

# activate

Independent student newspaper at Rhodes University  
O-Week Edition 2006

PROUDLY  
SOUTH AFRICAN



**03**  
Banish the boredom blues



**07**  
One night in G-town



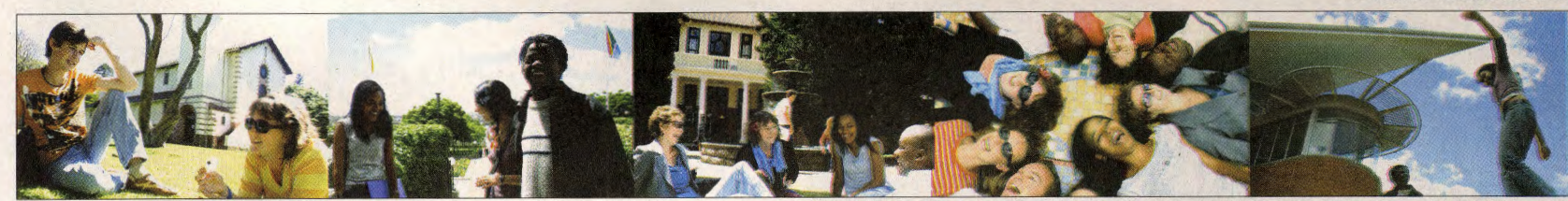
**10**  
Student activism: banishing apathy



■ Lauren Clifford-Holmes



■ Matthew Middleton



Rhodes' motto is "Where leaders learn" – not only about theories and formulas, but also about themselves and life in general, riding on the bicycle sculpture (top right) is prohibited



■ Lauren Clifford-Holmes

## Rhodes – the heartbeat of Grahamstown

■ Delia de Villiers and Michael Salzwedel

Rhodes may be the smallest university in the country, but it is undeniably Grahamstown's defining feature. However, Rhodes is not all there is to this town. There's a bunch of other stuff going on – and it doesn't take too much effort to find out what.

Grahamstown is alive with heritage and culture. It is home to more than 100 churches, a number of reputed private schools and (what can actually be) a fascinating range of libraries and museums.

For example, the South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity houses the second largest fish collection in the southern hemisphere, while the Observatory Museum is home to the

southern hemisphere's only Victorian Camera Obscura – a device which projects a live, full-colour panorama of the town onto a flat viewing surface.

A visit to the information centre opposite the Cathedral, or to [www.grahamstown.co.za](http://www.grahamstown.co.za), is recommended if you're serious about getting to know the town you're going to be in for the next few years.

A small town environment allows for practical opportunities for students to become meaningfully involved with the community. The poverty and hardships experienced by many locals is widely addressed by student volunteer groups, while sports and social clubs regularly organise fund-raising events in aid of local welfare and charities.

Getting involved and giving back to the community is deeply rewarding, and will make your time here that much more significant.

But enough about Grahamstown, what about Rhodes – the place at which you'll laugh, cry, make awesome friends, find out who you are, challenge your mind and hopefully get a degree as a cherry on top?

Well, for starters, the staff-to-student ratio at Rhodes is excellent (1:15), which ensures that students can get individual attention if needed – a luxury not many other South African universities can lay claim to.

The quality of a Rhodes education is really something to be appreciated – many of the university's academics

are internationally renowned. Rhodes' staff and post-graduate students have one of the highest per capita research outputs in the country.

However, the underlying ethos seems to be 'work hard, play hard' – with Rhodes students having one of the highest per capita alcohol inputs in the country. This diversity enhances the overall Rhodes experience; and if you're thinking that the diversity extends to a book in one hand and a beer in the other, think again. There are sports, social and cultural clubs that cater for all interests.

Rhodes provides the environment and opportunity to push your physical boundaries, develop your personality and form solid friendships by trying

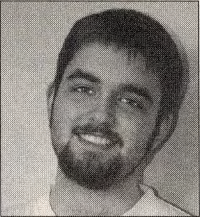
things you might otherwise have not.

The university is a melting pot of people from all over of the world, who come together with different backgrounds, cultures, beliefs and values – working, living and playing together. Rhodes' motto is "where leaders learn" – not only about theories and formulas, but also about themselves and life in general.

So, while you may have groaned and grumbled your way into this stiflingly hot and at first worryingly small town a few hours or days ago, hopefully you've realised or will come to realise that tens of thousands of students before you couldn't have been wrong. Your unique Rhodes experience has just begun – embrace it.



# Editorial A welcome from the VC



**■ Peter Barlow**  
Welcome to Rhodes for those of you who have just joined us and welcome back to everyone else. The year ahead will undoubtedly be an interesting one. With Rhodes getting a new VC and revised closing times for pubs and clubs in Grahamstown, life as we know it could change both on and off campus.

It is due to Rhodes' reputation for having the highest alcohol consumption per capita than any other university in South Africa that I would like to talk about the aforementioned closing times. Officially, at the time of going to press, the new closing times for pubs and clubs in our little town is midnight on weeknights and 2am on weekends. What a shock, considering the party only really begins at around 11pm. Therefore, these new rules could seriously curtail a bona fide night out on the town for students at Rhodes.

But in my mind it boils down to respect - not only for others but also for yourself. Indeed, permanent residents in New Street, where most of the pubs and clubs are located, cited noise pollution and general bad behaviour from the students revelling into the early hours as their main reasons for lobbying to have the drinking spots' trading hours limited.

The concerns felt by the residents of Grahamstown's party street came about from a lack of respect for others on the part of both the students and the club owners. Having said this I do tend to agree with those who point out that the residents of the street know what goes on there, and that if they want peace and quiet then they should move elsewhere in the town. However, I hasten to add that we should try to look at this situation from both sides for once.

*Activate* ran a Flipside article last year concerning this very issue, with the resident's clear and concise argument gave the rather pathetic argument put forth by the student a resounding thrashing.

The truth of the matter is that the closing times are not going to stop students from drinking and partying - they'll just get drunk elsewhere, in lesser-controlled and potentially more dangerous environments. The phenomenon of having pre-drinks in digs or res before going out could start to fade. As a result of this, digs parties may spring up every evening, prompting some critics of the new rules to say that the noise will now be channelled away from New Street into the suburbs, thus creating more problems instead of solving them.

This, quite frankly, could mean that drinking in Grahamstown has just gotten a whole lot more dangerous. But it doesn't have to be so. This is where respect for yourself comes into play. If you drink responsibly (I know, I know it's such a tired phrase), you're better equipped to avoid trouble in its many guises, thus ensuring a happier night out. But in the end, let's face it: it's not about where you go or how much you drink, it's about the people close to you with whom you share the experience - your friends who are there with you every step of the way.

So, respect others, respect yourself, and turn to page 3 to find out what else there is to do in this place. We at *Activate* pledge to keep you informed and entertained every two weeks during term time. Bye for now!

## Dear Students and Parents

Welcome to Rhodes University! It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the Rhodes family, and to ensure you that you have made the right choice in selecting Rhodes University as your home for the next few years.

This year promises to be an exciting one for our institution. Not only are we working on a number of new building developments, including new lecture theatres, increased parking spaces and the magnificent new African Media Matrix (AMM), but we're making sure there are more opportunities available to you, the students.

Our community engagement initiatives are bigger and better than ever

before, and there is plenty of scope for you to step off campus and into the greater Grahamstown community - where you can get involved, and learn valuable things about yourself and the world around you.

In 2006, nearly 6 000 students will be enrolled at the University, including a number of international post-graduates who have traveled from all over the world to enjoy a quality education at South Africa's smallest university. We boast an excellent research output rate, and still have the smallest student to staff ratio - at 15.3 to 1, we are the best in the country. Our size is an integral part of our strength, and I am pleased to report that we have no

plans to triple or even double student numbers for a very, very long time.

Our residence system is also among the best in the country, and will play a vital role in acclimatising you and offering you a solid personal support base. The friends you make here - whether in residence, in your classes or in social circles - are friends you will keep for life.

Last year we added a number of sophisticated and valuable features to our already top-rate security systems. Rhodes is a very safe campus, but I urge you to familiarise yourself with the designated "safe" routes, and to take note of the panic buttons located around campus. Campus Protection

Unit guards are available to escort any student on campus at any time of the day or night, so please don't hesitate to contact them if you would like to take advantage of this service.

The opportunity for growth and self-discovery at Rhodes University is limitless. You will find yourself supported and challenged, both academically and extramurally, through your regular attendance of lectures and your involvement in any number of excellent student societies.

You are now part of the Rhodes family, and we're happy to welcome you to the fold!

Yours sincerely  
**Dr David Woods**

# Activate's guide to G-Town lingo

■ Compiled by members of the *Activate* team

## All-nighter

**Noun:** The result of many hours of solid procrastination that results in (usually Humanities) students having to pull an all-nighter (work all night) to finish an assignment by deadline. Not recommended for students who don't cope well with sleep deprivation. See 'BP run'.

## Arb

**Adjective:** Used to describe an incident or situation that was rather pointless.

**Noun:** Used to describe a course that one undertakes just for the credit, eg: I'm taking Sociology as my arb.

## Bushdiving

**Noun:** The act of launching your person at some dense, unsuspecting bushes, usually while one is under the influence of alcohol (see 'Arb'). Possibly has the added bonus of landing on a puff-adder or sprinkler head, or getting excluded from res (we're not joking).

## BP run

**Noun:** An act that arises out of a dire need for some munchies. The 24-hour Kwikspar at the BP on African Street is quite literally a lifesaver. Ironically, the act very seldom involves any running. See 'all-nighter'.

## Cane train

**Verb:** To consume the world's second vilest form of alcohol (cane) in order to get horribly inebriated. Has the nasty side effects of fatigued liver and falling off said train earlier than

expected. Not an encouraged activity.

## Cotch Creek

**Noun:** Natural river gorge that flows between the residences of Jan Smuts Hall. Commonly reeks of the putrid after-effects of an ill-ending night out. Hint: avoid bushdiving here. It is much deeper than it looks, and if you survive, you will probably need a tetanus shot.

## Crackling

**Proper noun:** The world's vilest form of alcohol (see 'Cane train'). Could have been wine if the grapes it was made from were harvested earlier. Also known as "memory loss in a bottle".

## Dawnie

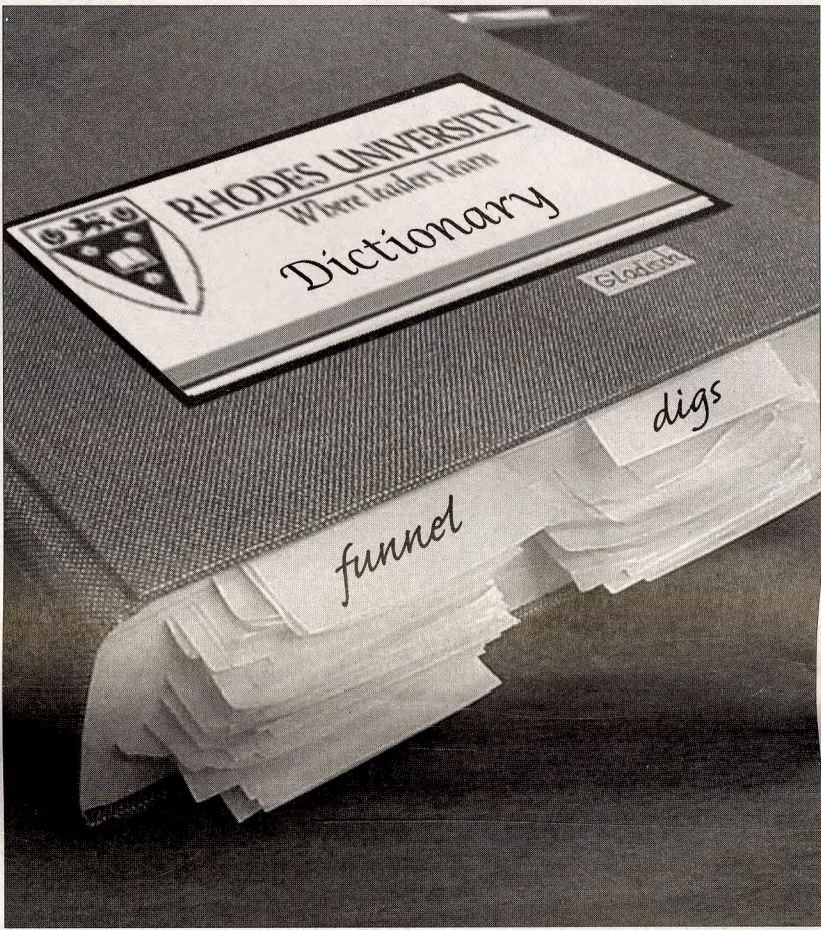
**Noun:** A lecture slot that begins at 7:45am. Widely accepted as the greatest threat to student sleep patterns. Enough said.

## Kaif

**Proper noun:** This is a word that we're quite certain is only used here at Rhodes and at Fort Hare East London. Day Kaif or Dolphin Kaif refers to the café near the library, while Main Kaif refers to the defunct café in the Union building. Old Kaif is a lecture venue.

## Naps

**Noun:** Short for nap-overs. A sleep-over in another res room, commonly undertaken by people who are too lazy or inebriated to reach their own rooms. May also refer to activities engaged in during the process of



■ Graphic by Gregor Röhrig

naps, eg: "Did you hear, Jane had naps with John?"

## Seal-clubbing

**Verb:** Act engaged in by older male students to lure unsuspecting female first-years into their rooms, or engage in other dubious activities. See 'Naps'.

## Walk of shame

**Noun:** The embarrassing return to one's place of residence after a long night on the town.

If the sun has not yet risen, it is not classified as a walk of shame. See 'Naps'.

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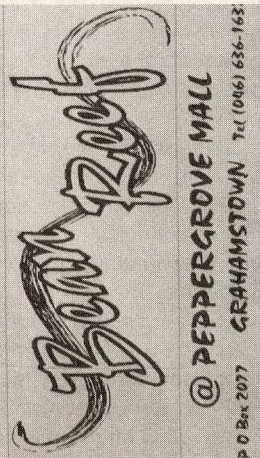
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# No need for G-Town boredom

You're up-to-date with work, sick and tired of New Street, and left twiddling your thumbs. What now?

■ Lindsey Tainton, Tami Duncan and Ciro De Siena

Being a first-year at Rhodes brings with it a flood of new experiences, but perhaps the new recruits won't fully realise at first what exists past the pubs and clubs. Eventually the everyday hum-drum will get under your skin, quite literally driving you up the Alec Mullins climbing wall (which is, incidentally, a very good boredom zapper). In light of this, *Activate* decided to step in and help you avoid the mundane.

If you feel like something a bit mellow, movies at the cinema in the Pepper Grove Mall or watching a drama production at the Rhodes Theatre is a fantastic way to get a taste of another world – and it's budget-friendly too.

Grahamstown has a fascinating history and The Albany Observatory Museum, on Bathurst Street (the one with KFC), and Egazini Outreach Project in Grahamstown East, are great places to educate yourself. The Observatory offers one of only two Victorian Camera Obscura's in the world, which has to be seen to be believed.

This clever device, from the 19th Century, reflects birds-eye view images of the town onto something like a satellite dish. Despite its age, the images reflected by the Observatory are remarkably clear and are real-time, which means you could spot your mates doing a bit of shopping on High Street.

The Egazini Outreach Project aims to give you a taste of Grahamstown's cultural diversity. It is a haven for underprivileged artists and also focuses on educating Grahamstonians about the Battle of Grahamstown in 1819. Tours are available and both the above facilities offer student discounts.

If you are more adventurous and have adrenaline pumping through your veins then why not give skydiving or paintball a go. The Grahamstown Airstrip is just five minutes from campus and EP Skydivers are more than willing to help you throw yourself out of a perfectly good plane.



There is an abundance of interesting people to meet and things to try in Grahamstown

There are also various dams surrounding the university campus where you can spend the day braaing, swimming or canoeing with friends. If sport is your ballgame, you will not be disappointed either.

Grahamstown, especially Rhodes, offers an array of sporting disciplines and facilities, many of which are free to join or make use of. The Alec Mullins Sports Complex offers, among

others, nine squash courts, a multi-purpose sports hall, an aerobics studio, a climbing wall, a swimming pool, a martial arts dojo and a fully-fledged gym.

If you feel like fun in the sun but without the water and the travel, the Rhodes Botanical Gardens is an incredible feature of the campus. Located near Eden Grove, the Bot Gardens is a place where having a pic-



■ Pics by Lauren Clifford-Holmes

nic or a lazy stroll is never regretted.

If you are lucky enough to have opportunity to steal a second out of your busy schedule, why not go up to the Toposcope, past the caravan park, and spend the night stargazing. Another great place to spend your evening is the 1820 Settlers Monument, that large random building on the hill. Finally, if it still feels like Grahamstown is still closing in on you,

Bathurst, Port Alfred and Kenton are under an hour away.

Cottages are cheap to rent, but chances are you'll know someone who knows someone whose aunty has a house there.

Hopefully we've proved that you don't need chemicals to escape the common symptoms of G-Town boredom. Check your welcome pack for more details.

## The Centre for Social Development: Rhodes students volunteer

■ Cassidy Parker

You cannot separate student life at Rhodes University from the world beyond the Drostdy Arch.

The university and the Grahamstown community are intimately linked, partly because of the size of Grahamstown, partly because of its endearing nature, and mostly out of necessity. The Student Volunteer Programme run by Rhodes University's Centre for Social Development provides students with the opportunity to go beyond the confines of academia and student-based societies and sports clubs.

The Student Volunteer Programme helps Rhodes students in using their particular skills and interests to benefit non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and schools in the Grahamstown community. In a town, in a province, in a country in such need of assistance and support on every level, volunteering is highly appreciated and those who volunteer are enriched. There are approximately 20 different NGOs and schools for which any student can volunteer. These range from shelters for children in need to pre-schools, HIV/Aids testing and counselling clinics, hospitals, libraries, general community centres,



Volunteering to assist the Grahamstown community can be a deeply rewarding experience

old age homes, sports clubs and many others. There is a place for everyone to get involved. All that is needed is a little time, a little know-how and as much passion as can be mustered.

Any student who commits to the volunteer programme gives at least one hour of work once a week during term time. At the beginning of each year a series of introductory workshops are held, which are designed to prepare those who have not volunteered

before for situations they may encounter. Workshops, talks and fundraisers take place throughout the year, culminating in a year-end function which recognises student volunteers for the contributions they have made.

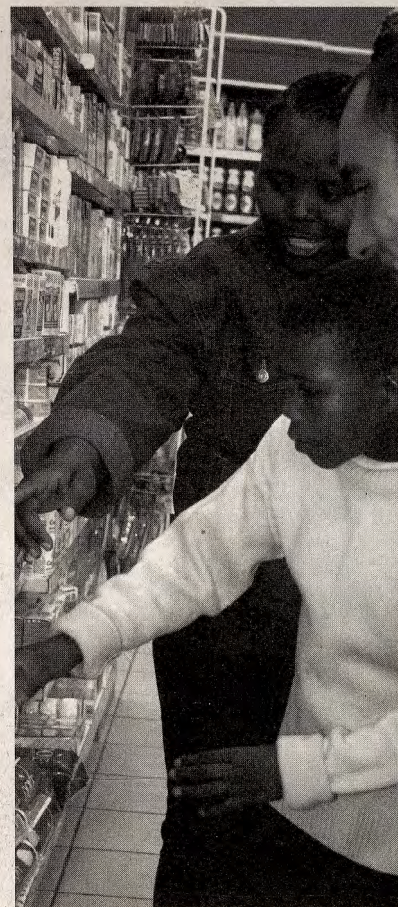
For any further information, Helen Hayes, the community engagement assistant at the Centre for Social Development, can be contacted at 046 603 8573 or via e-mail at h.hayes@ru.ac.za. Student volunteer-

ing application forms are available on the internet at [http://www.ru.ac.za/community/student\\_volunteer](http://www.ru.ac.za/community/student_volunteer).

The Student Volunteer Programme provides an outlet for those who recognise the close connection between the university and the community in this little town, and crave involvement with the community.

The atmosphere is invigorating; the experience unique. There is much to be done.

■ Lauren Clifford-Holmes



■ Lauren Clifford-Holmes



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# Welcome to Rhodes

Six Rhodents give you some bite-sized opinions to chew on

■ Compiled by the Activate Features and Photography teams



## Social Life

Denys Gray  
BA  
2nd year (2005)

I love the fact that I see beautiful people from the moment I run out the door in the morning until I collapse on my pillow at night. Going to lectures is a good excuse to see who I can run into, and if I'm lucky, on the way home I'll bump into someone who has milk. Then I can think of a good way to justify spending my time drinking tea, laughing and being with those who make my life shine. I don't really like the boozing culture, so I find my fun in keeping myself busy; in the vibrating colour of the daytime, and in getting caught in the rain or being sidetracked by sun-warmed grass. It is highly impractical to pursue studies in such close proximity of potential fun. For me, I guess there's nothing more satisfying than connecting with people I trust about things that matter most. It's even nice to be allowed to be sad sometimes. My friends are my family; they've taught me how to pull away the dusty surfaces of life and reach for the gold that glimmers beneath.



## Oppi Life

Yazeed Kamaldien  
Media Management Diploma  
Postgraduate (2005)

Living in digs must be the closest you'll ever get to living at home when studying away from home. There's no routine dining hall line-ups for meals, a lot more privacy than in res and also a sense of identity that you can sometimes lose when you're surrounded by the same faces and voices day-in and day-out on campus.

If you prefer the flexibility of living in digs, eating at unregulated times, and have a taste for something a little different. The other option of course is to learn how to cook - a part of life that I still have plenty to learn about!



## Rhodes Myths

Jonathan Davy  
BA  
3rd year (2005)

Having been here for three years, I know about several myths that have been created at Rhodes, as happens at most schools and universities. One such myth or urban legend centres around a very important activity for some individuals and a frightening experience to others: sex. The myth holds that the day that a virgin leaves Rhodes and walks past the statue outside the Great Hall, the statue will raise the sword that it holds. The thing is, no one has ever witnessed this, and therefore one can assume that it's a load of bollocks. Or do all Rhodents leave university having lost their virginity? Who can say?

This is directly linked to the next myth, one that is somewhat controversial. It is said that if a girl spends the night with a guy three times, or vice-versa, it constitutes a relationship. Now this doesn't expound on the activities that the couple get up to, but it also depends on how important the people involved perceive nap-overs to be and how keen they are for each other. A sign of the times is the increased amount of random scoring and nap-overs that occur at Rhodes. Even if a pair nap with each other more than three times, which really does happen, they may still not be officially hooked up. This is a lot better than just continuous random scoring: with all the dangers out there, a semi-involved pair is a lot safer. But again, it all depends on each individual's perception. Just be safe.

Another myth centres on the Drosdy Arch. The arch has two pillars on either side of it, which apparently, if one walks through the pillars instead of through the main arch, that individual will fail the exams. Having not walked through the pillars, I wouldn't know what the effects would be. I mean, who would actually use that as an excuse to account for failing? You fail because you mess around, you drink too much, you don't go to lectures or you don't find the balance between social and work time.



## O-Week Events

Telana Halley  
LLB  
3rd year (2005)

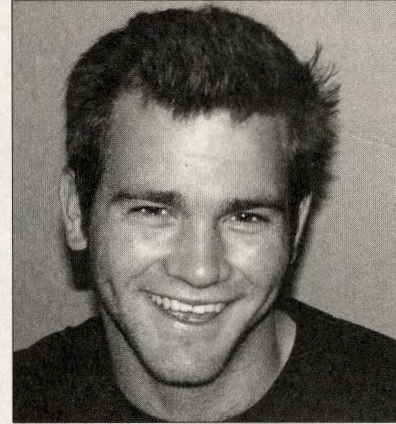
This week is the culmination of fun, new experiences, and also - believe it or not - finding out what steps to take to better your career path.

As part of the O-week 2005 organising committee we had an awesome time putting together the O-week program. Well, besides sweating blood for three weeks. Last year's SRC planned an O-week filled with events that catered for everyone. These included a Jazz in the Park Concert, a Bob Marley Open Mic session, a Comedy Evening, a Champagne Premiere, the Cell-C Amazing Race Challenge and the end of O-week bash. In my opinion, and I'm sure many of the first years will agree, O-week was fantastic!

The question is - how did we put it all together? With a lot of hard work would be the obvious answer, but in all honesty we had to work together as a team. Whether it meant staying up until 3am delivering invitations by hand to every residence on campus, or giving walking tours in the sweltering 30 degree heat wearing orange overalls, or accosting people to buy tickets to the Champagne Premiere, the SRC of 2005 did this together! This is the key to an organised and successful O-week.

My advice for all the first years would be to take in everything about O-week. You may want to go home, but don't miss out. You'll meet so many new and interesting people. So go on, stop hiding away in your res room and go to at least one of the SRC O-week functions...you won't be sorry!

Telana Halley was SRC President 2005.



## Rhodes Relationships

Kiernan Walsh  
BA  
1st year (2005)

I remember being told by a wise graduate just before I arrived at Rhodes that your first year is for fun and relationships should be avoided at all costs. I quickly learnt that this is easier said than done however, and so I speak with experience on this topic. Some make it, some don't and others don't even make it through the first night. But no matter how long they last, relationships at Rhodes require a lot of work. Unless you are really committed, chances are things will fall apart quicker than Pick 'n' Pay sells Crackling on a Friday. There are also a couple of warning signs to watch out for, particularly pertaining to the initial stages of the relationship. If you first kissed the person at Friar's or Equilibrium after one in the morning, you may want to be slightly wary. If you first kissed them in Mr. Burger, be very wary! But, as bad as it all might sound, there are those who are lucky enough to find themselves in steady relationships. This has the added benefit of meaning you probably won't be one of the many who stay until closing time at Friar's or Equilibrium, scanning the dance floor for anything with a pulse. So good luck with your relationships this year, chances are you will need it!



## Res Life

Rumbidzai Jokonya  
BAcc  
2nd year (2005)

Being a young Zimbabwean girl fresh out of high school and away from the confines of my over-protective parents for the first time, coming to Rhodes was a new experience for me. I was going to be in a new country, living with people I knew nothing about; one can begin to imagine how terrified I was. I didn't know what to expect and I began to question why I had chosen to live with fifty other girls in a house with a warden. So much for the freedom I had travelled thousands of kilometres for.

To my surprise, res life was not bad at all. I felt comfortable around almost everyone in my res. The few rules that are there are only for safety and tolerable communal living. After the first night I realised that I could come and go as I pleased; I was overwhelmed. The icing on the cake was intervisiting. Having come from an all-girls' high school, you can understand why I was so excited.

Res life is as much fun as you make it, especially in first year, because this is where you build lifetime friendships and build a tolerant attitude to people of different cultures. Living in res is the best, especially in first-year, so to the new first years: ENJOY!!

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# To the point with...

## Bryony Green: SRC President 2005/2006

So who exactly did Rhodes students elect to represent their interests in 2006? Student Representative Council (SRC) President Bryony Green talks to Ines Schumacher.

**Q.** How old are you and where are you from?  
**A.** I'm 21 and I'm from Zimbabwe.

**Q.** If you have any spare time, what do you enjoy doing?  
**A.** Hobby-wise, I love to read and I'm a great cricket fan. I was involved in Give 5 last year, I was Golden Key President and I was also sub-warden in Oriol. I absolutely love living in res.

**Q.** We heard that you're going to get married. Tell us about that.  
**A.** My fiancé's name is David. He asked me to marry him in Hogsback, it was lovely. We're getting married at the end of this year. He'll have finished his Masters and I'll have finished my Honours then. I think if I had been working for years, getting married at 22 wouldn't be so strange. It's only at varsity that it's weird.

**Q.** What do you plan to do after varsity?  
**A.** I'm not actually sure. I think I'd like to study forever, so being an academic is probably what I want to do.

**Q.** On to work-related issues, what exactly does the SRC President do?  
**A.** I'm here to liaise with the students, to find out what their needs are and to put that forward to University admin. Each hall rep has a specific portfolio and I'm here to coordinate those. I actually think I was quite underprepared. I didn't realise the amount of work and the amount of responsibility that I would have.

**Q.** You originally ran for a different position on the SRC. How did you become SRC President?  
**A.** The constitution is a little murky on this. You actually run for a position on the executive. The person who gets the most votes gets to be President. I didn't. Mike Winn did, but he was a first year, so he couldn't be President. I got the next amount of votes. I thought I could probably do the most good in this position.

**Q.** What personal attributes do you have that prove useful for the job?  
**A.** I'm a people-person. I deal very well in a team, but at the same time I have personal ambitions and personal standards that I'm not going to drop for anything. Also, just the experience I've had at Rhodes. I've been involved in the different systems and I think that little bit of experience really helps.

**Q.** Do you have specific plans to change the SRC elections this year?  
**A.** We do, definitely. We've set up an election task-team. Callie Freeman, the Vice-President, she's going to be heading that up. It's just to look at the constitutional issues and to see what needs to be changed.

**Q.** Tell us something about the other members of the SRC.  
**A.** The vibe is absolutely fantastic. Everybody is taking initiative, which I think is fantastic. At the same time I don't want to make out that we're a bunch of friends. We're not. We are a bunch of students elected to profes-



Bryony Green, the SRC President for 2005/2006, looking to make a difference

■ Jacky Smith

sional positions and so our relationships are professional.

**Q.** What do you identify as the key issues for students at Rhodes?  
**A.** Safety, obviously we have to look at that. We have to look at the Oppidan issue. I don't think we are involved in all the issues that students have individual problems with. They feel undercatered for and underrepresented. We're very lucky in the size of our university to be able to tackle our problems directly, so the SRC is not always as useful as it is on larger campuses.

**Q.** As a white female SRC President how are you going to represent all students?  
**A.** I don't think you can ever know as an individual what anybody else wants. But if anyone e-mails me, I promise to reply to them within 48 hours. What I'd really like is for all of our major decisions to actually have feedback from the students. A lot of things we're going to put on

Studentzone before we do them. Other than that we have a very representative committee and decisions will be made on a community basis.

**Q.** What have your achievements been since you took over last year?  
**A.** We had a 60-day plan from our time in office until the end of last year and one of the things in that was to get the elections sorted out and to develop an accountability policy for this SRC. Communication is the other big thing. We feel that the SRC does a lot behind the scenes, but students never know about it. Part of our goal is to reach all the students in the medium that best suits them. We've had an article in every *This Week @ Rhodes* since our election. We've been interviewed on RMR and we plan to have a weekly slot with them and we've had interviews with *Activate* as well.

**Q.** What have you got planned for O-week?  
**A.** A bunch of things, a couple of

“ A lot of SRCs come in and try and change the world. We're going to fit in and just improve the existing structures that there are. ”

them are surprises. We've decided on an O-week programme we're really excited about. We are having a jazz evening, a movie premiere, the famous comedy night and a huge party on Friday night.

**Q.** What other events do you have planned for the year?  
**A.** We're looking at having a major event every term. We're going to publish the SRC events for the year in the first week of term.

**Q.** What have your experiences been with dealing with senior admin so far?  
**A.** Absolutely wonderful. I find that everybody has an open-door policy; they've been very helpful so far. We have seats on lots of committees. On average we have four or five meetings a week, so it's a fair amount of work, but we have a vote like everybody else.

**Q.** What can we expect from the new Vice-Chancellor this year?  
**A.** I think he sounds fantastic. The problem for Rhodes is their transformation policy and I think that is what this new V-C will focus on. I'm looking forward to working with him. I don't think we're looking to take advantage of anyone while they're new. They really have the students' interests at heart. They may approach it from a different angle to us and no, they're not going to allow beers in lectures and huge amounts of free time, but

I really do think we're all fighting the same battle.

**Q.** How can last year's SRC performance be improved upon?  
**A.** I think by small steps. We're going to start little and set foundations for the next SRC. A year is a very short time to try and do anything long-lasting. I know there are various members of our SRC who plan to run again and if we start trying for some continuity we can improve that way. A lot of SRCs come in and try and change the world. We're going to fit in and just improve the existing structures that there are.

**Q.** Do you think people are watching you and waiting for you to mess up?  
**A.** They're definitely more alert than they were before. And I don't think that's a bad thing, I find it an incentive for us to work harder. The added pressure of people being on the lookout keeps us on top of our game.

## Off the Point

'And now for something completely different'

**Q:** Describe yourself in three words.  
**A:** Passionate, hard-working and somewhat difficult.

**Q:** What do you want to be in your next life?  
**A:** A fly on the wall – I've always wanted to listen in.

**Q:** If your life was a song, what would it be?  
**A:** "Minority" by Greenday.

**Q:** What do you do on a Saturday night?  
**A:** Stay at home, snuggle and watch videos.

**Q:** Who would you most like to meet alone in an elevator?  
**A:** Mahatma Gandhi.





In the interests of balanced reporting (which later became unbalanced staggering), we ensured that every single nightspot in town was visited

■ Lauren Clifford-Holmes

# Activate night out: a guide to night-life in G-town

22 Activate staff members, 11 pubs, 1 hectic night out. Lionel Faull, Luke Reid, Ines Schumacher and Candace Whitehead took their notepads along to remember what they might forget...

## 19:30 Sports Bar

It is a dark and stormy night. Making our way up the treacherous stairs of the Sports Bar, we look out over the bleak, windswept hockey fields. Hopefully the dramatic landscape will play a part in setting us up for an epic night out.

The Albany Squash League is holding their annual prize-giving in the Sports Bar. It is decided to immediately engage in the time-honoured Rhodent custom of gate-crashing functions for free booze. While the middle-aged types are giving speeches, we amuse ourselves by leading astray some innocent-looking schoolboys with a quarter bottle of vodka. We stock up on free beers and boerewors rolls braaied on a smoky indoor fire, then head out into the night.

## 20:05 Rhodes Union

Outside the Union we disturb some guilty-faced late-night swimmers who are climbing over the pool gate. The Union is completely empty. The group of eager-looking bar staff assures us that the place will be pumping in two hours' time. Someone purchases a R3 glass of wine and then we leave. Downstairs the UN Society evening looks promising, but the wine was finished and the speeches weren't, so we don't go in.

## 20:40 Old Gaol

The Old Gaol is a 19th-century prison complex that has been converted into a backpackers' lodge. The bar is a cosy room with comfortable sofas (complete with resident sheepdog), a beanbag and chilled-out music. Gregor, Editorial Consultant, says "These chairs are so comfy, I could stay here all night." We don't. After half an hour of laid-back bliss, we move on.

## 21:15 Olde 65

The entire team is now assembled. Some have been to movies at Roxbury and others have been knocking back the double whiskeys at a digs party. Olde 65 is renowned for two things: its R10 doubles and its R10 chicken burgers. While much of the team is happy to oblige the tasting of the doubles, it is Peter, our chicken-loving Editor, who tries the burger: "Mmm...the sauce really makes the burger." After Peter has licked his plate, we decide to make our move to Equilibrium.

## 21:50 Equilibrium

EQ has got everything: a large dance floor, a bar, TVs and a seating area. It's also the only club in Grahamstown that has a mirror ball. Our notepads are luminescent in the UV lights and we are asked if we are on a field trip. When we arrive only a few people are

dancing, but once we've all ordered a R5 mix we join in. The music is a mix of house and hip-hop, and amused observers note how white people "break it down" to the beats. "This is EQ: the GQ of clubs," we are told by Sleazy Management Guy. EQ has a different vibe compared to the other clubs in Grahamstown, and we leave reluctantly, mindful of our tight schedule.

## 22:25 The Rat and Parrot

After a great experience at EQ we move on to the Rat. It has an upstairs and downstairs bar area as well as an outdoor beer garden. The Rat has the most expensive drinks around, and Bianca, Deputy Editor, is saving herself for the cheap drinks in Champs. We escape the perpetually crowded bar areas and pick out a table in a quiet enclave. All agree that the Rat is a popular jock hangout and reserved for the beautiful people of Grahamstown. That settled, we move on. It is here that the schedule is abandoned.

**22:32  
Champs**  
Champs is renowned for its cheap booze, weekly pool competitions and dodgy crowds. However, it is also a haven for people seeking to escape judgement and hang out in a relaxed atmosphere. The alternative crowd is not around tonight and we fill up the bar to mingle with hardcore daddies in leather jackets and jaded, balding

locals. At 23:00 the executive committee conjures up a tray full of Zappa shots. The outcome? We burst spontaneously into song. Drunken singing is a part of Grahamstown life, but even in our inebriated state we are aware that we're not the most melodious bunch on campus. On the way out the bouncer fondles all our male staff, apparently looking for a stolen cell phone. Lionel, Features Editor, is quick to reassure him: "Yes, that is my phone in my pocket and no, I'm not happy to see you."

## 23:28 Mr. Burger

Popular among drunken students for satisfying their late-night greasy food cravings. We hurry past – food can wait.

**23:30  
Friar Tuck's**  
Five minutes after arrival, Bianca says, "We're leaving." You either love Friar's or you hate it. Bianca is over-ruled. Friar's consists of three bars: two downstairs and the other up a tricky staircase. Many drunken students have been known to accidentally perform Olympic-quality gymnastic rolls down those stairs. Drinks are reasonably priced, the music quite commercial.

The cramped dance floor pushes gyrating bodies into close proximity, and anything can – and does – happen. As we leave, a crowd – a herd – of about 50 students arrives. The bouncer is heard commenting in a

derogatory manner toward the female members of staff. Lauren, Pics Editor, has the final word: "I've only been here three times and it just gets worse."

## 23:47 The Suite

Definitely the best-looking club in Grahamstown, the Suite boasts a dance floor, outside area with couches and a fire, fishbowls, and – best of all – unisex toilets. While most of the team are jamming to house music, a small group – led by Gregor – have hidden themselves away with several fishbowls. Some of the *Activate* staff are seen to get a little closer than usual.

Lionel dances on a chair before swooping down on Candace, Features writer, and Tim, Sports Editor, to help with their fishbowl. It is then that observant journalists realise that Peter had discreetly pulled a disappearing act more than an hour ago. The writers have trouble keeping their notepads to themselves, as team members start writing down their philosophies on life. Mike, Content Editor, is heard to remark contentedly, "Dandelions."

**01:00 (or thereabouts)  
Slipstream Sports Bar**  
Triple S is empty at this hour. A recent addition to the Grahamstown social scene, the place fills up to the rafters for major televised sporting events. Otherwise it is frequented by die-hard pool players and those courageous enough to walk to the far end of New Street.

There's a comfy lounge upstairs. We witness one or two *Activate* couples sneak up there soon after our arrival. Everyone else performs a choreographed mass fall into the gutter outside for the benefit of the assembled ranks of *Activate* photographers, before getting up and stumbling their separate ways.

**De Taphuijs**  
We didn't quite make it to De Taphuijs, although our intentions were always good. Further down from New Street, it hosts live bands such as The Finkelsteins, The Parlotones and Prime Circle. De Taphuijs is also a popular venue for 21sts and private functions, and boasts facilities such as a pool table and a big screen TV for sports fanatics.

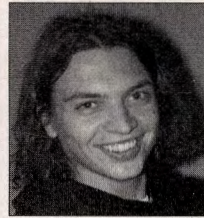
**01:10  
The wind-down begins.**  
Some people return to the Rat. Later, two survivors – Candace and Tim – decide to walk to BP to satisfy their munchies. They find Mike – who has been wandering around town after having taken Joni, Assistant Pics Editor, home in a highway patrol car. The final cap to another adventurous evening at Rhodes is the venerable BP mission. Stocked with supplies, the stragglers and survivors head home.



Tot tot what do we have here? The Activate team sample a few shots.

■ Lauren Clifford-Holmes

# Confessions of a fierce invalid



■ Harry Haddon

I've been staring at this blank screen for the last 20 minutes. My head is pounding with a hangover sent directly from Lucifer, and I'm waiting for the coffee to brew, the toast to brown and the codeine to kick in.

My task is to try and offer some advice to you – the first years of 2006 – something that will make your lives a bit easier.

Last night I was not exactly sober, but I do remember asking some friends what they thought was the most important thing to tell first years.

One friend, a masters law student, who is the most politically incorrect person I know, said that you should all, and I quote, "not give a fuck". I looked at him with disdain, muttering that that was not what I needed, and that he really should help me out because my deadline was rapidly moving further into the past. Now, as I look back, with a little help from nicotine and codeine, I begin to see what he meant. Let me explain.

When I arrived last year there were too many people who were worried about what everyone else thought. They were constantly trying to 'fit in' and look cool, it kind of freaked me out.

As the year wore on everyone found their little cliques, their protected niche in the big bad world, and eventually realised that what the weird guy with the tight shirt and big glasses thinks of them really doesn't matter.

What I am saying is don't allow yourself to worry what people think of you – we are supposed to be adults; so relax, meet some people, have a smoke, a drink, or whatever narcotic tickles your fancy, and take it easy.

More and more of my night is coming back to me. I remember another valuable piece of advice given to me for you, this time not by a soon-to-be-crooked lawyer, but by an environmentalist who likes to draw. He said that you "should never take yourself too seriously".

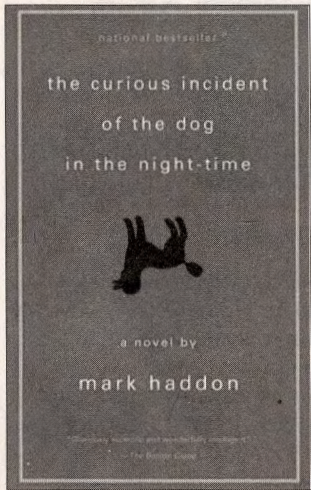
This is probably the best advice you will hear for a long time. Before I expound on this topic, I would like to add that, first and foremost, none of you are more special than anyone else. I mean it – it doesn't matter if you have hiked across Europe, climbed Kilimanjaro, or whatever. Stuff like that might make you interesting, but not special. Your mom was wrong, and if you can understand this, you are on your way to a contented first year.

Okay let me get back to not taking yourself too seriously. I must be brief because I can feel the drugs wearing off. The only way to deal with life successfully is to laugh at it – if you are dancing in Friars and somebody vomits on you, don't get pissed off – laugh. If you walk into a lecture late and fall down the stairs in front of the class, don't feel embarrassed – guffaw. If you realise that a BCom is not for you and you feel that your calling is on the stage, don't stress – chortle as you sign up for drama.

My head is beginning to pound – I need some more chemicals. Just remember these three things as you start getting into life as a first year: "Don't give a fuck", "never take yourself too seriously" and you are not special.



# Reviews



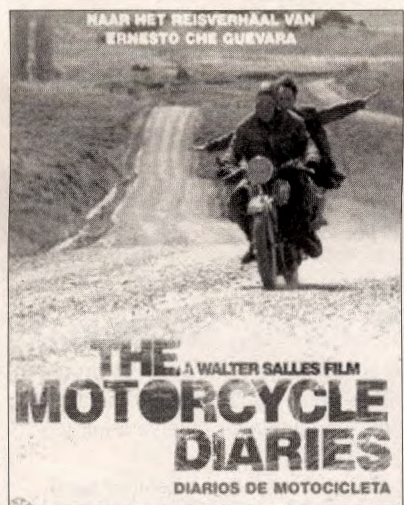
## Book of The Year

### The curious incident Of The Dog In The Night-Time

By Mark Haddon

■ Gary Hartley

Haddon, a former illustrator for children's books, tells a subtly gripping story of the journey of a 15-year-old autistic child named Christopher Boone who discovers that his neighbour's dog has been murdered with a pitchfork. The boy embarks on a Sherlock Holmes-type investigation to solve "the curious incident"; this becomes a journey that is physically, mentally and emotionally challenging. Boone becomes the narrator of the novel and due to his condition, he is unable to understand or comprehend the emotional situations around him. The narrative urges the reader to interact emotionally on behalf of Boone. It is a short, yet powerful, and self-empowering read and highly recommended.



## Movie of the Year

### The Motorcycle Diaries

starring Gael Garcia Bernal and Rodrigo de la Serna

■ Siya Ngcobo

The tag line "Let the world change you and you can change the world" hits home with full force in this riveting tale about the adventurous journey of Che (Ernesto) Guevara and his friend Alberto Granado. The story follows the hardships they endured and lessons they learned while crossing South America on a motorcycle in the 1950s. Guevara was one of the leaders of the Cuban revolution and the movie is based on his journal about the experiences in his youth that led him to become a revolutionary leader. With each stop and challenge the audience is intensely engaged by the gripping acting and cinematography. Compared to all the cheesy cheap thrills of the usual Hollywood blockbusters, a film like this restores a little faith in the movie making industry. The film boasts numerous awards and nominations, including an Oscar, and emerges as *Activate's* top movie of 2005.

## THEATRE

# A potjie of buzzing dramatic energy

■ Hayley Mueller

Year after year, the Rhodes Drama Department never fails to amaze, disturb or tickle.

What looks like any old theatre buzzing with barefoot students, budding actors and creative enthusiasts transforms into a space where possibilities are limitless. The schedule starts with a bang as the department showcases pieces that seem familiar but are unrecognisable after they undergo the Rhodes makeover. Last year's hit production was the highly-acclaimed *Hotel Paradiso*, directed by Andrew Buckland. This hilarious nineteenth-century farce was filled with dark comedy, horror and scandal.

### In Honour of Near Expert Expressions

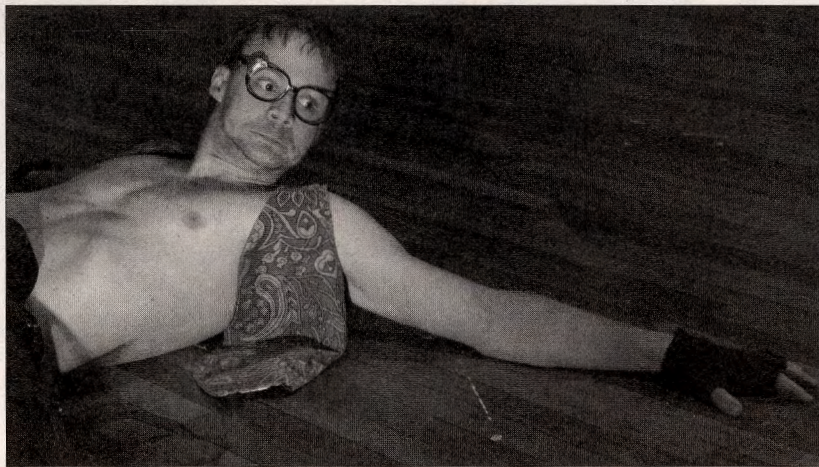
The *Young Directors* season, in which Honours drama students each direct a play, kicks off early in the year. These proved to be extremely popular last year and shows were sold out. The productions ranged from the controversial and raw *East*, an alternative look at life in London, to the classically funny *Amédée*, an absurdist play that looked at the extraordinary aspects of life in everyday situations.

### Masters of Riveting Tales

If last year's production is anything to go by, Masters' directing promises to be riveting and a definite 'not to miss' event. The disturbingly ironic *Marat/Sade* sold out and had audiences coming from outside Grahamstown to watch. The play with in a play performed by the inmates of a mental asylum under the direction of the Marquis de Sade left haunted audiences talking about it enthusiastically for weeks.

### Platform for Undergrads

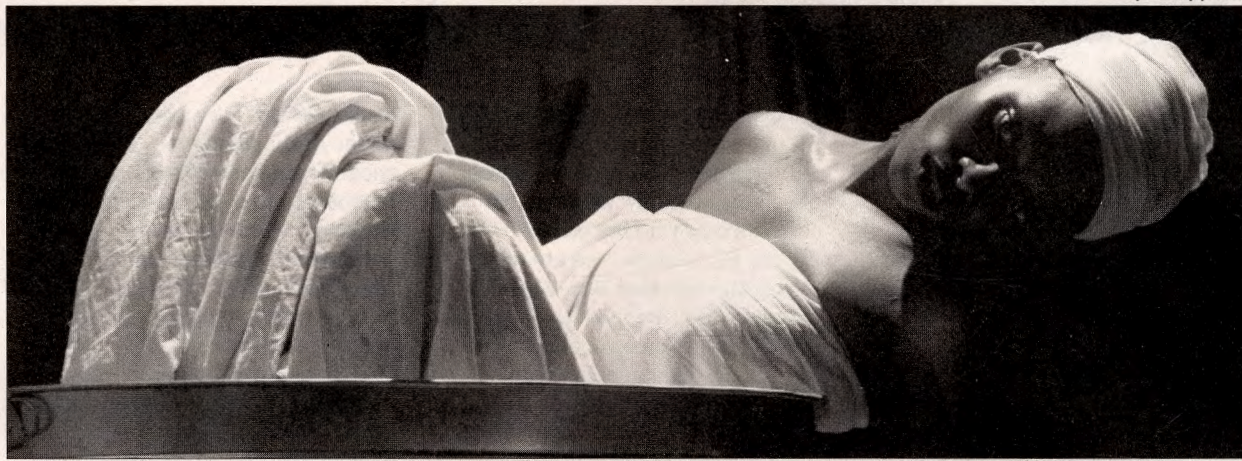
One of the most exhilarating set of events is the examination productions by undergrads that happen twice a year and are open to the public. It



■ Toni Ackermann



■ pic supplied



Scott Sparrow (Above Left) in Heike Gehring's *Remembrance*, Scott Sparrow and Peter Spring (Above Right) in *Bald Prima Donna* and Julie Nxadi (Above) as Jean-Paul Marat in *Marat Sade*. All these plays showed at the Rhodes Theatre and 2006 is sure to be another excellent year

■ Jacqueline Cochrane

often astounds audiences how talented these young students are. You can also catch Platforms in which undergrads perform self-devised pieces

### Dance Fest

In addition to the theatre performances is the *Dance Fest* that happens around September. This celebration of movement is staged in collaboration with the First Physical Theatre Company. Dance companies from across South Africa perform within different genres and it always delivers with sheer brilliance.

### Insightful Pictures from 'Theatre in Motion'

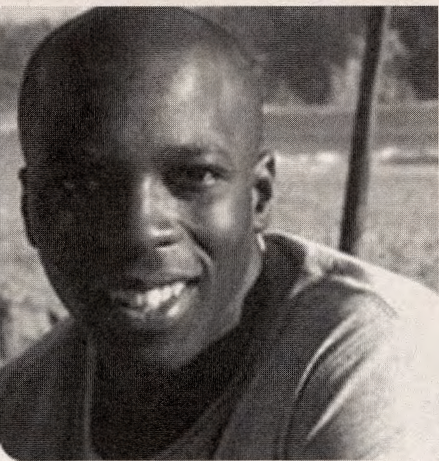
The last event on the drama calendar is *Theatre in Motion* where various theatrical dance productions explore experimental choreographic techniques. Last year's event included physical theatre pieces such as *The impulsive guide to senseless dressing*, a playful piece exploring the self; and *Unpleasant Beauty*, based on the abstract expressionist painter Jackson Pollock. There was also mime, storytelling, singing and music pieces; all

diverse and brimming with energy.

### The Crème de la crème of local Drama

The department itself produces various productions throughout the year. Last year *Makana*, *Bald Prima Donna* and *Coloured Girls* enthralled audiences repeatedly. Outside artists and in-house directors worked together to create a great variety of entertainment.

Tickets are cheaper for students and are always worthwhile.



Many celebs found their roots in Grahamstown with Nicole Fox (left) and Natalie Dixon (2nd from the right) having studied here. Celebs like Roger Goode (far right) and Sami Sibhiti (2nd from the left) are frequent visitors

■ Pics supplied

## THE CELEBS

# G-town television and radio personalities

■ Katie Pearson and Claire Keet

Grahamstown – our energetic student entertainment and cultural hub – is often host to some of Mzansi's dazzling elite. From sizzling DJs to famous celebrity icons, the town attracts a potent selection of famous South African party animals. The diversity and colourful variety in our vibrant town is seen across a crazy party spectrum. The presence of Mzansi's top musical magicians makes for more invigorating events.

### Local is lekker

Unathi Nkayi (not pictured), born and bred Grahamstonian and former Rhodent, has made her mark in South African showbiz. She beat hundreds of hopefuls to land her first presenting job with Castle Loud in 2001. Now, years later, her versatility and punk

has made her a DJ at Yfm, a singer and household name in the world of entertainment.

She visits G-town often, heating up the dance floor at The Suite. Last year she inspired many young journalists at the Captivate Conference along with Vuyo Mbuli, Sami Sabiti, Zam Nkosi and Paul Mills.

### Not your regular fox

Fox as in cunning, Fox as in foxy. Nicole Fox is the sassy, charming DJ ripping it up on the national airwaves of 5fm. She's a gutsy go-getter who studied journalism at Rhodes University.

During first term last year Fox hit the town to promote the "Grahamstown Will Never Be the Same Again" party. The party allowed one lucky student to

further their studies at the prestigious Rhodes Journalism and Media Studies Department. While in town, Fox got her varsity groove back, lecturing journalism students and airing her 5fm show directly from the *Activate* office.

### Goode G-town lovin'

Grahamstown's favourite doctor, Roger Goode, is a frequent visitor. His hardy underground presence was also felt at the *Grahamstown Will Never Be the Same Again* party. He is 5fm's premier dance DJ and a national celebrity. At just 20 years of age Goode was catapulted into the lime-light when his Sheer music release 'In the Beginning' hit the number one spot on 5fm. From then on, Goode's life spiralled into a whirlwind of fame and insane parties. The Goode doctor

often ripped up the decks at The Suite last year with his diverse house tunes.

### Vixen with attitude

Natalie Dixon, editor of *SL* magazine, visited Grahamstown along with Roger Goode and Nicole Fox. Dixon is a former Rhodes student and decided to give back to the journalism department what it gave to her. In an inspirational talk to journalism students last year, she exuded the easy confidence that helped her along the path of fame. The party managed to raise R70 000 towards the scholarship, proof that this spunky, dry-humoured blonde is more than just a pretty face.

Rhodes University is a hub of talent and it shows in the celebrities that have emerged from our tiny university town.



# Music makes the Rhodents come together

■ Ashleigh Nash

So you've arrived in Grahamstown, and either joined the ranks of slick city kids or fallen in with fellow dorpie students. You wonder if these strangers share any of your interests or if drinking is the only common interest Rhodents have. With any luck, you'll soon discover that, rather than booze, it's music that unites the student body like nothing else.

Understandably, you might wonder what this little Eastern Cape town may have to offer in terms of music, but you will soon realise that your new home town is an arts and entertainment mecca. With countless events at local pubs and clubs and, of course, the live band scene, you'll begin to understand that big city gigs aren't the only concerts worth going to.

Let's recap: 2005 saw a host of SA's top bands visit Grahamstown. The Powerzone Road Show brought bands such as The Parlotones, Evolver, Prime Circle and Airship Orange to music lovers. Held at De Taphuijs, this festival of sound merged eclectic sounds all on one stage. There was also the 5fm party early last year, where DJs Nicole Fox, Koula and Roger Goode got the crowd jamming to funky house beats.

DJ fresh, Reddy D and other local DJs created a massive craze at The Suite and other venues as they pumped students with loaded beats that got them jamming until the wee hours.

As if that wasn't enough, afro-jazz band Kwani Experience rocked the joints in September. This band is busy planning another trip to this neck of



Many great local bands visit Grahamstown, the woods – so keep your ears open for that.

Yet once the big gigs are over and the famous personalities have departed, it is our Grahamstown legends that remain. If you're a lover of SA music then bear witness to the energy Grahamstown bands radiate. Battle of the Bands is a great succession of



local bands battling it out for the title of the reigning rockers. Whether it's the old-school heavy-metal sound of Breach or the punk energy of Undone, there is a band and type of music that will appeal to a variety of musical interests.

Do not deny yourself a weekly fire-side jam at De Taphuijs or the oppor-



■ Pics supplied

tunity to hear a new band perform at the Monument or the Old Gaol. This is what student life is about: not always sticking to the traveled route, but taking a detour once in awhile.

Take a night away from the usual drunken antics and indulge in an entertaining live performance. You won't regret it.

## We even have movies

■ Victoria Immelman

Movie fanatics new to Grahamstown need not panic. Despite the small size of this town, you'll still have plenty of movie viewing opportunities. Roxbury Cinema at Peppergrove Mall is one option; another is the international film festival held throughout the year. The School of Languages organises screenings of films produced in various countries throughout the world. These are generally art-house films and are screened weekly on Tuesdays

at Eden Grove Red, free of charge. See <http://www.ru.ac.za/filmfest> for more information.

Another way to satisfy your movie craving is to join the Neko-Anime society, which screens anime or manga movies. These showings take place at the Old Gaol and all money raised goes towards a local charity. This is a great opportunity to view some alternative media while spending time with friends. Keep your eyes and ears open for more information.

## Up & Coming G-town Band

'The Lesbian named Henries'

Having only played two informal acoustic gigs, the LNHS could be an interesting addition to the live band scene this year. With boy-band good looks and music talent to spare, the band has a broad and contrasting list of musical influences. This ranges from hardcore, emo/scremo and nu-metal to punk and even a little pop.

Do not be surprised if this band changes its name, and loses a band member or two. They apparently strug-

gle to be boxed-in by a single band name, and some believe that their sound can never be categorised.

Either way, the foundations of the band remain, and if the buzz is anything to go by, they will be making waves in the G-town music scene in the near future.

**Drummer:** Matt 'Rusty' Middleton

**Bassist:** Gareth 'Oz' Osry

**Lead Guitarist:** Dimitar 'Dim' Dobrev

**Rhythm Guitarist, Vocals:** Gareth Woods

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

■ Siyavuyisana Makwabe

### Something for all "circus folk"

Every Friday night Drumsoc, "a bunch of circus folk" as one member puts it, form a drumming circle at the Botanical Gardens. The festivities include all kinds of circus sports such as poi and hacky-sack. They create stacks of fun with their drums, home made shakers, marimbas and didgeridoos and some pyromaniacs organise bonfires. Other memorable events they have held included a hippie campout at Grey Dam and a weekend trip to Bedford.

### On a high note: Rhodes

#### University Chamber Choir

Do you seek to enrich people's lives with song? Well, the chamber choir is all about that and promoting interaction with people who share their passion for music.

The choir is linked to the Rhodes music department but is open to students from any field of study. All eager musicians and singers are invited to the auditions which will be held soon.

Throughout the year, concerts and events are held for the whole com-



The Rhodes University Chamber Choir in full s(w)ing munity. Memorable concerts last year included "The Mozart Requiem" collaboration with the East Cape Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Choir Tri-Varsity (RU, UCT and NMMU) in Port Elizabeth.

At the end of each year, the choir holds its exciting provincial tour. They toured the Eastern Cape last year and will visit Gauteng this year.

**Do the tango or get down to loxion culture**

Mapantsula Society injects local culture into this university with their kwaito, house and jazz music functions. Watch out for the Washum' Khuku gig for first-years.

If ballroom dancing is more your thing, then the Ballroom Society is just right for you. They tango, swing, cha-cha, waltz, rumba and salsa every Tuesday night and their parties sizzle the dance floor.

**HSS show on the way**

The HSS Cultural Show is one of the biggest arts and culture highlights of the year. Many acts are showcased and gleaming festivities are held.

When asked about how this year's cultural show will differ from previous productions, Nandhini said they hope to incorporate students from different ethnic backgrounds this time, rather than limiting the opportunity to Indian students. She said that preparation for the show is well underway.

## Reviews

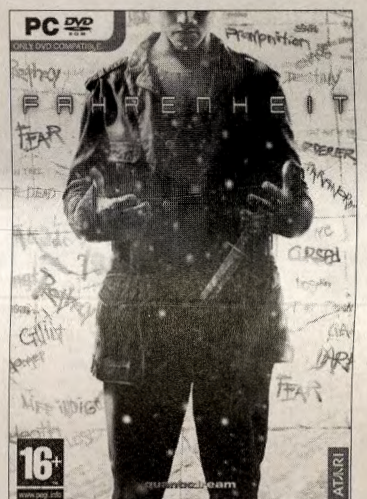


### Album of the Year

Breakaway – Kelly Clarkson

■ Siya Ngcobo

American Idols started out as just another cheesy reality show that manufactured one-hit wonders, but after seeing the success of this album we can safely say that Kelly Clarkson, the first American Idol winner, has broken away from that tradition, hence the fitting album title 'Breakaway'. This second offering from the sultry young talent boasts rave reviews and a total of 45 weeks on the American Billboard Charts last year. Her hit singles 'Since you've been gone', 'Breakaway', 'Behind these hazel eyes' and 'Because of you' all have top ten status around the world. This girl has a voice in the league of the likes of Mariah Carey and Whitney Houston (back in the day) and is destined to continue rocking the world with her upbeat and invigorating sound. If you don't have this CD in your collection, you'd better make a plan, soon.



### Computer game of the year- Fahrenheit

■ Peter Barlow

The phrase "ground breaking" has been used and abused so much in the past when referring to a new computer game release that it has become, to me at least, void of all meaning. However, if one was to call a game truly ground breaking, Fahrenheit would be it. The concept of reflexes, thoughts and puzzles are given an entirely new dimension just through the mouse and the keyboard to an extent I have never experienced in a PC game. You play Lucas Kane, a man who finds himself in unfortunate circumstances and on the run from the Police. In a bizarre twist you also get to play the Police officers pursuing the unfortunate Mr. Kane. The game is more of a showpiece though, giving us a sneak peek into the what truly could become the next generation in the gaming experience. Thus, it has a highly contrived feel at times, one of the only drawbacks to an otherwise excellent game. However, the game is quite resource hungry when it comes to computing power. It has also only been released on DVD, a drawback for some but a big plus in the end as the game comes with many extras included. A must buy for any discerning gamer looking for a new and truly refreshing challenge.



# Corporations: profit at Africa's expense

■ Anja Muller Deibicht and Kristin Paremoer

M ultinational corporations have grown vastly in number and size over recent years. Many have power equal to or greater than that of whole countries: [www.globalissues.org](http://www.globalissues.org) states that “of the 100 largest economies in the world, 51 are corporations while only 49 are countries”. Given this fact, it’s not surprising that corporations have so much power and influence in the world today.

Many African countries are directly affected by corporations’ influence, especially those countries that are rich in profitable resources. Corporations’ effects on them are frequently negative. Corporations use developing countries to avoid restrictive laws in their own countries and to exploit cheap labour and indigenous resources. They keep their costs down through avoiding taxes by exploiting developing countries’ free trade structures. Take Nigeria’s experience as an example: the International Health Tribune labels Nigeria’s wealth of oil as a “daunting curse” due to the negative actions of oil giants like Shell and ChevronTexaco in the country. These corporations frequently contaminate water sources with oil, harming the environment and the

people dependent on these water sources for survival. Bribe money from oil companies circulates through government structures and corruption is rife, reducing service provision and hampering development in the impoverished nation. Only a small percentage of the oil wealth gets back to the country’s people and oil is frequently central to armed struggles. The biggest irony of the situation is that Nigeria is in the midst of a petrol shortage as a result of oil companies’ actions.

When it comes to medical companies and health concerns, large pharmaceutical companies will go to great lengths to ensure that they monopolise the market. A prime example was the resistance to the introduction of cheap generic Aids drugs in South Africa despite strong pressure from the Treatment Action Campaign (TAC). Neglecting to develop unprofitable new treatments for diseases proliferating in developing countries is a further concern, with the focus instead on treatments for diseases common among the rich, such as asthma and heart disease.

The reach of such corporations is all-encompassing. Closer to home, SABMiller International has agreed to

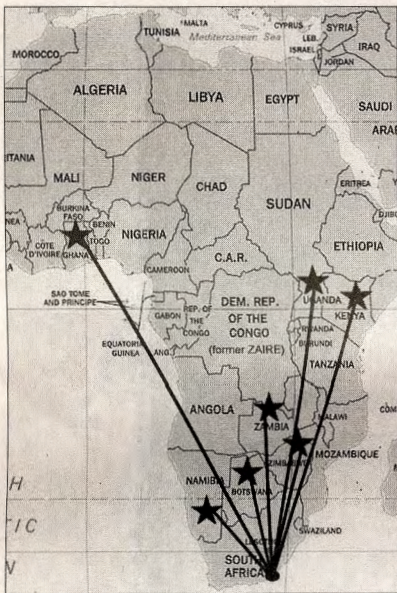
sponsor Rhodes’ School of Journalism and Media Studies new Chair of Media and Democracy. Professor Guy Berger, head of the department, says that “without the existence of this chair, exciting developments on the continent and amongst African media would remain under-analysed and under-researched. In turn, journalists would be limited in exercising their full potential for democracy.”

Yet, despite all this emphasis placed on the importance of media and democracy, SABMiller filed a lawsuit against Laugh it Off Promotions (a business founded by two Rhodes graduates) in order to directly limit their freedom of speech and criticism of the company with their satirical rendition of the Carling Black Label trademark, reading “Black Labour, White Guilt”. Although freedom of speech beat the corporation in this case, it raises questions about whether SABMiller should be sponsoring a journalism department.

Since corporations’ sole aim is profit at any cost, and environmental, social and moral issues come a distant second place, we should be wary of their influence. Their benefits should not be to the detriment of consumers.



■ Matthew Ackermann



■ Graphic: Lauren Clifford-Holmes

## Exploring the diversity of Rhodes and its students

■ Jean-Marie Cronje

**Y**ou’ll encounter people from all over the world on Rhodes campus. The university is a popular choice for foreign students, especially from other African countries. These include Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, Namibia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

In total, students from other African countries make up 84% of International students at Rhodes. Australasian students make up another 3%, Europeans 11%, North Americans 2% and South Americans 1%.

*Activate* investigated exactly what it is that attracts foreigners to Rhodes. Here’s what we found:

*What made you decide to enrol at a university in another country?*

**Pierre Ngakak, Cameroon:** I just wanted something new; everyone else I know went to France and Canada. I thought South Africa would be an interesting experience.

*What would you say is Rhodes’ reputation in other African countries? What motivated you to come here?*

**John Shilongo, Namibia:** From the perspective of corporations and institutions, Rhodes is a very well-known and respected university. These companies support students coming to study at Rhodes through bursaries and scholarships.

*What is your general opinion of Rhodes as an academic institution?*

**Despina Nicolau, Malawi:** It is organised, different. It is small and a close-knit environment. You end up knowing just about everyone. There is a lot more interaction between people and you end up feeling a whole lot more secure than you would in a bigger varsity.

*Do you feel integrated at Rhodes? Would you say that you have fitted in comfortably?*

**Daniel Zeravica, Zambia:** I studied at the Curtin University of Technology in Australia for six months and compared to that, Rhodes is much better.

The way people think in Zambia is similar to South African mentality, and the fact that Rhodes is such a small university also makes it feel a lot homier.

*What do you enjoy most about Rhodes?*

**Sarah D’Souza, Zimbabwe:** Everyone speaks English. Everyone is friendly and helpful, especially when you’re a first year. Also, you get to meet so many interesting people, who are not necessarily all South African. The diversity of cultures present on campus adds to the Rhodes experience, giving people ample opportunity learn from each other.

## Student activism today: fighting against apathy

■ Philipa Ehrlich

**U**niversities the world over have been the focus of political activity and a vibrant breeding ground for activism throughout history; the youth banding together to do something for a cause they believe in, and doing it loudly.

James Christie, an old Rhodian, describing his experience at Rhodes during the early 60’s, said “there were many active student societies on campus. On almost any night there were meetings where racism, religion and politics were hotly contested. It was a period of political intrigue and excitement, as the more risqué students sometimes vanished in the night only to emerge days later in the safe havens of Lesotho or Swaziland...”

Today, in contrast, Lauren Clifford-Holmes, vice-Chairman of African Drumsoc, comments that “we don’t seem to be a very active campus overall, but under the surface there are quite a lot of things happening. It seems however that it’s always the same people who are involved.” Considering that at the end of last year, students were too apathetic to vote for SRC representatives, it is commendable that some societies have made a real difference.

For new students at Rhodes there is a multitude of important and reward-



There are many ways students at Rhodes can get involved – from taking to the streets to create awareness, to doing community charity work

ing causes to get involved in. Each Rhodes society has a mandate to hold at least one charity event per year. Here is a taste the contribution that societies and students made to the wider community last year.

The most controversial (and probably most popular) society on campus, RAFsoc (Raising Awareness and Funds), successfully raised R21 000 for Thylwazi Pre-School which enabled them to construct a new school building.

Raphael Centre through its production of the Vagina Monologues.

African Drumsoc has been associated with Eluxolweni shelter, and organised a fundraiser that has enabled the sponsorship of two children from the eRhini location. The Rotaract society took great initiative in establishing a soup kitchen for the many impoverished children in the location.

The newly established Rhodes UN society has also been active, organising a beach clean-up and a tree planting afternoon. Members also competed in the Regional Model UN debates and the Millennium Goals development competition, in which they came



■ Pics by Lauren Clifford-Holmes

second. Their paper will be published in a mainstream academic journal and they have been recommended for a scholarship to further their research.

Three marches were organised last year. RAPA (a political awareness society that has since disbanded) held a march against free trade in first term. Second term saw students, led by the SRC, marching to Drostdy lawns campaigning to stop violence against women. Sadly, participation in both these events was disappointing. However, in third term, SHARC (the Student HIV/Aids Resistance Campaign) was joined by renowned Aids activist Zackie Achmat and a

large portion of the student body in a far more successful march that led to the acceptance of an improved HIV/Aids policy by the Rhodes governing body.

There was an overwhelming response to RAFsoc’s clothes drive at their final party, probably because students got to the punch faster if they donated some old clothing. However, it is clear that if adequately motivated Rhodents have great potential to make a difference.

New students should realise that with so many avenues of involvement, to help or not to help is a choice none of us can avoid.



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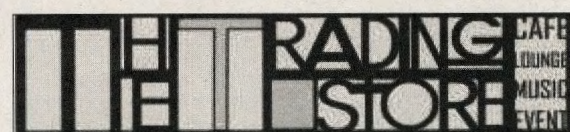
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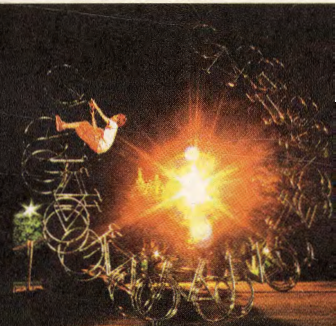
and you will be entered into a draw to win Tommy Hilfiger goodies





Take a look at what Rhodes students were up to in 2005: There were raucous parties, crazy Triversity, elegant balls, and so much more! May 2006 be just as full of fun for you all!

Plcs by: Dan Calderwood, Jacky Smith, Katie Wilter, Sadie Bosworth-Smith, Matthew Middleton, Philippa Ehrlich and Lauren Clifford-Holmes







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my board."

Andrew Carter - shark attack survivor

# The SRC for 2005/2006 welcomes all new and returning students



# The SRC 2006

## working for you





Nick Burden (left) and Alexia Loizou (far right) were honoured as the Sportsman and Sportswoman of the Year respectively for 2005, while Marli Vlok (centre) is the senior SA champion for rifle shooting

■ Paul Mills

# Top Rhodes achievers for 2005

■ Megan Hibbert and Lindsey Riddin

From table tennis to Taekwon-do, from athletics to archery, Rhodes offers students a wide variety of different sports. Sport at Rhodes can be a social or recreational affair or it can provide sports-oriented students with a competitive level of participation.

The large variety of sports offered enables students to participate in sports they may not have been exposed to at school.

A vast amount of facilities are available to students. These facilities, combined with the dedication that Rhodes sportsmen and -women display contributes to the immense success of our top sports achievers. Rhodes students have excelled, in many cases

internationally, at various sports.

Rhodes athletes are not recognised solely for their running abilities. Many of the top performers have proven their versatility by achieving top positions in duathlons, biathlons and triathlons. One of them, Alexia Loizou, was named Rhodes Sportswoman of the Year in 2005. Her achievements include winning a silver medal at the World under-21 Biathlon Championships, taking the title of SA u-23 biathlon champion and achieving sixth position at the SA u-24 triathlon competition.

Other accomplished female athletes include Angela Bott, who was placed 56th at the World under-24 Triathlon Championships and seventh at the

SA u-24 triathlon competition. Kate Mapham achieved fourth position at the SA u-24 duathlon competition.

The men did not fail to draw the attention of our renowned Rhodes supporters, since Justin Gray finished in 16th position at the World u-24 Duathlon Championships and sixth position at the SA u-24 duathlon competition.

CM Muller achieved 24th position at the World Duathlon Championships in addition to his eighth position at the SA u-24 duathlon competition, and Kevin Clelland came second in the SA u-21 biathlon competition. Rhodes University's canoeists and rowers splashed opponents aside and Nick Burden, a Rhodes canoe-

ist, was named as the Sportsman of the Year in 2005. His accomplishments include being chosen for the SA sprint team for the Canoeing World Championships as well as the Eastern Province K2 Squad for the SA Championships where he was awarded the silver Victor Ludorum.

Among the Rhodes rowers that excelled in 2005 is Hayley Arthur, who was included as a member of the SA student blues A-crew.

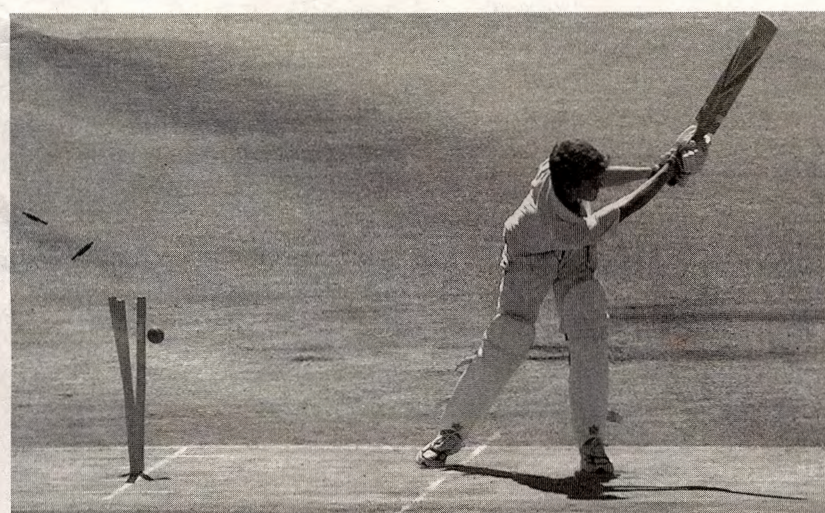
Andrew Craig and Bradley Smith were both selected to row for the SA u-23 student A-crew.

Marli Vlok has broken boundaries in the world of rifle shooting. She holds the title of SA senior women's champion and reached third position at the

British Bisley Championships.

Taekwon-do is quickly becoming the favoured form of martial arts at Rhodes. Matthew Esaf proves that Rhodes achievers are not limited to the mainline sports. He was a member of the SA team that competed in the Taekwon-do World Championships in Australia. He is the sport's senior SA champion.

Surfing at Rhodes is a well-supported sport that has also managed to produce good results. Allan Horsfield rode the waves in the SA National Provincial Body Boarding Championships last year to achieve 31st position in the pro division, as well as 12th position in the drop-knee division.



Cricket – the gentlemen's game'

■ Mike Dexter

## Rhodes internal sport

■ Candace Whitehead

As part of its annual programme, Rhodes University runs an inter-residence sports competition, as well as various internal leagues. These competitions are often tightly contested and promote team-building and sportsmanship within the teams and residences.

The inter-residence programme includes a variety of different sports from hockey, rugby, athletics, netball and tennis to sports such as canoeing, rifle, badminton and fly-fishing. The programme runs throughout the year and each residence is awarded points based on participation and placement. At the end of the year, the points are tabulated and the winning residence is awarded the inter-res shield. Last year's winners were Piet Retief and Ruth First, and it is hoped that the competition will be as strong this year.

Apart from the inter-residence programme, Rhodes provides various internal leagues, including internal

cricket, netball, rugby, and soccer. Of these four, netball and cricket were introduced in the latter part of last year. The internal cricket league makes use of a system similar to that of the Pro20 tournaments, ensuring that games are short and exciting enough to draw in the crowds. Internal soccer is possibly the biggest internal league running through the year, with the greatest competitive spirit. Although internal rugby runs briefly through the third term, it is another hotly contested league, drawing in spectators from across campus. The atmosphere on the final night last year was electric, and Rhodes' spirit shone through in the best possible way. Anybody can sign up for their res teams, or form internal league teams of their own. Although these programmes are competitive, at the end of the day it is the social side of sport that is promoted amongst the teams and spectators alike.

## Get in shape at the Health Suite

■ Sameer Naik and Pratika Pillay

If a healthy lifestyle is what you are looking for at Rhodes University, the Health Suite has all you need. Under the guidance and supervision of a full-time Health Suite Manager Janet Kelly, the facility consists of three sections: an aerobics studio, a spinning studio, and the weight training facility. Each section has its own staff of qualified instructors, who are all enthusiastic and willing to assist you at any time.

If you are looking to do aerobics, the studio has a great deal to offer. From balls and weights to tae-bo, the aerobics studio has all you require to keep fit and healthy.

Kelly is responsible for coordinating the daily routines within the aerobics section along with aerobics section head, Donna Stephens. Aerobic exercise is a repetitive activity that you do long and hard enough to challenge your heart and lungs. Aerobics will strengthen your legs, gluts, back and chest.

For those people who want to stay fit and maintain those trim thighs, spinning is an option. Maybe it's because you'll torch an average of 500 calories per 40-minute ride. Or maybe it's because, regardless of your fitness level, you'll get a heart pounding yet low-impact workout, while spinning at your own pace. Whatever the reason, many students have found a lot to love about the spinning program. Essentials to bring to spinning classes are a small towel and a water bottle; and make sure you're wearing closed takkies and comfortable clothing!



The Health Suite's facilities are top notch

■ Pics by Matthew Middleton

For those who are keen on pumping some iron, the weight training facility has some of the best equipment to get and keep you toned.

The focus on building speed and a competitive attitude on a sound basis of general endurance will add to your all-round strength and general mobility. The development of all-round

strength is best achieved by a combination of circuit and weight training. Rhodes University has an excellent circuit that can give you what you are looking for.

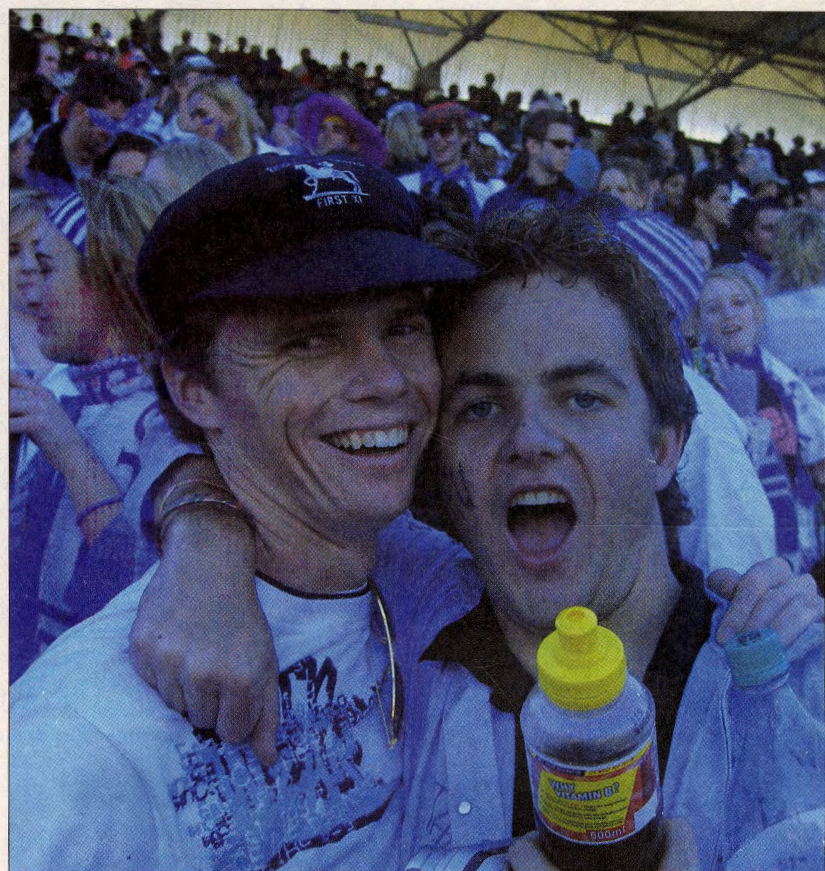
A healthy lifestyle is what the Health Suite promotes, and part of reaching that goal is to partake in physical activity and enjoy it.





Overalls and lots of Purple are an integral part of the Trivarsity weekend

■ Lauren Uppink



■ Katie Wilter

## More than just sport: Trivarsity and Boatraces

Trivarsity and Boatraces enjoy massive support from Rhodents every year – read on to find out why

■ Adam Wakefield

There are two annual sporting events where Rhodes University truly distinguishes itself from other South African universities. Nowhere is the passion of Rhodes more intense and patriotic than at the Trivarsity sports weekend and Boatrace. Past students know the importance of these two events to both Rhodes' sporting calendar and, possibly more importantly, its social calendar.

If you are only just beginning your career as a Rhodent, you will not know the allure that Trivarsity and Boatrace has for Rhodes students. Trivarsity is an inter-university sporting festival that takes place during the third weekend of the third term. The event is held at one of the three participating universities: Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU, formerly the University of Port Elizabeth),

the University of Fort Hare and Rhodes University. Almost every sporting club at Rhodes participates in this weekend, except for summer sports such as cricket and swimming. This year's event is being held at Rhodes University over August 11 and 12.

Rhodents traditionally wear white or purple overalls to the different sporting events, supporting anyone or anything representing Rhodes University. Dyed hair is a common sight, with purple being the predominant colour. NMMU traditionally wear blue and their rivalry with Rhodes on the sports field is one of the central attractions throughout the weekend. The spirit and rivalry between the two sides culminates in the rugby match between Rhodes' and NMMU's 1st XV. Last year Trivarsity was held at NMMU and when kick-off for the 1st XV rugby match arrived, the bottom stands of

the rugby stadium were a sea of white and purple. This type of support is typical of Rhodes.

Trivarsity also represents one of the largest parties of the year. Partying at Trivarsity doesn't only take place at night, but also happens on and around the sports fields.

Apart from Trivarsity, Boatrace is considered the most important sporting event in which Rhodes University participates. It is the most prestigious university rowing competition in South Africa. The winners of the four-day event are recognised as the best university rowing crews in South Africa for that particular year. The fact that no composite teams are allowed to race means that a highly competitive environment exists between the different crews. Apart from prestige, pride and reputation are at stake.

Boatrace is held in Port Alfred,

approximately 35 minutes from Grahamstown. The format is similar to the Oxford-Cambridge boat race. Heats are held from the Thursday to find the fastest crew. The competition is then gradually whittled down until the two fastest crews are pitted head-to-head in the final. The event is divided into sections, with Rhodes always fielding two crews in each of the men's and women's competitions.

The men row over a distance of 6km, and the women over 4km. Last year, both of the Rhodes women's crews were victorious, while the men's A-crew made the final against the University of Johannesburg.

Rhodes crews traditionally dye, shave or generally alter their hair. The colour purple is ever-present. The rowing crews from other varsities do the same in their universities' colours, creating a fantastic atmosphere for rower

and spectator alike. The men's B-crew has the tradition of giving themselves a different name every year. Last year they were the Gondwanaland Hedgehogs. The women's B-crew gave themselves a name last year for the first time, so hopefully they are also starting a tradition.

The after-party at Boatrace is legendary, with a diverse crowd from across the country making an appearance. Rhodes support is typically the largest, with overalls and dyed hair making an appearance once again.

These are two events that every Rhodent should be a part of. I am willing to guarantee that the atmosphere found at Boatrace and Trivarsity cannot be replicated anywhere else.

It is a major part of the Rhodes sub-culture. If you are in your first year, try to attend both of these fantastic events.

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# Everything you need to know about the COMMUNICATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

## Communications

Our job is to make sure that all members of the University community keep in touch - not only with what's going on around campus, but also with each other. We produce two major publications (one weekly and one monthly), maintain an informative e-mail list for students and are responsible for updating text on the official website.

### How can I keep up to date with weekly happenings on campus?

There are two ways to do this. Every Monday morning, you can find a copy of This Week @ Rhodes in the Dolphin Kaif, the Blockhouse, the Main, Cory and Law Libraries, and in the computer labs. This weekly publication features a comprehensive events list, stories of major interest on campus, letters from students and responses from senior management, and focuses on achieving staff and students. You can also find This Week @ Rhodes on the web at [www.ru.ac.za/thisweek](http://www.ru.ac.za/thisweek). It's updated every Monday at noon.

### I'm too busy to go looking for news. Can't you send it to me?

Funny you should mention it: we can! "Studentnews" is a mailing list that's dedicated to keeping students informed about various on-campus issues and services. You'll receive only one e-mail per week, in a digest form. It will contain news and information about the Counselling Centre, the Career Centre, the SRC, the student volunteer programme and lots more. Updates are available on Studentzone news ([www.ru.ac.za/studentzone/news](http://www.ru.ac.za/studentzone/news)). To join, just send a blank e-mail to [studentnews-join@listserv.ru.ac.za](mailto:studentnews-join@listserv.ru.ac.za) or go to <http://listserv.ru.ac.za/mailman/listinfo/studentnews-l/>



## Alumni Relations and Events

Once you arrive at Rhodes as a student, you become part of a very close-knit community. Even after you graduate, we'll keep in touch with you and let you know what's going on at your *alma mater*.

### That sounds great, but why should I be interested in "alumni relations" now, while I'm still a student?

When you come to Rhodes, you become part of the family - and as such, you're important to us from Day One!

### My parents both studied at Rhodes, but they haven't received news from here in years. Have you forgotten about them?

Not at all. We strive to maintain contact with all our Old Rhodians, and keep them informed of events at the University and of reunions in centres around South Africa and abroad. It is quite possible that they may have moved and forgotten to update their address details with our office. Please stop in at the Alumni Relations office and fill in an update card with their new address. This means they'll get monthly e-mails from us letting them know what's happening at Rhodes, and, if they're still based in South Africa, they will receive our annual special edition of Rhodos later in the year.

### Why are alumni so important, anyway?

Alumni really are part of the Rhodes family, and that's a relationship we value. Once you have completed a full academic year at Rhodes, you will automatically become a member of the Old Rhodian Union. The ORU is basically your club and is responsible for keeping Old Rhodians up to date with things that are happening at the University. It will help organise reunions, it fundraises and it also provides a number of bursaries for the children of Old Rhodians. One of its current projects is the Lucky Pot Lottery, which aims to support these bursaries as well as giving those who contribute a great chance of winning some really fantastic cash prizes. Our Division helps with the administration of the ORU and ensures that all activities that involve our alumni are coordinated properly.

**COMMUNICATIONS  
and DEVELOPMENT**

Check out  
[www.ru.ac.za/comm\\_dev](http://www.ru.ac.za/comm_dev)  
for more information  
about our division

A Communications and Development Division initiative



## Development

This section operates as the interface of the donor community and the funding requirements of the University. Its job is to source and manage donors for Rhodes' priority funding needs - among them new buildings and student financial assistance like bursaries. In addition, the Development Liaison Co-ordinator assists all Rhodes departments, divisions and affiliates to develop their own fundraising strategies and to identify donor partners.

### So what you're saying is that you get a whole lot of money from donors. Where does it go? Can I have some?

The bulk of money raised is for specific projects which tend to be initiated by academic departments for specific reasons and with specific outcomes. Very little (less than 10 percent) is what we call 'discretionary money', which can be spent at the discretion of the Vice-Chancellor. The only real flexibility therefore is when a donor provides funds for example, "to support undergraduate students from a previously disadvantaged background". Then student financial aid would make decisions as to the best spend of these amounts. The reality today is that most donors do not give free-funding - they want to know where the money is going and they want to know the eventual impact. Discretionary money has become like gold - very valuable and very scarce.

### So I can't necessarily have any money. Pity. How do these wonderful donations help me as a student, then?

Well, your departments need resources to continue providing a top-class education to their students. When a faculty has a particular need, they will discuss it and obtain the approval of their dean to proceed. Our division could then lend assistance to prepare proposals, and identify donors whose criteria for funding match the faculty need. So, for example, microscopes for the Department of Geology is the kind of request which will go to a mining company: firstly, many of the geologists in the field have previous connections with Rhodes; secondly, it is in their best interests to help to maintain the stream of qualified geologists into the field, so they would want to provide the support required to keep the course going; and thirdly, companies need to be able to demonstrate their Corporate Social Responsibility (or triple bottom line reporting) in order to justify their profits, so are required by law (and tax!) to donate a percentage of profits to worthy causes.

The end result is a set of microscopes that you can use during your practical periods. Cool, huh?

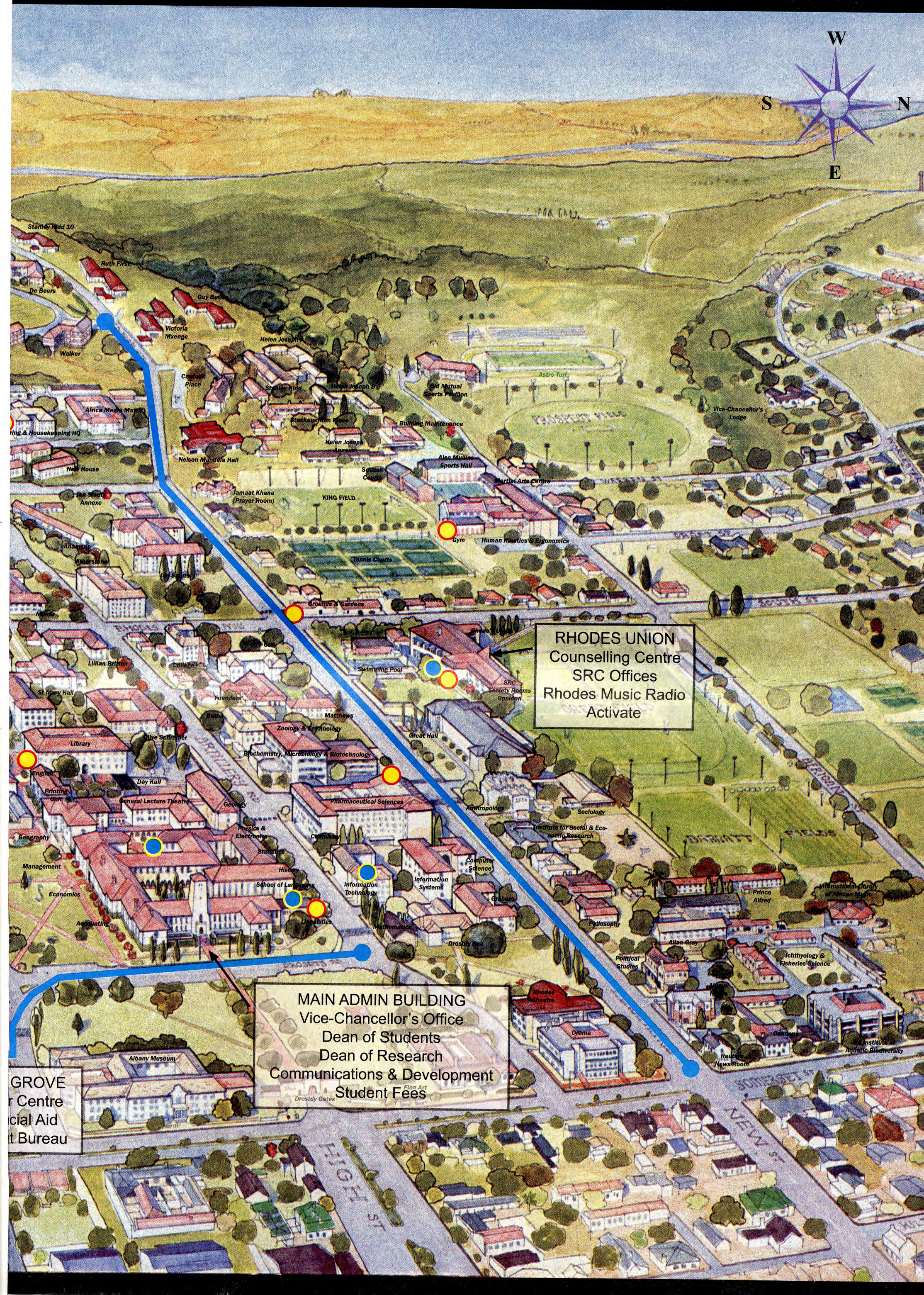


# Helping you find your way around Rhodes University campus map 2006

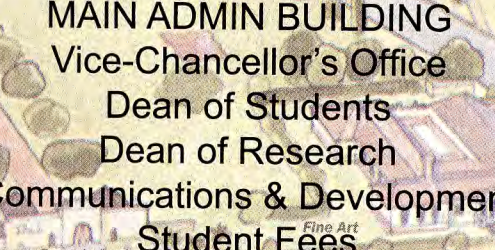
An initiative of the Communications and Development Division  
Updated by the Rhodes University Graphics Services Unit







**RHODES UNION**  
Counselling Centre  
SRC Offices  
Rhodes Music Radio  
Activate

An aerial photograph of a university campus, showing various buildings, green spaces, and parking areas. Overlaid on the image is a list of departments and offices. The text is arranged in a vertical column on the left side of the image. The background shows a mix of green lawns, trees, and several large, multi-story buildings with red roofs. A road or path is visible on the right side. The overall tone is bright and sunny.

**MAIN ADMIN BUILDING**  
**Vice-Chancellor's Office**  
**Dean of Students**  
**Dean of Research**  
**Communications & Development**  
**Student Fees**

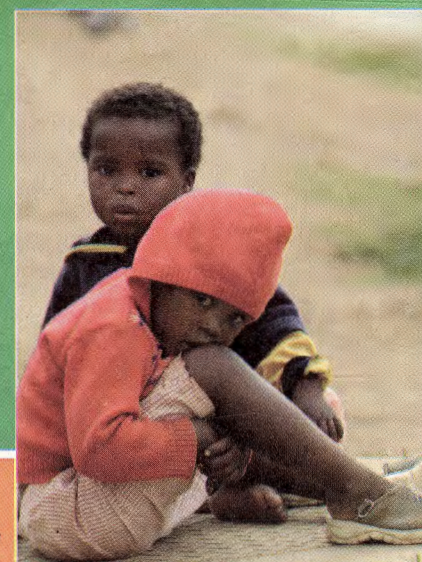
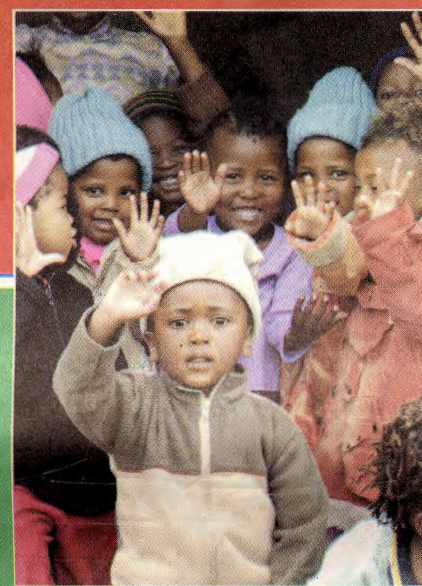
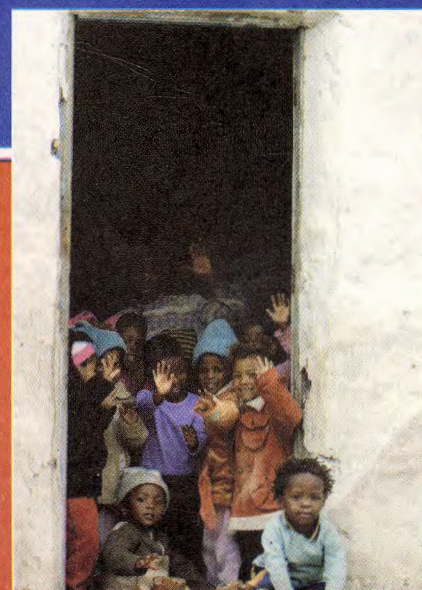
*Fine Art*  
*Drosty Gates*

GROVE  
r Centre  
cial Aid  
t Bureau





Pics: Gregor Röhrig



### What in the world is "Give 5"?

The Give 5 campaign is the country's first and most successful student-giving campaign - a chance for Rhodes students to get involved in helping out the local Grahamstown community, with a donation of just R5!

On 5 February, this year's campaign will be launched, and we're hoping to make more money than ever before to hand over to the Rhodes-affiliated Centre for Social Development (CSD). The CSD has a long and successful history of work within the Grahamstown community, and is a great source through which to channel our funds.

Last year, we raised more than R12 000 - and that's all because Rhodes students are not afraid to reach into their pockets and Give 5! The Give 5 campaign was established in 2004 to coincide with Rhodes University's Centenary celebrations. It is aimed at fostering a sense of philanthropy amongst students - beginning with charitable contributions to the town that will be your home for at least three years, and growing bigger and bigger as you leave Rhodes and move into the job market.

All the funds raised from the last two campaigns have gone to foundation phase education in the local underprivileged Grahamstown community. The CSD allocates the funds to the school or pre-school that is identified as being most in need at the time.

### Who's in charge of this wonderful campaign?

The Give 5 campaign doesn't only rely on students to give generously - it also needs them to get involved and make everything happen. Working closely with the Communications and Development Division, the Give 5 student committee makes sure that all aspects of the campaign are efficiently and effectively co-ordinated. 2006 committee chairperson Zoe Reeves has this to say about her ongoing involvement in the Give 5 campaign: "This will be the second year that I am involved in the Give 5 student campaign. Co-ordinating and running this campaign is not easy by any means and it requires a committee that works well together with one aim in mind. This is definitely the case with the 2006 committee. The campaign is being extended to the local schools in Grahamstown because we feel that it is never too early to foster a sense of philanthropy amongst young people. It has been the most rewarding experience being involved with Give 5, and to be able to make a difference in the lives of young learners in Grahamstown makes all the effort worth it. Your R5 does make a difference; without proper foundation phase education it is virtually impossible for anyone to come to university. These children are small people with big dreams, and it seems only fitting that as privileged students we help give them the opportunity to get where we are today."

### CSD Director Di Hornby is an avid supporter of the Give 5 campaign

"I think life is about choices and that we shape our own destiny. The mere fact that we find ourselves at university already indicates that we have been given a fine opportunity. In our country, not everyone is given the same opportunity. Did you know that only 12 percent of children in the Eastern Cape get to spend a year at pre-school before they entered Grade 1? Twenty-five percent of kids in the Eastern Cape 'fell out' of the education after Grade 1, and nine percent had to repeat Grade 1. Those figures are from 2002 - and they haven't improved.

I could throw facts and figures around all day, but as a student you're most likely reading this and thinking, 'Well, that's someone else's problem and there's nothing I can do.' And that's where you are wrong.

In 2005, the Give 5 campaign and Rafsoc both focused on meeting the needs of the Thylulwazi pre-school, which was a wattle and daub structure situated in the informal settlement near Extension 7. The school had initially been built by parents, and the poles had perished and had become unsafe and very unhealthy because of the damp and spring it was built on. The parents had already found a better site, so they set about fundraising to help build a pre-school.

Today, Thylulwazi is almost completed and only needs the doors hung and glass placed in the windows. It has two classrooms, one toilet and a small kitchen. It also has an eight-foot security fence around it. Give 5 funds paid for the fence, and the balance of their money went to the building. Rafsoc raised the balance and the school was built by the parents. Rafsoc visited the Supervisor, teacher, cook and 40 children weekly and built up a great, caring relationship with the community. They even took the 40 children, staff and parents out for a day to Pumba Game Reserve just outside Grahamstown. During 2005, Rafsoc also collected second hand clothing: 28 full black bags!

It is wonderful that they have given 40 children a good start each year. But more than that, they have built relationships with the community and through this have not only enriched other people but have found they have grown immensely from the privilege of working with the community.

It's not difficult to start giving. I suggest you start on February 11 - by giving five - and move onwards and upwards from there."