraduates to designated residences, converting university housing into student accommodation and stiffening disciplinary measures to remove troublemakers from undergraduate residences.

The university will also convert Livingstone residence into female

accommodation. "I would like to stress that Piet Retief is not being turned into a girls' residence despite what rumours may say," Motara said.

Alongside this change in accommodation, the university will also convert Cradock Place into lodgings to accommodate a further 40 students.

The greater number of first years in residence has created a concern that residence life may become imbalanced with too few older students living in res.

Ivy de Vos, warden of Beit House, said: "The interaction between first years and older students has always

been very good for students and to take that away will definitely cause an imbalance."

However, Motara insists that the university has seriously considered this point of contention and that the ratio of first years to older students will change marginally.

"There will only be a small increase next year, so the balance shouldn't be affected very much," he stated.

The decision should hopefully see an influx of first year students being able to enjoy the experience of living on campus and benefit from the safety and security of residence life.

Accident claims life of law student

■ Tumi Mpete

Rhodes student Jongikhaya Cetu, 23, died in a car accident on Saturday July 23, 20km outside of Grahamstown. Cetu was in the fourth year of his LLB degree.

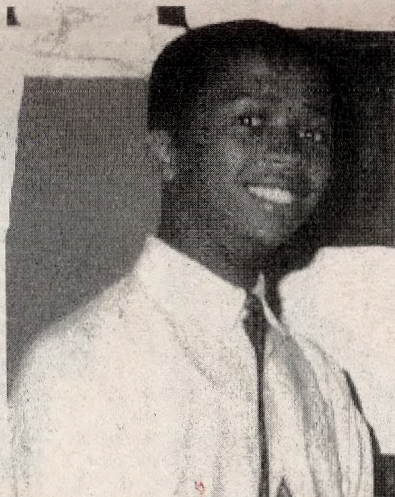
Jongi was a passenger in the car when the accident happened. Details of why the accident occurred are sketchy, with police having not yet released a full statement.

Hazel Cetu of the Salaries Division at the university and aunt to the deceased, described her nephew as a humble person who was "exceptional and soft-spoken".

Hazel said the university was sympathetic and that everyone from the vice-Chancellor to the administrative staff gave her and her family excellent treatment.

In the VC's email to students and staff, he expressed regret for Cetu's death and extended condolences to the deceased's family and friends.

Cetu completed his matric at Graeme College in 1999 with exemp-



Jongikhaya Cetu

■ pic supplied

tion. He began his studies at Rhodes in 2002, after studying towards a BComm in PE.

Cetu participated in rugby, tennis, soccer, athletics and cricket. He received a Pen Award for his cricketing contributions and was appointed as a scorer for SA Schools Cricket.

Students' voices suffocated at University of Cape Town

■ Miko Schneider

The SRC at the University of Cape Town is considering staging a boycott of the university's highest decision-making bodies, in a bid to emphasise the disempowerment of the student body in these committees.

The SRC believes that it is not given the opportunity to play an active role in decision making at the university – as is most recently evident in its attempt at co-operative governance with UCT administration regarding issues of academic fee increments and the proposed academic timetable for 2006.

Muhammed Surty, SRC vice-President External, said: "20 000 students are represented by 15 people [on the SRC] with one representative [from the SRC] in each of UCT's highest decision-making bodies."

On the University Council we have two seats, allowing UCT's largest population – the students – five percent representation." Comparatively, in advisory committees such as the Institutional Forum, student represent-

atives form half of the body.

In response to the SRC, Deputy vice-Chancellor Professor Thandabantu Nhlapo, who is in charge of student development, has called their proposed boycott "self-defeating", yet has acknowledged the SRC's complaints as a "wide-spread perception".

"I have taken this perception seriously since my arrival [at UCT in 2004] because it has always been my belief that co-operative governance should be about trust."

By trust I mean that all parties involved in the co-operative venture should feel a sense of ownership, not only of the processes but also of the outcomes of those processes."

The SRC believes that its representation on university committees is merely used as a 'rubber stamp' to endorse pre-approved decisions that these councils have already taken.

Nhlapo disputed this, saying: "I reject this notion of rubber-stamping because in a properly functioning co-operative governance system, owner-

ship of decisions should be genuine because participation was genuine."

The SRC has decided that there is no other way to address this insufficient input into student-related affairs, other than to consult with its sub-councils and students.

SRC President Ngobizitha Mlilo said: "We are ready to take whatever mandate the student body gives us."

But as long as the system remains the same, students' voices will always be suffocated.

We refuse to be ignored and will make a concerted effort to be sure that we are listened to."

In a statement to campus newspaper *Varsity*, Nhlapo referred to possible changes to be made to the Student Development and Services Department to address the SRC's concerns.

■ Supplied by UCT paper - *Varsity*

Fees increment through the roof, says UCT SRC

■ Hansuya Reddy

At a UCT Council meeting on June 1, the Students' Representative Council (SRC) raised the issue of increasingly high fee increments.

This was met with poor response from Council, according to SRC president Ngobizitha Mlilo, despite the presentation of a document prepared by the SRC dealing with statistics of inflation, costs and financial aid.

In the last year, fees have risen by 7.7%. Reportedly the last five years have brought an approximate 30% raise in fees.

The SRC believes that the rate of internal inflation does not equate to

the national inflation by any means. It is reasonable to assume internal inflation will differ due to other factors at UCT.

However a query remains as to how these rates are calculated and whether this is accurate.

A critical issue, according to Mlilo, is access to education. In increasing the cost of education, he believes that the facilities provided, and value of education, have not increased.

In addition, financial aid has not increased to accommodate the growing number of students unable to raise funds. In the last few years, it is reported that students from all race

groups are increasingly applying for financial aid.

Mlilo emphasises how, now that 'middle class' students who might have previously been able to afford university fees are also applying for financial aid, students from disadvantaged backgrounds have even less of an opportunity to receive financial aid.

Muhammed Surty, SRC vice president external says: "Universities are national assets. A certain amount of taxpayers' money is invested in these institutions. If the poor cannot access them, they are in a sense marginalised."

Another key complaint from the SRC

is the costs incurred through research and unsuccessful fundraising activity. Research requires funding and does not produce the expected monetary gains. Students pick up the cost according to the SRC.

In response to the situation, the SRC is consulting its substructures. Some have already suggested that they take legal action and initiate a process of mass action.

The SRC have called for an emergency joint-sitting to determine how to proceed. At the moment a petition and a march are being debated.

Other issues raised with regard to fee increments were the costs of sup-

plementary exams and the notes' levies. The SRC claims that these prices are often disproportionate to actual costs.

■ Supplied by UCT paper - *Varsity*



What you said:

As a student living in digs, would you want to go back to res, now that you can't?

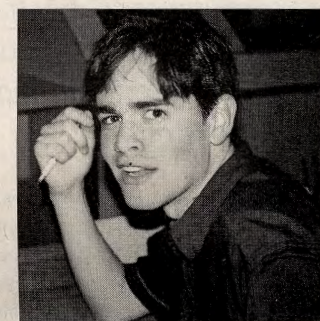
■ Kate Pawelcyk, Jade Jacobsohn and Bronwyn Greenshields



Danielle Smit

2nd Year
BA 1

Digs can be a big step, so it's really unfair that we can't move back into res and will never have the opportunity to experience res life again.



Stephen Galanis

1st Year
BJRN 1

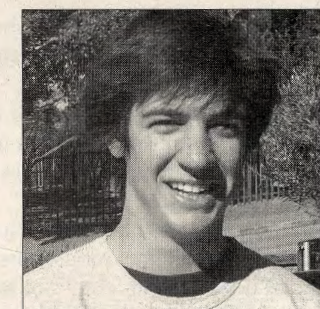
Why would I want to move into res? The rooms are about the size of my en-suite bathroom in my digs!



Christie Jacobs

1st year
BJRN 1

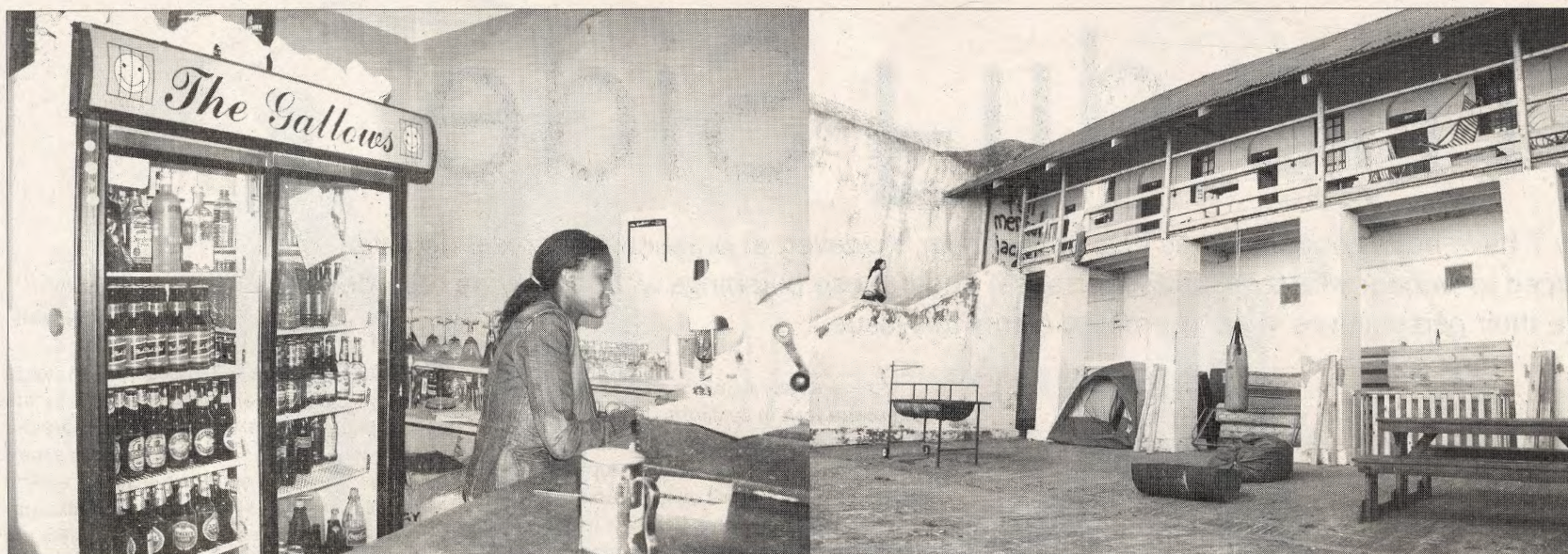
Res really is an essential part of student life, it really helps you to meet loads of people and speeds up the settling down process.



Andrew Schultz

1st Year
BSc 1

It would have been awesome to have experienced res life and I feel it is unfair that first year students who lived in digs this year will not be allowed in res next year.



■ Lauren Clifford-Holmes

The life of an Old Gaol inmate

Before you check into your cell, free of shackles and moaning prisoners, there are some things you ought know about the Old Gaol and its inmates – both past and present. **Luke Reid** and **Jade Menezies** explore this historical hotel's fascinating heritage.

"The black flag was raised, the public executioner fixed the rope to a strong beam overhead, bared the culprit's neck, placed the knot carefully under the right ear, drew the white cap over the face, and in another moment the drop fell with a loud crash... the head is thrown over the left shoulder, and you know that the sudden jerk has dislocated the upper vertebra which joins the skull... the neck purples and swells... an assistant, who was hanging on by the legs, relaxes his hold... the spirit has fled to its maker. Life is extinct."

This is an extract from a newspaper article describing a public execution that took place in what was once the Grahamstown district prison. Today the building is a national monument, backpackers and a local night-spot. However, its history is plagued with torture, terror and death.

The prison was built in 1824 and consisted of 24 cells, which housed convicted criminal, debtors and those awaiting trial. The gaoler's quarters, hospital and women's section were also located in the building. The prison was built to house approximately 200 criminals, but at times held as many as 1000. This amounts to 41 prisoners jam-packed into each cell instead of the usual eight. As time passed, extensions were made and the jail is now a maze of interconnecting passageways and dark corners.

While prisoners were awaiting their fate, many were put to work. Those staying in the awaiting-trial section were placed on kitchen duty, female prisoners worked in the laundry and convicted criminals were put to hard labour. Many manual labour projects in the Grahamstown district were completed by prisoners, one of which is the stretch of road leading to Fort Beaufort.

When the prison was in operation, South Africa still followed a system of corporal punishment. This meant that bad behaviour could be met with torturous penalties. Prisoners who were not executed or placed on starvation diets were given beatings. These usually took place on an A-frame – a structure formed by three poles tied together in the shape of an 'A'. The district surgeon was present to ensure that the prisoner was not beaten to death.

Executions in Grahamstown were public events that first took place at the train station and later the military

grounds, which are now the Rhodes University lawns. Eventually the hangings were moved to the jail where they continued until relocating to Pretoria in 1956. Those not sentenced to death spent their lives within the grim prison walls – except for one unnamed prisoner who allegedly managed to escape. He was in the last month of his term when he succeeded in breaking out of a starvation cell. Once out of the prison he proceeded to rob a local bank and then returned to the prison. It was then, while trying to break back into the prison, that he was captured.

In 1975 this prison complex was closed down in favour of the much larger Grahamstown prison. For a year or so it continued to be used on an unofficial basis before being left empty. It was used intermittently for various projects over the years, including being a venue for the Grahamstown Crafters Guild and briefly, a small restaurant.

Today, the spirit of the jail has undergone an almost complete reversal from the violent agent of bureaucracy and criminal justice that it once was. "It's a really chilled out atmosphere," says Brian Peltason, the closest thing to a manager at the current backpackers' lodge.

The old prison has become the Old Gaol, a backpackers' hostel where visitors sleep in the dingy cells that once housed murderers, rapists and other unsavoury characters.

In 1997 Brian started looking for a house in Grahamstown to recreate

as a backpacking establishment, and the old prison building was perfect for what he wanted.

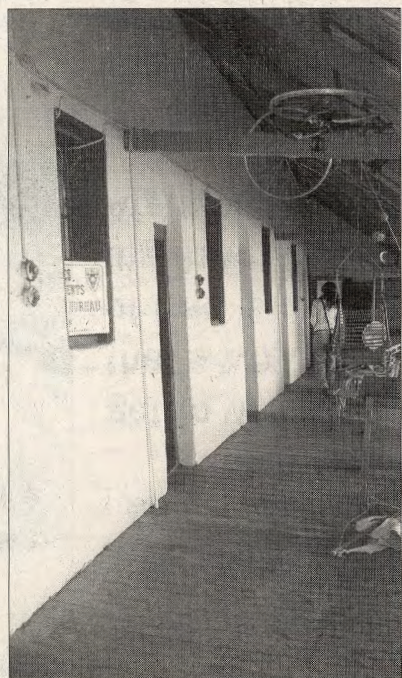
The building was unused except for the occasional festival event, but was in reasonably good shape. However, a major cleanup operation was required and undertaken, the bonus being the two inches of guano layered on all the floors, which was worth a fair sum.

The place started up from scratch and did not show much immediate progress. "We were quite a cheap place at the beginning, so we had some very dodgy characters that turned up," Brian says. Over the years it has been renovated and Brian feels that it is almost finished, "but it's always been a work in progress", he adds.

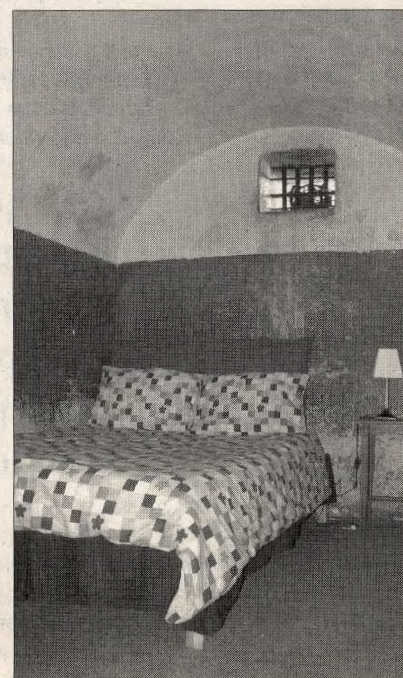
The Old Gaol has come a long way in the eight years that its' been around. One sign of this development is that, as of August 1, the Old Gaol has come under new management. Although putting it like this would imply that there had actually been someone in charge before. As a long-standing resident is quick to point out: "Stuff just happens around here, there's no-one actually in control. It's definitely not Brian.

We all just do our thing...that's how it works." As Brian says: "It's really like a big digs."

As digs go, it's quite an appealing one. It has a licensed bar, the option of having your meals prepared for you on a regular basis, atmospheric surroundings and the occasional live concert in the living room.



■ Lauren Clifford-Holmes



The flip Side

The London bombings on July 7 have been condemned as acts of terrorism. However, at present a universal definition of terrorism does not exist. Therefore, we are forced to wonder what constitutes terrorism and if these bombings will one day be regarded as an emancipation attempt. Four individuals share their perspectives in an attempt to clarify this issue.

■ pics by Lauren Uppink

■ Hlawulani Mkhabela

South Africa's history is being furiously re-written and recasts made for the role of villain and champion. One cannot disregard that due to the armed resistance against apartheid more ordinary black South Africans than any government figures were killed. One receives solace merely in the faith that the actions of this resistance were a move towards emancipation. What qualifies the move from terrorist to freedom fighter is not the methods that are used but the motive behind the action.

It is thus important to analyse the motives behind the dramatics of the attacks on the USA and more

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What qualifies the move from terrorist to freedom fighter is not the methods that are used but the motive behind the action.

recently the UK. One finds, however, that the motivation for these attacks seems to be scarce. This lack of publicised reason or motivation may be due to media, dominated by the West, insisting that these bombings were motivated by a clash of ideology and quasi-religious issues. Yet it seems illogical that terrorist groups who have the skill to halt the activities of the wealthiest nations seem to have no



means of making their motives known. I am certain many would join the bandwagon if they had some idea what message it was carrying and that assistance was wanted.

All those that still wish to attribute hero status and glorify these bombings need to realise that there is a distinction between brutality and revolutionism. The ends of these perpetrators could range from anything from an attack against multi-nationals to the coming fall of Babylon. It thus seems premature to give current attacks the same status acquired by Apartheid resistance movements.

The previous examples of freedom fighters all could ever be perceived in a similar light? In contrast, the London bombers were all second generation British citizens who enjoyed the rights and privileges of one of the most liberal countries in the world. These individuals were entitled to the protection afforded by the rights of free speech, freedom of religion as well as a society that actively welcomes cultural diversity. They were not faced with the scheming of a repressive or brutal state and had every opportunity to air their grievances through conventional political channels, the media or peaceful protest. Instead they had the audacity to resort to cold and calculated violence with the intention to impose their views on others through mass slaughter and panic. No matter how strongly you may feel about the cause of their dissatisfaction, it would be out of the question to suggest that they were ever justified in resorting to violence. Quite simply, it is impossible to be a freedom fighter in a country that is free and it would do a great disservice to the tradition of liberation struggles to ever afford these acts of cowardice a similar status.

The line between a freedom fighter and a terrorist has always been a tenuous one that often finds resolution only in hindsight. The distinction between the two is essentially a question of legitimacy, as armed resistance groups in apartheid South Africa such as Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK), liberation fighters in Algeria during French rule or the Mau Mau in Kenya, were all reviled as terrorists at one time, but are now generally revered as freedom fighters. Is it at all conceivable that the perpetrators of the London bombings, all British citizens,

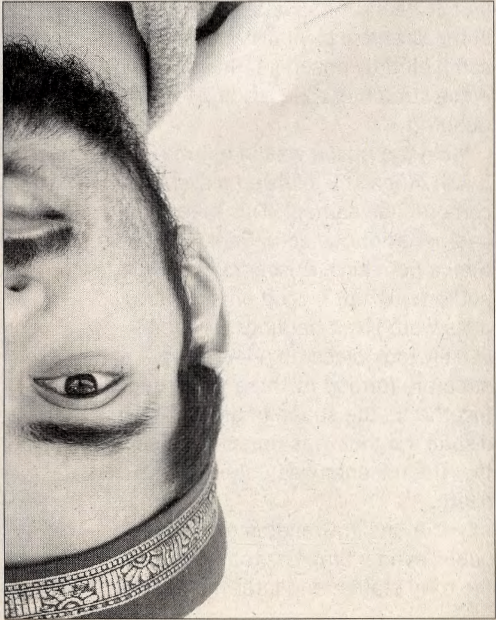
■ Chris McConachie



Will the July 7 bombings in London ever be seen as acts of freedom fighters, rather than as acts of terrorism? I don't think so. But, of course, I've been incorrect before. After all, in South Africa a terrorist organization er than what the action entails. That's why I don't think that, if we look at what was done instead of who did it, the July 7 bombings will ever be seen as the acts of "freedom fighters". But, sadly, it's the victors who get to write the history: that's why the occupation of Iraq is okay, but killing American soldiers in Afghanistan is not. And depending on who the victor of this emerging Cold War between the East and West is, perhaps, one day, the July 7 bombings will be recast.

“Freedom fighter’ and ‘terrorist’ are emotion-laden terms. They paint the world in black-and-white according to who performs an action, rather than what the action entails.”

■ Yusuf Motara



...it's the victors who get to write the history: that's why the occupation of Iraq is okay, but killing American soldiers in Afghanistan is not.

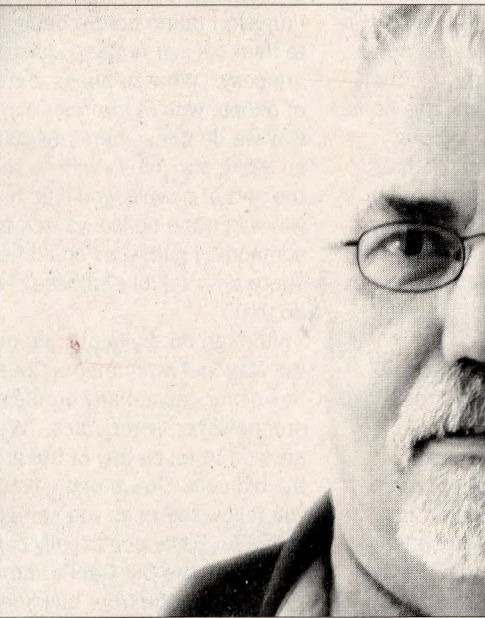
called the ANC became known as an organization of freedom fighters. In many parts of the world, the Hamas and Hezbollah organizations that operate in Palestine are seen as organizations of freedom fighters. The IRA, despite bank robberies, bombings and a whole string of atrocious actions, has been seen as an organization of freedom fighters. And need I even bring up the 'jihadists in Afghanistan who were freedom fighters, then terrorists, and are now living in a grey area of doubt?

experience exclusion. The War that Blair is waging on their fellow believers has aggravated this alienation. This issue can only be dissolved within the public sphere – to use a term from the philosopher Jurgen Habermas. Mercifully, this discussion has begun, but, until Blair goes, it will not be resolved.

Finally, history: we cannot, of course, know what will happen. But we can say that the domination of the international system by white, Christian people is drawing to a close. This is not some post-modern funk: it's precisely the opposite. Statistics – population, economic and trade – suggest differently. Think about the rise and the size of China. History, to use the old cliché, is on the move.

The bombings in London are an anomaly: called by politicians, an ill-conceived war by rich countries on the poor, helped to ignite four bombs with a tragic loss of life, Moslem and other.

Terrorist? Freedom-fighter? Neither. Caught in the web of history? Certainly. Facing an inadequate democracy? Decidedly. Recruited to participate in an unnecessary war? Of course.



■ Peter Vale (head of Politics Department)

Why is someone's freedom-fighter, another's terrorist?

This question was once easy to answer: in the old South Africa, for example, the issue seemed so clear-cut. Or at least, seems so clear-cut in hind-sight; at the time, things were not so easily explained, especially to those who believed in apartheid.

While the bombs in London in July have certainly raised the hoary old question again, they have really clarified two other issues.

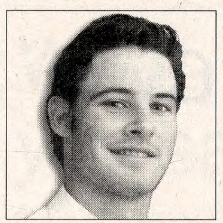
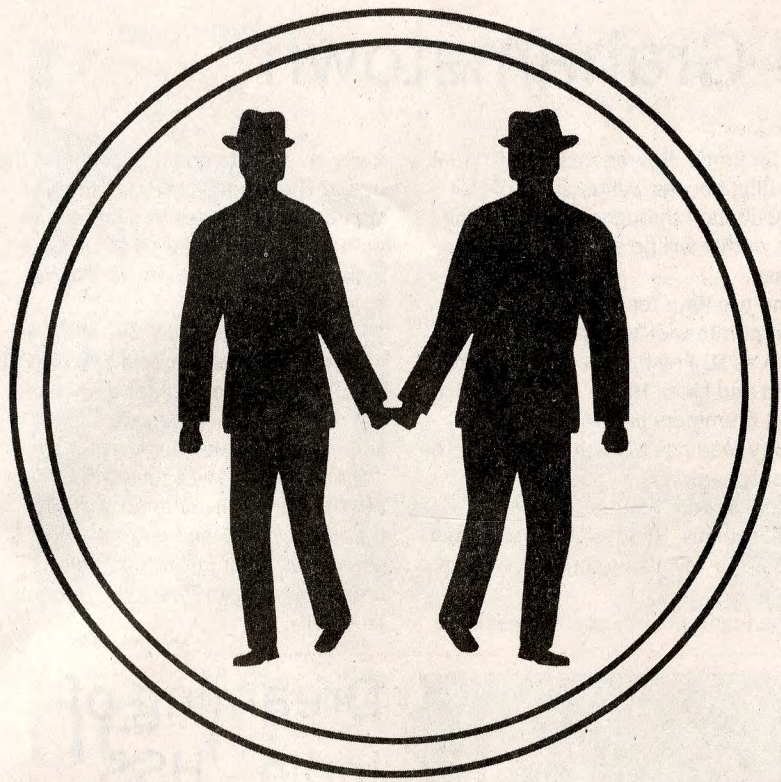
First, it is obvious that "history has not ended" – to twist a term from the American Japanese writer, Francis Fukuyama. Not everybody is willing and wanting to live in a world of liberal democracy and free markets. Second, we are not living through "a clash of civilisations", as the American writer Samuel P Huntington once suggested. There is no one Moslem voice, and no single authority speaks for the West – whatever the United States may think.

So, what is the wider answer of whether the London Bombers will one day (or even now) be considered freedom-fighters?

This must be judged against three intertwined concerns: War, Democracy and the tide of History. Not easy topics to answer in a few lines. But here goes...

The War on Iraq was illegal; the United Nations didn't sanction it for starters. This has added deep resentment – not to mention a legal argument – to people throughout the world who oppose it. Moslems, mainly, are angry but so too are many Americans – a point far too easily forgotten. Without the War, there would have been no bombs in London. How do we know this? As Australian journalist John Pilger has wryly remarked, "There are no bombs in Sweden."

Second, democracy is always a work-in-progress. South Africans know this well. Although much celebrated, Britain's democracy is not perfect. Many Moslems in that country



Eye In The Sky

■ Andrew Whitfield

Most writers regard truth as their most valuable possession, and therefore are most economical in its use. However, for once I will offer my most valuable possession for the charitable cause of honesty and opinion.

Nearly all men can stand up to adversity, but if you want to really test a man's character, give him power.

If we agree with Abraham Lincoln's supposition, then we should come to the conclusion that our neighbouring despot has failed dismally with regard to not only his mental faculties, but his character as well. Our incumbent president Thabo Mbeki, has performed admirably on our vast continent with regard to his diplomacy in west Africa, but has really dropped the ball in his own back yard. This has opened up a gap for the other side to penetrate and manipulate our timid backline and win the \$1 billion prize.

It is obvious that Mbeki has adopted Edmund Burke's philosophy that "Our patience will achieve more than our force." No one is asking for a full-on invasion, but a little arm twisting never hurt anyone... not permanently anyway.

What is hurting a lot of people is this quiet, or as I like to call it, invisible, diplomacy which is doing more damage than it is good. Patience is a virtue and should be reserved for the virtuous, not the tyrannical - it is high time something is done other than discussions without repercussions. What makes for interesting debate in this eventful period of our lives is the loan of US\$1 billion to Zimbabwe that the South African government is willing to give.

This decision had our president stuck between a rock and a hard place. The moral dilemma lies in the plight of the innocent victims who desperately need food aid which is being restricted by their president, and the hope that this loan may offer hope to millions of starving and homeless people.

The rational dilemma that must be considered is whether or not one is able to trust this provider of pain to allocate the funds in a sound and judicious manner. Here my answer is a clear and resounding NO! Even with stringent and coherent conditions attached, it is uncertain as to how much it will help. However, *Sunday Times* columnist David Bullard recommended that we give Zimbabwe this loan.

We owe it to the victims of tyranny and quiet diplomacy. We have been quiet for too long, and this silence has caused pain and suffering beyond our wildest nightmares.

To our president, for whom I have much respect and admiration, I say this: a friend in need is a friend indeed, but a friend without debt is better. Let us re-ignite the torch of human rights that was to guide our foreign policy and bring hope to the people of Zimbabwe.

The time is now, not tomorrow or the next day. When you are a politician, procrastination is not just the thief of time. It is the thief of water, food, housing, land and above all, dignity.

Homophobia – run for your life

To parents it's a dreaded three-letter shocker: "Mom, Dad - I'm gay!" There are many stereotypes and stigmas associated with homosexuality, which mostly classify homosexuals as 'other' beings. **Candace Whitehead** and **Nicolene McLean** dig deeper and discover just how homophobic some people are.

■ Graphics by Gregor Rohrig

Take some time, just a minute or so, and think of all the words we use to refer to homosexual people. How many of those turn out to be derogatory? For some, calling somebody a faggot or a dyke is a joke. For others, it's very real, with very real hatred behind it.

Contrary to popular belief, Rhodes is not as accepting as everyone perceives it to be. Many people on campus openly reject homosexuality for various reasons, and often for no particular reason at all. Homophobia is real, and it affects many students - homosexuals themselves: their friends and family.

Briefly defined, homophobia is the fear or hatred of homosexuals and homophobes are the people who harbour homophobia. Generally, homophobes fall into three categories, with varying degrees of severity. The first, most serious category includes those people who hate homosexuals in general and oppose homosexuality violently. The second group includes those who believe homosexuality is unnatural. Both choose not to associate themselves with homosexuals. People in the third group do not seem to mind homosexuals - as long as they don't attempt to hit on them.

Perceptions surfacing from interviews we conducted were that gay men are more likely to be exposed to homophobic comments or physical violence than lesbians. It also seems that straight men are most likely to be violently homophobic or to harbour severely homophobic tendencies. A student from Stellenbosch University, who had been beaten and threatened after coming out, said: "My girlfriends accepted me far quicker than anyone else did. Many of the guys, especially those I did not really know very well, reacted very badly."

However, we must bear in mind that the way most individuals are treated after they declare their homosexuality is based on their culture and upbringing, and how these cultures view homosexuality.

On our campus, the general feeling is that most homophobes do not approve of homosexuality because their religions condemn it. Although some feel that because someone's religion forbids homosexuality, it does not make homophobia acceptable,

the fact remains that most religions openly condemn homosexuality as wrong, disgusting and unnatural and as influencing the beliefs of millions. The Qur'an for example, teaches that homosexuality is sinful and a profound mistake. Muslims believe humans are naturally heterosexual, and that homosexuality is caused by external impulses that can be controlled, avoided and reversed. Dr Muzammil Siddiqi of the Islamic Society of North America was quoted as saying: "Homosexuality is a moral disorder. It is a moral disease, a sin and corruption." There are, of course, different schools of Islamic teachings and not all of them feel that heavy punishment is warranted for homosexual 'deviance'.

The same holds true for Christianity. Religious liberals allow homosexuals and bisexuals to be ordained, and allow for same-sex marriages within the Church. Religious conservatives, on the other hand, feel that the Bible preaches against homosexuality, and believe it to be a mortal sin. Allowing sexually active homosexuals to be ordained or to be married involves a drastic and unacceptable lowering of the Church's standards. Pope Benedict XVI himself openly rejects homosexuality, and with a figurehead who condemns homosexuality so harshly, it comes as no surprise that many homophobes are strongly Catholic.

On a political front, homophobia is strongly promoted in some African countries through various legislations decreeing homosexuality illegal. Homosexual behaviour is illegal for men in 29 African countries, including Namibia, Uganda and Botswana, and in 20 countries for women. However, Zimbabwe is possibly the African country best-known for its politically-driven homophobia.

President Robert Mugabe has denied that gay and lesbian citizens have any constitutional rights and has been recorded saying: "We don't believe they have any rights at all."

South Africa, on the other hand, stands apart when it comes to the

legal status of homosexuals in Africa, and every effort is made in order to avoid a homophobic attitude. In 1996, South Africa became the first country in the world to include the rights of gays and lesbians in the Constitution, allowing for such things as equal rights in the workplace and adoption rights.

Steps are being taken to legalise same-sex marriages in the near future. South Africa will then be the fifth country in the world to allow homosexuals this right.

Rhodes University also seeks to fight homophobia - on paper at least. Although incidences of a homophobic nature undeniably do occur, there are provisions in the SRC Constitution, which strive to: "struggle for a society that rejects discrimination, directly or indirectly on one of the following grounds: race, gender, sex, ethnic or social origin, colour, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, conscience, belief, culture or language."

However, many students still blatantly and violently discriminate against homosexuals. In an interview, we discovered that an e-mail was sent out 'outing' a student to the rest of his class. In this e-mail the student was attacked for being gay and accused of going against his faith. He also received vicious notes in class. With occurrences like this, it comes as no surprise that homophobia is a much greater problem than the rest of campus seems to think.

Another student commented that homosexuality would "become less of an issue as homophobes learn more about homosexuals". In theory this is true, but some homophobes are so set in their beliefs that they are unwilling to change.

Although the majority of this student's friends are gay, he feels that "it's tough because it's the last thing our culture considers accepting". Two male students, both staying in res, reported that they knew of gay people in res having had homophobic insults carved into their residence room

doors. Others have had threatening messages and articles slipped under their doors. "People tend to judge people because of their orientation and end up forgetting who they really are. One needs to understand what they're going through and that they too live normal lives. It's about time that people were given the opportunity to be themselves."

I'm ready to take any nasty comments and discrimination to support homosexuals," a straight student claimed in support of his friends.

A group does exist to provide this support for gays and lesbians on campus. OutRhodes is the lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans-gendered society on campus and they claim to help bridge the gap between homosexual and heterosexual students. Part of their mission stated on their website is to inform these students of their rights, as well as to promote alliances with other societies, both nationally and locally.

Members of OutRhodes have complained that no events of this nature have been organised and are becoming frustrated with the society, the general feeling being that they aren't doing anything.

If students would like to contact OutRhodes, details are available on the website at <http://outrhodes.soc.ru.ac.za/mambo/>

If you feel that you or a friend is being harassed, it is vital that you seek help, either from a warden, councillor or legally.

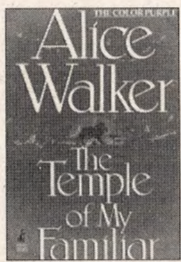
Although homophobia cannot be eradicated overnight, you should never be afraid to speak out against it, whether you are gay or not. It is only through discussion and interaction that we can hope to change the stigmas and perceptions associated with homosexuality. Whatever your personal belief, the fact remains that homosexuality is not an active choice - the only choice one makes is whether or not to come out.

Many struggle for years, learning both to accept themselves and to find the strength to come out. It is possible to tolerate homosexuality without necessarily agreeing to it. It has been said a thousand times, but still holds true: homosexuals are no different from anyone else, and deserve the same respect you may demand.

“ Homophobia
is real, and it
affects many
students ”

Reviews

Book

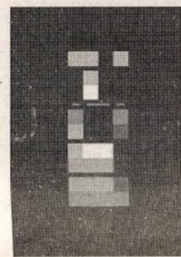


The Temple of my Familiar - Alice Walker

■ Bulelwa Mafu

The Temple of My Familiar is another superb offering from Alice Walker, best known for her world-renowned novel *The Colour Purple*. *The Temple of My Familiar* is guaranteed to find its way into the hearts of her followers. It explores love, relationships, race and the quest of finding one's identity and answers to life. The story takes many complex turns, but the reader is not left behind, as the story is able to maintain one's attention page after page. The novel is a thought-provoking and truly inspiring read, leaving its audience not only with a bit of wonder, but also a sense of hope, making it another bestseller for Walker.

CD



Coldplay - X&Y

■ Wamuwi Mbao

With their latest effort *X&Y*, Chris Martin and his band are gunning for U2's claim to "the best band in the world", according to the publicity blurb. *On Talk*, the album's edgiest track, they very nearly get there, pulling off a performance that gives U2's *vertigo* a run for its money. The rest of the album is not quite as impressive however, as the group regresses to the sound that has been their stock-in-trade since 2000's *Parachutes*. Martin also imparts some peculiar pseudo-philosophical babble on tracks such as *Speed of Sound* – something which begins to grate after a while. Stripped to its elements then, *X&Y* promises much, but ultimately fails to deliver.

Movie



Hotel Rwanda

■ Anya van Wyk

When the world closed its eyes he opened his arms." Paul Rusesbagina (Don Cheadle) is a Hutu man married to a Tutsi woman (Sophie Okonedo) when the massacre of the Tutsis by the Hutus began. Paul is also the manager of Hotel Rwanda and undergoes a personal transformation that spurs him to use the hotel to harbour 1000 Tutsis, including his family. As the international community withdraws from the hotel, Rusesbagina wages a battle to keep his family and the other desperate Tutsis alive. *Hotel Rwanda* chronicles the Rwandan Genocide and the true story of one man who never gave up in his endeavour to help save people.

Fashion extravaganza - in Grahamstown

■ Jade Menezies and Katie Wilter

SA Fashion Week has come and gone and the idea of Grahamstown hosting its own version of such an event seems too good to be true.

Prepare yourself, because at 7.30pm on August 12 the Great Hall will be transformed from a morbid exam venue into an extravagant fashion hotspot. The show is to host designs from various labels, including Jenni Button, Stoned Cherry, YDE, RJL, Mark and Michael, Surf Centre and Urban. The outfits will be donned by a diverse group of local and national models.

The cancellation of the Mr and Miss Rhodes pageant has given way to the

Camel Fashion Extravaganza, supported by the Ballroom Dancing Society. This concept has exceeded the expectations of all the organisers involved. This new project promises to be an unforgettable event and a welcome change from the average Friday night.

The executive committee consists of six members including Rhodes students and business professionals.

A ticket will not only allow you to see the latest fashions, but also get you a few freebies.

Gift packages are promised on entrance to the event, along with a complimentary cocktail. Hampers made up of sponsors' products will be

up for grabs. Representatives from all clothing houses will be available for consultation throughout the evening, and outfits will be available for purchase.

The two-hour fashion show will incorporate well-known entertainers such as DJ Fresh, upcoming singers Leno and Lindi, Hindu dancers, African Beat drummers and even some poetry readings to further enhance the atmosphere.

Models were hand-picked from local schools, Rhodes University, Joza and Cape Town's professional model scene.

The team recently spent a weekend

away on a photo shoot to promote the event. The models include men and women of all shapes and sizes, and Managing Director Lwazi Mzozoyana insists that the "women will not be objectified".

Tickets have been on sale since yesterday, August 10, and can also be purchased at the door, at a price of not over R100 – money well spent on such a large-scale event.

The fashion show spans two hours, but the party will continue late into the night. So, go and enjoy a rare glamorous night in Grahamstown before heading to PE for the annual Tri-varsity.



Airship Orange and Evolver are just some of the bands to appear at this year's Powerzone Roadshow



■ pic supplied

The invasion is coming

■ Siya Ngcobo

Grahamstown will soon play host once again to some of the biggest names on the contemporary rock music scene.

The MK89 *Powerzone* Campus Invasion will rock De Taphuys on Friday August 19 as part of an initiative taken by the new DSTV channel MK89 to promote South Africa's promising rock musicians.

If you are into the sounds of Coldplay, REM and the like, then the Parlotones will be the highlight for you. Their style has been influenced greatly by the British pop scene. Energy and passion are the driving forces behind their performances, with crowd favourites like *Beautiful* and *Tiny* sure to exhilarate. The band's debut album *Episoda* is a fantastic journey aided by the catchy lyrics and well-crafted songs.

Another upcoming band, Airship Orange, use jazzy vocals, bubbly guitar and funky piano to enthrall their audiences. They are fresh and full of aspirations to provide nothing less than the best.

The interestingly-titled band One Sock Thief are also in on the party.



The Parlotones

■ pic supplied

Their melodic rock, characterised by powerful piano and lead vocals/guitar creates a full and distinct sound. The band's founding members, Michael Anderson and Felipe Torres, started playing acoustic sets together during 2002 and decided to form a band. Their aim is to play original music while enjoying themselves.

Evolver, no stranger to Grahamstown, will also do their thing. "We give out energy and good vibes, an opportunity for people to smile and get down," says the Port Elizabeth group. Their first single *Let's Get*

Naked climbed to number 16 on the Coca Cola Top 40. Catchy tunes are what they're all about.

Fusing jazz, funk, alternative rock and palatable pop, and with many Grahamstown fans, Fly Paper Jet soar across many genres. Their live gigs are unpredictable with moments of stand-up comedy, storytelling or video art keeping the crowd guessing. They entertain with confidence and great randomness.

Returning Durban-based four-piece band Spoonfeedas, who performed recently at the same venue, complete the complement. The band has six chart-topping hits from their album *True North*. They have created havoc at festivals and shows in and around South Africa.

Confirmation of these acts has not been completely finalised, but be sure to keep an eye out for posters. This rocking invasion promises to have something for everybody. Grahamstown audiences are renowned for being one of the liveliest and most appreciative in the country, so make sure you're a part of the legacy.

Dreaming of India - HSS cultural show



■ Staff Reporter

Once upon a time in India is the phrase which sparked the inspiration for the Hindu Students Society's annual culture show.

The evening is the culmination of the Indian cultural week, celebrated from August 15-19, with the actual event, one of the biggest cultural performances in the Eastern Cape, taking place on August 20.

The evening will be a formal event with performers attending from Grahamstown, Port Elizabeth, East London and Stellenbosch. Culture Officer Yogita Kunvar says this year's theme involves "allowing the mind to explore different facets", hence the choice of the word *Sapna* (dreams) as part of the title: *Sapna - Made in India*. Classical dance performances such as Kathak as well as plays are part of what promises to be a magical evening.

Tickets are currently on sale at the Dolphin Kaif from 12:15pm to 2.00pm Monday to Friday, non-members: R55; members: R35.

The Comedy Corner

Brett Bruton looks at study anxiety.

For many a century, two major debates have dominated the hallways and discussion rooms of the philosophical world: "Does there exist a supreme, benevolent entity of infinite power who created and shaped our world, namely God?"; and: "If there were such a being that created us and our universe, what sort of drugs was he on when he did it?"

To imagine that God may have

experimented in his youth isn't so far-fetched. Some of the world's most creative people are famous for their habits – Manet, van Gogh, Shakespeare and Bugs Bunny – besides, God had to test his shit on someone. Before he created us, who else could there have been?

That certain opiates were used in the initial creative process I think is a given; things like the platypus, the

pademelon and Norwegians seem proof enough of that. Cocaine was a definite influencing factor throughout much of the Old Testament: every first born son – aren't we being a bit excessive here? I think that, despite public opinion, it's safe to rule out the use of marijuana.

First off, God wouldn't have gotten anything done at all, let alone in seven days. "Gotta make a world.

Gotta make a world... Gotta make a sandwich." Mainly though, it's ruled improbable by one major factor: the pot-induced epiphany.

If God had smoked pot, at some point or another he would have sat back and thought to himself: "Holy shit! I'm an implausible amalgamation of fictional metaphors and subconscious desires for an impossible utopia," and promptly vanished.

A good old-fashioned G8 camp-out

■ Rebecca Davis

It all started very nicely. July 2, 2005: 225 000 people wearing white marching through Edinburgh, all under the collective banner of 'Make Poverty History'. It was enough to warm the heart; certainly enough to send Bob Geldof into a masturbating frenzy. It was a march for what hard-core activists call "fluffies". Grannies and children and washed-out hippies draped in tie-dye were everywhere. Two huge screens displayed quick sound-byte synopses of Africa's problems, narrated by a very concerned-looking Ronan Keating. Speakers trotted on and off stage, each attempting to out-do the last in the sincerity and vehemence of their exhortations to the G8 leaders to drop the African debt. Some of these were real-life African activists and NGO workers; most, however, were rich-world celebs. Who knew Daniel Bedingfield cared so much about debt relief? Or Eddie Izzard? Or Gael Garcia Bernal? Yet we cheered them till we were hoarse, and we chanted various well-meaning slogans until it started to feel less like a mass protest action and more like the daily worship session of a sickeningly

self-congratulatory white-bedecked cult.

If real protestors were what we were looking for, however, we were to get more than our fair share in the days to come. Our home for the rest of the week, in the lead-up to the commencement of the G8 summit at Gleneagles, was an 'eco-camp' a hundred miles or so from the summit's location. Here we shared one totally inadequate shower and three stinking 'pissoirs' with 3 000 other dedicated G8 protestors. We were united by poor hygiene and mass-catered vegan food, but the camp was split down the middle by an unbridgeable ideological and behavioural chasm.

Our faction consisted of a couple of hundred university students under an umbrella group called "People & Planets". The rest of the camp was made up of a couple of thousand threatening-looking European anarchists, all members of a group euphemistically named "Dissent". Differences became apparent from the start. We wore brightly-coloured clothing and smiled quite frequently. They wore black from head to toe,

were pierced in places no hole should ever go, and snarled openly. We woke up every morning and attended forum discussions on climate change. They woke up every morning and destroyed a few franchise restaurants.

We disapproved of them, yet perhaps secretly envied them. Although the majority seemed there solely for the glory of a brawl with the cops, a number of them were serious activists simply prepared to make their message known no matter what the consequences. Their tactics were sometimes bizarrely effective. A group calling themselves the Rebel Insurgent Clandestine Clown Army responded to encounters with riot police by presenting them with flowers, polishing their shoes, and drawing smiley faces on their riot shields with lipstick. Often the police were so utterly bemused by these techniques that a potentially violently inflammatory situation ended in laughter. More frequently, unfortunately, protestors found themselves the target of often genuinely unwarranted physical battery from the police. Police had clearly been briefed in advance to treat even

peaceful protestors as they would violent anarchists. The media seemed to be similarly unable, or unwilling, to differentiate between the two – the few unfortunate instances of unjustifiable vandalism and destruction carried out by the anarchists were perpetual front-page news fodder, while the large number of peaceful and important protests happening all over Scotland at the same time were largely ignored for not having the same amount of celeb-packed chic as the Make Poverty History march or the idiotic Live8 concerts.

So how did it all end? Geldof beamingly received the news of reduced debt to Africa as a personal triumph; the media wreathed him with saintly laurels and the G8 passed instantly from the news as bombs exploded in London.

But the issues remain unresolved. And anger grows among the thousands of legitimate G8 protestors who feel that the unholy alliance between maverick millionaires like Geldof and the mainstream media has ensured that their voices remain unheard or misrepresented.



One of the many protestors seen at this year's G8 summit

■ Nic Haralambous



■ Matthew Ackermann

SA agrees to Zim loan: kind or blind?

■ Adrian Nel

The heavily-indebted Zimbabwean government has appealed to South Africa for a R6.5 billion credit facility in a desperate attempt to forestall its impending expulsion from the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF). Zimbabwe, aside from its debt servicing, faces crippling economic conditions amidst a burgeoning fuel and energy crisis. The recent controversial 'clean up' operation, Murambatsvina, has since May 19 displaced an estimated 700 000 people, which left them homeless and jobless as police stormed through poor neighborhoods, destroying homes and informal markets. The operation, translating to "drive out trash", has unleashed chaos and has received international condemnation as nothing short of diabolical.

The Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe has had to resort to desperate and uncharacteristically bold measures

in an effort to curb a rampant economic crisis, with the Zimbabwe dollar devaluing by 94% and inflation rising to 174 % at the beginning of August. This extremely unstable situation has seen the government appeal to China, South Africa and Iran for loans.

The Zimbabwean appeal to South Africa for a monetary loan has sparked huge debate as to whether the money will be used to alleviate the humanitarian crisis or simply to sustain President Robert Mugabe's unbalanced regime. Cardinal Wilfred F. Napier, president of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference, voiced strong opposition to the loan saying: "Giving money to Mugabe can be compared to giving money to an alcoholic beggar who tells you he has given up drink and will spend the money on food."

There is, however, a humanitarian necessity for the loan facility, as ultimately refusal on South Africa's part

would directly affect the people on the Zimbabwean streets.

The loan has been approved by parliament and cabinet, with President Thabo Mbeki admitting that South Africa has to consider providing financial assistance for cash-strapped Zimbabwe or face the consequences of our neighbor's ruin. Zimbabwe's problems, should we have refused the loan, would translate into a huge influx of illegal immigrants turned legitimate asylum seekers seriously affecting foreign investment in South Africa.

The bail-out could give South Africa political leverage over Mugabe, and Finance Minister Trevor Manuel and Reserve Bank Governor Tito Mboweni met their Zimbabwean counterparts in make-or-break talks on Thursday August 4 regarding strict conditions on the loan, which are aimed at the core of the problem, and not just the continuation of superficial aid.



■ pic supplied

Egypt added to a burgeoning list of terrorist attacks

■ Jean-Marié Cronjé

Egypt has again been involved in acts of terror following the bombing of the country's Red Sea resort Sharm el Sheikh, in which 88 people died.

This comes shortly after an Egyptian man, Magdy Mahmud Mustafa Nashar, was arrested in connection with the London bombings on July 7 this year. Three separate explosions, which are believed to have been car bombs, occurred in the early hours of Saturday July 23, injuring at least 200 people.

The first bomb is said to have gone

off in the Old Market area of the city and was followed by two blasts outside hotels in the Naama Bay area.

Thus far, three Islamic groups have claimed responsibility for the attacks. One, the previously unknown Tawhid and Jihad Group in Egypt, posted a claim on an Islamic website often used by the al-Qaeda Organisation in Iraq.

Two other groups, one claiming links to al-Qaeda, have also used internet statements to claim responsibility for the attacks.

SKYnews reported that the Tawhid

and Jihad Group in Egypt's posting claimed that the attack had been carried out "in obedience to the leaders of jihad [holy war] in al-Qaeda, Sheikh Osama bin Laden and Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri", and to avenge their "oppressed brothers in Iraq and Afghanistan".

However, Egyptian Interior Minister Habib al-Adly has denied reports that Magdy Mahmud Mustafa Nashar, the 33-year-old biochemist arrested in connection with the July 7 London bombings, has any links with the al-Qaeda network.

Nashar, who had been living in Britain since 2000, where he obtained his doctorate at Leeds University earlier this year, was arrested in a Cairo suburb a few days after the attacks. An interior ministry statement said he "has denied any involvement in the London attacks". Nashar is suspected of building the bombs used in the attacks.

British police have said that they are aware of an arrest made in Egypt, but they are not prepared to discuss whether they are to interview Nashar in connection with their investigation.

Africa in Focus

Full Name: Arab Republic of Egypt

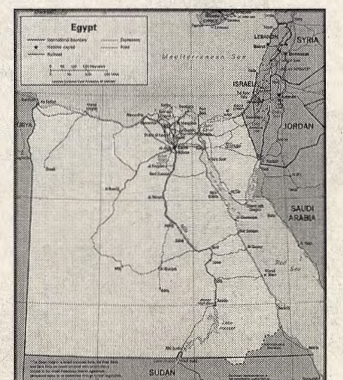
Capital City: Cairo

Population: 77 505 756

Languages: Arabic (official); English and French widely understood by educated classes

Head of State: Mohammed Hosni Mubarak

Quirky Fact: The pyramids of Egypt are the oldest and only remaining of the seven wonders of the ancient world.





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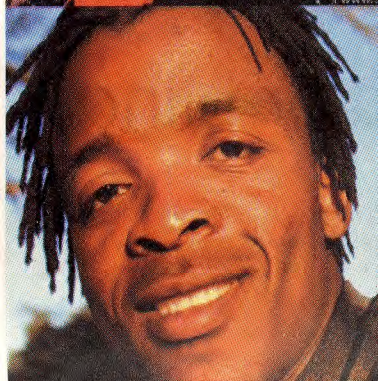
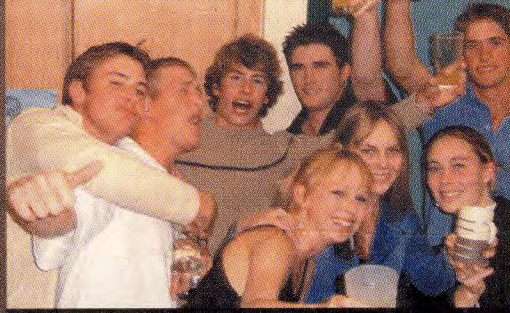
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If you're serious about quality



What have Rhodes students been up to during the first two weeks of this term? From chilling out in the Botanical Gardens to partying at all the local spots, it seems to have been a time of fun, laughs, and of course - a few drinks.

Thanks to:
Lauren Clifford-Holmes, Katie Wilter, Dan Calderwood,
Jennifer Campbell & 38.co.za for the photos

Proudly South African in the USA: Bafana Bafana exceed expectations

■ Mandla Masingi

Bafana Bafana surprised many soccer followers and made South Africa proud in the Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football (Concacaf) Gold Cup in the United States of America recently.

In their first match, an inexperienced Bafana Bafana side with two overseas-based players, Siyabonga "Bhele" Nomvete and Elrio van Heerden, beat the world's sixth best country, Mexico, 2-1 in the first round in Group C. The result gave the underdogs confidence to compete with the United States.

Their confidence was cemented in their second game, when they achieved a one-all draw against Jamaica. This put them in a good position to qualify for the quarter-finals and they only needed one point to get the nod for the last eight.

Before the much-criticised Bafana Bafana squad played Guatemala, they had already gained a lot of con-

fidence, despite the criticism from back home. The boys proved the critics wrong by drawing one-all against Guatemala.

However, Bafana Bafana was beaten by Panama 5-3 on penalty shoot-outs after they had played to a one-all draw in extra time. Lungisani Ndlela scored the South African equaliser in the second half.

Coach Stewart Baxter congratulated the boys, who, he said had worked very hard to achieve what they had after the public were not willing to give them a chance.

He was quoted as saying: "They have shown that the face of South Africa is more palatable and I'm sure they will be going home with the best wishes of the people of Houston and Los Angeles."

Despite the fact that they had been knocked out of the competition, Baxter emphasised to the media that he would not allow his detractors to make him lose focus.



■ pic supplied

Chelsea look for a repeat Premiership victory

■ Sameer Naik

Chelsea's success in the English Premiership of 2004-2005 has raised concern for big teams such as Arsenal, Manchester United, Liverpool and Everton, who now need to raise their games or face a repeat of the 2004-2005 season.

Teams such as Liverpool and Manchester United have taken out their cheque books to invest in quality players in an attempt to change their approach to the 2005-2006 season. Roman Abramovich, who took over Chelsea last season, introduced several new players and a new manager to Stamford Bridge, hoping to see Chelsea lift the trophy after a 50-year drought.

Liverpool has signed a number of players such as Bouwadijn Zenden, Jose Manuel Reina and Mohammed Sissoko to strengthen their team for the season ahead, despite having won the prestigious European Champions League.

Manchester United has signed goalkeeper Edwin Van Der Sar and Park Ji Sung to strengthen their squad.

Arsenal have sold their captain Patrick Viera to Italian-based team Juventus and hope to strengthen their squad with a few new signings.

Chelsea had also put in several bids to sign top players such as Samuel E'too, Andriy Shevchenko and Ronaldinho Adriano to make their

intent clear to other teams, but were turned down. Chelsea, who won the Premiership and The Carling Cup, are quite content with their performance, and manager Jose Mourinho stated that he will be a happy man if Chelsea were to win 10 cups in the next five years.

The season kicks off on August 13, with Chelsea ready and confident to defend their title, while other teams prepare to improve their positions in the premiership. Chelsea has been playing a number of pre-season games in preparation for their first premiership game against recently-promoted Wigan Athletic.



Record breaking Roland Schoeman

■ pic supplied

Schoeman swims to success

■ Megan Hibbert

Once again Roland Schoeman has done our country proud, breaking the record for the 50m butterfly twice in two consecutive days and taking the gold at the Fina World championships in Montreal.

In a fantastic display of versatility, Schoeman succeeded in proving that rankings are not the defining factor. Schoeman, better known for his freestyle which won him a gold, silver and bronze at the Olympic Games in Athens last year, will now also be remembered for his spectacular performance in the 50m butterfly at the 11th Fina World Championship.

Despite Schoeman's failure to feature in the top 25 of this year's 50m butterfly, he still managed to beat the previous record holder Ian Crocker of the USA with the record of 23:30. This

time the competition had improved, Crocker achieved a 23:12 but Schoeman sped away with the advantage of fastest block reaction time to smash the record with 23:01 in the semi finals and a impressive 22:96 in the finals.

This victory makes Schoeman the first South African swimming champion to hold a record-breaking victory in the 50m butterfly. Schoeman proudly announced his achievements as being: "Not bad for an African, not bad for a South African, not bad for a human."

This was not the full extent, however, of South African achievement in Montreal, as Schoeman and Ryk Neethling swam to second and third positions respectively in the 100m freestyle.

Hockey sides excel at SASSU

■ Candice Wiggett

This year's South African Student Sport Union (SASSU) hockey tournament, held in Pretoria, proved to be an arena for the Rhodes hockey sides to show exactly how skilful they are.

Both the men's and women's A sides, as well as the inclusion of the Thistles (2nd) men's side for the first time, reached the semi-finals in their respective pools. Both men's sides achieved fourth place and the women's side secured a well-deserved first place in the competition.

The rising standard of hockey at Rhodes is probably thanks to South African hockey goalie Chris Hibbert, who coaches both first teams. The teams drive and determination to excel far surpassed the dismal performances of previous years, where teams suffered relegations to lower sections.

This year the women's side secured an unbeaten record at the Tshwane University of Technology. Their semi-final was fraught with tension, and the full-time whistle went with neither side having a goal to their name. So, 15 minutes of extra time were added on, and they eventually beat Wits University 4-1 on penalty flicks. The final was played against Tuks, whom they managed to defeat 3-2 to win the B league tournament and secure their rightful position in the A league next year in Port Elizabeth.

The men's A competition was held at Tuks University in Pretoria. The Rhodes men demonstrated fine-tuned skills in their semi-final match. Despite excellent play, UCT secured a 3-0 victory leaving the men to battle it out with the University of KwaZulu Natal for third and fourth position. The team played with spirit, but were

unable to hold off the UKZN strikers, resulting in a 0-4 loss.

The Thistles stunned on-lookers when they raced their way into the semi-finals against NMMU men's A, despite this being their first year competing in the SASSU B tournament. They played a great game and only lost 0-3 to highly-rated NMMU. They fought against Wits University for third place, but narrowly lost 1-2 after an impressive display of skill and speed.

Spirits in all sides soared throughout the tournament, and as was announced by Gena Eley, vice-Captain of the women's side: "Rhodes University's name has been changed to Semi-Finals University."

Rhodes hockey has gone from strength to strength and looks likely to continue, with the help of a dedicated group of coaches, to produce excellent hockey.

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Rhodes athletes selected for South Africa

■ Phillipa Ehrlich

Two Rhodes students have been selected for the South African team to participate in the ITU World Triathlon Championship from September 24-25. Kate Mapham and Justin Gray have been training intensely and qualified for the international event earlier this year. However, Mapham is not able to attend, due to an injury.

Gray, a fourth-year BA student, has been involved in athletics since he was at school in Natal, where he frequently competed on a national level. Last year, he was diagnosed with an intestinal disease and told to stop playing sport. However, he refused to give in, and admits he doesn't like being told he can't do certain things. He began taking the required medication – a steroid-based cortisone – but decided that he didn't want to put his life on hold – he wanted to attain his athletic goals and dreams before continuing with treatment.

One of his goals was to cycle the Argus for charity, which he did this year. This spurred him on and he then ran the Two Oceans half-marathon where he was the first Rhodes student to finish. At this year's EP triathlon champs he came third, followed by the SA champs where he attained sixth place after what he admitted

was a bad race for him. On being congratulated he was told he had finally made the SA team.

Gray has been training for a month and a half for the upcoming gruelling event, which consists of a 10km run, 40km time-trial cycle and then another 5km run. Justin will be competing in the 20-25 age group, along with another eight South Africans. In terms of training, he is a spinning instructor for Rhodes, runs and cycles in the mornings and, on the weekends, does long-distance cycling. He prefers training on his own and concentrates on high intensity.

Gray has stopped drinking completely, a big accomplishment for a Rhodes student, and as fun as third term can be, his attitude is serious: "You have to make sacrifices. If you want something badly enough you have to prioritise." Balancing this with knowing where to draw the line in terms of the amount of effort and money he puts into his training is the tricky bit.

"It is such a great honour," Gray said of the opportunity to represent not only his country but also his university. He said Rhodes athletes are really well-liked around the country and he loves competing for his university. The World Champs will be the first time he represents SA at an international

event. Gray said he wants to try to get a scholarship to train further overseas and aims to enter the iron man competition next year.

Kate Mapham came fourth at SA champs. She is a third-year BSc student and has always been an avid athlete. Her brother, Tom, was chairman of the Rhodes athletics society. Sadly, she will not be competing in Sydney, because of an injury.

She feels she will not be as prepared as she would like to be and has chosen to rest her legs now and compete in triathlons next year. Mapham, like Gray, is an amazingly dedicated athlete. At this year's Founder's Challenge, she competed individually and finished first in the ladies competition.

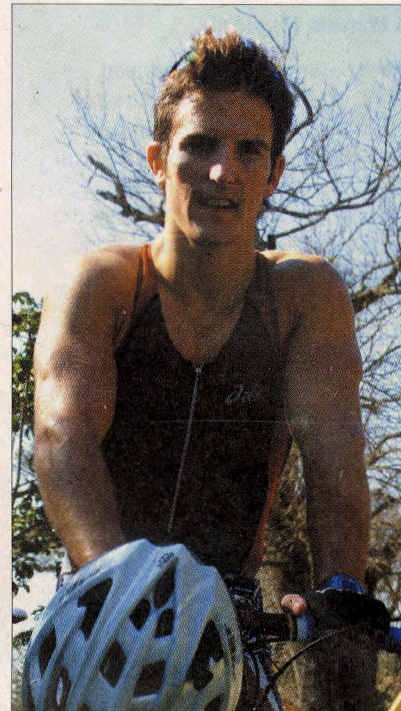
When asked how she juggles training and campus life, Kate said: "The more you do, the more you fit in." She also says you have to prioritise, but you have to have a balance, "because it's important to see your mates".

She is disappointed that she will miss out on the opportunity to compete at the duathlon, but is excited about the Fish River marathon in which she will be canoeing in September.

Mapham says that ultimately she wants see how far she can go and will



Kate Mapham and Justin Gray were chosen to participate in the ITU World Triathlon Championships

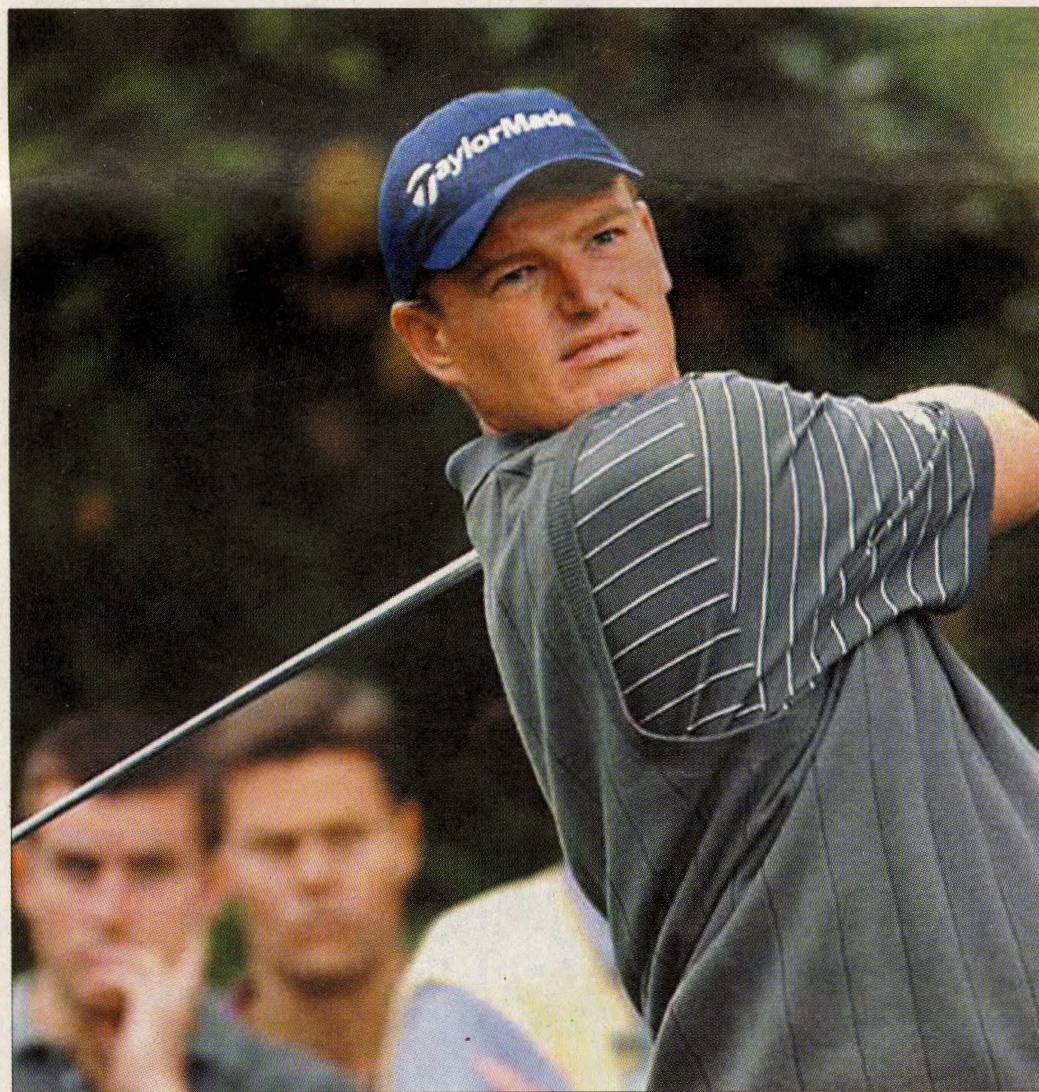


■ Lauren Clifford-Holmes

carry on with athletics until she does not enjoy it anymore. "I would love to be an international triathlon athlete, that's my big mission."

Gray and Mapham have not had many opportunities to train with the rest of the team because of Grahamstown's location, and this

has required a lot of self-motivation and dedication. Mapham travels to Grassridge Dam next month to compete in the 82km canoe marathon on September 30. Gray arrives in Sydney on September 18 and will compete in the World Champs, to be held in Newcastle, from September 24-25.



Els in action before the injury: looking ahead to better days

■ pic supplied

Els takes a major break

■ Jenna Viljoen

An unfortunate knee injury has put paid to the remainder of Ernie Els' golfing season.

Els, who is ranked third in the world at present, sustained the injury while holidaying in the Mediterranean.

He was playing with his children when the event happened and is scheduled to go in for the corrective surgery on Thursday August 4, which will put him out of action for a while.

"As a result, I'm going to have to take a break from golf on the recommendation of my medical advisers," Els said on his website. "Basically it's the only sensible course of action, so that I can be sure of the promptest recovery period."

The timing of the injury can be said to be of phenomenal importance as it has happened just prior to Els competing in the second major of this year's season, that of the US PGA Championship at Baltusrol, a prestige competition in which presence would have been favourable.

US Tour commissioner, Tim Finchem, has stated that Els is not deemed to be ready to return to the competitive course until January 2006. He told Reuters that Els will be out of action at the Presidents Cup in September, "but we all know what a tough competitor he is, and I am sure he will want to rejoin the PGA Tour as soon as he can".



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