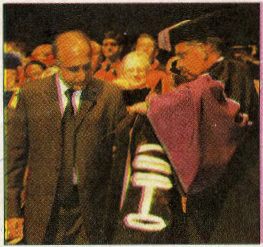


activate

Independent student newspaper at Rhodes University
October 2006 Edition 11

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SOUTH AFRICAN



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Record-breaking radio

RMR DJ Robin Vember succeeds in breaking the Guinness record for the longest solo radio broadcast

By Stuart Buchanan

Rhodes Music Radio is awaiting official confirmation from Guinness World Records after DJ Robin Stuart Vember set what may be a new record for the longest continuous broadcast by one person.

Vember began his usual breakfast show, *On the Rise*, at 7am on Monday, September 18, and continued non-stop until Saturday afternoon – totalling 126 hours and 44 minutes behind the microphone.

"This project was not about me," said Vember, "it was about raising money for charity, while also celebrating RMR's 25th birthday. Throughout the week, companies and members of the public in Grahamstown donated money which will go towards Ikhyaya Losizo, a project to build a safe house for street children. At the last count, RMR had raised about R5 000.

In order to comply with Guinness rules, Vember required a medic, an RMR official and two independent witnesses with him at all times.

To show support, many unknown visitors also joined Vember, something he wasn't expecting.

"From day one, the studio was always full of people, it was like one big jol," he said. "One anonymous SMS I received said that the person was proud of me, and that they were going to make their mother buy the Guinness record book just to show them my name!"

But Vember said that dealing with Guinness was one of the more frustrating aspects of the attempt. There is no guarantee he will be included in



DJ Robin Vember slept for 19 hours after breaking the Guinness world record.



ROSS VAN DER LINDE

the next edition of the Guinness World Records book, and as this is one of the most attempted records, it may not be long until somebody else breaks it.

However, Vember remained positive, saying that "at the end of the day, everybody here knows I did it, and of course for me the personal achievement is the most important part."

Although he is fully recovered now,

the physical and mental strains of being confined to a small room without sleep for over five days took a heavy toll, as well as the strict rule that he was only allowed to go to the toilet every eight hours.

"Those were the toughest times for me," recalls Vember. "Even on the Wednesday when I broke the South African record [of 55hrs], which happened at 2pm, all I could think about

was my toilet break at 3pm. My body just never got used to having to wait for so long."

When the crowds died off during the early hours of the morning, it was Vember's close friends and colleagues that helped keep him going. He was reunited with his original breakfast show co-hosts from last year, as well as current presenter of *The Drive-by*, James Smurthwaite a.k.a. DJ

Ntswembu.

"Rob did really well to still be standing on Saturday," said Smurthwaite. "There were a couple of touch-and-go moments where he fell asleep within a couple of seconds after talking, and we weren't sure if he was waking up again.

"But we just made sure he was still breathing and poured water on him when he had to talk, which often woke him up with a jolt and a little disorientated!"

Despite Vember's deterioration, he managed to keep listeners and the large number of journalists interested in his attempt entertained. David O'Sullivan of Radio 702 conducted several live interviews during the week, and Vember's face appeared on the front of many local newspapers, something which he says seems to have turned him into a "mini-celebrity". "That aspect of breaking the record is cool, but I won't let it go to my head," explains Vember. "The main thing is that it has generated great publicity for RMR." The station has recently undergone a major renovation and programming reconstruction, as well as revamping its website to include a webcam, which allows listeners more interaction with the station. "Within the space of a week we received over 10 000 hits on the website, so one can only guess at how many more listeners we now have," Vember says.

The only thing Vember can do now is to wait for Guinness to make the attempt official. In the meantime he continues to host *On The Rise* from 7 to 9am on RMR (89.7FM).

Local left unconscious after alleged assault

By Ndumi Gumede and
Cairen Harry

A Grahamstown man, yet to be identified, was found severely injured after allegedly being assaulted by a car guard outside Friar Tuck's on the night of September 22.

The man had allegedly been trying to break into a car in the nearby area when the car guard proceeded

to beat him with a plastic rod to the point of unconsciousness. Passers-by were alarmed by the violent act on the injured man.

"The man was completely unconscious when we walked past," said fourth-year BPharm student Alison Mannheim. Mannheim was then accompanied in assisting the injured man. "We rushed to help him because his friends were shouting that he had

gone cripple."

According to Mannheim, the man was not breathing and no pulse could be found. "The police weren't doing anything so we tried to help him. Luckily my friend and I knew first aid and were able to assist the man," she said.

The man was put into the recovery position and an ambulance was called. "We called four times but after

an hour there was still no sign of them," said Mannheim.

Eventually, after no response from the ambulances, a private ambulance was called and the man was rushed to Settlers Hospital.

The incident caused quite a stir from the onlookers perspective, with reports on the Rhodes forums claiming that the beating had been fatal. According to Mannheim, the man

was up and walking when she visited the government hospital the following morning. A Mr Burger employee, who did not wish to be named, was able to confirm this statement. "Everyone keeps coming in and asking me if the guy was killed but he's OK," he said.

"He has quite bad scars on his head but I think he was quite drunk on the night of the beating," said the Mr Burger employee.

Editorial



By Xanthe Galanis

My parentals retired to a tiny little dorp in the Klein Karoo a while back, so it's been a couple of years since I've been up to Joburg, and even longer since I've braved one of the centres of consumer capitalism, Sandton. I was up for a grassroots newspaper summit this weekend, which included a ticket to the Community Press Awards.

Somewhere in between the roasted sweet pepper soup with a drizzle of chorizo oil and the deboned lamb shank wrapped in leek, it occurred to me that a bunch of scruffy chain-smoking, beer-drinking journos were slightly out of place swooshing around the plush pile carpets of the Sandton Convention Centre.

Maybe it was just me though. It's quite possible that after two years of living in Grahamstown I'm perfectly content walking around in my slippers rather than stilettos, eating sarmies rather than Norwegian salmon and spending R40 rather than R4 000 on a handbag.

We all know Grahamstown is a bubble, a bit like *The Truman Show* except no one's filming us for the viewing pleasure of the world's reality TV addicts. Life in our G-town bubble is, for want of a better cliché, unique. We can't escape the capitalist consumerism of the big bad world completely, but I think G-town is still a long way behind Sandton.

You can get two burgers for R13 if you pick the right day of the week, and the place to shop for fancy dress parties is Pep. Although there are a few lank kief okes wif lank expensive sound systems, pedestrians still pretty much have right of way on the streets. I have to wonder if it makes us better people though. It's taken for granted that anyone with a tertiary education, and especially those who've been through History 102, has learnt to hate Americans for flooding the world with McDonald's and bad Hollywood movies. "American consumerism is killing creativity, individuality and culture," we say disdainfully from our lecture theatres where we are, of course, untouched by all that.

Is it just because we've landed up in Grahamstown, where money's not the driving force, that we're able to sit back and criticise? Or maybe it's just that we're broke students who don't have money anyway, so it's easier to say it isn't important to us? I'd like to think that I'd choose quality of life and a lower salary in a smaller town over a fat paycheque and accompanying stress of somewhere like Joburg, but to be honest, the day will come when I'll get sick of 2-minute noodles and want the money to be able to shop at Woolworths Food.

Everyone's talking about the pay cut Dr Badat has given himself, and understandably so! Even if you are in a pretty well-paid position, R200 000 is a lot of cash. Have a look at Ciro's column on page 5 for his take on Badat's pay cut as well as the other issues surrounding the selection of our new VC. Otherwise, it's booze (page 7), babies (page 5) and Boatrice (page 15).

See ya!
Xanthe

VC's inauguration

By Xanthe Galanis

Rhodes University's new Vice-Chancellor and Principal Dr Saleem Badat was inaugurated at the 1820 Settlers' National Monument on Wednesday, September 27. The ceremony was attended by, among others, the mayor of Makana municipality, Councillor Phumelelo Kate and the National Minister of Education, The Honourable Naledi Pandor.

In her speech, Pandor said that Rhodes can no longer "continue to take the cream of the crop of well-prepared matriculants and leave the broader challenge of dealing with the

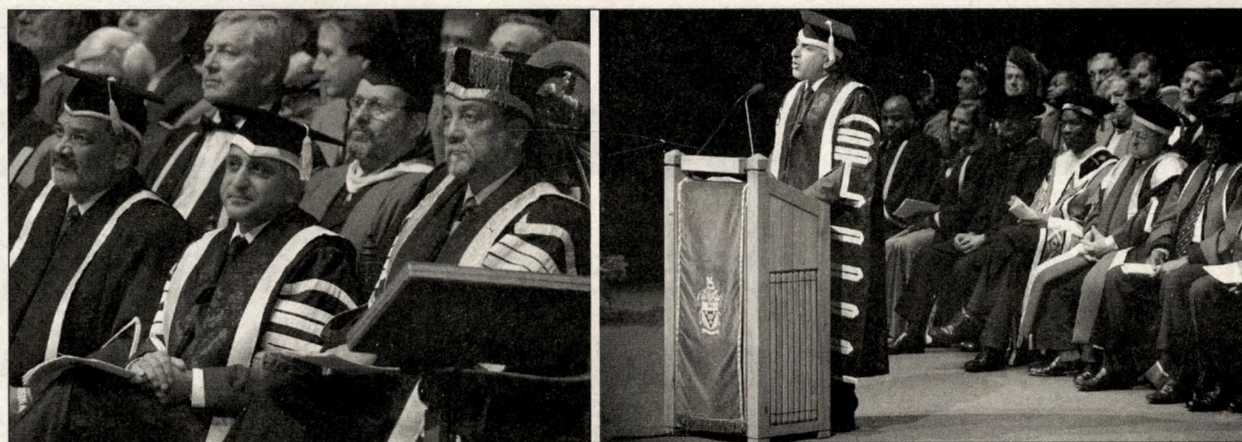
legacy of educational disadvantage to others". She continued by saying that it is only through nurturing and growing its own pool of black graduates that Rhodes can begin to address the equity profile of its academic staff.

As the fifth vice-chancellor in Rhodes's history, Badat is the first VC who isn't white and, with a PhD in Sociology from the University of York, the first social scientist. Although Badat struggled to get into his robe of office, which caused a few chuckles, he solemnly pledged "to encourage the pursuit of sound learning, research and community service... and in all things promote the welfare

of the university".

In his inaugural address that followed, Badat said that like universities everywhere, there are a number of issues that Rhodes must grapple with. He agreed with Pandor that transformation is important, but said it "involves more than simply changing demographics, numbers and proportions" and fundamentally is about a revolution of the mind.

Dr Mampela Ramphele has commented that Badat has fire in his heart and ice in his head. Badat takes this as a compliment and declared his commitment to "making Rhodes one of the great African universities".



Dr Saleem Badat after he was sworn in; the new vice-chancellor makes his address LAUREN CLIFFORD-HOLMES

Celebrating for soup

By Bianca Silva

Friday, September 29 marked the celebration of the one year anniversary of Masincedane Soup Kitchen in Tanti. The kitchen is also celebrating the partnership of Rhodes Rotaract and Makana Brick and Tile.

The Rhodes Rotaract club has been involved with the Masincedane Soup Kitchen over the year and Makana Brick and Tile has pledged a three year commitment to fund the initiative fully.

According to Claire Raciborska, the Rotaract is immediate past president and Masincedane co-liaison, the soup kitchen had previously been reliant on small fund-raising events, which

were held throughout the year. The new fund-raising system will allow the kitchen to run a more permanent and sustainable function, and enable more people in the township to be helped.

The celebration was held at the soup kitchen, and was attended by a representative of the sponsor, soup kitchen regulars as well as several journalists. Raciborska explained that "there was a speech followed by singing songs and cake and juice was served". A new student society called 'The friends of Masincedane' will soon be introduced to Rhodes students in honour of the soup kitchen.

Raciborska said this would provide an opportunity for people to volunteer as well as "the sustainable project of

educating students about development".

The soup kitchen caters for between 50 and 60 people, including children and the elderly, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

It is situated in the Tanti township and opens at 3pm as "children can't go to the other already existing soup kitchens as they open during school hours and the older people can't get to town," said Raciborska. It would be useful to have more funding for the purposes of expansion, explained Raciborska.

The manager of the soup kitchen is currently Cynthia Belwana, who has been cooking the soup for the last year.

On behalf of *Activate* to all the Jewish students and staff Shana Tova. We hope you had a good Rosh Hashanah and a good Yom Kippur on Monday. To all the Muslim students and staff we wish you well over the rest of the fast during the month of Ramadan.

Debunking Aids Myths

By Faith Bosworth

Myth: HIV does not cause Aids.**Fact:** HIV has been shown beyond a reasonable doubt to be the cause of Aids.**Myth:** Antiretrovirals have not been tested in clinical trials.**Fact:** Every antiretroviral registered in South Africa and the United States as of July 2006 had been through a clinical trial which demonstrated its safety and efficacy.**Myth:** False positive HIV test results are likely in pregnant women.**Fact:** If proper protocol is followed, the risk of a false positive HIV result is extremely small.**Myth:** Aids in Africa is another name for old diseases caused by poverty.**Fact:** Aids in Africa is characterised by recorded increases in the prevalence of a number of illnesses in young adults.

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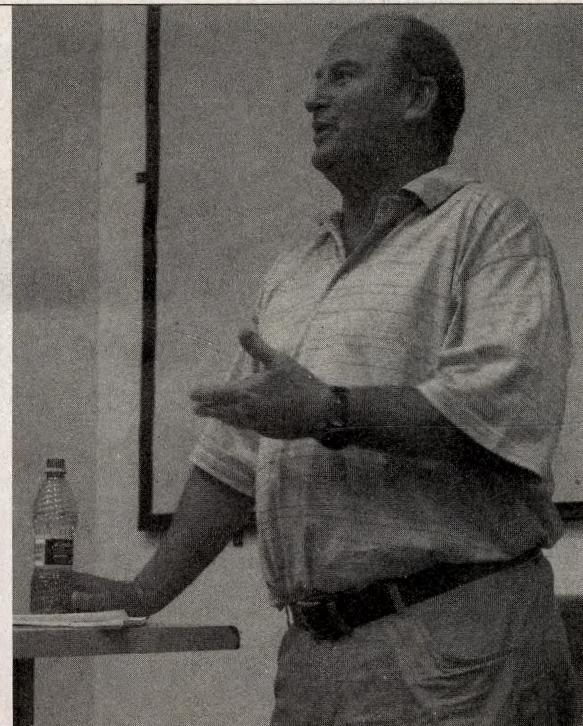
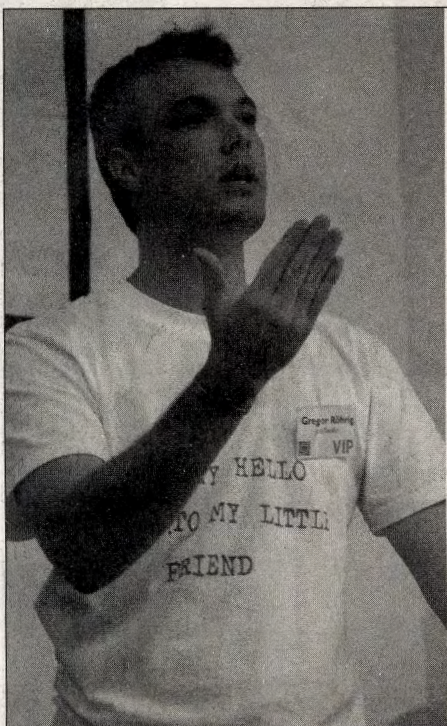
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Award-winning student Gregor Röhrig addresses delegates; delegates attend the conference; Sports journalist at Highveld Stereo, Graeme Joffe, speaks of his media experiences STACEY NEL

Debating media evolution

By Setumo-Thebe Mohlomi and Luke Reid

The third annual Captivate student media conference, organised by Journalism and Media Studies students from Rhodes University, took place between Friday, September 22 and Sunday, September 24.

The conference which was themed "The evolution of student media", kicked off with a launch party at the Africa Media Matrix (AMM). Dr Saleem Badat, Rhodes University's recently inaugurated vice-chancellor, addressed the sparse congregation of Rhodes students, lecturers, Captivate delegates and other dignitaries outside the AMM.

In his address, Badat highlighted the necessity to popularise student

issues, and to organise, educate and mobilise students using student publications as informative media.

This year's series of Captivate lectures, which took place at the Eden Grove lecture theatres, were focused on new media, or web-based media, and its presence in South Africa. A number of locally and internationally renowned journalists, including Matthew Buckland, the editor of Mail & Guardian Online, gave insightful presentations on the topic of new media and useful information on how media is changing with the growth of the online sphere.

Rhodes student, Gregor Röhrig, spoke about his award-winning journalistic website, Jo's Toolkit. Partnered with Captivate's executive co-ordinator, Carly Ritz, the two New Media students set up the site as a

resource for student and grassroots journalists. It provides advice and tips from journalism teachers, student media practitioners and prominent media players.

The two have been involved in student media since the beginning of their studies and explain that "There has been a lack of communication between student or grassroots media practitioners and academics and professionals. The idea was to bridge this gap and allow for free and effective dialogue."

The award was presented at the annual SABC Highway Africa conference, held in Grahamstown from to September 11 to 15, and aims to recognise and promote the creative, innovative and appropriate use of new media technology in Africa.

On his blog, Röhrig gave special

thanks to Colin Daniels, the pair's New Media lecturer. "He has been an incredible motivator during the entire process, and I am honoured following his footsteps in winning this award."

"I'm excited about winning this award, as this means more exposure for Jo's Toolkit, and hopefully more people will benefit from the site," said Ritz.

Ritz and Röhrig both plan to continue working in online media after graduating next year. They will continue to run Jo's Toolkit and plan to appoint a student editor to help them keep in touch with the student community. "I am very excited to see where the site will be going from here," writes Röhrig.

According to new media speaker Mark Comeford, "the technical divide" is what is most hampering the growth of South Africa's new media. Only a

small, elite faction of South Africa's population has access to at least one personal computer and an even smaller division has access to the internet. Vincent Maher, lecturer in the School of Journalism and Media Studies' New Media Laboratory, firmly believes that "the newspaper" will be marginalised by electronic media sources in the near future.

Although well-known figures in the media industry like Natalie Dixon, editor of SL magazine, and Graeme Joffe, sports journalist from Johannesburg-based Highveld Stereo, spoke at the conference, Rhodes student attendance was poor.

Captivate can be seen, in some aspects, as a conference aimed at giving editors and leaders of student media a chance to congregate and share their experiences in this area.

Africa Media Matrix takes a business initiative

By Ashleigh Swaile

The School of Journalism and Media Studies at Rhodes University is collaborating with the South African Reserve Bank (SARB) to improve business and economic journalism in Africa. The department stands to gain R5 million from this partnership.

The initiative will result in the establishment of an African Economics Journalism Centre (AEJC) to be chaired by Robert Brand, the current chair of Economics Journalism. The project hopes to offer postgraduate courses and research into this area of journalism.

The project will be commenced by its co-founder, the SARB, which will work in partnership with the department in teaching and curriculum development. Additionally, teaching resources will be provided by the department, SARB, and the general media industry.

According to Brand, the AEJC "will fill an important gap in journalism education in South Africa and the rest of Africa", and adds that it has "the potential to make a real and lasting contribution to the improvement of economics and business journalism". Brand believes that the centre will improve economic literacy across the



MATTHEW MIDDLETON

continent, "with obvious long-term benefits for development and economic growth."

The AEJC hopes to offer both full-time and part-time postgraduate diplomas in Economic Journalism to journalists as well as commerce graduate students interested in business journalism.

A full-time and part-time Master of Arts (MA) degree in Journalism and Media Studies with components in

economic journalism will also be offered. As of 2007, the AEJC will be offering a limited number of scholarships for post-graduate journalism students as well as MA students who agree to study economic journalism.

The initiative is anticipated to raise the influence and reputation of Rhodes' School of Journalism and Media Studies based on the achievement of quality media at both local and continental levels.

MTN challenges campus

By Robbie White, Michelle Solomon and Bianca Silva

The MTN Campus Challenge on Saturday caused yellow-clad students to rush about campus in an attempt to win MTN and LG sponsored prizes.

The MTN crew had started recruiting competitors from Rhodes University only two days before the event, but resulted in a queue of over 250 students. The teams of two were registered and handed an M4410 phone handset from LG, which was used to communicate with the game controllers.

Various teams followed the clues in a preset sequence, SMSed to them via their LG phones, of checkpoints around campus. To confirm their arrival at a checkpoint, each team had to

take a picture of themselves with the phone and MMS it to the MTN crew.

Competitor Nicholas Watson says that he enjoyed the game, but with disappointment he stated "I vomited, took all my clothes off, and still didn't win."

The teams received a list of trivia questions to solve in order to find the right checkpoints. Contestants were allowed to have external support from friends with computers and internet connections.

The event winners, Matthew Clarke and Graeme Saggars, received two LG Chocolate cellphones and two LG laptops. Runners-up, cousins Tapfuma and Rumbudzi Makina, won two LG Chocolate cellphones, and the team that came third, Nomoyi Siyabulela and Jim Mamkeli, won an LG hi-fi.



Competitors of the challenge enjoy the show

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TYPESETTING

Pregnant on campus?

A natural part of a woman's life can turn into a nightmare at university. **Deva Lee** and **Samantha Scott** examine the issues surrounding student pregnancy at Rhodes.

When Zandile Gwiya arrived in 2006 she, like hundreds of others, was excited to start her first year of university. Accompanied by her mother, she arrived at Walker house to move into her residence and join the other women. However she was informed by her warden that she was not allowed to move in. Unlike the other women, she was seven months pregnant.

Gwiya was determined to begin her studies in 2006 as planned and although she knew that she would have to struggle through the first term pregnant, she was not prepared to take the year off. She had never intended to keep her baby at Rhodes or in her residence and had in fact planned to return home in time to give birth and leave the child in her parents' care. Gwiya says her mother had phoned the university to inform them of her pregnancy and was told that her daughter would be allowed to study at Rhodes.

Shelly Roodt, Walker house warden, said that Gwiya and her mother were frank and upfront about the pregnancy. "We had never been faced with this situation before. Personally, as a warden, I wasn't sure [what to do]. The hall warden, Professor Jimi Adesina, advised me that we would act on the dean of students' decision." Dr Motara was the dean of students at the time, and he had apparently instructed that Gwiya would not be allowed to take up residence in Walker house, because she was pregnant.

Gwiya and her mother were accompanied by Roodt to Motara's office. While waiting to see him, one of the many university employees working at the front desk on registration day allegedly told Gwiya that she "must go to Unisa because Rhodes did not want to promote bad habits". Motara informed Gwiya that she would not be allowed to stay in residence because she had arrived pregnant. He did, however, help her find a digs and told her she would be able to return to residence once she had given birth and taken the baby home. Gwiya was reluctant and afraid because she did not know anybody in Grahamstown and knew that staying in digs was dangerous because she did not own a car.

Mandisa Khwatsha fell pregnant in April 2005 but only realised she was pregnant in June. In her sixth month her pregnancy began to show, but she did not inform Ruth Jackson, warden of Olive Schriener house, as the baby was due in the December vacation. When Khwatsha returned in February, already overdue, Jackson approached her and asked her when she was expecting. Jackson says that Khwatsha never directly told her

about her pregnancy and that ultimately she had been informed by her subwardens. Again, under Motara's orders, Jackson told Khwatsha that she had a week in residence in which she had to find digs. According to Jackson, the pregnancy policy states that women are only allowed to stay in a residence for up to 36 weeks of their pregnancy. Khwatsha says that she was not aware of such a rule, and she didn't know where to start as she could not afford a digs. She felt if she had been informed of any such a rule it would have made a difference. She was induced that week and had her baby before she had to leave.

Gwiya did not expect there to be a problem with her staying in res until she gave birth, as she views pregnancy as a normal part of a woman's life. "We are all adults and were not living with boys. We [as women] know about pregnancy. I felt I would be safe if I went into labour," she said. She moved into a digs in HillsView, a 25-minute walk from campus, until she was nine months pregnant. Judith Reynolds,

a lecturer in the Humanities Extended Studies

Programme, was one of Gwiya's lecturers and approached her to offer help. Gwiya says she was one of her greatest supports at Rhodes, often making appointments for her at the doctor and giving her lifts. Although Jackson did visit Khwatsha in the hospital after she had given birth, she explains that in actual fact a warden has no obligation to become involved in a student's pregnancy, especially if the student does not inform the warden.

Gwiya gave birth to her son in the April vacation and returned to stay in Canterbury house in the second term.

Throughout her pregnancy Gwiya attended varsity and she returned to lectures on the first day of the second term. Gwiya experienced minor stress-related problems and eventually gave birth by caesarean section. "So many things affected my pregnancy," says Gwiya. "I

had to stay at the hospital because of stress. I was always tired." After having her child, Khwatsha returned to her res to pack up her things as she was leaving to go home. She was instructed to leave her child

with the secretary while she packed her belongings, as according to Jackson, babies were not allowed in the residence. Khwatsha feels that Rhodes University is an institution for adults and that when pregnancy does occur, the student should be respected.

The way women have in the past been excluded from res for being pregnant may explain why many women who fall pregnant in res do not inform their wardens for fear of ending up homeless. Acting Dean of Students, Dr Ian L'ange, states that there is no rule barring a pregnant first-year from moving into in res. "I assure you, no such rule exists," he says. "Not only is it unconstitutional, it is reckless and extreme. Having a pregnant girl in res is not disruptive. If there are complications, an ambulance will be called."

The SRC is hoping to compose a pregnancy policy that focuses on stronger support for students with children, and "would like to see greater help for mothers who miss tests, etc, with sick children".

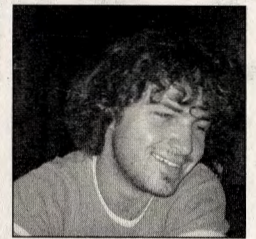
When questioned on the issue of student pregnancy, SRC President Bryony Green responded by saying that "the support offered is thin and erratic, with no consistency among departments" and feels that a lot can be done to help students with children. "There is no pregnancy policy," says L'ange. "We cannot discriminate against a biological reality. We are bound by the Constitution and the Bill of Rights." There are, however, rules in place barring students from keeping their children with them in residence. "We don't have the facilities," says L'ange. However, there is no rule stating that babies are not allowed to be brought into res to visit. The university does provide a daycare centre to staff and students living in digs, which is situated behind Oriel house.

There seems to be no hard and fast rule regarding pregnant women remaining in res. Both Khwatsha and Gwiya knew of women who had remained in res until they had reached their due date. In Helen Joseph house last year, there was more than one case of student pregnancy. In all of the cases, the student stayed in res up until birth, although one of the women had kept her pregnancy a secret for many months. "Had she come forward sooner, a lot of the stress she experienced could've been avoided," says Janet Kelly, the warden at the time.

The problems she experienced with Rhodes academic staff regarding her exams were resolved largely due to the support she received from both Kelly and L'ange. During O-Week, new students are informed about HIV/Aids and related counselling and are given visual instructions on contraceptives and how to go about arranging pregnancy tests and abortions. However, they are not informed about the procedures should a student fall pregnant.

The Rhodes University harassment policy clearly states that no students may be discriminated against for any reason, including the fact that they are pregnant. L'ange feels that excluding a pregnant woman from residence based on these grounds is only "gender discrimination in the extreme".

Ciro De Siena



on Leaders

I got stuck in Joburg this weekend. I had to travel north for my best school-mate's 21st, and then missed my bus home. Which was really stupid.

Diving into my savings, I got myself onto a flight the next day, and finally made it back to G-town. Funnily enough, British Airways were the cheapest and they also hand out a complimentary copy of The Star. At the moment, once a week, The Star comes with a free comic book detailing a chapter of Madiba's life, which is brilliant. It's perfect for lazy sods like me who have had a copy of *Long Walk to Freedom* sitting around collecting dust for years, yet are so keen to learn about the iconic leader's life.

The comic book itself is nothing short of expert; it really is a fine piece of work. I received Issue No 5, which details his time in prison on Robben Island.

Don't worry if you miss them. An anthology will be published next year.

I must be honest; I was nearly brought to tears reading the little book. The man gave up so much for a cause he wholeheartedly believed in. He suffered enormously while in prison, completely missing the chance to watch his kids grow up. He wasn't able to bury his mother as his custom dictated and he wasn't able to help when his wife was imprisoned and tortured for 18 months.

Honestly, after reading just the condensed version of his trials, I cannot believe that he tirelessly strove to understand his oppressors, wanting nothing more than to sit down and talk with them. If it was me, I would have run out of Robben Island brandishing an enormous gun and an even bigger sense of anger, but we all know how far attitudes like that would have taken us. His strength is truly admirable, and I feel weak as a human in comparison, when my biggest complaint in life is that it's hard to find a bit of petrol money every month, and that Pick 'n Pay only stock fat-free yoghurt. The reason I'm bringing up Mandela is that I truly feel that we have an example of his character here at Rhodes. He's been ploughing away under the clock-tower for some time now, however he was officially inaugurated this last week: our new VC, Dr Saleem Badat.

Like Mandela, and like another leader I hugely admire, Evo Morales of Bolivia, our new VC has chopped off a massive R200 000 from his annual salary from Rhodes, setting up the Jakes Gerwel Rhodes Scholarship. The scholarship, named after the chancellor of Rhodes University, will help four or five socially disadvantaged youths from the Eastern Cape through their studies at Rhodes.

Mandela did the same while in office, and more recently Morales has as well. This show of selflessness is incredible, and although Badat seems to avoid the limelight, I'm going to heap the praise on him anyway.

A colleague who had the pleasure of interviewing the new VC last term described him as "amazing", and I must say without having met him I have to agree. Sir, your quiet but resolute leadership has already influenced many, and I hope you have the strength to continue for a while to come.

All the best in your new position.

STACEY NEL

To the point with...

Professor Vivian de Klerk

By Jade Fernley and Kim van Beeck

Professor Vivian de Klerk will take over as our new dean of students as of December 1. De Klerk was born in Grahamstown and schooled at Victoria Girls' High, before moving on to study at Rhodes. After ten years in Johannesburg, De Klerk moved back to Grahamstown and took up a temporary junior lectureship in the English Language and Linguistics department, eventually becoming head of the department in 1992. De Klerk is married and has three children, all of whom have studied at Rhodes.

Q: Why did you apply for the dean of students position and leave teaching Linguistics for a more administrative job?
A: It wasn't easy to make that decision, I must say, but I have been an academic for over 20 years now and I've loved every minute of it. I don't want it to get stale – I like new challenges and I was excited about the prospects that this job held, because I'm very interested in students and very interested in Rhodes itself.

Q: What does it mean, to you, to be the first female dean of students?
A: It's delightful, and that on a personal level. But I think from a professional level, I think that it's very important that we have female role models for our young women at our university. They're in the majority now. I believe it really is a great incentive-maker for young women to see that women can reach higher positions. You know, I've often been the only female in a group of men. Women are getting there and it's good to be able to lead the way at Rhodes.

Q: How will this affect the way you approach your new position?
A: I don't really think about that very much. I feel as if I am competent, just as any other of my academic peers would be. I hope that my being a woman isn't going to be a major factor, one way or the other. I consider myself to be firm and rational and professional. I hope that maybe I can bring to the job a little more sensitivity.

Q: How does your portfolio differ from Dr Motara's?
A: I suppose the most key difference is that I will not be involved in the kitchens and the feeding of students in residence and the maintenance of the residence buildings. We now have an Operation Manager, Dr L'ange, and he will be handling all of that, plus he will also be handling the conferencing facilities and the transit housing. So I then have more time in my portfolio for students and their lives.

Q: What do you intend to do differently to Dr Motara?
A: I hope there will be much more contact with the students and engagement with the SRC and with the oppidans, who I feel are a forgotten cohort of very important students and I want to draw them in more and engage them more.

Q: What are the top three immediate issues you want to deal with?



MATTHEW MIDDLETON

A: I'm working on setting up oppidan subwardens so that we can get some more spirit working there and more engagement in oppidan teams and oppidan cultural events. I think another focus of mine is going to be the Sanatorium and trying to improve services there, and then a third focus is to try and upgrade the student union slowly, as money makes itself available.

Q: There has been talk about the oppidan dining hall for a while now. How do you intend to bring the plans to fruition in your term of office?

A: Well, I'm on the edge looking in at this stage.

I only begin December 1, fulltime. But I've been involved in meetings already, which are very hopeful. I've had discussions with Mr Reynolds of the estates division, and my understanding is that it will be up and running in the early months of next year. I can't give a date to that. It's going to look a bit like the Nelson Mandela dining hall, lots of round tables with nice chairs. There's going to be a servery up at the front, that I hope staff will also be included in the customers that can eat there and that they're going to redesign the décor, take away those big paintings that are there now, and

put some better artwork up. But I am very optimistic that it's going to be a reality, early next year.

Q: We all know what we expect from the new dean, what do you expect from the students?

A: Responsible behaviour, students I would like to regard as young adults, who are independent and must take responsibility for their actions. I understand that students must have fun and I want them to have fun, and I will certainly work towards making opportunities for entertainment but I expect

our students at Rhodes to develop the Rhodes ethos, which is one of mutual respect and tolerance for diversity.

Q: How are you going to make yourself accessible to students?

A: Well, the very first thing that I've managed to negotiate with all concerned is that my offices will be immediately adjacent to the SRC offices. We'll all be together. I will have to say hello to them every single day and I hope that we can have coffee together and have informal chats as well as formal meetings. I cannot obviously make myself available to every student who would like to have

a chat with me. There are many meetings that I'm going to be involved in so obviously there are channels which one will follow but I would like to ensure that I've got my finger on the pulse of crises.

Q: As someone who has grown up in Grahamstown and has had children through Rhodes, how will you use that knowledge and experience in your new position?

A: I think it's going to permeate everything I do. My deep understanding of how this town is part of this university and vice versa, and what it's like to enter as a new student, into a university, the kinds of fears and insecurities that first time students have, what it's like not to achieve things and to succeed initially. I mean, also as an academic who has taught for so many years, I know how disappointed students can be in their first year as they don't succeed and their expectations are smashed and I also see students begin to fly, because they're choosing the subjects that they're passionate about and that they really love. I'm deeply aware that we need to co-operate with the town. More and more of our students are living in town and the town needs them and we need the town to work with us in achieving a community where everyone is respectful, tolerant and understanding. Students must have fun but they must remember also that townspeople need to sleep.

Q: You were an Old Rhodian, what kind of student were you? Were you

the quiet, conscientious type or did you party hard?
A: I hate to admit it, but I was terribly well-behaved. I never missed a lecture. Well, I was an A student. I did get all firsts all the way through my degree. Looking back at my student experience, I wish I had done more on the social and sporty side.

Off the point

Q: What would you rather be, a verb or an adjective and why?
A: I think I'd much rather be a verb because verbs are the doing words, in very baby terms, they're where all the action's at, and adjectives tend to be dependent and they're attached to nouns and they are much more subtle and might miss out on the action.

Q: If you have R20 lying around, what would it be spent on?
A: One of those delicious little homemade meat pies from the home industry.

Q: If you could be anywhere in the world right now where would you be?
A: I would be in Italy again. In Tuscany, enjoying some of that wonderful Brunello wine and looking out over the rolling hills of Tuscany with my husband.

Q: If you could be any coloured jelly tot, what colour would you choose and why?
A: A green one. Green is good, green is like environmentally friendly. Green usually tastes of lemons and limes and I like that.



Res bars: always good for a laugh, whether you are drunk or sober

PICS SUPPLIED

Res bars: fun places to meet mates or poor alternatives to a night out?

Danielle Brock and Filipa de Oliveira take a fun peek behind the doors of residence bars

It's a Friday night. You have handed in your last tutorial for the week, eaten another meal in the dining hall and trooped down to town for your R12 bottle of Crackling. You and your mates have discussed your game plan for the night and are settled down between cupboards, side tables and unmade beds attempting to psych yourself up for the night with some drinking games. Deciding that does not work, you give up and start the long trek into town for the night.

For most students that is the way the evening begins, every weekend. For others, however, this is not the case and the regular visitors of residence bars experience a distinct and sociable way of starting out the night. If you can relate to the bedroom pre-drinking vibe, for your interest we have the rundown on the most well-known, functioning residence bars.

Generally, all of these bars are opened on Wednesday and Friday nights from around 7pm to 10pm and operate by invitation only. The functioning of these bars has shifted over the years due to the changing of liquor laws, and to fit within the legal constraints, the bars do not have liquor licenses and effectively work as a storage facility. Students can, upon request, give money and orders to either their bar representative or senior students who then buy the alcohol.

However, according to university

rules, this alcohol can only be beer and wine and must be handed out to the student on request by means of a roster. The behaviour of the participants in the bar runs accordingly with the university's policy and necessary order is kept by the bar representatives.

There are, however, a few issues which have been raised when dealing with the increase in noise levels and promotion of drinking as a result of residence bars.

Rob Benyon, warden of Piet Retief house, explains that residences are the students' homes and should not be a place where heavy drinking can occur. "Residences are great places to meet with friends, chat, have a social drink and watch sport on TV.

"[Residences] are not designed to provide a facility where students can come in to purchase alcohol and act like they do in a bar. I'd hate to see what happens at Friar's at 3am happen in my res," he said.

He continued by explaining that the real solution lies in finding out exactly what the students want out of a residence bar. "Parties in residences are counter-productive to the ethos of the residence unless it involves all students," he said. Many students feel that residence bars provide a facility

where residence comradeship and bonding can occur. Stuart Thomas, a first-year BA student from College house, supports this idea. "Everyone is equal in the bar and it allows people who don't normally socialise to mix and get to know one another," he said. John McNeill, warden of Allan Webb hall, agrees that residence bars are a positive aspect of campus life. "When Winchester had a functional bar it was the centre of the residence and I am a strong advocate for the running of residence

bars. With the implementation of a proper committee with good management, the residence bars allow sensible, social drinking instead of having to go out," he said.

Aside from this, many students favour residence bars simply for their convenience. Nicholas Baxter, first year BSc student from Piet Retief house, a residence which does not have a bar, explains that buying alcohol in town can sometimes be difficult. "I can imagine that I probably wouldn't go to town and buy cheap Crackling if I knew that I could just have a beer at my res bar," he said. Many students seem to agree that residence bars are more convenient than anything else and provide an easy and safe way to store and drink alcohol.

On the issue of the possibility of noise levels becoming out of hand, many students and wardens agree that all the noise becomes condensed into one room as opposed to along the corridors. "What I've noticed is on nights when the bar is closed and people are getting ready to go out to town there is a lot more noise than when the bar is open because many people use their rooms to pre-drink," said Michael Rance, second-year BA student of Botha house.

Dylan Bradford, a first-year LLB student from Jan Smuts house, agrees that sometimes residence bars can drag you away from experiencing the fun town has to offer. "It can be bad sometimes 'cause it keeps you drinking in your living environment instead of exploring into town," he said.

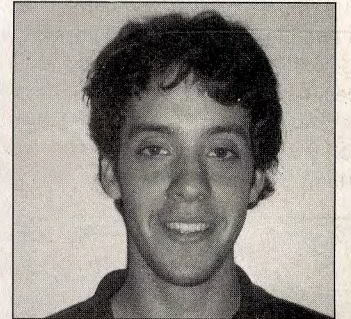
After an extensive look into the general feel on campus, it is evident that residence bars promote comradeship, safe drinking and are convenient. While it is logical to understand that certain rules and guidelines need to be followed, there is no reason why residence bars should not continue to function and possibly become even more a part of campus life.

So, this Friday, when you're not in the mood for the usual pre-drinking room party, call up some of your mates in reses that have these bars. Try and grab an exclusive invitation and experience the fun for yourself!

What you said:

By Sean Messham and Simnikiwe Mzekandaba

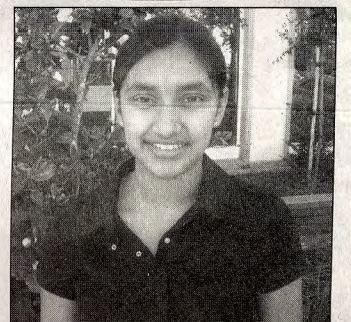
If you could break a world record, what would it be?



Ryan Miller
1st year BAcc
"Blowing the biggest hubbly ring"



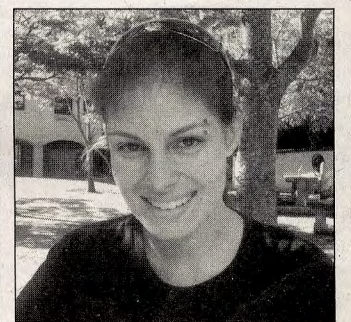
Bianca Sampson
1st year BA
"Taking the longest bath in melted chocolate"



Yashmika Singh
1st year BPharm
"Dancing non-stop"



Macdonald Mdhuli
1st year BSc
"Being a bachelor, I'd have to consider the longest 'sane' relationship"



Zoë Hinis
1st year BA
"An anime-watching marathon"

The lowdown on res bar traditions

Botha Bar

Botha Bar's official name is 'Bengal Rifle Club' (BRC), is known for its spirit and inclusion of all Botha boys. At the start of each term the BRC is opened exclusively to the Botha boys, thereafter guests may attend by invitation only. What makes it different is that it is more of a social club than a bar. Non-alcoholic as well as alcoholic drinks are served at the bar.

"It is for this reason [serving non-alcoholic and alcoholic drinks] that I think the bar is so well renowned; it accommodates those who wish to have a quiet beer as well as those who do not wish to drink but wish to socialise with others in res," Dave Cloete, a bar committee representative said.

College Bar

Another known bar is the 'Toot 'n Tiger' (Toot) found in College house. Opened by former Vice-Chancellor Dr David Woods, this bar is around 40 years old and its history is written on the ceiling in the form of the old boys' names. A well-known tradition is the 'shower-downs'. Originally the bar would open at 6pm and the boys had to be showered before dinner in order to make it on time for the bar's opening. Over the years the bar's opening time has been shifted later. In memory of those who had to rush their showering rituals, anyone who is known to have showered after dinner and before the bar's opening must down a beer. Women are not permitted in the Toot.

Graham Bar

Known as 'The Wreck', this bar is located within Drosty hall. Using funds that were raised last year, the bar committee put in a request for a door to be built to lead onto an outside courtyard area. This has improved the bar greatly as it accommodates more students. Painted red with posters on the wall, a large feature of this bar is the 'Wall of Shame'. This wall has pictures which display Graham students and their guests in their happiest hours. Although The Wreck does not have any set traditions, it is still a well-visited bar both during official events in which sister residences are invited, and unofficial events.

Matthews Bar

This bar goes by the name 'The Bulldog' and greets you upon entering Matthews house, Founders' hall. The Bulldog is a favourite among Matthews' boys and a tradition for first years is introducing themselves and kissing 'The Fox' - a walking stick - on their first night at the bar. Random outbursts of Matthews' traditional residence songs can be heard throughout the night. Paul-Michael Keichel, entertainment representative, of Matthews house says, "These songs are rather spontaneous and start whenever the boys are feeling the spirit of Matthews."

The bar is open to Matthews boys and their guests.

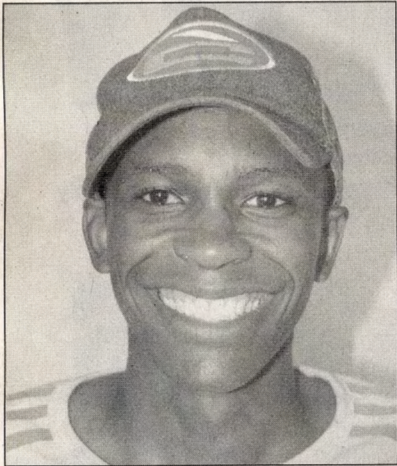
Poetry Spot

Setumo-Thebe Mohlomi's poetry is inspired by the past experiences he collected while growing up in Cape Town.

This first-year BJourn student writes poetry to "cope with life".

Mohlomi is an avid lover of literature and a part-time photographer. His interest in the arts and cultural activities springs from his undeniable devotion to hip-hop music and its rising sub-culture.

This humble tea addict has diverse tastes when it comes to pastimes and hobbies, be it the martial arts, lazing on the Drostdy lawns or taking a long walk on a warm spring evening in suburbia.



Months after wedding vows

Months after wedding vows had passed between them
And ululation gave way to heavy silences
Where coughs could sound like what they didn't mean
Mama still loved Papa sometime

Often home late
He coughed excuses: overtime
For my sake

Months after foetus child after child had passed between them
I showed resilience—from Papa's side.
Before birth I would kick

Prodding why Mama cried so often
In places only we could feel.
Mama would never betray tears
To knocks
For not coughing excuses for Gesabelle
Forgot
To keep her place
Lost
Her perfect smile

Son, I, had crooked teeth
Knocked out of shape in womb

But Papa smiled when I would cry
Mama resigned herself
To old wives tellings that
A son child could shackle hearts together
And hunky dory everything

Was fine until
Father's fine for
Gesabelle linen grew over time
Often home late
He spat excuses: overtime for my sake

Month counting on calendar dates
Mother knew my place
Second to first-born Gesabelle fine
—Son at that!

His mother knocked before wedlock
Was labelled whore, bitch home wrecker and
Papa's precious lover.

Up close and personal

Nia's touch of eclectic soul

By Khumo Makgothi

With only a few months of performing as a group, Nia has already shown its potential to go far.

In fact, Freshlyground might have to step aside. On Friday, September 22, Nia opened the third annual Captivate conference with their performance. The group entertained the crowd with a few Afro-indigenous sounds that left the audience wanting more.

The band has come a long way from when they first started with only two members. It now comprises of Elijah Madiba, who plays bass; Lawrence Sisitska, the violin player; Katlego Gabashane, one of the vocalists; Injairu Kulundu who also does vocals and plays the guitar; Ron Mckay, the guitarist and Unathi Heshula who plays the drums.

"It has been an incredible journey, even though I have been playing for a short while," says Injouru, a post-graduate student majoring in African

diplomacy.

Verge das Nerves, host of the conference, said their lyrics "make sense". Their lyrics talk about politics, their society and about the group itself, how they have evolved as a band in the last few months and how much they still need to learn as a group collectively. "If you would listen to their meaningful lyrics, you would cry. They are great entertainers and always leave you with a message," explains Verge.

The group has performed in numerous places, such as the Trading Store, Highway Africa, SAfm, many youth gigs. It will hopefully soon be performing in Zambia.

Elijah Madiba has produced for many bands and so it was inevitable that he would produce most of the songs for the group. Their music has a whole mixture of sounds. They play traditional-Afro music, fusing their indigenous languages and other sounds into their songs, resulting in electrifying resonance.



One of Nia's moments of sharing sweet melodies

DAYLIN PAUL

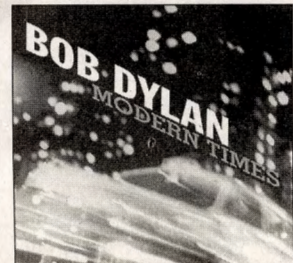
"The group is very groovy and their music is mellow and it's something you can move to," exclaimed Theo Sonnekus, a student who came all the way from the University of Pretoria for the conference. "It's in tune with the new journalism building," he continued.

The limited edition of Nia's demo is coming out soon. This is bound

to excite their fans who have been craving their sultry sound. A studio recorded song will be complementary to their beautiful live offerings.

"Music is about expressing oneself and trying to be pretty fulfilled," says Kulundu. Well, if that means writing more meaningful lyrics and creating soulful music that pleases the crowd, we are all for it.

CD reviews:



Modern Times – Bob Dylan

By David Querido

In an age where clueless, blonde millionaires dress their dogs with the same brand of bimboism that goes into their albums, here is one dog that refuses to submit to manufactured popularity.

Bob Dylan's 44th album has the modesty and experience of a dusty, wise old mutt who will eventually die doing what he loves best, be it chasing cars, sniffing private parts or touring with his band.

Modern Times sees Dylan going back to his roots of foot stompin' mama's cookin' Dixie-fried old school rock 'n roll. It is both a homage to jazz, country and rock of the past, and a commentary on a culture assimilated with celebrity deities.

Modern Times raises the bar and the middle finger. It also goes down especially well with a deck of cards, a glass of red, a (insert slang word for marijuana here) and some mates.



Phobia – Breaking Benjamin

By Ilana Koegelenberg

This Pennsylvania quartet finally hits it big with their third album, *Phobia*. Breaking Benjamin's sound is described as alternative metal or modern emo rock. Released in August this year, this 13-track offering reached number two on the Billboard charts.

An acoustic version of the popular new single "Diary of Jane" is easily the highlight of the album. *Phobia* is less heavy than the previous albums and people expecting to hear lead singer Ben Burnley's constant screaming will be somewhat disappointed with this darker, more emotional piece. While some may argue that nothing sets this band apart from the likes of Chevelle, Evansblue and Tool, fans will not be disappointed as BB stick to their familiar recipe of angst-ridden, thought-provoking lyrics that accompany the aggressively melodic tunes. Finally, a rock-like album that you can listen to without wanting to skip half the tracks.



Testimony Vol. 1: Life and Relationship – India. Arie

By Lula Hlatshwayo

India.Arie's lyrics on her third album are still as rich in meaning as her previous albums were and many of the tracks are very motivational.

As she says, "It's OK not to know; exploration is the way."

Her style of singing has remained the same so the songs are still at an enjoyable pace. You could easily learn the words by listening to the album a few times.

However, there is a problem with some of the beats. They tend to make one expect her to be singing in a down-south city, wearing a red-checked shirt. I doubt that she will receive any Grammy award nominations for this album, to add to the 12 she has already collected.

Although the CD's producers did not include acoustics that adequately complement her wonderful voice, this album does have some redeeming qualities and you should give it a try.

Book review:



Alice in Wonderland – Lewis Carroll

By Katlego Disemelo

"*Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*" is Lewis Carroll's greatest gift to the world. This book has enchanted both children and adults since 1865 with its subtle commentary on what logic precisely is. It has remained a timeless literary treasure. This wildly imaginative story takes readers through the recesses of their own minds, first in search of the white rabbit and eventually through the chess game with the Queen of Hearts. Intellectual nuances are manifested through characters such as Humpty Dumpty and the hokah pipe-smoking caterpillar.

This simple, yet poignantly written story is fluid, with reader-friendly language. Those of the feminist persuasion are bound to explode with elation as they discover the power roles that women have in this novel.

Annie Innuendo

DAVID QUERIDO



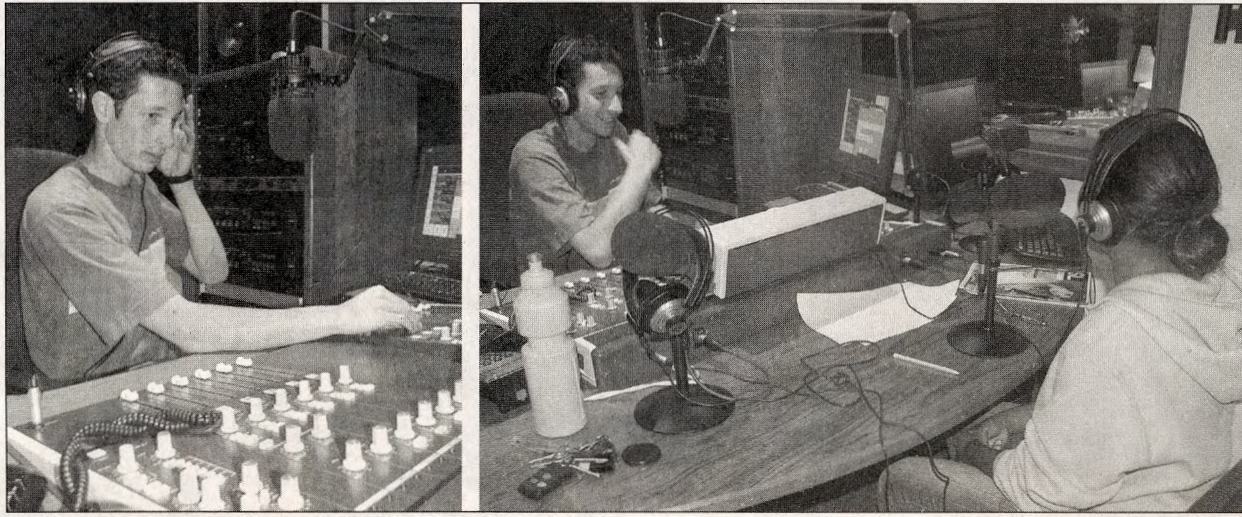
The wrath of a Hiphocalypse

By Nqobile Shoba and Bronwyn Seaborne

Hiphocalypse, Rhodes Music Radio's longest running show, seeks to promote a positive message through hip-hop. The show is in its seventh year and there seems to be no stopping this hip hop induced apocalypse. Rob Boffard, Mmabatho Motswai and Catherine Sackville-Scott form the trio that compile and run the show between 10pm and 1am every Saturday night.

"You need it to be for the community," says Motswai and all three believe that this is the secret to their success. Boffard, who will be leaving Hiphocalypse at the end of the year due to the conclusion of his Bachelor of Journalism degree, believes that hip-hop appeals to audiences because it "fills a certain gap which voices emotions and issues that mainstream media does not".

With this vision in mind, Boffard believes that Hiphocalypse could go on to become a national show and the



The Hiphocalypse crew in action on Saturday nights at 10pm

CINDY ARMSTRONG

"premier African radio hip-hop show". In the meantime, the show hopes to gain more listeners. "Listen with an open mind because it's pure expression, not a singalong," says Sackville-Scott.

Hiphocalypse looks forward to entertaining audiences with a recount of

their upcoming trip to Johannesburg on October 14 to watch the Jay Z concert. Motswai, a self-confessed Jay Z groupie, tantalised listeners with the possibility of her jumping onto the stage.

The show's mix of talented DJs and hip-hop from Mzansi has kept it

thriving but its down-to-earth attitude keeps it essentially Grahamstonian. It is the energy that has been put in by previous and current DJs that have helped propel what is one of the biggest growing urban cultures of our time.

"The people who've worked on the

show in the past have had a passion for the music, especially hip-hop, which is seen as a brand here in Grahamstown," says Motswai.

The current team brings enthusiasm and zeal to a show that has become the back track to Grahamstown's hip-hop beat. The show is a creative explosion that has its hands on the pulse of what is happening in the hip-hop world. Boffard attributes this to the amount of freedom that RMR has allowed them to have. "RMR has never imposed any constraints on us. Yes, we've had changes but we've had an enormously high standard of music and exclusives," he says.

This widespread and phenomenal show reaches the youth in places such as Joza. This proves that the show does not only cater to the hip-hop fanatics on campus, but to all people from various backgrounds. Hiphocalypse is a family of understanding, one that has a passion for what they do and this shines through. As Boffard likes to end the show: "This is Hiphocalypse on 89.7."

Battle of the Bands ends with a bang



Battle of the bands in its final and explosive night. From left to right: Undone (the winners), Peyote and Breach. Undone's triumph adds to the band's already impressive feats this year, including victory at the Splashy Fen free stage. Other awards that were given on the night are the "Going Places" award, which went to Orang-utang Bitch. Brynley Coetzee of Peyote and the Omophobes won the "Brightening up the battle" award, and Trevor from Undone won the "Best T-shirt" award for "Even Jesus hates Creed" which saw".

MATTHEW MIDDLETON

Gamma Rays have effect on audience

By Danielle Bosch

Drama Masters student, Terri Elliot, approaches the end of an exciting road as her end of year practical piece *The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-In-The-Moon Marigolds*, has been showing all this week.

As part of the Young Directors Season '06, Terri Elliot will be showing an accumulation of her pieces from her years here at Rhodes; *The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-In-The-Moon Marigolds*.

According to Elliot this 1971 play that won its author, Paul Zindel, the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, is about how "a really dysfunctional family are in and trapped by their circumstances but find triumph in the face of adversity".

It really is a fascinating script which Elliot has tastefully and enthusiastically directed.

Elliot's take on this complex story is

gripping.

Gamma Rays is the story of Beatrice Hunsdorfer, her two daughters and the depression and dysfunctionality that their family experiences.

The play revolves around a science project on the effects of gamma rays on man-in-the-moon marigolds that Tillie, the daughter, is working on.

Tillie's character, according to Elliot, comes to represent the hope and ability to escape instead of succumbing to a bad situation.

This is a main theme which runs throughout the play: how various people are affected differently by the same situation.

Tillie's character is a "delightful girl whose fascination with the interconnected nature of the world" frees her family from the suffocation of their own depression.

Elliot's all-female cast for *Gamma Rays* was a "Deliberate decision", she says. "There are so many women in

the Drama department, but because many plays call for male characters, women are often underplayed."

Elliot knows from her years at Rhodes how challenging it can be for an actress to be cast. She has, through using an all-female cast, created opportunities for the female talent in the department to be showcased.

Jen Schneeberger, a Drama Honours student, took on the role of Tillie. Schneeberger has found working with Elliot to be a "worthwhile process that has been rich enough to allow [an actress] to take character development so much further."

Elliot comments on staging a production of this size: "The stress gets worse and worse [but] the cast is great and really intimidated - we all love each other." This close bond has made the hectic and demanding process so much easier.

Elliot's cast has had to deal with



A scene in Elliot's masterpiece

LAUREN CLIFFORD-HOLMES

the unfortunate death of one of their central characters: a small white rabbit affectionately named Spronkie. Finding a replacement for the little bundle of fluff was just one of the obstacles Elliot's team has tackled in order to produce a cutting-edge piece

which examines, exposes and entertains viewers.

Elliot's production is a true reflection of the quality synonymous with, and produced by, five years in a Rhodes establishment.

Race policy, or glorified foot-bath?

By Ricardo Pillay and Monique Senekal

“Many white students have come to Rhodes University with the hope of getting a ‘white education’ and the university allows for that,” says Beata Mtyingizara, a Sociology lecturer. Consequently, “This is a place where they [white students] can exercise their whiteness freely”

A small group of Sociology 1 students recently accused a lecturer of alleged racism and incompetence. The students lodged a formal complaint citing the lecturer’s alleged racist behaviour and her constant references to apartheid as offensive. The lecturer, who does not yet wish to be named, has received emails containing prejudicial language since the incident began. Though an inquiry has been initiated to investigate, the incident has questioned the university’s policy on racism. A sociology student, who wishes to remain anonymous, said “I don’t have a problem with her as a person; she is just a useless lecturer. I never really know what’s going on.”

Mtyingizara acknowledges that there have been racial problems in the department. She says these problems are being addressed but the situation remains overly sensitive for public discussion.

She commented that “It’s not about punishment of students with racist views,” but rather about “opening such issues to debate as this would be more beneficial to students who hold outdated views”.

When asked about her experiences as one of few black lecturers at the university, Mtyingizara said that it is “extremely difficult being black here”, adding that students and even colleagues view “blackness” as “secondary and inferior”.

For students, the issue is whether Rhodes University is doing enough within its various faculties to tackle the topic of racism. Furthermore; should cases of racism be made public? In many cases, students seem unaware of racial tension on campus.

The recent case of Adriaan Vlok, security minister in 1980s, who turned to a bowl of water as redemption for his past atrocities, can be seen as an analogy to the university’s inadequate attempts of handling racism. According to Rev Frank Chikane, former head of the South African Council of Churches and a direct victim of Vlok, “...He [Vlok] picked up a glass of water, opened his bag, pulled out a bowl, put the water in the bowl, took out the towel, said ‘You must allow me to do this’ and washed my feet in my office.”

Just as opinions are divided on the university’s racial policy, the sincerity



MATTHEW ACKERMANN

of Vlok’s gestures has also received a mixed report. President Thabo Mbeki described the action as the gesture of a committed Christian who said that if Jesus Christ could do it, he could also. The former minister has also acquired the praise of the South African Council of Churches. Former activist Shirley Gunn, who was detained with her baby son for more than two months during the apartheid era, described the foot-washing gesture as “provocative and insensitive”.

“I still haven’t got the truth out of him [Vlok] about what happened to me,” Gunn said. “He can’t just wash Frank Chikane’s feet and think that is the end of it.”

Similarly, Rhodes University cannot wash away the effects of racism. Mtyingizara said that these problems have gained out side media interest and attention from the provincial Education Department. The incident has stirred much confusion within sociology classes. Arnzette du Plessis, a Sociology 1 student, felt that the perpetrators are “ridiculous, overreactive and childish”. Another student, who asked not to be named, commented that the lecturer “is not racist” and that “the only people who are racist are the white students”. The majority of students are left in the dark.

The students who lodged the complaint were unavailable for comment.

Hey sorry mate, but no darkies allowed there

By Leila Hall and Qhakaza Mthembu

You “wouldn’t get out alive”. During the 2006 Soccer World Cup – held in Germany this year – a former government spokesperson gave this warning to non-white visitors. There are numerous areas in the country that pose a very real threat to minority groups in the country. It has been estimated that a higher percentage of people have been the victims of extreme-right attacks in the German state of Brandenburg than anywhere else in the world since 1990.

There are parts of Berlin, such as Marzahn and Hellersdorf, which Africans know are “no-go” areas or “black zones” where they will almost certainly be attacked or killed.

In April 2006, a 37-year-old

Ethiopian engineer was beaten into a coma in Potsdam and there have been similar attacks reported in other parts of the country.

Germany, however, is not the only place with implicit “no-go” areas for non-whites.

Orania is an exclusively Afrikaner town in the Northern Cape which still insists on maintaining a separatist society along the old principles of apartheid.

Non-Afrikaner workers are not permitted into the town, and all jobs are reserved for Afrikaners. There are black and coloured townships a mere 40 kilometres away, but the inhabitants of the townships know that they are unwelcome in the town.

According to Orania’s founders, the town’s purpose is to preserve Afrikaner heritage, and follow

Afrikaner *selfwerksaamheid* (self-reliance).

It is feared that with time, Orania will grow into a greater *Volkstaat* (a fully independent “Homeland” for Afrikaners) which will attempt to secede itself from the rest of South Africa.

The continued existence of this separatist society and hard-line Afrikaner nationalism may pose a significant threat to the country’s democracy.

In 2002, the South African police announced that they had arrested 20 Afrikaners allegedly involved in a plot to overthrow the ANC, and in 2005, Orania’s unlicensed radio station was shut down after allegations that it was expressing racist views.

Closer to home, it is hard to ignore Grahamstown’s own “no-go” areas. The idea of “black zones” is becoming

the grim reality of any night out in Grahamstown, according to some students. There is undeniably a clear racial divide in terms of people’s choice of clubs and bars, and there have been several reports of incidents of racism and homophobia over the past few years. “Friar’s is one place where you walk in and you just feel black,” says Tracy Damons, a fourth-year Rhodes University student. Friar Tuck’s has often been at the centre of racial controversies – with several alleged incidents of barefaced racism and covert discrimination at the club.

There have been reports of racist remarks, of black students being ignored, being the only people asked to produce their student cards or even being asked to leave the club. “When we tried going into Friar’s one night, he [the bouncer] stopped us and

asked for our student cards. This is crazy; there were other people going in before us with no hassles, but when he sees a group of black girls there is a problem,” says Phumzile van Dam, a fourth-year law student.

Though the management of the club was not available for comment, Sarah Jager, a regular customer of the club said, “I heard it’s racist, but I do not think it is because I have never experienced any racism at the club and generally that’s where I hang out.”

Sinqobile Radebe, who studied at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg before coming to Rhodes, said that “this separation happens everywhere you go really. It’s all about those stereotypes surrounding taste in music and stuff, but it seems like here, things are just on an overly racial tip.”

Afro-business: Business that makes good sense and cents

By Nosipho Mngomezulu

“Necessity is the mother of all invention” cannot be more accurate for the developing world. The poor economic structures of less-developed countries have fostered generations of innovative and sometimes bizarre businesses to ensure basic survival.

South Africa is no exception: the country boasts a wide range of unique businesses in the informal economy. Things such as stokvels, ama-kip-kip and ama-ice, as well as the infamous taxis, are just some of the abundant ideas that South Africans have come up with to put bread on the table.

Looking around Grahamstown, one can see various examples of these vibrant informal, small businesses. Some people see them as a nuisance and a danger, others as the height of

convenience.

The beading women, who sell handmade jewellery to students and tourists as a source of income, are a permanent and colourful feature of the university.

Selling accessories is a popular business venture, and walking down High Street one can see various stalls selling assorted merchandise, from cheap Chinese accessories, or *fong kongs*, to handmade beaded earrings and bracelets. Vanity is an everyday part of our lives, and it is not surprising that so many businesses cater to this weakness.

Most South Africans have frequented the country’s open-air hair salons where they can get their hair braided or cut and even get a quick shave at bargain prices.

Of course you have to come with your own extensions and have your hair washed, as after all it is on the

side of the road.

One can get almost anything on the pavement. This culture is not just unique to South Africa but is part of most Third World nations such as India, China and numerous other African states.

The Ivory Coast is probably the only place in the world where consumers can wait for a lift on the side of the road while getting their hair styled, dinner prepared and an outfit tailored.

Location-specific foods such as *ama-quarta* and chicken dust are just some of the delicacies that have emerged with urbanising populations. Some may look at these as hubs for food poisoning and disease, but before jumping on the bandwagon, when was the last time you ate one of Mama Pam’s hotdogs outside the Rat & Parrot?

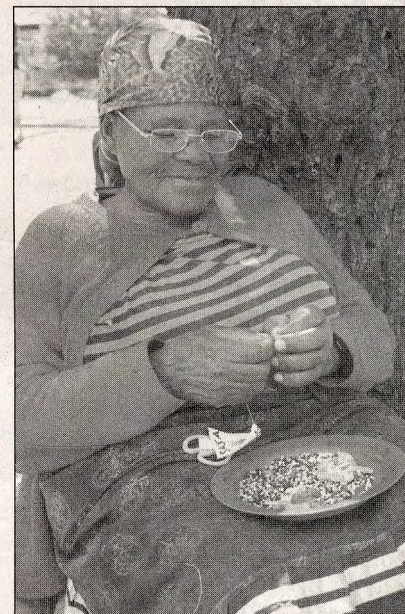
Most of us can testify to being regu-

lar customers of Mama, and are still alive to tell the tale.

There are also the ever present car guards. Love them or hate them, they have established a niche for themselves in the economy.

The guards often work for larger security companies who recruit workers from the neighbouring locations and pay them minimal commissions. The income is not secure as it depends on the weather or mood of the customers. Often drivers view car guards as a nuisance and do not appreciate having to pay someone they have not personally appointed to do any task.

There is no sphere that the imaginations of people in the developing world have not explored, from accessories to technology and transport. Next time a taxi stops right after the green traffic light, think of it as a service to the economy.



Informal traders like this woman are an important part of Grahamstown’s economy. JONI ELS

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KESWICK ESSAY COMPETITION 2006

Sir Chips Keswick, Old Rhodian and Director of Investec UK, funds an annual prize to encourage the use of jargon-free prose in writing on technical/scientific subjects.

Deadline for submissions: 17h00, Friday 20 October 2006 - No late entries will be accepted

Undergraduate and Honours students are invited to submit what they consider to be their most lucid essay on a technical/scientific subject, written between June 2005 and the end of September 2006.

THE VALUE OF THE PRIZE IS R3 000

REQUIREMENTS:

- Only one essay may be submitted per candidate
- The essay must be typed, and must not exceed 2 500 words in length (excluding references)
- A list of references must accompany the essay
- The style and level of presentation should be appropriate to adult, well-educated but non-specialist readers
- The essay must not be submitted under your own name: use a *nom-de-plume*
- A separate covering sheet must accompany the essay and must carry your name, student number, *nom-de-plume*, title of the essay, its length, and a signed declaration that the essay is your own unaided work

Please note that failure to comply in full with these requirements may result in your essay being rejected.

The winner will be announced during November. The adjudicator reserves the right to make no award if none of the entries are considered to be of a high enough standard.

Completed essays must be submitted to the Communications and Development Division.
 Covering sheet to accompany essays may be obtained from Cherié,
 of the Communications and Development Division (Room 234).

SRC Ikhaya Heritage Fortnight

Over the last two weeks, the SRC in collaboration with the Ikhaya Losizo safe house project committee has held fund raising and awareness events aimed at raising funds for Ikhaya Losizo dubbed the Ikhaya Losizo Heritage Fortnight. The fortnight kicked off with the SRC Coffee on the go which took place every morning between Tuesday the 26th and Friday the 29th of September at the library quad. There was also a heritage display at Eden Grove and the library quad throughout the week. This was followed by a Heritage evening at Equilibrium on Wednesday night and an international heritage film evening on Thursday. Thursday and Friday also saw a really successful cake sale that spanned the entire campus. The first week was concluded

with a movie marathon at Eden Grove on Saturday. This week the SRC has organised a campus wide fast for today to raise funds for Ikhaya Losizo so if you are reading this over lunch in your dining hall, shame on you - but, you do have the chance to make up for it by placing your donation at the comedy evening organised in collaboration with the comedy alliance that will be held tonight at the Union.



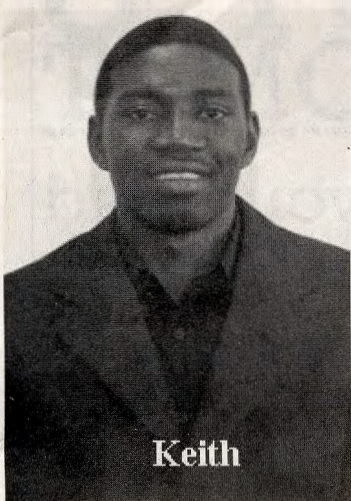
RHODES UNIVERSITY

SRC

2007

Meet the Hall Reps

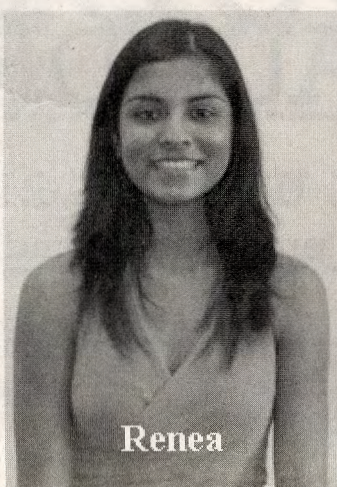
Oppidan



Keith

Having stayed in digs for three years I have seen and experienced a lot. A lot has been promised over the years but nothing has materialised. I believe we have passed the stage where both students and the administration agree that Oppidans are marginalized and its time that something is done about this. As your Oppidan rep I am here to facilitate this development but only if Oppidans themselves decide to fully get involved. Our success as Oppidans is conditional on each and every one of us' involvement. Once we realise this we will realize our goals.

Hobson



Renea

I am a first year business science student, who currently holds the position of international officer on the SRC. I am focused and ambitious, which makes working individually or in a group interesting and rewarding. My goals include communicating more extensively with the student body, so that the needs and concerns of the students are addressed. I have a passion for working with the international students and I aim to create an environment that enhances integration between the local and international students. I am approachable and willing to provide assistance to those who seek it.

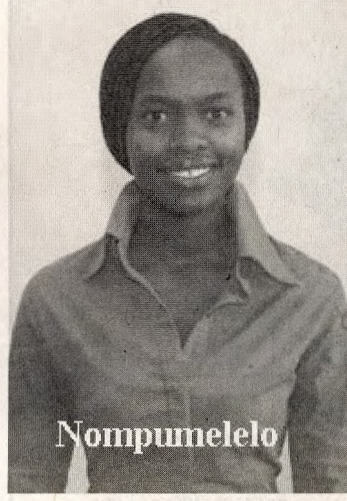
St Mary's



Mathapelo

I am Mathapelo Moloto, a young black female from Soweto. I grew up in a vibrant & energetic community constituted by many different cultural groups. This environment played a crucial role in cultivating the appreciation I have for the diverse nature of our society. Rhodes is a conglomerate of diverse individuals, each with their own expectations of what a representative council should deliver. As such, 'student benefits' can be construed as different by every student. I hope to incorporate the diversity of this campus with the aim of working towards a common goal to the benefit of all.

Oriel



Nompumelelo

I am the Oriel Hall Representative and hold the position of Development Councillor. Meeting new people, interacting with different people and helping where I can is what I love and do best, and this has proven to be advantageous in carrying out my role as development councillor. My portfolio entails the development of financial aid and community engagement. Along with the Financial Aid department and the Fees Office we aim to assist those students who have financial difficulties and ensure that there are no exclusions on financial basis. I plan to get the students more involved with the Grahamstown community, offering any skills or resources they have in order to develop the larger Grahamstown community. It is only with the students' assistance that I will be successful in serving them.

Founders

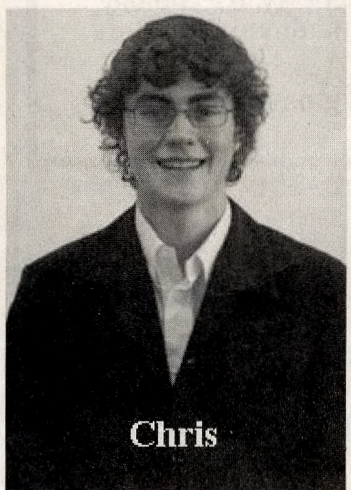


Ricardo

A lot of people choose to sail steadily through life on an even keel. But there are some people who are boat rockers. They go through life taking a stand when things go corrupt. I thoroughly enjoy being the latter. I create, recreate, replay, and re-invent the things that seem so set by CHANGING MINDSETS! I feel it's time to peel off the layers and reach into the authentic self, it's time to take control, make the change and reinvent ourselves, like a butterfly bound by a cocoon, it's time to set ourselves free and fly.

I am Ricardo Pillay: an activist, ready to exceed expectations!

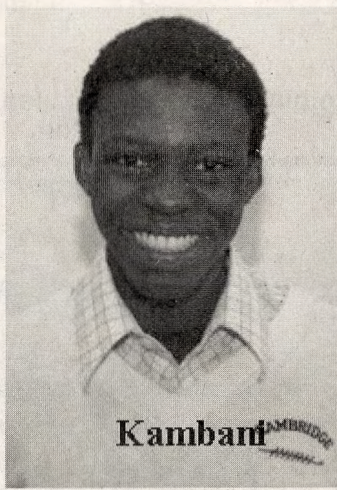
Drostdy



Chris

I am currently in second-year studying a BA majoring in Politics and Law. I am one of a rare breed at Rhodes, a local, having spent most of my life living in Grahamstown. Despite this (somewhat dubious) background I would consider myself to be relatively well adjusted with a diverse range of interests. I am enormously excited about working on the SRC in the coming year as it is comprised of a fantastic group of hardworking, dedicated individuals. In particular, I hope to do great things with my portfolio by putting to use the experience gained from working on society committees over the past two years.

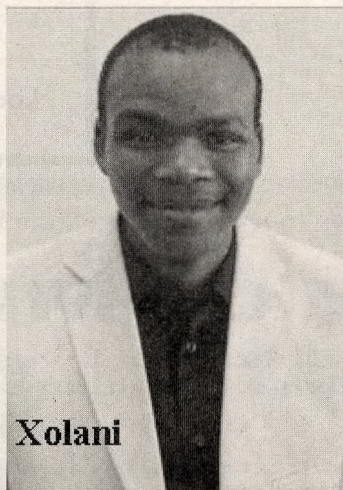
Allan Webb



Kambani

In a nutshell I would be a nut. But because I am a student and a member of the SRC I can safely say that I am a human being. Rhodes is an exciting place and I have enjoyed my short time here. I would really like to see this University grow in the area to student facilities; especially on-campus catering. Otherwise, I think olives are the way, the truth and the life; I prefer my coffee with no milk and some chocolate; and this next year will see the SRC doing more good work for the students.

Kimberley



Xolani

The position of residence councillor requires that I be approachable and quasi socio-professional. I believe I meet these requirements. I believe greatly in listening and consulting a wide constituency for upgrading ourselves. This is the philosophy that will guide my term in office. This year, the SRC will dramatically increase its involvement in residence affairs, especially in light of the recent quality of life residence survey. I would encourage all students to feel free to approach me with issues/ideas anytime they see me on campus. I will liaise a lot with Hall/House Senior Students so please utilise them as well.

Smuts



Rutendo

I am first year BSS (Law) student sociable and quite out-going in character. As an individual I take interest in meeting and effecting people through personal interaction. During my term of office I will endeavor to make sure that the SRC is also able to reach the student body at a personal level. In relation to the society's I believe in effective administration and I look forward to great events and activities from the societies in the coming year. To Smuts Hall as I promised; I will be there - "Forever at your service".

Nelson Mandela

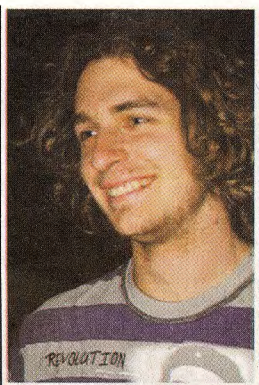


Hannah

I am a first year Business Science student. Music is my life, literally, as I am an RMR radio presenter and recently I was lucky enough to be named Events manager for the station. I will be representing Nelson Mandela Hall on the SRC and if you need any entertainment, I am the Lady. Another thing that is a central part of my life is water polo and the life associated with this fantastic sport. Basically, I am a fun loving individual that is always willing to help. 2007 is going to bring challenges that I can't wait to tackle... So bring them in.



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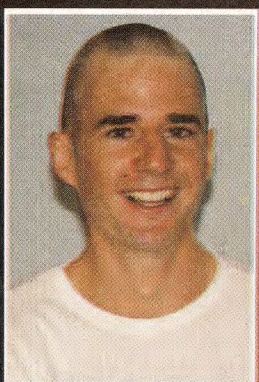
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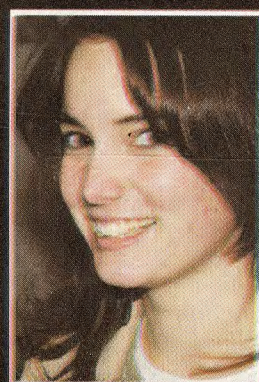
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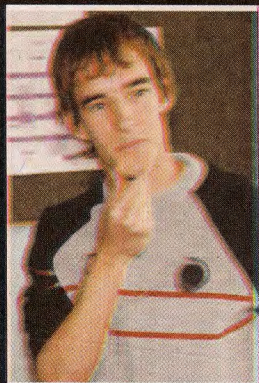
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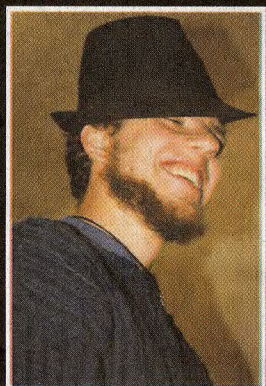
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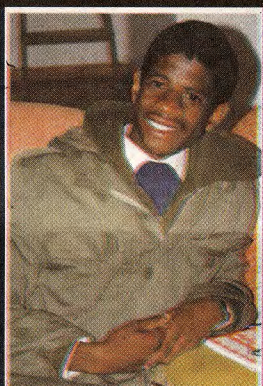
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Be a Winner with Windhoek Draught

Windhoek Draught, the imported easy drinking beer from Namibia, is inviting 10 Activate readers to join them in celebrating October, the month reserved for the October Festival in Germany. Windhoek Draught is a premium, natural beer brewed using the finest imported ingredients according to the German Purity Law of 1516.

Windhoek Draught is available on tap at selected outlets, as well as in the unique 450ml can, which makes it ideal for enjoying outdoors. If you like them blonde, you'll love Windhoek Draught.

It's a pale honey blonde with a tinge of red and a noticeable CO2 bubble. This draught has a syrupy, fruity, honey and biscuits aroma too. Its distinctive stewed fruity flavours with prune overtones give it a smooth, long-lasting taste. Its creamy mango taste leads to a mouth-watering aftertaste.

If you're too busy hitting the books and won't make it to the bar, try your hand at our competition and stand a chance to win an awesome Windhoek hamper by completing this sentence:
Windhoek Draught is the smooth and _____ drinking beer in the Windhoek range. It comes in _____ml cans, making it perfect for the outdoors.

Windhoek Draught is not for sale to persons under the age of 18.

Email entries to activate.ads@gmail.com by no later than 12 October to win this marvellous prize.

Remember to supply us with your contact details including telephone number, full name and ID number.



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TP and Smuts score in Triathlon

By Warrick Smith

The Inter-Res Triathlon on Sunday, September 24 was the final event of the overall Inter-Res competition. Teams made up of a swimmer, a cyclist and a runner took part.

The event, hosted by the Athletics Club, attracted 12 determined teams from various residences and included two oppie teams. The event kicked off with the four women's teams in the pool first, racing each other over six laps.

First out of the water was a swimmer from Thomas Pringle who tagged her teammate for the cycle leg. The female cyclists rode six kilometres out of Grahamstown where they reached a turn-around point and raced back to the Kaif gates.

Still in the lead, the Thomas Pringle cyclist tagged her teammate, who began the final leg, which consisted of a three-kilometre run through campus.

By now her team had gained a comfortable lead and there was little

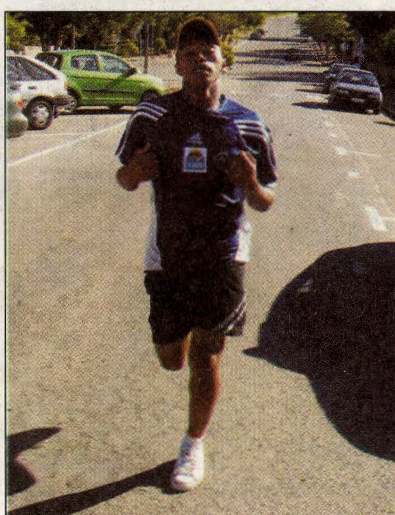
challenge for the runner as Thomas Pringle charged towards the finish line and took first place in the women's category. The second and third places were taken by Canterbury house and Olive Schreiner respectively.

The men's triathlon proved to be much more competitive as eight swimmers lined up for the start of the swimming leg. The leg was changed to 20 widths and the swimmers entered the water at a blistering pace with the Oppidan team taking the lead followed by the Jan Smuts team.

The swimmers then tagged the cyclists who burst out onto the 12km route, where they were met with hills and difficult terrain.

In addition to the challenging ride, the cyclists had to deal with the pressure applied by their opponents in the form of mind games.

The oppie and Smuts cyclists had stuck with each other throughout the cycle but in the dying stages the oppie cyclist had slowly pulled a 20-second lead over the Smuts cyclist.



Triathlon teams get stuck into the course of swimming, cycling and running for their res



SEAN MESSHAM

The race was far from over for the Smuts team and after the runner was tagged he sprinted out onto the route with purpose and determination.

He shortly caught up to the oppie runner and both continued at a brisk pace. However it was not too long

before the Smuts runner had taken the lead.

The Smuts triathlon team finished first, followed soon after by Team Oppie and in third place Cory/Matthews house.

Triathlons may involve only three

members from respective houses yet this event again showed the determination and teamwork promoted by inter-res events as well as Rhodents' ability to pull together, hung-over or not, for their residences and give their all.

Rhodes crews claim victory

By Fleur Rollason

Port Alfred was rocked by the sounds of hooting and squealing tires as supporters chased rowing boats down the river. South Africa's top university rowing crews and their supporters descended on the Kowie River for the annual Mutual and Federal Universities Boatrace. Boatrace consists of men's crews rowing over 6km and the women over 4km.

Heats started on September 14, with the women's B crew heats taking place first. Crews are let off with a 30-second gap and places are decided on times. Rhodes went off first with many eyes watching after their memorable victory in 2005. Rhodes' women's B crew completed the heads race with the fastest time. Wits University competed in the first and second final with Rhodes.

In the men's B crew race, Wits and the University of Johannesburg (UJ) were placed in the first and second final. The women's A crew heat saw Rhodes finish with the fastest time and they were placed in the first and second final with Wits.

The men's A crew heat was the last event of the day with Rhodes once again holding the fastest time. UCT was placed in the final along with Rhodes after having a fantastic race



Victorious Rhodes men's first team

PICS SUPPLIED

to come second.

The Rhodes men's B crew final took place on Friday to determine third and fourth place. A small crowd was there to cheer our men on to claim third place over Stellenbosch in howling wind. No times are available as the race had to be restarted.

Saturday dawned still and cool, the perfect day for the rest of the finals. The women's B crew had a great race against Wits to win the final in a time of 17:11 minutes. An exciting day of racing followed with a close race between Stellenbosch A crew and Tuks A crew, with Tuks just winning, placing them fifth overall. Wits won the men's B crew final beating UJ.

Rhodes women's A crew completed

the final to ensure a clean sweep for a second year in a row for Rhodes in the women's section. They won their final in a time of 12:38 minutes. Times varied a lot due to weather conditions and the tide.

The men's A crew final was the last event of the day and Rhodes was able to reclaim the Cambridge Rudder from UJ. At prize giving the Stellenbosch and UCT men's crews were named the most improved crews and Wits women claimed the most improved trophy for the women's crews. Wits and the Rhodes crews were presented with their winning medals and trophies.

Yet again Boatrace was completed with an enthusiastic crowd and rowdy afterparty in which all were involved.

Eastern Cape rugby grinding my gears

By Robbie White

Many people spent their Heritage day lounging on a couch relaxing and soaking up the day. I was not as fortunate.

After months of planning and co-ordination, a level-one rugby coaching and refereeing clinic was set to start at 8am on Monday 25 with sign-up. After arriving well in advance to plan the events with the organisers, I was shocked to see the referee coach arrive only two minutes before he was due to start at 08h30. Unfortunately by this time people had either stopped in and realised that the coach was not there or people were still out from the previous night's indulgence. For this reason the refereeing course was not well attended and unfortunately lost the possible positive impact it may have had. However, after this I was assured that the afternoons coaching course would definitely happen and that the official who would be taking it at 2pm would be there in advance. So I left preparing myself for an afternoon of education in rugby. Arriving back at 13h15, I opened up the rooms necessary for the course and told people of the afternoons plans. At 13h45 I

phoned the EP rugby representative who was set to take us for the course. When he picked up he was surrounded by shouting and I was surrounded by panic. I went to the SA rugby representative who was at the field and asked him exactly what was going to happen, his reply was "can we move this to a later date". I could not believe what I heard, after so much preparation I was forced to phone people involved and explain to those present that the official had apparently come down to Grahamstown and decided that the course would not be worth his while to do. For the first time I realised why SA rugby's Brian Hoskins has attacked the idea of Southern Spears being accepted to the Super 14 next year. How can a province who can't even organise its staff to run a rugby clinic organise a professional rugby team to compete with international teams? What is worse is that this province contains some of the best school-level rugby yet it can't even make an impact at provincial level. Many will tell you that they would love to have the job of coaching people about rugby and being able to give them qualifications. It's a pity they weren't involved this Monday.

Tennis around the clock for charity

By Philippa Francis

Sounds of laughter and old favourite tunes could be heard emanating from the Rhodes Tennis Clubhouse on Friday, September 29.

Some would say that this was usual for a tennis club cheese and wine but on this particular Friday night, it was combined with a 24 hour tennis charity event. This time, shouts of tennis camaraderie were an invitation to all who passed by to join in the event which ran from noon on Friday until 12 pm on Saturday.

The courts were packed with people; the level of tennis ranging from the

first team to some who had never played tennis but had come to support a good cause and have some fun. The only rule was that tennis had to be played by two or more people for 24 hours without a break in play.

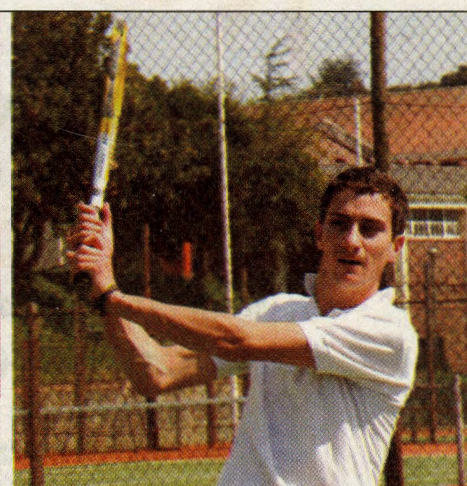
The committee was allocated different shifts throughout the time period so that if there was no one present to participate, they could be on the court. Chairperson Nicole Nel said, "It's definitely one of our most successful events this year and it's great that we were able to donate to charity."

The fun seemed to carry on and on and people did not tire easily. At nearly three in the morning, one of the

participants fetched his guitar from his residence to entertain the group and to keep up the good spirits of the players. Students on their way back from a night out came to join the party and at least two courts remained busy for most of the event.

Over R700 was raised and the committee is pleased with the result. The proceeds of the event are going towards the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA).

It is refreshing to see a charity like this being supported as it is one that is often overlooked especially as most Rhodes students do not own pets as they live in residences or digs where animals are not permitted.



Different strokes for underprivileged folks

JONI ELS AND N KK RITCHIE

From left field



By Tim Hancox

Why is cricket in such a hurry? The evolution of the gentlemen's game is evident, as what was termed 'pyjama cricket' has grown into the flagbearer for the game. These days finding a traditional spectator politely applauding is about as likely as finding a chocolate chip in your muesli cereal (even though they promise you on the box).

The latest edition in the form of the very popular 20/20 version of the game is leading towards a new kind of superstar in the mould of Loots Bosman or Goolam Bodi. These players may not have the technique of Jacques Kallis, but their unorthodox shot selection can give the most economical of bowlers nightmares.

The 20/20 format has made the bowler rather inconsequential, as the flat pitches help them about as much as a blind guide dog might. This is leading to bowlers losing their ability to bowl an attacking line. They are constantly having to keep the runs down instead of attacking the stumps. The problem has filtered through to test cricket where world-class swing bowlers are an endangered breed. The public's demand for boundaries has led to batsman-friendly wickets and elevated batting averages. This is demoralising for bowlers, who can often be seen at the end of a long day in the field with an expression like someone has kicked their cat.

This speedy cricket is also detrimental to the seemingly impossible task of unearthing a quality spinner in South Africa. On the fast paced wickets, spinners are forced into defensive unimaginative bowling. This means they lack the ability to produce match-winning performances in the subcontinent. Although there has been some promise shown from Thandi Tshabalala, who has been outstanding in 20/20, and is hoped to be the star in the future. There have also been positives from the 20/20 revolution, with more spectators and the sport appealing to a wider range of people. In the end, will we remember Bradman's brilliance or Bosman's flamboyance?

5 bodies, 5 minds, 5 tasks

By Oliver Field

The beautifully revamped Botanical Gardens played host to a range of unique mental and physical challenges in the fourth annual Allan Webb Adventure. There were 85 strongminded individuals put to the test on Saturday, September 23. Separated into groups of five; they were confronted with a series of challenges which focused on teamwork and co-operation as an essential aspect for success and more importantly for the enjoyment which the Adventure aims to share with the community.

This year the Adventure was won by The Big 5, who breezed through the course displaying all the aspects promoted in the challenge. Kevin Elliot led The Big 5, who were followed closely by Team Supreme.

Keeping with the fun theme of the event, the best-dressed prize was given to a blue paint-covered Give 5 team. The paintball challenge was especially enjoyed by competitors and spectators alike, as well as other fresh challenges implemented by the committee for this year. The committee clearly showed its ability to adapt to the competitors and what they enjoy



This event saw teams construct a structure from poles and rope which had to hold the team

SEAN MESSHAM

in such events, making those involved more avid supporters of the good cause that the Allan Webb Adventure stands for. The Adventure was created and held first in 2003, as a means through which daring and determined individuals could express themselves in a team. This unique event in the Rhodes Calendar has been a success ever since, and has become a major function for the hall. On top of this, its fresh style is drawing in more competitors each year, who not only

find joy in the event itself but in the sharing of stories afterwards. Each year the event has been a major fundraiser, and this year was no different with money being collected for Ikhyala Losizo, which is a fund being created to help build up a safe house for abused and neglected children.

Mark Coulson, the chairman of the Allan Webb Adventure Committee, believes that "this event was well-received and many of the teams spoke about how much they enjoyed

it." Next year, the committee hopes to increase the number of teams to 24, and believes that this will attract much more support in terms of marketing and sponsorship. Included in this is the obvious fact that its local support base should increase as more individuals get involved. It can certainly be said that this new, innovative challenge is gaining popularity and attracting keen young people. It seems that the event will be enjoyed more by all as it continues to develop.

Rucking through rugby results

By Adam Wakefield

Wednesday, September 20 saw the start of the Rhodes Internal Rugby League. The league begins as a round robin competition featuring six teams and ultimately ends with four of them moving on to the play-offs.

Wednesday's matches saw The Hill play Founders' and Jan Smuts play last year's winners, Dream Team, while Heathens faced Skidd.

The opening game between Founders' and The Hill proved to be an extremely physical affair and though both teams put up a strong performance, ultimately, the Founders' men won, setting a high benchmark for the teams to follow.

Dream Team dominated in their match against Smuts despite Smuts opening with a try. Dream Team exerted control by keeping it tight with their larger forwards. Smuts' defence was shaky, which allowed Dream Team to exploit the overlap. Dream Team's

advantages bore fruit with them, dotting down three times.

The Heathens vs Skidd match was a close encounter, though the scoreline says otherwise. Skidd opened the scoring after a Heathens dropped ball allowed Dave Elliot to dot the ball down under the sticks. Heathens' fitness proved a telling factor, along with their tactics of undermining Skidd's first phase ball. This destabilised Skidd's extremely dangerous backline. Heathens ended off the first half with a try of their own. The second half saw Heathens scoring three unanswered tries. The game ended on a sad note, with Heathens' Stuart Baillie picking up a knee injury and Dave Elliot being hospitalised with a concussion in the last movement of the game. Baillie said after the game that both sides played a "clean but a hard, good game of rugby".

Friday's games proved just as exciting, with Heathens defeating Smuts in a second-half flurry of points and

Dream Team dominating The Hill, who again showed passionate play. Founders' lost to a more convincing Skidd team whose backline for a second year showed their talent, whilst their forwards worked hard at the breakdown. This was only a glimpse of what this team is capable of if given space.

Wednesday, September 27 saw the final leg of the round robin stages being played, which proved to be exhilarating as the spots for third and fourth places were thrown wide open for the taking. First up was Smuts against Founders', an intense game which saw Smuts winning but not receiving a bonus point and thus hindering their chances of semi-final glory.

Next up was definitely the game of the night between Skidd and Dream Team. In a game which swung both ways throughout the match, Skidd scored in the last few minutes with their forwards and backline working

together to provide some very entertaining rugby. However, ultimately it was Dream Team who walked away victors, showing why they were last year's winners.

The last game of the night was between Heathens and The Hill. Although The Hill played with much pride, they were unable to stop Heathens from scoring consistently, and in the second half with both teams utilising the boot in damp conditions the game got messy. The final score put Heathens convincingly in front.

Next week Wednesday sees the Great Field holding the semi-finals where Skidd will again take on Heathens, and Dream Team will take on Founders' best. The stage is set for two intense games and with crowd support growing as the tournament develops, these games should produce an awesome atmosphere for both the supporters and the players whilst the rugby itself will entertain.

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