



Grade ones to learn about HIV/AIDS

6 year olds will now be equipped with the knowledge about how HIV works and how to prevent themselves from contracting the virus

by Charlotte Gait

Oatlands Primary School in Grahamstown has taught life skills for 15 years. They include first aid, physical education, social skills and health. This year they are also incorporating HIV/AIDS awareness from Grade one upwards.

Mrs Nel has been teaching at Oatlands for eight years. She is delighted with the new curriculum and does not feel that the content is inappropriate when the reality is that HIV/AIDS affects all age groups and many aspects of life. "We assume that 10% of the children have HIV. We have children who have lost parents. Even first aid has changed since I was young. Now, you just don't touch blood," Nel explained.

Nel goes on to say that contrary to what many people might believe, it is not difficult to talk to her young students about HIV/AIDS. "You just explain what HIV does to someone and say 'You can get AIDS from sex' but that's as far as it goes", she replied firmly.

A parent, who did not wish to be named, agreed that her daughter was old enough to learn about AIDS. "Before the school introduced it, we had spoken to her about it in the sense that you learn about blood and what to do if someone gets hurt at school. I used to be a first-aider so she knows the whole spiel and yes, I'm quite happy that they do teach it in school. The only thing I don't enjoy is when you've got a programme on TV during prime viewing time and they bring up the thing about wearing condoms. I mean, I don't think an eight year old needs to know about condoms at that age."

This is the view that the government is taking. Workbooks focus on socialisation, helping children learn about values and decision-making, instead of giving sexual information. Children make "Sorry you are Sick" cards for AIDS patients and talk about someone who was kind when they were ill to encourage empathy. Demonstrations alleviate fears: 'Mary' and 'Jennifer' are two jars: one with blue water (representing HIV), the other with clear (uninfected) water. Rubbed together, the clear water does not become discoloured. "Mary and Jennifer can play together, touch each other and hug each other without spreading the HIV/AIDS germ", concludes the teacher's book.

The curriculum aims to help learners "develop a sense of confidence... live well and contribute productively to the shaping of a new society," says Nel. HIV/AIDS education forms only part of this. Other exercises build self-worth, promote tolerance and encourage problem solving and team work. In these respects, Nel believes that the life skills classes have already been successful. "Some of the kids aren't even sure if they're black or white. If they're English speaking in a Western culture they think they're white."

Hopefully the AIDS education component will be less confusing but just as effective.



HIV education has now been incorporated into the junior school curriculum

pic Linda Schoncknecht

Limits Placed Upon Community Service



Students are being turned away when they want to help the community

pic James Oatway

by Jenny Pettenger

Rhodes students wishing to do service for their community are being turned away by the Centre of Social Development (CSD).

The practice of "volunteer screening" is gaining popularity in charitable institutions. Those wanting to get involved in their communities can no longer simply walk into an office and say "what can I do?" There are forms to fill out and applications to process. This trend has reached the Rhodes campus.

Kate Mapham and Nicci Colson, two second year students at Rhodes, recently went to the CSD offices, which house a community service programme for varsity students. "Basically Kate and I were keen on getting involved in the community and having seen the posters around campus, decided to visit the Community Development centre in Somerset Street to find out where we could help and lend our services," explained Colson. This was met with disappointment, however, when Mapham and Colson were told that they would have to add their names to an already lengthy waiting list.

Apparently, the Community Development Centre wants volunteers, but only 100 of them. The centre partners with organisations around Grahamstown and finds out how many volunteers

each establishment needs. It then assigns student volunteers to these various jobs. Students are required to perform a minimum of one hour of community service each week, and are rewarded at the end of the year with a letter to add to their CV.

"There were 60 people on the waiting list. That's 60 people who are willing to give up their time. That's crazy," said Mapham.

Evidently, the centre is not only selective about the number of volunteers it deploys, but also the type of people. Willing volunteers are added to a list, while students serving their community as part of a punishment given by the university are allocated their volunteer jobs immediately.

Although *Activate* repeatedly attempted to contact the Community Development Centre for an interview, they refused to give any comment.

"I think there is a great need in Grahamstown and that there are many more people needed [than the one hundred students out of thousands] to work in the community," said Colson. Students who agree might explore other options for community service such as fund raising or going directly to establishments that need help. Rhodes students have a fair amount of influence in Grahamstown and have the opportunity to make a difference, even if they have to organise it themselves.

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When I saw the cover of a prominent South African newspaper running the headline 'How the ANC won the election' in the 8th of April edition, I was surprised at first. I thought to myself, voting hasn't even happened yet and they're making a firm statement about something that is only to be announced at the end of the month. But I soon realised that of course they can do that because chances of them being proved wrong and an opposition party winning the elections was about as great as the chance of every student getting up for their Thursday dawnsies.

It did make me think about predictability and assumptions though. As you know, assumptions are the mother of all f-ups, but there are just certain things that you just know will happen.

As it turns out, the ANC is as expected victorious in the South African elections for a third time running. Only difference is, it seems like the two-thirds majority they so hoped for is being served to them this time around. Some people weren't expecting that one and most are dreading it because of the constitutional rights it affords the ruling party. But that's what a democracy is - the winner is the one who bagged the votes. And the people have spoken. Or have they?

According to the IEC, only an average of 50% of eligible voters actually registered. Do the math and you'll realise that the victorious party won two-thirds majority of people who actually made the effort to vote.

It doesn't take a fortune-teller to predict that certain things will happen though. How predictable was it that some drunk Rhodents would be walking home from the Rat and find it funny to ravage and destroy the voting station? Or that either CPU or the police would catch them and that they would land their asses in quite a bit of trouble? About as predictable as you scoring someone that you've never seen before only to realise afterwards that they are in just about every lecture you have, are in half your tuts and that they are the close friend of one of your digsmates. Go figure.

I guess it was also inevitable that the voting station on campus wouldn't be as busy as one would hope, while there was always a queue at the ones we visited in Joza. The thought of an extra day in Grahamstown to exercise the democratic muscle was obviously just too much for some. There is no good in arguing with the inevitable.

I think it is also safe to assume that Dr. Motara is not going to be all that pleased about the letter Activate received from The Underground. Everyone is entitled to an opinion. Real food for thought-check to your right.

Half-naked women on the cover of every magazine can also be expected month after month as you scan the shelves and I would be mighty surprised if I didn't hear someone complaining about something between the covers of Activate. I have nothing against constructive criticism - we're a student publication and we're here to learn, but there's no point in people discussing the downfalls of Activate in forums and amongst themselves if you don't let us know what you feel we are doing wrong.

Despite popular belief, Activate is here to serve you. So if you have suggestions, comments (critique included), feel free to let us know. Make your student publication work for you. Let your voice be heard. It's your democratic right.

Cheers to those of you with ink on your thumbs! You did the right thing.

Make your student publication work for you



Letter to the Editor

Dear readers of Activate

Re: Censorship of Posters on Campus

We refer to the common occurrence of Dr. Motara, the Dean of Students, ordering Campus Security to take down posters of an offensive nature. We, the Underground, feel that Dr. Motara's actions are archaic - comparable to Apartheid censorship of the opposition press.

Whilst some of the media on the Rhodes campus has no informative value whatsoever, we feel that posters, especially those created by the Underground, are produced to incite inter-personal debate amongst students. Dr. Motara stated on Monday the 23rd of February that the posters put up by the Underground media group were offensive to no less than three members of the Rhodes University academic community. This incited the Dean of Students to have all the posters on main and law campus removed.

The Dean of students had various reasons for removing the posters with the haste he did. The legislative clauses (in layman's terms):

(1) It is the poster producer's responsibility to ensure that the posters display an expiry date. The Underground did no such thing to their posters because the issues being raised have never expired. Global atrocities caused by religion are endless, while Rhodes students live complacently in their bubbles.

(2) The posters were not produced by a society recognised by Rhodes University and therefore could not be displayed upon its grounds. The Underground feels that Dr. Motara's archaic reaction to what it produces is a step backwards in the fight for freedom of speech; how can we become a recognised society when we don't have a voice?

The Underground concedes that the points above hold for the removal of "rogue" posters on campus. However, we feel that emotion influenced the Dean of Students' decision to remove the posters so quickly. It has come to our attention that any posters challenging the norms of Dr. Motara's personal ideology are imme-

diately swept under the rug.

The Underground recognises the effort made by organisations similar to ourselves in the period of the 1960's in Northern America - the alternative thought of their past has become the legislation of today. Similarly, South Africa is the possessor of a lively democracy founded upon a remarkable constitution, harbouring the upper echelon of alternative thought within its tertiary institutions. Justin Nurse, a product of this university, has set a precedent for the fight against corporate plunder of the consumer by creating awareness of the activities of big corporations in South Africa. The Underground, in a similar fashion to that of Mr. Nurse, aims to create an awareness of global issues for its viewers and feels that Dr. Motara, through his action of censorship, is guilty of creating a student body complacent to them.

Long gone is the student who used to be a powerful political force in this country. We find, particularly at Rhodes, that as long as students have their table at the local pub, they are seemingly indifferent to the forces that drive the world. Even relatively minor issues such as the silencing of the minority on campus are overlooked by the hung over. The Underground thinks that enough is enough: now is the time to take a stand.

One of the three posters depicted a slumbering Pope John Paul II with the statement: "Narcolepsy? Try Catholicism". This was meant to show the impotency of the Pope in global issues. If the Pope, who is the highest ranking Catholic, and a supposed direct line to God, can fall fast asleep at important ceremonies, what does this say about the Catholic religion in the 21st century? The blind eye that has been turned to global issues by organized religion has been replaced by the sleeping eye; it has gone from bad to worse.

This is the kind of thought that The Underground wishes to present to its audience, and the kind of critical thinking that Dr. Motara does not wish to see on our campus.

We implore you, the readers, to take a stand.

Yours truly,

The Underground.

Brightest Young Minds invites you

By Morice Wohlman

Brightest Young Minds (BYM), arguably the most inspired and active bunch of students in the country, has announced that their 5th annual brainstorming conference is scheduled for the end of June this year. The aim of BYM is to create a platform that showcases the potential of South Africa's students and future leaders and that fast-tracks their development.

It all started in 2000, when a group of Stellenbosch University students started a collective called Masterclass, which mushroomed into the annual initiative known as BYM. Every year, final year and postgraduate students in any discipline are invited to apply to join a week-long brainstorming session, where fuel, in the form of presentations and workshops by South Africa's business leaders, is fed to a diverse collection of eager, enthusiastic and proudly patriotic students.

"Our focus this year is 'A Road Map for the Future' and we intend to inspire our BYMs to apply their minds to building a better South Africa for future generations through scenario planning exercises," says Dries Mellet, this year's BYM president.

The BYM conference is chaired by a student chairperson and student volunteers, who form the BYM committee and take care of all the logistical arrangements for the conference. Business leaders contribute to the conference by presenting lectures or workshops and inviting the BYMs to brainstorm and develop solutions for challenges or business problems. Previous conferences have spawned ideas that continue to be implemented by affiliate companies, including Edusave, aiming to encourage children to save, and The AIDS Management Standard Initiative.

"The final 100 students selected to form this year's think tank will have the distinction of networking with some of South Africa's top business thinkers," says Dries. "They will also be challenged to come up with innovative solutions to social and business problems in the building of a better society and future. BYM intends to bridge the gap between students and the corporate sector, and we do this by facilitating synergies between the dreams of students and the focus of corporate South Africa."

Final year and post-graduate students at any tertiary institution are invited to apply to become a Brightest Young Mind. Applications can be completed online - see www.bym.co.za or call 021 883 3045 for more information. Applications close on April 30. This year's initiative will run for seven, rather than five days, and will include a 24 hour train trip from Cape Town to Johannesburg, where the CEO breakfast, featuring the BYMs presenting their initiative ideas to assembled corporate leaders, will take place.

Retraction

In the 18 March edition of Activate it was stated in From rags to riches, +236 blossoms that the SRC refused Zimsoc a grant. This is incorrect. The SRC did in fact help them by paying off a large portion of their debt and not freezing their society.

-SPECIAL-

Mike's Driving School

Mike (mobile): 082 430 9855 (24 hrs)

Cost: R80 p/h - Code 08 R120 p/h - Code 10

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The height of student apathy

by Peni Dodo

On the eve of the much awaited elections this year, various groups of Rhodes students were caught vandalising polling stations in Grahamstown.

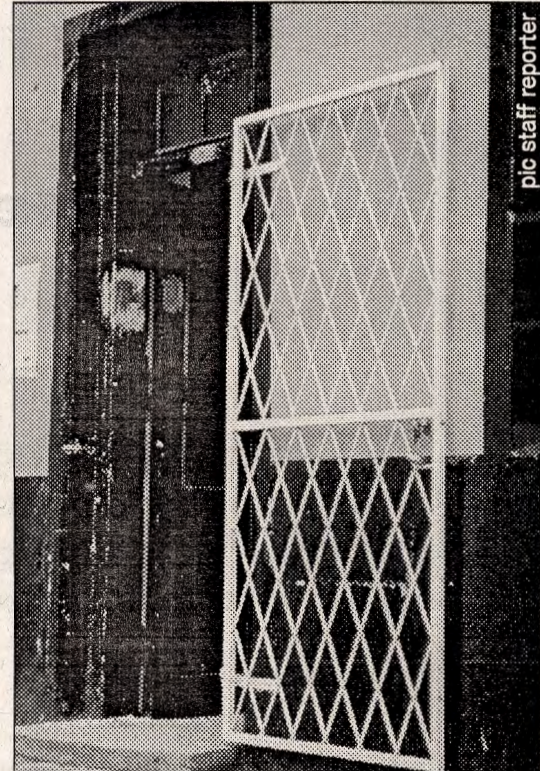
The first alleged incident was witnessed by second year BSc student, Terence Hatting. He claims a friend of his broke a strip of tape used to mark off a polling station and was followed by police into the Rat and

Parrot to be reprimanded for his behaviour. He feels this incident alerted the authorities who then caught other students who took part in similar acts of vandalism.

The acts of vandalism, however, seem to have had no political motivation. One of the perpetrators of the vandalism who wishes to remain anonymous said of the events: "Even if it was plain red and white tape we still would have stolen it."

It is rumoured that students were arrested for these acts but the SAPS claims to have no such charges on record. Two first year BA students also had a run-in with the authorities for removing tape from the polling station at the Theatre Café. They were put into a van and escorted back to their residence but no charge was laid against them. The students feel that the police overreacted and scared them, saying that they were never given a chance to explain and were not even told where they were going. The students also seem to be confused as to whose custody they were in. They were under the impression that the Campus Protection Unit was on duty but the Crime Prevention Unit of the SAPS was in fact the team responsible for the guarding of the polling stations.

Despite the fact that the students involved felt that the SAPS overreacted to the situation by using scare tactics, the elections are aimed at bettering our country and should not have been abused just for fun.



A pub will be opening where Legends once was

New 'pub and grub' opening in place of Legends

by Victoria John

What students once knew to be 'Legends' is now in the process of being transformed into a much awaited 'pub and grub'.

Richard Hall, Geoff Tarr and Pierre Pienaar have taken over the whole building and are changing it into a pub that will have a rustic feel to it while providing good service and a wide variety of alcohol (including imported beer). The aim, according to its new owners, is for there to be a very relaxed and quiet atmosphere. The new pub, which has not been named yet, shall be larger than 'The Rat and Parrot', and shall have an open plan and a big outside area.

When asked why he has decided to open a new pub, Hall explained that Grahamstown needs a place where people who don't like to go out often can go, and where they "don't have to push people out of the way to move two metres". Hall went on to say that the places Grahamstown has to offer are often "too packed", "lacking something" and don't offer good service.

In approximately six weeks students will be able to add one more option to the small list of places to go to on their nights out.



On the last day of term 1 Redbull teamed up with the local police department to give students Redbull drinks to keep them alert for their journeys home and to ensure safety on the roads.



by Matthew Ackermann

For more
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Inducing rainfall: the 'weather witches' of today

We no longer have to resort to rain dances, shamans or witches in the hope of inducing rain to fall, because now the process of cloud seeding is an effective way to relieve us of our water resource problems.

by Erin Veldsman

During my time spent in Grahamstown, one thing has become certain: weather is indeed unpredictable. Every morning I stick my head out of the window and try to decide what the weather will be like, but this has proved to be very difficult, as Grahamstown is notorious for its indecision where weather is concerned. Instead of picking one type of weather for the entire day, chances are we get a 'whistle stop

tour of all seasons', as some describe it. This makes us wish that it could be possible to control the weather... and now we can, in the form of cloud seeding, a form of weather modification is used to induce rain.

Weather modification is the intentional treatment of individual clouds or storm systems. I know that many Rhodents may have their heads in the clouds as you read this, so let me explain the process of cloud seeding by using a simple metaphor. This process is not unlike an episode of "The Bold and the Beautiful". In order to seed clouds, radar stations identify suitable existing cloud formations on which the process can be performed (Brooke scouts for her next leading Forrester man). Special flares are attached to planes (Brooke prances around in lacy negligees insisting that she is "Only doing her job"). These flares contain salt particles, which are released under the cloud base of the specified formations (Brooke throws herself at the intended victim). Moisture attaches itself to the salt particles (Brooke beds her man). The particles become bigger and heavier (Within the next few episodes, Brooke is donned with a pillow to wear under maternity clothes). It then rains (Brooke gives birth to the new generation of Forresters). This process has taken many experiments to perfect (Likewise with our dear Brooke) but unlike the effect of a new Forrester child, the effects caused by a solid, predictable rainfall are beneficial.

According to the SABC News website South Africa General (05/02/2004), South Africa is currently the world leader in this field of study and has successfully used cloud seeding technology in North America and the Middle East. In South Africa, the means to increase summer rainfall dramatically are already available in Bethlehem, in the Free State. Dr. Deon Terblanche, manager of meteorological systems of the South African Weather Service, stated that the latest tests in South Africa indicate a doubling of rainfall on a cloud-to-cloud basis. Tests prove that the resulting rainfall is longer, heavier and over a wider area.

The process of cloud seeding is carefully monitored and worked out with agonizing accuracy. South African experiments came to an end in 2000. According to an article about cloud seeding that appeared in The Telegraph - London, written by Roger Highfield, South Africa was reviewing the data and hoped to present a cost-benefit analysis to their government later that year. The analysis has now been presented to the government and cloud seeding could effectively double South Africa's rainfall, relieving South Africa's limited water resources. Interest is growing in the project which will cost about R10 million a year.

Ronnie Kasril, the minister of Water Affairs and Forestry, has stated that South Africa could be a country suffering from "water stress" by the year 2025. We could be in the same category as Egypt and Lebanon. Gauteng is particularly short of water because it does not lie near any major river. Around 20 000 illegal immigrants enter the area every month, increasing the population of informal settlements and the demand for

water. According to the DWAF (Department of Water Affairs), enough water for 22 million toilet flushes goes missing daily

around Johannesburg. Councils will soon conduct comprehensive annual water audits to establish where water is being lost and drastic measures to tighten water consumption have been announced. Therefore, new water resources have to be developed to avert danger in rural areas and to meet the rapidly growing water requirements of urban and industrial centres. According to the South African Weather Service, this can be done by obtaining water from areas of surplus or from exploitation of unconventional water resources. Cloud seeding as one of these water resources could work and prove vital for the sustained growth and stability of our country. Our production of crops would thrive with reliable rainfall, be of better quality and increase income for farmers.

At one stage cloud seeding was very controversial as many parties were against it on principle. Environmentalists were uncertain of what effect this process would have on nature. One of the arguments was that when you seed clouds, they rain prematurely. If clouds are induced to rain prematurely, places that would have received rain later on will no longer get rain. This is because the clouds would have gotten rid of the excess water droplets, making them lighter, and it takes time for the droplets to build up and become heavy again. The formations would have passed the original

places at which they would have rained before they became heavy enough to rain again. This could be seen as unfair for the unsuspecting farmers and agriculturalists waiting for the rains to come that might not reach them. Terblanche stated that one of the issues is that: "The effect has only been well-documented in storm clouds, so some question whether this would be enough to make an impact on rainfall over a large area."

Some religious circles believe that controlling the weather is blasphemous, as we are in essence playing God. Weather has always been outside our control, until now. Many people believe that God is in control of the weather. If we are able to tamper with, manipulate and incite clouds to rain, are we morally correct in doing so? Should we be playing around with something with such a delicate balance as nature? A member of His People's Church, Charmaine Jelbert feels: "Magical incantations and rituals to manipulate natural forces are occultic, for example 'wicca' used by witches, and are therefore biblically wrong." But this is not what cloud seeding propagates. Jelbert further states: "God alone is in ultimate control of His universe but He has given dominion and authority over the earth to His people. Christians have been in the forefront of scientific endeavour, using knowledge to better mankind's conditions. It would be illogical to exclude the weather. By this yardstick we would have no medicine, surgery, assisted births, fertilisation of fields, no dams, crop irrigation or even suntan cream! If seeding clouds is beneficial, there is nothing intrinsically immoral. What must be applied is biblical principles of justice and responsible guardianship over the creation to ensure that by our actions, one group does not gain while another loses and one area does not become lush while another a desert."

Ayesha Omar, who follows the Hindu religion says that: "manipulating the weather to make it rain is a solution with which I find no problem in cases such as draughts where rain is beneficial to all."

Even with cloud seeding, man, however, is not in control of the weather as this process depends on other factors like suitable cloud formations. None of the natural elements of forces of nature are under our sway as of yet. Man has not reached the point where he can send tornadoes or earthquakes over to countries at war. Roger Highfield made this comment in his article: "Imagine you could head off storms, prevent floods and mudslides, or deliver a much-needed downpour to a region that is cracked and parched by drought. Indeed, imagine a day when nations in arid regions fight over the water vapour that passes overhead in clouds."

Many experiments later, and on reflection, it is evident that cloud seeding is a viable option to help in solving some serious problems. A lot of rain is good, but more is even better. The phrase "Rain, rain go away, come again another day" is so last century.

Magical incantations and rituals to manipulate natural forces are occultic



Cloud seeding ensures more reliable rainfall

Talking Heads 05

pics by Lesley Odendal

How does voting make you feel?

Edition 2003/2004



"If my vote helps to create a better society for all then it's worth the wait."

(Scott Forrester, Industrial Sociology Honours)



"It was my first time voting so I've been excited, but it disappointed me that so many people do not see the importance of voting. Overall it was a feeling money can't buy."

(Nompu Ntsele, BSS 2)



Not just another township story

The township remains a hidden part of Grahamstown, and we, remain ignorant of those that live there. Upon talking to three youths in their home environment, we realised they had many views worth listening to, and a story worth telling.

by Rob Boffard
with contributions by Lauren Clifford-Holmes

Let's get one thing straight before we start. This is not going to be an "us-and-them" piece, nor is it going to be a "look how brave we are going into the township" piece. This is merely an attempt to expose Rhodes students to something that they may not have had encountered before. Part of journalism is to give a voice to the voiceless, and these are the people who, within the insular landscape of Grahamstown, do not have the voice that they should.

Here's the situation. One interviewer, one photographer. Three boys from Nombulelo and Nyaluza High schools. One conversation in the township. Not as an attempt to see how the other half lives, but rather as a wish to know what guys like these - who most students have little or no contact with at all - think about life. It's a very simple premise, and it would have been nice to say that we managed to keep things like race and politics out of it. We didn't. The topics that were broached were hard-hitting, surprising and often extremely personal. We don't suggest for a moment that the opinions of these boys represent an entire township's-worth of opinions, nor that they are the best qualified to give these opinions, but the fact remains that they still had a lot to say.

We picked the boys up late one Sunday afternoon, and held the hour-long conversation in the courtyard of Nombulelo High. Mcebisi Ngqina is 18 years old and in Matric at Nyaluza High. Makhi Mlonyeni and Gcobani Davani are 16 and 18 respectively, and are both at Nombulelo High School. Makhi is the only one who has contact with Rhodes on a regular basis. This is through RMR, where he co-hosts a weekly hip-hop show. Perhaps because of this, Makhi was more relaxed and talkative than the other two boys. Different in character they might have been, but on other levels, their similarities were apparent. All three of them felt the weight of a difficult existence on their young shoulders and felt strongly about wanting to change their fate.

Makhi and Mcebisi spoke of the bleakness of waking up in a house that lacks even the basic amenities such as running water and electricity. It is an existence that they consider monotonous, devoid of hope, and that involves a lot of hard work, including school, cleaning the house and looking after younger siblings. On the weekends they watch TV, listen to the radio and do their homework - Mcebisi maintains that, as a Matric, this takes up most of his time. Makhi mentions that his weekends are taken up with washing his clothes and cleaning the house, as well as seeing his friends when he can.

Since they clearly weren't all that happy with their lives, we asked the boys about their ambitions. All wanted to finish their Matric; Mcebisi wanted to work in radio like Makhi does, Gcobani wanted to leave Grahamstown to become a lawyer and Makhi's passion is to do a BPharm at Rhodes. They all say that it depends on money, of which there is an obvious lack. "I need to make sure I get good grades," says Makhi. "If I don't get a bursary, then that's it. Finished."

"F*ck students. Every time I meet with them it's like I'm going to mug them or something."

Surveying the bland, concrete-grey school, dotted with smashed windows, it became apparent that what these boys crave is change. The response to our questioning about what would they want to change was the same from all three of the boys. They wanted to see an end to the criminal activity in the township and elsewhere, and get the government to provide what they promised to the people. Makhi, however, said something very interesting: "I'd like to change my life first, then I can change other people's lives. You can't change others if you haven't changed yourself." He

went on to say that education is a major concern, and that he would like the government to make good on its promise of free schooling. One thing that we did notice almost from the start of the conversation was just how different the boys are from what we as stu-

dents think of people in the township. The stereotype outside the township is almost always the same: lazy people who have been screwed by the system and so try to screw everyone else by becoming hijackers and robbers. But Makhi, Gcobani and Mcebisi are not like this. They have ambitions; they're hardworking, dedicated individuals who only want to see change for the better, both in themselves and their community. More importantly, they are not stupid, as the tired stereotype would dictate. They clearly had a lot to say, and had thought about their opinions a great deal.

This was evident when we got onto the inevitable topic of the government and elections. Put simply, they were pissed off. Pissed off with the lack of action and the lack of funds that the ANC government had promised. As Gcobani said: "They keep promising that they're going to build houses, but it's only to make people vote for them". Mcebisi chipped in: "When [Thabo Mbeki] sees that elections are close, then he builds lots of houses. Bad quality houses." They were adamant that, since the ANC took over in 1994, not much has changed "No jobs, no money. We are still as hungry as ever," said Makhi. Yet they didn't feel they had any other political party to support, because they feared that the positive changes which the ANC brought about, such as giving them back land, would be taken away once again.

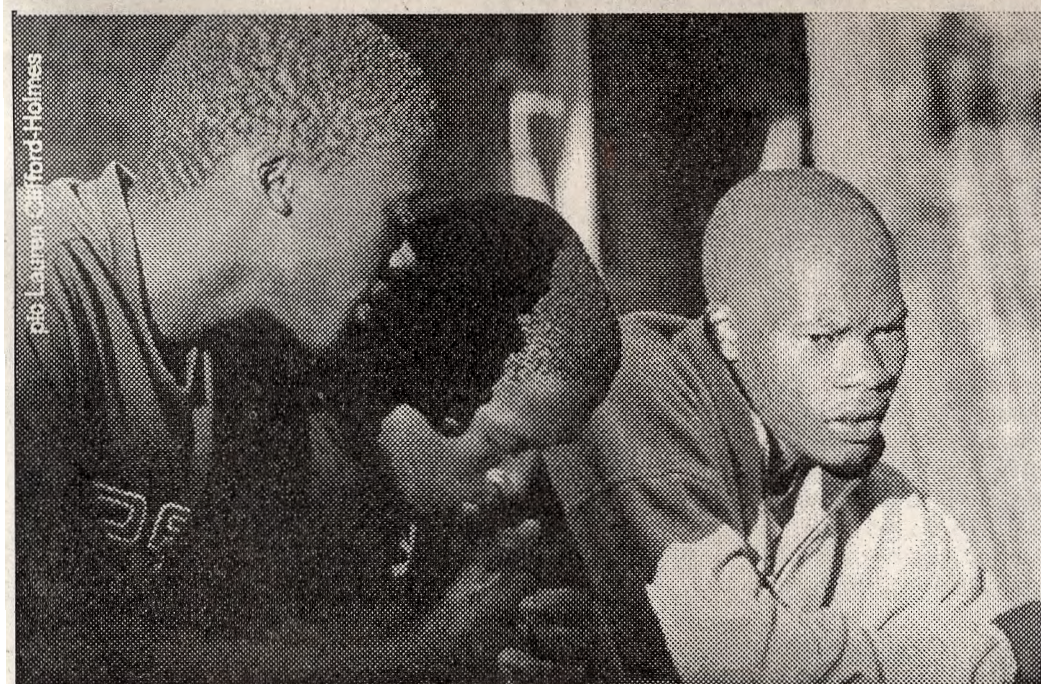
The topic of AIDS came up. The boys were silent for a few moments, before Makhi launched into a tirade, which lasted over five minutes: "We must stop being taught the same thing over and over. AIDS kills... everybody knows AIDS kills! Use a condom... but at the end of the day, a condom isn't 100% safe." He continued: "We live with people with HIV, we do know when someone has got AIDS. Stop telling us the symptoms. What are we going to do with the symptoms? That's not helping us. It's like telling us I've got the medicine, but I'm not giving it to you." When they do give us [anti-retrovirals], it costs an arm and a leg."

Given their lives, one might think that they would hate Rhodes. In reality they consider it a blessing, acknowledging the industry that it brings to Grahamstown, and the huge amount of jobs it creates. Their opinion of the student's however, is a different matter entirely. "Fuck students, especially black students. Every time I meet with them it's like I'm going to mug them or something," muses Makhi. "We can live together. We just need to respect each other's culture and traditions." It seems that trust needs to be developed between the different cultures, before any kind of positive change will occur.

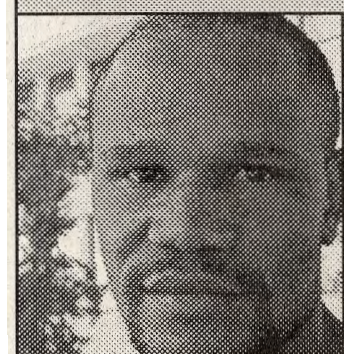
It was getting dark, and was almost time to leave the windy courtyard. As we left, we asked them what message they would want to give Rhodes students. Gcobani thought for a moment and replied: "Treat us the way you want to be treated."



Many students are removed from the harsh reality of life beyond the university



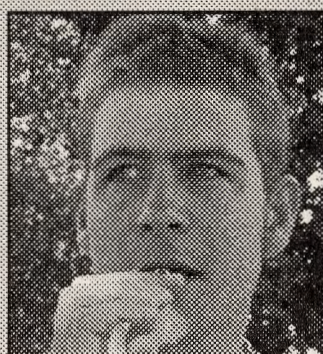
The boys are eager to share their reality with us, we should try to do the same.



"Voting doesn't make me feel any better. The standard of living for the black communities is not improving. RDP houses suck."

(Unathi Bhe,
High School Teacher)

“ 3



"Well, it's a sunny day and I know that I have contributed to a bright future"

(Craig Connellan,
Bjrn 3)

“ 4



"Warm and fuzzy"

(Lethu Mashinini,
Bcomm LLB 2)

“ 5

William is a doctor at Madwaleni hospital, deep in the Transkei. After the Easter weekend he looked at me with his blood-shot eyes and said that Easter is peak business for him. Everyone gets together, gets drunk and beats up their families.

If you sent anyone to hospital this Easter you should try to spend more time on the couch. Build up inertia until you are, as Kihn-the-Wise puts it: 'incarcerated by apathy'.

While I've got your attention, here's the low-down on the murderous swine that are prowling the streets late at night. Apparently they're a crew of highly trained, out-of-work ju-jitsu masters. But I've also heard that it's all the violence on etv that's getting to them. If anyone's got any more useful info please send it to tom-tomtom18@hotmail.com.

These scabrous dogs have gone too far, when my hound-of-a-neighbour has finished tormenting

me, these guys stomp through my dreams in heavy hob-nailed boots begging me to get drunk and just try, just try, to stagger home.

But I was talking about Kihn-the-Wise, who I live with along with another six white, males.

After the last two and a half months

I'm permanently changed. Apart from regular dealings with ants, one anal neighbour and death metal in the morning, the time has been marked by bouts of intense lunacy, losing semi-naked digsmates, working on a garden of empty bottles and battling increasingly blood-thirsty bergies.

My digs and digsmates have taught me things. Like how to embrace bad stuff. Especially that unique breed of depression: loser complex. Generally found lurking in the dark, moist underside of nights of over-indulgence. If you're a human whose spent any time at all in Grahamstown, you'll have experienced the dreaded loser's whether you named it or not.

Kihn-the-Wise and Daniel Harry have taught me that if you give in to loser's, it'll smash you. Grown men will degenerate into gibbering wrecks; the prospect of walking through Pick 'n Pay to buy a pie can bring tears to brave eyes. I say: Love Loser's. She's your friend (and most definitely a girl). Embrace her, love her, fight her and beat her at her own low-down scummy game.

I'm a strong believer in the dangers of looking too far ahead, you might trip over what's right in front of you and all that, but I can't help thinking about what's going to happen after all of this? What will be left when it's all gone? I haven't gone to bed all week because I'm scared. I'm scared this question won't let me sleep.

Imagine if life after Rhodes is like Grahamstown without the students... as the locals creep out of their holes to take the students' space I imagine that so will an office, a suit, a house and 2.1 kids creep into my life just because there is nothing better to do. That idea is the enemy.

(t m-f l-r) n. pl.
tom-fool-eries,
1. Foolish behaviour; non-sense.
2. Balderdash, bilge, claptrap, hogwash, shenanigan, tommyrot, trash



Tom-tomfoolery

Tom Mapham

Opinion

In the words of the Rolling Stones, "Music makes the world go round"

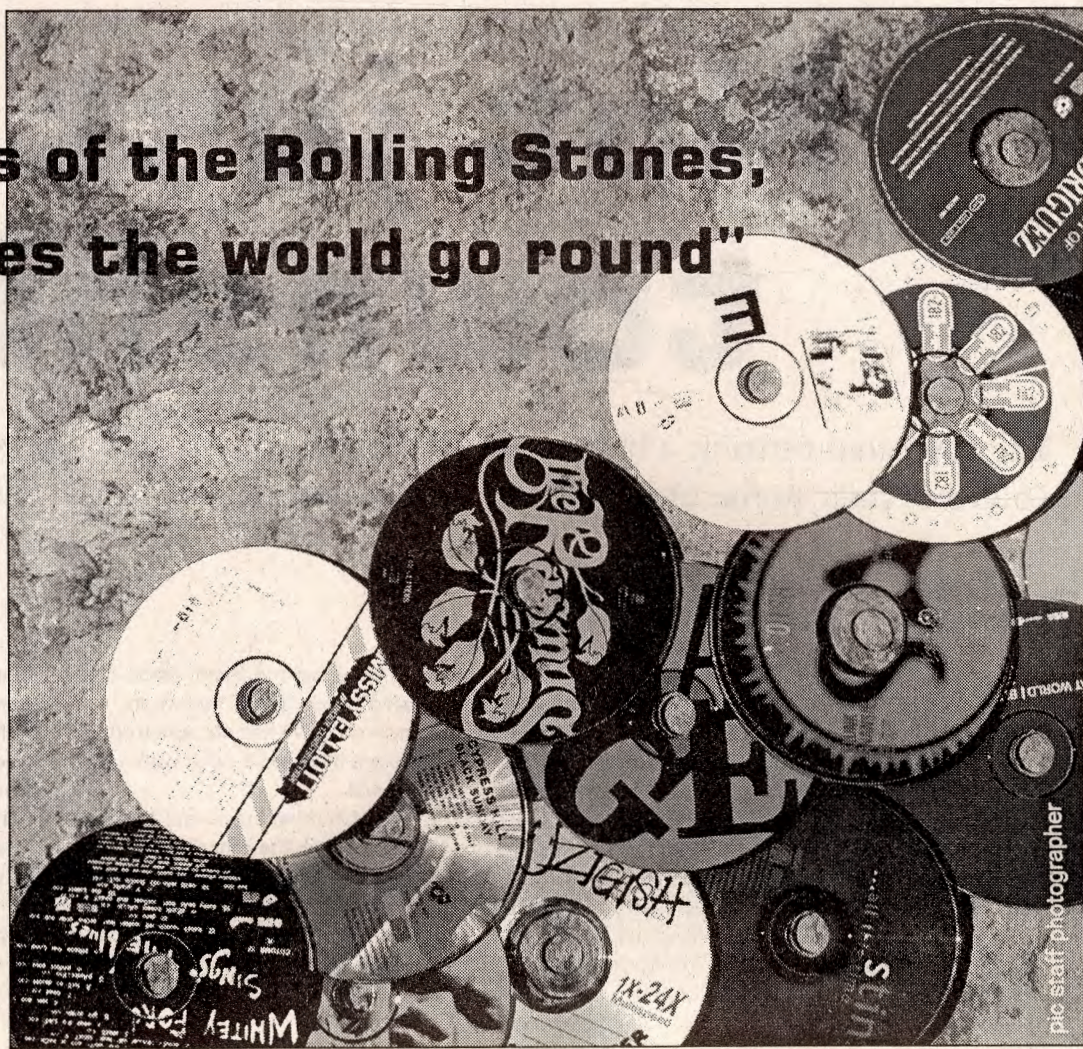
by Stacey Nel

Before I came to Rhodes, I imagined that it would be a place where people from different cultures mix together freely. I was right. Students from different and often diverse backgrounds unite in this environment. They form friendships, embrace their differences and live the word democracy but only in the light of day. At night, however, this changes. I noticed this the first time I "did" New Street. Cecil John's (CJ's) and Friar Tuck's (Friar's) do not attract the same people. I wondered about this, but did not arrive at a satisfactory answer. I decided to make it my mission to find out why there are such obvious differences between the clientele of CJ's and Friar's.

The first step in this quest was a fairly obvious one: I would have to speak to people at each club. I made my appointments and arrived at each interview armed with notebook and sharp pencils. The first interview was with Lionel de Lange, the manager of Friar's. This interview dispelled some of my preconceived ideas surrounding the topic - amazing what a bit of research can do. In looking at the clientele of CJ's and Friar's, it appeared that certain people went to each club. I organised my thoughts around culture as the dominant reason for this and went out to support this idea. To my embarrassment, I was proven wrong and, instead, discovered a more prominent and pertinent reason for the differences in clientele.

I asked Lionel if he had noticed that the students that frequent his club are generally from a similar cultural group. I expected him to say yes, as it was something that I had noticed. He, however, disagreed with my observation and said that everyone goes to Friar's. When I asked why this was, he said the magic word - music. Music is the reason why students frequent each club and I could have kicked myself for not realising this. Lionel went on to explain that a wide range of music genres is played to appeal to as "many people as possible". Lionel, who owned a club in Cape Town, is running a business and his aim is to fill the club. It makes sense, therefore, to play different genres so as not to exclude certain groups. This explanation was further reinforced by Jessie Pillay and Vergelhed Das Neves who are DJs at Friar's. They explained that different music genres are played in half hour sets, which enable the DJs to please the crowd. They also mentioned cultural ratios, but clarified that it is a reflection of campus ratios, which is the percentages of students from certain cultural groups. I checked their statement at the Student Bureau and, courtesy of Desiree Wicks, found out that 44% of the students at Rhodes are white and 56% of the students are from other cultural groups. The most important thing I learnt from everyone I spoke to, which Lionel accurately summed up, is that "it's all to do with music, not culture" as people just want to have a good time.

Next on my to-do list were the interviews with George Chidiya and Zuma Makufeni, the managers of CJ's. As opposed to Lionel's adamant disagreement on this subject, George and Zuma noticed that their clientele were from a similar cultural group although they also said that this was based on musical preference. People are accustomed to certain genres of music, and CJ's offers a specific "vibe". George and Zuma went on to say that it is not a problem, but an advantage, as it gives students the opportunity to mix together. Anyone who "feels" R&B, hip-hop, house, kwaito and rugga are welcome at CJ's. They did note, however, that they believe that more African people enjoy this type of music and that their clientele is a "mixture of black cultures" and "multi-traditions". Another interesting thing I found out during these interviews is that the clientele



develop in the residences. Older students tell new students about the clubs and this gives them preconceived ideas about each place. Just as I discovered at Friar's, and as George aptly put it, "people follow the music [and] it's not about the place".

Students are also aware of the difference between the clientele of CJ's and Friar's. Many of them labelled each club according to the students who frequent each place, mentioning the issue of race, although when I pressed them for a reason to explain this, they mentioned something different. Shelia Lukwago, a third year BComm student, stated that music is the reason why students prefer one club to the other. Qawekazi Balintula who is in the fourth year of her pharmacy degree, agreed with the idea of music being the 'pull' factor for CJ's or Friar's. She also added that the crowds, which form the existing clientele, are valid reasons for the differences as well. The opinions, which I had forged before I began my research, were shot down at every turn. Managers, DJs and students alike

squashed my theory and agreed on one point - music really does make the world go round.

The differences in the clientele of CJ's and Friar's have everything to do with music preference and very little to do with the place. Different music genres are played at Friar's in their aim to appeal to as many people as possible. Those who frequent CJ's enjoy the music that is played there. It seemed I was successful in my attempt to answer my question and I am glad for that, as I learnt about the danger in making assumptions. I became aware of the power of

music and how little culture seems to matter when you just want to have a good time. I suppose, then, that differences only matter if you want them to and they do not change during the day or the night.

"They form friendships, embrace their differences and live the word democracy. But only in the light of day"

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Continued from pg 5>



"Voting makes me feel empowered and like a true South African"

(Lungisa Mayende,
BSc Honours)



"Empowered"

(Ishtar Lakhani,
BA 2)

“ 6

“ 7

Elections make their mark in Africa

by Vanessa Berger

South Africa's elections may have come and gone but there are 19 other African nations that are holding elections in 2004. Amongst them are Malawi, Botswana and Guinea Bissau - countries that are home to many Rhodes students.

A healthy sign of political development," is what Paul Bischoff, Professor of Political Studies at Rhodes University, says about the elections. "They are a testimony to increasing democratisation." However, he adds that holding elections in Africa is "relatively new" and therefore can be difficult, meaning that they have to be held with much organisation and planning.

In Mozambique the ruling Frelimo Party will stand against the fluctuating opposition party, Renamo. Malawi's leader Bakili Muluzi, will be stepping down from office, after coming into power in 1994. However, it is uncertain as to, who Muluzi's successor will be. Namibian president Sam Nujoma will step down at the end of his term this year, leaving open a position to be competed for by three candidates of the ruling party. In Botswana, the Botswana Defence Party (BDP) under the leadership of President Festus Mogae, who has been in power since the country's independence in 1966, will have its strength tested in October. The new national chairman of the BDP, Ian Khama, is expected to be Mogae's successor.

However the lead up to many countries elections have been marred with violence and organisational problems. In South Africa there was wide scale political tension and disagreement between the ANC and IFP in Natal. In Nigeria 20 people were killed three days before local elections near Jos, and in Sierra Leone two electoral officials have been charged with corruption after they misappropriated \$2000 worth of public funds.

But even though there are many problems facing African countries in terms of elections, electoral watchdogs hope that peace will prevail, so that democracy can be given a chance.

Africa in focus

Compiled by Sean Naidoo

- Britain has paid almost 1000 Kenyans who claim they were injured by ammunitions discarded by the British army.
- The World Bank has granted Malawi US \$27 million to resettle 25 000 farmers under a controversial land reform programme.
- The Catholic Church in Nampula, Mozambique insists its claims of a human organ trafficking network are true.
- A Peruvian national was arrested at Johannesburg Airport after police found R8 million worth of cocaine in his luggage.
- 19 people have died of cholera in South Africa.
- Beauties from 20 African countries will take part in the Miss Universe 2004 competition in Ecuador.



A hard and dangerous life for an adult, let alone a child

picture courtesy of BBC News

Profile: Tunisia

Compiled by Sean Naidoo

Capital: Tunis
President: Zine El Abidine Ben Ali
Population: 15.8 million (2002)
Area: 163,610km
Currency: Dinar
Languages: Arabic and French
Major religion: Islam
Main exports: Agricultural products, textile and oil
Life expectancy: 73 years
Average annual income: \$2,070 USD pa
International dialling code: +216
Internet domain: .tn

Know your HIV Status

by Teneshia Naidoo and Bianca Camminga

As a student at a higher education institution, you are in a high risk-group for HIV. It is important that you know your status because with this knowledge you can take control of your life.

10% of South Africans are HIV positive and the UCT HIV/AIDS unit estimates that 24% of these are students infected with the virus. That means that one of the four people next to you in lectures might be infected. To determine your HIV status, get yourself tested. Tests are available from local hospitals, clinics and private doctors. Students can make their way to the sanatorium to be tested for free. The results will then be sent to the Counselling Centre where counselling will be given to the student, irrespective of the outcome of the test.

Everyday we hear people telling us to use condoms or to abstain from sex, but is that working? Living with HIV is not easy abstinence and protection is the only way that you are going to be safe. Be aware of your sexual choices because as young people we are the future, so let's make sure that we are around for it.

Child soldiers in Africa

by Hayley Axford

A problem plaguing many countries around the world is the inhumane use of children in conflict. This dilemma is clearly evident on the African continent, where some of the poorest countries are found. As a result of the poverty and the lack of opportunities, many children are left with no other alternative for earning money than to become a soldier. Sexual slaves, labourers and spies: children continue to perform all those roles in conflicts in Africa.

While some child soldiers do have a choice in the matter, the majority do not and are abducted from their homes and forced to fight against their will. Although becoming a soldier is not promoted, it has been discovered that many traditional communities do encourage it. These communities have instilled in the youth the ideology that participating in military combat is an honour that will be granted to both their nation and their family. Uganda is a country that is suffering from colossal internal conflict between the government and rebel forces. One group known as the Lord's Resistance Army has been noted for having male soldiers from ages as young as 12 to 16, as well as young female soldiers that are forced into being sex slaves.

According to studies that examined former child soldiers, it was discovered that many of the children suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder. Symptoms experienced were nightmares and insomnia which often lead to memory problems and an inability to function regularly in society.

ILAM celebrates 50th anniversary

by Petra Turner and Audra Mahlong

This year marks the 50th anniversary of ILAM, the International Library of African Music. Under the directorship of Professor Andrew Tracey, the library has recorded traditional music of indigenous people across Africa, collected traditional musical instruments and released the recordings of Grahamstown artists. When asked about the focus of ILAM, Prof Tracey said: "I am interested in the conservation and promotion of traditional cultures, because these cultures have nothing to support them."

This is not all that the library does. It offers a joint course with the music department, called Ethnomusicology. In this course students study African music and are taught to play traditional instruments.

Other South African universities were interested in housing ILAM but they didn't have enough money and even though universities outside the continent were interested, Professor Tracey felt that this library belonged in Africa.

In his final year as director, Professor Tracey has only two wishes for the future: to get more students involved and to see the library become an efficient information centre.

With the Olympic Games lurking around the corner, I can't help but think that once again, aside from the occasional individual superwoman or musclemans, the overall winner is going to be determined in a showdown between the USA and Russia. Of course it does help that these countries have the corporate sponsorship deals and the resources to pour into their sports - men and women. It still saddens me that we must spend time and money on more pressing issues that pertain uniquely to our African status, instead of living up to our names as star supporters and cheering our own sports people on with confidence. In addition to this, one can also feel bitter about the fact that this Olympics is the one we bid for and didn't get. Personally I'm pleased Athens is dealing with the stress: we have more important plights on which to spend our money.

But ahoy! Fear not! For there is light at the end of the gym passage! With the recent shark attack

at Muizenberg and since many of us will have reluctantly just left one of South Africa's languid beaches, I thought I might share some interesting info about our gorgeous sun and surf.

In July this year Durban's north beach will once again host the world's longest running surfing event, the Mr Price Pro. Previously known as the Gunston 500, this event entices professional and amateur surfers from the world's hippest beaches with its curling blue-green waves, sex (wax that is) and of course the \$100 000 prize money for the men's event.

So there is much to celebrate: even the hunks from California and the babes from the Barrier Reef strap up their surf-boards to fly over to indulge in SA sun. We are capable of hosting world-class events and our beaches and waves are revered globally. So my advice would be to buy up coastal property here because it's under-valued, and smile every time the sun shines down on you because it's a resource that we have in abundance and it's made us the happy-go-lucky and sunshine-soaked population we are today.

Zimbabwe, or Rhodesia as it was known then, was named the Jewel in the Crown of Africa: it has Victoria Falls, Kariba dam and white water rafting, the likes of almost no other place on earth. So we get to complement our neighbours well (though perhaps not politically, to my shame as a South African) by having all the beaches.

Oh and about the shark attack, its our fault: if we weren't so insistent on luring the animals closer by chumming, then the surfers could surf in peace and practice enough so that we could reclaim the Mr Price Pro trophy. A South African hasn't claimed the prize since Shaun Tomson out-surfed the Aussies in 1978. Imagine what \$100 000 could do for the economy!



Patriot Games

Justine Cottrell

Clay Williams is the first relaxed, down to earth person I have ever met suffering from such intense wanderlust. I say he is suffering because the man cannot be in one place for too long. He says he will be in Grahamstown for the next five years and I cannot help but wonder how he is going to survive that. Born in the USA (he lived on an army base) and raised in England, Clay is what I often hear people referring to as a "child of the world". This man has been everywhere! However, his itchy feet are not the only reason for our chat. Clay has just joined the Drama department as Production Manager and this means that he oversees all theatre production: handling all things technical such as the lighting and sound. He also trains some of the Drama students in Stage Management. Having worked as an electrician for the past year, Clay is happier to be doing what he is doing now - attending to his forte. He has freelanced in the film industry, doing work on commercials, documentaries and huge live shows. This lasted a long while in Cape Town and so the stability of being in Grahamstown is what intrigues me about someone with a personality such as his. I suppose it is that down to earth thing he has going for him. I cannot imagine him on a buzzing film set, directors and the rest of the crew flitting this way and that in a panic to meet a deadline....

Q: What, other than the job brought you to Grahamstown?

A: My daughter. She's at DSG and my wife is also here. I also got burnt out by my freelance work in Cape Town.

Q: What are the differences between your previous home and this one?

A: Cape Town was larger and more vibrant. I worked for a crazy number of hours and it was commercial. Here, the work is for the student. This is my first long-term project in a while.

Q: How are you finding Rhodes culture as an employee and through your interaction with the students?

A: I'm still getting there - I am not much of a partier although I have been invited to three parties this weekend (well, well, well aint it funny how he associates Rhodes culture with partying?). I love working with the students - alerting them of what awaits them out there and I am also learning a lot from them.

Q: Any goals you have for the theatre?

A: To achieve the standards of a commercial theatre. That is not say that the theatre should be commercial, I merely want to give the students an impression of the outside world and also open it up to the locals.

Q: What do you love and loathe most about theatre?

A: I would say that what I love about entertainment is the live aspect. I thrive on the end product once a show comes together and I loathe the lack of organisation that often characterises the entertainment industry.

Q: Have you had to adjust your methods to suit Rhodes?

A: Yes, I am used to having a paid crew and here I rely on a group of students and I also cannot work when I want to because the theatre gets booked for lectures and rehearsals.

Q: Created any worthy memories yet?

A: I put my foot through the theatre ceiling yesterday-almost fell right through. Definitely not one of my greatest moments but I have made my mark!



Silent Utterances
Olerato Moreosele - Arts & Culture Editor

Breaking it down

By Shannon Randall

Mind-numbing beats pump out of the speakers and merge with cheers from the onlookers, as the figure in the middle of the strobe-lit hall spins

around on his hands at an incredible speed and then flips over backwards onto his haunches.

Inside the Dakawa Municipal Centre, just up the road from Kingswood College, breakdancers stand in a cluster, away from the spectators, watching each other closely as they take it in turns to show off their physical skills in short bursts of energy, eager to impress the onlookers. One break dancer, Ian Keulder noticed that there was serious breakdancing potential on the streets of Grahamstown only a year ago. Since then, he has started a local breakdancing club who proudly call themselves the "Bionic Breakers". They compete seriously against other such clubs in the Eastern Cape. According to Keulder, most of the youth involved are between the ages of 15 and 20 and hail from the so-called "coloured area". "What we do is called B-Boying", he says. "It's a specific type of breakdancing that kinds of develops the old-school styles and has its own music too." This style of breakdancing also comes with its own jargon, as the Bionic Breakers throw around the names of the various moves their teammates are pulling off and there are loud guffaws as someone falls over trying to do a 'fishtail'. Amazingly, no one seems to hurt themselves when they crash down onto the wooden floor.

On a mat in the corner of the hall, two young boys are mimicking the breakdancers and are clearly egging each other on to try more complex moves.

They look like circus contortionists the way they twist their bodies around to the beat of the music and could be serious competition for the older teens.



Hannes Wallace, 13, is one of the youngest members of the Bionic Breakers and explains that they take what they do very seriously, meeting twice a week for practice sessions, usually at The Blue Gazebo, which is right next to the Dakawa Centre.

The older guys laugh cheerfully when asked if the young B-Boys, like Hannes, are better at pulling off the more complex moves with their seemingly elastic bodies. The young members have to learn the moves from the older Bionic Breakers and a lighthearted rivalry exists between them.

Like any other sports club, the Bionic Breakers need funding to keep on running, as they have to hire venues and DJs for their bigger events. Entrance fees to the larger events help to fund them and previously they have put on a breakdancing display at CJs.

Among the Bionic Breakers, there is tangible enthusiasm for what they do and with people like Ian Keulder to keep the club alive, more kids will be tempted off the streets at night to come and get involved in this sport. "Man, B-Boying is like poetry and I love it", says

Keulder without taking his eyes off the breakdancers.

Love vibes, knee-guards, and braai chops at the Rhodes Theatre

By Michael Salzwedel

Call them crazy, dismiss them as disgusting, hail them as heroes if you want, but Corné and Twakkie from The Most Amazing Show are two okes who certainly know how to make a "flippen moer" of an impression. Leaving few famous toes untrodden and few audience members unembarrassed, this hilarious duo screeched their caravan to a halt in Grahamstown last week to put on their acclaimed farcical comedy in front of a sometimes stunned but always appreciative audience.

These guys don't beat around the bush. They aren't in the least scared to shred well-known political and musical figures like Bush and Britney. But it's not just people they mock; television and ballet get it too. Cheesy antics and sound effects mark the introduction of their news programme, aptly named "News". They report, with perfectly straight faces, grossly inappropriate register and witty parodies of the genre, about the goings-on in parliament, before crossing over for the sports news, which is - quite succinctly - that "we are kak". Then it's time for "Amazing Assignment", their investigashitive journalism programme, in which they recruit three nervous audience members to act as their panel. They spend a couple of minutes asking the question "what the flippen hell happened to "Knight Rider?", but as usual, dense uncertainty abounds, amidst much hilarity.

If it's not Corné removing a guy in the audiences' clothes and stealing his wallet, then it's Twakkie - himself wearing the said clothes plus orange knee guards - climbing up through the audience spreading the 'love vibe', and letting every female (and the occasional male) know how much more beautiful they are than the one before.

They end the show with a burlesque ballet, prancing around the stage - Corné in a sheet and Twakkie in a ghastly torn blue leotard - declaring their love for each other with the aid of a few raw braai chops and a couple of toothpicks. Don't ask!

The show reminded me at times of Samuel Beckett's famous play *Waiting for Godot*; with Corné as Vladimir and Twakkie as Estragon, both absurdly bantering about and bugging around with a distinct arbitrariness, never quite making any progress towards anything. Nevertheless, *The Most Amazing Show* was well-worth the twenty bucks and gave the audience plenty of first-rate laughs and chuckles. Corné and Twakkie will be back in Grahamstown for the Arts Festival later this year, so just like flippen go check them out, okay?



Limp Bizkit disappoints again

by Bianca Camminga

It was on again; off again and then Limp Bizkit really was coming to South Africa. At least that's what we were told. What followed was a fiasco of suitably giant proportions.

Since emerging from Jacksonville, Florida in 1994, Limp Bizkit, brought together by singer-rapper Fred Durst, have become one of the most influential bands in the nu-metal music scene. Limp Bizkit's 2004 tour to South Africa, to promote their new album *Results May Vary*, was postponed due to "unforeseen circumstances", according to the band's booking agent. They were set to kick off the tour in Cape Town on the 2nd of April, but mysteriously cancelled the South African and Middle Eastern tour dates before carrying on with the European leg of the tour.

Attie Van Wyk of Big Concerts, who brought Counting Crows to SA last month, expressed disappointment, but added that they were "looking forward to announcing the re-scheduled dates as soon as possible". So no tour, right?

Wrong. It was re-scheduled for two days later than was expected, although Durban had been cancelled. Frontman Durst said in an interview with 5FM's Barney Simon that "the band are thrilled that they were able to reschedule two of the South African show dates". The words 'publicity stunt' flashed in large red neon lights across the screen.

Limp Bizkit have been known to use the publicity machine until it's worn to its bearings - free concerts, giveaways, and the illusive Mr. Wonka-style "golden disk" competitions. But

they really were coming this time! We flocked to Computicket in our thousands to get tickets. Fred's voice was blasted continually over the airwaves, urging us to attend. The blessed day of the 1st of April I rolled around...and the show was announced as cancelled.

Some believed it but most of the nation laughed it off as an illicit April fools joke. The 2nd of April arrives; no more Fred on the radio, no more Limp Bizkit ads. The joke comes back, but this time it's not a joke - it's 100% true. The official Limp Bizkit website talked about "undisclosed personal reasons." The band's agent Rod MacSween informed Van Wyk and Big Concerts that Limp Bizkit had decided not to fulfil their obligations to the South African tour. The band travelled back to the USA after their European tour, and in fact did not perform in Dubai either. 5fm Station Manager John Langford commented: "Regrettably, the logistics of international tours are beyond our control, but we remain committed to bringing South Africa the best music."

This is not the first band to cancel its tour to our shores for "undisclosed personal reasons". Is there something, as the South African public, that we should know? We are not gossip-mongers, but if there is something going on, we want to know about it. Big international acts don't often come to these shores, and some planning their tours mysteriously cancel for dubious reasons. We have the venues, we have a beautiful country and we have the audience. If the Crows and Live can do it (and do it extremely well) then why can't Fred and company? It just ended up as a seriously Limp affair.



Limp Bizkit fails to rock SA crowds again

Movie Review

The Passion of the Christ

by Deuhita Ramdeyal

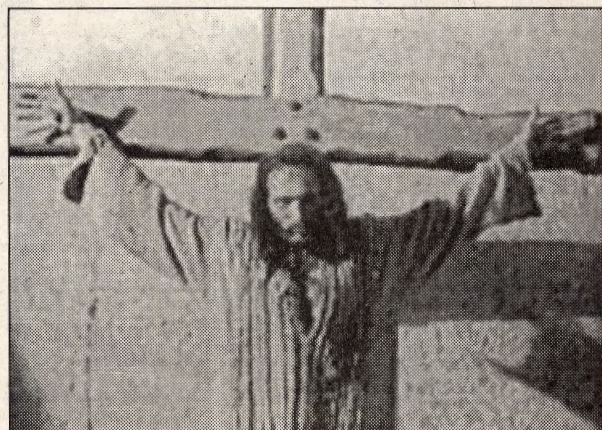
Mel Gibson's *The Passion of Christ* is a powerful and moving story about the last twelve hours of Jesus Christ's life. This movie portrays the elements of the story in a way that has in the past never been done before: the story of Jesus has been taken to the big screen, but in no way near as much brutal detail as this, which helps to capture the essence of Christ's suffering.

Do not be put off by the subtitles - the film is in Latin and Arameic, a language not so much dead as exhumed and then cremated twice - or by the sadistic, brutal violence, because this sense of realism was what gave the film its seal of approval from the Vatican. The film looks at Jesus' (James Caviezel) life through flashbacks as he is being condemned in front of the Roman Empire. The powerful imagery of cruelty is more than evident in this movie, and will surely bring tears to the religious as they witness this realistic depiction of the crucifixion of Christ.

Although the over-exaggerated gore has caused certain critics to call it "The Jesus Chain Saw Massacre", it has not stopped the movie from earning nearly US\$ 2 billion on opening in the United States. People just cannot seem to get enough of Jesus Christ in movies. The only difference between *The Passion of the Christ* and other crucifixion movies condemned by the Vatican City is that this raises no conservative questions about religious beliefs, except those recording God's existence. Some have condemned the movie as highly anti-semitic, but you'll have to see it for yourself to make an accurate judgement.

This movie is a must see for its alchemy of fundamentalist faith. If you're not Christian or do not believe in religion, then see it for its diabolic marketing and sadistic representations. Either way, it's worthy watching.

@ @ @ @ out of 5



Gig Guide

Compiled by Chinaka Lwunze & Palesa Mopeli

So you thought your first weekend was a blast? Well, think again, because for these next few weekends G-town will be happening in a big way; rocking with a whole lot of DJs, an abundance of sin juice and a whole lot of "getting down"!

Friday 23rd April

- G-town kicks off at CJ's with The Mixmaster's R&B and Hip-Hop weekend featuring DJ Elvis and PE's Danny Williams on the decks. Entrance fee is R5 and there will be an Esprit special.
- For all of you Suite lovers, a guest DJ (no word on who yet, but they promise it'll be good) from out of town will be shaking the dance floor. Non-members bring R10 and members, use that card to get in for free and satisfy your curiosity.
- As always, the groove still carries on at The Rat and Parrot, Friar Tucks and Champs with specials galore. Don't forget to check out these joints!

Friday 30th April

- The Drill Hall will be on fire with the House Africa Explosion featuring the great DJ's Vinny DaVinci and Christos, with an explosive after party at The Suite. It is advised that partygoers buy pre-sold tickets from RMR if they want to pay less.

Saturday 31st April

- End the party month off with the massive Black Gold Theme Party at CJ's. Prizes to be won, so men, bring lady luck along with you. And if the ladies feel lucky, they can come too.

Enjoy the rest of the month and watch this space for more big nights.

CD Reviews



KILL BILL VOL. 1 ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK

This soundtrack, like the film it's based on, deserves more space than it has here. In fact, this jazzy, funky-up backdrop to Tarantino's masterpiece deserves an entire page of this paper - it's that good. Whether they loved or hated the film, critics were unanimous that the music was unforgettable. With tracks like the colossal *Battle Without Honour or Humanity* and the 21st-century Western styled *Esmerelda Suite*, I can see why. This is a triumph for both Tarantino and producer the RZA. Get it.

- Rob Boffard

@ @ @ @ @ out of 5



GEORGE MICHEAL - Patience

George Micheal is normally known for over-sexed, provocative tones and lyrics. *Patience*, however, turns out to be a complete turnaround, excluding the song *Freeek!*. It turns out to be full of social commentary with a personal touch - not what we've come to expect. The album is a mix of smooth ballads, controversial songs (*Shoot the Dog*) and gentle, if melodramatic, ballads. It shows a certain maturity and sincerity, and this makes it enjoyable, even for those who are not his biggest fans.

- Jacqueline Nurse

@ @ @ @ out of 5



KELIS - Tasty

The Neptunes have once again teamed up with Kelis, despite the fact that their collaboration is no longer as fresh as it was on *Kaleidoscope*. As a result, they have produced an album notably lacking in creativity, and now we are so bombarded by Neptunes' production it's enough to make one vomit. There are some standout tracks, but if you're not a major fan of Kelis or the Neptunes, you might as well wait for the singles to be overlaid on the radio.

- Conrad Feris

@ @ @ out of 5



STING - A Sacred Love

Sting is a living legend, having sold over 40 million albums. *Sacred Love*, his latest, is a diverse blend of talents. It incorporates Latino rhythms, soulful jazz, smooth rock and guests such as Mary J. Blige and Anoushka Aude. This diverse mix is very soothing, and though you may have heard *Send your Love* on radio, that is just a taste of what the rest of the album holds. The live version of *Shape of my Heart* is my personal favourite. A very solid album.

- Lauren Hills

@ @ @ @ @ out of 5

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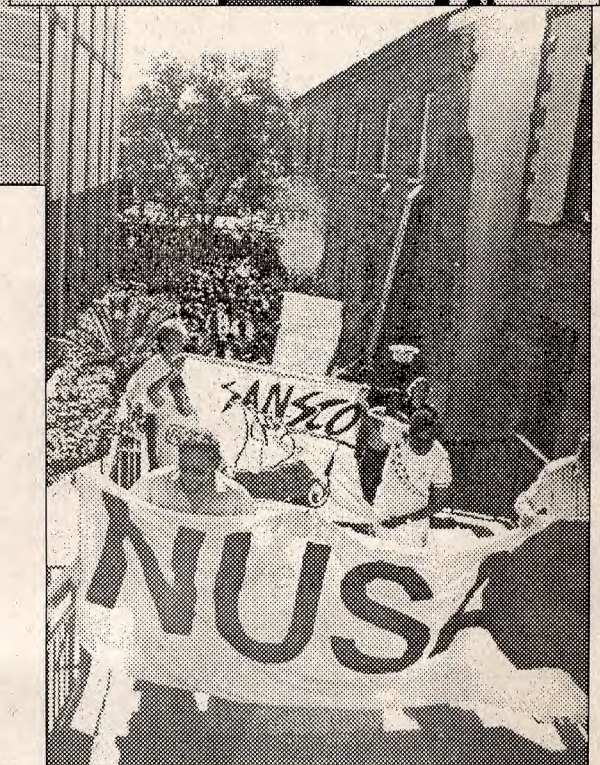




The road to democracy

In the spirit of ten years we give an archival glimpse of Grahamstown's pathway to democracy.

Top three above pictures of the 2004 voting stations taken by Lesley Odendal and Sibbohan Louw

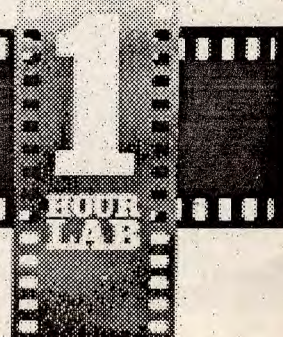


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If you're serious about quality



Top squash players in action this weekend

by Catherine Lewis

The Ret Butler's Rhodes Open Squash Tournament will be held this weekend from April 23-25 at Rhodes University. The event was founded in 1997 and has since been a great success. We hope that this year will be no exception. Top players from around the province will be participating, and shall be sure to guarantee some exceptional displays of squash. This, however, does not mean that the tournament is open only to players of a high standard. Players of all levels have been encouraged to enter, as it is not only the quality of squash that is played that matters, but also

the interest and enthusiasm of aspiring sportsmen and women that contribute to the growth of the sport. Apart from an intense weekend of squash, there shall also be plenty of off-court functions and festivities for all. Cash prizes, courtesy of the sponsors, will be awarded. For further details about the tournament please contact Kerr Rogers at Rhodes University Sports Administration (Phone - 046 622 3358) (Fax - 046 622 9704) (e-mail - k.rogers@ru.ac.za). We hope to see this tournament as well supported as it has been in the past years, so be sure not to miss a great weekend of squash and festivities right here in Grahamstown.

Revival of South African rugby?

by Dustin Emslie

What is it that makes a great Springbok team? One could argue that it starts off with great performances from the Super 12 teams. After a bitterly disappointing World Cup for the Springboks last year there seems to be some light at the end of the tunnel with improvements on the part of at least three of the South African teams in the competition being witnessed of late.

The Sharks are, at the time of writing, sitting in sweet second spot on the log, while the Stormers are just behind them in third. The Bulls are currently in sixth position while the Cats are languishing sadly at the bottom of the table.

A number of exceptional talents are also beginning to blossom again for South African rugby. Players such as Brent Russell, Ashwin Willemse and Quinton Davids, to name just a few, are causing a favourable stir among supporters. Many players have a point to prove after being left out of the World Cup squad and they will all be hoping that this season will be their turn for the green and gold. With just a few rounds of matches left in the competition, there is a good chance that at least two South African sides will progress to the semi-finals. Things are looking up for rugby in this country, so let's hold thumbs for the rest of the competition as well as the season as a whole, and let's hope that South African rugby will once again be a formidable force with which to contend.

Inter-Res events coming up



22 April - Girls table tennis - Aerobics Hall - 7pm - contact Carol Holness on g03h1397@campus.ru.ac.za to register.

24 April - Basketball - Alec Mullins Hall - 10am - contact Lauren Knotze on g02k0453@campus.ru.ac.za to register.

29 April - Guys table tennis - Aerobics Hall - 7pm - contact Carol Holness on g03h1397@campus.ru.ac.za to register.

2 May - Soccer - Prospect Fields - 10am - contact Sindile Ngwalangwala on sirra@webmail.co.za to register.

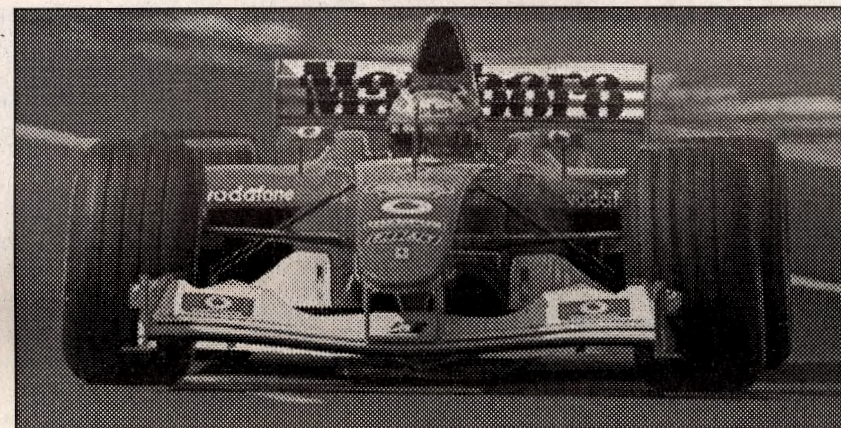
Blame-game starts at McLaren

by Shane Torr

McLaren-Mercedes haven't been having the greatest season so far, having suffered five engine blow-ups in three GP's. Kimi Raikkonen was blamed for his "ignorance" at the Bahrain GP and is yet to put points on the board. According to Hans-Ulrich Maik, MD of the manufacturing company of McLaren's engines, "Kimi was told to nurse his engine for the early stages of the GP, but Kimi just kept his foot on the pedal." McLaren are trailing Ferrari by 47 points in the Constructors Championship, with David Coulthard only managing to put four points on the board for his team.

Whilst McLaren are having "problems" at HQ, Ferrari are miles ahead in both Championships. Michael Schumacher is leading team-mate Rubens Barrichello by nine points followed by the impressive youngster, Jenson Button (BAR), a further 15 points behind the German. The performances of the BAR team has put the cats among the pigeons. Technical Director of Ferrari, Ross Brawn has said, "we were really focused on the performances of the McLaren and Williams' teams that we did not realise that our biggest threat is BAR."

As we jet-set to San Marino for the fourth GP of the season we should see some interesting battles emerging between Ferrari and BAR for the honours of race victor. Could Jenson Button take his first win of his career at Italy?



Cricket moving into fast lane with Pro20

by Claire Carr

The Standard Bank Pro20 series started on the 7th April in Cape Town and many avid cricket fans have found it to be exactly what the promoters are calling "wicked cricket". Domestic cricket has just had a facelift with six new franchise teams replacing the old 11 provincial teams. However, veteran seamer Henry Williams of Boland predicts that the franchise system won't last a year.

The Pro20 system involves an invigorating set of rules and is unlike any other form of cricket played in South Africa. There are only 20 overs per innings for each side. If the bowler bowls a "front foot" no-ball it results in a free hit, while regular no-balls are penalised by two runs. There is also a minimum of five bowlers that bowl four overs each. The fielding restrictions last for seven overs and a minimum of seven overs per side constitutes a match. The point system works with bonus points. If a team wins with a bonus point they receive six points, otherwise they only win five points. A tie or no-result gets three points. A defeat but not conceding a bonus point gets one point and a loss conceding a bonus point gets no points. After the round robin stages the top four teams advance to the semis and the finals. Day games start at 2:30pm and the day night games start at 5:30pm.

The Cape Argus reported that it is hoped that this new style of cricket will make the game more interactive for viewers at home. The heart rates of batsmen will be monitored as they face the advancing bowlers, while commentators will be able to chat about tactics and game plans with the captains live. SuperSport emphasised the fact that spectators no longer have to resort to the Mexican wave to stay interested during the grey slab of the innings. The aim of the 20-over game is to eliminate overs 16-39 in limited overs matches or what is known as the "graveyard shift". And during this time, there is a variety

of entertainment on offer, from live bands to the popular jacuzzi on the side of field.

Now that the paying public has been promised a good time at the cricket, are the players themselves happy about the new system? WP bowler Charl Willoughby told the Cape Argus: "It's definitely not a bowlers' game. Bowlers just have to hit decent areas consistently." But Paul Adams, who is presently unavailable to play, thinks that it is rather the spinners who will give variation and get wickets even in the twenty-over format.

Batsman Lance Klusener looks forward to getting in reasonably early in the innings and slamming away. The aim will be to hit the boundaries from the first ball of the innings but this means that batsmen who prefer to suss out the bowlers for a few overs first will be under pressure to get things going a lot earlier.

Jonty Rhodes told SuperSport that during his time on the English county circuit, the twenty-over game demanded a radically different approach from both captains and players and he found his usual run-a-ball approach ineffective. However, Proteas captain Graeme Smith said that generally the players have been looking forward to the series and that there will be some courageous hitting, as well as some thrilling fielding, with bowlers being challenged to keep things tight.

Dilip Vengsarkar, columnist for Indiatimes.com, found that the twenty-over format improved players' running between wickets, the standard of fielding, as well as players' fitness levels. But he said that the long-term effects on the batting and bowling has caused the standards to drop. Specifically with batsmen, the sloggers were preferred over the technically correct players.

CEO for Cricket South Africa, Gerald Majola, told SuperSport that the competitions will be strength versus strength and the series will produce even better cricketers. "The public is going to love it, and an exhilarating stage will be set for the new season and a new era of cricket," added Mr Majola.



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Just when the first term was starting to get terribly tedious, along came the valiant vac to rescue us from the stifling strongholds of tests, essays and other such nuisances. But now all that's left to show of the vac are countless Easter egg wrappers, a scary number of empty bottles, a handful of shoddy assignments - which were finished (and probably started) on the last day even though we had close on three weeks to do them - and a couple more kilometres on the odometer and kilograms on the scale.

You can't do much now about those shoddy assignments, but as for those extra kilograms, they can be dispensed with without too much trouble. The Health Suite (near Alec Mullins hall if you forgot or never knew or never cared) is still there and is still going strong (especially in the weights section) and signing up for membership is easier than snipping off the corners of a sachet of low-fat milk. So if you've decided that it's time to get your body in order, take a trot up to Sports Administration (at the Astroturf), with your student card and dallas chip, and speak to Janet Kelly - the Health Suite manager.

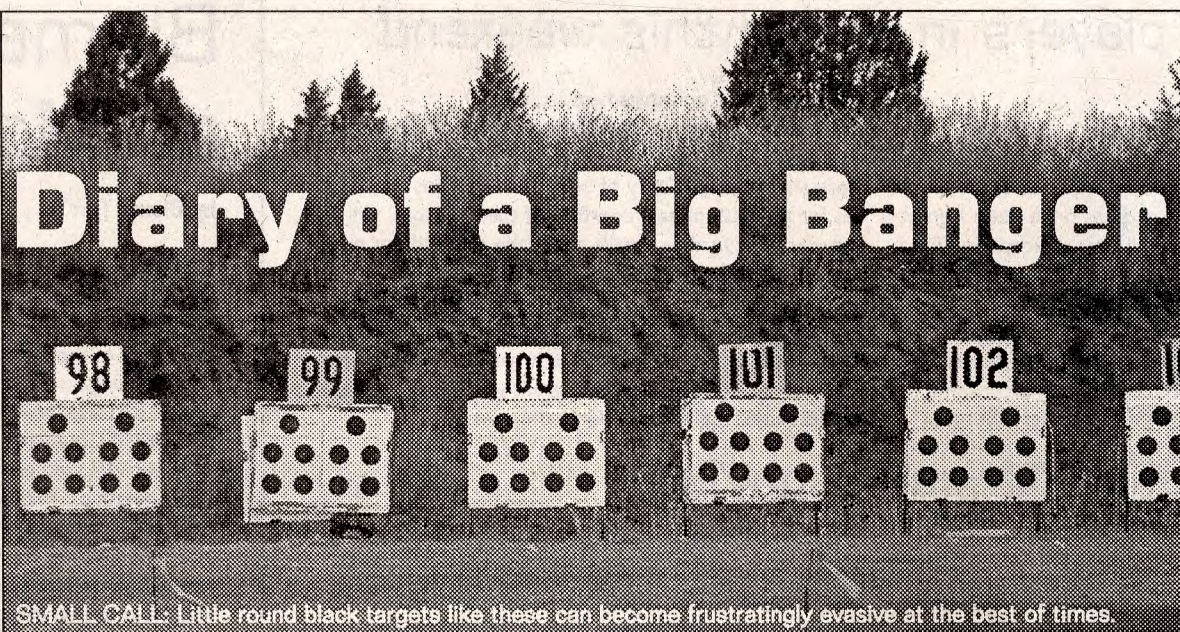
A lot has been happening in the sporting world lately, as is typically the case. South African fortunes have improved quite admirably in the Super 12, with the Sharks and Stormers playing some exceptionally good rugby and getting the results to prove it. However, we still need to learn how to win games in the abroad leg of the competition before we can get the Australian and New Zealand teams to regard us in a serious light on a more permanent basis. See Dustin Emslie's story on page 11 for more on Super 12.

The Pro20 cricket competition is in full swing, and although it has attracted praise for its moves to revitalise domestic cricket in the country, it has not been positively received by everyone. The argument is that the system - which allows each team only 20 overs each to bat - turns batsmen into mindless sloggers and does not allow them to strategically construct an innings, which they would normally have room to do in the 50-over version of the game. For purists, the new system stinks - it is bastardising and catalysing the traditional gentlemen's game. For people who want to see more tickets sold and increased spectator enthusiasm and involvement, it is excellent. I think the system will be beneficial in the long-term, as gradually it will attract more people to the game of cricket, firstly to the excitement and fanfare which the Pro20 competition offers, and then to the various technical aspects of cricket as a sport, not just as an event. Those people will then hopefully become interested in the four- and five-day versions of the game, which will increase the popularity and enhance the reputation of the said versions, pleasing the purists and administrators simultaneously. Claire Carr's article on page 11 provides more information about the Pro20 competition.

There's plenty of sport to keep you entertained this weekend. A full schedule including Super 12 rugby, local and international cricket, the San Marino FI GP, English football, and a mix of high profile golf and tennis awaits, so make sure you take in some of the action!



Between the Lines
Michael Salzwedel - Sports Editor



SMALL CALL: Little round black targets like these can become frustratingly evasive at the best of times.

words and pics by Jacqueline Toulson

Chosen for this year's South African rifle championships, which took place in Bloemfontein during the vac, were Rhodents Greer Hawley, Julian Barker, Marli Vlok, Matthew Hart, Mike Shama and I. We left at 7am on the 28th of March to get to the gigantic range, go through equipment checks (in other words, people feeling us up and patting us down to check that we weren't cheating) and then actually enter the competition, although no shooting was done on that day.

Day one - we all shot horribly. Well, all of us but Marli, who's an SA shottist. There were two matches on day one, so to motivate us for the second match, Greer, Julian, Mike and I bet beer against each other. I am proud to announce that I won that, though the scores still weren't great.

Day two - we get to the range to find it's pouring down with rain. Finally, something to blame for our bad shooting! We did do slightly better on day two though, despite the rain and being very sore from the previous day. Mike won the beer this time. We then had to sit through a long AGM, which in the end was worth it, as the team now has a good idea of how to further their shooting in this country. We are proud to announce that we are one of the only institutions that teaches (responsible) shooting to young people.

Day three - only one match today, for most of us. This

time we set goals for ourselves, and if we got these then the others would buy beers. Matt and Greer achieved their goals - hurrah for them. Matt and Marli then got chosen to represent the Eastern Cape at the inter-provincial shoot that afternoon.

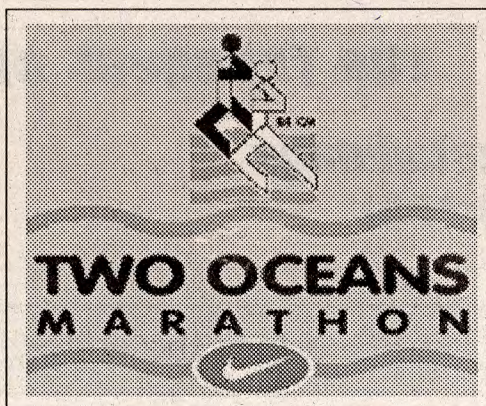
Needless to say, us Rhodents (except Marli, who won a medal in almost every category and ended with a brilliant score of 2939/3000) stayed firmly glued to our seats during the prize giving. That was until the bar opened, when we were first in line and last to leave. Then it was straight to the Bloem club - Die Mystic Boer - to party it up with shottists from all over the country. In true Rhodes style, Tassies was bought by the bottle, the boys ended up coming home at 4:30am, and Mike, unable to make it to his bed, slept in the hotel bath.

If this article makes it seem like all the Rhodes rifle club does is shoot badly and get drunk, I apologise - I am not being entirely accurate. The experience was overall a good one, with some brilliant individual scores and a lot of excellent ideas for the future of rifle at Rhodes.

To save having to print lines and lines of what will probably be jargon to most people, I have not included all the scores. These can be found at the rifle club website at www.geocities.com/rhodesrifle.



FOCUSSED: Matthew Hart takes aim on day 3 of the inter-provincial rifle championships which were held in Bloemfontein during the vac.



Gibb breaks Athletics Club record at Two Oceans

On the 10th of April, Rhodes student Matt Gibb broke the record for the fastest Two Oceans ultra marathon time by any member of the Rhodes Athletics Club ever, crossing the finish line in 4hrs 39mins 27secs. The next Rhodes student to come in was Anthony Catto with a time of 5hrs 41mins 03secs, followed by Tom Mapham who finished in 5hrs 46mins 33secs.

The event, which was held in cold and wet conditions around the Cape Peninsula, was won by Marco Mambo, who scooped the R100 000 prize with his time of 3hrs 07min 40secs.

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Briefs

RUGBY:

History will be made next month when a star-studded professional rugby team from Japan visits South Africa for a three-match tour, at the invitation of the African Bombers club. The Toyota Japan team will meet an African Bombers XV, which will include a number of Eastern Province players, on May 22 as part of the club's 50th anniversary celebrations, before taking on the Maties at Stellenbosch on May 26 and the Eagles in George on May 29.

SUPER-BIKE:

After crashing out while leading a race with monotonous regularity, Regis Laconi finally managed to stay astride his Fila Ducati to win Race 1 at Misano on Sunday.

BOXING:

Boxing returns to Sun City on April 24 for the first time in several years. The bill will be the first in SA fight history to feature five SA title fights, with defending champions Earl Marais, Andre Thyse, Isaac Hlatshwayo, Takalani Ndlovu and Thomas Mashaba all taking part.

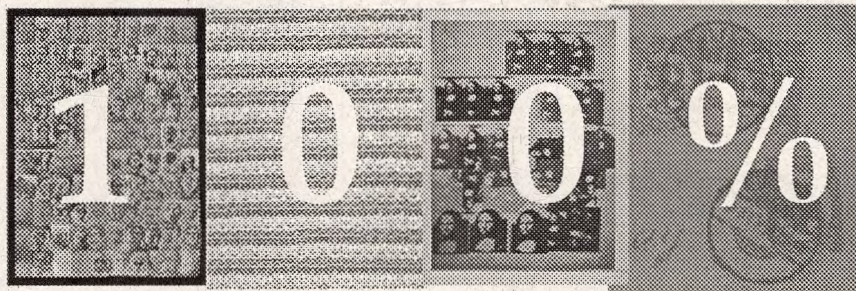
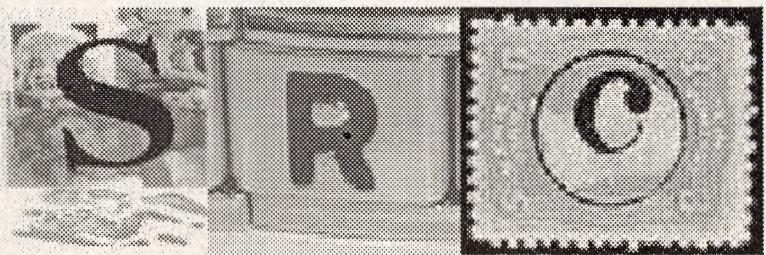
SOCCER:

Chelsea and Man United helped Arsenal's unbeaten surge towards the premier league title on Saturday when champions United were beaten 1-0 by Portsmouth and second-placed Chelsea drew 0-0 at home with Everton.

ROAD RUNNING:

Evans Rutto beat fellow Kenyan Sammy Korir to win the London Marathon Sunday in an unofficial time of 2 hours, 6 minutes, 20 seconds.

courtesy of
www.supersport.co.za



2004

Independent Official Newsletter of the SRC



Minute that...

The minutes of the SRC meetings are available to everyone and anyone who is mildly interested. They are posted up around the dining halls to give everyone a brief summary of what was discussed at those long Monday evening meetings. The topics bantered around the table range from light issues such as complaints about the food at the dining halls, to lights to toilet paper to the very serious topics such as creating awareness about rape. The meetings are a means for all the councillors to come together every week to address any problems or issues arising within their specific portfolios. It is also a chance for hall reps to bring to the

table for the discussion any concerns in their dining hall, which also ranges from how many slices of bread each person is allowed to allocating and finding missing residence funds.

This is your opportunity to voice your concerns and it can be done through three ways. You can go directly to your hall reps or oppie reps, you could email the problem to council@src.ru.ac.za or you could come to the RA Room (opposite the RMR entrance) at 7pm on a Monday night. So come along if you are curious to find out what goes on at these meetings and I am sure that you will find us in some sort of order.

Entertainment Portfolio



My vision for this portfolio is to cater for all social groups' entertainment, and provide equal entertainment for all. This means continuing with the previous entertainment councillor's job and also improving by providing a little more for non-drinkers.

There are a couple of events that I have been planning and this is what the students at Rhodes can look forward too. Dates have not yet been finalised, being the reason why dates are not attached to these events.

2ND term: RedBull Cart Race and after party.
Champagne Premier

3rd term: Tri- varsity:
...Saturday Afternoon: RedBull party
...Saturday Evening: SRC party.

4th term: Mr & Miss Rhodes Beauty pageant

As the Entertainment Councillor for 2004, I intend to ensure that entertainment is provided to all social groups at Rhodes University. This year has started off relatively relaxed mainly because the SRC was making way for Societies to hold their opening cheese and wines and so forth. From second term onwards, the SRC is planning to host a few functions well planned and timed so as to help the Rhodes students release stress. The SRC this year does not intend to only cater only for drinkers or only one particular social group, we intend to offer diverse ways of entertaining all students at Rhodes University.

So far, my portfolio has hosted one party. This was a small event for the various individuals who helped this year's Orientation Week be a success. This party could not have been a success if it was not for the help of RedBull who heavily sponsored it.

There is a lot to offer as the year is still young and there are still many opportunities out there. I work closely with the Student Benefits Councillor, John Richter, in order to be able to provide freebies at the parties and help sponsor some more parties in the future. All that can be said is that this year's SRC is committed to ensuring that students at Rhodes University will have all the entertainment that they require in a fun but very safe environment and hopefully they will receive their fair amount of entertainment.



My aim is to provide you with entertainment.



Foreigners Exchange at a Cheese & Wine

by Jin Jeon

Cameras, flashes, lights, smiles, and many different languages floating in the air throughout the night... it felt like you were a tourist.

The first cheese and wine for the Exchange Students this year was held on the 12th of March at Purple Horse. It was an excellent opportunity for the exchange students from all over the world, currently studying at Rhodes this semester to introduce themselves to each other, as well as to meet the Dean of International Affairs and the SRC. Also present was the International Studies Officer.

Unfortunately, the American students from

Washington College and Boston College sent their apologies due to fieldtrips, asking: "Is there any way to reschedule?" and "could we get together sometime next week?"

The "friendly vibe and atmosphere" of the cheese and wine as agreed by many allowed for the silence to be broken and the awkwardness to disappear. Soon enough, the exchange students from France, Germany, Canada, Finland, and America, were sharing in the jokes and laughter, as well as the cheese and wine.

It was nearly midnight that there was even a need to push the ever-staying exchange students out of the venue to call it a night. It proved to be a success, and we look forward to our next function.

R.A.W- Rape Awareness Week

by Ruth Moko and Charmaine Jelbert

Perhaps you have seen the statistics, read an article or someone's personal testimony, maybe a close friend or maybe its even you but living in South Africa it is a reality. There is an average of approximately one thousand three hundred women who can be expected to be raped daily in South Africa. Making South Africa one of the World's Rape Capitals. Rape is rampaging through this country and violating and degrading the women who live here, shattering and traumatising their lives through completely indescribable events.

That is the reason that this years Gender Awareness Councillor Ruth Mokgokong has undertaken to bring awareness to Rhodes students, from the 19th April- 23rd April.

During RAW we hope to reach as many stu-

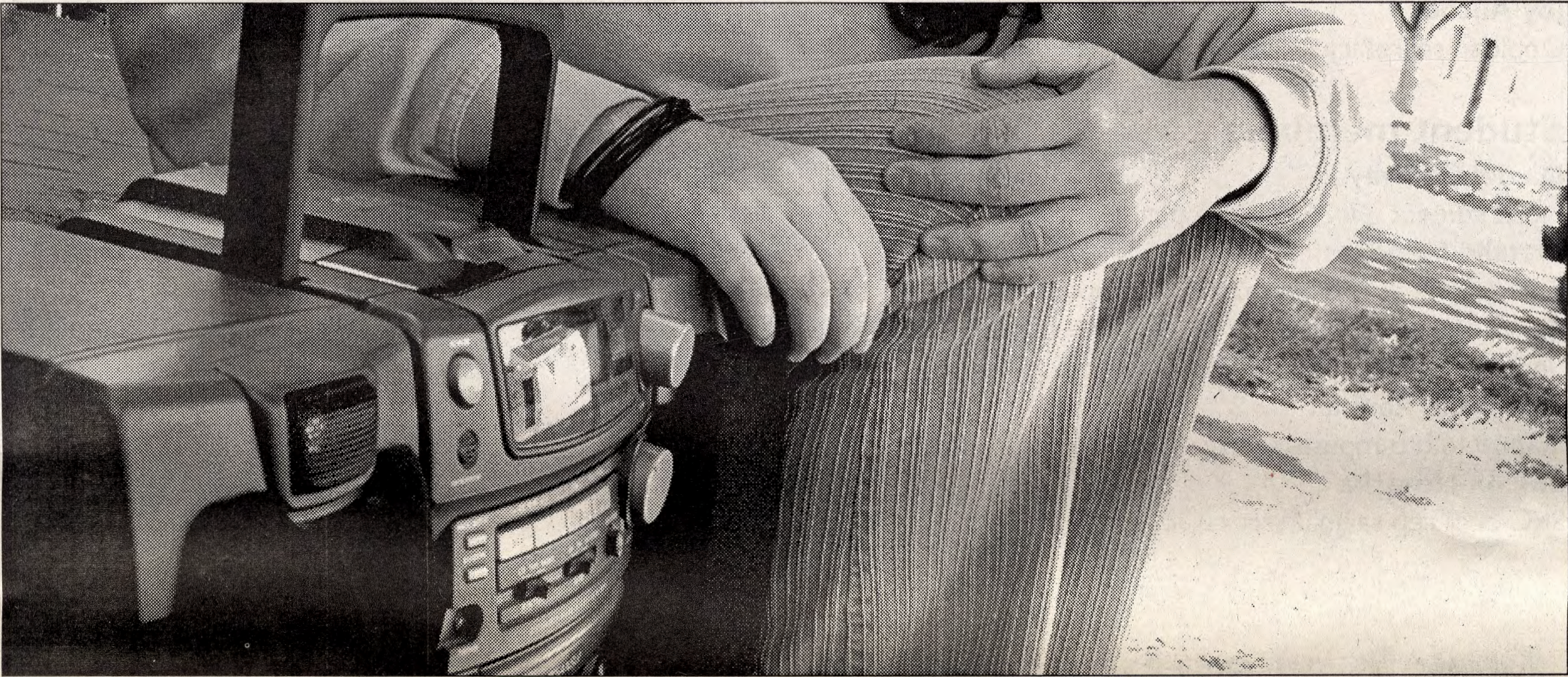
dents as possible (through activities we are planning) and to make them realize that rape is an increasing problem on campus and that it needs to be taken seriously.

Information targeted at female students dealing with date rape (an issue that is often overlooked) will be given as part of the campaign. We also plan on having a speaker from a rape crisis center who will be able to give information on a broader scale.

We would also like to challenge Rhodes men to show us if they really are real men by showing their support and wearing a white ribbon. The white ribbon campaign was originally started by a group of men in the USA who felt that men needed to do something to show their support of the Anti-Violence Against Women Campaign. Rhodes guys will also be given information of how they can make a difference.

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ALL ABOUT OPPIDANS



The Noise Issue: An Interview with Gordan Barker, Oppidan Warden

by Haru Mutasa

What kind of complaints do you get from residents? Mostly complaints of noise, some justified, others not. Often it is not parties but loud farewell greetings, hooting etc. that result in neighbours being repeatedly woken up. Noise is not the only issue. Drinking clubs are sometimes a problem if students spread out into the streets and urinate, pass out etc. There is a resident who complained about Oppis who had cut the bushes in their own garden thus spoiling her privacy. One strange complaint was that a pet rabbit, normally resident at a digs next door, had managed to get through the fence and ate some of the neighbour's vegetables. There have also been a few complaints about noisy dogs. Fortunately, very few Oppis keep dogs.

I believe that such strange complaints result from the Oppis not being known at all by their neighbours. I strongly recommend that Oppis introduce themselves to neighbours when they move in, so that they are not simply faceless students but people with names, and there is less chance of complaints being made to Rhodes. Instead, neighbours are likely to discuss any problems directly with students on an adult-to-adult basis. Some Oppis are on such good terms with their neighbours that they interact on a lend-and-borrow basis.

What rights do residents have to complain - does the University invite them to complain?

Neighbours have the right to complain. Whether these complaints are justified or not is another issue. Those most likely to complain are those with special interests such as B&B owners wanting to ensure that their guests return. My view on this is that B&B guests are entitled to the same enjoyment of Grahamstown as everyone else - no more and no less. Then there are schoolteachers who have to be up early on Saturday mornings to take pupils on sporting excursions etc. For some, even 21:30 is late and this is normally before an Oppi party has even begun. There is no easy solution. The University has advertised the fact that it is willing to be involved in Oppi issues but generally this is something that the public instinctively expects of Rhodes.

Grahamstown is different to larger cities where the Oppis are spread out and as such residents do not identify these problems as University issues. Many complaints come via campus protection, others via the Dean of Students. There are also letters addressed to Rhodes that end up on my desk. Irrate neighbours sometimes telephone Rhodes late at night to get my telephone number.

What rights do students have?

Students have all agreed in writing to be subject to the Disciplinary Code of the University. This code is applicable throughout Grahamstown as well as elsewhere if the students are involved in a Rhodes activity such as a sporting excursion. That is part of the registration process - without agreeing to this, potential students would not be registered at Rhodes. A key provision is that students are expected not to bring the University into disrepute. This is broad enough to cover noise issues. Students have the right to a fair hearing in terms of the Disciplinary Code but fortunately most problems are resolved with some goodwill and common sense and few problems actually have to go as far as a disciplinary hearing. Students can attend a meeting at Rhodes to try and iron out any problems with neighbours. Failure to attend such meetings is a disciplinary offence. Students have the right to take the outcome of

any disciplinary hearing on review.

What time is noise allowed?

Generally, the cut off times are 24:00 on Fridays and Saturdays, and 22:00 every other day of the week. It is not wise to plan a party for a Wednesday night, as most residents have to work on Thursdays. There may be great disappointment and a lot of money wasted on a party that does not take place. Rhodes does not expect more of its students than is expected by the law of the land. Causing a 'noise nuisance' is punishable by a fine of R20 000,00 or two years imprisonment, or both. One does not hear of prosecutions, possibly because the police have to prioritise their activities.

What can students do to avoid problems with neighbours?

Inform your neighbours in advance that there will be a party and tell them what time the noise will stop. Remember that noise travels far and that includes over the wall to the neighbours that you have never met. Try not to have too many car doors slam loudly etc late at night.

If residents make complaints, what is the procedure taken?

The vast majority are sorted out by the negotiation and facilitation of good neighbour relations. Practically, this involves meeting the neighbours in my presence at Rhodes and thrashing the problem out. Persistent problems are dealt with through the Disciplinary system. If a matter has gone that far, the procedure is that the student will be required to attend a disciplinary hearing presided over by a Proctor (a member of the Law Faculty staff). Students may seek representation, even by a lawyer if this is preferred. Basically students enjoy all the rights of a fair hearing that are accorded by the courts in criminal trials. Students wanting the A - Z of this procedure should consult the Disciplinary Code.

What punishment can students get for violating noise rules?

Generally, community service, such as the washing of cars at the vehicle depot is imposed. This sanction is likely to be suspended for a first offence, but if there is a repeat offence, then the hours for both offences must be served.

What is the situation over vacations? Are you on duty then and if not, what happens when the neighbours complain?

Strictly speaking, the Disciplinary Code does not apply during this time but I intervene in any event and try to resolve the problem by means other than sanctions. Failure to do so would inevitably result in the problem festering and neighbour-relations deteriorating.

Please relate a short scenario of your experiences as warden (good or bad) so students can appreciate what you have to go through. My worst scenario was having to break up a good party that could have been a great success with better planning. Last year there was a party held at Mordor, which is next door to Merriman House at St Andrew's College, with a live band. The problem was that it was held on a Wednesday night and the Grade Twelve's were writing their pre-trials the next day, an important step to them getting to university a year or two later. Better planning and communication with neighbours could have culminated in a more satisfactory outcome for all.

The really-useful stuff guide

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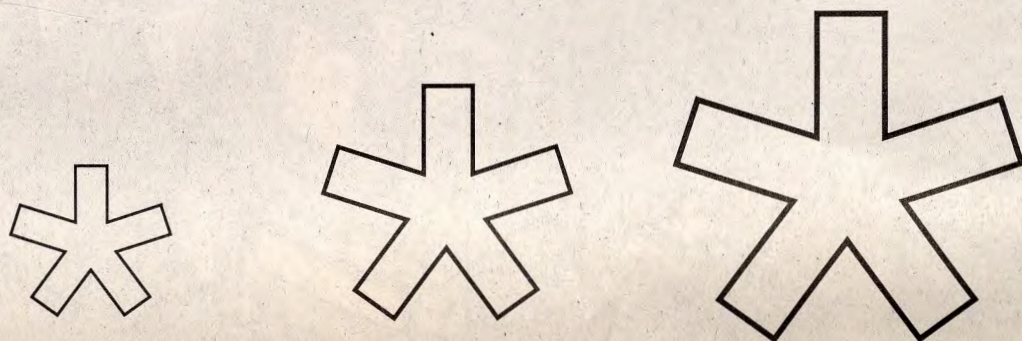
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The SRC oppi bus

The bus leaves the main library weekdays at 8.30pm and again at 10.30pm. An SRC initiative, the bus takes you right to your doorstep, should you need it.

Students looking for information on digs or general enquiries can contact the oppidan secretary weekdays between 8:30 and 12:45



Quick 'n easy recipes

Bacon and Vegetable Soup

(Serves 2)

Try this easy and healthy recipe

2 tblsp Butter

1 can baked beans

4 rashers bacon

pinch of mixed herbs

1 onion, chopped

salt and pepper

2 carrots, chopped

1 vegetable stock cube

½ pint water

2 tsp mustard

1 can chopped tomatoes

(any other vegetables lying around!)

Heat the butter in a pan. Fry the chopped bacon with the onion and carrots for 5 minutes. Stir in the water, vegetable stock, can of tomatoes, baked beans, herbs, mustard and seasoning. Cover and simmer for thirty minutes. Sprinkle with cheese and serve.



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