

RHODEO

Rhodes' Independent Student Newspaper



When police turn bad



pic: Ntokozi Ntombela
Picture posed

FEARS of an increase in police harassment of students are growing after a series of incidents, going back almost a year, came to a head during February. Much of the harassment involved allegedly unreasonable and unlawful actions by police officers, as well as instances of verbal abuse, and an alleged physical assault.

Tongues were wagging at various digs last week as **RHODEO** interviewed several students, many of whom were reluctant to have their identities revealed for fear of further harassment. Some students now feel so threatened they fear walking alone, or going to certain places like Grey Dam. Others main-

tain there has been a continuing increase in police harassment since the second term of last year.

Harassment does not appear to be directed at any particular group of students. It seems rather to reflect a disturbing general attitude towards students amongst elements in the police force.

Some black students did admit they had been subject to police harassment, but refused to comment further. Neither are the incidents only restricted to Oppidan students. **RHODEO** discovered that some residence students have also been subject to harassment.

• Turn to page 9 for details

NEWS

Fort Hare University has been closed down indefinitely. Students had four hours to pack their bags and leave. **RHODEO** looks at the events leading up to the close-down.

Page 3

CULTURE



In a small cluttered shop in Fingo Village resides a musical talent of yesterday, Jury Mpehlo. Turn down Memory Lane and see Jury exploding onto the 1940s South African jazz scene. Page 13

FEATURE

Steve and Thabu are streetchildren who have been sexually abused by older men. A lurid, pitiful drama lies hidden behind the scenes.

Page 7



SPORT



What do Ye Armpit, Bafana Bafana and the Rupsa Rebels have in common? The start of the 1993 Internal Soccer League has yielded a sprout of unexpected team names. For more fun and games, turn to Page 16

Lecturers urged to unionise

Gerhard Hope

IMAGINE lecturers and professors picketing the Rhodes administration block, waving placards proclaiming things like "Tertiary institutions give third-grade pay."

Such an event is unlikely, but according to a visiting academic, university staff should form a union and use collective bargaining in their dealings with the university and the state.

Professor Donald Savage, director of the Canadian Association of University Teachers, and professor of history at Carleton University, told a meeting of Rhodes academics last month that if they were to launch a wage strike, administration would claim there were "no more crumbs on the wage pie plate".

But this pie plate, in the form of the university budget, has to be made available for public scrutiny, Prof Savage said. Staff would then know how much more they could potentially ask for.

"Collective bargaining is sometimes criticised as collective begging," Prof Savage said. "Its main objective is to seek parity of wages and benefits, and to petition the university when certain issues had to be addressed."

Prof Savage noted that academic freedom and collective bargaining were sometimes seen as incompatible, where staff members would be obliged to take part in



union actions. If, however, academic freedom is attacked, recourse is needed to some grievance arbitration procedure, he said.

Prof Savage said that in Canada when lay-offs are unavoidable there is a five-year recall period in the case of an economic upswing. This means that if economic conditions allowed the university to begin rehiring staff, they would automatically rehire those that had been retrenched within the last five years.

One issue which had not yet been successfully addressed by Canadian academics was the gender imbalance in universities, Prof Savage said.

Imagine those same lecturers and professors outside the administration block, picketing for paternity leave.

Get what you pay for

Lucy Warren

THE Oppidan Board is planning to launch a digs grading system this year to aid students in securing reasonably priced accommodation.

Prompted by a flood of complaints last year from both oppidans and landlords, the Board hopes to set up a standard against which accommodation quality and rent prices can be compared.

SRC Oppidan Liaison Councilor, Nick Lydall, said the grading system would not carry any legal weight, but would play a purely advisory role.

"However, it will help students to deal with their landlords in rent disputes as it will show if the rent

for a particular digs is too high compared with other digs of a similar standard."

To facilitate the project oppidans were asked to complete forms at registration, supplying relevant information including the size of their digs, the rent charged, and the facilities provided.

"Work on the project will continue throughout the year, and members of the Oppie Board will also be visiting digs to gather additional details," Nick Lydall said.

The information collected will be available from the Oppie Secretary, and some pieces of interest will also be published in *The Oppidan*.

Ready, Steady, Vote

Kevin Rose

THE African National Congress branch of Grahamstown is launching units in the area, in line with the ANC election drive.

Of the ten units to be set up, three are operating. Rhodes University and Grahamstown form one unit.

The national elections planned for April next year were a motivating factor for establishing the units, a lecturer in the International Studies Unit at Rhodes, Lebona Mosia said.

Mosia, who is a member of the Rhodes unit's core committee, said the units were part of the plan to utilise all human resources in the election drive.

Door to door campaigning, workshops on voter education, and fundraising projects were being planned.

The unit will be active in the

rural areas, which are an important constituency to the ANC. Townships and white suburbs will also be engaged. Mosia said that students were also an important constituency, with a role to play in the pre-election scene.

Branch executive member of the ANC, Clifford Nxomani, said the unit has three functions:

- It allows the grassroots level to inform discussion in the executive.
- It provides an organised means of discussing ANC policies and general issues.
- More effective political education can be carried out at the unit, than at the mass level.

"As a grassroots structure, the unit will hopefully take the ANC back to the people," Nxomani said. "We hope to expand our recruitment by turning support into membership."

The unit at Rhodes is based

around a core committee, involving mainly academics and activists. In addition, three sub-committees will carry out the work of the unit.

The elections sub-committee takes on the task of voter education. The topical issues sub-committee discusses the ANC's position, as well as current positions in the broad political sphere. The fundraising subcommittee finances the unit's campaigns.

"We are a group of intellectuals who, as ANC members, had been thinking of offering our services to the ANC," Mosia said. "Given the apathy amongst students, and considering the political issues that have recently arisen, we decided to set up this unit."

The unit is currently focused on the Albany district, but it may expand operations into the Eastern Province, and even beyond.

Jammed airwaves

DURBAN- Durban Youth Radio (DYR) completed a fortnight of city-wide broadcasting last week with a final 24-hour live broadcasting stint.

DYR was granted a temporary license by the Minister of Home Affairs to broadcast for the duration of the university of Natal-Durban's Rag Week.

The station, UND's independent campus-community radio, was the third campus-based station in the country to be granted a temporary licence this year. Voice of Wits (VOW) radio station broadcast during the university's Orientation Week in February, Rhodes Music Radio (RMR) were given a license to broadcast as part of a non-stop charity broadcast from March 3-12.

Durban listeners within a 50km radius of the station could hear a "decent percentage of music and news - in both English and Zulu - designed to entertain and educate," a DYR spokesperson said.

The DYR project included a number of youth and community organisations, aiming its broadcasts not only at students, but also communities in the Durban area.

The broadcast was considered by the station as a test of their long-term broadcast capabilities, in anticipation of a nation-wide radio station "switch-on" on May 1. This "switch-on" is in defiance of government restrictions on independent broadcasters. - Sasnews.



Journalism awards for students

JOHANNESBURG- The Weekly Mail and the South African Students Press Union have launched an annual award for campus media that will reward excellence in student journalism.

Student journalists working on publications and radio stations affiliated to Saspu from universities, technikons and colleges are invited to submit portfolios of work in six categories.

In the print section of the competition, prizes will be awarded to the Best Student Newspaper, Best Design for a Student Newspaper, Student Journalist of the Year, and Student Photographer of the Year. In the broadcast section prizes will go to the Best Student Radio Sta-

tion and Student Broadcaster of the year.

Apart from cash prizes, winners of individual awards will be offered paid vacation employment and training with the Weekly Mail during the July holidays.

"The recognition of the achievements of student journalists by the media industry will strengthen the link between campus and society," Saspu Secretary-general Mpho Mosimane said.

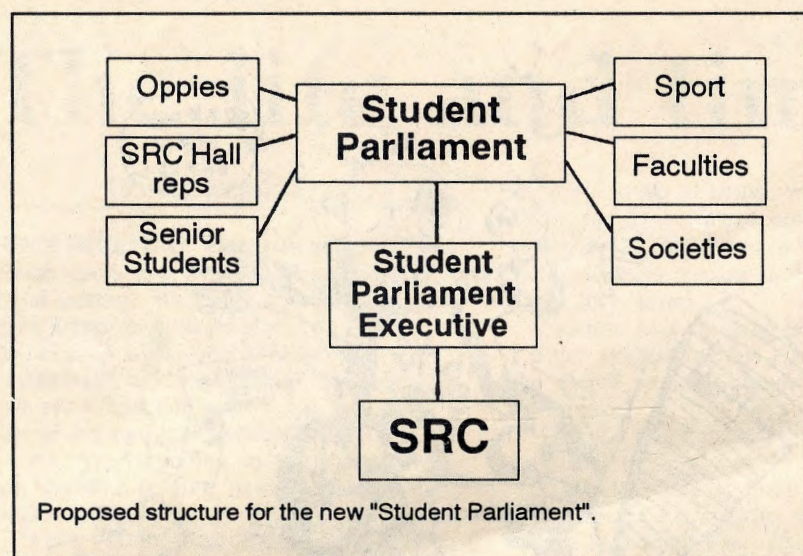
"It reminds students that with their skills, their enthusiasm and a bit of hard work, they have the capacity to address at least some of the media needs facing South Africa in transition," he added.

The judging panel will comprise of editors, media academics and senior broadcasters - as well as representatives of the Weekly Mail and Saspu.

Full details of the awards and application forms will be circulated to Saspu Offices throughout the country by March, material produced from September 1992 to July 1993 will be eligible for entry.

The 1993 awards will be presented at the annual Saspu congress in November in Durban. For further information contact Tessa Weakly of the Weekly Mail at (011) 334-0747, or Saspu head office at (011) 716-5039. - Sasnews.





The times they are a-changing

Ingrid Salgado

THE Students' Representative Council has proposed the establishment of an all-inclusive "Student Parliament" which, if approved, could revitalise student activity at Rhodes.

The parliament/assembly which is scheduled to meet for the first time in May this year, is intended to make students a bigger part of the system which affects their lives on campus.

SRC President, Ibrahim Seedat, said: "The current SRC was elected on a 40 percent poll. We cannot speak of a democratic SRC if the SRC does not have the support of the majority of students, nor if it does not involve students in decision-making."

The parliament will ensure that all students' interests are represented. It is part of a process started last year to reintroduce democracy into the SRC through creative and effective means.

Society representatives and hall senior students approved the Student Parliament idea at the recent SRC Leadership weekend-away.

Sports club, faculty council, society and oppidan representatives will sit on the parliament as well as SRC hall reps and house senior students.

"The idea is for the SRC to get thorough student input from all student sectors. The SRC will then

provide the means for implementing decisions taken by the parliament," Ibrahim said.

Some students have argued the SRC is effectively voting itself out of existence. However, according to Ibrahim, the SRC will "continue doing the same things it has before". The difference lies in students having more say in shaping the programmes the SRC takes up.

Representatives to the parliament will elect a student parliament executive of which the SRC President and Vice-President will sit as Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson respectively.

The number of representatives to attend the parliament still needs to be clarified. It has been suggested that societies, for example, have proportional representation according to membership numbers.

This rules out domination in the parliament by elements that do not effectively represent any large number of students.

"We are making the SRC more accessible to all students," Ibrahim said. "The parliament also ensures the SRC is more accountable to the people we claim to represent."

The parliament will meet four times a year starting in the first or second week of May.

Ibrahim welcomed new ideas and suggestions for the parliament from all students.

First food differences, then varsity closes

Wanda Mkutshulwa

THE Rector of the University of Fort Hare indefinitely closed down the university last week after students behaved in an 'unruly' manner following a crisis involving the catering system.

The shutdown stopped a planned march on the administration by students. They were to demand that suspensions be lifted on 15 students who had allegedly stolen food from the university.

Chaos initially broke out one evening when students, who follow the same meal-booking system as Rhodes' Drosty Hall, began taking food without any order and some university facilities were broken. This happened after students who had not booked meals followed other students into the

university's Main Kitchen.

The following day Fort Hare security officers, along with the Red Alert, a private security organisation, conducted a search on residences but were chased away by students before completing the search.

The administration called the Ciskei police in to stand outside the university where the 15 students were caught with food and university property. These students were arrested and suspended from Fort Hare.

At an SRC meeting, students demanded that their suspensions be lifted.

The next day, some students convened their own meeting, where they demanded a response to a letter circulated by the Rector, Professor Bengu. The letter, which informed students of the suspen-

sions, raised concern at the mounting "crime on campus" and the "hooligans who ransacked the Main Kitchen".

Students at the meeting decided to suspend classes until their problems had been addressed.

Students later decided to march on the administration to list their grievances.

The university, however, was shut down on the day of the planned march. A letter circulated at 8am told students they had to leave university premises by noon the same day.

In a meeting the previous week, students had protested against expensive meals, food not reaching dining halls in time and people not receiving the meals they had booked. The administration, however, had not addressed these problems.

The politics of dancing

Scarlett Cornelissen,
Tamsyn Pillay
& Karuna Gopal

DESPITE widespread dissatisfaction among students, Rhodes Music Radio (RMR) maintains there is no distinction between black and white music.

"RMR does not believe that the colour of your skin determines the type of music you like," RMR Station Manager Tony Lankester said.

As mentioned in the last edition of *RHODEO*, however, many students still feel RMR does not cater for their music tastes.

"It is an undeniable fact that different cultures emerge from different backgrounds. As a result, we all have different tastes," Thembi, a second year BSoc Sci student said.

In the South African context, these differences are primarily based on race. The non-diversity of crowds at parties run by RMR DJs could stem from their failure to cater to these different tastes.

"young people have enough of a youth culture in common"

SRC President, Ibrahim Seedat, said young people have enough of a youth culture in common for RMR to exploit as a uniting factor. The SRC has successfully done so, attracting diverse groups of students to parties as part of their 'United campus jorling' campaign.

According to one RMR DJ, however, success is measured by "the number of feet on the dance-floor, not the diversity of the crowd".

Ibrahim said: "Our United Campus Parties have proven that music catering for diverse crowds can also be the most successful as we have had the most number of people dancing at the Rhodes Club this year."

In general, the feeling among students is that RMR has become predictable in its choice of music, be it for parties, or regular broadcasts.

DJ, Nishid Dosa, said RMR compiles a weekly top thirty playlist from a nationwide survey of chart music. "But most students prefer older, eighties music, so we attempt to satisfy those preferences."

Students suggested RMR introduce latest releases at parties, thereby breaking the monotony. DJ's, however, are afraid to experiment with new music.

"The worst feeling for a DJ is if people clear the dance-floor," Tony said. This problem could be combated if new releases were given more airplay to familiarise students with them. It would also allow for a variety of music, which would address the problem of taste differences, thereby contributing to "united campus jorling".

Unshackling the SABC

DURBAN- Students from the University of Natal, Durban (UND) and Natal Technikon were among several groups who picketed the SABC offices in Durban on March 3.

Pickets occurred simultaneously at other centres around the country, as part of a nationwide stance against government control of broadcasting.

The pickets were co-ordinated by the Campaign for Independent Broadcasting (CIB), which is presently engaged in efforts to establish an independent SABC board.

March 3 was the date of the last sitting of the present SABC board.

Chief organiser of the Durban picket, Alison Gillwald, stressed the need to create a public awareness around the right to broadcast.

"This is because President de Klerk has plans to extend the term of the board for another six months. This would take us into the election period," she said.

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Homeless again

Eugene de Klerk & Linda Camara

THE Children's Literacy Programme (CLP) is being jeopardised by the internal bureaucratic struggles in the organisation's hierarchy.

Firstly, they require a new venue, according to Rosemary Van Wyk Smith, vice chairperson of the Grahamstown Street Children's Project (GSP) under which the CLP falls. The original venue at Sached was withdrawn due to "the lease coming to an end and the children crapping and burgling."

Nobengazi Kamana and Mncedisi Tetiwe, principal, and field worker at the school, feel the main committee blames them for the children's actions over which they did not have sufficient control. Most burglaries took place at night, when they had no jurisdiction over the children's actions.

Even the history of the CLP itself is full of conflicting accounts. Van Wyk Smith says the GSP and the CLP under it was formed approximately two years ago "at a meeting of concerned citizens," under the auspices of the Albany Council of Churches. Kamana was then hired.

Tetiwe and Kamana, however, said that Kamana, after receiving training in Cape Town through Masifunde, had initiated the project with a cheque from the Independent Development Trust (IDT) for R47 000.

Kamana says she was then approached by the "Shelter Care Group", and agreed to a merger. She handed over the funds she had raised. Now she says she has to virtually beg for funds from the main committee treasurer, Mrs Black.

Van Wyk Smith responded that Kamana had access to the funds and voting rights, although she admitted the treasurer was "bureaucratic to the n-th degree".

The problem is aggravated by the management structure lacking a constitution. "We suggested that each of the four sub-committees submit draft constitutions and that

one should be decided on," says Kamana.

"But the main committee appointed those it deemed 'qualified', including Mrs Smith, to draw up the constitution, which makes no mention of the CLP, only of the children's shelter."

"They are trying to undermine the CLP and us," Tetiwe says. "They want to use the funds to build the children's shelter and the CLP will come to an end. They are trying to separate the two. What use is just a shelter? We need to return these children to formal school and their homes. A future is not just a place to sleep. The two should be run together."

"And in the meanwhile, children will go to sleep in the gutter"

According to Tetiwe, part of the "conspiracy" involves Child Welfare and a plan to place the children's shelter under its control. Evaluators from Cape Town were paid to assess the Grahamstown CLP. Tetiwe says these evaluators did not listen to either him or Kamana.

"We told them that there are no true street children in Grahamstown - most have homes in the township and there are only about two children from outside. They would not even listen to us."

Following this evaluation, two children were removed to a "Safe Haven" in Port Elizabeth and no one at the CLP was consulted. "Since we opposed the main committee about the handing over of the shelter to Child Welfare, they don't consult us at all," adds Kamana.

Kamana and Tetiwe say they have contemplated giving up due to pressure from the main commit-

tee. They attempted to break away from the GSP and asked for the funds they had raised. This was refused because they apparently misunderstood the arrangement due to the "language barrier".

An article on the CLP printed in Grocotts further increased tensions. Van Wyk Smith was interviewed and Kamana and Tetiwe were referred to merely as "a trainee" and a "field worker" respectively. Van Wyk Smith said she had given their names to the journalist but that Grocotts had obviously chosen to omit it: "You know how Grocotts gets things wrong."

According to Tetiwe he has never had any trouble with Grocotts, and this is part of the "conspiracy" to marginalise Kamana and himself. "If they don't recognise us as formal teachers, they don't have to take us seriously," he says.

Van Wyk Smith assured us that the CLP would continue even if the children's shelter was built. Estimated costs for the shelter are R50 000. Van Wyk Smith said a "suitable couple", must be found to run the shelter, preferably a man and a woman.

Kamana and Tetiwe reiterated the need for a combined management of the CLP and the children's shelter. "The main committee knows nothing of the children and only come to the venue if they are invited."

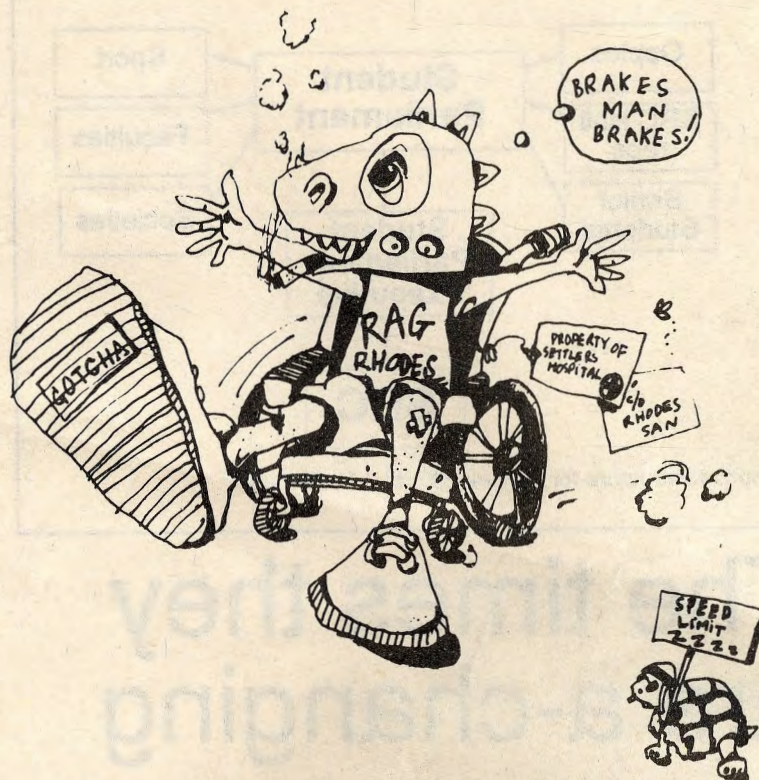
This, however, is apparently not to be!

The CLP is to be removed from Sached and will be searching for a new venue, in the township, or the street law premises. Meanwhile, the main committee has been granted land by the municipality for the children's shelter. There are only "a few technical details to be worked out," Van Wyk Smith said.

Van Wyk Smith opposed *RHODEO* printing this article, saying it would be inflammatory and only aggravate the situation.

Kamana and Tetiwe felt their story needed to be heard.

And in the meanwhile, children will go to sleep in the gutter.



Back in time

Angie Lazaro & Jansie Kotze

RAG isn't what it used to be. In the sixties students were more creative with smoking monster heads - and before that they would ride the old San wheelchair down the streets.

"Museums are about looking back all the time," said Rhodes Museum curator, Ken Robenson, better known as Mr Rob.

During our visit Mr Rob took us down memory lane with the sound

of a gramophone filling the charming old chapel.

Looking at the old machinery displayed you won't dismiss your department's equipment as outdated.

According to Mr Rob students have very little interest in the museum. We wonder why. Are students working too hard or playing too hard?

Mr Rob has created a charming museum and will gladly take you around on Friday afternoons. It is situated next to the St Peters building and there is no entrance charge.

Xhosa for lecturers

Cathy O' Dowd

CAMPUS staff are lecturing Xhosa to academics in an innovative new project put together by the Community Outreach Programme.

Students receive the benefit of a mother tongue tutor, while teachers develop skills that will ultimately be of use to the community.

The course was designed by Lucy Smith. Eight teachers were selected from volunteers and received a month's training before class began.

They receive a lesson plan and meet weekly to review progress. Ideally they will co-ordinate future courses themselves.

Patricia Faku, a laboratory assistant, had never taught before and felt intimidated by her highbrow class.

She was surprised by the amount of clowning around. The

course has improved her confidence and she would happily do it again.

Not all the teachers are as enthusiastic. Victor Gacula, a library assistant, feels the course takes up too much time.

The course has been necessitated by the rapidly growing number of Xhosa speakers at the university. Xhosa is also becoming recognised as a major regional language.

Lessons emphasise the spoken word and are relevant to the Grahamstown area. Some grammar is necessary because Xhosa differs structurally from English and Afrikaans. Xhosa customs are also discussed.

The Community Outreach Programme is trying to extend the services of the university to the general community. Future courses will be run on a fee basis to make the course self-funding.

More honorary degrees...

RHODEO Reporter

TWO honorary degrees will be awarded at the Rhodes graduation ceremonies in April.

Bennet Jacobson will receive a Master of Pharmacy degree in recognition of more than 65 years of service to pharmacy. He is an honorary life member of several pharmaceutical societies.

A Doctor of Laws degree will be conferred upon Enos Mabuza of the Independent Development Trust. He founded the Inyandza National Movement which called

for the removal of racist legislation and the unbanning of the liberation movement.

Honorary degrees are awarded in recognition of distinguished service and academic merit. No current employee or member of the Council may receive an honorary degree from Rhodes.

The degree is not awarded if 25 percent or more of the honorary degree committee opposes the selection of the candidate.

Last year, students voiced their opposition to the committee's decision to confer an honorary doctor-

ate to former USA Deputy Secretary for African affairs, Dr Chester Crocker.

Rhodes saw students picketing, marching and signing petitions as Crocker received his award at the Rhodes East London branch despite protests and much media publicity.

This year, however, neither students nor academics have as yet publicly disapproved of either of the two honorary doctorate choices.

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Wanda Mkutshulwa

DESPITE reports of unfair digs evictions, there have been no direct complaints to the Oppidan Officer this year.

Craig Fourie, one of the Oppidan Board members responsible for accommodation, said that no direct complaints have been made.

He said a lot of people are ignorant of the fact that you must read a contract thoroughly before signing it.

Fourie said the oppidan board is offering leases, but only a couple of people have taken these contracts back to their landlords to

sign. This is a bad sign since contracts drawn up by landlords are often in their favour and give them power over tenants.

These contracts are often used to evict students when landlords wish their premises to be vacated.

Fourie said some students have taken in friends to share their rooms as this reduces rent payments and is also thought to be safer.

He added there are still places available in digs and called upon students to consult the oppidan office with eviction complaints anytime.

Rag Day scrapped

Rhedeo Reporters

RAG DAY has been scrapped as an official university event by the administration in an attempt to stamp out alcohol abuse and wreckless behaviour which has traditionally become associated with the Rag weekend.

The Ad-Hoc Committee on Rag chaired by the Dean of Students, Dr Moosa Motara, decided at its Rag post-mortem last month to take drastic measures to prevent a repeat of this year's chaotic Rag weekend which saw mostly drunk students openly breaking university regulations and causing over R4000 worth of damage.

The Ad-Hoc Committee on Rag includes senior administrators, Hall Wardens and repre-

sentatives from Sports Admin, the SRC and Rag.

According to SRC President Ibrahim Seedat, Rag Day has been taken off the University calendar for at least one year, although Rag events approved by the administration can proceed as normal.

The committee also decided to ban all beerstubs even though they generated substantial profits for Rag. "The beerstubs are seen as a major cause of the drunken behaviour and had to go," Ibrahim said.

In addition a strongly worded circular, jointly signed by the Vice-Chancellor, the SRC President and the Rag Chairperson, is to be issued individually to all students through their wardens or the Oppidan Board.

This circular warns students of the serious penalties for alcohol related offences and calls on students to consider their health, university property and their future careers before engaging in any wreckless behaviour.

The Vice-Chancellor is also expected to convene a high-powered committee consisting of student leaders, administrators and academics to investigate the culture of alcoholism and drug abuse at Rhodes.

Ibrahim said: "These tough measures could actually be a blessing in disguise for Rag which now has to go back to the drawing board and come up with creative activities which aim to dignify and unify campus and also raise money at the same time.



pic: Taryn Cass

The circus comes to town

Daniella Bergman and Colette Ambler

The joy of being a circus actor is the drug of freedom! Circus actors get paid to have fun. They are free spirited, and to hell with convention and stuffy suburban dictates. Life is too short to live in one place. Routine's boring, and circus life has the spice of adventure.

So says a Tanzanian acrobat in the Boswell-Wilkie Circus.

The Boswell-Wilkie Circus has been running for 39 years in Southern Africa and for two years preceding that in England. Circus was the original form of entertainment but its popularity has diminished since the advent of television in the late 70's.

The circus was the first multi-racial form of entertainment introduced in South Africa, but political problems have bred anti-circus vibes, especially in the Northern Transvaal. Audiences there were minimal because of racist attitudes.

"Black, white or green, we are here to entertain everyone," says circus manager, Mr Wilkie.

The circus in South Africa receives no government subsidies, in contrast to communist nations where there is a lot of government support.

Consequently South Africa's first circus school in Cape Town was forced to close down recently.

According to Mr Wilkie, it costs R1600 per day to run the circus. A R5000 profit can be made at full house shows.

In the past South African circus actors travelled with European circuses but this hasn't been the case for the past six years. Owing to lack of funds, the Boswell Wilkie circus has been confined to South Africa, Namibia, Botswana and Swaziland. Other neighbouring states don't allow profits to leave

their countries, so the circus is unable to perform there.

There are 105 members in the Boswell-Wilkie circus family.

They range from a 16-year-old Mongolian acrobat to the 80-year-old circus granny. Actors are recruited from the USA and Europe.

Presently, the majority of the show is performed by Mongolians, although the clowns are Italian, and the lion tamer is Dutch. There are also a few South Africans and Zimbabweans among the group. This heterogeneous

community lives in harmony, although society often creates problems for them.

The Group for Environmental Action at Rhodes (GEAR) strongly

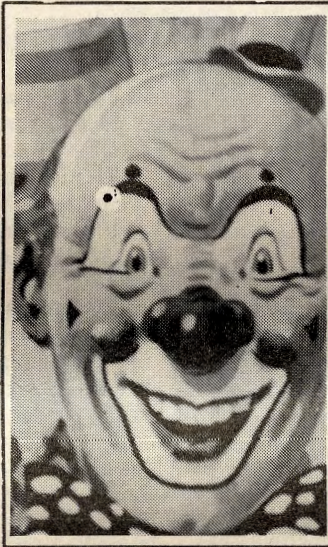
opposes the exploitation of animals for entertainment.

"People use animals for a lot worse things," Mr Wilkie said. "Lots of time and money has been invested in these animals, and it's in the circus' best interest to look after them."

Circus elephants are released into game parks after five years of confinement. New elephants have to be pampered for 10 to 12 months before they are ready for training.

Whatever the controversy, the wide-eyed expressions of the audience at the two performances in Grahamstown reflected the high level of enjoyment. Acts ranged from the Tanzanian boys acrobatics to the Mongolian contortionists. Fiddler's Green was transformed into a lively arena by the coloured lights and the variety of traditional costumes.

Although the 90s offers a wide spectrum of sophisticated entertainment, it seems the circus will always remain one of the most enjoyable family outings.



Sasco meeting disrupted

PRETORIA- Right-wingers at the University of Pretoria took on members of the South African Students Congress (Sasco) and campus security guards at a meeting on the campus earlier this month.

The scuffles occurred after nearly 200 Conservative Party and Afrikaner Studente Front (ASF) members attempted to disrupt an address by ANC spokesperson Carl Niehaus on March 9.

This followed public threats by the two groups to disrupt the meeting. The meeting was organised by the SRC to discuss national flags and symbols.

Sasco media officer, Reginald Legoabe criticised the SRC for not taking sufficient security measures and for "treating the right-wingers with velvet gloves".

"The CP and the ASF have a track record of disruptions and lack of political tolerance," he added.

The local branches of Sasco, the National Party and the Democratic Party demanded the right-wingers be expelled as they "were clearly thwarting all existing democratic rules". - Sasnews

BITING THE BALLOT

Gerhard Hope

"WE will not abandon the bullet until the ballot is secured," the Pan Africanist Congress' secretary for foreign affairs, Gora Ebrahim, told a packed meeting at Rhodes at the end of last month.

His speech marked the 33rd anniversary of the Sharpsville massacre on March 21, 1960, which ended what Mr Ebrahim described as "the sterile philosophy of non-violence".

His address was preceded by a hymn of praise sung in Mr Ebrahim's honour by the audience, amid cries of "one settler, one bullet" and "butcher them, Apla, butcher them".

Apartheid was supposed to be dead, but everyone was still waiting to see the corpse, Ebrahim said. FW de Klerk is shown "as a messiah when he is really a Pied Piper".

According to Ebrahim, a non-racial, democratic constitution had to be drafted by an elected constituent assembly. This, he said, was the only legitimate forum for negotiation.

Political violence escalated in 1992, despite the National Peace Accord, which was a "gentlemen's agreement amongst thieves not to steal from each other," Ebrahim said.

State-sponsored violence in the form of trained mercenaries was the main cause of the ongoing conflict, he said. The recent killing of schoolchildren in Natal could not be attributed to any party hoping to further the liberation struggle.

He described the Concerned South Africans Group (COSAG) as "a most reactionary alliance". He

said the PAC would vehemently oppose the continuation of the Bantustans under the guise of regionalism.

Ebrahim said the PAC stood for non-racialism, as opposed to multi-racialism, "which is racism multiplied".

"There is only one race, and that is the human race," he said.

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NEHAWU strike update

Karl Delpont

THE National Education and Health Allied Workers Union (Nehawu) Chairperson, Xhanti Nojoko, said the relationship between Nehawu and the administration could be described as tolerant.

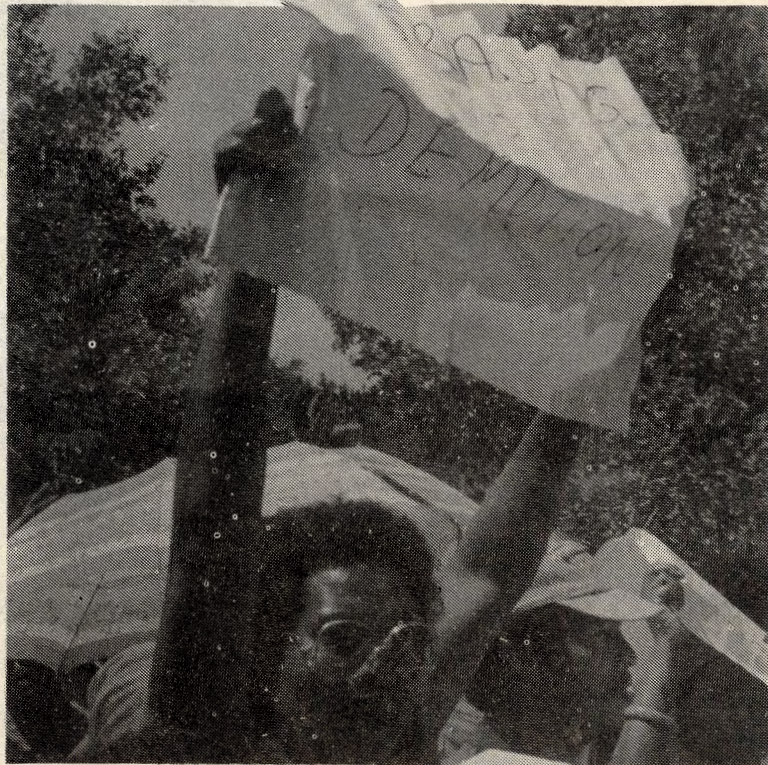
This situation has arisen after Rhodes workers went on strike in March last year.

"The demands put forward to Rhodes Admin five years ago resulted in the strikes in April last year," Nojoko said. "One of the major causes of that strike was the implementation of the Paterson Job Evaluation system, whereby workers are graded and paid according to their grades. Some workers were downgraded, so we went on strike."

Negotiations occurred at the end of the four day strike. Nehawu demanded the abolition of the Grade 1 position, and a probation period to replace it. This was because some staff had worked at Rhodes for twenty years without promotions.

This resulted in all workers being reviewed. Those who had been downgraded were reinstated to their original positions. Probation period employees with more than three years service were promoted to Grade 2.

In response to the R200 wage increase demand, Admin gave residence staff a R50 increase to



breach the gap between residence and non-residence staff. At present the average non-resident employee in the probation period earns R600 a month. Grade 2 employees earn R729 a month; Grade 3, R859; Grade 4, R1 017; and Grade 5, R1 262.

"The Union believes that in order for a good relationship to

exist between the two, participation within the university structures making major decisions on issues relating to employees will be of great importance," Nojoko said. "Though the University (Admin) portrays itself as a liberal institution, in practice it is contrary. This has been proved in many instances, with many annual demands not being met."

Future media

Carmel Musiker

JOURNALISTS, editors and media planners from around the world will arrive in Grahamstown later this month to discuss the future of journalism in a changing South Africa. Students have been invited to attend the media festival hosted by the Journalism department, where media staff from Southern Africa, Europe and America will exchange views with their South African colleagues.

The conference, entitled 'Making Media Work for South Africa's Development', includes speakers from New York, London, Berlin, Lusaka, Harare, Blantyre, Nairobi, Windhoek and Gaborone. The keynote address on Press Freedom will be given by Cosmopolitan editor Jane Raphaely.

According to Don Pinnock, the conference's convenor, the role of the media in South Africa needs to be redefined as the country approaches a new political dispensation.

"In a predominantly illiterate country, the mass media, in particular radio and television, will play a large part in voter education," he said.

"Journalism is at a critical crossroads in South Africa," Pinnock said. "The media will become a mass educator in a country where money is short. It will have to shift its perspective to a developmental role, and this will increase its responsibilities considerably."

According to Pinnock, journalists in the commercial media write as though they live in the First World, while journalists on the more radical weeklies still seem to focus on "revolutionary transformation".

After the elections both groups will find their conceptions unrealistic and outdated, he said.

"Journalists are going to have to re-tool in the new South Africa. This conference is an important starting point."

Zimsoc floored

Anthony Squazzin

ZIMSOC was fined R500 last week and banned from holding any future parties.

The banning followed the Zimsoc party on March 13.

It was alleged that vomit had to be scraped off the floor of the Great Hall. The administration cited unacceptable noise levels and despicable behaviour, whilst Muslim students said their prayers had been disrupted by a Zimsoc member.

Zimsoc chairperson, James Abson, said the allegations were totally unfounded and complained that administration would not divulge its sources. Committee members had stayed until 1h30am to clean up the mess and left the hall in a reasonable state.

Besides a sticky floor due to spilt beer and an unravelled fire hose, all was in order, he said. Nevertheless Zimsoc was fined R500 for breakages and a clean-up operation. Campus Security reported no breakages in their routine post-party check. An appeal is currently being launched by Zimsoc.

James expressed disappointment at the turn of events, considering that Zimsoc were trying to alter their previously notorious image.

Zimsoc is purportedly becoming more socially conscious and is intending to donate about R7000 to various South African charities and a Zimbabwean wildlife organisation.

They have negotiated a deal with Shearwater Zimbabwe, whereby Rhodes students would get a discount on Zambesi white-water rafting trips.



Paso attacks fees

Gerhard Hope

The newsletter of the Pan Africanist Student's Organisation (Paso), *The Young Africanist*, has launched a scathing attack on the Rhodes student fees office. In an article in the pamphlet's March edition, the office was accused of employing racist staff and milking funds for interest.

In a broadside attack on maladministration and bureaucratic complacency, the uncredited article claims: "It's part of the university's policy to make sure they keep your money in their account for as long as possible so they can reap the interest."

"This university is run on business lines to make profit in a harsh economic environment. It dishes out loans, not bursaries, and recruits mainly from the elite."

RHODEO approached the fees office for a response, but was told that "comment would not be soon forthcoming".

Rage over res rules

Debre Giliomee & Melissa Ruthven

"RES RULES SUCK!" Well, so says SRC gender counsellor, Kendal Claassens.

The SRC is currently organising a campaign for next term which will promote alternative rules for female residences. This follows in the wake of numerous complaints received by the SRC.

At present, intervisiting is allowed from 7pm to 11pm in all female residences. This encourages women to visit men's residences during the day and late at night, posing a risk to women as there is no protection for them in men's residences.

There have been reports of women screaming in men's rooms without evoking any response. "Ad-



ministration doesn't realise that women are safer in their own residences," says Kendal.

Due to cutbacks, female residents have to do unpaid duty, whereas at

Wits and UCT people are hired to perform this task.

The SRC proposes that the duty room be left open from 10am to 12pm as this would encourage intervisiting in the safer environment of women's residences.

There have also been suggestions that each residence should be able to decide their own rules according to a democratic vote.

Part of the SRC campaign is to highlight the fact that women are not allowed to live in residence while pregnant. This is purely sexist, as the father faces no disciplinary action and female students are able to continue a normal social and academic life until well into pregnancy.

Residence rules at Rhodes, when compared to those of other academic institutions, appear extremely outdated and the issue now needs serious consideration by both Administration and the SRC.

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Aiding the victims

There is a new "four letter word" on everyone's lips, says **Justine Piovesan**. The word is Aids - the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome - and it represents possibly the most severe public health crisis of the century.

AIDS is an epidemic which has not left Grahamstown unaffected. Since the first diagnosis about two years ago, 11 people have died of the disease in the city. Fifty people here have Aids or Aids Related Complex, which represents the final stages of the disease. A further 11 people have been diagnosed HIV positive.

These figures are alarming, but if you consider that not everyone who is HIV positive or has AIDS is aware that they are infected, then these figures could increase drastically. The disease can remain dormant for up to 10 years and has no symptoms initially.

It is estimated that the mean doubling time for Aids in South Africa is 11.4 months, which means that by 1994, 100 people in Grahamstown are likely to be infected.

The Aids Programme in Grahamstown is part of the National Progressive Primary Health Care Network (NPPHCN) and is co-ordinated by Tony Yaka. The aim of the NPPHCN is to involve community organisations in Aids education and the care and acceptance of Aids victims. The various community organisations meet each week through an Aids Forum.

Yaka emphasises the non-partisan stance of the Aids Forum. Groups involved include Gadra, trade unions, political organisations, Hospice, and the Grahamstown municipality. The list is endless. Anyone eager to help is also welcome.

According to Tony Yaka, each organisation has unique needs which can be met with specialised Aids education and awareness campaigns in their specific communities.

"The issue is not political-Aids affects people across colour."

Aids is essentially different from any previous epidemic because it is controlled by human sexual behaviour and not predictable biological organisms. It is however also different from other sexual diseases as it is incurable. The most effective remedy is therefore prevention.

Right now, most readers tune out or switch off, the reason being that everyone wants to believe that Aids won't affect them - prevention is therefore not necessary. Yaka echoes this viewpoint, "The denial aspect of Aids is a problem; people still don't see Aids as a threat."

11 people have died, 50 are infected, and 11 are HIV positive. By 1994 100 people in Grahamstown are likely to be infected.

The consequence of this type of thinking, which tends to be the most prevalent way of thinking on the subject, is that despite the spread in knowledge about the disease and the methods of transmission, no-one is changing their sexual behaviour to include safer sex practices.

Yaka admits it is easy to be wooed into believing that Aids doesn't exist as a threat to our immediate world and as is so common in our time, a "seeing is believing" philosophy is adopted. He says "People needs examples of people who are HIV positive."

The obvious danger of this is that it might take the death of a friend, lover or relative from Aids, to open our eyes to the nature of this diabolical disease.

Kevin Kelly, psychology lecturer at Rhodes and Chairperson of the Aids Forum, says behavioural scientists remain confused by the risk behaviour of potential AIDS victims. He says "People haven't woken up at all, they've got no idea how dan-

gerous it is!"

A further problem in combatting Aids lies in the moralistic and judgmental attitudes people adopt towards Aids sufferers. Yaka says there is a great deal of stigma attached to Aids. It is essential that education programmes go beyond the factual understanding of the disease and address the prejudices and attitudes that influence people's perceptions of the epidemic.

The Aids Forum is discussing the agenda for an AIDS Awareness Week, to be held later this year in Grahamstown. Yaka sees the focus of the week as twofold:

Firstly, a bid should be made to increase community acceptance of Aids victims. Secondly, the week should aim to highlight the need to change behaviour. According to Yaka and organisations like the NPPHCN: "It's going to take

the effort of the collective."

To those who are interested in admitting that they are in fact part of "the collective", Tony invites you to attend Aids Forum meetings and offer your assistance, or contact him at the Aids Programme offices in High Street for more information.

Perhaps we should adopt a new meaning for the acronym Aids and say: "Aids - Act and It will Disappear Soon."



Innocence dies on the streets

Children exist on the periphery of life, in the shadows of society, on the corner of your eye. No-one knows what makes up the life of a street kid. No-one wants to know. There is no-one specific called Thabu or Steve, but they're people we've all met. Angie Lazaro, Kameshnee Naidoo and Jansie Kotze report from under the bridge...

FEELING cold and hungry, sleeping under the hard concrete bridges of Grahamstown, a life of perpetual dirt and degradation. Can it get any worse? For Thabu it already has.

Thabu is a frail nine-year-old boy, a street child of Grahamstown. His hard black eyes tell you that he has experienced too much in his short life. Begging is never enough to survive on.

"I am always hungry. Hunger makes me angry. When people don't give me money I swear at them" he says.

He admits to sniffing petrol and glue for kicks. This is his only entertainment. Other nine-year-olds probably watch Ninja Turtles.

Thabu who is always desperate to earn money has been approached by local white men for sexual favours. "A man asked me if I wanted to go and wash his car."

Thabu was then paid R20 for being sexually harassed. Now it has become a means of living.

Steve is also a victim of sexual harassment. He is 18 years old and in standard five. He says: "These men always go for the younger boys, and even take them to their homes when their families are away. I have been through it all."

The boys do not hate the men. For them it's just another source of income - street

kids feel jealousy and envy as much as anyone else.

"Sometimes when I see my friends dressed up, my heart bleeds," says Steve.

He appeals to the public to give food rather than money. "The boys will just buy glue," he says.

Not all the street children are orphans, but life at home is often worse than on the streets. Gadra tries to help but is short-funded.

Many street children are hesitant to approach welfare organisations for fear of being taken to "a place of safety". They prefer the familiarity of the streets to the fear of the unknown.

Mr Alfredo Terzoli, a Rhodes lecturer, has provided an informal shelter in his backyard for a number of street children. He said "they have been through so much. Sexual harassment is only the tip of the iceberg. And yet they hold no hurt or resentment. They are open to positive influences."

"There are no funds and resources available. I don't see the situation improving," he says.

And as the sun goes down on another day in Grahamstown, Steve clings close to his hopes and dreams. He wants to become a soldier. "I feel I have the strength in me" he says.

Budget 93: Key to SA's economic future?

South Africa stands ready to forge into a new era of freedom, democracy and equality. That's the theory anyway. In practice it's a politically unstable country facing soaring unemployment, poverty and rising inflation. South Africa's economy is the brink of catastrophe say Kameshnee Naidoo and Melanie Jarvis.

THE latest person to apply his particular brand of theory and practice to the declining economy and a pessimistic public was Finance Minister Derek Keys.

Keys revealed the government's plans for the economy when he presented the 1993 budget to parliament.

The changes include a four percent increase in VAT, up to a massive 14 percent, as well as a 15c increase in the price of petrol.

The bad news for students was the increase in the so-called 'sin tax'. Prices on beer, wine and cigarettes all took a hike.

"The most significant increase has been the massive 4% hike on VAT," said Andrew Donaldson, of the Rhodes Economic Department. "The zero rating of a number of foodstuffs is not a trade-off for an increased VAT, as it does not assist the poor, rather it serves to help the middle-class. However South Africa's 'sin' tax on beer, cigarettes and wine is relatively low as compared to other European countries."

The price of beer is to increase by 2c on a dumpy bottle, and the cost of cigarettes by 5c for a packet of 20, are just a few amongst the many.

An increase in customs and excise duties will generate an estimated R320 million.

Positive news is the end to racially discriminatory pensions, effective from September 1 this year. Previously all 'race groups' received differing pensions. As of July 1, all social pensions will receive a 7.5 percent increase.

It seems obvious Keys is attempting to reduce the huge and mounting budget deficit of approximately R29 billion, but he

has failed to address spending on costly secret military projects, as well as the massive drain government corruption places on resources.

Instead the Finance Minister openly praised civil servants for their honesty and integrity. When interviewed after his budget address, Keys said corruption in government departments was no worse than it

was in the private sector.

His provision for the creation of jobs is merely a drop in the ocean, and does not tackle the real problem of economic stagnation.

"This budget doesn't put South Africa on steroids," said Keys, "it doesn't give a short lived illusion that adjustments aren't necessary."

Although South Africa's political uncertainty remains a Pandora's Box, securely containing the mysteries of what lies in the future, the country needs growth and stability in order to prosper.

In the meantime, South Africa remains in a state of economic stagnation.

"The economy is on the brink of collapse as people spend less and buy almost nothing," Keys said. "The government continues to borrow money for day-to-day expenses."

Student rights? What rights?

Daya Coetzee and Julie-Anne Roberts

"THE COUNCIL shall have the right to refuse admission to any student should it consider it in the interest of the University to do so. No student shall however, be refused admittance on the ground of religious beliefs."

No mention is made of race, gender or nationality in this stipulation, to be found in the Rhodes University Calendar. Neither is there any mention of students' rights or what students can expect for the money they pay the university.

The general conduct of students as presented in the student disciplinary code is vague and ambiguous. The guideline given is that students must abstain from behaviour which may be regarded by the university as unbecoming.

What is "unbecoming behaviour", exactly? A list of actions considered unbecoming is given. Amongst these are: engaging in any behaviour that may bring the university into disrepute or contempt and engaging in behaviour which is disorderly whether on or off campus.

What exactly would bring the University into disrepute or contempt and what is disorderly behavior? Should the university be able to control student's personal lives off campus? Who decides what is unbecoming and disorderly?

In a country progressing towards democ-

racy, surely it is the students who should decide (and have the power to answer the aforementioned questions).

Having done something considered by the powers that be to be unbecoming, the student will have to appear before a Proctor or the Disciplinary Board. If found guilty, the student may be punished in any of the following ways: deprived of a degree, excluded from a number of places, confined in residence or in the municipal boundary of Grahamstown, fined, or given any other appropriate penalty. The last provision leaves the door open for just about anything that the Board may consider appropriate to punish the guilty student.

The Vice-Chancellor's (VC) powers and authority, under common law or powers vested in him by any other authority whatsoever, cannot be derogated by anything appearing in the Rhodes Calendar.

Nowhere does it say that students' rights cannot be derogated by anything appearing in the Rhodes Calendar. In fact, nowhere does it directly address the issue of student rights.

It seems the VC has dictatorial powers. S/he has the power to reject the people nominated by the SRC and Senate to sit on the Disciplinary Board. If one of the members of the Disciplinary Board is unable to serve, the remaining members make the decision regarding the case being "tried".

What is not clear is whether the member in question decides when s/he is no longer able to serve, or if this is determined by some other authority. The VC is entitled to relieve the Investigating Officers and Proctors of their powers at any and appoint other people in their place.

The Chairman (sic) of the Disciplinary Board, a Proctor, determines the verdict and sentences of a case if a majority decision is not reached. It is interesting (not to mention a little scary) to note how all roads lead to the VC.

How can we possibly demand a democratic government while we passively accept the undemocratic local environment in which we find ourselves? One of Rhodes University's values is: "To cultivate powerful intellects in people who will courageously pursue the truth whatever the circumstances."

It is difficult to see how these powerful intellects can be cultivated in an atmosphere where they are not even given the benefit of a few fundamental rights.

Sanja Goehre and Jonathan Davis

DISCONTENT within the Rhodes Journalism department came to a head last month when Journalism III students discovered after registering that the department had replaced their second practical option with another theoretical course.

A compromise was reached, but the problem was just another example of the complete lack of communication between departments and students in the university.

Last year Journalism III students were allowed to choose two options from a range of practical courses including Feature writing, Applied Reporting, Radio, Photojournalism, Media Economics and Public Relations.

According to Journ III course co-ordinator Larry Strelitz, the decision to cancel one practical option was taken because almost one third of the class was failing their second option.

This year's Journ III students came back to discover that their second option had been replaced by a compulsory Media Economics course.

In a petition to the department, students questioned the practical and theoretical make-up of their course.

As a result, Head of Department Gavin Stewart met the class to explain the balance between practical and theoretical classes in the course.

Students remained dissatisfied, however, after being told by him that Media Law was included in the practical component of the course, because "it keeps you out of jail".

Stewart then invited students who felt strongly about doing a second option to come and see him. To date only four students have done so and these four have ob-

tained permission to do two options this year.

"When you actually put the cards on the table, students back down," Stewart said in an interview with RHODEO.

But the Journ III's response (or lack of

The missing option: Journ IIIs demand explanation

There have been changes to the Journalism III course this year. Problem is - no-one told the Journ IIIs until they had registered.

it) serves to illustrate the deeper problem between students and departments. What apparently upset most of the class was the fact that they were not consulted when the changes were made, or informed of them prior to registering.

It was just assumed they would find the changes acceptable.

If the second option was scrapped because of the high failure rate, why didn't the department simply tighten up the DP requirements?

"Because I don't think DPs work," Stewart said. "They are very useful for first years, but after that I think people should look after themselves."

This is a sample of the pleasures that await the bad, bad student who is found guilty of unseemly behaviour. Gleaned from the 1993 Rhodes Calendar (Student Disciplinary Code).

- The university may "at any time require any student to undergo a medical examination before a medical officer of its choice and submit to the university a medical certificate in respect thereof."

Whatever happened to the Hippocratic Oath?

- The Principal or Proctor has every right to require a student to immobilise or remove his or her vehicle from Grahamstown.

One wonders what happens if the student is actually from Grahamstown.

- If a student shows unsatisfactory academic performance, his or her right to drive in Grahamstown can be revoked.

Does one then have the right to drive anywhere else, as long as no-one knows you haven't quite made the grade?

- "The conduct of all students is subject to the control of all members of the academic and senior administrative staff, all house and hall wardens, assistant wardens and sub-wardens, campus protection officers and guards and members of the SRC...A student shall obey all lawful instructions by any of these persons, including an order to proceed immediately to and remain at his or her place of residence."

The mind boggles - it's the tertiary equivalent of being sent to your room.

- Perhaps the most interesting is the stipulation that any female student under the age of 19 and in her first year is required to present written permission from her parents when she plans to spend a weekend away from res.

So what exactly is it that females under 19 are going to do that males under 19 have every right to do without parental permission? Who will they be doing it with, and does this urge to do it recede after one year at Rhodes?

- "Late return from vacation without leave is an offence and renders students liable to disciplinary action."

If Stewart's opinion is that students should be responsible for themselves, this is not apparent in the department's attitude towards student participation.

"Decisions are simply made for us," said one Journ III. "We are just shunted around as it suits the department."

Some students seemed to feel they should be more closely involved in planning their courses. Others felt the course did not include enough practical material for a final year course.

Part of the problem undeniably lies in the Journalism Department's resource base.

"The department is very expensive to run. It takes a major slice of the university's resources," Stewart said.

He stated that options are the most expensive courses run by the department and said "we believe that we are offering the best course we can with the resources we have."

Still, the big question remains: Why were students not consulted about the changes to their course at the end of last year, or asked which options they would prefer to do?

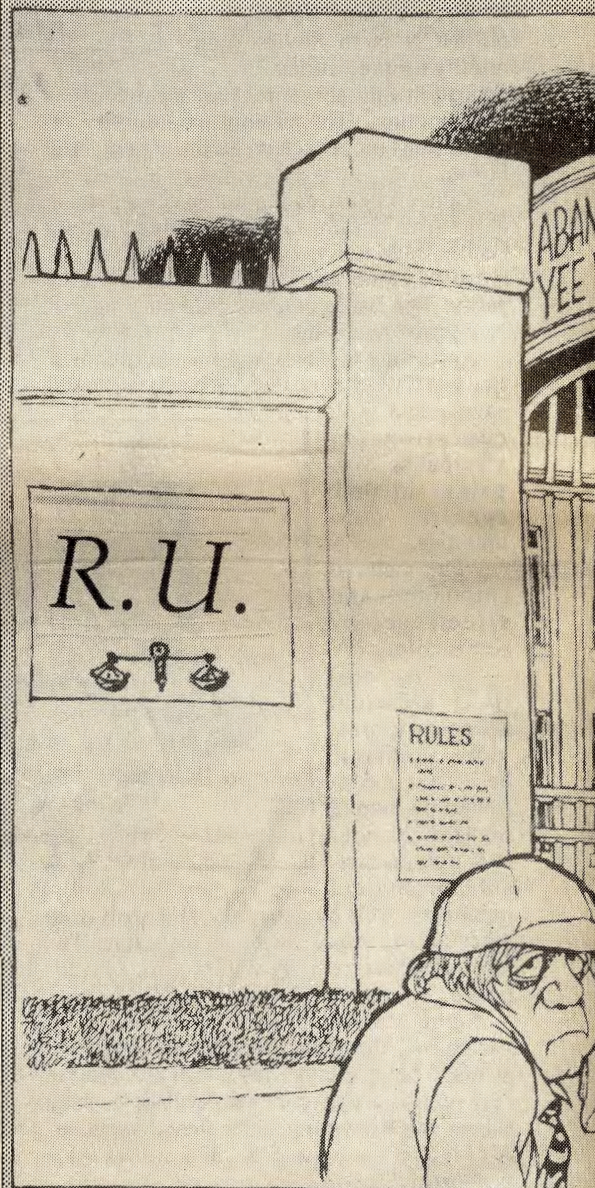
According to Stewart, the decision to scrap the second option was only taken when the department began examining the Journ III marks during last year's final exams.

Forms were actually printed for distribution during exams, on which the 1992 Journ II's would indicate whether they intended to re-register, and which of the available options they intended to do. A lecturer forgot to hand these out on the day of the Journ II examination. Even so, it is questionable whether such a form resolves the problem.

Students would be reassured by a guarantee from the Journalism Department regarding options. We asked Gavin Stewart for a guarantee that every Journ III student would be allowed the choice of two practical options next year.

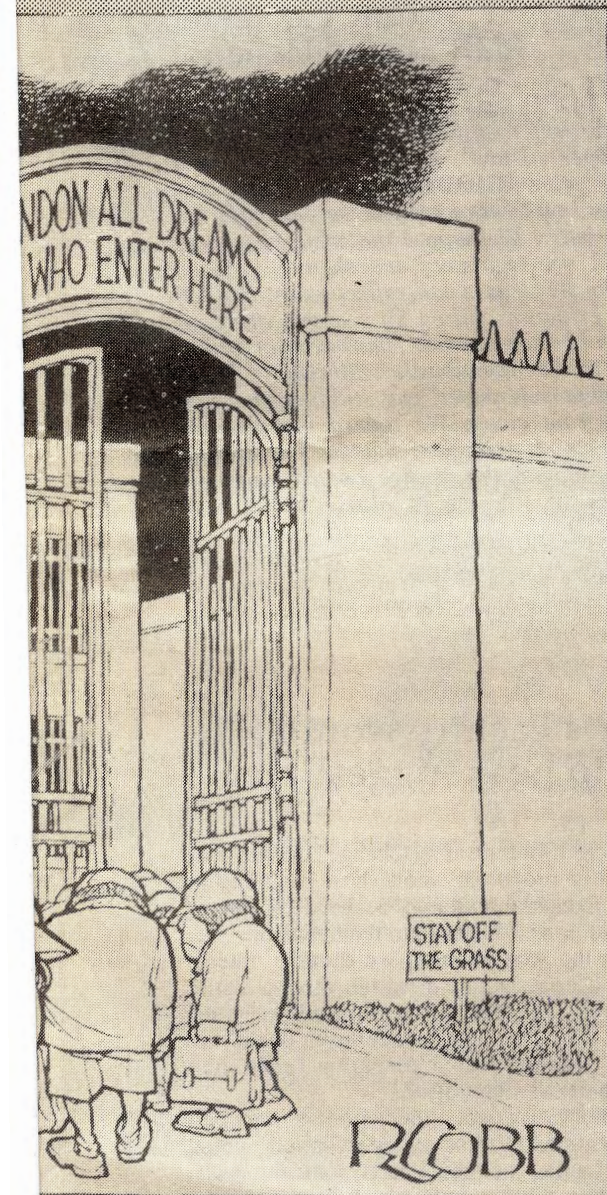
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Narcs: Night



Following student ances

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Some students who have allegedly been harassed by police officers have claimed harassment incidents have been occurring frequently over the last year.

Most reported cases seem to involve members of the South African Narcotics Bureau (Sanab) and elements within the police reservist force.

In some cases students' homes were searched while they were allegedly verbally abused or physically threatened. In others students claim they were obliged to give urine samples or pay admission of guilt fines when no evidence of illegal activities had been produced against them. In most cases they were allegedly verbally abused, and in one case physically assaulted.

These are some of the incidents of harassment RHODEO has uncovered. None of the students concerned were willing to have their names published at this stage:

May 1992

Narcotics squad (Sanab) officers raided a surf-club party where wine and beer was being sold without a licence. Apparently the bottle-store owner who supplied the liquor had undertaken to obtain a licence, but was unable to do so. The narcotics squad arrested one member of the club, and took him and a friend to the old police station on New Street for questioning.

The students were allegedly both interrogated for several hours about drug-related offences, even though only one of them had been arrested on a charge relating to the liquor act. The police also insisted that the two students give them urine samples to be tested for traces of drugs. Suspects are only obliged to do this if a court order is obtained.

Late 1992

Narcotics squad (Sanab) members searched a student's home: "They came to search my house for dope, they found nothing and I was informed that they had the right to demand a urine sample, which I eventually gave them," the student told RHODEO. "Later I found out that I was under no obligation to give a urine sample unless via a court order."

November 1992

Members of Sanab raided another student's house: "The narcs came to my house and searched my room. I was ordered to sit in a chair and threatened with violence should I move". The student was not able to watch the officers during the search.

November 22nd 1992. Approximately 8pm

Students in the Botanical gardens near the Provost were shot at, apparently by police: "We were walking in Bots when we saw some people to the left. Next a spotlight was shone on us and I saw a yellow van. My friend shouted, 'Its the pigs!' and we ran away for about 20 to 30m. When we stopped, a volley of shots were fired at us."

When police turn bad

They're here for you, but they're out to get you. After a spate of serious incidents of police harassment in February, many students are not sure where they stand with the South African Police in Grahamstown. RHODEO investigated.

February 5th 1993. Approximately 12am

Two female students went swimming during the night. They were accosted by three police officers and threatened with arrest for public indecency.

"We went for a skinny dip at Grey Dam. The police arrived. A cop got out and shouted: 'You are under arrest for public indecency. I'm taking you to jail.'" This particular police officer was apparently very aggressive, and verbally abused the women. He searched their car for drugs and found nothing. He allegedly told the students they should admit to possessing dagga as he was going to take them to the police station and force them to give blood samples.

The police also searched the surrounding area. One of the other police officers took the students' names.

"He took my friend aside and grabbed her by the peace sign around her neck. He accused her of satanism."

According to the students, the police officer was staggering about and smelt of alcohol, and was slurring his speech. He told them: "I have young children of my own, and I don't want people like you around."

"Take this as a warning and get in your car and go."

One of the other police officers apologised to the students before the three left.

February 14th 1993. Approximately 1am.

Grahamstown Police arrested two students who were walking along Prince Alfred street, and kept them in holding cells overnight. Police allegedly refused to speak English to one of the students, a Kenyan. He was not told he was arrested for being drunk in public, and no tests were performed to prove this. The first-year Kenyan student claims he was not drunk at the time.

The two were kept in holding cells with several other people. When the other student protested their detention, several police officers were allegedly sent into the cell, they told him to "shut up or else".

The students spent the night on blankets on the floor of another cell. According to the Kenyan student, two police officers came into the cell during the night. One asked the other whether they should release the two. The other replied "nah," and they left the cell laughing.

The students were released at 5.30am that morning.

about 20 minutes later.

February 20th 1993. Between 12 and 1am

Two students swimming at Grey Dam were accosted by two men in a white sedan. One of the men identified himself as a police officer by producing a white laminated card. This police officer said he was arresting them for public indecency. He then checked their hands and breath for signs of dagga, and searched their car.

"He picked up some sinus tablets and he started getting all excited. We told him they were for bronchitis, to which he replied, 'If your'e so f...ing sick, why are you swimming in the dam?'"

The other police officer then asked his companion to "los hulle". The first officer said they should "count themselves lucky, next time I won't be so nice".

There is some evidence that a member of the local police reserve is involved in at least three of the incidents.

Major Fourie of the Grahamstown SAP told RHODEO: "We can't give any comment at this stage."

"Allegations have been made against the police, and we'd like to investigate these before making any comment."

Fourie urged the students concerned to come forward to make statements to assist the investigation.

"If this is true we'd like to act against these elements, because these people do not deserve to be police officers. If it is not true we'd like to publish our side of the story."

None of these cases were reported to the police or the university. The reasons for this vary. In some cases victims fear further harassment. On several of these occasions the victims were alone and would have to compete against the testimony of two or more police officers. In some cases the students had been drinking.

There is often a reluctance to report incidents of harassment involving Sanab members, as students are wary of the university's policy regarding drug offences. Many students also feel the SAP will not do much to prosecute its own members.

If you know of any further incidents of police harassment, RHODEO urges you to report them to our offices in the Student Union buildings.

It might help to report the incident to the police themselves. Even if nothing is done, the statistics are valuable in overall assessments of police activity.

February 20th 1993. Between 12 and 1am

A student walking home along Bathurst street was picked up by four police officers in a white police sedan car for being drunk in public.

"They asked if I was drunk and I said, 'Yeah, I am, that's why I'm walking home.' One of the police officers said, 'Get in, we're going to charge you'. When I asked why, he said in an insulting tone, 'For being drunk in public'."

The student was allegedly driven up Bathurst Street and into Market Street while one of the officers verbally abused and swore at him, and he was jabbed in the ribs with a shotgun. When a call came in over the radio he was dropped off at the Total petrol station outside the township.

RHODEO reporters interviewed an eyewitness who confirmed the student was picked up by police and returned to the same spot on foot

Editorial

Budget Day

Budget day 1993 once again caused demonstrations throughout South Africa, with various political organisations objecting to the unilateral drawing up of the budget. There were widespread calls for more consultation between Finance Minister, Derek Keys, and organisations such as Cosatu. Justifiably so!

Drawing up a budget is far more than a conglomeration of numbers - it has vast political implications any political infrastructure as well as the direct effects on the people of the country.

SRC By-election

While on the subject of the need for consultation, the SRC held a by-election and reshuffled a few of its portfolios. Nobody other than SRC members were involved in this by-election. Perhaps members of the SRC need to be reminded that they are representatives of students, and have been voted onto the structure. As such they are accountable to us, and should consult with us before taking decisions that affect our bargaining powers at this university. Never mind that not many people even knew by-elections were happening.

Sharpeville Day

March 21 was Sharpeville Day, and went by largely unnoticed at Rhodes. A poorly attended Paso commemoration and an ANC meeting in Rhini was all the tribute offered to the victims of the massacre. One has to wonder about the state of student activism.

Police harassment

Police behaviour also comes under RHODEO spotlight in our exposure of Rhodes student harassment. We obtained details from sources who wish to remain unidentified for various reasons. Grahamstown SAP say no complaints have been reported to them, which is hardly unexpected, despite promises to investigate the issue. In the meantime, will there be any other students who are unfairly harassed?

Creditorial

Gerhard, Wanda, Cammy, Rycherde, Josh, Taryn, Lynsey, Cally, Julie-Anne, Michelle, Ingrid, Nerisha (the Basketball Player/Case), Dror, Ross-ci, Sanja, Sarita, Jonathan (Black), Ntokozo, Stacy, Kirsty, Liz, Ryan, Lucy, Vanashree, Bonile, Peter, Madge (inevitably), Bobby, (Viva?) Boyz II Men, Mark, Angie, Melissa, Melanie, Jansie, Sean, Karl, Anton, Kathy, Catherine, Jon K, Ross E, Kevin, Angie, Don, Eugene, Glenn, Rob, Linda, Antony, Stuen, Carol, Ibs, Schacharit, Denise, Elnette, Byron, Marietta, Ntokoloshe's mugs, Simon (Butternut??), Julia from Deutschland, the Spearfisherpeople for intellectual stimulation, Prof Grogan, Daya, Diane, Danni, Colette, Tamsin, Scarlett, Karuna, Speed Steyn for Sasnews, Saspu, Ingrid's radio, Taryn's kettle, RMR for always being there, Girlz II Womyn, Christine, Molly, Campus security for the handcuffs, Kimberley for her dedication, love for RHODEO, and for being here in spirit throughout the weekend while she was in Cape Town (and what do the materialists have to say about that?)

Letters Page

Unemployment blues

AN article in the March edition of *RHODEO* entitled "An end to unemployment?" estimated that there was an unemployment rate of 60 percent in G-town.

In the same article, four problem areas were listed, accounting for such a high unemployment rate, namely: "the supply of labour is greater than the demand; little new investment of job creation; the skills available don't match the jobs available and limited chances for unskilled or semi-skilled people to find work."

I want to suggest that there is a fifth reason why we have such a high unemployment rate in G-town. That is that some local businesses do not use the opportunities they do have, for employing those who make up this huge unemployed group. Instead of employing those people who are most in need they seem to have a bias towards students. (And here I am not excluding the fact that there may be some students that fall into this category of most needy.) For an example, couldn't restaurants employ more of the most needy local people, ie. in the unskilled work of waiting (used in the non-sexist sense of the word)? During the July Festival is another perfect opportunity to adopt this bias for the local people most in need. I hope that this will be the case!?

I would plead with local business that in connection with employment opportunities, local business should adopt a bias for the local people who are the direct sufferers of the low employment and as a consequence are most in need. This "affirmative action" is surely just. This is justice: doing to others as you would have them do to you. There will be no justice or peace until the "least" of our people are cared for.

Local business for (ie. the cause of) the local people should reduce the unemployment rate, but perhaps even more than that *change and justice* will be seen to be done.

Alan Storey

"Dangerous claims" and the PAC

I HAD promised myself not to think about Mzi Mgudlwa's article entitled "Where to from here?" (*RHODEO* Orientation Edition, 1993). My resolve has obviously failed me - I've read the article three times.

It is clearly not the literary worth of that article which caused me to re-read it. I am no voyeur either.

But, when a person in Mzi's position makes such dangerous claims about my organisation and its principles, and when so many people run the risk of taking his blasphemous sophistry seriously, I have no option but to protest.

Mzi fails to answer the question he poses himself. His article abounds with bombast and verbosity; attempts an intricate balancing act; and is generally a hotch-potch of old ideas bandied about by counter-revolutionaries after King William's town.

The regime tells us the PAC owes it to "South Africa" to explain its relationship with Apla. The SABC tells us we are fighting a racial war. Patrick Lawrence of The Star tells us we have abandoned our so-called Ubuntu and Sobukwe's ideals. An LLB student with a history of activity in the liberation movement regurgitates these arguments. (Talk about "mere" academic sophistry!)

I'm not about to start a defence of the armed struggle. Suffice to say, Apla never abandoned it. Furthermore, the number and calibre of Apla targets differ substantially from those of the signatories of a peace pact - NP, IFP, ANC.

As for the racial war crap, Chris Hani faced similar charges as far back as... 1989. How conveniently we forget!

Finally, only cowards will let threats of a right-wing backlash deter their just struggles.

It's amusing that Mzi wants to pose as an expert on Africanism. Patrick Lawrence's attempt is infinitely better - and it would fail in an ITP or History 1 class.

Finally, Mzi thinks we owe it to his likes to explain the armed struggle and the relationship between Apla and PAC. I mean really, comrade?

Those who wrote the formula for power-sharing (or is it sharing of power?) will tell you about the pitfalls of working too hard for a middle ground. You cannot protect the interests of the oppressor and satisfy the oppressed at the same time. The land simply does not belong to all who live in it. Get it, Mzi?

Tlou C. Matlou

RMR strikes back at RHODEO

I HOPE this letter will go some way to clearing up some misconceptions perpetuated by your publication through a series of quotes taken out of context, blame apportioned unfairly by your editorial and evident confusion on the part of *RHODEO* reporters. If your newspaper professes any sort of openness or fairness you will publish this letter without any of your renowned cuts or sarcastic comments.

Firstly, on the front page of your last edition you quoted an RMR source as saying that "Most of the students at jols are in any case white" and used that to "explain" RMR's attitude to playing only "white" music. You then went on to state that it would be better not to segregate audiences into colours, the implication being that that is what RMR does. For the record let me state that it was in fact a *Rhodes* reporter who stumbled into the studio one night and accused us of playing "white" music - who is in fact applying labels here? RMR does not believe that the colour of your skin determines what music you enjoy and our disco DJ's are trained to play the music that the crowd at a party enjoys. If that crowd enjoys what you refer to as "white" music, then that is what we will play; likewise when the HSS hires us and requests a certain type of music, namely techno-house, we will cater for their needs. It is ridiculous to categorise music according to colour as you seem intent on doing. Is it not contrary to your ideal of a unified campus to segregate music tastes like this? Maybe you should look at yourselves before you pass judgement on others.

On an aside, it may be wise to ensure that your reporters are sober when they do interviews so that facts are not confused. It is little wonder that you lack direction in your reporting when your staff can barely hold a cup of coffee without spilling it.

Secondly, in your editorial you fail to acknowledge that it was in fact RMR that organised the booking of the bands for the Lion Larger Roadshow with the exception of Frank Sande. You are quick, however, to point fingers at us by implying that we are doing nothing to build campus unity. How much constructive contribution is *RHODEO* making by accusing other societies falsely and by doing its best to damage RMR's image? We are more than open to constructive criticism in any form but only when it comes from a position based on enough research, something *RHODEO* reporters obviously fail to do.

If RMR was indeed the "racist" organisation you portray it to be, why would the SRC approach us in the first place to co-organise several functions with them? For both the roadshow and the orientation week party we worked with them. It appears that *RHODEO* has hang-ups of its own - maybe you should think before you inflict them on the rest of campus.

In a discussion with your editor I was told that it was good that these issues as presented in the newspaper were "stimulat-

ing debate on campus". It is a sad reflection on your publication that you need to distort facts and create non-issues for the sake of creating discussion. Furthermore your front page regularly carries the phrase "Rhodes' official student newspaper" despite your editor's claim that *RHODEO* is not meant to be representative. If you were the official student newspaper, then you would carry views from all students and a cross-section of ideas and issues, even if they do not coincide with your own. Instead of writing to please yourselves and a minority of like-thinking readers, stop patting yourselves on the back and get out there to canvas the real student opinion, or else remove your false claim to be the official voice of the students. The same reporter who interviewed me returned when she was sober and told me that students do not take RMR seriously and implied that no-one was listening to our marathon broadcast. Yet another example of your staff being out of touch with the student community as a whole - our phone lines were busy up until 3am every morning with requests and pledges to Child Welfare and the couple of thousand rand we raised for the charity certainly did not come out of nowhere.

RMR will continue offering the service to Rhodes and the Grahamstown community that we are proud of. Perhaps *RHODEO* should give credit where credit is due instead of looking for ghosts where there are none. We hope you will stay tuned.

Tony Lankester
RMR Station Manager

RHODEO feels if the quote was taken out of context, then RMR should place it in its 'proper context'. Furthermore, in the last four years RHODEO has not edited any letter sent to us or replied "sarcastically" to any letter. We believe the criticisms about RMR are legitimate and should be taken seriously. It is a sad reflection on RMR if the criticisms raised by students are considered "non-issues". Thank-you for bringing to our attention that "Rhodes' Official Student Newspaper" was still being used on our front cover. We regard ourselves as Rhodes' Independent Student Newspaper. Please note the change on the cover. In terms of "writing to please yourselves", RHODEO is presently receiving more letters than ever before - a sure sign of a growing readership. However we are prepared to print and receive criticism of ourselves.

Arts Faculty would like to hear suggestions

IF the "Students for Change" have some specific proposals about how Admissions and Exclusions should be handled, then I would be very pleased to receive them.

In the Arts Faculty, we do take note of the differing standards of the various matric boards - and also of the difficulties which most students writing under each board will have experienced in preparing themselves for their examinations.

Rhodes is not only among the best universities in the country (what else could it be with you here) it is also about the smallest, with a student body selected from every corner of southern Africa and beyond. In proportion to our numbers, our bursary support programme compares favourably with most other universities and our academic development programme has been well organised to help those who are prepared to make the effort to pursue its courses. This is why our failure rates have tended to decline over the past years despite our maintaining the high standards which all have to achieve.

We will not accept students whose records indicate that they will probably fail, nor will we keep those whose results indicate that they will continue failing - to do so is to take money under false pretences and to keep out other students who deserve a chance.

This is not to say that we cannot do much better - nor that we cannot learn from anyone with a good idea. Together we can do better - so let us reason together.

Professor MG Whisson
Dean of Arts

Education is a right. Certainly, but at Rhodes it appears that this right is reserved for a privileged few. Recent statistics show that less than ten percent of Rhodes' first year population comes from DET schools. Sarita Ranchod argues that although we can all use the same toilets now, black education remains in the sewers.

RHODES' admissions policy, based on the Swedish point system which does not take differing schooling education into account, remains the same. This despite talk of following the move by most historically white 'liberal' campuses in recognising that the Swedish point system does not reflect the capabilities of an individual.

RHODEO spoke to SRC Education Officer, Xolisa Mabhongo. He believes that our admin has made no concerted effort to recruit students from a disadvantaged background. He has statistics to support his conviction. Out of a total 794 undergraduates admitted to Rhodes this year only 73 came from Department of Education and Training (DET) schools. In the same light, the majority of students matriculating every year come from DET schools. How does admin justify these imbalances?

It is up to the government of the day to redress the imbalances in our education system, but what of those individuals who have been discriminated against through apartheid education? Will they too be measured on the same standards as a student coming from a privileged background?

Last year Rhodes admin hired a researcher, Matthew Smith, to investigate alternative admissions policies.

Smith's initial finding was that the university was able to do a lot more than it is doing at present to rectify the imbalances of the past.

Vice Principal, Dr Smout, says he has no knowledge of Smith's final report as it has not been tabled.

In terms of alternative admissions policies, Smout said the current system was by no means perfect but at present it was the best option available. He said the idea of entrance examinations was logistically impossible as Rhodes students came from every corner of South Africa and it would be impossible to hold examinations in all these centres.

Smout argued that the low percentage of black students admitted to Rhodes is largely a problem of finance. "The Committee of University Principals has been pressuring the state to start a national loan scheme in order to make tertiary education more accessible to all students," he said.

"We are faced with smaller state sub-

In the sewers

sidies and larger expenses every year. We are dependent upon two sources of income - student fees and state subsidies."

Smout does not believe the large number of Zimbabwean students at Rhodes prevents black students from enrolling. Not only does Rhodes have "long historical ties with Zimbabwe" but many black students "do not have the finances" to attend Rhodes, he said.

"Last year more than 1500 applicants were offered places at Rhodes but only 794 eventually registered. There are still open places that were not filled due to students not having finances," Smout said.

Surely the financial crisis at tertiary level needs to be addressed, not pushed under the carpet and used as an excuse to admit more Zimbabwean students?

"Rhodes is an open university, to all races. And if you achieve a certain number of Swedish points, you receive automatic acceptance," he said. Smout said a number

of black students were offered places but could not accept them as they could not secure finances. And those who couldn't secure this? Well, it's a sad reality but it is the reality of South Africa.

Xolisa has some concrete ideas on how we can introduce alternative admissions policies at Rhodes. He believes that we should follow the lead taken by universities such as Wits, the University of Cape Town, the University of Natal and the University of Durban Westville where bridging programmes, entrance examinations and teach-test methods have been introduced to combat the problems of unequal education.

The Rhodes University Calendar for 1993 states in its objectives:

"...to recognise the inadequate educational preparation of many of its students and to offer special assistance to them, without prejudicing the high academic standards of the university."

Is this objective valid, or does it merely

serve as good public relations strategy for the university?

Slight changes have been made as a result of the introduction of a system called 'Dean's Discretion'. This allows a dean to review an unsuccessful candidate's application and decide on the basis of an interview whether a student has the potential to succeed or not.

Xolisa commends admin on this move but still recognises that more members be involved in this process, including the SRC or faculty representatives.

The system largely takes account of students' cognitive ability. However, it needs to take more notice of students' potential as well as their participation in community and school organisations.

Fundamental change needs to be much more rapid or Rhodes could find itself trailing behind in a post-apartheid South Africa - a solitary ivory tower crumbling in its colonial past.



Seeking the doves of peace

South Africa's leaders should not learn the hard way from the fragile Angolan political infrastructure.

Jon Kodisang argues that the 'winds of change sweeping through Africa' are imposed from above.

The distant consequences of our political actions are more uncertain than the immediate ones. The search for a pluralist system that fosters tolerance in South Africa seems to be threatened by reactionary forces on the ground - these forces are clear-cut demagogues preaching tribal consolidation.

They are products of an illegitimate institution with their obnoxious political parties that have no popular power base. Hence we have the decline of popular faith in African governments. These are the likes of Savimbi, Dhlakama as well as those from the homelands like Gatsha Buthelezi, Oupa Gqozo, all with ideas that can harm humankind.

Furthermore, Gatsha and Savimbi hold controversial doctorates and both serve to produce hostility between the devotees of different creeds. After the outcome of the Angolan elections, Savimbi resorted to the principle of seniority, and thus undermining

the will of the people as exercised through the ballot box.

As a result, thousands of innocent and ordinary people have to pay the price by dying in thousands in what can be termed a personal war.

In the sphere of practical politics, countries from the North are strongly emerging in different economic blocs whilst our continent breeds civil wars because of personal power struggles. If we cannot get our local politics right, never mind regional and continental ones, how do we move forward in this post-cold war era?

The culture of nostalgia seems to override that of anticipation at the level of South Africa's leadership since we have surrendered our mandate to their hands.

South Africa is apparently under the dictates of the state of nature, with gross legitimacy crisis from the side of the Nationalist regime that holds the reigns of power through the use of force.

This country is not far from collapse given the unknown military capacity of the regime that negotiates from the position of strength against the disillusioned and depressed masses with lives that are lowly ranked in the prevailing political strife. Human lives are not considered vital in this era of serious calculus for possible power gains or losses - lives are a quest for abso-

lute power at the expense of ordinary people.

Given all these persistent delusions, surely the presence of the United Nations (UN), European Community, Organisation for African Unity and many more observers who collect statistics, is far from enough though commended. An international intervention under the auspices of the UN should make it possible that the SA regime surrenders its power to the Constituent Assembly.

The tricameral parliament, the military and the police should either be under the control of the Constituent Assembly or be disbanded given the volume of right-wing elements in both forces. The same should also apply to the homeland system, where the process of reintegration should be monitored by either the Constituent Assembly or the UN.

It remains to be seen whether there will be any political willingness from the side of those who wield power to succumb to the wishes of the people, that is the wishes for peace and democracy.

The plight of the right-wingers cannot be wished away from the scene as they are also a force to reckon with, given the psychological impact of change. There is a danger that the level of indoctrination that

largely constitutes white fears could derail the process of change or destabilise the future dispensation. Different mechanisms will surely have to be devised for these reactionary forces.

Mweene, an African scholar, argues that the most difficult mind to turn around is a colonised one, especially if it has been through a university. This argument therefore questions the standing of students and academics at large in the whole process of political transformation.

Intellectuals are often viewed as the bearers of scientific truth and we know that ignorance is costly. Given these conditions, it was required of students in particular to have strategised to sue the regime at the International Court of Justice for ignoring a government's social responsibility of education. This could have been made possible through student action within their various organisations, especially at tertiary level.

Instead, the regime thought it wise to spend billions of rands in counter-productive projects like cross border raids, assassination of progressive leaders...the list is endless. Our education should be seen as a source of power and bearer of high possibilities to our people. One is not often sure if this silence results from ethical practise, alas!

The political settlement of this country should never be made the preserve of the few since it belongs to all. This period concerns itself with a practical political reality and not with wishful thinking. Beware of thinking in *absolutes* as that breeds fanaticism, not tolerance.

Outward bound

THE pixies have been busy. Gay activity on campus is getting almost feverish. Since the last Rhodexo, STEP, Rhodes' gay organisation, has held two functions. The first, a braai, was less than well attended. Obviously you all had something better to do. Organisers in a huff, depressed mutterings about not enough publicity, etc. etc., and general gloom prevailed.

But, as is our bent, we picked ourselves up and announced the next event - a party on 22 March. Publicity blazed across campus and attracted the usual cretinous element. Some brain-dead neanderthal scrawled a suggestion on our posters that we read Romans 1 instead of going to the party. We did - fascinating reading, if not a little rabid, and went bounding off to the party anyway.

Held in a well-known rave spot, everyone was amazed at how many people pitched up. Just kept coming, as they say. Good to see gay and straight students raging happily together. They obviously know where to go for the best atmosphere. The expected gorilla brigade, swinging baseball bats (otherwise known as "Bashsoc", I heard one lesbian quip) did not pitch. Heartening. Almost like it should be.

Sorry, your columnist is prone to lapses of sarcasm. By the end of the evening it was obvious it would have to happen again, and due to its success will take place twice a month instead of once as originally planned. The next party will be on 26 April, so watch out for publicity posters.

In Britain the farce of the infamous S&M trial continues. The gay community are considering the ramifications of a high court ruling that participants of a private party where bizarre sexual acts are taking place, are guilty of lewd behaviour even though it was consensual. The original ruling was challenged last year. Police raided a private party in London and arrested a group of men doing strange things to each other, like tying bricks to their nipples and piercing their foreskins.

Four men will now go to prison for consensual, private sex acts, and it could mean an increase in police harassment, just when moves were afoot to improve relations between the two camps. Oops. The mind boggles at what would have happened in South Africa. Funny also how S&M activity seems to attract a large following in the legal profession. Could well have been a few embarrassing moments in court as accused recognises accuser.

Back at good ol' Rhodes, where nothing unseemly could ever happen, the performance-minded amongst should note that there will be a theatre workshop for gay men and women before the end of the term. A mixture of dance, theatre, and videos, two teachers will take classes and look at the work of British dance company DVS, amongst others. Contact Peter Frost in the Journalism department for exact times and information.

We eagerly anticipate the first article from our Boston correspondent. The man has just returned from Washington DC where he was one of the "New Americans" to meet Clinton and the Democrats. His experience could be enlightening from a changing South African perspective.

Roll on the day when we could send such a delegation to the seat of power!

Death at the dungeon

RHODEO Reporter

NAPALM DEATH, the Birmingham Grind Core band, blasted their third South African concert at a small crowd at The Dungeon in Port Elizabeth at the end of last month.

The show was disrupted twice in its early stages by power cuts as the band's reputation of extreme speed and noise proved too much for Escom to cope with.

A crowd of less than 300 sadly failed to produce a mosh, yet the musicians' professionalism set them apart from anything I have ever seen in this country.

Napalm Death delivered an energetic performance to a crowd, which by their standards, must have been below-average in terms of size and response.

Staking the Heart of Darkness



Gerard Hope

GRAHAMSTOWN moviegoers had the chance to sink their teeth into Bram Stoker's *Dracula* when it opened at 'His Majesty's' on 29 March.

Directed by Francis Ford Coppola of *Apocalypse Now* fame, and written by James V Hart, the movie uses Stoker's classic 1897 horror novel as its source.

The movie is a significant departure from the book as it explores the genesis of *Dracula* in the dark and haunted figure of Vlad the Impaler, a 15th century Wallachian nobleman. He placed his victims on spikes and let them die horribly.

The notion of "impaling" is consistent with the sexual sub-text of Coppola's movie. Whereas in *Basic Instinct* sex was very much in the forefront of both narrative action and character motivation, in *Dracula* it becomes an almost subliminal force of terrifying power.

The great seduction scene of Coppola's movie is when Dracula literally creeps into Mina Murray's bed in the form of a green fog. She gives in to his dark power and is soon sucking blood from his chest and demanding to be taken away from all this death. There is a certain Freudian irony in this, as "dying" was a Victorian conceit for orgasm.

Winona Ryder plays Mina with a sort of

breathless passion. Her breathing was probably constricted by the period costume and it looks as if she has been poured into it.

Or maybe this has something to do with the costume designer, instructed by Coppola to give the viewers something to look at while the characters were biting each other's necks.

Bram Stoker died in 1912 at the age of 64 and an autopsy revealed locomotor ataxia, or the tertiary stage of syphilis as well as exhaustion (Stoker was a notorious womaniser).

His biographer and great-nephew, Daniel Farson, wrote that "Stoker possibly caught syphilis as early as the year of *Dracula*."

Coppola's movie, with its hints of creative sado-masochism, kinky casual sex, and gallons of fake blood, has drawn sharp criticism from AIDS awareness groups. One overseas cinema even offered patrons free tickets if they could produce a blood donor's card.

The public was not deterred and went to see the gothic thriller in droves, saving Coppola's Zoetrope studios from bankruptcy and rekindling his reputation.

Gary Oldman (Lee Harvey Oswald from JFK) is the rapacious Count, who exudes sexuality and evil in equal amounts. He is immensely attractive and infinitely repulsive.

When Van Helsing interrupts him in bed with Mina, he changes into something that resembles an aborted creature from *Alien*.

Whether or not this has anything deep to say about the sexual fantasies of modern women is debatable. Tom Waits as Renfield has quite a following.

Some might wish they were Jonathan Harker when he is molested by the three women vampires in Dracula's castle. It would, however, have been more enjoyable for the naive Victorian lad if they had kept their mouths shut.

Anthony Hopkins (*Silence of the Lambs*) gives a very interesting portrayal of the intrepid Van Helsing, who is a kind of failed Dracula.

He is more attracted to the Count than he would care to admit, and professional jealousy is part of his reason for destroying him.

Coppola's movie is a superb exercise in the mechanics of horror. One brilliant cut (excuse the pun) is from Van Helsing sawing off the head of the undead Lucy, to him carving a roast at dinner. There were a lot of groans from the audience, but they seemed to enjoy the gory scenes.

I felt a tinge of sorrow and regret when Dracula died in the grand tragic manner of modern horror. But at least the greatest seducer of them all died in the arms of someone he loved.

Review The Ugly Noo-Noo Gerard Hope

IT IS a testament to the popularity of Andrew Buckland that his performance of *The Ugly Noo Noo* at the Rhodes Theatre was a virtual sell-out.

Buckland evokes varying responses - scholars cheered enthusiastically at the smattering of profanity, while blue-rinsed grannies sat in tight-lipped condemnation.

"species diversity"

At the mention of the SAP (the Supervised Annihilation of the People) there was tumultuous applause.

When a white liberal audience gets dewy-eyed at protest theatre, you have to wonder if their consciences or their artistic sensibilities have been touched?

But such cynicism is out of place in *The Ugly Noo Noo* which, despite its serious subject matter, is joyous and celebratory in its affirmation of "species diversity".

Can something as complex as the South African political situation be treated as comedy or farce without reducing it to ridicule?

In the hands of Buckland, comedy becomes a scalpel that dissects some lasting South African myths with surgical precision.

The saga of the Parktown prawn and the fear it invokes in humans is a telling account of xenophobia and racism. These terms are not explicitly mentioned in *The Ugly Noo Noo*, which wisely steers clear of polemic and leaves the audience to make up its own mind.



Buckland evokes all the magic of the theatre. He uses a bare black stage and the audience's imagination to create an allegorical Alice in Wonderland. This is a world where humans are held captive in bottles underground, while the Creatures Community Congress marches in triumph above.

At times achingly funny, *The Ugly Noo Noo* is a serious and biting satire. Buckland presents a disturbing vision of the skewed perceptions that characterise our so-called normal world.

Review Between the Teeth Kathy Maloney

Andrew Buckland's solo performance of *Between The Teeth* left the audience with aching ribs and tear-stained faces. It was, however, also a tragi-comedy and provided a sad vision of 'everyman' in the modern world.

The play portrays the hilarious birth, life and emancipating death of everyman Frank. Frank has barely had his first tantrum when a cynical life-insurance salesperson appears, reminding everyone of the transience and inevitable suffering of life.

His constant warning of "don't get caught between the teeth of 'Maarrk' - Pay your premiums" is a promise of false hope, for not even the faithful monthly payment can protect you.

Buckland uses an unconventional but effective dramatic technique. The actions contain the plot, but the dialogue often tells a different story. Words begin to bear no relation to the action except in tone, and become icons of life in South Africa.

The battle of the world's currencies had the audience rolling in their seats. The capitalist war between the pound pounding across the strife-torn stock exchange, and the sniper "yen-yen-yen-yenning" its target reflected Buckland's clever manipulation of words.

The symbolic mime that ended the play echoed the irony of life in general. Frank spent life fearing Mark, but paradoxically, it was only through death that he achieved his life-long dream of freedom and inner peace.

The life and times of a blue-note Jury

Bonile Ngqiyaza

JURY MPEHLO, singer-songwriter-cum-businessperson is a short, dark man with a jovial nature. Wearing a floral shirt and black trousers held in place by braces, he flashes me a wide, friendly smile.

Although old his face does not shrivel up with crow feet under the eyes. The chubby face of the man looks deceptively young.

"Ah, you've come to see me, mfowethu," he says, folding his arms, leaning over the counter at me.

"I see you're even on time," he glances at his wrist-watch. At this early time of the morning, the sun is already blisteringly hot and his shiny, ebony face is drenched with sweat.

"Look, I'm sorry, you'll have to wait. I've a few things I have got to put right first," he says, and without further ado, runs around the small cluttered shop, packing various goods onto their shelves: cardboard boxes; crates of soft-drink bottles; plastic- and paper-bags with various goods such as packets of rice, mealies and chicken pieces.

Jury Mpehlo's respectable house and small shop are half-submerged behind an unpainted, low wall in D Street, Fingo Village. The shop's door directly faces one of the entrances to Old Cemeteries - an area of squalid, badly built houses with numerous tin-and-sack shacks in their backyards.

imaginary piano

An hour later, Jury ushers me through the white bars of the shop entrance. A chair is brought for me, and placed next to the fridge. He begins talking while prancing up and down, attending to his customers. It is as if a tap has been opened full-blast.

Jury Mpehlo's love of music started in the early forties when he was a choirboy of The Order of Ethiopia Church. He narrows his beady eyes in contemplation, and stares down at the small fridge in front of him.

"From there, I was spotted by Mr Nikile Mjekula, and we started a jazz group of three boys and three girls," he says, tapping on the fridge with his strong fingers.

"The group's name was the *Midnite Stars*, and we learnt our songs from albums we bought. They came with copies of the lyrics and the music in tonic-solfa notation," Jury smiles.

I cannot help thinking how he resembles a blues singer with his smart clothing and the sweat running down his expressive, round face.

"Maybe I'm gonna die, y'know?" I wait for him to explain.

"There's been all these people who've come around, wanting my story: *The Voice*, CCV, and now you. Maybe this is an omen," Jury says, and a couple of women in the shop explode in raucous, appreciative laughter. My host serves them and comes back to me. He opens a bottle of Fanta for me, and thrusts a straw towards my face.

Jury explains that in the forties, the whole of the Eastern Cape was swamped by similar bands of youngsters whose sole purpose was to achieve success and all its trappings.

"It was a movement, y'know? And at the end of 1947, when the *Midnite Stars* disbanded, I joined the *PE Modernaires* under the late Ace Buya," Jury says, flexing the fingers of his large, granite hands more befitting of a boxer than a singer.

"Most of our songs were penned by Ace Buya, and y'know, the English songs that we did were in the vein of Glen Miller's. Big bands, y'know," Jury explains excitedly, sipping from a glass, obviously enjoying every minute of this interview.

"I think this was the peak of my career because the competition in Jozi was intense. We were at this time competing against the *Manhattan Brothers* of Pimville; the *Inkspots* from Springs; and a host of other bands I've forgotten just now."

In Johannesburg, Jury learned composition after taking piano lessons from Todd Matshikiza.

"My first song was called, *Ududu wam, is'thandwa sam*," - he spontaneously begins a song-and-dance routine, much to the amusement of the few customers in the shop.

"This was all before Miriam Makeba," Jury says, and moves off towards an old

man who has come in to buy tobacco.

"Hey, where's that jacket I gave you?" he asks.

"It's now worn," the old man smiles toothlessly.

"Y'know, when you're a businessman, you should never be moody or customers will run away from you," my grinning host warns me.

One memory that Jury Mpehlo still cherishes warmly is when two famous African-American stars, Sidney Poitier and Canada Lee, came to South Africa for the shooting of *Cry, the Beloved Country*.

open tap

"I still remember vividly how Canada Lee sat at the piano and gave a rendition of this beautiful song, entitled, *Diana*," Jury says, fingering an imaginary piano and humming softly, almost to himself. His eyes are closed tightly.

Again, I associate him more with the blues than with jazz.

He stops and fingers a scar on the chest with the index finger of his right hand. I look at him and think of *My Life*, a book by Godfrey Moloi, which has passages chronicling the harassment musicians suffered at the hands of gangsters in the Sophiatown of the fifties. For a while, it is quiet.

Should I ask him about those two scars on the chest? Jury's brown eyes gaze at me, and I hesitate and let the moment slip by.

He tells me he participated in the Defiance campaign of 1952 by writing music which commented on the events of the day. At this time, he also began learning the saxophone: carrying the instrument home after every show. He was playing with the *Key Notes* at this stage.

From Johannesburg, Jury Mpehlo stayed in Uitenhage for seventeen years, before coming back to Grahamstown.

"I then decided to start this business venture, and cut down on music involvement. I haven't entirely given it up though. I play part-time now," Jury smiles at me. I jump up and proffer my hand. He crushes it in his granite-like ones, and gives me a friendly pat on the shoulder, thanking me all the way to the door.



Vuka Afrika, Vuka!

We missed them again! Those of you who happened to be at Cape Town's Ruby in the Dust any Wednesday this holiday season would have had an interesting experience in rhythm: Vuka Afrika Dancers. Dom de Bruin caught up with them briefly in Grahamstown.

ONE of the most exciting post-apartheid music collaborations in the country, Vuka Afrika Dancers, played a one-nighter in Grahamstown last month.

A vibrant marimba/bongo afro-jam went down in Giddys Furnishers (of all places) to a closed audience of staff and friends. This 9-piece act quickly overcame the inhospitable lighting and restricted dance area, melting their cold reception with some energetic playing and traditional dancing that left all the 'ooms en tannies' jiving and shouting for more.

music from the trees

RHODEO managed to cram in an interview with band leader Vusi Mkosi and rasta drummer, John.

"We all come from different tribes and backgrounds, each bringing our own musical influence to the band. We play the music from the trees, we make nearly all our instruments and we teach people about traditional African dance," say the band.

Band leader Vusi says "The aim of our music is to break down the boundaries of tribalism and to let the people, especially blacks, of our country unite."

The band first gathered in Tsakane (near Brakpan you plebs) and went on their first tour in '89, the fist gig being at Tzaneen.

"We had an excellent audience response although we struggled to overcome people viewing us within a political and tribal context. We do some Zulu dances and some people thought we were pro-Inkatha. We toured around and did a lot of dance and music workshops, everywhere we played the people went crazy. Once people stopped thinking about our tribe or our politics, they went nuts to the music."

After their last tour of the Kei, the band moved to Cape Town (now their home base) where they have met with considerable success:

- They were chosen by the Cape Town City Council to represent the city at a festival in Nice, France.
- The band has been teaching traditional dance to UCT ballet students.
- They performed for the touring West Indies cricket team.
- They rocked revellers at Tony Cox and Steve Newman's annual Open Sky Concert on Redhill Farm, Cape Town.
- In mid-April they are performing at The Baxter Theatre in Cape Town and shortly thereafter at the Sand du Plessis Theatre in Bloemfontein.
- A tour to Italy is also being worked on.

Vuka Afrika's complex drum rhythms, skillfully crafted marimba melodies and varied percussion overlays seem to appeal to all: township ragers, Cape trendies, the culture vultures, ooms en tannies and the foreign party establishment.

Vuka Afrika will return. On their last visit they promised to do an extensive performance in Grahamstown in the future and the Rhodes SRC has expressed an interest.

So keep your eyes and ears open for the Vuka Afrika Dancers.

Review Shredded Shakespeare V Chetty and R Scheepers.

"ET TU, BRUTE" - Yes, all the rumours you've heard are true. William "Will" Shakespeare returned to life in the performance of *Shredded Shakespeare*. The concept was devised and the play directed by Mr David Alcock, director of last year's graduation production: *They Shoot Horses, Don't They?*

The two texts under the spotlight were Shakespeare's Roman plays *Julius Caesar* and *Anthony and Cleopatra* which have been studied by university and school students this year.

The final script was heavily workshopped by David and the cast before the product was completed. The production aims to give audiences an inside view on the ups and downs of producing and directing plays.

David's approach to Shakespeare was fresh and appealing; audiences never knew what to expect. The company's obvious enjoyment during the performance gave the audience a great deal of insight into Elizabethan theatre.

Modern images were used to create a dynamic between the modern and the Elizabethan. Actors played different characters, which was confusing at times. The cast however were very comfortable switching characters so this did not distract from my enjoyment of the production.

Two novel concepts which were particularly enjoyable, were the juxtaposition of the two orators' speeches at Caesar's funeral, as well as Octavia's soliloquy.

Congratulations to all concerned - it was a wonderful experience. I learned quite a bit more about the theatre. We look forward to more performances from the Drama department.





Zoned out

Glenn van Loggerenberg

IT ROSE like a phoenix from the ashes of eighties electro-pop. Kids creating a beat homage to their band idols. Except the beat got faster and the kids got better. British label Ten Records flogged it as "Detroit Techno" and a sub-culture was born. Futurist technology to return to the ancient purpose of music; communal release through the ritual of ecstatic dancing. * Techno.

As a cultural phenomenon it does not require wholesale participation by large parts of the community, only widespread recognition of its influence.

Hasn't the way you dress changed just a little bit? Aren't you dancing just a little more than you used to? Perhaps not. Fine. But do you recognise that some people are?

Aha.

Until the beginning of this year we were lucky to hear the occasional techno groove once in a purple moon. Now we have full scale techno evenings. To the Little Saints of Decadence: an E for Effort. The first seed in a mad vegetation of raves? And why not? Grahamstown is in a virtual musical backwater. Everything seems to take an indeterminate detour along the line of time before it hits this popstand, and it reflects on the way in which everyone thinks and behaves.

The mire that constitutes the nightlife (?) around here is open for invasion. There are plenty of businesspeople who wouldn't mind getting a finger into the pie. Approach them and hire a venue. The townhall costs R15 an hour. Navigate a bit of red tape and Grahamstown has an alternative venue, even if it is only for one night. And if that's what you're into, you might even be able to cull a bit of cash from the event. As has been said before, the "Summer of '69" has since become the "Bummer of '69". There is no need to slush around in the nostalgia trip of tired tunes. These are the nineties. New Party. New Music.

Try the Shamen. You've heard Ebenezer Goode ad nauseum, but have you really listened to it? *Boss Drum* is a definite maturation of their previous disk, *En Tact*, and despite Tusk's shitty decision to release *Phorever People* as the next single, we'll be hearing a lot more of sledgehammer beat and numbing computer base in the coming months.

And even if you hate techno there's no escaping its influence. Even the latest releases from people like U2 and Depeche Mode are peppered with sampled sounds.

Techno has a direct route back to tribal drumming based on rhythm and frequency. We might even see melody and harmony going out the window, and to quote *Spiral Tribe*, England's public new-sense anarcho-Wombles, "We are in one of the biggest revolutions since man (sic?) picked up a stick."

If this is the case, maybe Grahamstown is in for something new. It's up to you to make it happen. Think about it. Free your mind and your ass will follow.

* - Seen this before?

Safety pins in numbers



Dror Eyal

pic: Dror Eyal & Stacy Hardy

They're back, they're hungry, and they're not vegetarian. The Little Saints of Decadence exploded onto the Grahamstown scene with all the subtlety of an atomic bomb.

Grahamstown's first technorave was advertised in a stark green flyer which promised "candy girls, smart drinx, photographs, and dancers". All of this at the Vic? You gotta be kidding.

Thump, thump, thump.

Looking around nervously for sandworms, I approached the vibrating Vic, my flyer flapping wildly to the beat. The bass was beating so loudly I was sure my bodily organs were going to rearrange themselves and supper would vacate the premises.

The normally sedate Vic had been transformed into a thumping, blaring, sense-destroying, mind-crushing orgasm of sound, lights and very hot bodies.

The DJ, the best I've seen at the Vic, kept the beat pumping and the people vibrating to cybertech sounds till the edge became visible.

The vibe was intense - people were here to rave. A postmodern collage of humanity confronted my already pumping, dancing senses. A strobe light made sure that the fragmented and distorted action was visible to all who were taking a break.

Dancing is hard work! But smart drinks help, even if they are largely Sambuca. Smart drinks were sold by the dozen as, one by one, people slaved to the rhythm.

Mmmm ... is that woman wearing a pair of vinyl pants? I wanna see more! Turn around! Wow, that guy dressed in black tights is wearing a gas mask! Hey, is that Warren in a Speedo and goggles? He looks like he was body-painted by Dante in free-art class.

Do it one more time, Elvis. Yeahhh ... let me see some more. The Vinyl Solution was up and moving all over the table - doesn't this woman ever stop for air?

Talking about air, don't you think that gas mask looks a little tight?

The sense of freedom is unnerving - not what it used to be around here. You could be whatever you wanted to be. Don't dream it - be it!

Girls kissed girls, boys kissed boys, some boys were girls. Punks and skinheads smiled, even at each other. Conventional people exchanged funky dance moves with very unconventional people.

They all had a common uniting factor - the music, the techno/hardcore/acid, destructo mix being alchemised, accelerated and fused by El DJ

I'm wiped. Quitting time. I'm outta here. Hey, candy girl, where's my lollipop?

Review The Lover

"VERY early in my life it was too late. When I was eighteen it was already too late." So speaks the narrator of *The Lover*, weary and burdened by her loss of innocence. This is something that haunts her for the rest of her life.

It is a tragedy that *The Lover* arrived in South Africa on the tail of *Basic Instinct*. Jean-Jacques Annaud's poignant and elegiac movie was tainted by lurid sensationalism.

The arts pages of respectable newspapers trumpeted the mystery of Jane March's under-age sex scenes with Tony Leung - were they faked or not?

Armchair connoisseurs of film art discussed the editing of *The Lover* as if they were experts on mis-a-scene.

From the languid and dreamy opening scene, tinged with regret and the faint remembrance of foregone pleasure, *The Lover* is unlike any other erotica which has yet graced our screens.

Whereas *Basic Instinct* is about as satisfying as a grope in the backseat of a VW, *The Lover* traces the genesis of an epic affair that stretches across class barriers, and is destroyed by its own magnificent illusion.

Annaud wanted to capture the act of love in all its naked splendour. He eschewed the soft, romantic lighting which is used conventionally as a visual cue of a director's amorous intentions.

'epic affair'

The bachelor pad which Leung brings March to is a cool, blue world that seems totally removed from the hysteria of Saigon. Annaud chose a light blue for the walls because it provides a strong contrast with skin colour.

The narrator's voice binds the film together, speaking from the opposite end of her life. The movie is like a tunnel reconnecting her with her girlhood, and the space between the two is filled with the echoes of loss.

Jeanne Moreau's narration is incredibly evocative. Her tired gravelly voice is spell-binding, and she comments on the action at critical moments. The effect is not cynicism but a multiplication of understanding and desire.

Probably the most erotic moment of the movie is when Leung and March are riding in his sleek chauffeur-driven car. They sit silent in the back, their hands just on the verge of touching, separated by a yearning gulf of desire.

Annaud maintains a fine line of ambiguity in the movie, skitting graciously over open condemnation of the affair, and sheer glorification of lust. What emerges is a fine distillation of desire tempered by the harsh realities of the world.

'Dreamy and meditative'

A cinema in Durban put up a notice urging young males not to disturb other patrons and to remain in their seats, after the manager noticed a rush on the toilets during the love scenes.

Those who merely went to see the movie for its sexual content were invariably disappointed.

The Lover is a slow-paced movie. At times dreamy and meditative, it is simply content to explore its own inner logic as the characters fine-tune their emotional reactions to each other.

Weened on an impoverished diet of banal American action movies, South African cinema-goers tend to have truncated attention spans.

The Lover takes ages to get to the bachelor pad - an emotional and intellectual journey as well as a physical one. In Leung's cool, blue room they are able to keep the real world at bay.

Annaud uses the bonsai as a symbol of their flourishing love. At the end of the movie it has withered from neglect, and the lovers have drifted apart.

This is an exquisite movie that is both literate and erotic, compassionate and insightful. It is a sad and beautiful story about the paradox of falling in love, which invariably involves the fall of innocence.

The good person according to Buckland

Lucy Warren

ACCLAIMED actor and mime artist, Andrew Buckland, has ventured into the directing realm of the theatre world.

Buckland, a lecturer and movement teacher at the Drama Department, is directing a departmental production of Bertold Brecht's *The Good Person of Szechwan*.

"Previously, I always avoided the responsibility of directing," he said. "But now I'd like to do it more and more, although I certainly don't want to give up acting - I enjoy it too much."

to important issues."

Buckland has approached the work from "a kind of burlesque or cartoonish concept, so that characterization and situations aren't necessarily meant to be realistic." The production has a universal context, with performers wearing costumes from different eras and using accents from all parts of the world.

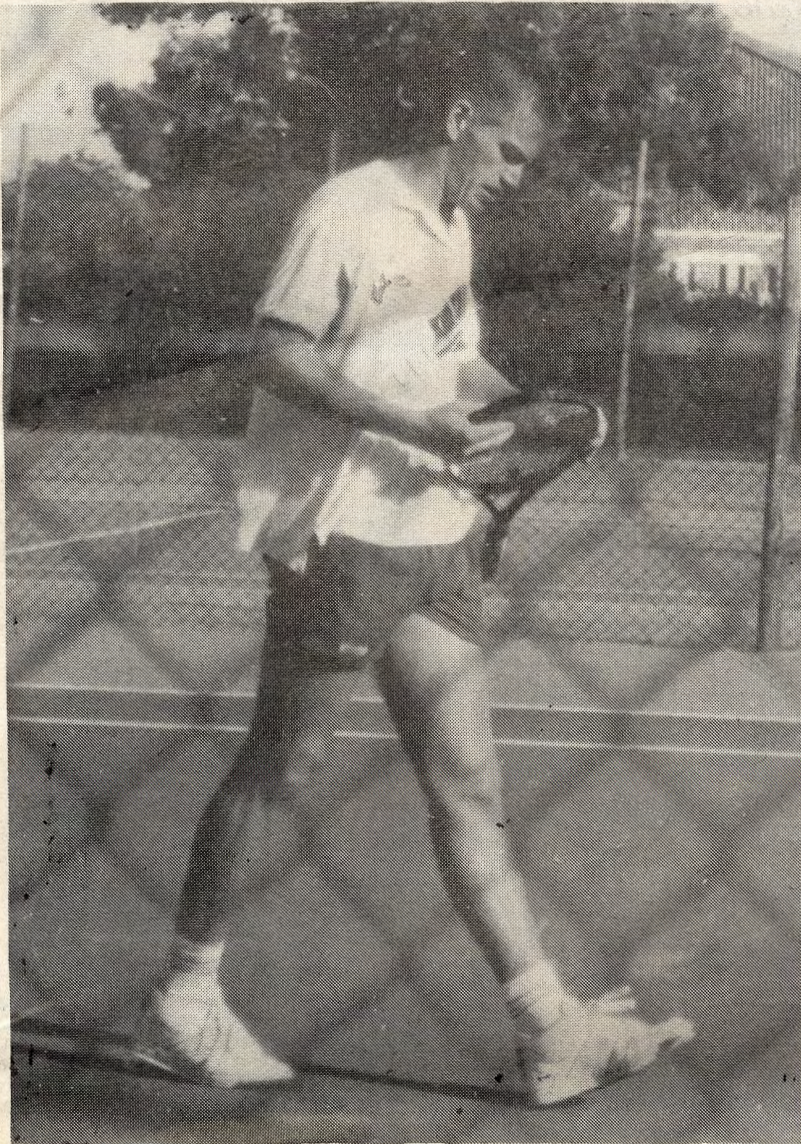
The Good Person of Szechwan will be performed by Drama students on April 2, 3 and from April 5 to 7 at the University Theatre. It will also be performed during the graduation weekend on April 16 and 17.

According to Buckland, the basic theme of the play is the difficulty of remaining good in an economic system which survives on people's ability to exploit each other. Set in a ghetto, it brings up situations which are very familiar to those of modern urban society.

"But the play also has enormous potential for comedy and theatrical fun," said Buckland.

"The way I've tried to work in my own productions, and the way I've tried to work here, is to use laughter to open people up to the ideas that are presented. Comedy is an extraordinarily powerful means," he said.

Game, set, match to Oxford



Match winner, Alistair Osner

pic: Taryn Cass

Taryn Cass

RHODES University tennis players had a taste of international competition on March 19 when they played an English team from Oxford University.

The Oxford team arrived in South Africa on March 14 and spent two weeks touring and playing at various universities. They were beaten by teams from the University of Stellenbosch, UPE, and an invitation team from UCT.

Rhodes won one of the nine matches played against the Oxford team, when Alistair Osner overpowered their best player, Jonathan Entract.

English captain, Alex Astley said, "It's a nice change to be winning."

The tour was organised by South African Jerome Wilson, a Rhodes scholar at Oxford, number nine on the team. It was funded by

the Rhodes Trust Fund.

The English players enjoyed playing in South Africa, and said the people were very hospitable. They particularly liked the university sports facilities and were "very impressed with the standard of tennis in South Africa", especially since, according to Alex, they were "probably the third or fourth strongest university team in England".

Rhodes Tennis Club chairperson and player, Greg Beyers, described the Oxford team as good players, "not flashy, just steady".

Rhodes University Sports Council Executive member, Vuyo Kahla, said, "The Interim Committee of SA Student Sport is in favour of international competition. There are chances for South African university teams to go overseas, and we encourage them to go."

Vuyo said such tours were in line with cultural exchange and they helped to develop tennis.

RU volleys ahead

Alouette Ernest

AFTER two weekends of tough matches, the mens' and womens' volleyball teams showed they had what it took to be successful on the court.

The Rhodes teams played against the University of Port Elizabeth (UPE) and teams from the Eastern Province league.

The results of the matches are as follows:

- Rhodes Womens' A team vs All Stars 3-0
- Rhodes Womens' B team vs UPE 0-3
- Rhodes Mens' A team vs All Stars 3-0
- Rhodes Mens' B team vs UPE 0-3

Although the beginners were not that experienced, they were positive they would be able to win a match in the near future.

The most exciting event was watching the Rhodes A teams in action. Both the women and men played with great determination and worked together as a team. If you see a ball being spiked with the power similar to that of Hercules, you know it can only be one person, Adrian "Gosh" Strydom, coach of womens' volleyball - "Gosh" because this is the reaction most people have when seeing him slamming the ball over the net.

If you want part of the action or want to be part of the action, volleyball is the place to be.

Great goals

Melanie Jarvis

THE Rhodes hockey team this year boasts one of the most prolific goal scorers on the South African national team.

Greg Ferrans, 24, was selected for the South African team which competed in Kenya earlier this year.

The South Africans played a series of exciting matches against Egypt, the defending champions, Zimbabwe, Seychelles and Kenya. They scored 20 goals, of which Greg scored three, and had only three scored against them.

The South Africans emerged victors and proved that isolation has not caused any 'shorties' compared to when they won the Fourth African cup.

This means the South African

team has qualified for the inter-continental championships to be held in Poland, August 1993. If they manage to get into the finals they will compete in Sidney for the World cup in 1994.

A centre striker, Greg, is captain of the Rhodes first team and Eastern Province. The Rhodes team won 12 of their 16 matches last season.

South African Universities is being hosted in Grahamstown this year and they are eager to prove they are the champions.

This team is not only concerned with scoring goals, but also assists in coaching underprivileged children. "I feel very strongly that our (Rhodes) guys get involved in coaching," Greg said.

Running up a storm

Colette Ambler & Daniella Bergman

DESPITE stormy weather conditions, 446 runners competed in the annual 10km National Lamps Night Race on March 17.

Initiated by Rhodes, the race was organised by Albany Sports Club where it has been held for the past three years.

The event begins and finishes at the Albany Club, and participants run through Grahamstown.

rainy conditions

Commentator Sid Penny said "the rainy conditions were ideal for the athletes, especially those hoping to set record times."

Originally only registered athletes participated. Now the race is open to the whole community. Participants ranging from 12 to 60 years were perhaps inspired by the thought of free pineapples at the finishing line.

In first place was J Mpangalane of Port Elizabeth, with a time of 30.28. T Tembinkosi was second (30.57) and N Simtembile third (31.43).

free pineapples

The first woman home was T Childs, who improved her previous record by 57 seconds to set a new women's record of 37.09. The men's record is 29.59, held by A Kemp.

The Botha House team, consisting of A Maclachlan, M Pedronceli, A McMaster and M Pitne, won the inter-res competition.

The event was sponsored by Steven Bort of National Lamps.

Three in one

Elnette Oelofse & Maretha Potgieter

ON the bright Sunday afternoon of March 21, 25 teams of Rhodians crawled from their morning-after abodes for the "Rhodes Team Triathlon".

This annual event is sponsored by the Standard Bank. Anton van der Merwe, triathlon co-ordinator for the Athletics Club, organised the event in conjunction with the Sports Admin.

The Standard Bank usually gives the University R800 in the form of cash or prizes, Anton said. This year it decided on both.

First prize comprised R30 per winning team member and individual, R20 for second and R10 third.

Bottles of champagne were given to the winners of lucky draws and to those who came last in their event. Give-aways consisted of (surprise, surprise) six-packs of beer.

The Triathlon included a 400m swim, 12km cycle and 4km run. There were 13 men and 11 women teams.

The winners who splashed, straddled and sweated their way to victory were:

- **Mens' teams:**
First - Goldfields
- **Women's teams:**
First - Oppies
Second - Oppies
Second - Milner

Fastest sportspersons in the different categories were:

Running - G Byrne and J McGregor.

Cycling - T Rowlands and C Oltman.

Swimming - W Ford and K Henwood.

Kerryn Henwood had the fastest swimming time of 5.05 minutes, faster than that of the winning male swimmer.

"The event was not held in 1992 because of a breakdown in communication between Sports Admin and the Athletics Club," Anton said. There's a good possibility of a second triathlon later this year, he added.

Rugby comeback

Antony Sgazzin

RHODES rugby team made a solid start to the season by defeating Zwibe by 24 points to 12 in their first league match in Port Elizabeth.

Rhodes' points came through three tries from the loose forwards, one from Hendrik Weber and two from flanker Garth Wakeford. Player-coach, Greg Doolan, completed the total with three conversions and a penalty.

It was a scrappy game dominated by forward play. Poorly controlled by the referee and marred by violence, the match never really flowed and it was a relief to spectators and players alike when the final whistle went.

Nevertheless, the match was a vast improvement over the previous week's 48-0 loss in a friendly against Crusaders and should give the Rhodes team a boost in confidence.

Rhodes' second and third teams also triumphed 7-0 and 15-0 respectively.

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SPORTING RHODEO is the Rhodes student's guide to campus, local, national and international sporting events. It includes any issues which you may find interesting. Contributions, suggestions or results can be put in the **RHODEO** post box, or sent to the SRC offices through internal mail.

Ragged tooth bites back

Sean Brewis

IT WAS a close shave for a member of the Rhodes University Diving Club, Martin Victor, when a quiet Sunday's spear-fishing turned into a "shark battle" last month.

"Raggies are normally docile. This is the most aggressive harassment I have experienced," Martin recalled. Sharks are attracted to a struggling fish or blood in the water. Martin was no exception. He had just shot a parrot fish and the scent of the fish was probably still on him. As he was attaching the fish to his steel stringer at the end of his float line, a ragged tooth shark came up from the seabed towards him.

The shark neglected the fish and came for him. Fortunately the vertical visibility was six to seven metres, giving Martin good sight of the shark. Since the spear was hanging out the gun, he used the handle to strike the shark's snout.

The shark did a u-turn but all the diving activity had attracted other sharks. Martin felt the "raggies" gained strength from being in

numbers because four or five more sharks ascended from the seabed. Two of them were estimated to be three and a half metres long. He shouted for help.

Some sharks were thrashing on the surface eating Martin's fish on the float line. He dealt several blows to sharks still coming at him. One or two were particularly aggressive and, incited by his response, tried to bite his gun as he lunged at them.

Fortunately, the boat which was dropping off divers at half hour intervals was nearby. They arrived within one minute. He struck once at the sharks still below him and was pulled out by one arm. "Luckily the timing worked out alright," Martin said.

According to a Natal Sharks Board Marine biologist, Sheldon Dudley, most ragged tooth attacks cause messy lacerations.

Martin, who was spear-fishing alone after his partner surfaced due to illness, advises that one always spear fish in teams of two for 360 degree visual backup.



"A successful dive - scuba divers of the RU diving club, unlike a spearfisher attacked by a ragged tooth shark, returned from their offshore dive unharassed."

Stage set for soccer league showdown

Ntokozi Ntombela

THE stage is set for a thrilling start to the first phase of the 1993 Rhodes Internal Soccer League.

Seventeen teams will be vying for the coveted winner's title.

The fixtures have been made public and the first games are set to kick off on the first Sunday of the second term. The teams have been split into two sections and play-offs in the third term will pit the best of each section against each other.

The season promises to be an exciting one. The birth of new teams has brought a fresh new look to the league. It will also be interesting to see how the teams, especially goalkeepers, will handle the new backpass rule recently introduced by FIFA, the ruling body of soccer.

'new teams'

The soccer season kicked off earlier this term with a 5-a-side tournament organised by the Rhodes Soccer Club, which also runs the Internal League. The tournament provided the teams with a rough picture of what the soccer season has in store.

It also gave teams a chance to venture into the "transfer market" as some teams approached individual players in a bid to convince them to join their respective teams.

The tournament was won by Skidd after a thrilling final against

Rupsa Rebels.

New Generation, the defending champions, are widely seen as favourites at this early stage of the competition. They venture into unknown territory as they kick off with a game against one of the new teams: Ye Armpit.

New Generation's attractive and effective style of football is set to make them an indomitable force.

The "Bafana Bafana" ensemble (a nickname shared with the South African National Soccer Squad) will seek to retain the winner's plaque, although a string of other teams will attempt to spoil their party.

The Oppidans, who have continuously mapped out their dominance in internal Rhodes sport, is one of those teams. Losing to New Generation in the final last year will only serve as an incentive to beat them this year.

Rupsa Rebels, after an impressive start where they reached the finals of the 5-a-side tournament, will seek to remain up there as one of the early favourites.

O'dlezinye boasts a team of talented players with a string of them certain to make the Rhodes Senior Soccer Squad. This is just another of the many teams that will make New Generation's life at the top uncomfortable.

Last year the League was marred by controversy as the committee hesitated to reach a decision on whether to allow teams to recruit players representing Rhodes at team level.

This year the message is loud and clear: Teams are allowed to include these players. This selection process will play an influential role in the success of the respective teams.

Winchester is no exception to the above, having had a pretty impressive season last year. They plan to improve on their standings.

The hard-to-miss Fotofirst De Beers will be hoping to make their presence felt after a mediocre season last year.

Botha is another team that should not be written off so soon. On paper they have the best defence as they are blessed with the services of the regular Rhodes Senior Soccer Squad goalkeeper, Peter Stewart.

spectators to brace themselves

Rhodes Law, a team always hard to beat, will prove hard to handle although they will need to improve their mid-table position.

Smuts is another team brimming with the cream of Rhodes soccer, but will need to improve on their disappointing display last season.

To all new teams, welcome to the gruelling world of Rhodes Internal Soccer!

Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings will never be the same and spectators are to brace themselves for an exciting soccer season.

Kirsey, Kirsey!

Kameshnee Naidoo

AMIDST hysterical, banner-waving fans and chants of "Kirsey, Kirsey," Peter Kirsten arrived in South Africa a hero after the world cup.

One of the leading run-scorers in Australia last year, Kirsten is quick to reveal that "the World Cup was definitely the most memorable moment in my cricketing career".

Peter Kirsten, a man who wishes nothing more than to have been "born a bit sooner", has had a career that has been as much a tragedy as a fairytale.

One of the many unfortunate cricketers to have blossomed during the dark and dismal years of apartheid-isolated South Africa, Kirsten's international exposure was limited to three seasons playing English County Cricket with Derbyshire, and appearing for South Africa in the 'rebel tour sides' of the eighties.

He was destined to become one of the many with unrealised potential. Then came South Africa's historic tour of India in November 1991, which Kirsten regards as "one of the highlights" of his career.

His shock omission from the World Cup 20 has ensured that his cricketing genius will not extend beyond the narrow boundaries of South African provincial cricket.

Kirsten justified his controversial selection for the historic World

Cup team, and went from an "also-ran" to a batter of world-class, topping the batting averages.

Kirsten is openly critical of himself. "I was defensive during the last series," he admits, "but I'm not worried. In some cases the media were justified."

Kirsten contrasts the leap from domestic cricket to international level. "There is greater pressure playing within South Africa than there is abroad. South African spectators are so passionate, you can feel the tension as a player."

Kirsten remains optimistic about his cricketing future. "If I don't make the South African side touring Sri Lanka, I will just get stuck into Border and work on developing cricket there."

During the Total International Triangular, Kirsten proved, not for the first time, that he can rise to a challenge and play an innings of outstanding quality when the chips are down.

The young and inexperienced South African side can ill afford to do without the maturity of a player of Kirsten's calibre. "I'd like to play for three or four more years," he enthuses. "I'm still hungry for the game."

"Thousands of rands have been spent on developing cricket. In a few years, we will have all these new young players which can only be positive for South Africa."

