

# activate

Independent student newspaper at Rhodes University  
Edition 2 March 2006

PROUDLY  
SOUTH AFRICAN



03

An egg for what have you



05

The Rhodent and the whales



10

Do you ride elephants?



Raphael Centre operator Jabu van Niekerk shares her concerns over the rezoning delays. The funds would be used to purchase the property and improve the facilities for visitors



■ pics by Lauren Clifford-Holmes

## Million rand donation blocked

Objections to land rezoning are preventing Grahamstown's Raphael Centre from accessing a R1m trust fund

■ **Ciro De Siena and Michael Salzwedel**

Objections to the rezoning of the Raphael Centre's premises are preventing the centre from accessing a six-figure trust fund raised by Grahamstown's Diocesan School for Girls (DSG).

The centre has operated from premises in Donkin Street since 1999.

The application to rezone the land from residential to institutional was first lodged over two years ago.

The delays "have [effectively] cost the centre hundreds of thousands of Rands", according to centre operator Jabu van Niekerk. This is because the centre will only buy the property when rezoning is complete, and due to the recent increase in land values, they would have to pay far more for the property now than they would have if they had bought it two years ago.

According to DSG, the amount in the trust fund raised for the centre is between R800 000 and R1 million. This money can only be handed over once the centre's future is assured.

Most of the funds would immediately be used to purchase the property. Remaining funds would be used for

maintenance and improvements to the facilities.

Van Niekerk says the rezoning application has been hindered mainly by objections from Angela Mitford-Barberton, who has lived on a property adjoining the centre for the past 27 years. She was the African Christian Democratic Party's mayoral candidate for Grahamstown in 2000.

Numerous attempts on *Activate's* part to contact Mitford-Barberton for comment have been unsuccessful, but details of her objection to the rezoning have been noted in documents tabled to the Makana Municipality.

In the most recent document, dated December 6 2005, Barberton explains her argument: "I fully endorse any effort made towards the prevention of, and/or support for people with, HIV/Aids."

She states: "The Raphael Centre is offering a much-needed service to the community, and should be in a more centralised situation so that it is more accessible to the general public."

She adds that "the present facilities will not be able to cope with the ever-

increasing number of people in need of counselling and testing."

Barberton expresses concern that the rezoning will cause a fall in property prices in the area.

Her objections continue: "Whilst we have not formally lodged complaints, there has been a definite increase in noise, petty theft, muggings, car theft, loitering, and defecating and urinating in driveways in the area over the past three years."

However, Van Niekerk says "A large portion of the work we do is off-site. There are hardly ever more than 40 people on site at one time, including 10 staff. Additionally, we often bring visitors to the centre in our own vehicle."

There has only been one formal noise complaint in the six years that the centre has been operational, Van Niekerk says.

"It sometimes gets louder because people are laughing. We're a happy place here. The few objections to ambient noise arise from, in particular, the 10am hymn which we sing daily."

Barberton alleges in the letter that elderly residents of the adjoining Brookshaw Home are "scared to leave the property for much-needed exercise, for fear of being attacked". However, according to Van Niekerk, residents of Brookshaw Home have drawn up a petition in support of the centre, with some residents often doing volunteer work there.

Learners from DSG organised and participated in an inter-country triathlon last year to raise the money for the centre.

The learners ran from London to Dover; from there they swam to Calais and ended with a cycle to Paris. Corporate and private sponsors of the triathlon donated the money.

The centre will continue to operate under the stresses of the delays, the restrictions placed on them because of the premises' residential zoning and the lack of the DSG funds. Van Niekerk says: "This is Grahamstown's Aids centre. We help everyone who comes here. We serve everyone regardless of race or creed."

### What is the Raphael Centre?

The Raphael Centre has been extensively involved in Grahamstown's fight against HIV/Aids since its inception in 1999. Student Volunteer of the Year finalist for 2005, Cassidy Parker, has been involved with the centre for over a year. "The centre's core role is education for those living with HIV/Aids, incorporating a voluntary testing and counselling centre open to the entire Grahamstown community," says Parker.

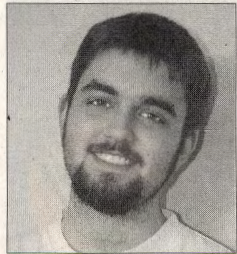
Rhodes University student society SHARC, the Student HIV/Aids Resistance Campaign, continually assists the centre with administration, organises picnics and day trips for the children.

Another key aspect of the centre is the PMTCT Programme, the Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV, incorporating education in the use of antiretrovirals.

The centre's operator Jabu van Niekerk says it aims to educate people with HIV/Aids so they can live full lives. He says the centre helps over 700 people a month directly or indirectly, in addition to delivering food packages to over 30 families.



# Editorial Letter to the Editor



■ Peter Barlow

Welcome to our second edition of the year. O-Week seems a distant memory as essay deadlines get handed out and tut and prac assignments pile up.

Looking back on how O-Week was this year and casting my mind into the distant past to dig up and compare memories of my own O-Week, this year's comes up trumps. This is in no small way because of the SRC whose job it is to organise a large part of the O-Week proceedings so, a big "well done" goes out to them from me. You will find a round-up of what took place in O-Week on this page. On page 12 you will find Bryony Green's speech to the first-years and their parents, filled with useful pieces of info which I wish I had been told when I first got here. Hopefully we will be able to coax a letter out of the SRC to put into each edition so that we can all find out what they have been up to.

On the subject of letters, I urge anyone and everyone to write to us if you feel you have something to say about the paper, campus or life in general. My email address is at the bottom of the page. Activate reserves the right to edit letters down if they are over 400 words. Letters need to be in by 14:00 every second Thursday to make it into the following week's paper and all letters need to be accompanied by the writer's full name, but can be printed with a pseudonym.

Moving along to the issue of safety in Grahamstown, you may have noticed by now that the streetlights in the city don't always do their job, especially on African and New Streets. Thus there are streets with many dark patches perfect for would-be muggers to hide in. My advice to you is avoid walking on African Street at all costs, especially at night. If you really have to go there, walk in groups bigger than three. Better yet, avoid walking at all; appoint a designated driver on your big night out or sign up with Rhode Trip, it's just safer for everyone.

For those of you living in digs, it is imperative that you keep your doors locked (including your car doors) and that you take your washing in overnight. There is no sun anyway so there really is no point in keeping it out there. Also, keeping things like palm-tops, wallets and cellphones on your desk within easy reach of the windows is not a good idea. For all you pisscats out there, lock the doors before you decide to pass out. A friend of a friend got cleaned out five times in one year just because he got so sloshed he was totally oblivious to the fact that burglars were stepping over him to steal everything he owned.

But enough of that. Here is an eternal question for you: How was your vac? We find out what one Rhodent did with his 'precious' end of year holiday on page 7. What is happening with the new pub trading hours? See page 3 for details. Also on page 3 is the Union's refurbishment and what exactly is happening to that archaic shell, which happens to stand next to the pool.

Don't forget, you read it first in Activate. I hope you enjoy this week's edition. Bye for now.

Firstly, I would like to congratulate your team on a great O-Week edition. One thing that has always confused me about the Rhodes Journalism Department is that most of their students, who are in third and fourth year do not work for Activate. Why is this, I ask? Here we have a good bunch of bright and experienced journalists who are not making use of the opportunity to see what it's actually like to put together a newspaper. Too often in my experience, third and fourth years think that they are above Activate because most of the writers and photographers (all of which so happen to be doing a good job of putting Activate together

every two weeks) are in first and second year. The funny thing of course, is that it is these older students who are first to point out the faults in Activate. I have always been a firm believer in the notion that if you think you can do it better, then come do it. The quality of this newspaper would only improve if more experienced journo's used their skills to be a part of this and to help the less experienced. My challenge to this year's third and fourth year journo students is to become a part of the change they would like to see in Activate. Don't tell me that you are too busy, because everyone has stuff to do.

Lesley Odendal

## 2006 SRC O-Week round up

■ Delia de Villiers

It seems to be generally agreed that the SRC can give themselves a pat on the back for an Orientation Week well done. This year's O-Week had a whole range of exciting activities to keep the first years busy and to help them find their feet in their new home here at Rhodes.

A Jazz Evening kick-started the week on Sunday, February 5. Despite bad weather threatening to put a damper on the event, it was a great success. Zuki Kota, the SRC community engagement councillor, said in a press statement that the evening afforded the first years an opportunity to mingle with their peers. She added that "the evening would certainly not have been the same without the support of all those that joined the SRC in welcoming the first years of 2006 to Rhodes University".

On Tuesday, February 7 the Student Union was packed to capacity for the comedy night. Rhodes comedians, as well as guests from Port Elizabeth, showcased their acts to an enthusiastic crowd.

The next night a bands evening showcased the best of local talent. Featured bands included The Super Agents, Nemesis, Undone and the always-popular Breach. The SRC reported that "the authentic Grahamstown party atmosphere could not have been denied".

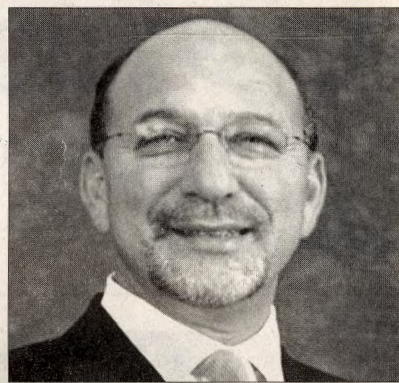
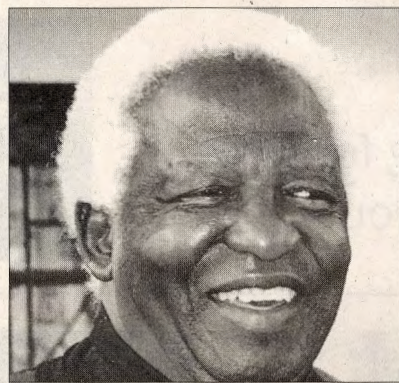
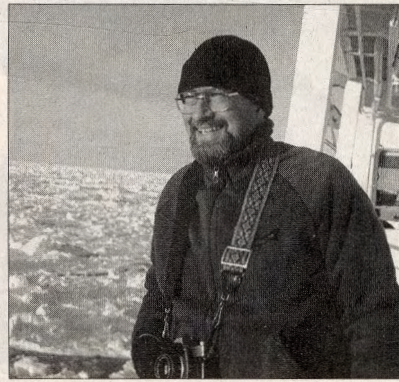
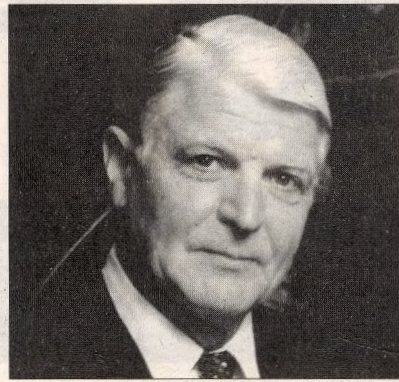
The Roxbury Cinema hosted a

red-carpet champagne premiere on Thursday night. Friday night's street party was arguably the highlight of the week. With loud music, reasonably-priced drinks and, of course, lots of foam, the party was a huge success.

Throughout O-Week the SRC and their loyal team of helpers had a visible presence on campus and assisted first years and their parents wherever they could. Judging by the response of both first years and older students, the planning and organisation of O-Week was very efficient. First year BComm student, Lauren Hagemann, said: "I enjoyed the activities that were organised for us. In res we were made to feel at home because everyone was very welcoming". She added that she thought the drinking in O-Week was overrated because there was actually so much more to do.

A third year BJourn student and Oriel House sub-warden, Jesse Burton, commented that the organisation of O-Week this year by the SRC was so much better than previous years, "the activities were fun and really helped the first years to orientate themselves on campus".

The SRC are also pleased with their achievements. Fatema Morbi, SRC Academic Councillor, said that judging by the feedback the SRC got from the students and admin it was a "booming success". She also believes that the SRC "managed to make a really big impact".



Prominent South Africans receiving honorary doctorates this year are (clockwise from top left) Derek Riley, Prof Johann Lutjeharms, Trevor Manuel and Dr Peter Magubane.

■ Pics Supplied

## Rhodes to award honorary doctorates

■ Candice Bradfield

Four leaders in their respective fields will be honoured by Rhodes University with honorary doctorates during 2006. The awards will take place at the graduation ceremonies in April.

The recipients of this traditionally prestigious award are Finance Minister Trevor Manuel, journalist Dr Peter Magubane, old Rhodian and businessman Derek Riley and oceanographer Prof Johann Lutjeharms.

Honorary doctorates are awarded to South Africans who have made "an enormous contribution and difference to the country", according to a statement from Rhodes University's Communications Manager Natasha Joseph.

Trevor Manuel will receive a Doctor of Laws degree for his leadership and impact on our country's economy. This will be presented at the Faculty of Commerce's graduation ceremony, to be held on April 7.

Prominent photojournalist Dr Peter Magubane is regarded by the university as a "professional photojournal-

ist of the highest order". He will be awarded a Doctor of Laws degree for his achievements at the Bachelor of Journalism graduation ceremony.

Old Rhodian Derek Riley, now retired, achieved great successes in the world of business. Riley has also played a major role as a member of Rhodes University's board of governors. Riley will receive a Doctor of Laws degree at the Faculty of Education and Faculty of Law ceremony, also on April 7.

Finally, Professor Johann Lutjeharms, now a lecturer at the University of Cape Town, has made significant contributions to the country as an oceanographer. Described by Rhodes as "an excellent scholar and an internationally recognised historian of science," he will be awarded a Doctor of Science degree at the Faculty of Science ceremony, to take place on April 8.

Previous Rhodes honorary graduates include Nelson Mandela, Desmond Tutu, Kader Asmal, Pieter-Dirk Uys, John Kani and the late Govan Mbeki.

**activate**  
staff

Activate is the Independent Student Newspaper at Rhodes University. The paper is published every two weeks during term time.

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**Deputy Editor:** Bianca Camminga  
**Managing Editor:** Stacey Nel  
**Financial Manager:** Alex Anderson  
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**Printed by Goshawk Litho**  
**Publishers and Printers, Port Elizabeth**

## How to contact us

Letters to the Editor: [activate.editor@gmail.com](mailto:activate.editor@gmail.com)

Advertising: [activate.ads@gmail.com](mailto:activate.ads@gmail.com)

Snail Mail: C/O Student Representative Council

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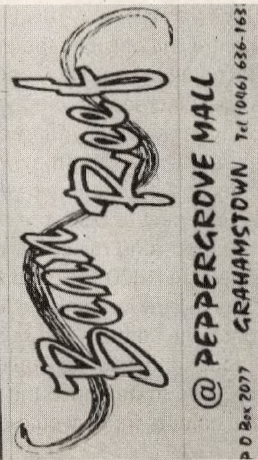
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# Change of plans for Union's renovations

■ Tami Duncan and Shelley Jacobs

Despite monetary setbacks, the Union building is undergoing major renovations which will be finished within a few weeks.

Last year *Activate* published an article on the expected plans for the building, including a cafeteria and lounge for oppidan students. However, according to Les Reynolds the project director, costs exceeded the planned budget. This has led to the development of new building plans, with the exclusion of the cafeteria.

According to Kevin Wolhuter, Rhodes architect, a noticeable amount of renovations have taken place. Four boardrooms, 17 offices and two small kitchens have been created on the top

floor from five flats and roof storage space. On the middle floor students can now find SRC offices, *Activate* offices, RMR, the Oppidan secretary as well as the offices of other societies.

The Standard Bank and FNB ATMs are now situated inside the Union building on the ground floor, making it safer for students to withdraw money.

The interior is also receiving a facelift with new floor and ceiling boards. There is now a single passageway which divides at the entrances to the men's and women's bathrooms. The interiors of both bathrooms have also changed and are now more appealing.

The new plans still include a common room for the oppidan students, allowing them to have an oncampus lounge. This has a separate entrance on the ground floor on the pool side of the Union.

An entertainment area for all Rhodes students has also been built at the main entrance to the building. According to Reynolds when this is complete it will hold "nice furniture, vending machines as well as pool tables". Although the construction is near completion, the interior furnishings may still take a while to be moved in.

The outside of the Union is also undergoing alterations. The front of



Extensive renovations have occurred, yet the main Kaif remains a mess ■ Joni Els

keeping unauthorised vehicles off the pedestrian walkway.

Electric fencing has been placed around the pool area increasing stu-

dents' safety. According to Reynolds, there are thoughts of installing a security gate which will require the use of a dallas chip or student card.

## HIV positive: SHARC and Rhodes TAC coalition

■ Tumi Mpete

The idea of a coalition between, the Student HIV/Aids Resistance Campaign (SHARC) at Rhodes University and the nationally-based Treatment Action Campaign (TAC) has come into being.

This initiative was inspired by TAC's national leader, Zackie Achmat, who addressed staff and students at Rhodes early last year.

Following his address, an HIV/Aids march was held to urge the University to revise its HIV/Aids policy. TAC Rhodes was formed after Achmat's

thought-provoking visit.

Head of SHARC, Lesley Odendal, said progress in terms of their Aids Week aims to push the University to revise the HIV/Aids policy is going quite well. She said things are moving slowly and that that was expected, especially in an institution faced with the challenge of setting up an HIV task group.

The university is actively revising the HIV/Aids policy by setting up two committees, one for Rhodes University staff members to plan what needs to

happen with the policy and another for students, which will be set up by the counselling centre on campus.

SHARC also pushed for the employment of an institutional officer, and Stephanie Case has been appointed in that position. She is now based permanently in the counselling centre.

Odendal said SHARC "membership has increased quite a lot" and that has to do with the fact that they are "affiliated with TAC Rhodes". She said students who were here last year "are really excited because they see

the impact that SHARC can have".

"It has made them realise how much they can do as a student, because we were an entirely student body and we achieved so much", said Odendal. "It says to students, you can be part of this and have a huge impact in it." SHARC's work extends beyond the Rhodes campus and into the community where students can become involved in community-based work at the more affluent schools and poorer schools.

Odendal says support from the

"Student counselling centre and other branches of administration has vastly improved since the Aids week last year. There seems to be more respect for the issue and for what SHARC stands for."

She says, "The message in that is, if you prove to the varsity that you are serious about what you are doing, and you are passionate that what you are doing is valuable and worthy to the society, then they will take you seriously."



(Clockwise from top left) The first years of Guy Butler and Victoria Mxenge house who participated in the egg beg. Eggs were swapped for whole computers! Charity representatives for the residences. The well-dressed eggs ready for action.

■ Pics supplied



## Egg Beg: raising the price of eggs

■ Tami Duncan

First years and house committee members from Victoria Mxenge House and Guy Butler House set out to swap eggs for donations to charity on the Sunday after O-Week.

Doug Eastment, the warden of Guy Butler, had the idea to run this project, called an Egg Beg. He suggested it to Jenna Collett and Alastair Nottingham, the charity reps for Guy Butler and Victoria Mxenge. The three of them allocated two to three streets to each group of students participating in the project. Most of the groups were made up of two Victoria Mxenge students and two Guy Butler students.

The point of the Egg Beg was to do something charitable and at the same time let the first years get to know students from their brother and sister reses, according to Leigh Crymble, a sub-warden from Victoria Mxenge.

The event was not compulsory, but all the first years from both houses got involved anyway. A total of 56 first years and 17 house committee members were involved.

Crymble said the students collected "about R100, bags and bags of clothes, shoes, lots of tinned food and a computer".

The Egg Beg lasted three hours. Each student was given two eggs to exchange for donations, but many people who donated didn't take eggs, so students were able to carry on for longer than originally planned.

Crymble said that a few groups initially worried that the Egg Beg would not be a success because they were unsure how people would react to another call for donations, considering the large number of beggars Grahamstown already has.



Leigh Crymble and Glenn Wilkinson



Jen Collett and AC Nottingham

Participants were also concerned that people might regard students knocking on their doors on a Sunday morning as invasive.

Despite these concerns, the students ended up needing cars to transport all the donations.

Glenn Wilkinson and Leigh Crymble, "Team Glee", exchanged an egg for a computer, donated by Rhodes students living in digs.

Crymble said the donated food, clothes and computer will not be given to the Grahamstown Community Centre because they "can't take stuff at the moment" and don't need donations as much. The donations will be distributed to surrounding towns instead.

Next year, the reses hope to take the Egg Beg to different streets and collect even more donations.

## New lecture venues

■ Jennifer Campbell

Three new lecture venues are currently being built on campus on the Barratt Field off African Street.

The three venues are expected to hold a total of 880 students. Two of the buildings will hold 400 students each, while the third will have a capacity of 80.

According to Rhodes University communications manager Natasha Joseph, the new developments were

prompted by a very real need for space on campus even with just under 6000 students. The buildings are scheduled for completion by January 10 next year. The Rhodes University Estates Division is responsible for all of the new building developments on campus.

This means that the lecture venues should be in operation in February 2007 when the university's academic year begins.

## New liquor trading hours An illegitimate by-law?

■ Ashleigh Swaile

The Student Representative Council has accused Makana Municipality of illegitimately and deceptively legislating new liquor trading hours for clubs and pubs throughout Grahamstown. The SRC unveiled details of the debacle in an interview with *Activate* last week.

The proposal for changing liquor trading hours was put forward by the municipality towards the end of 2005. It was proposed that bars close at midnight from Monday till Saturday, and as early as 10pm on Sunday and all public holidays. According to the SRC press release, the committee "immediately initiated a petition" against the idea, fully aware of student interests.

They managed to collect just shy of 400 signatures in their support. In addition to this, SRC Treasurer Mike Winn approached the municipality four times asking to be included in the council meeting that would finalise this new by-law.

The controversy arose when Makana excluded the SRC from the meeting, by holding it long after Rhodes University had closed for vacation,

ensuring that representatives from the SRC could not attend.

The SRC has described Makana's behaviour as illegitimate and deceptive.

They said they believe that Makana was deliberately deceitful by waiting to schedule important meetings until Rhodes students had left, knowing full well that many students would have legitimate complaints about this proposed by-law.

Since the release of the SRC's press statement, the case has been taken to court on the basis that the by-law was illegitimately passed as not all parties involved were consulted, most notably the students. In the meantime, the South African Police Service has increased the number of officers patrolling around Grahamstown's night spots now that students have returned.

The SRC has urged all students who feel particularly affected by Makana's conduct to visit the municipality directly or lodge a complaint on their website:

<http://www.makana.gov.za/feedback.asp>



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# Grahamstown's dilemma

To give or not to give? That's the question many Rhodes students face when they walk past street children. **Luke Reid and Lionel Faull** examine the issues at stake...

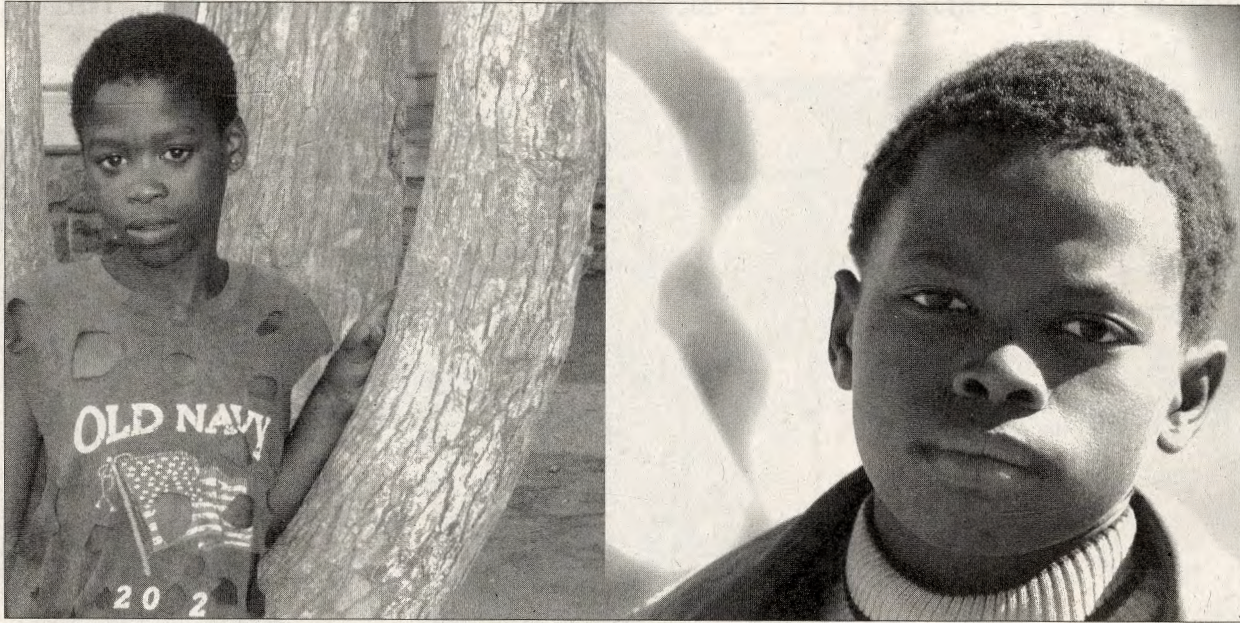
**S**ivuile and Mpumelelo\* are two schoolboys who, like many of their classmates, spend their afternoons begging for money on Grahamstown's High Street.

If one is willing to give them the time, the kids are eager to tell you about their situations themselves. They are clever, self-aware, surprisingly articulate, and confident enough to engage with you on a very personal level. This impression is all in sharp contrast with the fawning, subservient manner that they adopt towards passers-by from whom they try to get money.

Mpumelelo's parents died in a car crash in 2003, when he was 11 years old. He went to live with his uncle, but says that last year he had to leave his home and live on the streets instead because his uncle had too many children to support. Mpumelelo began sleeping in the bushes next to the cathedral, allegedly because the street children's shelter was full and he could not get a place.

Towards the end of 2005, while begging on the streets, he made friends with 15 year-old Sivuwile who had run away from an alcoholic grandmother. Sivuwile invited Mpumelelo to come and live with him.

Thanks to the mutual solidarity that many street kids share, Mpumelelo now lives with Sivuwile and two other teenage boys in the back room of a tumbledown shack near Fingo Village. A visit to the boys' home is an enlight-



Many Rhodents view street children as beggars at best, thieves at worst

■ Jacky Smith

ening experience. Barely into their teens, they are totally responsible for themselves and have to deal with very adult problems, including rent, food, what to do with their money and the more fundamental issue of what they will do with their lives.

They also have to deal with various forms of intimidation. The boys allege that from time to time in the past, groups of children begging in the streets after dark are subjected to physical and verbal abuse from members of the security company Hi-Tec

and the police. "They really hate us," says Mpumelelo. "They think we're dogs. They don't care about your problems."

When challenged about allegations of verbal and physical intimidation and abuse committed by Hi-Tec, Security Manager André Wille told Activate, "While I do not deny that these things may happen, I think you are confusing us with the police." According to Wille, his security team makes between 10 and 15 housebreaking-related arrests per week. "In 30 to 40 percent of these cases, we arrest street kids. Some are as young as 10." Hi-Tec hands offenders over to the police.

Zola Gora, Hi-Tec armed response officer, says, "When I first saw these things [house break-ins] these kids are doing I was amazed at how skilful they are. But when I arrest the same kid five times in a month it sometimes makes you angry."

He pointed out that security enforcement agencies have the right to use minimum force to effect an arrest or in self-defence. "These kids carry knives and weapons. They don't keep them to keep their bodies warm. I have to defend myself," he explains. He did not deny the allegations of physical abuse.

Police spokesperson Milanda Coetzer says that the police arrest 90 street children every month, mainly for loitering and house break-ins.

Coetzer admitted she was "worried" by allegations of verbal and physical abuse on the part of police. "On the issue of harassment, in a general sense it is true," she says. "I will investigate all cases of human rights abuses by the police as and when they arise," says Coetzer.

However, the children are often no more innocent than Grahamstown's security forces.

At AmaSango Career School, where many of the younger children who beg on the streets go to school, headmistress Jane Bradshaw shows off a large box full of vicious-looking weapons, collected in a single morning. More are added to the box during the course of her interview.

The biggest problem, Bradshaw says, is with drugs. "The intensity of the problem is incredible," she says. She insists that students should under no circumstances give money to street kids, because "it's the kids with drug

problems that beg." Rhodes students effectively pay for the kids to maintain a drug habit that she has to then deal with. "Rhodes students give them so much money, it is quite ridiculous. They receive three large meals a day at school for free, and there's no reason why they can't survive until the next morning," Bradshaw says. Admitting that "weekends are a problem," she pleads that, if they must, students should rather buy food and give this to the kids.

Robert Haxton is a second year Drama student who occasionally gives the children money. "They tend to be ungrateful sometimes, and somewhat rude. But it is to be expected from someone in their position: things get difficult, they get desperate, and it's hard for someone like me to understand that" he says. Like many students at Rhodes, Haxton is eager to understand their situation and to try and help where he can.

However, he knows very little about the children that he deals with and is in danger of reaching some very incorrect conclusions.

Since it is mostly students who give them money on the streets, the university vacations are particularly difficult times for the kids, and they have to concentrate their forces on whatever else is available. Philip McDougal, owner of Mad Hatter's Café on High Street says, "During the school holidays, we sometimes have big groups just hanging around, harassing every single customer and particularly honing in on the foreign tourists."

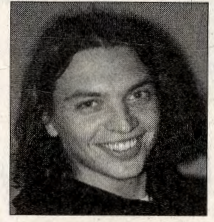
Yet the kids seem to have a genuine affection for the student population. John\*, 15, says, "We love the students very much. Sometimes they want to talk to us and listen to our stories, they don't just shout at us like some others. And they help us."

Bradshaw believes that most of the children who attend her school are of above average intelligence, and have enormous potential waiting to be unlocked. This cannot happen while they are destroying themselves with drugs.

Students who wish to get directly involved in nurturing this potential can sign up to join Rhodes University's Student Volunteer Programme, which is run from the Centre for Social Development.

\* not their real names

## Confessions of a fierce invalid



■ Harry Haddon

**I**t is the hour of the illustrator. The cartoons drawn of the prophet Mohammed have created such a violent reaction that one must hold some admiration for the illustrators who have, with a few deft strokes of the pen, caused worldwide outrage. They have managed to raise important questions, but what can we learn from all this mayhem? Is it enough to sit back and realise it is not a good idea to piss off the Muslims?

I spent hours reading pages of opinions, conspiracy theories, some hate speech, some praise for the editor, and as usual some articles claiming that it was all about oil. Rather than deciding on how I felt about the cartoons I found myself being manipulated by the quality of the writing. At times I felt complete hatred towards the illustrators for criticising something sacred. Five minutes later I was cheering the cartoonists for being champions of free speech. Who do we believe? I decided to go to the source. The editor of the *Jyllands-Posten*, Flemming Rose, who published the cartoons, had this to say:

"When I go to a mosque, I behave by the rules that exist in that holy house. But I think if any religion insists that I, as a non-Muslim, should submit to their taboos, then I don't think they're showing me respect. I think they're asking for my submission."

This does make some sense.

Although one can argue that a religion is not only practised in the place of worship, the point still stands: where is the line between respecting the beliefs of others and having to accept their laws? It seems this line between a non-believer and an offensive blasphemer is becoming blurred.

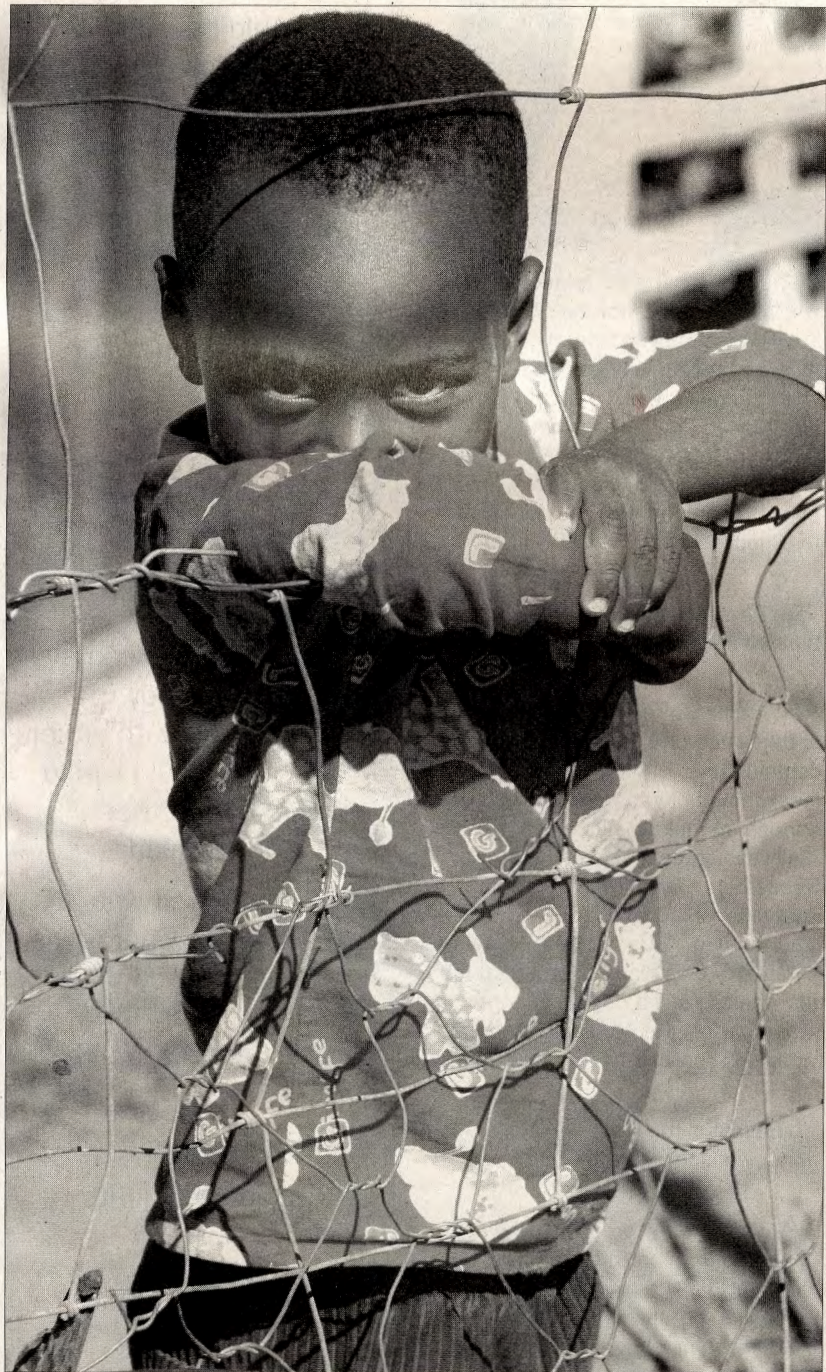
For me, the most important lesson that needs to come from this debacle is that freedom of speech is not, and never will be, a reality. If you don't believe me, does the fact that it is illegal in some European countries to say that the Holocaust did not happen sound like freedom of speech to you?

Instead of freedom of the press and speech, we have, "tolerance of the press", and "tolerance of speech". Thus the tolerance of what can be said depends on the political climate of the day. Take, for example, the invasion of Iraq and Afghanistan. This "war on terror" began to look more like a war against Islam. Rather than defend freedom of speech, which both the Bush and Blair administrations supposedly encourage, the cartoons have been condemned in an attempt to gain some favour with a religion that is not very pro-American.

Personally I think the cartoons are great. They have shown how completely bizarre our world is. Of course they are slightly offensive, and if I were Muslim I definitely wouldn't be planning a holiday to Denmark. However, as offensive as they are, there is nothing wrong with them being placed in the public sphere. Why can't everyone begin to realise that life is offensive? If we all could accept that, there would be no need to burn any embassies down, kill people, and generally be pissed off with Scandinavian cartoonists.

By the way you can check out the cartoons at <http://blog.newspaperindex.com/>

As South Africa has low tolerance for free speech we can't print them here.



Many social factors cause children to beg on the streets

■ Lauren Clifford-Holmes



# To the point with...

## Di Hornby, Director of the Centre for Social Development (CSD)

Rhodes students are often accused of being selfish and apathetic. **Candace Whitehead** meets the director of the Rhodes student volunteer programme and discovers that, in its 25th year, the CSD is booming...

**Q:** This year is the CSD's 25th anniversary. What were the centre's origins?

**A:** The wife of Derek Henderson, the vice-chancellor at the time, was keen on working with the community. One of her first memories is of seeing kids playing on the rubbish dump. That worried her so much and she wondered why there were no early childhood facilities. She identified that as a need, found some sponsors, and got immense support from the community. Mrs Henderson started setting up projects for the children, including bursary schemes.

**Q:** What is your role as the director of the CSD?

**A:** My role is to fundraise. Because we are a self-funded institute of the university, and our budget is R2,5 million a year, fundraising is essential. Furthermore, my function is to manage the staff. We have a staff of 18: 15 of them are CSD staff and the other three are paid by Rhodes. They've become part of our staff, and they do the university's community engagement. It's a student volunteer programme. They're looking at service learning and at how service learning is like a volunteer programme except that it's credit-bearing.

**Q:** How many student volunteers get involved with the CSD?

**A:** This year we'll be placing 250 students in 26 organisations. Over and above that we still have societies and residences, etcetra. For example, last year RAFSoc raised over R30 000 which they used to build a pre-school. What RAFSoc does is raise the money and then they work with us to identify a project. Last year we identified a pre-school that was falling down in the informal settlement. The community themselves found a site, and RAFSoc raised the money and built it. Give 5 also put money in the same school; they built the fence and the balance of their money went into the school.

**Q:** How do you go about raising the funds for projects?

**A:** Our funds come from foundations and trusts, corporate social investment budgets. We also have many individuals who give and students from various societies as well. These students normally identify a project that has a need, and then raise money like RAFSoc did. A variety of groups do smaller things. Some of them identified vulnerable children and raised money to clothe them, to get them schoolbooks and pay their school fees to get them back into school. We use the students as we identify smaller projects, and they take those on.

**Q:** What plans do you have for this year that you want to see put into action?



Di Hornby is intent on making a difference in the Grahamstown community

■ Philippa Ehrlich

**A:** We need to create more opportunities, more places where the children can go to. Research in 2002 showed that only 12 percent of children spend a year in pre-school before going to formal schooling. The same research piece showed that 24 percent of children fall out of the education system after grade one and a further nine percent fail. Those are appalling statistics. If our kids are dropping out of school after grade one, they are becoming the street children and the children who aren't channelling their energy anywhere.

We need to create some more opportunities for those children, especially the ones in the three to six age bracket. That's what we want to do – either increase an existing service, or create a new service.

**Q:** How far does your influence extend into the surrounding areas?

**A:** Because of transport restrictions,

the students focus on Grahamstown. One obviously has to consider the students' safety, so they don't take their own cars into the township. We've organised Rhode Trip to transport all students to their programmes and back again. All of the 26 projects we're currently working with are within Grahamstown. The CSD works at grassroots level within a hundred kilometre radius of Rhodes University.

**Q:** How does the community feel about the CSD and the work that you do?

**A:** This year, the CSD is 25 years old, which means our association with the community didn't begin yesterday. We've been working with them for a long time so we have fantastic relationships of trust which have been built on. I would say that the relationship with the community is very good. Rhodes has come in and worked with the communities with whom

we already have good relationships, which is beneficial for the students. They haven't begun from the beginning, so they have been successful. The students are like a breath of fresh air. They go out into the community, they're enthusiastic, they're energetic and I think that the community really enjoys them, and that has done a lot for Rhodes.

**Q:** What are the unique challenges that working in Grahamstown brings?

**A:** I think we're incredibly fortunate in that when one determines who the community is, Grahamstown is the ideal community to work with. It's big enough and it's small enough, and we really should be cracking the poverty issues here if we all work together. That is the big challenge. There are a lot of good NGOs in this town and although we do work together, I think that there is still a huge amount of room for doing more together so that work isn't replicated.

**Q:** What is the most rewarding thing about working with the CSD?

**A:** Sitting with somebody who has benefited from our programme. I was sitting with a woman the other day and asked her how she was doing. She was completely destitute, and the community practitioners identi-

fied her through a vulnerable child at one of the schools. She now has an ID book and she had never had one before. She has a grant for two of her children and an income of R370. She said to me the other day, pointing to her chest, that she wants to tell me that "I'm happy right inside here". She said the best thing for her now is that she is working with the community practitioner who helped her out of the depths of despair. They go to other families, and where they don't have food, they go and pick from a communal garden. She no longer saw herself as a victim. She was strong and she was talking about the vulnerable families. If I just hear that once a year, then I know that I'm doing the right thing.

## Off the Point

**Q:** If you could pick one place in the whole world to live, where would it be and why?

**A:** It would have to be in South Africa; I think that this place is full of opportunity. It's also full of colour. You go around every corner and there is something different waiting there.

**Q:** Describe yourself in three words.

**A:** I love life.

**Q:** If you could come back as anything or anyone in another life, who or what would it be?

**A:** I would like to come back as somebody who worked closely with either Mandela or Tutu. I would just like to hear them, listen to their thinking.

**Q:** If your house was burning down, what is the first thing that you would rescue if your children and husband were already out?

**A:** My photo album.

**Q:** And your favourite music?

**A:** I love Katie Melua, Norah Jones and James Blunt.

“ The students are like a breath of fresh air. They go out into the community, they're enthusiastic, they're energetic and I think that the community really enjoys them ”



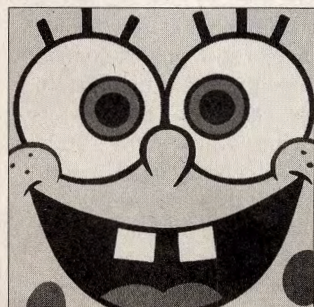
# What you said:

■ Dan Calderwood and Lauren Clifford-Holmes

Question: How was your vac?



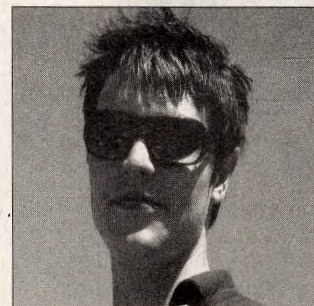
Cartman:  
“\*@^\* ing awesome!”



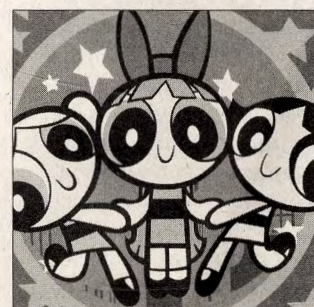
Sponge Bob Square Pants:  
“Fun!”



Bart Simpson:  
“Totally Cool Dude!”



Oliver King, 2nd Year BA  
“It was tite!”



Powerpuff Girls:  
“It was sooo lovely! (Giggie)”



Wessel's vessel in the Antarctic

■ Pics supplied by Sea Shepherd

# Rhodent environmentalist goes all out to save the whales

Second-year BSc student Wessel Jacobsz spent his vac on the in Antarctica, hunting down Japanese whaling vessels. **Xanthe Galanis** finds out more...

So you think your vac was cool? No doubt it was, but Wessel Jacobsz' was cooler – much cooler, about 50°C cooler. While the rest of us were still deciding which beach to hit first, he was on his way to Antarctica to spend 50 days aboard the Farley Mowat saving whales and jumping off icebergs.

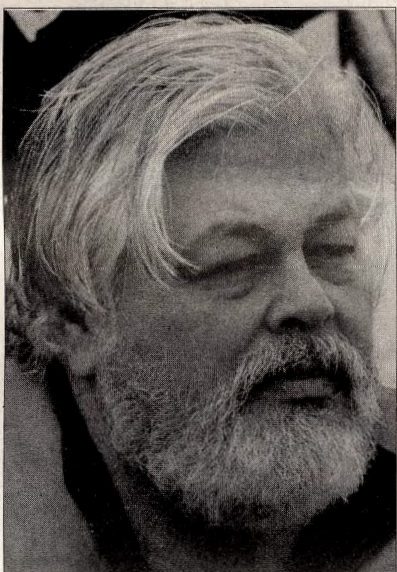
The Farley Mowat is the flagship of Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, an international organisation dedicated to actively enforcing laws that protect marine wildlife. On December 6, 2005, Captain Paul Watson and the Farley Mowat left Melbourne, with Jacobsz on board, to pursue Japanese whalers in the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary.

Jacobsz' involvement with Sea Shepherd began in early October last year. His father watched a TV documentary about the organisation and learned that they were recruiting volunteers for their next anti-whaling mission. Knowing his son's enthusiasm for environmental activism, he phoned Jacobsz.

Although he missed the documentary, Jacobsz checked out Sea Shepherd's website only to discover that all the positions had already been filled. By luck, Jacobsz unearthed the email address of Allison Watson, the captain's wife, and sent her a letter explaining how excited he was about Sea Shepherd's most ambitious campaign to date. Watson confirmed what Jacobsz already knew, that the crew was complete, but encouraged him to apply anyway, saying there was always room on board for passionate people. Naturally, Jacobsz was accepted.

A couple of days after his exams were over, Jacobsz landed in Melbourne to begin two weeks of intense preparation. As a non-profit organisation, Sea Shepherd depends on sponsors to keep them afloat. Jacobsz excitedly describes the reaction of the Australian public: “People were very responsive. One guy gave everyone on board Oakleys, and Quiksilver donated two jet skis.”

Jacobsz' job on board the Farley Mowat was to skipper one of the three speedboats that were used directly to prevent the Japanese ships from



Captain Paul Watson

whaling. He said: “We had a long cable attached to a buoy on either end. We'd drop one buoy on one side of the Japanese vessel and try to cut right in front of the ship to drop the other one on the other side so that the ship would have to stop.” Jacobsz described another anti-whaling tactic where they would trail a long rope from the back of a speedboat and pull it in front of the whaler in the hope that the rope would tangle in its propellers, forcing it back to shore. However, the Sea Shepherd speedboats did not have the speed to keep up with the whalers and both these tactics were unsuccessful.

The Farley Mowat had other, even more original, anti-whaling methods. Jacobsz explains how the crew used stink bombs to slow down the Japanese ships. “As soon as we got close enough, we threw five bottles of butyric acid at their ship. You get one whiff of it and you start puking. It's so strong the crew refuse to work and you have to return to port to wash the ship.” Although the whaler did not stop or head for shore, it did slow down considerably and Jacobsz concludes that one or two bottles must have hit the target.

Sea Shepherd did partially achieve what they set out to do: they were able to shut down whaling operations for 15 days, during which no whales



Wessel Jacobsz

were killed. Jacobsz suspects that because of this, the number of whales killed was drastically reduced and so the whalers failed to meet their quota.

On Christmas Day the Farley Mowat spotted two ships on its radar and went to investigate. One was a Japanese whaler, the Nisshan Maru, and the other was a Greenpeace vessel, the Esperanza. “We increased our speed from four or five knots to eleven knots and made straight for the Nisshan Maru. The seas were really rough and there were 20-metre swells hitting the side of the ship,” Jacobsz says. Captain Paul Watson was surprised when the Nisshan Maru allowed the Farley Mowat to come within a hundred metres of her. He soon discovered that this was because the Japanese assumed the Farley Mowat was the second Greenpeace ship, the Arctic Sunrise.

The whalers allow Greenpeace vessels to sail virtually alongside them because, although they protest and document the whaling, Greenpeace do not engage in direct action campaigns.

Jacobsz goes on to describe what followed: “As soon as the Nisshan Maru realised who we were, she changed her course to attack us. The Japanese came bearing down on us. It looked as though she was going to ram us but just before they hit, she

veered off course away from us. We then turned and started bearing down on them to sideswipe them.”

Jacobsz says that what Sea Shepherd would really like to do is to destroy the Nisshan Maru, which would put a stop to all whaling by the Japanese. “We're not planning to sink the ship with everyone on board; we're environmentalists, not killers,” he says. Sea Shepherd has been accused, by Greenpeace among others, of using violence in their campaigns. Jacobsz denies this, saying “We don't kill people but we do destroy property.” According to Sea Shepherd's website, their campaigns co-operate fully with all international law enforcement agencies and comply with standard practices of policing and law-enforcement. It also states that all Sea Shepherd campaigns are guided by the United Nations Charter for Nature which permits individuals to enforce international conservation laws on its behalf. The legitimacy of Sea Shepherd's methods of enforcing such laws is still being debated.

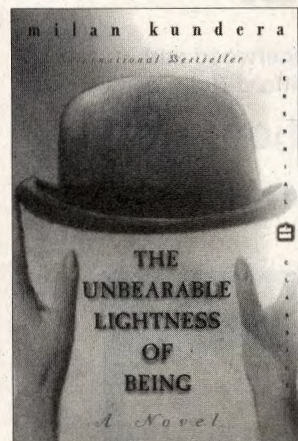
Jacobsz is determined that Sea Shepherd not be confused with Greenpeace. “I'm not a tree-hugging, bunny-loving greenie – I'm a realist,” he says. “I'm not an animal rights freak, and I think we need a lot of radical change, but not extremism.” Jacobsz realises that many people view Sea Shepherd's missions as extreme but he disagrees. “A lot of people say what we do is eco-terrorism but it's just radical. Sometimes the best action is direct action.”

Closer to home, Jacobsz says that South Africa is one of the strongest countries in the world when it comes to environmental ethics. He would like to see these ethics put into practice more often at Rhodes. He says that although our university has many environment-conscious individuals, as a whole, we don't have a clue. Jacobsz believes that, as with anything, education is vital.

He says, “If you can't bargain economically and politically with the authorities involved you'll never get anywhere. It's not enough to chain yourself to a tree.”



## Reviews

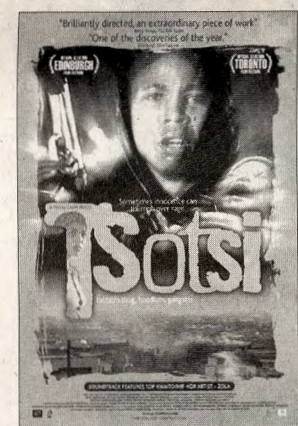


## Book Review: The Unbearable Lightness of Being

by Milan Kundera

■ Genna Gardini

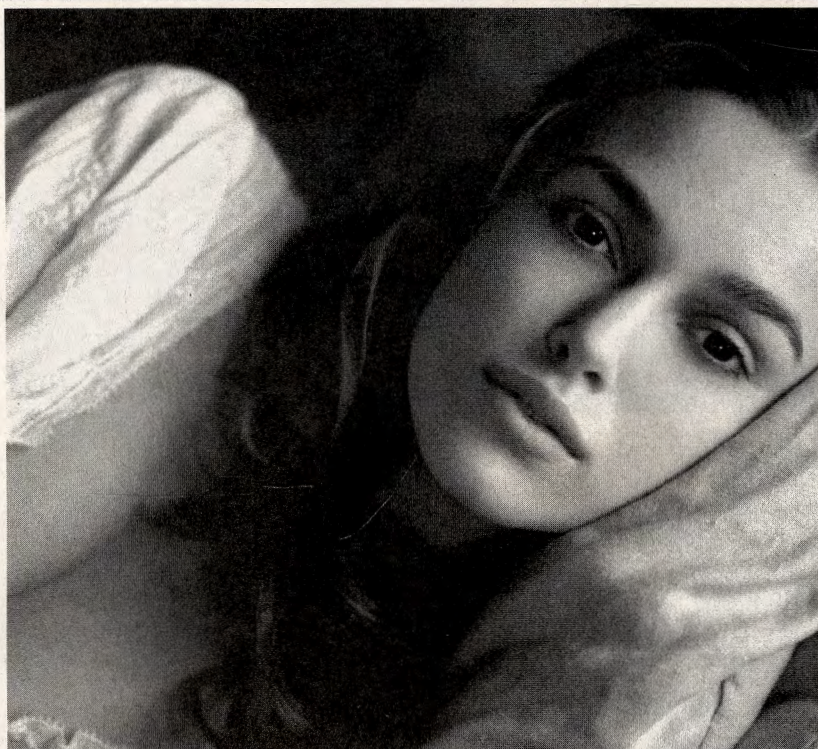
This novel deals with the question of whether love and sex can ever be separated from each other. Its subtle style and eloquence makes it one of the few true modern classics. Set against the political turmoil of Czechoslovakia in the 1960s, it follows the interweaving lives and relationships of three native Czechs: Thomas, Tereza and Sabina. Each of these characters has a unique attitude towards lust, love and politics. What lurks between them forces the readers to reassess their own attitude. Kundera writes in a poetic but constantly accessible and entertaining way that steers clear of sentimentality and clichés. The novel is a powerful but unassuming take on the human condition, written with real beauty and empathy. It is a must-read for anyone with a pulse.



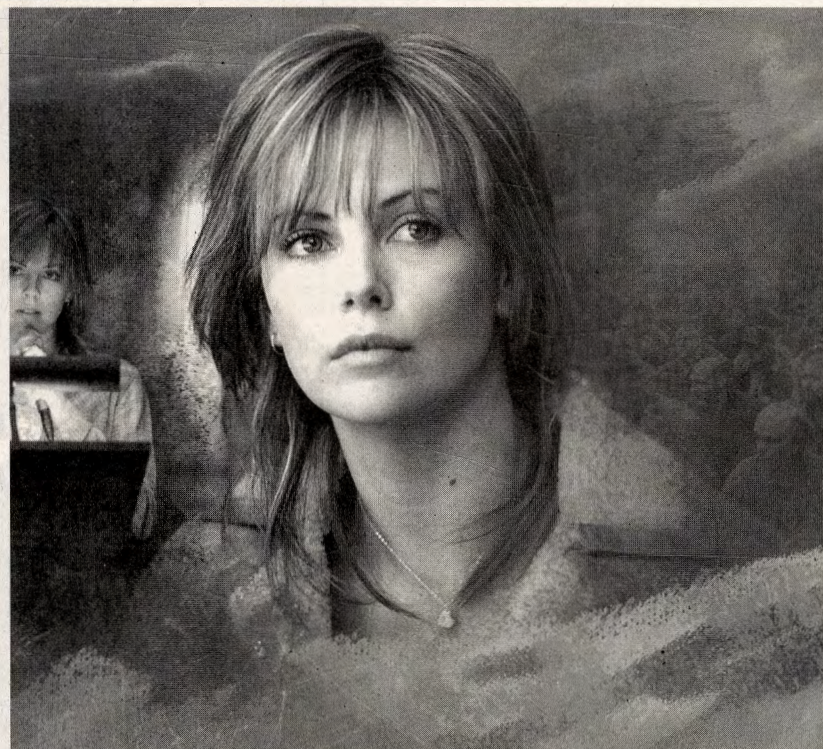
## Movie Review: Tsotsi

■ Nompumelelo Ngubeni

Oscar-nominated *Tsotsi* has received more media coverage and accolades than any other South African movie to date. It is set in the squatter camps of Johannesburg where conditions are ripe for making a living out of theft. However, the movie's portrayal of the life of a thug is extremely slow-paced. I suspect the movie is drawn out in a desperate attempt to inspire compassion from the audience for *Tsotsi*, whose unexpected encounter with a baby transforms him. Presley Chweneyagae excels in his leading role. He is able to bring a lot of emotion to his character. Despite that, *Tsotsi* did not perform as I expected. The film was a shocking disappointment. It was originally a play by Athol Fugard and would have been much better if kept on the stage. It does however deliver a true message: that gangsters do have hearts and can be redeemed. I say, wait for the DVD.

Keira Knightley in *Pride and Prejudice*

■ Pics supplied

Charlize Theron in *North Country*

■ Pics supplied

# Activate's Oscar predictions

■ Siya Ngcobo

The Oscars are only a few days away and looking very proudly South African for the second time. In 2004 we watched as our Benoni girl Charlize Theron dedicated her best actress Oscar to South Africa. SA also represented in the best foreign film category with the film *Yesterday*. It's dejavu as two of the Oscar categories are proudly Mzansi. Rhodents are definitely not excluded in the anticipation so we've decided to put a Rhodes spin on the Oscars.

### Best Picture

Last year saw many movies with incredible Oscar potential like *Crash*; *Good Night, and Good Luck*; *Capote*; *Munich*; *Memoirs of a Geisha*; and *Brokeback Mountain*. Only four made it into the Oscar race. Here are some predictions, followed by our take.

**Broadcast Film Critics Association:** *Brokeback Mountain*

**National Society of Film Critics:** *Capote*

**National Board of Review:** *Good Night, and Good Luck*

**Golden Globe winner:** *Brokeback Mountain*

**SL magazine's pick:** *Brokeback Mountain*

**Our winner:** *Brokeback Mountain*

**Best Actress**  
Most Best Actress winners have played the roles of prostitutes but the standard has varied a bit in recent roles. The contenders for this award are: Charlize Theron for *North Country*, Reese Witherspoon for *Walk the Line*, Felicity Huffman for *Transamerica*, Judi Dench for *Mrs Henderson Presents*, Keira Knightley for *Pride and Prejudice*.

**Broadcast Film Critics Association:** Reese Witherspoon

**National Society of Film Critics:** Reese Witherspoon

**National Board of Review:** Felicity Huffman

**Golden Globe winner:** Felicity Huffman

Huffman

**SL magazine's pick:** Mario Bello

**Our winner:** Charlize Theron (Most likely to win is Felicity Huffman.)

### Best Actor

The contenders for this award are: Joaquin Phoenix for *Walk the Line*, Heath Ledger for *Brokeback Mountain*, David Strathairn for *Good Night, and Good Luck* and Phillip Seymour Hoffman for *Capote*.

**Film Critics Association:** Phillip Seymour Hoffman

**National Society of Film Critics:** Phillip Seymour Hoffman

**National Board of Review:** Phillip Seymour Hoffman

**Golden Globe winner:** Phillip Seymour Hoffman

**SL magazine's pick:** Heath Ledger

**Our winner:** Presley Chweneyagae (Most likely to win is Phillip Seymour Hoffman.)

### Best Foreign Film

**Our winner:** *Tsotsi* (most likely win-

ner is *Paradise Now*.)

### Best Director

**Our winner:** Gavin Hood for *Tsotsi* (Most likely winner is Ang Lee for *Brokeback Mountain*.)

### Tribute to our winners

#### Charlize Theron

We loved her in *Sweet November*, *Trapped and Monster*. All her roles are done with great dedication and poignancy; the results have proved that Theron is a legend in the making. She is the first South African to land an Oscar for best actress. For putting SA on the map she gets five gold stars.

#### Presley Chweneyagae

This young actor has proved himself in the film market locally and internationally. He played the role of *Tsotsi* with maturity and conviction. This young gem will be around for a while and one day he might even become a big contender for best actor at the Oscars. The Oscars will be screened on March 5 on M-Net.

# Trivial, weird and wacky

■ Siya Ngcobo

The Guinness Book of Records has just released the 2006 edition of the world record holders in music, art, entertainment and fashion as well as other spheres of life.

As much as people like to criticise, many of yesterday's celebs were big on setting trends that are hard to break even today. Some newcomers have also forced their way through to gain a world record.

### MUSIC

#### The big guns

Elvis Presley holds the most records and this comes as no surprise as he has 111 hit singles. Among his many world records he shines as the most charted artist with the most hit singles on the US and UK charts, most number one UK albums and he boasts the largest fan club in the world.

Big contenders are the Beatles with 163,5 million album sales in the US alone. They have the most platinum certificates for a group, most number one singles on the US chart, loads of Christmas song records, and the biggest all-time sales in the world. Wacko Jacko is not far behind with the biggest selling album ever (*Thriller*) with 51 million copies sold to date, the longest music video (35 minutes long) and the most Grammy awards

won in one year.

He took away eight and that is just the tip of the iceberg.

#### Trotting behind

Bob Marley has the biggest selling reggae album. *Legend*, 1984, sold more than 10 million copies in the US alone.

TLC beat MC Hammer with the biggest selling hip-hop album ever with *CrazySexyCool* selling 11 million copies. Biggest selling single by a female group is held by the Spice Girls with "Wannabe".

Aretha Franklin has the most Grammys by a women, with a record of 15 Grammys.

Queen of the charts Whitney Houston has the record for the most consecutive US number ones.

#### Other weird records

The fastest rapper Ricky Brown rapped 723 syllables in 51,27 seconds on his track "No Clue". The largest choir in the world has 60 000 singers in unison.

### MOVIES

#### Highest box office grossing actor

Harrison Ford has acted in about 25 films generating total box-office earnings of \$3 010 111 472 (about R30 million).

#### Highest box office gross

The biggest-grossing film ever is *Titanic* (Paramount). The film became

the first movie to ever take \$1 billion (about R6 billion) at the international box office.

#### Most filmed author

William Shakespeare is the most filmed author with 394 feature films.

#### Most versatile performance

Actress, singer and director Barbra Streisand has won a total of two Oscars, five Emmys, seven Grammys, seven Golden Globes and a special Tony in 1970 as Broadway Actress of the Decade.

### FASHION

#### Best-selling clothes brand

Levi Strauss is the biggest selling brand worldwide with company sales of \$6 billion in 1999.

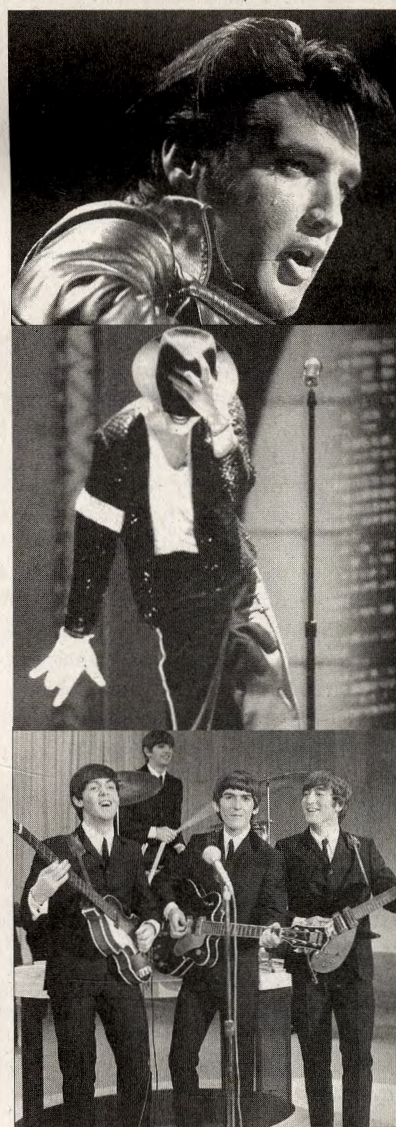
#### Oldest sneaker endorsement

Converse's All-Star basketball shoes were endorsed by Chuck Taylor in 1923. Converse has now made around 575 million pairs of the canvas Chuck Taylor All-Star sneaker in 90 countries.

### BOOKS

#### Most Booker Prize wins by a writer

South African author, JM Coetzee, is the only person to have won the Booker Prize for Fiction twice. His wins were in 1983 for *The Life and Times of Michael K* and in 1999 for *Disgrace* (Information taken from the Guinness Book of Records 2006).



■ Pics supplied



# Up close and personal with two of Grahamstown's sizzling bands

■ Siya Ngcobo

Grahamstown is buzzing with live music culture like never before. In the past few weeks many newcomers to our dorpie that never sleeps have been listening to live local bands. Ever since Battle of the Bands livened the joints, new bands have emerged and are set to funk and rock the town. Activate has taken the liberty of introducing home-brewed talent like Undone and The Super Agents.

## Undone

This group has revolutionised any notions of local rock being one-track-minded by fusing ska, funk, rock, a little bit of jazz and often trying out new sounds.

Their musical influences stem from listening to bands like Queens of the Stone Age and Weezer. Undone is held together by Matthew Gush (vocals, guitar, saxophone and trombone), Greg Smith (vocals, guitar and trumpet), Trevor Johnson (bass guitar) and Grant Mears (drums). It is not surprising that the band is mature



Greg Smith from Undone

even in their approach to music because two of the band members are Computer Science honours students. "At some point we will have to get day jobs if our plans don't hold up", laughs Mears.

Undone have had a fair share of touring and experiencing the life of a band as they have toured many towns along the coast. "We were part of the Powerzone Campus Invasion tour at the same time as Breach and



Pete O'Donoghue and Trevor Johnson  
Super Agents ■ Jaqueline Cochrane

we were part of Splashy Fen. We've toured Cape Town, Queenstown, Port Alfred, Kenton amongst others" says Johnson.

The group has been recording independently at Rhodes and hope to take on the UK in the near future. "After we get day jobs to fund the trip," they say. The band will also be performing at the Battle of the Bands in PE in the coming weeks (check out Tid Bits).

## The Super Agents

This group is a potjie of playfulness, randomness, enjoyment and harmless good fun. It all started at a drunken evening when one random guy asked another random guy whether he would like to play in a band since the first random guy could play guitar very well. Two school terms later the band was making a name around Grahamstown performing at parties and gigs. These guys bring a sense of child like fun to the plate and their music stirs up a sense of going wild. They are known as Pete (guitar and vocals), Luke (guitar and backing vocals), Trev (bass guitar) and Wes (drums). Their music is a fusion of indie-rock and ska. "We want our fans to drink and be merry and just enjoy our music" says Luke. The band is intending to record and "planning on making plans this year" says Luke. The band looks up to Metallica and local bands like the Parlotones and Airship Orange for inspiration. Click on <http://livemusic.soc.ru.ac.za/> for more information.

## Dance for All: a platform for diversity

■ Hayley Mueller

At Rhodes, many students often wish to express themselves physically in alternative ways to the usual sports and gym memberships which are offered. Now there is the perfect platform for them to do so. Whether you are a drama student not getting enough out of your subject, a first year who wants to try new things, or a post-grad wanting to rekindle their past passion with dance, the First Physical Theatre Company has concocted the solution.

Their new Dance for All programme has allowed for exactly that and is open to all students, from first years to post grads, in all faculties. The Dance For All programme has three spin-offs. The first is the fast-paced Ashtanga Yoga course on Monday and Wednesday afternoons, which is run by acclaimed choreographer Juanita Finestone-Praeg.

For students who wish to try something different that resonates with traditional African spirit, there is the East Cape traditional dance course. This covers a range of traditional dance

including lessons from a presidential award-winning gumboot dancer. It runs on Wednesday evenings.

The last, but largest, new initiative is the Student Company which will allow students (whether studying drama or not) to audition for a place in it. Those who get chosen will perform at least twice in the year at both the Grahamstown Festival and the Rhodes University Dance Fest. Over and above this they may get chosen for local productions throughout the year so there is ample opportunity to nurse one's talent. Auditions will be held on March 2 for those students prepared to commit themselves to the Student Company.

Highly prestigious teachers from diverse backgrounds are involved in the programme and bring extraordinary talent with them. Becoming part of any of these courses is definitely worthwhile. The fact that Dance for All is open across faculties widens the spectrum of dancers and should make it an interesting combination of raw talents.

## Freshly grounded

■ Siya Ngcobo

One of South Africa's hottest bands with immense crossover appeal. Freshlyground has broken new ground in the music market. They have sold out in music stores across South Africa including Grahamstown's Musica and reached multi-platinum status for their album, Nomvula.

"I went to about four Musicas in Joburg and they were sold out and promised to get stock by end of February again," says Byron Davis, a Freshlyground fan.

The group received yet another number one on the 5fm top 40 charts for "I'd Like".

The video, which was released last year, has gained much appeal from a large spectrum of people in South Africa from the cool city cats to the corporate suits. Tracks like "Doo Be Doo", and "Nomvula" have become instant hits.

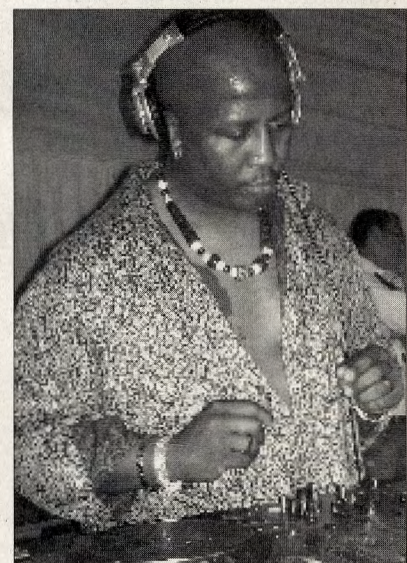
Other tracks on their album like "Zithande" and "Manyane" will ensure that Freshlyground's success sky-rockets to a phenomenal level. The group has recently confirmed their national tour in April and details will be available closer to the time. In June



■ Pics supplied

this year they are also scheduled to rock the UK stages. Part of the bands huge success is due to their live performance that hooks more and more fans. The group recently disappointed Cape Town fans by confirming that they wouldn't perform at the Coca Cola Collaborations concert due to organisation and promotional problems. With three Sama nominations, sold-out CD sales and multi-platinum status in their stable, Freshlyground is definitely a force to be reckoned with.

## Tid bits - your guide to happenings in and around G-town



DJ Fresh

■ Pic supplied

### The gig guide

Today March 2: PE Battle of the Bands at Tapas: Breach (tbc)

Friday March 3: Surf Club charity gig at Old Gaol with Soma.

Friday March 3: 'Drop it like it's Hoff' at the Von Zipper Revolt Surf Series Launch Party. This party kicks off at the Old Gaol. Theme: Baywatch Beach Party. There will be free drinks and great prizes from Von Zipper. Tickets are available at R30 from surf comm members.

Friday March 3: DJ Fresh will be hitting the decks at the Drill Hall right here in Grahamstown.

The dress code is strictly white and tickets are R30 at the door or you can go to Musica and get them for R25. Saturday March 4: DJ Fresh will hit UPE Sports Centre and the same kind

of rules apply as above.

Thursday March 9: PE Battle of the Bands at Tapas: Super Agents

Thursday March 16: PE Battle of the Bands at Tapas: Soma

Friday March 17 - Sunday March 19: LMS Old Gaol Music Festival

### Filmfest

The School of Languages and the International Office are back with their Filmfest which kicked off this week. These are acclaimed artsy movies from our own continent, Europe and Asia. They have proven to be a worthwhile treat for the more intellectually inclined and give great insight to what's going on around us and in other countries.

Venue: Eden Grove Red, every Tuesday

Admission: Free

Time: 7:00pm

March 7: *What to do in the Case of Fire*

March 14: *Wild Mussels*

March 28: *The Beat that my Heart Skipped*

April 4: *Wild Reeds*

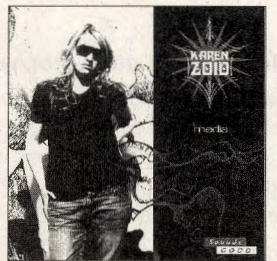
April 25: *Fear and Trembling*

### SA's first cellphone movie

America recently had an international cellphone movie competition and South Africa has jumped on the band wagon.

A new cellphone movie called *Sugarman* will hit the big screen soon. The 35mm feature tells the dark story of a Jo'burg pimp who drives four of his ladies around the city centres on Christmas eve. Directed by Aryan Kaganof, *Sugar Man* is being backed by Ster-Kinekor.

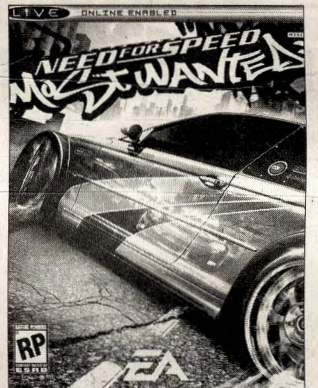
## Reviews



## CD Review: Media- Karen Zoid

■ Natasha Joseph

This is Karen Zoid's third album since she burst onto the contemporary Afrikaans rock scene with her debut album, *Poles Apart*, in 2001. Even if your Afrikaans is a little rusty, or in the case of our northern neighbours, pretty non-existent, this is an album worth adding to your collection. Karen has a gravelly, strong voice which she puts to good use on heavier tracks like "Familie reunie" and "Devil doesn't dig it". She can also soften that voice considerably and turns in a handful of magnificent, soaring ballads. Her lyrics are extremely intelligent, and filled with clever references to love, life and popular culture. And, joy of joys, her backing band is made up of fiercely talented musos who form a tight, polished unit. Any self-respecting local music fan should put their money where their mouth is and stick Media in their CD player: Trust me, it'll stay there for a long, long time.



## Games Review: Need for Speed (NFS)- Most Wanted

■ Ciro De Siena and Richard J Barnett

The third instalment in the NFS Underground series, *NFS: Most Wanted*, is undoubtedly the most complete and involving instalment yet, shattering all conventions in the genre, from strikingly realistic movie interludes to in-game graphics. The interludes are a remarkable mix of live action and computer-generated imagery (CGI), blurring the line between what is real and what isn't. Gameplay is as slick as previous efforts, but the plot which EA has weaved into the game is deserving of an Oscar. There are poorer plots in most B-grade movies and it's the key ingredient which makes the game so involving.

The vehicles are faster, more realistic and there's a wider range to choose from, right up to the benchmark Italian exotics. The game area is frustratingly expansive and the cops are frustratingly efficient, never scared to trade paint with your prized possession.

Anyone with a sniff of virtual petrol in their veins will enjoy this game, available in both PS2 and PC CD formats.



# Volatile Sudan and the AU Presidency

■ Anja Muller-Deibicht and Lindsey Riddin

The Sudanese situation is once again squarely in the harsh glare of the international eye as human rights abuses persist unchecked in the strife-ridden East African giant. But exactly how harsh is this glare of international condemnation? And furthermore, does it have any effect on the ground in alleviating conditions?

This simple question becomes even more pertinent when it is noted that the African Union (AU) has not only failed to mediate the conflict, but has effectively condoned its continuance by deciding to award next year's AU presidency to Sudan.

Sudan did in fact run for presidency this year, but because of internal instabilities had to withdraw its bid. The AU's decision to re-award the position, endorsed by the current chair President Denis Sassou-Nguesso of the Republic of Congo, is questionable as Sudan will have to make radical changes in order to fit the profile of presidency.

Amnesty International, as well as many other welfare organisations, have publicly voiced concerns and demanded that action be taken against the Sudanese government. Although commissions of enquiry have been established, no concrete strategy has been reached to stop the violence.

Tension between government troops and Arab militia has been evident in Sudan since November 2003 when the two rebel groups, the Sudan

Liberation Movement/Army and the Justice and Equality Movement, demanded an end to economic marginalisation and sought power-sharing within the Sudanese state.

The rebel movements claim that the Sudanese government is oppressing black farmers. They therefore attribute the violence to ethnic marginalisation. This was only the beginning of what has now become a two-year ethnic war, resulting in 180 000 deaths and 2 million displacements. The large majority of black farmers who have fled their villages are stationed in camps outside the main town of Darfur. These camps have been described as "below sub-human" and lack any form of sanitation, water or healthcare.

An investigative report made by Amnesty International states that one particular camp in Khartoum was previously a garbage dump, increasing serious fears of epidemics.

Sudan is currently being ruled under a state of emergency which limits individual movement and heavily censors the internal press, so although many know of the violence in Sudan, few can comprehend the effect this is having on the population.

The decision to delay the awarding of the AU presidency has been labelled a compromise.

This is extremely ironic as no compromise has been offered to the destitute Sudanese people who are homeless and unable to obtain the most basic human necessities. The



■ Matthew Ackermann

United Nations has warned of mass starvation and described the situation as one of the world's worst humanitarian crises. Is it possible to stabilise the country in one year?

If not, further doubts will be placed on the viability of the supposedly supra-state AU, with its ineffectiveness at conflict resolution. If, despite the crisis, Sudan is given the presidency,

this might become a compromise that the African Union's credibility can not withstand.

# You are not my candidate, you are my colour

■ Hlawulani Mkhabela

Elections in Africa have been in the spotlight lately. This is thanks to the recent euphoria over the continent's first democratically elected woman president, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf of Liberia; the hotly contested Ugandan election on March 23 and yesterday's local elections in South Africa. This means it is relevant to look at some of the forces underlying African election processes. Public and private decision making in South Africa has thus far arguably been governed by strict racial policy and the South African public continues to be tormented by racial discrimination. One wonders whether a population dominated by race in this way can ever become a democracy

where colour is irrelevant. In states such as Zimbabwe and South Africa where many people believe that racial dominance is only one bad election away, true democracy seems a fallacy. Voting patterns are determined by a need to escape a past where people's futures were determined by the colour of their skin.

It is dangerous to say that African leaders have only come to power because they are members of an appropriate race, but this danger does not shelter the issue as taboo. It would be criminally simplistic to minimise the ANC's success at the polls as solely the benefit of being a "struggle movement".

The ANC-led South African govern-

ment has achieved much, such as the recuperation of an economy that had flat-lined, and South Africa has since begun to engage actively in the African Renaissance, epitomised in the words of Thabo Mbeki: "I am an African."

It is pertinent, however, to suggest that the role of race in the country's past continues to control the hand of the voter. Some resounding examples have been seen: J.M. Kariuki, a former Mau Mau detainee said, Kenya's Kenya was "a country of ten millionaires and ten million beggars", yet Kenyatta was not ousted at the polls. The same can be said for South Africa.

Are the ten million beggars simply so

grateful to escape the hold of white domination that little is asked of the candidate besides that he retain melanin?

South Africans find themselves uninspired by the amount of information made available to them as they prepare to vote for local leaders. The DA urges voters to vote DA, not because they would improve matters in their respective municipalities, but to undermine the ANC's clout. Essentially, the DA say that you should vote for them because you do not want the ANC to win, not because they offer anything better.

Because of the absence of a definite policy and the party's attempts to garner white votes, one could argue that

all the opposition offers is a promise to slacken black dominance.

The fear of white control felt by the formerly oppressed black electorate is left to simmer and earn votes for idle black-administrated municipalities. The same can be said as the omnipresent swart gevaar makes it almost impossible for black candidates to build support with white communities. The state can afford not to address the issue of the ten million beggars, because they know that whether its policies benefit the majority or not, they will continue to gain the vote of the black majority.

It seems that history continues to undermine political policy and permeate our current democratic structure.

# Elephants, mud huts and tourist stereotypes

■ Philippa Ehrlich

As Africans, we all have anecdotes about being asked by foreigners whether we ride pet elephants to school or sleep in mud huts. After working in a game lodge in Zambia's South Luangwa (SL) National Park for a month over December, I can sympathise with these kinds of sentiments.

Some clients managed to confirm every tragic tourist stereotype. They had never set foot on the African continent before, and had no intention of experiencing anything but the perfect romantic safari. The sight of a tar road offended them. Luckily however, some incredibly interesting expatriates and foreigners who passed through proved that there is always an exception to the rule. From a student's point of view, it was fascinating to stay at SL National Park, which is a fairly large reserve (though dwarfed by the Kruger

National Park) in Zambia's Western province. It is a unique park ecologically because it is largely isolated from any other wildlife area. Photographers and researchers come from all over the world to study species that are indigenous to the park. SL has a healthy wild dog population which is particularly significant in Zambia (the last wild dogs in another Zambian park, the Lower Zambezi, disappeared last year). Two researchers, Kellie Leigh and Emma Stone, have recently established a project in an attempt to ensure the protection of this endangered species. The park is distinct in that it has managed effectively to take control over poaching which was a major problem in SL's early years. So much so that elephant population's gene pool has been corrupted and the majority of the animals are abnormally small. Up to 30% are born without



The Chipenloole Wildlife Centre encourages Zambian children to preserve their environment.

■ Philippa Ehrlich

tusks. The most interesting part of working in the camp was meeting foreign guests, many of whom were volunteers in Zambia or neighbouring countries. Impressive action has been taken with regards to HIV/Aids in the country, and I met a couple of Harvard med-school students who were staying in Lusaka to establish an HIV clinic. Many of the safari guides

have been on HIV counselling courses. I also spent a fair amount of time with a group of Spanish volunteers from Malawi who were working for Action Against Hunger. Between the five of them, they held portfolios on everything from agricultural education to HIV and nutrition. In addition to these smaller NGOs, the UN headquarters has moved into Zambia since the situ-

ation in Zimbabwe has worsened.

I accompanied one group of clients to Chipembele, a wildlife education centre run by an ex-police couple, Anna and Steve Tolan, from England, who fund the project with their pensions. The centre had recently been featured in National Geographic. I was impressed by their enthusiasm, and the stories they told about children's increasingly enlightened attitude towards conservation in the area. We may feel compelled to be pathologically critical with regards to the stereotypes we hold about foreigners visiting Africa, seeing them all as one-off safari suit wearers.

However, when we consider the individuals who have uprooted their own lives to uplift the existences of thousands of nameless faces in Africa, we may be obliged to examine our own attitudes.



# Rhodes tests the Theory of Flight

Rhodes University is set to host a regional "Qualifyer" on Saturday the 18th of March for Red Bull Paper Wings, a global paper plane contest which sees budding aviators folding, throwing and flying their imaginative designs.

The event, to be held at Alec Mullins hall, brings together crafty engineers and light hearted pilots of paper planes in a world-wide challenge: which airplane flies the farthest, which one resists gravity the longest, and which takes the most elegant path through the air?

For the long distance and longest



hang time categories, competitors will have to fold their paper planes out of an 80mg A4 sheet of paper at the event, on the day. Those entering the aerobatics category may bring their paper plane to the event, where it can be made out of any paper.



The South African leg will see students from eight campuses across the country battle it out in a bid to reach the

national "Qualifyer" in Cape Town. From here, the top three South African folders will join 48 other countries at the international finals, held at the Red Bull's Hangar 7 in Austria, during the month of May as participants attempt to break the existing world

records.

"It's a great event because literally anyone can enter, says Paula Chowles, Red Bull's Student Brand Manager for Rhodes campus. "Whether you're a drama student or an engineering expert, its all about research and lots and lots of practice."

Those who want to demonstrate their aerobatic proficiency can register now, at no cost, for the Rhodes "Qualifyer" on the website, [www.redbullpaperwings.com](http://www.redbullpaperwings.com), and join Tuks, UCT, Potch, UKZN, Stellenbosch, UJ and Wits universities in an intervarsity battle of the skies.



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# The SRC President's opening address to parents and first year students in O-week 2006

I am a proud supporter of the first meal of the day. -Eat Breakfast! Really... you must. 97% of dieticians suggest you should, 7 % of university students actually do. Breakfast at 12 doesn't count.

My name is Bryony Green and I am the President of the Students Representative Council for 2006.

If any one of you takes anything away from this speech, the only thing that is scientifically proven is that breakfast is good for you. The rest of what I have to say is not so well substantiated, but is more of a collection of experiences, both mine and that of other Rhodians, and I hope it will help you settle in to success on our campus.

To quote the o week edition of "Activate", "The University is a melting pot of people from all over the world, who come together with different backgrounds, cultures, beliefs and values - working and living together and playing together. Rhodes' motto is "where leaders learn" - not only about theories and formulae, but also about themselves and about life in general". If we could shrink the earth's population to a village of 100 people, with all the existing human ratios remaining the same it would look something like the following. There would be:

- 57 Asians
- 21 Europeans
- 14 from the Western Hemisphere, both north and south
- 8 Africans
- 52 would be female
- 48 would be male
- 70 would be non-white
- 30 would be white
- 70 would be non-Christian
- 30 would be Christian
- 6 people would possess 59% of the entire world's wealth and all would be from the United States
- 80 would live in substandard housing
- 70 would be unable to read
- 50 would suffer from malnutrition
- 1 would be near death
- 1 would be near birth
- 1 would own a computer
- And, ladies and gentleman, only 1 would have tertiary education

So, now that we have established that you are already part of the fortunate elite, I want to urge you to make the biggest success of this that you can. I want to talk to you about three things that make up a big part of campus life: your academic success at Rhodes, your extra-curricular success and your social success, and, most of all, about achieving the balance between all three.

Firstly, let us discuss academics at Rhodes.

The smartest people are the ones that work the hardest, and usually the hardest workers get the top marks. The stupidest people here are the ones that don't work. There are people who can go out every night and still

pass, you probably aren't one of them, and so work needs to be done sometimes.

If you ever think that it may be at all possible that you don't know absolutely everything in a course, go to lectures. Lecturers care about people who they see in lectures and who make an attempt, your lecturer won't care about you a day before the exam if you never go to lectures. For those of you more theorem orientated, follow the recognition rule: if he recognizes you, your chances of help are substantially greater.

You are lucky at Rhodes to have a student-lecturer ratio of 15.3:1. Take advantage of this. All university staff have an open-door policy, take advantage of this too. It can only benefit your development at Rhodes, and you may even find, as I have, that the somewhat terrifying, grey haired man that marks your essays has an unexpected abundance of knowledge, a wicked sense of humour and the ability to make even the cheapest coffee taste amazing.

From experience, do not get panicked if you do not get everything done in advance. This is much harder than school. Doing an all nighter for an essay can also lead to many friendships.... Also, do not get panicked if the Zimbabwean guy next to you is finding it easy - A Level covers more and he will be sad in 2nd year, just as you are now. Only the brilliant find it a doddle all the way through, and I must admit then, to coming from a really dumb year. I have never met anyone brilliant.

For those of you who think you are brilliant. I hope you are right, please introduce yourself to me after your degree, but you most probably aren't. Do not be disheartened, when there are brighter, prettier, smarter, faster, harder and generally all-round better people than you. It is part of life, and doesn't detract from who you are, or the amazing things you could accomplish.

Lastly, on this section, your professors may tell you in their speeches this week to look left and right, because the person on either side of you won't be here when you graduate. I urge you all to sit in the middle. I did.

Secondly, your extra-curricular activities. Rhodes life offers a wealth of sports and societies to get involved in - literally something for everyone. I urge you to take advantage of this. Rhodes is where leaders learn, so learn to be a leader by being part of house comm., becoming a sub warden, a class rep, chairperson of a society, captain of a sport, and even by considering running for the next SRC. Never again will you be given the chance to use every aspect of your potential. Grasp this opportunity.

The SRC is the umbrella body for all societies, from Activate for budding journalist to ZOOSOC for budding

zoos... or something like that. Each society has a number of events during the year, including a number of cheese and wines. Here you get to meet people from different degrees, and different years of study... as one wise masters student once told me: in 1st year, you go for the wine, by 3rd year you go for the cheese!

I would like to take this as a quick opportunity to boast about some of the amazing things our societies did this last year.... Christopher McConnachie and Philip Abrahams from the debating society came 33rd at the Worlds Debating Championships in Ireland, RAFSOC raised R21 000 towards constructing a new pre-school building for the local school, Rebecca Davis, a committed member of SHARC won a scholarship to Oxford, Janet Jobson, previous head of debating and current chairperson of Amnesty International received one of the Mandela Rhodes Scholarships... and if I am going to continue to be completely nauseating about the achievements of my fellow Rhodents, we have all 3 winners of the Mandela Rhodes at Rhodes this year. The winner at UKZN decided to transfer... wise man.

Finally, your social life. It is true that Rhodes has an incredibly high statistic of drinking per capita. It is also true that only about 30% of the population drink.... I am not saying never go out, I'm even going to join you at the rat later tonight, but I am saying there is a difference between going out TO get drunk, and going out, AND getting a little drunk. Going out is about making friends, relaxing after a tough week (or a tough day, if it's Wednesday). There is more to Rhodes social life than alcohol. Don't miss it because you are too dehydrated to realise it.

On the Rat, another thing I have learnt from personal experience is that the Rat's toilets never have loo paper. If you remember this, one day you will thank me....

I'd like to in closing tell you all now - get the balance right! Within the first few weeks establish a routine. By all means go out to the pubs at night, excel in all the extra-murals and sport activities that are offered - it is essential that you do. But do so while you pass... nay, do so and excel. University life is a wonderful mixture of freedom and constraint. It is the only time in your life when you have no responsibilities... except to yourself... you have a responsibility to succeed. You have a responsibility to earn your degree.

And so, I'd like to welcome you all to Rhodes - to offer the SRC's services to you should you ever need them, and to wish you the best of luck in earning your first degree. Remember, whoever said that your best days were your school days never came to University.

**Bryony Green would like to thank Mathew Charlesworth and the Rhodes forumites who provided some great ideas in writing this speech.**



# Sports and Societies sign-up evenings 2006

The evenings were a riot of colour, noise and diverse activities. Eager students overran tables with questions and all-important signatures...

Pics By: Dan Calderwood, Nikki Richie & Lauren Clifford-Holmes



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# The Southern Spears: good for the game?

■ Adam Wakefield

As the all-new Super 14 competition gets into its stride, every South African team will have the idea of possible relegation in the back of their minds. Since the new Super 14 concept was devised, SA Rugby and associated franchises have been locked in a boardroom battle over the fate of the proposed Eastern Cape franchise, the Southern Spears.

After the initial tendering processes, the fifth South African slot in the new Super 14 was given to the Bloemfontein-based Cheetahs. After this decision was made, there was an outcry from many factions of South African society, including the government, saying that the Eastern Cape should have been awarded the franchise. Because the Eastern Cape region has always been a haven for black rugby, it is an obvious choice for further transformation in South African rugby.

An agreement was then made whereby the South African team that finishes last in this year's competition would be relegated and replaced by the Southern Spears. The Spears would be guaranteed at least two years in the Super 14. At the start of this year's competition, the participation agreement that needed to be signed by all franchises to confirm the deal was intentionally ignored. It was only after considerable negotiation and lobbying on SA Rugby's part that

the South African franchises decided to sign it. The deadlock continues with no definite solution being agreed upon.

Several Rhodes rugby players were asked what they thought of the current situation and if a solution could be found. Jamie Renton (2nd XV, utility back), says, "I think relegation will be fair once the Spears beat all the provincial sides first."

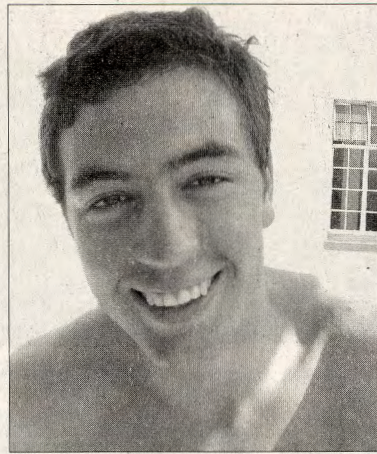
The team that is going to be relegated should play the Spears in a promotion/relegation match". Stuart Baillie (1st XV, flank) says, "I think it would be a good idea if the Southern Spears could prove that they would be competitive in the Super 14. Currently I don't think they have good enough players to do so." Brian Rose (2nd XV, lock), believes that the South African professional players are spreading themselves too thinly with six franchises, which will make it easier for the Kiwis and the Aussies to "kick the crap out of them".

Once again it seems that SA Rugby, which is meant to have the best interests of the game at heart, have created another mire of controversy for which they are now becoming renowned. The appointment of Oregan Hoskins as SA Rugby's new president could help resolve the situation.

The sooner this is done, the sooner attention can be focused where it is meant to be, on the field.

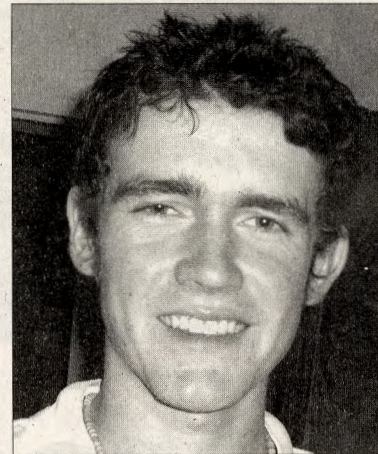
## Q & A

Question: What is your favourite team and your favourite player in the Super 14?



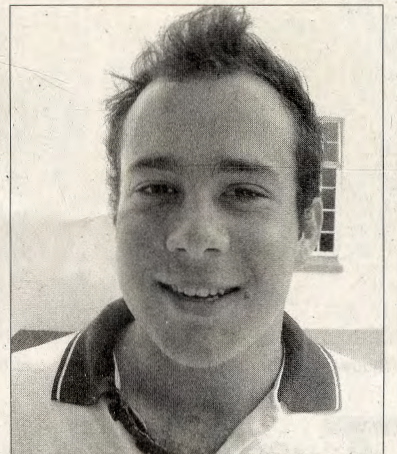
**Brian Rose**

"I like the Bulls and Bakkies Botha."



**Jamie Renton**

"I like the Sharks and Daniel Carter."



■ Jacky Smith

**Stuart Baillie**

"I like the Sharks too and Bradley Barritt."

## Down at the range: opening fire with inter-res rifle shooting

■ Tim Hancox

This year's inter-res competition got underway, with rifle shooting as the first event. A high standard has been set, as students came in droves to try their hand at the firing range. The sound of gunfire could be heard throughout the day, as both beginners and experienced shooters were on display.

Precision was the order of the day, as the art of rifle shooting is not as easy as Hollywood would have you believe. There were more than a few cases of erratic shooting by first timers. There were also those who may have discovered a hidden talent. In this sport .22 Anschutz or BSA rifles are used, which allow for accuracy rather than high impact. The targets were placed 22.5 meters away, as inexperienced shooters would struggle with long-distance competition.

The best female residence was Walker, with a score of 367/400. Centenary were the winning male residence with 378/400. There was also an individual competition taking place on the side, with an impressive 99/100 giving Nick Hodgson the win. There was a tie for the ladies, with five scores of 96/100. The final results for all the teams are still being calculated because of the large turnout. As many people will have discovered, the inter-res competition gives students the opportunity of trying new sports like rifle shooting. If this is a sign of things to come, then this year's inter-res competition looks like it will be well-contested



■ Matthew Middleton



■ Matthew Middleton



Aziez Madatt

■ Matthew Middleton

## Ready for the challenge

■ Tim Hancox

After last year's departure of Pete Andrew, there is now a new man at the helm of sport at Rhodes, Aziez Madatt. Although he has big shoes to fill, he is more than qualified for the task that awaits him. Madatt played both rugby and athletics at provincial levels and is a qualified coach in athletics, rugby and gymnastics. He still runs regularly, proving that his sporting days are not yet quite over.

Essentially, the head of sport's job is to manage the facilities and officers, and ensure that the relationship is a healthy one. There is also a need to promote sport and the relationships between Rhodes and other sporting organisations. Madatt describes himself as being "passionate about sport, and young people achieving or fulfilling their talent, as I hate to see them waste it". Goals have been set

to improve existing facilities and get Rhodes to become a recognised sporting university. This will then, hopefully, attract top-quality coaches to Grahamstown.

After recent successes in rowing and triathlon, the aim is to have Rhodes's best competitors achieving at national level. A bursary could be in the works so as not to lose the best athletes in the Eastern Cape to lucrative offers from other organisations.

Madatt also believes the Rhodes setup needs to address the issue of sports offered in relation to the male/female student ratio. Women students need to be accommodated in the sporting arena, which is presently male dominated.

With all these plans for the improvement of Rhodes sport, it seems that Madatt will be making some positive changes on campus.

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Rhodes' number 1 for 2005, Xavier Bechard, hits the lip



Mark Sparg going vert

■ pics Andrew Elliot

# Tell the teacher we're surfing

■ Julie Coetzee

Many people feel intimidated when they come upon a group of surfers. They feel as if they've fallen into a time warp where pull-ins and snaking, doormats and floaters take on a whole new meaning.

Most urban cowboys perceive surfers to be a bunch of stoner high-school drop-outs. Let's take a quick look at what some of those "drop-outs" have brought to the table this year so far. Junior surfer Ricky Basnett, who is enjoying his first year competing in the World Qualifying Series (WQS) has brought home a cool \$27 460 so far with his prize money from wins and lucrative sponsorship deals.

That is just the beginning because once a surfer has qualified and is on the World Championship Tour (WCT), the salaries get even bigger. East London boy Greg Emslie, who was placed third in 2000, sits on a comfortable earning of \$322 225 after six years on the tour.

Kelly Slater, sponsored by Quiksilver, is the top dog of the tour, having secured a record seven world titles.

After 12 years of WCT, his earnings are \$1 136 005, without personal earnings from sponsorships, DVDs and merchandise. It is clear that pro-surfing is no longer a 'stoner' sport. Slater takes his iconic surf image seriously, and his daily routine includes a strict diet, fitness training and surf coaching. The pressures placed by sponsors on a prosurfer are extremely high. The other option is to become a semi-professional free surfer.

Free surfing is the holy grail of the surf industry and is possibly the only laid-back area that remains in the fast-paced industry. Surfers who compete in smaller surf circuit competitions, such as Durban's Mr Price Pro, are often spotted for their potential as free surfers.

As competitive surfing requires much focus and competitors are met with increasing pressure from sponsors to perform, few surfers manage to turn professional. Free surfing agents are looking for a lifestyle surfer rather than someone with the competitive edge. Once chosen as a free surfer, the living becomes more than easy

– it becomes perfect.

Most of the adverts you see in surf magazines are shot on free surfing trips. The team of free surfers is jetted off to exotic and tranquil surf locations, and their mission is to sit around and relax until the next big swell comes along. Singer/surfer Donovan Frankenreiter is a free surfer for Billabong, and in his spare time he plays guitar and writes music. The only time Frankenreiter docks is when he has a sold-out concert to perform or a new CD to record.

Local pro surfer Sean Holmes qualifies for a Von Zipper wild card entry in the Billabong Pro leg of the WCT in Jeffreys Bay each year. Holmes, marketing manager for Billabong South Africa, competed against world title holders Andy Irons and Kelly Slater in the semi-finals and was placed fifth in 2003.

Holmes, two-time SA champ, best describes surf culture: "Surfers are a unique breed always chasing that perfect wave. Surfing is a beautiful sport that reaches to the depth of your soul."

For many, surfing is spiritual. It is a calm at the end of a rough day. Surf epitomises what many would like their lives to become. Surfers have to give themselves over to the elements and rely on the unreliable. As Sean Holmes explains, a surfer needs to learn to "not fight the elements, but instead flow with them".

Rhodes Surf Club is the only inland surf club in the country, yet is by far the most active. Since focusing on surf development the number of women riders in the club has more than doubled. Seeing women surfers is a true tribute to the club as women are rare in surf circles.

This is possibly due to the lower number of professional places assigned to women on the WQS, encouraging fewer women to turn pro. Heather Clarke, a veteran South African surfer on the WCT, and world champion, has taken home just \$198 250. That amount is just above what Travis Logie, Port Elizabeth born junior earned in his first year on the WQS.

Surfing has until recently, been a

male dominated sport, but as surf brands such as Billabong and Roxy pour money into girls' surf development schools and competitions the number of women surfers keeps increasing. East London local, Rosy Hodge has joined the WQS, while the likes of Tasha Mentasti make waves in the national scene. Rhodes itself has bent over backwards to accommodate both its women surfers and its beginner surfers, with 'learn-to-surf' clinics and the VZ Revolt Surf Series which allow surfers a taste of competitive surfing and away trips to sample new breaks. Women now make up half the numbers of the Rhodes Surf Club.

South Africa's own young guns making the WQS, having more women in the water, and increased media coverage of it have helped mould surfing into one of the fastest growing sports in South Africa.

As more take to embracing the elements for those million dollar pay-cheques and an increased quality of life, the future of the surf scene looks bright.



## SKYDIVING Grahamstown

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11th March **PARTY** (Skydiving all Day & **PARTY** into the Night)  
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