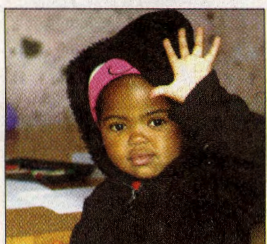


activate

Independent student newspaper at Rhodes University
Edition 3 March 2006

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in Africa

Kimberley Hall's water woes

Isolated water cuts plague residences on campus

■ Tami Duncan

Kimberley Hall experienced a number of water cuts last year. The construction of the new Journalism and Media Studies building, the Africa Media Matrix, has been blamed for this.

The water cuts are "current, but have a history", says Rob Benyon, the warden of Piet Retief House. The director of the Estates Division, Les Reynolds, and Andy Hatting, manager of building maintenance, said that Kimberley Hall has recently received new pipes.

The new pipes mean that Kimberley Hall has the most up-to-date plumbing on campus, according to Reynolds, Hatting and Chris Cloete, a Rhodes plumber.

"If the water is turned on by lunch, it's an inconvenience, but if it's not it's a major health hazard, particularly in summer," says Benyon. The university brings up a water tank in extreme circumstances when the water is cut off for longer periods, allowing students some water.

Benyon says that he has made suggestions to the director of the Estate Division, Les Reynolds, and the Kimberley Hall warden to find a solution, suggesting they construct storage water tanks for Kimberley Hall or a larger reservoir above Cullen Bowles or

that they fix the pipes.

Reynolds said that the university is placing water tanks near all residence halls. At the moment one is being built near the Continuing Education Centre behind Kimberley Hall.

The sudden water cuts also cause flooding. Students either notice that there is no water and leave their taps on or forget which way they turn off, which results in flooding. Benyon has instituted a "stay-in" policy in Piet Retief to try to prevent flooding: in the event of a water cut, the students must wait until the water returns to check that there is no risk of flooding.

Water quality is also a prominent issue for Kimberley Hall residents. When the water returns after a cut "it's brown, full of dirt and gradual", says a Kimberley Hall student. When no water is available it creates an inconvenience and expense for the dining hall which has to feed some 450 students three times a day. Benyon says the kitchen is forced to use disposable cutlery and paper plates during water cuts because they cannot wash anything without water.

Benyon says there were 11 water cuts in the second semester of last year. The hall that is affected most by these is Kimberley Hall.

George Wells, the head of the Computer Science department, was a resident in Cullen Bowles in the 1980s and says that he recalls frequent water cuts taking place then.

Reynolds says that the normal procedure for putting the water back on once a pipe has been cut is as follows: someone notices water seeping up through the ground, often CPU, they then let the Estates Division know. The Estates Division then contacts Makana Municipality, who according to Cloete have a policy that they must be at the scene within half an hour.

All three agree that the municipality is reliable and efficient in keeping to this policy.

In the event of fire and a water cut coinciding the University does have a policy in place. "The fire hydrants are on a separate line and get tested regularly," says Cloete.

Walker and Piet Retief do not have emergency lights installed, which adds to the fire risk. Benyon asked for emergency lights asked to be installed a few years ago and he is still waiting for them to be installed. This issue has been raised a number of times with the Estates Division since then.

Reynolds and Hatting say the frequent water cuts are due to the con-

struction of the Africa Media Matrix and that Kimberley Hall should not expect as many water cuts this year, unless some are caused by factors out of their control like pipe-bursts.



■ Lauren Clifford-Holmes

How the water cuts affect you the students



Bronwyn Seaborne
Thomas Pringle
1st year

"The worst thing about the water cuts is when the water stops in the middle of your shower and you are left with a head full of soap!"



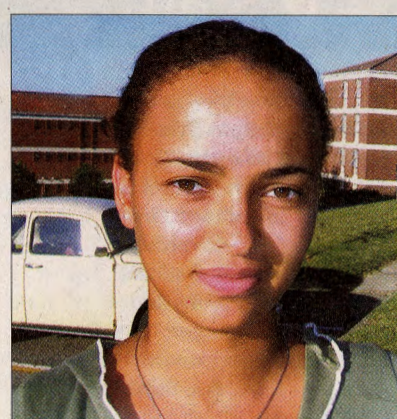
Brett Sibson
De Beers
1st year

"It would be helpful to know why the cuts are happening. It's so infuriating. The first three days I was here we had water cuts, which isn't a great first impression. The ablutions are so disgusting when it happens."



Philile Mdletshe
Walker
2nd year

"It's a huge issue! I'm paying for an A-grade residence here and yet there are water cuts every two days. It's not right! You can't shower or use bathrooms; the toilets clog; it's just unhygienic. We're supposed to be at home here."



Quaymberley Dudley
Walker
2nd year

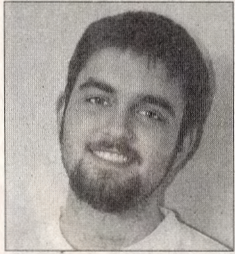
"I was under the impression it was happening all over campus, not just here. Most times there isn't water, and even when there is it's such poor quality. But what can we do?"



Verashmi Jeran
Walker
3rd year

"The biggest thing is the inconvenience. The water has been milky for over a month now. Why just us? Why doesn't it affect Mandela Hall right across the road?"

Editorial



■ Peter Barlow

Welcome to the third edition of *Activate* for this year. I was driving down Prince Alfred Street one day during O-week and I noticed how many His People members there were everywhere. The pavement was literally swarming with them. I knew then that we should run a story about His People. Whether they like it or not, they are a highly visible society and in this edition we took the plunge and did yet another story about them.

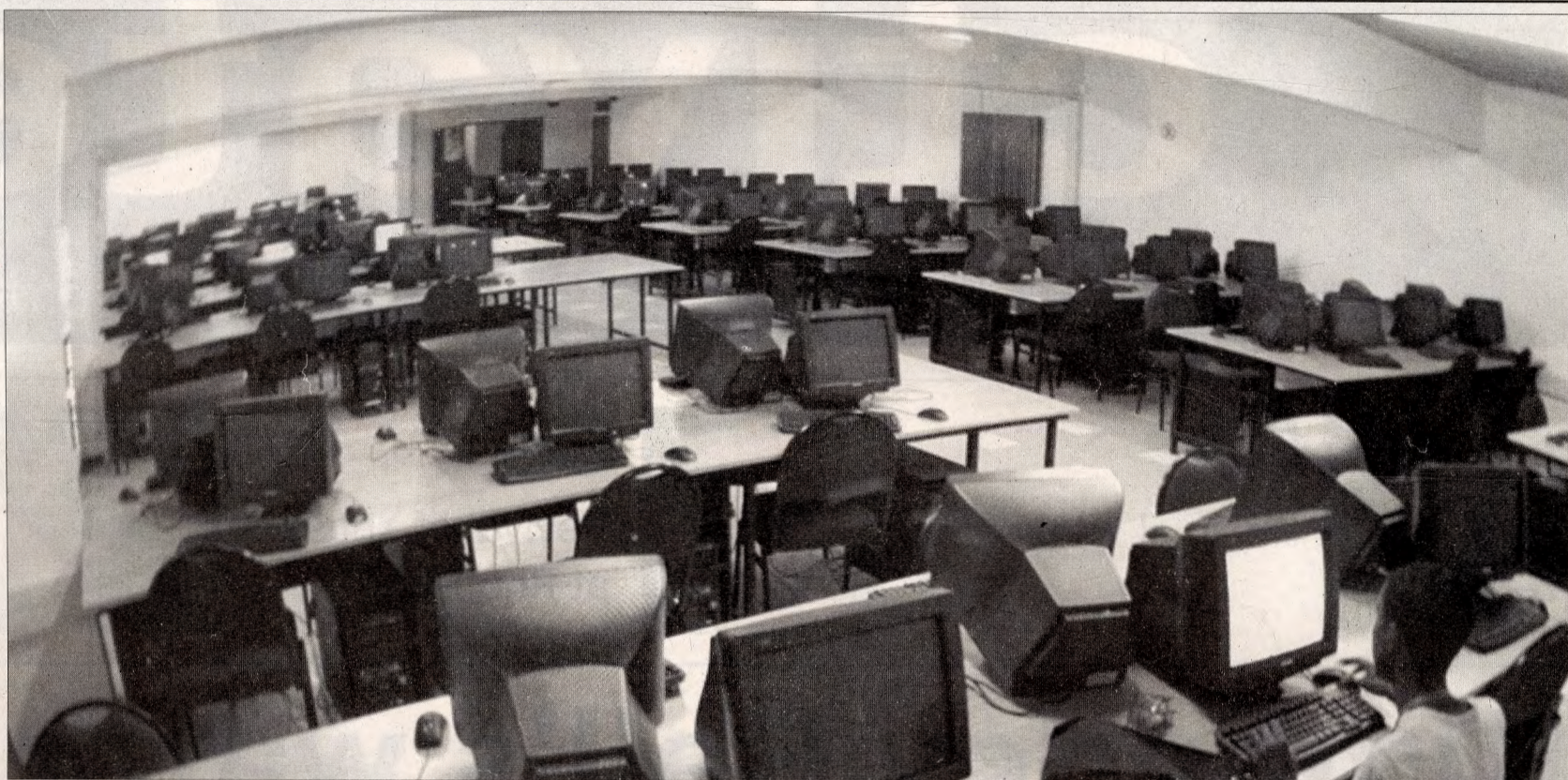
Now, I know that in the past *Activate* has covered His People and they haven't always come through looking good. This time around we wanted to give them a forum through the story to have their say about who they are and what they are doing. However, if you turn to page 5, you will see that they did not co-operate as fully as I would have liked. I really hoped they would come to the party and have their say but instead they threw the invite away and then attempted to gatecrash anyway. After writing the story *Activate* was not allowed to take photographs of His People's Church services unless we gave them a draft of the story first. Giving people drafts of stories before they go to print is against our editorial policy, but they would not relent and we had to give them one. They would still not allow us to take pictures and so we had to do what we did on page 5.

Once again for the umpteenth time His People has opted to shroud themselves in mystery. But what do they have to hide? If I were them, I would have used this opportunity we have given them to try and improve their image with those of us who are not members. The bottom line is that many people feel harassed by their recruiting efforts and this is an issue they simply can't ignore. And yet, they stubbornly carry on doing so. As I said before, turn to page 5 to find out what we could get on this secretive society.

Water gushing down the road to Kimberley Hall is an all too familiar sight and anyone who has ever seen this knows that what follows is roadworks and often a water cut or two - thus, inconvenience. On the front page of this edition we endeavoured to get to the bottom of the endless water cuts which continue to plague Kimberley Hall and came up with information which, on the whole, was inconclusive. The construction of the Africa Media matrix (AMM) was blamed for the 11 water cuts Kimberley Hall experienced in the second semester of last year.

My question is how and why, even before construction began on the AMM, was the road being dug up regularly to fix a leaking pipe and the hole left open for weeks at a time? I feel these are important questions to be answered and I believe that the service delivery of both Makana Municipality and Rhodes' building and maintenance division leaves much to be desired if they can't even get a steady supply of water to the residences up the hill.

Also in this edition we examine drinking clubs at Rhodes on page 7, being gay in Africa on page 10 and a heck of a lot more. Bye for now.



The labs at the Union, midday. The Shuttleworth Foundation supplied 100 computers which sit idle more often than not.

■ Matthew Middleton

Shuttleworth labs fail to take off

■ Ashleigh Swaile, Michael Spicer and Stuart Buchanan

The Linux lab under the Union opened six months ago and is still not being used to meet the demands of students for greater computer accessibility. The lab is underutilised and most of the 100 computers sit idle every day.

The Union Lab, which opened early September 2005, was built to ease the burden on the often congested Jacaranda Labs. The lab also features one of only 14 Freedom Toasters in existence.

The computers work on the Shuttleworth Foundation's Ubuntu Linux operating system, as opposed to the Windows system used at Jac Labs and Eden Grove. Unlike Windows, Linux is an open-source operating system, which allows people from all over the world to download, edit and use it as they see fit, without having to pay.

Despite the growing popularity of Linux, the labs remain deserted. Many students say that they are unaware that the labs exist, citing little or no promotion of the labs as the reason for this.

The Linux operating system itself has also been a cause for concern. Third-year computer science tutor David de Bruin says: "It's not that the

Linux computers are impossible to use, it's just different and intimidating to some." De Bruin adds "I think a basic course should be offered to teach people how to use the Linux Lab properly, because the machines really do work, it's just you need to know the basics in order to operate them."

As yet, courses have only been made available to members of Rhodes University Computer Users Society (RUCUS) which according to some, defeats the object of making the computers more accessible to the general student body.

Technicians have been assigned to the Union Lab for this reason, but students have complained of their absence. *Activate* repeatedly visited the lab over the course of a week and failed to find an assistant. People who are unfamiliar with the system have been unable to find help in accessing Internet resources or using basic applications. The Union Lab is funded and staffed by the Shuttleworth Foundation, meaning that Rhodes staff and technicians cannot modify or provide technical assistance because the only people "qualified" to do so are the lab technicians. Tracey Chambers of the Information

Technology department is the Rhodes representative for the Union Lab. Chambers has been on leave for the past three weeks and the IT department refused to comment on the situation while the brand new computers continue to gather dust in the Union's basement.

As easy as toast: The Freedom Toaster

The Freedom Toaster, a unique software burning facility, is one of only 14 in the world. One of the Shuttleworth Foundation initiatives, the unique facility was developed in and for South Africa.

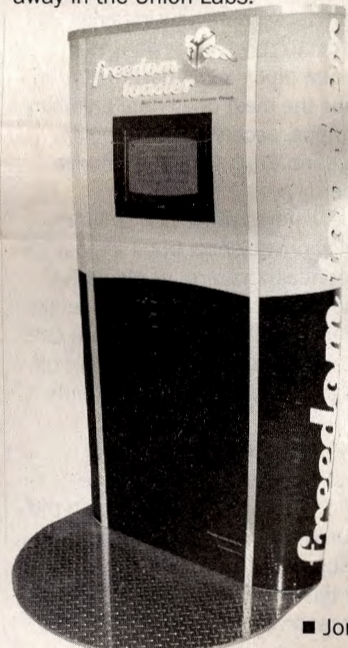
The machine provides free software for "toasting" to anyone with a blank CD or DVD via a simple touch-screen interface. Programs available on the Toaster include OpenOffice (a full house office suite), Internet browsing software and even full operating systems.

Project Gutenberg is invaluable to students and contains hundreds of literary, political and philosophical works all in one resource. Anything from Shakespeare to the Bible is available for toasting.

The software is all open-source

and available for anyone to edit or improve. The original intention behind the toaster was to provide an easy way to download Linux and open source software without the difficulties of a slow internet connection.

However, this rare and useful facility is sitting idle as students are generally not aware of its existence, tucked away in the Union Labs.



■ Joni Els

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Death of catering staff member

■ Tumi Mpete and staff reporters

Deon Els, a caterer at Nelson Mandela Hall, was found dead in his flat above the Kimberley Hall kitchen on Monday morning, February 27.

He attempted suicide two weeks before his death by overdosing on tablets. Els was admitted to Settlers Hospital after this attempt, and was then transferred to Livingstone Hospital for physical and psychiatric treatments on Friday February 24. Els discharged himself from hospital on the same day and allegedly hung himself later that day.

Staff members grew concerned when he did not arrive for meals. "A caterer from Mandela [Hall] asked where he was," said a colleague, who wishes to remain anonymous. J Pillay, manager of catering and catering services for Rhodes, requested that CPU check his flat.

"Before he died he did not act differently; he was doing what he always

does, and we did not see any negativity," said hall supervisor for Nelson Mandela Hall, Mavis Mnyungula.

Deon Els was described by Dr L'Ange, warden of Nelson Mandela Hall, as a "dedicated and hard-working member of the catering staff". L'Ange added that "He was very friendly to those who encountered him in the dining hall."

"He used to visit our homes in the township even when we had funerals; he never hesitated to come. We suffered a great loss by the death of Deon; everyone in the dining hall will miss him," said Mnyungula.

Els is survived by his foster mother, Mrs Oustheizen and his three brothers who live in Cape Town, East London and Johannesburg.

The university held a memorial service for Els on Tuesday last week, which was attended by his eldest brother and a significant number of staff and students.

Car thieves target campus again

■ Jennifer Campbell and Candice Bradfield

Last week three vehicles were reported stolen on campus within 48 hours of each other. Another two vehicles were stolen in greater Grahamstown. One vehicle was taken from Nelson Mandela Hall parking lot and two from Kimberley Hall parking lot. All thefts occurred at around 8pm. While there were no witnesses at the scenes, the Campus Protection Unit (CPU) said they have sighted a group of suspects in the area on several occasions. According to Captain Brown of CPU, the vehicles have not yet been found. Brown said, "there is not much we can do now; it's over to the police."

Karim Dhanani, a first-year living in

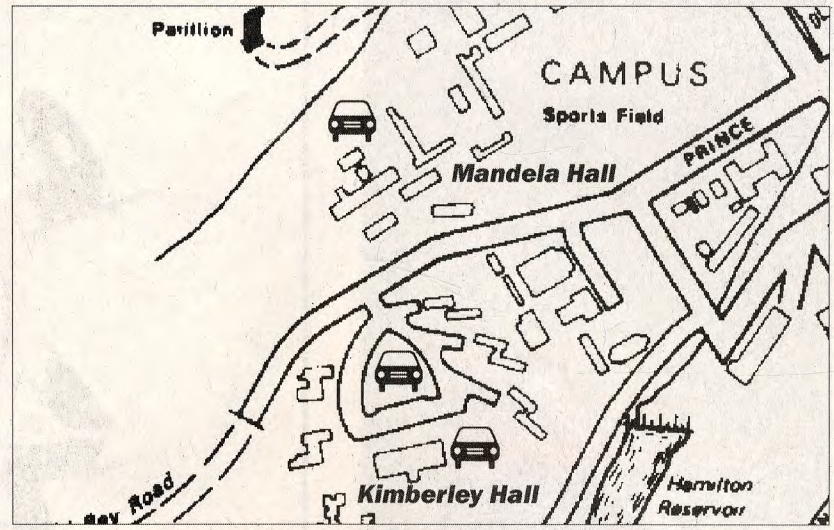
Kimberley Hall, is one student whose vehicle was stolen last week by what Dave Charteris of CPU has described as a "car theft syndicate". CPU however has no reason to believe that the same group is responsible for all the thefts. Dhanani reported the theft of his white Honda Ballade to CPU shortly after it was discovered stolen. He has received no response from the police.

Towards the end of the 2005 academic year, four car thefts and two attempted thefts on campus were reported. Three of last year's stolen cars had foreign registrations. One of the vehicles stolen last week was registered in Botswana and the

other two were registered in Knysna. Some of the vehicles stolen in last year's spell of theft were recovered in Queenstown.

While no other car break-ins or thefts have been reported this year, Brown says that students should use "whatever security means they can get their hands on". This includes installing an alarm system, a gear lock and steering lock, or anything that will deter prospective criminals. The police were contacted regarding the theft of the two vehicles in town but refused to comment.

According to CPU an average of six to seven vehicles are stolen on campus every year.



Two vehicles were stolen from Kimberley Hall within 48 hours of each other

The Give 5 campaign: turning dreams into reality

■ Ashleigh James and Staff reporters

Since 2004, Rhodes University students have been offered the opportunity to participate in the Give 5 campaign. The campaign is operated by students and was a prominent presence on campus this year. Collection points were set up and residences' charity reps urged students all of last week to give just R5.

The Give 5 campaign's core aim is to get each student to donate a minimum of R5 to "give back to the greater Grahamstown community", says Natasha Joseph, Rhodes's communications co-ordinator.

Now in its third year, the campaign is commissioned by the Centre for Social Development (CSD), an on-campus division of Rhodes University which places student volunteers in various positions of assistance across Grahamstown. Give 5 is organised by Rhodes's Communications and Development Division and operated entirely by stu-

dent volunteers.

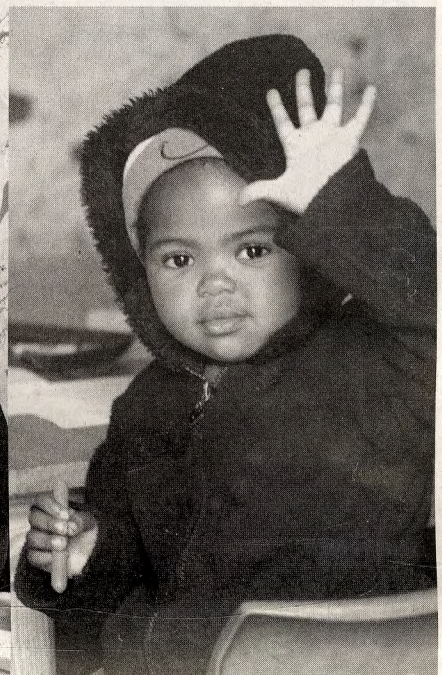
The funds raised by Give 5 are given to the CSD which will then choose a community charity as the beneficiary. The funds principally assist with the development of schooling at pre-school level for Grahamstown's underprivileged children.

"Give 5 has been a success from day one," said Joseph. Last year, the campaign raised R20 000, and this year the campaign's target is R15 000. Students have been enthusiastic about approaching the Give 5 stands around campus and were more than willing to hand over R5 for a good cause. Many students volunteered to assist with the campaign as well. Joseph said that by doing this students can become more socially aware and responsible citizens.

"I just wanted to help out and do something with the time that I had," said one second-year student. "Anybody can give R5 for a good cause."



The annual Give 5 campaign completed successfully last week



■ Lauren Clifford-Holmes and Gregor Röhrig

Suicide at Rhodes: not the only solution

■ Tim Stones

While suicide at tertiary institutions in South Africa is commonplace, 2003 was a particularly traumatic year for Rhodes, with three student suicides in as many months. Hilton Sieberhagen, Konrad Kulesza, and Joseph Makuvuro were all in their twenties, and all three were senior students. The past two years have seen several more student deaths, by both suicide and murder. Notably, no statistics on the number of attempted suicides each year are publicised.

To its credit, Rhodes has responded by increasing visible security on campus, improving lighting, designating safe routes where students can be accompanied by security personnel and installing panic buttons at fixed points throughout campus that raise an alarm at the Campus Protection Unit.

Workshops are regularly held on stress-relief and counselling, and the university encourages students to use the counselling resources available. In 2004 the university distributed publications on handling relationships and other issues.

These should still be available at Student Bureau and the residences. Alan Webb Hall's website, found on the Rhodes homepage, offers useful information on the warning signs of suicide, and how to deal with such a crisis.

Matthews power surge causes costly damage

■ Luke Reid and Mathew Townshend

Residents of Matthews House are fighting for almost R20 000 in compensation from Rhodes University. Various pieces of high-tech electronic equipment were damaged or destroyed after a fault occurred in one of the residence's distribution boards on February 22.

Initial attempts to negotiate this compensation were unpromising. The students concerned were referred to the Rhodes Student Handbook which states that the university does not accept responsibility for damage of students' possessions.

Matthews House Subwarden Ashwin Pienaar lost his laptop power supply and a R1 300 hi-fi. "It was hectic. To put it lightly, I was pretty damn annoyed. I wouldn't expect anything less than compensation."

Rhodes dean of students, Dr Moosa Motara, says that he is now considering the matter seriously. However, he emphasises that the university can only take a decision once the total costs involved have been worked out. "Once we get this information, we are prepared to look at it, and we will try and compensate as much as is humanly possible. We need to look at what this is going to cost the university," says Motara.

However, students still fear that the university may be unwilling to co-operate fully. One problem might be that it could be seen as setting a dangerous precedent for future cases of damage to student property. The university

may also want to avoid the complications of verifying losses and providing fair and adequate replacements.

The students' case was given a boost on March 3 when the manager of Rhodes's Electrical Division, Wally Bufe, released a report about the incident. In the report, Bufe says that "compensation for students should be considered."

Bufe explained that what happened in Matthews was different to a normal electrical surge or spike.

Damage, Bufe says, was not caused by a surge, but by a "neutral fault". The fault was probably produced by a corroded component on one of the residence's electrical boards. A fault like this would intermittently cause voltage running through the building almost to double.

Normal surges, Bufe says, are caused by faults in the main electrical systems. While they may destroy electronics, they are easily dealt with by a surge protector. If damage occurred due to a surge, Bufe says "[one] can't hold Rhodes responsible for that."

The fault which affected Matthews is more difficult to avert. It requires much more sophisticated, expensive protection because it directly affects the device's power supply.

This appears to be the case for Matthews House: damage did occur to other parts of students' equipment. It was generally a side effect of their power supplies burning out quite spectacularly, accompanied by strong-smelling smoke and liquid seepage.

How to protect your stuff

■ Ciro De Siena

South Africa is extensively troubled by power issues at the moment, with the Western and Eastern Cape being the most likely to suffer over the coming months.

Besides the obvious inconveniences of power failures, these cuts often result in power surges which can damage electrical appliances.

Rhodes University's Guy Halse, of the IT Division, has put together a few advisory points for all students in the interest of protecting their possessions while living in residence or digs:

- A good habit to adopt is unplugging everything from the mains in the event of a power failure. The surges normally occur when the power returns. Wait about 10 minutes after the power has returned to plug everything back in.
- During a lightning storm, it is advisable to unplug phone lines and network cables.
- Newer residences have special red sockets which have built in surge protectors. Only use these for your PC or laptop.

- It is probably wise to invest in a simple surge protector. Most electrical/hardware stores stock them and they are relatively inexpensive.

- If you can afford it, an Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) is a thoughtful investment. They have built in surge protectors and, depending on the model, will run your appliances for some time, allowing time to save important data.

- Finally, on the topic of data, backup as often as possible. This cannot be stressed enough. Preferably backup to a removable medium, such as a USB flashdrive or CD. Losing your academic work due to power failures is not an excuse for missing deadlines.

According to the student handbook, "the university does not accept responsibility for student's possessions if lost, stolen or damaged."

Make certain your insurance is in order, or take the measures outlined above to protect your belongings.

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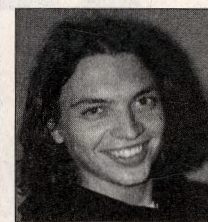
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Confessions of a fierce invalid



■ Harry Haddon

Drinking. How analogous this word is with our university. Yet, there are some who wish to curb this treasured pastime by trying to change the law so that our most-frequented watering holes will close earlier. What an absurd notion. Before you get your undergarments all knotted up, I do acknowledge that the reason for the earlier closing times has more to do with noise than drinking, and I am sure everyone agrees that these two issues are related.

So, as I dislike drunken noise as much as the next person, I am strongly opposed to these new laws as they will mean more noise for me.

There is nothing I hate more than inconsiderate drunkards shouting and behaving like cavemen/women on one of the designated out-nights (Wednesday, Friday and Saturday).

I can just hear New Street residents: "Well, you don't live next to the pubs; you just don't know what it's like." This is true, but on the other hand they do not, like I do, live next to the drunken fools that ruin a nice quiet evening at home.

I am not so selfish that I would justify my inconvenience as a valid argument for the laws not to change, so I will offer some evidence as to why our pubs should remain open or maybe even close later than they do now.

The English, also known for their drinking habits, have decided to issue licenses that will allow drinking establishments to remain open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The latest survey has shown that after the laws took effect in November 2005 there has been a 21% decrease in violent crimes. Before the laws were introduced, however, the *Daily Mail* had this to say:

"We can expect worse when 24-hour drinking comes in. Police fear mayhem on the streets. Judges warn of more rapes and other violent crimes. Law-abiding communities are braced for more misery."

What a bizarre reaction to a seemingly good idea. I can only imagine the response from the residents of Grahamstown if we chose the same route. Suffice to say that the response would turn me off supporting 24-hour drinking.

So is there a solution at all? Shortening the drinking hours will cause noise for me and others who live near the typical Rhodes student. Maybe if students could drink all night then life would be slightly quieter. I envision these people coming home in ones and twos, not having to party at home, not having to drink manically in their digs and residences because the pubs are only open for a short time.

I imagine quiet, peaceful Wednesday evenings... If I were to believe that, I would be on my way to Fort England. No, all this will do is piss off the residents of our not-so-sleepy-hollow even more.

So I guess all that is left is to fight the good fight against early closing hours, and grin manically while bearing the noise.

There will always be noise here in Grahamstown emanating from drunken students with no consideration for the peace of others.

I can see only one solution to this vicious circle of noise and inebriation: we must employ Chuck Norris to maintain order among students. I guarantee that he will sort them out.

Despite *Activate's* efforts, His People refused to allow any photographs of their church service to be taken.

An inside look at Grahamstown's His People Christian Church

What makes this controversial church tick?

Ines Schumacher finds out...

Live music, a large crowd, young people jumping up and down with their hands in the air, some laughing and singing, others crying and rocking back and forth where they are sitting. People are either falling to their knees, or swaying gently with their eyes closed.

For people that have never been to a church in their life or have only been to the kind of church services their parents go to, this type of worshipping is a shock. For outsiders, attending a His People Sunday service is more a form of entertainment than a serious ceremony of faith.

His People was established in 1988 on the University of Cape Town campus and has spread all over South Africa, as well as to central Europe. These churches form part of the broader Every Nation family of churches which has a global reach. The founders of His People are Paul and Jenny Daniel. At the beginning of 2003, Paul Daniel resigned as senior pastor and moved to the United States of America with his wife and four children. The His People website calls it "a period of restoration following Paul's confession of serious sins". However, more explicit reports in the media at that time identified these sins as adultery with two young female worshippers over a 13-month period.

The vision of His People is "to go into all the world and make disciples of all nations", especially on high school and university campuses, which their website identifies as "the ripest harvest fields in the earth today". His People came to Grahamstown in mid-1992 under the leadership of Nigel and Debbie Desmond. The current church leader and senior pastor is Gareth Lowe, Tendai Chitsike is the campus pastor, and Lester Bhana is the pastor in charge of youth.

Chitsike is aware of some negative opinion on the Rhodes campus about His People, but has an explanation for it. "People say we continue to harass them, but the message we have is nothing new. People have issues with those who spread the word," he says. Chitsike believes that students don't like being told about the truth. He laughs when asked if His People was re-branding this year. "People watch us more than we watch ourselves," Chitsike says. He explains that someone on the committee simply decided the T-shirts would be green this year.

"A change in T-shirt colour is not indicative of some sort of conspiracy," says Chitsike.

Natalie Sturgeon, a third-year BA student, has been a member of His People since she came to Rhodes. "I don't feel imposing when I encourage students to sign up. I feel excited, because I want people to know and feel what I feel," she says. Sturgeon believes that Christianity is the only truth and that everything the Bible says is absolutely true. She agrees with Chitsike on why there is a bad opinion of His People on campus: "People get offended by the truth."

According to Dr Kevin Williams, "What [His People] say makes people uncomfortable." Williams used to be a clergyman and has studied the sociology of religion. He teaches part-time in the Sociology Department, but works as a curriculum development consultant at Rhodes. Williams hesitates to use the word "cult" to label His People. "Labels are potentially offensive, but if I do apply a sociological label, His People is more of a sect than a cult," he says. Williams explains that, from his own

sociological perspective, His People is a breakaway from traditional churches, it makes high demands of its members and it practices religious fundamentalism. "That might explain the quite aggressive behaviour of members, who are exceedingly judgmental," Williams says. Nevertheless, he believes religion cannot be imposed on people. He says His People's recruiting techniques are

"like spiritual spam at the end of the day."

So what are the accusations that have been leveled against His People?

"From what I've heard, they're seen as pushy and very controlling people. They force their beliefs on other people," says Filipa Oliveira, a first-year Journalism student. She was not alarmed by His People recruiters, but goes on to say, "I have seen them run after people, which is creepy." Patricia Khumalo, a first-year BA student, has been approached five times by His People, but personally does not want to say anything negative about the society. She is aware of the general negative perception of His People on campus and comments on it. "I think it's because of the way they approach people. It's forceful. They come in groups. I find it very intimidating."

Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft, religious leader of the South African Union of Jewish Students (SAUJS), has more serious allegations to make. "His People are aggressive. They

unrelentingly come back, time after time. They are on a mission to convert the world

and they prey on the vulnerable," Silberhaft says. His

opinion is that His People interferes with the lives of the students, many of whom have come away from home to be independent and free.

Gaby Sanchez, a first-year BA LLB student, can identify with this interference. "His People falls into the category of narrow-mindedness," she says. On

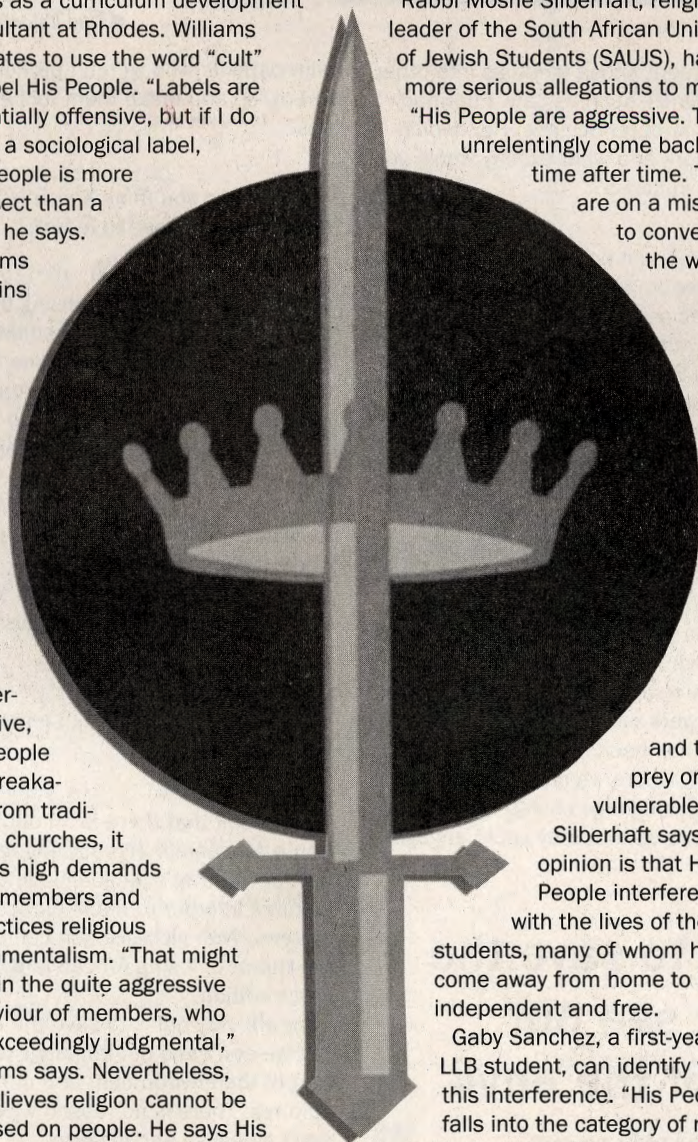
the second day of Orientation Week, she was approached by two members of His People. "They must have looked at me and said, 'Token disabled kid, let's go indoctrinate her.'" Politely, Sanchez talked herself out of the situation and drove off on her scooter, but the members would not give up and ran after her, cornering her at the Psychology department. "I felt very violated," Sanchez remembers, after having repeatedly told them that she had other beliefs. The religious leader of the Anglican Society (ANSOC), Oreabetsoe Refiloe Mosikare, attends His People cell groups and feels that what the society is doing is good. But he remarks, "Sometimes I feel that if you are not part of His People, you are not seen as a big Christian."

Imran Seedat, the chairperson of the Muslim Students' Association, does not feel threatened by His People, but he remembers a conversation he had with a His People member on religious differences. "It is difficult for one to accommodate other ideas and opinions, especially when that person has a set standard of values and beliefs."

Professor Chris Stones, an ex-head of department of Psychology at Rhodes and currently the president of the World Congress of Psychotherapy, believes that His People has an "us versus them" dynamic. He feels the society is a good way to go in the short term, because it militates against loneliness, boosts self confidence and serves to simplify life. "In the long term it can be restrictive and can lead to the person becoming less confident in their ability to take their own decisions," Stones says. He believes that "an individual can become overly dependent upon the group for fulfillment and support."

Rhodes campus is not alone in its divergent opinions of His People. Katja Rockstroh, a student at the University of Cape Town, speaks for her campus. "I think they're creepy and most people agree with me," she says. A student at Stellenbosch University, Marco Rabbiosi, has a different perception. "To my knowledge, His People and other church organisations are extremely popular on campus and have lots of members," he says.

However, the society is often singled out for blame, because it is the most visible religious organisation on campus.



To the point with...

Professor Russell Kaschula, head of the Department of African Language Studies

Stephanie Gouws speaks to the author of *Siyagruva: Divine Dump Dancer, The Tsitsa River and Beyond*, and *Flying High* about his plans for the Department of African Languages

Q: How did you end up studying and lecturing Xhosa?

A: I was born and bred in the Eastern Cape where I studied Xhosa at school and I was always fascinated by the Xhosa language and culture. I first did an LLB because I thought I wanted to be a lawyer, but ultimately my main interest was in Xhosa language and culture. I think that in the end one comes back to do what one was intended to do. I would have made a very unhappy lawyer.

Q: You started lecturing at Rhodes this year. What did you do before that and how did you land up here?

A: I studied here at Rhodes but left in 1989. During that time the South African Defence Force was still recruiting white males and I had one of two options: to either leave the country or go to jail for six years as a conscientious objector. I wasn't prepared to join the defence force. I decided to live in what was then the Transkei (which was seen as a foreign country) and got a post at the University of the Transkei. I left [the Transkei] in 1993 when I could see that the elections were going to happen and lectured at the University of the Western Cape for four or five years in the Xhosa Department. That was quite interesting because I was lecturing in Xhosa for the first time to Xhosa mother-tongue speakers. The classes were huge: there were about 1 000 students in first year.

From there I went to the University of Cape Town and spent ten years in the African Languages Department. I resigned at the end of 2004 and took up a split post between the University of Stellenbosch and a private college in Baltimore until this post came up. Rhodes University is really where I wanted to be and it's been a decision I haven't looked back on.

Q: How did the students react to having a white lecturer teach them Xhosa?

A: People usually are surprised when they meet me. I can get away with my surname being "Xhosised" and people who I have spoken to over the phone are quite taken aback when they get to see me, this little whitey. [Laughs.] I do think though that your credibility comes from what you do and how well you do it rather than the colour of your skin. Look at Njabulo Ndebele, who is the vice-chancellor at UCT: he is an expert in English and has written English novels, so why can't I write or lecture in Xhosa? Issues like these are things we have to overcome in this country, especially as white people. It is time that we made an effort to step into the world of black people, rather than expecting them to always step into the Eurocentric world and learn our language.

Q: What are you doing here at Rhodes?



Kaschula wants to see the rebirth of Xhosa at Rhodes

■ Dan Calderwood

A: The current course is primarily designed for second-language speakers, so we have about seventy first-years and a couple of second- and third-years we are teaching. My main aim is to initially grow the postgraduate unit of mother-tongue speakers [studying Xhosa]. At the moment I have two PhD and four Masters students that I am supervising this year. It is fundamental to advance black students in academia and encourage them to stay on at Rhodes, to retain them in the system.

I am hoping to reintroduce mother-tongue Xhosa, perhaps by next year, and invigorate and energise this department. I am sad that the university doesn't offer mother-tongue Xhosa when we are located in the very geographical heart of Xhosa language and culture and I hope to change that soon. We hope to make a contemporary and exciting course linked to media analysis and Xhosa literature.

Q: There are apparently plans to

implement Xhosa modules into other disciplines, such as Law, Pharmacy and Computer Science. How would this work and what exactly would you teach in Xhosa?

A: Yes, not only those disciplines, but also Journalism and Media Studies as well as Education; any faculty that is interested in having Xhosa Studies as part of it. Initially we would offer a specifically designed Xhosa course, for example, [for] lawyers who have no prior knowledge of Xhosa. If your client is Xhosa-speaking and you have to rely on court interpreters at least you will be familiar with some of the Xhosa terminology in civil and criminal procedure.

It is a course that we would like to piggyback on the existing course and create a second-language course that empowers the lawyer even more.

This has been extremely successful at UCT, where we created a Xhosa second-language course for medical students so that they could engage

with patients who weren't proficient in English and make them feel at ease.

Q: Why do you think Xhosa is a necessary language to learn?

A: People are finally realising that it is not only through the medium of English that you find employment; for example we have public broadcasters, television stations, and an education and political system that requires interpretative translators. I think there is a big market for students who major in Xhosa. Corporations like Absa and polka.co.za are also starting to see that it is not only through English that you can sell things.

Q: Why is Xhosa of such importance to you?

A: I think that there is an onus on South Africans to actually engage with each other's languages and cultures in order to make us better citizens. With globalisation comes the threat of losing African languages and tradition.

We are very quick to save the rhino but we don't see our language as part of the environment and our cultures. There is no reason why you can't globalise and localise.

Off the point

Q: Who are your favourite African musicians?

A: I have a passion for reggae and I listen to kwaito. I enjoy musicians like Ringo, Brenda Fassie and Mandoza but am not a fan of someone like Steve Hofmeyr. [Laughs.]

Q: Are there any Xhosa authors you could recommend?

A: There are many, many talented Xhosa authors, including Professor Peter Mtuzi from the Registrar's Office, who has published 20 works in Xhosa, including *Izibongo Zomthonyama*, a wonderful collection of stories written during the time when South Africa was in political transition.

Q: Who is your favourite South African?

A: That's a tricky question. It's clichéd, but the first person who comes to mind is Nelson Mandela. People like Miriam Makeba, Mara Louw and Patricia de Lille stand out. When I lived in America I realised how much I loved South Africa.

Q: What is your favourite word?

A: Phantasmagorical!

Q: If you were stranded on a desert island and you could only have three things with you, what would they be?

A: I would say my laptop, but I suppose it would be useless once the battery ran out. I would take three books. Three good books which I could read over and over again.

“ We are very quick to save the rhino but we don't see our language as part of the environment and our cultures. ”



Matthew Ackermann

Rhodes's very own league of extraordinary gentlemen

Secret drinking clubs have been a Rhodes tradition for many years. Now they're in trouble. Candace Whitehead finds out more...

One would imagine that writing an article on drinking clubs at Rhodes – and we all know that there are many of them – would be a relatively easy task. Unfortunately, this illusion went sharply out the window as I approached the president of a known drinking club on a night out at the Rat & Parrot. He almost knocked his tequila over in his haste to get away from me.

And so began an uphill battle, because drinking clubs operate at a high level of secrecy at Rhodes. One can get very little information out of members, I discovered, when one is a journalist wanting to send something to print. And so I learnt very quickly the cardinal rule of drinking clubs: "Thou shalt not speak about the drinking club".

Although we see them all over, collections of drunken (usually) men dressed in suits, drinking clubs remain very secretive. Trying, and failing, to resist the urge to compare these drinking clubs to the secret society portrayed in *The Skulls*, I set out to find out as much as I could.

Although all drinking clubs have different rules and traditions, they tend to have a few core similarities. Firstly, people go to them to get very, very drunk. Most drinking clubs are for men only, although there are several established women's drinking clubs at Rhodes. One cannot become a member on one's own initiative; one must be invited by another, established member. Drinking clubs operate largely by word of mouth: more senior members will pass meeting dates and instructions on to junior members. And many clubs have been at Rhodes for years.

A member of an active drinking club at Rhodes came forward to reveal a part of his club's culture, on the condition that neither his name nor the name of his drinking club be printed, continuing the tradition of strict secrecy. Our informant revealed that first-year students cannot become official members of his club. Instead,

they undergo a trial period throughout the year which is known as "guesting". Guests have very few privileges within the club: they are never told where the drinking will take place; an older member will bring them there instead. On any given day, the chairman will send word that all members should dress in "formals". This is a signal that a drinking party will be taking place. Members then wear suits the entire day in anticipation of the event that night.

The actual drinking parties of this club are extremely formal, and guests have a set of rules they are expected to learn before they are allowed to become fully-fledged members of the club. Guests must stand up whenever the chairman speaks, and must learn to drink on command – either a full glass or a half-glass of beer, at the chairman's discretion. In this particular club, no initiation takes place. There is merely the "guesting" period in which the potential member has to prove both himself and his drinking skills – drinking skills which demand, at the very least, that the participant drinks a case of beer.

These are traditions that have been continuing for many years. An ex-Rhodian, Greg Mason, spoke to *Activate* about some of what he remembers from his drinking club days in the late eighties.

Two drinking clubs that Mason remembers from his time at Rhodes, The League of Gentlemen, and BUNG (the spelling of which apparently varies depending on your generation), are noticeably active on campus. The League of Gentlemen, according to Mason, started the tradition of wearing suits at a time when other clubs wore overalls.

They were generally the wealthier drinkers who ate at expensive restaurants before drinking. Mason was part of a club, known as Gob & Cheers, which made use of a selection process. Twenty men, including Mason, were blindfolded and driven approximately eight kilometres away from Jan Smuts House.

They were then made to funnel almost four litres of spirits and told to walk home. The first five men to make it back were made official members of the club.

Mason claims that some lecturers were – and still are – part of the drinking clubs, but is unwilling or unable to divulge names or departments. He says that members of ZimSoc were apparently famed for drinking out of their shoes, and were allegedly involved in a case of rape which took place in the Botanical Gardens. Mason says the case never made it to court, as all members denied the incident had ever happened.

This brings us to the darker side of the drinking clubs. While they are seen as fun, a good bonding experience or something that is cool to do, members of various drinking clubs have been involved in illegal incidents ranging from assault to rape to vandalism.

There are, of course, the notorious garden parties. One second-year student, who does not wish to be named, was approached last year by a drinking club at Societies Evening. She was given an official invitation to a garden party, by a woman who made it appear that the party would be safe, formal and legitimate. The invitation bore the Rhodes emblem. The student was picked up outside the Union building by someone in a bakkie, who drove her to the outskirts of Grahamstown. There she joined a group of other girls. There was no transport back to campus, unless she left with another member of the drinking club. That night, a girl was allegedly raped, and a full-scale investigation into drinking clubs and their activities was launched.

An incident at St George's Park in Port Elizabeth on March 5 this year has led to further investigation into the threatening and harmful behaviour of drinking clubs. The incident occurred at the one-day cricket match between Australia and South Africa, where a group of Rhodes drinking club members were allegedly drunk, violent and verbally abusive. An official complaint

was lodged with the university, which has prompted further inquiries into illegal drinking club activities.

Incidents such as these have unsurprisingly led to drinking clubs being banned at Rhodes for many years. A statement released to *Activate* by Dr David Woods, the vice-chancellor of Rhodes University, has made this ban quite clear: "Rhodes University has for many years banned drinking clubs. We are exceptionally concerned about the rise of excessive or binge drinking and the alleged increase of illegal drinking clubs involving Rhodes students." He reminds all students that they are bound by the Student Disciplinary Code, and that all members of drinking clubs, whether off-campus or not, are subject to those rules and "will be punished accordingly if they are caught".

In his statement, Woods also says: "The university will be requesting of the student disciplinary committees that students guilty of excessive drinking and creating a public spectacle, thereby affecting the reputation of Rhodes, be excluded from Rhodes." Already, being drunk in public, according to rules established in 2005, can have one immediately excluded from residence.

The Student Disciplinary Code states that if a student is under the influence of alcohol at the time of committing any crime, it shall be regarded as an aggravating factor, leading to more severe punishment.

If fear of being disciplined is the sole reason for drinking clubs' high level of secrecy, then why do members parade their status by wearing suits to lectures? Members are reluctant to share any information regarding what they do, so what are they hiding? Ritual sacrifices? Illegal activities? Or are they secretive purely in the spirit of camaraderie? I suppose the majority of us will never know, and perhaps the only way I will find out is to drink myself into a complete stupor and be invited to join a drinking club.

But I do hope there's another way.

What you said:

Philippa Ehrlich

Question: What's the one thing you want to do before you leave Rhodes?



Anele Mkuzo

2nd year
BComm

"Go to the 24-hour section at the library"



Eric Masoetsa

2nd year
BComm (Accounting)

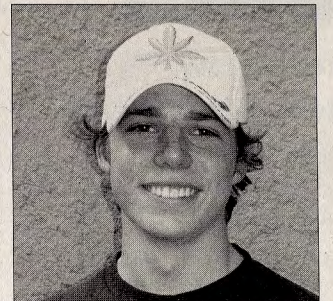
"Run down High Street naked"



Joanne Mellon

2nd year
BCom (interfaculty)

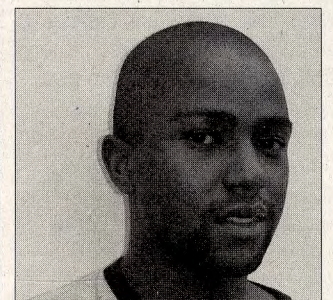
"Get a tattoo, go skydiving and lunge Diesel (grrrrr)..."



Lloyd Kruger

1st year
BA

"Not have memory loss after drinking a bomb of crackling"

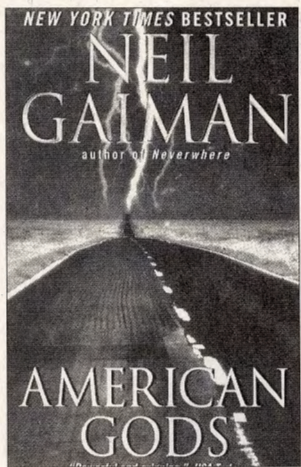


Tshepiso Monareng

1st year
BComm (Accounting)

"Hot-wire the VC's car"

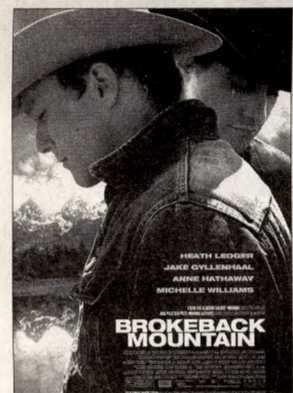
Reviews



Book Review: American Gods by Neil Gaiman

■ David Querido

American Gods tells the story of Shadow, who served a hefty jail sentence and continues to exist solely because of the memory of his wife. She dies days before the reluctant anti-hero is released. On the ride home from jail he bumps into a Mr Wednesday who, as it turns out, is Odin, the Norse god. Along with gods from many different mythologies, the two set off on a bizarre road-trip across America, discovering its rancid heart and secret history. This book blends ancient and modern mythology and defies conventions and clichés by mocking a bird, then killing it with two stones. The novel's central theme revolves around the tricks and games people play. If that isn't enough, the plot's twists and turns might make you look away violently, throw the book against the wall and scream. Borrow it from anyone who has read it, steal it or simply sacrifice a virgin to the gallows god. Either way, after reading this book, you'll lose your teeth from the gripping tale.



Movie Review: Brokeback Mountain

■ Nosipho Mngomezulu

Ang Lee has taken Annie Proulx's riveting novel to the silver screen and beyond. Winner of three Academy Awards, *Brokeback Mountain* tells the story of two cowboys who form a life-long relationship at a Wyoming sheep ranch in 1963. The tale illuminates the highs and lows, the bitter and conflicted side of secret and forbidden love. The novel is dramatic and haunting and the movie is just as intense, capturing with triumph the unmistakable beauty of *Brokeback Mountain* and the love story that unfolds on it. The story goes to the heart of homophobia and explores the different dimensions of love and sacrifice in a society that has concrete definitions for both. Ennis Del Mar (Heath Ledger) and Jack Twist (Jake Gyllenhaal) are not just two gay companions, but two human beings sharing something important and meaningful. The movie cuts deep but is a little sentimental. However, it delivers a message that is not far removed from our lives today.

Up close and personal

Fresh and Koula head-to-head



■ Pics supplied

Koula turns on the heat

■ Matt Edwards and Nqobile Shoba

We are casually summoned to the bar at 11.30pm and she turns around. She has red hair and a feisty look, friendly and composed. Immediately, we are caught up in her spunky attitude. This is Koula.

No stranger to Grahamstown, Koula enjoys the party atmosphere whenever she visits. She is known as the DJ who rocks the party all over the show. "It's an awesome student town; it's great to be able to walk around and be free to be yourself within the student vibe," she says.

She's always loved music and played piano from an early age. This love was revived at varsity. She graduated from RAU with a BA (Journ). "Varsity is a good time for everyone," says Koula. A self-professed rock chick, anything edgy with a lot of

screaming is her style. Koula's claim to fame was what they call a lucky break which opened up increasing opportunities for her.

The perks of her job include interviews she has done for 5fm, like her interview with Franz Ferdinand, but it backfired one day when she interviewed a certain popular band and only realised later that nothing had been recorded.

She comments on why she didn't come to Rhodes: "I had heard about it, but at the time I wasn't willing to leave Jo'burg and my friends. But in retrospect I would have loved to study here."

Koula leaves a final note of wisdom she would like to pass on to Rhodes students: "Party as hard as you can while you still can; the responsibilities of life catch up with you sooner or later."



■ Dan Calderwood

Just a man with a fresh outlook

■ Deva Lee and Lula Hlatshwayo

It's nine o'clock at night, the gig has started and DJ Fresh is nowhere to be found. His phone is off. He said he was doing a gig in Durbs earlier that day, was landing in East London at 6pm and would call at 7pm. Just when we start to think it's one of those celebrity interview no-shows, a big teddy bear lookalike with a welcoming smile opens his hotel room. The year was 1997 and YFM, a Johannesburg radio station, scooped Fresh as a DJ. Since then he has graced the television screens as a presenter, released seven hit house albums, hosted a popular morning radio show with his crazy friend Thato and has worked with a number of international DJs like "Little Louie", Vega and Frankie Knuckles to name a few. He has also started the DJ Fresh Foundation to support scholars who can't afford tertiary education.

This is the type of person Thato "Fresh" Silkwane is: an intimidating big man on the outside but a friendly bear on the inside. We try to unravel the story behind the name Fresh. He says: "Fresh was a nickname I had in primary school because I was a little fat boy, and that was that. It became almost a trade name and now a brand."

Two years into his law degree, DJ Fresh made a radical change in direction and years later he has created a brand for himself and a name in South Africa's A-list of celebs. "I have never worked a day in my life because I've found something I enjoy so much I would do it for free but I'm getting paid for it now," says Fresh. It's no surprise that he is laughing all the way to the bank.

Fresh is here to stay as he says: "I'm here forever even though I'm



The building, the flavour, the atmosphere of the Old Gaol is rough on the outside and smooth on the ground.

■ Lauren Clifford-Holmes, Dimitar Dobrev, Michelle Solomans

Same Old Gaol, new eclectic crowds

■ Tallulah Habib and Lindsay Callaghan

It's a dark and stormy night. The biting Grahamstown wind has somehow found its way into your cell. You shiver and grimace at the sounds of the person in the next cell screaming. Your eyes fall on a piece of paper on the wall. "Thank you for your help in making the gaol a happy smiling place." You blink and suddenly you remember that you aren't an inmate and that the screaming is actually the harmonious singing of some poor drunk soul making his way out of the building known as the Old Gaol.

The Old Gaol was once upon a time just that, a gaol (or jail) but now it is

a backpacker's lodge on Somerset Street. It also boasts a bar with drinks, cocktails and a special Rhodes appreciation – food. It's not just this that attracts its eclectic loyal fan base; it's the bohemian, diverse, chilled and alternative experience the place offers. "I love the vibe," says one student. "It's comfortable and relaxed and you feel like you can go up to anyone and start a conversation."

That's what separates the Old Gaol from other night spots in Grahamstown. The relaxed atmosphere and open-minded, accepting crowd make the Old Gaol a commu-

nity of various souls as opposed to just another drinking hole. One of the reasons for this is that it is a lodge as well as a bar. This brings local students into contact with the international guests staying there.

The international flavour of the Gaol is highlighted every Thursday with an international night where someone from a foreign country hosts a party themed around their country. The décor, drinks, snacks and music are all centred around this, making the Gaol an ideal place to experience some unknown culture. The live bands that feature every week also draw

crowds from all walks of life.

The venue has not been polished up and still resembles an old gaol with peeling walls outside, which might put some people off. This authentic, rough exterior and courtyard are complimented by the comfortable, chic interior of the bar as well as the various artworks which create an interesting but unpretentious vibe. The Old Gaol is not a club and there isn't a dance floor, but instead it offers a place where you can listen to the best of local and international music from Bob Marley to Freshlyground, have a drink and meet interesting people.

Another gem in SA film crown

■ Piroschin Moodley

South Africans celebrated the first Oscar win for a local production last week. Gavin Hood's *Tsotsi* won the foreign language film category at the 78th annual Academy Awards. Shortly before the ceremony, Hood commented, "Winning this award would be the stamp of approval for South African film from the rest of the world." *Activate* put into perspective SA's classics, its flops, the "Schusters" and the work of some of our most beloved writers.

The trend of adapting best-selling novels into screenplays is growing fast with the release of cinematic versions of Dan Brown's *The Da Vinci Code*, Annie Proulx's *Brokeback Mountain* and Arthur Golden's *Memoirs of a Geisha* to name but a few. South African literature hijacked the train too with several well-known novelists and playwrights having their handiwork tailored to suit the silver screen. Among them are Alan Paton, Antjie Krog and Athol Fugard.

All these productions, however, had one common thread: the presence of a Hollywood star, whose job it was to make the film a viable project. Viability simply meant profitability and



Preston Chweneyagae as Tsotsi in the Academy Award-winning movie ■ Pic supplied

so Tinseltown's finest descended on African soil equipped with the worst African accents, khaki shorts and noble aspirations of returning to their "roots".

Sarafina; Boesman and Lena; Country of my Skull; Cry, The Beloved Country and *Drum* drew respected performers such as James Earl Jones, Whoopi Goldberg, Danny Glover, Angela Bassett, Sidney Poitier, Taye Diggs and Samuel L Jackson. What resulted from this was satisfactory performances by Hollywood standards, but South Africans could simply not identify with the characters when they were portrayed by the American glitterati. Meanwhile, purely South

African productions consisted mostly of Leon Schuster's comedy romps with hits like *There's a Zulu on my Stoop*, *Short and Sweet* and more recently *Panic Mechanic*.

Ironically, the release of more commercially successful ventures like Leon Schuster's *Mr Bones*, which grossed R1 million at the box office, has led to a resurgence of the film industry. Producers are beginning to realise that local is, in fact, lekker, with huge amounts of capital being poured into films with South African actors at the helm. Darrel Roodt's Oscar-nominated masterpiece, *Yesterday* (the first Zulu language film ever), proved that South Africans are

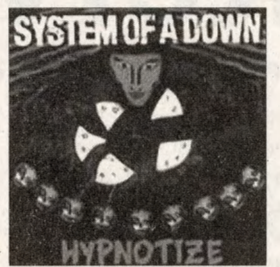
capable and talented enough to create quality movies with the ability to compete at an international level.

Tsotsi's triumph, both commercially and critically, is being celebrated by industry experts around the country. Having grossed more than R500 000 at the box office in its opening week (an estimated 250% more than *Yesterday*), this adaptation of Athol Fugard's only novel is likely to become a South African classic. The movie's stars, Preston Chweneyagae and Terry Pheto (a debut performance for both), are both well on their way to super-stardom.

Producer of *Mr Bones* and *Yesterday* Anant Singh, is currently leading a venture to build a R450-million studio just outside Cape Town. Dreamworld's Film City, with over 100 hectares of land to be developed into a state-of-the-art complex, is planned to become the home of South African film.

With the combination of technical expertise, raw talent, first-class screenplays and Cape Town's film industry worth R20 billion, South Africa will no doubt begin to make an impression on the international film industry.

Reviews



CD Review: Hypnotize – System Of A Down

■ Yashen Moodley

This is System of a Down's fifth studio release since their self-titled album in 1998. SOAD deserves every amount of credit for receiving the award for Best Alternative Group at the 2005 MTV European Music Awards. They have been known for their strongly political and controversial lyrics, radiant guitar riffs and fast-paced drumming. The ex-Armenian quartet never fails to record an energetic album that satisfies their fans. *Hypnotize* is the second half of their latest project. The first half is their last album *Mezmerize*, which was released a few months before *Hypnotize*. The singles "Hypnotize" and "Holy Mountains" truly represent what System of a Down stand for: the right to protest and stand up for your own beliefs. The cutting-edge lyrics protest against war, drugs and the violation of human rights, and advocate freedom of speech. This album is explosive and will not disappoint true fans, but it won't appeal to people who prefer more mainstream rock.



The stylish home of R&B, house and hip hop could close down. ■ Anwen Evans

Testing times for The Suite

■ St Francis Tahlang and Sibathembile Matiyela

Grahamstown's home of R 'n B soul, hip hop and urban house is on probation for a month. If it fails the test it will be closed down. The Suite on New Street, which re-opened a few weeks ago, is Victory Events CC's new project. This event management company is based in Port Elizabeth. It is run by former Rhodents Peter Mooeketsane and Andile Stofile, who decided to inject some business back into our vibrant town. They have temporarily leased the club from its current owners for about a month to suss out whether it or not is a viable business prospect.

Mooeketsane says, "Despite setbacks like not having foam at the foam party and the absence of DJ Christos, contrary to advertising promises, these glitches were beyond our control and the crowds were compensated for it.

The response has been brilliant and overwhelming since then."

Many Rhodes students commented that they would be saddened to lose The Suite as it adds variety and diversity to G-Town nightlife. The deciding factors for Mooeketsane will eventually be how badly students want an alternative scene and what losses the club might face. "The Suite is unique to this town and its focus on hip-hop and house music is what makes it distinctively different and offers an alternative party scene," says Mooeketsane.

The present owners of The Suite will decide what finally happens. Their options include selling to other businesses waiting in line if Victory Events CC's project fails. Since reopening, The Suite has housed local DJs like Peewee and Paula as well as 5fm's Koula and Naked.

Focus on Filmfest

■ Staff reporter

Wild Mussels

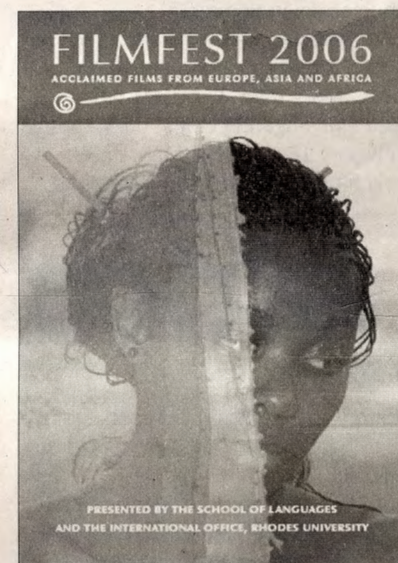
Date: March 14 (already played)
Director: Erik de Bruyn
Starring: Fedja van Huet, Will van Kralingen
Running time: 112 minutes
Venue: Eden Grove Red
Plot: A couple of friends in a depressing Dutch fishing village long for a more meaningful existence.
Nominated for a Dutch Critic Award.

The Beat that my Heart Skipped

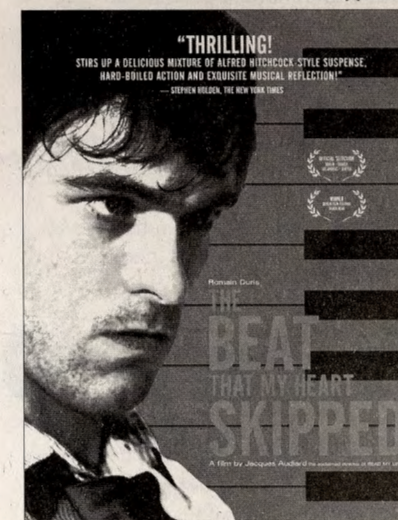
Date: March 28
Director: Jacques Audiard
Starring: Romain Duris, Neil Arestrup
Running time: 108 minutes
Venue: Eden Grove Red
Plot: Tom, a 28-year-old pianist; lives a somewhat criminal life, almost like his father who earns dirty money. He reaches a life-changing moment that forces him to choose a different path, that of his mother, a concert pianist. This movie won a BAFTA award.

Wild Reeds

Date: April 4
Director: André Téchiné
Starring: Élodie Bouchez, Gaël Morel
Running time: 110 minutes
Venue: Eden Grove Red
Plot: It's 1962 and two 18-year-olds are friends in a village in southwestern France. They grow to have a homosexual relationship but things become complex when one wants to marry his brother's wife.



■ Pic supplied



■ Pic supplied

TK: a tribute to talent

■ Siya Ngcobo

Tribute to a sultry R 'n B black butterfly. She belted out smooth sounds at Jo'burg underground clubs in her late teens until she broke through the glass to become one of South Africa's most vocally talented and successful R 'n B musicians. Tsakhane "TK" Mhinga died two weeks ago from an alleged drug overdose. The R 'n B sensation was found dead in a hotel room in Bryanston, Johannesburg. Her first hit song, "Secret Confessions", marked a permanent space for her on the airwaves at a

time when South African R 'n B was quite embarrassing. She collaborated with the likes of Foxy Brown, Loyiso, Danny K, Mizchief and Kabelo. Her latest album, *Black Butterfly*, had crossover appeal and solidified her role in taking local music to a new level. TK won two South African Music Awards for Best R 'n B Album for both her releases (2001 for *TKO* and 2002 for *Eject Yo Ass*) and was nominated for two MTN Metro FM 2000 Music Awards (Best R 'n B Artist and Best Female Artist) before she had even released an album.

Tid bits: your guide to what's happening in and around G-town

■ Staff Reporter

Pharrel, Snoop Dogg, Rihanna and Sean Paul to rock SA

Urban hip-hop/R 'n B heavyweights Pharrel Williams, Snoop Dogg, Rihanna, Mario and Sean Paul will rock Mzansi in the People's Celebrations series of concerts.

Premier Foods has become the largest completely black-owned company in South Africa and is splashing out with these concerts in celebration.

April 27 – Johannesburg Stadium,

Johannesburg

April 29 – ABSA Stadium, Durban
May 1 – Green Point Stadium, Cape Town

Red Bull Paperjet Contest

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Games Review:

Metal Gear Solid 3: Subsistence

■ Ciro De Siena

The title that has blown gamers away since its humble debut on Playstation 1 is back and again promises to redefine what we think of role playing games.

Metal Gear Solid 3: Subsistence is the third instalment of Hideo Kajima's multi-award winning MGS espionage series. Solid Snake is back in a traditionally cinematic adventure and fans will not be disappointed.

Highlights that have critics raving revolve around what is arguably the new game's most exciting feature: for the first time gamers will be able to team up or battle online with up to seven friends, adding a sorely needed dimension to the already well polished game.

The artificial intelligence of the characters in the previous game represented a massive leap forward in gaming, with Kajima even enlisting the help of the US Army to make the autonomy of Snake's enemies incredibly realistic.

Metal Gear Solid 3: Subsistence already has the US spinning – expect it under our skies in the very near future.



Intervention or interference?

■ Ricardo Pillay, Anzet du Plessis and Nora-Lee Wales

The world has risked turning Somalia into a breeding ground for Islamic extremism, because it has not supported efforts to stabilise the lawless country. Somalia's warlords have joined forces to eradicate elements linked to al-Qaeda, which are trying to gain a foothold in the East African nation. A group of controlling warlords have set aside long-standing enmity to form a new political alliance, the Alliance for Restoration, Peace and Counter-Terrorism (ARPCT). The alliance, based in Mogadishu, aims to play a large role in fighting terrorism in Somalia. The country has not had a functional government for the past 15 years.

A recently-founded political group, the Mogadishu Anti-Terrorism Coalition (MATC), is part of the ARPCT. Both the MATC and the ARPCT are being funded by the United States government. According to Sheik Dahir Uweys, an Islamist, the US prefers to maintain Somalia in a state of chaos. The US is the biggest supporter of the ARPCT. Uweys says, "Washington is still bitter over the deaths of 18 soldiers in lawless Somalia during a UN mission in the early 1990s that went sour [portrayed in the movie *Black Hawk Down*]." Recent violent incidents have been sparked by the US government and supported by Ethiopia, which has become the economic powerhouse in the Horn of Africa.

Furthermore, it is a disturbing thought that it could be convenient and even advantageous for the US

and Ethiopia if Somalia's problems aren't resolved. The ARPCT and the Islamic courts have a long-standing fight over control of 21 October Road, which is an ex-army barracks where substantial amounts of weapons are stored.

The US supported the Somali ex-president, Siad Barre, so it could keep military access to a seaport called Berbera. The US then turned on him when its need for the seaport fell away. Now the US has regained an interest in Somalia. Since the events of September 11, 2001, increased attention has been paid to Somalia as the search for al-Qaeda terrorists spreads. Somalia could become the next "war on terror" battleground as Islamic and US forces zone in on the power vacuum in the country. The US and ARPCT are also appealing to the UN not to lift the arms embargo it imposed 14 years ago, as this will "spark more violence", according to Mohamed Afra Qanyre, a member of ARPCT. The US and ARPCT say that lifting the embargo will allow civilians and Islamic extremists to gain access to even more weaponry. But could the real reason why the US favours the embargo be that its removal would cause the US to lose military power and control in Somalia?

Do the ends justify the US's and ARPCT's means? According to the BBC, "More than 37 people have died since fighting began on Saturday February 18 – many of them civilians hit by stray bullets." What is to



All I'm saying is that if we don't even have a working government we might as well call ourselves the "Alliance for Gathering Pixie-Dust and Restoring Rainbows to the Sky!"

■ Matthew Ackermann

be done to solve this 15-year-old problem? More importantly, who is responsible for solving it? When does international intervention become international interference, and at what cost?

With Somalia's newly formed parliament being situated in neighbour-

ing Kenya, Mogadishu will remain a volatile capital. MPs still loyal to the warlords want parliament to sit in the capital city and as discontent over the parliament's location continues, innocent civilians continue to be caught in the political and military crossfire. Making matters worse, Somalia (along

with other countries) is going through a major drought, which makes survival amongst the bullets even harder. One has to wonder if Somalia can, like Somaliland, ever come to a peaceful solution with so many clans and entities vying for top position, seemingly opposed to progress.

What's Africa got to do with it?

■ Thato Motaung, Lloyd Meikle and Lindsey Berry

In the previous edition of *Activate*, columnist Harry Haddon discussed the recent controversy surrounding the allegedly derogatory cartoons of Mohammed which were published in a Danish newspaper. An interesting facet of this debate is the far-reaching impact of Islamic outrage over these cartoons, particularly in Africa. How is it that a publication on a completely different continent can spark mass protests and even violence in African countries? Are the protests due only to the nature of the cartoons, or did the cartoons provide an occasion for Muslims worldwide to show their dis-

content at a recent rise in anti-Islamic sentiment? Where does Africa fit into this picture?

Amidst the furore in the international press following the publication of the cartoons, one wise soul pointed out that in Denmark, Muslims make up only 4% of the entire population. In African countries where significant protests occurred, there are far larger proportions of Muslims. For instance, Nigeria's population is approximately 41% Muslim, and Libya's population is almost entirely Muslim.

Danish journalists claim that it was a test of the freedom of the press

to publish the cartoons. For African Muslims, however, it was an insult to their whole worldview. Heated protests were staged at numerous places across the continent. Some of the more notable acts of violence during the protests included the burning of churches in the Northern Nigerian towns of Borno and Katsina, resulting in 16 deaths. In Benghazi, Libya, the Italian consulate was set alight and cars were torched. Even in the traditionally tolerant country of Mozambique, a local newspaper which chose to reprint the cartoons was inundated by a crowd of 650

protestors.

The cartoon crisis has underlined the tense relationship between the Western and Islamic worlds. Terrorist attacks, the Iraqi war and nuclear disputes are but a few of the issues stirring up strong emotions between the two civilisations.

It is hard to pin down a starting point for these tensions. Liberal intellectuals such as Noam Chomsky say that the West's "unbridled use of power" caused rising Muslim anger. Chomsky believes that the aggressive American foreign policy has turned the United States into a "pariah state

which is greatly feared throughout the world, and is regarded as the greatest threat to world peace by substantial majorities".

Regardless of the causes for the unrest, violence should not be seen as a viable means of resistance.

The protests have caused much unnecessary strife across Africa. However, the controversy has not only caused isolated incidents of violence over Danish artistic ability, but also brought to the surface tender and complicated issues that affect the hearts of Africans across the continent.

Out in Africa – Openly Gay at what cost?

■ St Francis Tohlang, Katlego Disemelo and Nosipho Mngomezulu

The violent murder of Zoliswa Nkonyama has caused an uproar among many human rights groups in South Africa and the world at large. The International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, the South African Human Rights Commission and the Forum for the Empowerment of Women, among other enraged groups, have strongly condemned the killing of Nkonyama. The young woman from Khayelitsha in Cape Town was beaten and stoned to death on March 4 by a mob of men for being lesbian. Ironically, the murder comes shortly after the ruling by the South African Constitutional Court in favour of gay marriages.

The underlying question is whether or not Africa has progressed in terms of its perspective on the issue of homosexuality. The traditional African belief system states that homosexual-

ity is unnatural and not African and that any sign of it should be immediately eradicated. Do these beliefs justify the killing or was it a heinous crime that violently infringed upon Nkonyama's right to life, sexual freedom and expression? In 29 African countries it is illegal to be gay and in 20 it is illegal to be lesbian. Across the globe, eyebrows were raised in cynical derision at Africa's reactionary perspective on this issue and its reluctance to obliterate discrimination against homosexuals.

Homosexuality is accepted in South Africa and its flag is flown high by the constitutional court. The public has progressed with regards to its tolerance of sexual diversity and preference.

A small-scale survey was conducted at Rhodes to see the responses towards homosexuality on our mul-

ticultural and multilingual campus. Of the 37 females, 46 males and 17 unspecified individuals, 61% believe that homosexuality is a western influence, 57% believe it is not African and 87% believe in their respective country's or culture's view of homosexuality.

Some anonymous opinions were that people come to Rhodes because it strongly upholdshuman rights. Others said that gay people are lost and need to find themselves, and others that Rhodes has such a vast number of different cultures that everyone just seems to accept the differences.

Such dialogue suggests that young contemporary South Africans are discussing issues of sexual diversity and orientation. It also suggests that these young Africans can, and maybe will, change the negative views that cloud the issue of homosexuality in Africa.



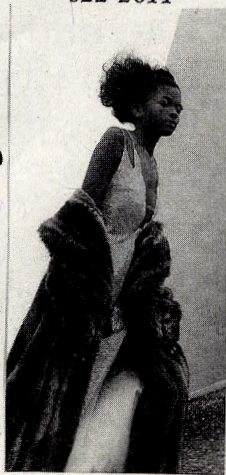
Gay Pride at the Pink Lorie in Knysna

■ Bianca Camminga

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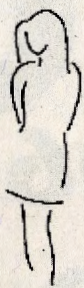
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	Picnics

National

In contact with all other SA university SRCs, ensuring issues common to all South African Students issues are fought for.



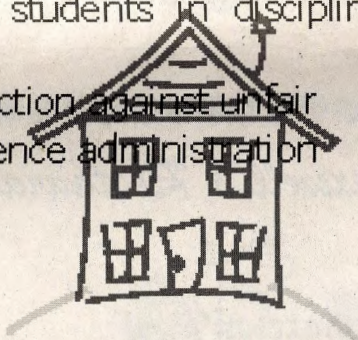
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SRC

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From the world's biggest pineapple to the sandy shores of Kenton and Port Alfred, we take a look at where Rhodents go on those precious days when they escape from Grahamtown.

Pics by: Dan Calderwood, Cassidy Parker, John Breton, Joanne Mellon, Philippa Ehrlich & Lauren Clifford-Holmes





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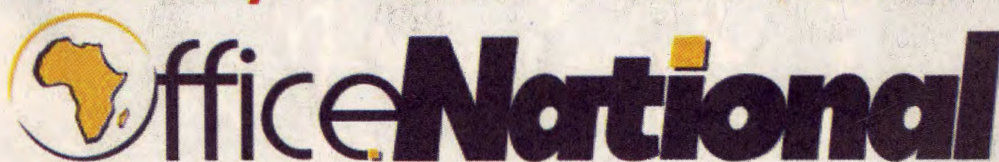
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Mapham: our provincial champion

■ Siobhan Louw from *Tryline Productions*

Fourth-year Rhodes student Kate Mapham is one of the university's finest athletes, evidenced by her recent achievements at both the Eastern Province and South African Triathlon Championships.

At the Eastern Province Triathlon Championships in February, Mapham was the first woman in her age group to complete the race, and finished third overall. Finishing in 2hr32mins, this was the first time Mapham competed in an Olympian distance race. The race was comprised of a 1.5km swim, 40km cycle and 10km run. "It was the biggest single event I have ever taken part in and it was incredible" said Mapham.

At the recent South African Championships in Richards Bay, Mapham finished fifth in her age group exceeding her previous time by only two minutes.

The next big event is the World Championships in Switzerland in September. "I'm really hoping I get to go, it's just a matter of applying for sponsorships and finding adequate funding," she says.

The triathlon season is drawing to a close as winter approaches. In the months to come, Mapham will be more involved in duathlons which con-

sist of a 10km run, a 40km cycle and a 5km run.

Mapham has been a keen sports-woman and athlete all her life. Her focus in high school was on hockey, but athletics was always at the back of her mind. She says that she has been putting off competing because of an injury, but this year has decided to give it her all.

Mapham follows a strict training regime which sees her trying to do at least two disciplines a day. "I'm trying to train more so that I switch between the disciplines where I do one exercise and then switch immediately into another," said Mapham. This is necessary in order to get her muscles used to changing between the different types of exercise.

Mapham finds it challenging to balance time between training, friends and academics, but for her it is just a case of good time management. "I believe that the more you do the more you fit in and where there's a will there's a way," she says.

The PGCE student is positive about her future as an athlete, "I love sport and I plan on doing as much as I can for as long as I can." Future athletic plans include completing the Ironman competition in Port Elizabeth.



Kate Mapham ready for the ride

■ Phillipa Ehrlich

Results

GOLF

Rhodes Medal compo Saturday 4 March 2006

- | | |
|-----|-----------------------------------|
| 1st | Simon Hill |
| 2nd | Matt Law |
| 3rd | Grant Edkins |
| 4th | Tim McDougall and Russell Bennett |
| 6th | Peter Morcombe |
| 7th | Geoff Goble |

Ladies

- | | |
|----|-------------------|
| 1. | Katie Nottingham |
| 2. | Genna Snyman |
| 3. | Briar Ingram Lock |
| 4. | Emma Holland |

CRICKET

4 March

Rhodes 2nd (Rats) vs Manley Flats
Rhodes 260 all out after 49.4 overs

Rhodes top batting

J Bandy 54

G Brownlee 32

Manley Flats 110 all out after 31 overs

Rhodes Top Bowling

M. Beaumont 4 for 38

M. Strokes 3 for 6

Rhodents won by 150 runs

Inter-res water polo



Polo players battle it out in the pool on Saturday 11 March

■ Anwer Evans and Matthew Middleton

Golf competitions tee off in G-town

■ Oliver Field

Every second Friday afternoon a host of young, keen golfers get ready to showcase their golfing talents.

The Grahamstown Golf Club runs a popular bi-weekly nine-hole competition aimed particularly at students, from beginners to low handicappers, at a special rate of R15. Players can arrive at the club ready to play at any time after 2pm, and bookings are not necessary. Along with the great atmosphere generated from the golf itself, competitors can also win prizes ranging from gift vouchers to bottles of wine. Competition specials at the bar also ensure good times for all long after the sun has gone down.

The Grahamstown Golf Club was founded in 1891, and has always been an important feature in town. It has a small, but friendly membership,

and is happy to accept new golfers. The club's profits are generated from the bar alone, making the greens fees very reasonable. It hosts a general competition every weekend and offers free lessons from 4pm to 6pm every Monday afternoon.

The Rhodes Golf Club is another exciting place for student golfers to get involved. Players on the team pay discounted member rates at the Grahamstown Golf Club, and are also provided with an opportunity to meet other young golfers.

The team also organises trips, most recently to Bushman Sands in Alicedale, as well as many other events.

It seems as though golf is definitely on the up at Rhodes and this year promises to be successful for all those involved in the game.

The woes and the worries of Bafana Bafana

■ Jonathan Cook, Mkatoko Mdlhuli and Mvuzo Ponono

Unless you have been living in a cave for the last half a year, you are probably well aware of the plight of South Africa's national soccer team, Bafana Bafana. Following their dismal effort to qualify for the World Cup later this year, the team then went on to reach new depths by being knocked out of the 2006 African Cup of Nations (AFCON) in the first round. Their record for the tournament was three games played, three games lost and a total of zero goals scored with five goals scored against. Bafana finished not only at the bottom of their group, but were statistically the worst team at the tournament.

We asked some Rhodents what they thought of our team's recent performance. Rodney Louw, a first year Bachelor of Economics student, said he was naturally disappointed

because he would like to support his home team, but as a soccer fan he makes do with following the English Premier League. Louw admits that "it is quite embarrassing considering we are hosting the 2010 World Cup". He is not sure what the South African Football Association (SAFA) should do about it but suggests that "SAFA must simply employ the best staff possible and stamp out corruption."

Murray Barlow said "[Bafana Bafana] have been unlucky, but at the same time don't have any play-makers, real team spirit or game plan. As for who is to blame; the selectors for not choosing an experienced enough team, the coach for not formulating a winning game plan and the players for not pulling their weight and being selfish."

So what has led us to this sad state of affairs? A brief analysis of statistics provides some evidence which may

help explain why South Africa is in a period of transition. Look at the current twenty three man squad which performed at the AFCON. Thirteen of these players have yet to reach double figure caps, and the average number of caps per player is 17.2. Compare this with the squad from the World Cup 2002, where only four of those players had yet to reach double figure caps and the average number of caps was significantly higher at 251.

While this may suggest that their poor results are down to an inexperienced squad, it cannot account for just how poor the side has been. Anyone who is familiar with international football knows that such results cannot be explained so neatly.

Occasionally managers are sacked because the powers that be require a convenient scapegoat. In the case of former Bafana Bafana coach Stuart

Baxter's dismissal, one must consider that he went nine games without a win prior to his resignation. Was he entirely to blame though? While the coach must assume responsibility for the team and their results, there is only so much one can do without the full support of both the players and governing body.

A great number of SA players have been charged with misconduct at both club and national levels. One must take into account that such disruptions are going to affect team performances adversely. A brief catalogue of the lack of discipline highlights this issue. The following players all faced disciplinary hearings with their respective clubs: Jabu Pule was given a warning for going AWOL before a cup final. He repeated this offence and was subsequently fired from his club and dropped from

the SA squad. Gift Leremi was not considered for the squad because of his ill-discipline. Pirates issued him a formal warning by for turning up drunk at a training session. Vuyo Mere went to the AFCON tournament although he was facing a drinking and driving case. Sipho Nunens, who has a cap for Bafana, has been struggling to maintain a position at club level. He had his contracts with Sundowns and Bloemfontein Celtic terminated due to misconduct. Scarra Ngobese was dropped from the Bafana squad after not turning up to training sessions with Kaiser Chiefs following his recovery from an injury.

If we wish to see a successful Bafana Bafana in the future we need to get behind our team. They need to rediscover the pride of putting on the SA jersey and we need to rediscover our joy in supporting them.

Cricket is no longer just a gentleman's game

■ Tracy Chemaly

Cricket, traditionally known as the gentleman's game, was adapted in the eighteenth century to accommodate women. The overhand bowling gesture we have all grown up with used to be thrown underhand before 1864. It was then adapted because the women's wide dresses kept getting in the way. Women used to play with their male counterparts in the early days of the sport.

Now, free of fashion restrictions, women's cricket has taken off at Rhodes. With a squad of 18 players, two of whom play for the Border women's side, the Rhodes women's cricket team is striving to win this year's all-women Border Grand Challenge Premier League.

After much interest shown to Rhodes' cricket administration for a women's side, Neville Botha was approached to head up the women's team. The team he started training in July last year proved well worth their enthusiasm by winning the 2005 Tertiary Institutions Tournament less than two months later.



■ Sean Messham

Botha, who previously trained the Rhodes men's cricket side for five years, is excited about his new team. Only about four of the women have previous cricket experience. Botha himself a Border player, enjoys taking the time to focus on every player. Although much practice happens in the nets, Botha also gives attention to fielding skills and helps with fitness training. He says the best part of coaching women is the way they get

excited when a catch is taken. "It's like they passed their degree," he says.

Babalwa Magoqwana (captain) and Caville Stuurman were chosen to play for Border last year. First year student Nicola Wannenburg is predicted to join the provincial side this year. The all-rounder is opening Rhodes' bowling and batting at number four. Botha likens her fast bowling ability to that of Makhaya Ntini. This in itself is a great complement to any fast bowler.

When the women kit themselves in their Sedga pads and pick up their bats, sponsored by BAS, one can be sure they are ready for a good game. The only differences found in their game, in comparison to that of the men's, is that they play 35 overs per innings, their ball is smaller and lighter and their boundaries are shorter.

Although the women find their practices beneficial, they would like to be more competitive. The lack of other women sides in Grahamstown means that they are unable to have any warm-up friendlies in preparation for big games. Opportunities are being looked at for starting up school or township teams.

The team's next fixtures are against Fort Hare and Eastern Cape Technicon. Rhodes should be hosting 12 teams in the SA Universities Ladies' Cricket Tournament in April this year, but the Prospect field is not up to standard. The field, which was too hard for play is being re-soiled. The tournament will move to Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU) if necessary.

From left field

■ Tim Hancox

Who said cricket was a boring game? On Sunday March 12, the scorers at the Wanderers needed their calculators more than ever before. In the decider of the five-match series between South Africa and Australia, the crowd certainly got their money's worth. From the Piet Retief common room I observed a game I will never forget.

With the wicket as flat as it has ever been and, a lightning fast outfield it was a bowler's worst nightmare. The Australians posted a world record total of 434 for 4, which is nearly 50 runs more than the previous best. Most realistic people predicted a woeful loss, with the SA team choking in yet another final. Not even a die-hard drunken fan could have predicted what was to come. Through some extraordinary shots and an array of boundaries, Smith and Gibbs got the innings off to a fantastic start. The numbers in the common room grew as we started to believe in miracles. Gibbs then proceeded to score the fastest hundred by a South African. In the excitement, somebody shouted "Gibbs is the new Chuck Norris". A little later most of the country was glued to their televisions as the scorers battled to keep up. Gibbs was then caught at long off, followed by several groans from his newly-formed campus fan club. There was a cry of "He can have any girl in SA he wants tonight."

As the end of the game approached, all the cynics from earlier in the day had transformed into optimistic supporters, with comments like "I told you we could do it."

In the final overs, with the game on the line, wickets started to fall all around me ever-resilient Mark Boucher. It came down to the last over, as infamous as it had been in the 1999 World Cup semifinal. With only two runs needed the last man Makhaya Ntini strode to the middle. He confidently pushed a single off the fastest bowler in the world to put Boucher on strike with one run required for victory. The chant of "one more, one more" began in the now tightly-packed room.

As the winning runs were struck, SA coach Mickey Arthur fell out of the change room in excitement. The celebrations began as SA scored the highest ever total against the world champions, Australia. On winning man of the match Gibbs said, "I hope the crowd go to work tomorrow with a moersaabelaas."

Inter-res swimming



Friday March 10 saw intense inter-res swimming action under the spotlight at the RHodes pool

■ Anwen Evans

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