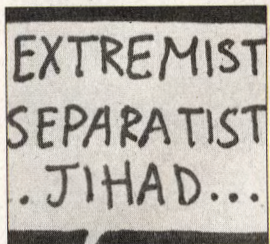


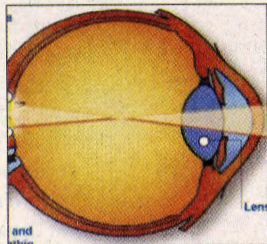
activate

Independent Student Newspaper at Rhodes University
Edition Seven May 2005

PROUDLY
SOUTH AFRICAN



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The religious
battlefield



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problem



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Isolated politics

Rhodes beauty pageant in the limelight



Are dolls like these ideal role models?

pic supplied

■ Natasha Boddy and Jacqueline Lazic

The Mr and Miss Rhodes competition has recently come under scrutiny with the SRC divided over whether or not to hold the event. At the weekly SRC meeting on May 16, students and lecturers were invited to voice their opinions on what has become a controversial issue on campus. According to Rebecca Davis, a representative from the Student Protest and Action Group (SPAG), the competition has no place at Rhodes as "it is an intellectual community - a meeting of minds". She added that should an event be organised, it should be legitimately linked to the purpose of this institution.

Telana Halley, SRC President, explained that the SRC receives R10 000 annually to organise a student event to raise funds for charity. Halley suggested establishing a poll on Studentzone for students to decide whether this event should be in the form of a Mr and Miss Rhodes competition. This suggestion comes during a split within the ranks of the SRC over the decision.

According to Larissa Klazinga, the warden of Ruth First, a majority vote for Mr and Miss Rhodes does not necessarily mean the vote would be in the best interests of the student body.

Davis added that making a decision based on popular opinion "is to entrench something that we know from society is inherently bad".

Davis and other members of SPAG also stressed that competitions which glorify the thin and attractive participants promote an ideal body

type which is not attainable for most students. They also felt the perceived notion of beauty as portrayed in such a competition is detrimental to people who already have a bad self-image, which could lead to eating disorders, such as anorexia.

Furthermore, the SRC was unable to justify the reason behind considering a competition which, according to SPAG, objectifies women and men on the basis of physical appearance. This also contradicts the stance on gender equality, adopted by the SRC this year.

Although there was no Mr and Miss Rhodes competition in 2004, the winner of the 2003 competition, Megan Cooper, explained that the event turned into a beauty pageant despite it being marketed as a charity fundraiser. Cooper was unclear about the criteria on which contestants were judged, but explained that, "the bikini competition was obligatory for all entrants".

According to Cooper, all funds raised from the event were donated to the Eluxolweni Children's Shelter in Grahamstown. However, apart from the R200 that each contestant had to raise with their assigned partner in the competition, there were no other duties that the reigning Mr and Miss Rhodes had to perform.

"I have no doubt that the organisers' intentions were honourable, but the negative publicity that contestants received for participating doesn't warrant continuing with such a competition, unless it changes to focus to a greater degree on charity," said

Cooper.

The SRC also addressed the issue of race as many students feel that the Mr and Miss Rhodes competition has become a racially-specific event. However, Halley stressed that it is "not a racial issue", and the objective of the SRC is to represent the "entire student body and all student issues". She explained that this would mean organising entertainment for students, which would diminish, rather than perpetuate racial divisions. According to Carla Tsampiras, a History lecturer, the reason for the stigma attached to Mr and Miss Rhodes as a racialised form of entertainment is unfounded. During apartheid, black people were some of the most active protestors against the pageant as "they knew the role of being subordinate meant being objectified", said Tsampiras.

Other suggestions from students who attended the forum include the idea of a 'Rhodent of the year' competition, which would honour students who excel in all spheres of student life and make a considerable contribution to the community.

Graeme Lipschitz, a student, explained that rewarding a person for their leadership and community involvement would "enhance and enable opportunities for others at Rhodes".

The SRC will publicise their decision regarding Mr and Miss Rhodes shortly. The outcome ultimately rests on hosting an event for all students, which will simultaneously raise funds for a charity in Grahamstown.

Beauty pageants promote bad body image

■ Tumi Mpete

In 2004, the 26th International Mr and Miss University pageant was held at the Grand Hilton in Seoul. Men and women from around the world took part in the event. The winner of the Mr University title was Yi Cheng Hu from China and Miss Kenya, Robai Musilivi, was crowned Miss University. The writers for Tparents, the pageant website, described her as a "very statuesque lady at her age".

The pageant aims to "promote true beauty of humanity all over the world". The 2003 winners, Fadle Saad and Charlotte Shih, undertook a project in Sri Lanka and "went as the Campus Ambassadors for Peace". They learnt that the Mr and Miss University pageant was "not just a beauty pageant, but a process of experiential learning to embrace the differences of others and believe that diversity is a plus and not a minus".

Siew Weng Lee, a reporter for the Student Publication Board at the Multimedia University, published her views about the pageant.

In her article she discussed the effects that beauty pageants have on the way women view their bodies. She had "no idea what delusions prompted the MMU [Mr and Miss University] administration to even consider holding a MMU pageant. We are supposed to be an academic institution."

She added that "beauty pageants are very degrading to the women". Women's sense of selfworth becomes an issue, and events such as these "project an unrealistically thin image of the ideal woman to the eyes of the public".

Weng Lee cites John Hopkins' study of beauty pageants held in the USA to illustrate the effects that these pageants have on women's images of their bodies. Hopkins' study "shows that more than half of the Miss America pageant winners are underweight, with a body mass Index of about 18.5, well below the normal BMI of 20-25".

Weng Lee said these pageants equate "thinness with fitness" and added that she "cannot see any benefit the participants or the students in general stand to gain from it".



Miss University of Central Florida - a real-life Barbie

pic supplied

Editorial



The Melting Pot

■ Carly Ritz

I ended up at a forum last Tuesday – the only Jew among a sea of Muslims, Christians and one or two Atheists. My late grandfather fought alongside David Ben Gurion in the six day war – if he only he could see me now.

As opinions bounced across the room, my thoughts turned to the significance of this gathering (for more on this check page 4). The fact that two groups of people with opposing notions of the world, religion and politics could sit together in the same room and debate the core structures of their beliefs without a fight, although granted things got hairy at some point, is awesome. People are diverse and will not always agree, but to agree to disagree is the beauty of this diversity.

I came to Rhodes to escape what I like to call 'The Jewish Ghetto', a little suburb called Linksfield in Jo'burg. My private Jewish school education most definitely had its advantages: lots of school holidays and free trips to Israel, but life becomes a little dull when you interact with the same people with the same cultural background, political inclinations and accents everyday (hail the nasal twang).

We have a unique opportunity here at Rhodes to mingle with all kinds of people. From Christians to Muslims to Atheists, from Greeks to Jews to Italians. I know that some people prefer to socialise with people from similar cultures and prefer not to intermingle, and that's fine too, but if ever you wanted a chance to immerse yourself in different lifestyles, this is your chance.

One of my favourite cultural memories happened during exams last year. I was trying to explain to one of my friends what a Hamantassen is. This is a triangular pastry filled with either poppy seeds or cheese that Jewish people eat on one of the festivals when we celebrate (yet again) the Jews being saved from destruction. She thought for a bit and replied: "Oh, like a Jewish samoosa." And that for me is what it's all about: to share and laugh at the same time and celebrate our commonalities and differences.

Don't let stereotypes and other people's perceptions deny you the chance to get to know someone who is a little bit different from you.

I stand to be corrected, but as far as I understand, one of the central tenets to most doctrines is to do unto others as you would like done unto yourself. And I'm pretty sure that we all want to be treated with kindness and respect. I had a friend at school who said he belonged to a division known as Humanitarianism. Imagine everyone you meet is a mirror, he used to say. Would you be rude to yourself? We all thought he was a little 'touched' at the time, but his ideas make sense to me now.

I also think that with exams looming (time now to wean yourself off Desperate Housewives) it is a really appropriate time to be good to each other. Speaking of exams, turn to 'Eye in the sky' as Whitfield shares his insight on procrastination with us. Love your work! I wish you all the best for exams and hope you all have a wonderful and invigorating July break.

Student NGO bridges the gap

■ Candice Bradfield and Jennifer Campbell

Project Phambili Part 2 (3P2), headed by Rhodes students, is an initiative aimed at bridging the gap between campus and the broader community. In the process of being registered as a non-governmental organisation, 3P2 describe themselves as politically minded and are opposed to student apathy.

Motivated by an SRC march in protest to grievances against the Department of Education last year, 3P2 raised issues on racial quotas at the University. By involving local high schools they were able to create awareness about relevant issues.

The focus of this group is on education and they aspire to eliminate inequality in township schools by encouraging skills development, as well as funding resources. They have been involved in the restructuring of the Extended Studies Program offered at Rhodes, monitoring the level of selection criteria for students applying. The language policy for African languages at the University is also being researched.

According to Vice-Chairperson

Pakama Ngconi, the aim of the NGO is not to "dictate terms in which we help", but rather to involve the community in creating employment to merge skills and ideas.

Although 3P2 is primarily a research-based organisation and debates matters intellectually, they ultimately strive to provide practical solutions. Personal relations are essential in dissolving existing social barriers.

Even though Project Phambili Part 2 is not yet a fully registered NGO, application forms have been sent to the government and their approval is eagerly awaited. A launch is being planned for next term where the outreach programs for the rest of the year will be announced and 3P2 hope to encourage more students both from Rhodes and the community to join.

"We aim to bring about positive changes," says spokesperson Ongama Mtimka, "and also to create concrete transformation at Rhodes and in the wider community within which Rhodes exists."

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CPU: "it's a bit embarrassing."

■ Ashleigh James

The recent increase in car thefts on campus is a cause for concern. Over the past month four cars have been reported stolen, and at least two unsuccessful attempts have been made.

As to why these thefts were occurring in the general vicinity of CPU, spokesperson David Brown said they simply did not see the criminals. "It's a bit embarrassing," he said. During the times that the vehicles were stolen, the area surrounding CPU is patrolled by only one CPU guard, making it easier for possible car thefts to occur.

Three out of the four vehicles stolen had foreign licence plates. Brown says there is no plausible explanation why criminals would target foreign vehicles, and that carelessness was a big problem among students.

Recently CPU received a set of car keys that had been left by a student near Piet Retief. The car had not been locked and the keys were still inside. CPU and the police suggest that students be more aware and careful to prevent vehicle thefts.

Have a cuppa for CANSA

■ Delia de Villiers

The Cuppa for CANSA is an opportunity for communities around South Africa to get involved in making a positive contribution towards fighting terminal illnesses.

With Rhodes Music Radio (RMR) taking the lead, fundraising for the CANSA organisation will be taking place on the Rhodes campus and in the broader Grahamstown community. Tea and coffee will be sold at various venues on May 31 and June 1.

The venture was a huge success last year, with Rhodes students and staff raising R1500. This year's organisers, Magriet Cruywagen and Minoshni Pillay, are aiming to get the larger Grahamstown community involved by approaching local businesses for assistance with the fundraising.

The CANSA organisation aims to substantially reduce the impact of cancer by promoting health in all communities within South Africa. In realising its aims, the CANSA association needs mass support. The organisers are once again relying on Rhodes students to show a little kindness and support for this worthy cause. Let's all have a cuppa for CANSA.

Innovative security device introduced on campus

■ Ashleigh Swaile

The installation of panic alarms around campus in response to the increase of violent crime this year has been followed up by contributions from one of the University's residences.

The residences in Nelson Mandela Hall are currently involved in funding and managing the manufacture of personal rape/mugging alarms, in an effort to enhance security. The project, which is the brain-child of Claire Waterhouse, a first-year student from Ruth First, was presented to and accepted by the Hall Committee earlier this year on the grounds of its practicality, accessibility and affordability. The small, plastic alarms are

being sold for R25 each and are easily attached to key-rings. When activated, by applying considerable force to the trigger, they make an ear-splitting noise which is intended to deter attackers.

When asked how she came up with the idea, Waterhouse said: "Universities in other countries have them. There is no reason why personal protection in South African universities should be overlooked." While it remains a pilot project limited to Nelson Mandela Hall at present, Waterhouse hopes that by next year they will be included in first-year orientation packs, as well as distributed around campus.

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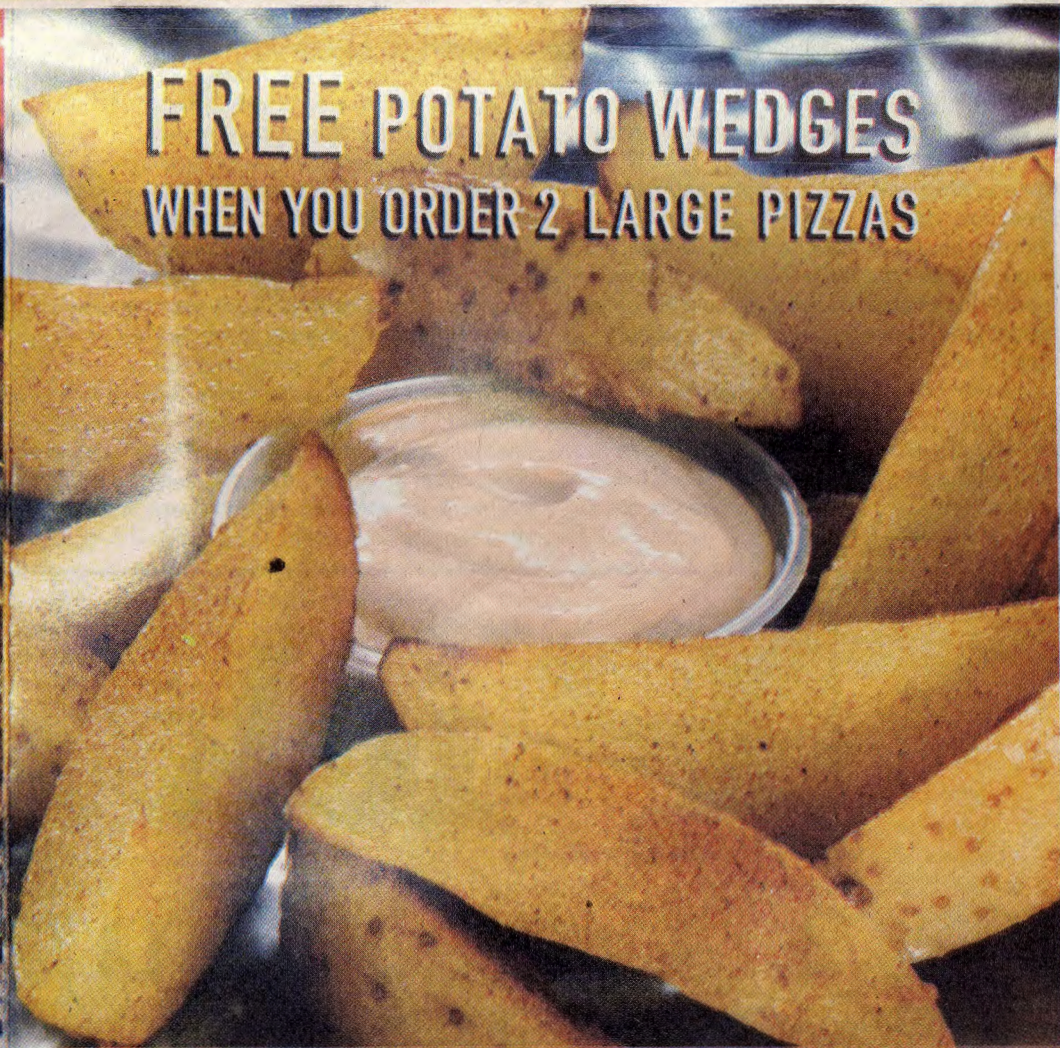
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Coffee and cannabis

Whether you call it marijuana, cannabis, dagga or weed, you are still referring to an illegal substance. This may change if legislation which legalises the production of cannabis is passed in Holland. Global perceptions of this age-old drug are becoming more liberal. **Ciro De Siena** explores the implications of these sentiments.

Drug use, like your parents' sex life, is a topic that does not arise all that frequently in polite conversation. The use of cannabis, however, dates back centuries, possibly millennia. I'd even be willing to bet a certain piece of my anatomy that René Descartes and his cronies enjoyed a puff of this magic dragon in aid of their philosophising. From roughly the middle of last century to now, the use of cannabis and its relative ubiquity have grown exponentially. In certain countries it seems as though this progression has not failed to have an effect on society; weeds, so to say, have sprouted in their legislative systems. There is one condition regarding the legal use of the drug in South Africa: its chemicals may be extracted for chemotherapy patients. Cannabis was banned here in 1971 for solely socio-economic reasons, with the health issue barely featuring. In light of changes in global opinions, maybe it's time for a rethink.

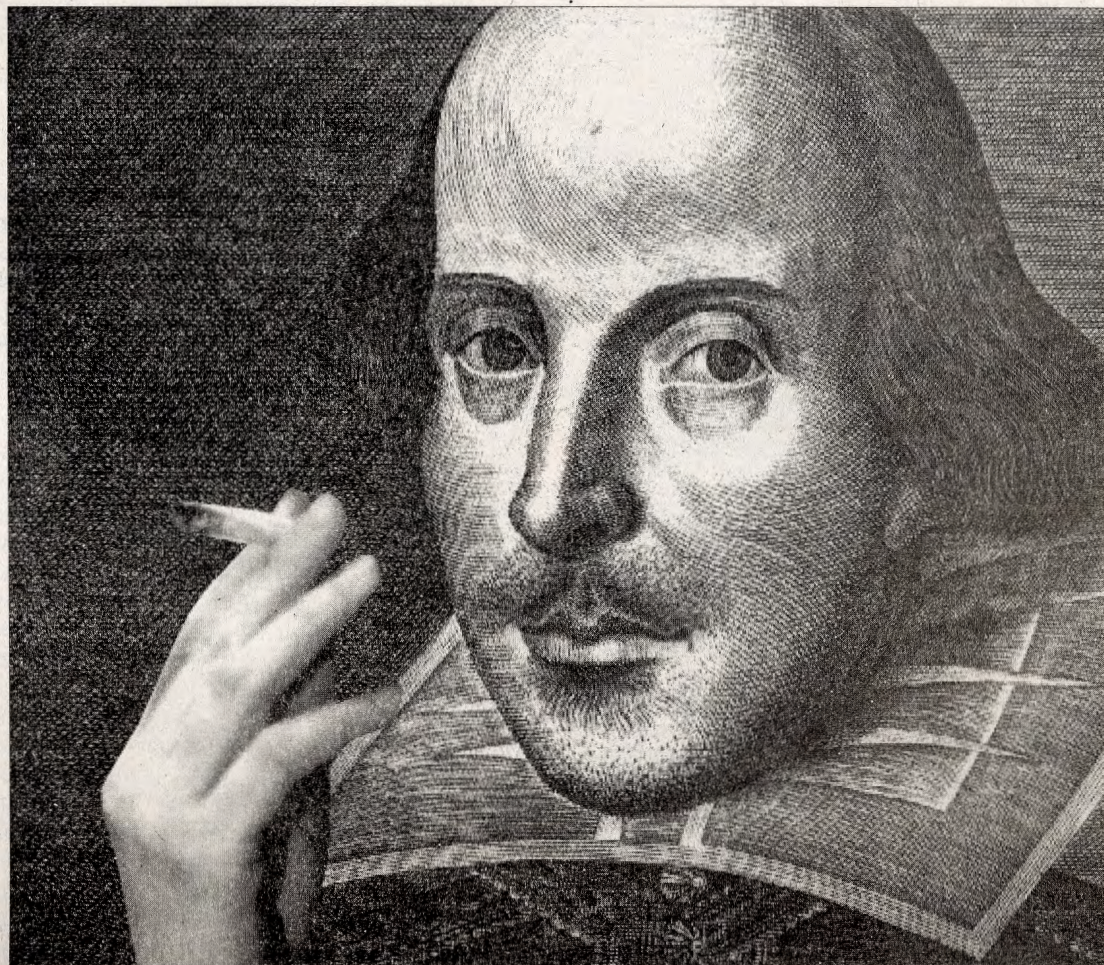
The list of countries that have recognised cannabis, primarily for its medicinal properties and as a 'soft drug', is growing rapidly. Holland was first to acknowledge this officially with the implementation of the infamous Opium Act of 1976. Essentially, the act distinguishes 'hard drugs', such as ecstasy, cocaine and heroine, from 'soft drugs' like cannabis. The use of cannabis has not been legalised in the Netherlands, but is an unarrestable offence, depending on the circumstances. For instance, if someone is caught dealing unofficially or with minors, the sentence is fairly severe. One could end up viewing the world through steel bars for the next five years. This raises the question: how does one deal officially?

Within the Opium Act, a legal framework was constructed to allow for 'coffee shops'. However, these are not the average caffeine-fix venues and are unique to Holland. With your cappuccino and muffin, you can order a side of cannabis. As long as the customer and the seller abide by some simple bylaws, it can be as easy as buying a pack of cigarettes. Firstly, absolutely no sales to minors are permitted and no single sale may exceed 5g. You may not smoke your purchase on the premises, and you may not be a nuisance. You will also have to find out about such sales through the grapevine, as no advertising of drugs is permitted. Additionally, if the residents don't like the coffee shop in their area, they are permitted to vote, with the majority potentially having the power to padlock the front door. Given the psychologically addictive nature of cannabis, one may presume that these 'coffee shops' are an everlasting industry; a fantastic investment. However, even these coffee shops are at the mercy of the economy, and much to anti-drug lobbyists' delight, the number of these establishments fell from 1180 in 1997 to 750 in 2003.

This arrangement may seem ideal to some, but be a nightmare for many others. The effectiveness of the act speaks for itself. According to BBC World Online, Holland has 75% fewer cannabis addicts than the UK. Holland has less frequent users per capita than France, Germany and the USA. Holland also has fewer users below the age of 16, a problem that is cited as the underground phenomenon greatly affecting the USA's schooling system.

What is remarkable about the legislature in the Netherlands is that the law seems to contradict itself. Coffee shops are permitted to sell cannabis, but the cultivation of it on Dutch soil is illegal. "The drug policy is schizophrenic because, although it is legal for coffee shops to sell cannabis, the production is illegal. It is like telling a baker that he can sell bread, but is not allowed to buy flour," Maastricht Mayor Christian Democrat Gerd Leers told AFP [a Dutch news agency] recently. This framework is now under fire, with 30 mayors from 30 major Dutch cities voting 'yes' for the legalisation of cultivation.

Essentially, this means that if a resident wanted to start a plantation in his backyard, he could. He could then enter into the business of supplying his



It is rumoured that this drug was found in a pipe buried with William Shakespeare, which might explain the plot of *A Mid-Summer Night's Dream*. ■ graphic: Gregor Rohrig

crop to the local coffee shops. The Dutch parliament is busy considering a strict legal framework in which this could be made possible. One can envisage the streets of Holland packed with delivery trucks labeled 'Van Gogh's Cannabis: The arty choice'. Why would the state entertain this idea at all?

Although there are only a few reasons, they are pertinent. The most prominent one concerns the encouragement of drug smuggling. Due to the great need for cannabis supplies, Holland is viewed by its neighbours as the hub of the drug trade routes in Europe, aiding smugglers in their distribution of hard drugs by providing a relatively friendly port of call. Germany has voiced its opinion loudly, openly opposing the very idea of legalising the production of cannabis, citing that this will only serve to promote the problem.

It seems that the rest of the world is beginning to catch up. A nasty swim from Holland across the English Channel puts one on British soil, where government and citizens alike

are in turmoil over cannabis legislation. A radical transformation of the government's stance on the drug is occurring in 'TonyLand' at this very moment. In an article entitled "Decriminalisation: Let's go Dutch", the BBC's Robert Nisbet uses Holland as an enlightening example in an attempt to ease views over the current hurricane in UK politics. And what a storm it is. In the last two months, the prime minister's top advisor on the subject resigned in protest; old grey-haired guys who still call themselves 'Lords' are filling the tabloids by admitting to having "experimented in [their] university days" and even Prime Minister Blair has commented that he is not opposed to the bill. What bill? What is all the fuss about?

After obtaining clearance from the British Advisory Council on the misuse of drugs, which consists of a team of top medical experts, Home Secretary Dave Blunkett announced last year that cannabis would be rescheduled to a category C drug as of 2005. This puts it in the same class as anti-depressants and steroids. This has many implications, both in a medical and social context. In contrast, however, the penalties for dealing have been increased. It appears you can now use the drug, but selling it is

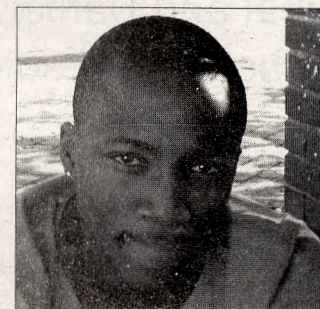
more dangerous than ever. This emphasises the contradicting nature of the legislature in both Holland and Britain.

The hotly debated change in Britain's approach concerns the new law that allows for possession for personal use. One cannot be arrested for possessing a personal amount of cannabis. This action aims to free up much-needed resources in the police service in order to dedicate them to the fight against hard drugs, especially heroine. Home Office Minister Bob Ainsworth praised the pilot project, saying it had "freed up hundreds of police hours, aiding a crack-down on hard drugs".

Medical experts in Britain, Holland, Canada, the USA, Belgium and other states all agree on the use of cannabis in a medical context. Scotland Yard is also content to accept its new status in Britain. Canada and Belgium have most recently legalised the drug and its derived medicines strictly for clinical use. However, this is not the case here. In fact, in 2001, the South African Medical Association called for the drug to be decriminalised, citing multiple reasons, ranging from medicinal to religious. Yet the government's attitude is still stagnant; declining to even consider it. In a country that claims to have the most progressive constitution in the world, there seems to be no intention at government level to rethink existing legislature. It seems then that the Dolphin Kaif will not be having coffee and cannabis specials any time soon.

What you said:

What do you think of the Mr/Miss Rhodes competition



Bongani Nyoka
BA 1st year
I think it is a cool idea



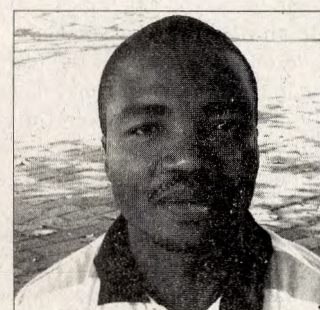
Bronwyn MacGillivray
BA 1st year
Not fazed really, think it could be fun.



Thandokasi Njovoue
BA 1st year
Why should we spend so much money on a beauty pageant? Who benefits? What about us?



Penny Dodo
BJourn 2nd year
We spend our lives giving credit to those who have sporting and academic abilities, why not give others an opportunity to celebrate their beauty?



Mduduzi Khumalo
BA 1st year
I think it's a good thing, a good chance to see some talent.

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The Flip Side

Ask almost any South African how a foreigner perceives South Africa and you are bound to be overwhelmed with an elaborately clichéd tale involving mud huts and wild animals. Aiysha Jahan from Dubai and Daniel Cohen from England are two foreign students whose South African experience has not been so predictable.



■ Aiysha Jahan

South Africans would have you believe that all foreigners imagine their country to be this sub-Saharan bushland where rampaging elephants plough through the cities and men and women in skins hunt eland in and around the vicinity of the airport.

Unfortunately, my impression of South Africa was slightly less dramatic, and definitely not as interesting. I feel as if I've known South Africa all my life. I knew it as a child, staring into a map, dreaming of far away places I would travel to when I grew up. I knew South Africa through history books and documentaries, through the 2003 Cricket World Cup and my brother's stories of his experiences here. I knew South Africa as an almost magical realm, but also as the most prominent face of AIDS. South Africa intrigued me, its disparities astounded me. I had to experience it to believe it.

In hindsight though, perhaps I had one other profound reason for coming here. I have always wanted to don a sweater on my birthday in July, which is unfortunately rather impractical for a 50 degrees Celsius Dubai summer. So as you can imagine, the allure of the South was truly inescapable.

The fateful day arrived. A thunderstorm was raging in the night sky around Johannesburg as our plane came in to land. The flashes of lightning and the incessant juddering of the plane heightened my senses and caused my mind to alternate between excited anticipation and dogged apprehension. This was the onset of a novel experience for me, an entire year away from home; a space in time that was mine and mine alone, and I was determined to live every moment of it.

A few days within these borders and South Africa was seamlessly unravelling before me. My very first experience of South African

wildlife is one that I will treasure for all time. On my first morning at Rhodes I was awoken by the sonorous calls of what I believe to be (and you can dispute me on this) one of the most commonly found birds, the Hadeda. Needless to say, I have, over the span of this year, been introduced to other forms of local wildlife.

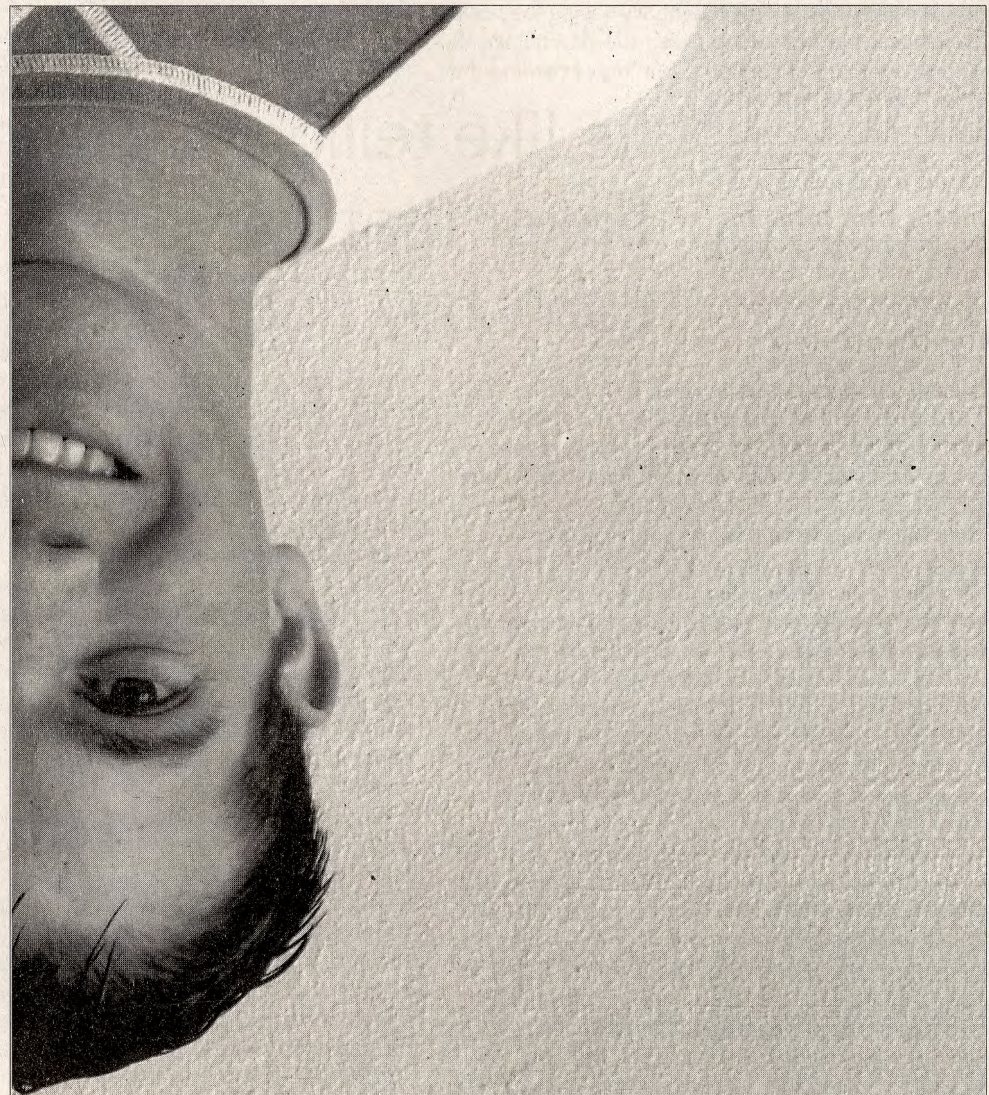
As my experiences at Rhodes accumulated (for Rhodes is, unfortunately more or less synonymous with South Africa for me) I experienced an exponential growth in my vocabulary. I soon learnt that besides having a hectic day (Northern hemisphere usage of the word) I could potentially have: a hectic assignment, a hectic car, a hectic lecturer and, well, I could look hectic too. Another word that fits neatly into any scenario is 'dodgy', which, if I may add, is my favourite. Dining hall food is often considered dodgy, people and places can be dodgy, things are dodgy, even animals can be dodgy. Dodgy can, I believe, safely replace the word 'adjective' in the South African dictionary.

Another Grahamstown phenomenon that endlessly fascinates me is the erratic weather pattern. Having grown up in the desert region of Dubai, where a light drizzle made the front page, I often find myself humming, ambling along in the rain, while others around me tend to grimace and swiftly make for cover.

South Africa. It's everything that I had imagined and more. Much has been left unsaid, and I recognise that the little light I have shed onto my South African experience is largely inadequate. I must, nonetheless, draw this reflection to a close and leave you with the greeting that I believe has caused many a foreigner, myself included, to scratch their heads in bewilderment, left in the lurch in a hallway somewhere: "See you just now!"

expectations. Perhaps the real South Africa, student or tourist, is further from true reconciliation. However, that is not a question that my experience of South Africa can answer. Following the stories I had heard in the UK, I was expecting to find a country rife with uncontrollable crime. I was wary of this when I arrived, and was extremely alert when waiting for my flight to Port Elizabeth in Johannesburg. As soon as the exchange programme was offered to us in first year, I was extremely keen to participate, and the idea of coming to Africa appealed far more than the other alternatives of Singapore or Australia. I had no real idea what to expect of this experience, but knew that I had to take the opportunity. What were my perceptions of South Africa before I arrived? It is difficult for me to look back and describe what I thought I was coming to. But at the start, I think I should spell out that the answer to the widely asked question: 'Did you think we all rode elephants?' is most definitely 'no'. To be truthful, I really knew very little about South Africa, and in fact Africa in general, before I arrived here. I had some idea of the basic history; I knew of Nelson Mandela, Thabo Mbeki, Apartheid and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, but I did not know what to expect from South Africans. I didn't really appreciate what the past meant to people in general, and how they saw the future of their country. I guess I really expected to find a country that was struggling to move on from a torrid past of racial hatred and segregation. However, I did not expect things to have developed so much. You all can see and appreciate that the current state of affairs is not ideal, and that racial issues are still present, but I was surprised at how far removed the reality was from my uninformed in the UK.

■ Philippa Ehrlich



■ Daniel Cohen

Reading between the lines

In a past edition of *Activate*, the lack of facilities at Rhodes for wheelchair-bound students was covered. This has encouraged other students to make their grievances known. Desiree van Genechten and Jenny Burnett are both visually impaired. This is how they feel about the University's facilities.

■ Carly Ritz

Van Genechten is a third-year BA linguistics student, as eager and determined to complete her degree as the rest of us. But en route to achieving that goal is a set of hurdles for her that far outweigh those of the average student. She has a condition referred to as Rod-Cone Dystrophy, which is one of a wide range of eye conditions such as macular degeneration and retinitis pigmentosa. These conditions are all linked by a complication with the rod and cone photoreceptors in the retina. The photoreceptors either do not work from the day a child is born or slowly begin to degenerate. Rods help us to see things that move and to see in the dark, while cones allow us to see things that are still, to see during daylight, in colour and fine detail. Van Genechten's rods and cones are deteriorating, and as a result, she experiences 'blind patches' throughout the day.

Patients with cone dystrophy initially experience a loss of central vision that cannot be corrected with glasses or contact lenses. With the loss of cone cells also comes a disturbance in colour perception. As cone dystrophy progresses, rod cells degenerate causing night blindness and peripheral vision loss.

Van Genechten's condition was first noticed when she was nine years old. She is now 'legally blind', which means that she has less than 10% vision.

When van Genechten decided to come to Rhodes, she was aware that there was a chance of discrimination, but she filled in the application honestly, fully disclosing her condition. To her delight, she was accepted.

After having been accepted, van Genechten began to investigate some of the facilities at Rhodes for people with impaired vision. She assumed that an institution as prestigious as Rhodes would have the necessary facilities to accommodate her.

There is a process involved when it comes to disabled students applying to the University. The application form asks students to specify any disability. Desiree Wicks, Senior Administrative Officer at the Student Bureau, together with the Counseling Centre, evaluates each application and decides whether or not the University will be able to accommodate a particular student. "We are aware that the University isn't disability proof - but we are trying to meet each individual's needs," Wicks said. Special arrangements were made for van Genechten to stay in post-graduate accommodation. Rhodes does not have disability units like other bigger universities, but it tries to accommodate students one-on-one, according to Wicks.

According to the Disability Policy at Wits University, services are provided "for three broad categories of students with disabilities. These are visual, physical and hearing disabilities. We will also support you if you have learning disabilities, such as dyslexia or attention deficit disorder. We offer a wide range of services, which include a reading service, a braille service, computer training, a computer centre with specialised software, note-takers, a mathematics tutor, assistance with extra-time applications, an examination centre, etc".

While Wits has more facilities than Rhodes, it must still be noted that not all its areas and buildings can accommodate disabled students. The Wits Disability Policy further states: "The University is committed to the ongoing improvement of access to its facilities and services." However, the major difference between the universities appears to be a financial one with regards to continual development. Dean of Students Dr Moosa Motara said: "I believe the University is doing as much as it possibly can within the budgetary constraints that it faces."

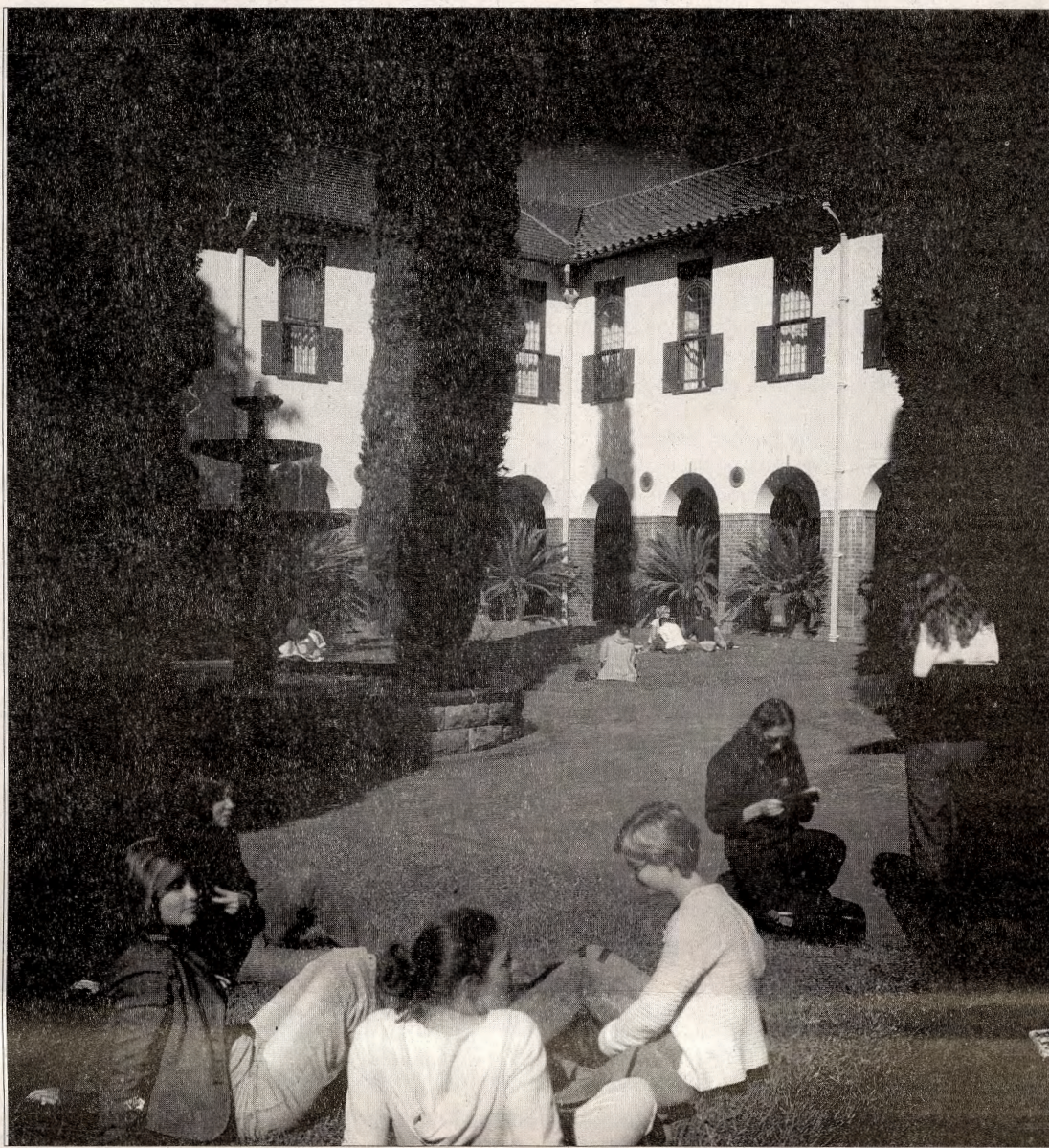
According to Gaone Magogwe, the Student Services Officer of the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University SRC, who conducted research on the old UPE campus last year regarding disability facilities, there are about four students at the University with vision impairments, and facilities for these students are severely limited. The only consolation for these

“ It's like walking around with a letter from the principal to prove that I'm not lying. It's degrading. ”

records all her lectures. She also requests overheads and PowerPoint presentations from her lecturers to copy as she cannot read them in class. She said some departments are hesitant to help her in this regard. "They think I want everything served to me on a silver platter.

I hate begging for help and being a burden," she says. She carries a letter from the VC around with her to legitimise her request for this assistance. "It's like walking around with a letter from the principal to prove that I'm not lying. It's degrading."

While the rest of us stress about learning for our exams, van Genechten also has to worry about being able to read the actual questions. She writes her exams in the San using her reading equipment. "It's like a TV set converted into a closed-circuit TV with a camera and a lens that enlarges all text on a screen," she explains. She was promised assistance with this equipment. It is supposed to be moved to the San at least a week before her exams so that she can set it up and ensure that it works, but for the last exams it was only put in place the night before. Now van Genechten gets a friend to help her rather than rely on the University.



The vision behind bleary eyes

■ Lauren Uppink

students comes in the form of time extensions and enlarged text sizes during exams. On the 2nd Avenue campus, the equity forum managed to get three students enrolled, two of whom have very bad sight and the other is completely blind. On this campus, computer software has been made available for their use, which converts their input into Braille.

Despite the lack of facilities, van Genechten was still determined to come to Rhodes to obtain her degree. She said if she had known beforehand what she would have to go through to get her degree, she may have thought again.

Day-to-day living is stressful. Van Genechten

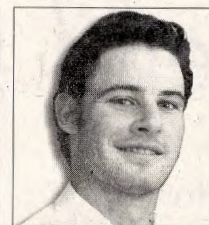
She says that individual people and departments, like the Linguistics Department, Lillian Brittan House and its warden, have been helpful to and supportive of her, but she feels that the University as an institution needs to do more. White stripes have been painted onto various steps to make things easier for her and others like her.

Jenny Burnett is doing a BA in psychology and anthropology and also suffers from Rod-Cone Dystrophy. Burnett says that when she arrived at Rhodes, she had many things to sort out such as extra time in exams and question papers with enlarged text. She was sent from one person to the next, to no avail. "No one knew anything," she says. Burnett had to go to every department and every lecturer to explain her condition, and says there should be one person to speak to.

Burnett says that last year there was a lecturer who ensured her tests and papers had enlarged texts. This has not been the case this year and the last two tests have not been enlarged. Jenny feels that she should not have to go to the department to remind them before every test to arrange her papers accordingly. It is precisely due to these types of barriers that van Genechten feels that the proposed policy referred to in a previous *Activate* article 'A university disabled' (*Activate* Edition 7) will go some way to alleviating a number of problems.

Apart from the logistical pressures that Burnett and van Genechten have to deal with, is the reality that their condition is a degenerative one. "You have good days and bad days," Burnett says. "You start thinking about things far in advance, like will I see my children or my grandchildren." Burnett says the reason she took a gap year before coming to Rhodes is so she could see things that she may not be able to see one day.

Wicks explains how Rhodes is doing the best that it can for the individual students. She was not aware of some of the complaints expressed here. It is necessary for students with disabilities to voice their grievances with the University in order for change to be effected.



Eye
In The
Sky

■ Andrew Whitfield

The following information might be dangerous to easily-corruptible individuals during the forthcoming weeks.

I know that I am not the only student who indulges in the occupation of procrastination. It is a full-time job that requires the most resilient immunity to stress as the work piles up and the deadlines draw nearer. It is not an occupation that parents or lecturers would condone but it is as much a part of some of our lives as eating, sleeping or watching TV. In fact, that is what we, in the University of Life, do best.

Procrastination is generally not conducive to the achievement of excellence in the academic field, but there are other benefits. For example, by attending the University of Life and majoring in procrastination one is able to extend ones' qualifications beyond the realm of literature, art and numbers. "There's gotta be more to life," sings the eternally wise Stacey Orricco, and there is. The foundation of your life is your network of friends who will support and guide you on the dangerous highway of life. If every waking moment was spent in the labs or the library we would live in a society of dreary drones seeking fulfilment in equally dreary surroundings.

I am in no way saying that we shouldn't find some sort of balance. In fact, finding a balance is what makes you a true procrastinator. If one were to neglect the necessity of achieving in the academic realm, one would be an idiot majoring in stupidity and would probably get a first-class pass in that regard. There is a definite skill to this occupation and one needs to adhere to certain rules, which are more like guidelines, in order to leave the University of Life, *magna cum laude*. In order to achieve this state of equilibrium I propose a Procrastination Proclamation to encourage those who simply do not care about deadlines to achieve true procrastinatory excellence in this great field of learning.

This proclamation states that: All individuals seeking both relaxation and academic achievement need to (a) understand the importance of not pissing off the parents or the lecturers. This is fundamental to the skill of procrastination. Students of this University of Life must (b) achieve a balance between work and play with the latter outweighing the former...naturally; and (c) it is imperative that learner procrastinators see the light at the end of the tunnel and ultimately have some goal in mind in order not to be awarded the dreaded academic probation code. This would declare your status as a procrastinator over. A true procrastinator always manages to get through his work. If he/she does not then they do not deserve the status of procrastinator and will be immediately removed from the faculty of procrastination and thus the University of Life. Balance is everything. Achievement is subjective. Fun lasts forever.

This proclamation must be taken with a large bag of salt. If it were to fall into the wrong hands it could be considered a Weapon of Academic Destruction (WAD). It takes a long time to learn this fine skill, so beware. Perfection comes with time. To all of you out there, drone or procrastinator, the Dean of the University of Life salutes you. Good luck for exams.

Reviews

Book



How to be
Idle - Tom
Hodgkinson

HOW TO BE
IDLE

■ Rob Boffard

Most Grundy would have a fit. Journalist Tom Hodgkinson has created the book of my dreams: a treatise on the virtues of sleeping, drinking, good conversation, long lunches, lots and lots of sex, holidays, skiving off work and going to the pub. Hodgkinson draws on the works of thinkers such as Byron, John Lennon and Dr Samuel Johnson to back up his beguiling arguments. The book is written in a gentle, whimsical prose, is as well-researched as an academic paper and is as readable as some of the best contemporary literature. More importantly, it is a self-help book which actually works. It does this not by offering a seven-step program to mental and physical well-being, but merely by extolling the virtues of enjoying oneself. Everyone in the world needs to read this.

CD



Deluxe -
Deluxe

■ Stacey Nel

Deluxe, a relatively new band from Durban, has released their debut album with the same name. Their enchanting and sometimes disconcerting tone blends with the lyrics and beats that will have you tapping in time to create an album that words cannot do justice to. This album will creep into your very soul and make you believe that you can fly. While their music is stirring, the CD cover also deserves mention as the fold-out flaunts striking full cover photographs of all the band members. Although Deluxe has been described as having a Coldplay feel about them, they fit into a category of their own - something you should discover for yourselves.

Movie



Spanglish

■ Liam Brickhill

Spanglish is a romantic comedy/drama that describes a culture clash between a Mexican single mother (Paz Vega) who starts working for an upper class white American family. The first part of the film introduces the dysfunctional family, headed by a highly-strung wife (Tea Leoni) and her maddeningly calm husband (Adam Sandler). This part of the film suffers from a forced story line, but soon becomes surprisingly touching. The ending is not altogether satisfactory, and leaves many questions unanswered. On a positive note, the film has good performances from Sandler, who surprises in an out-of-character serious role, Sarah Steele, who plays his daughter, and the stunning Vega.

Fest: the definitive guide

■ Siya Ngcobo, Kerryn Dahl and Hayley Mueller

Post-traumatic exam stress makes most of us want to go home, but for those of you who are still uncertain about going home or staying for Fest, here are a few reasons why you should stay for this year's National Arts Festival (June 30 to July 9). The theme for the festival is: 'There is no such thing as too much of a good thing.' The National Arts Festival offers a vibrant array of entertainment forms such as theatre, music, film and dance.

Many theatre productions are expected this year. The eclectic mix from which to choose from includes political satire, township drama, comedy and a whole lot more. A contemporary remake has been made of Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. This production is directed by Janet Suzman and presented by the Baxter Theatre. Other productions include *Relativity: Township Stories*, which was written and directed by Mpumelelo Paul Grootboom, winner of the Standard Bank Young Artist Award. Also check out Janet Buckland's production *Makana*, which showcases local talent.

For those of you on a tight budget, Fringe and Street Theatre productions are equally rewarding. These two forms of theatre incorporate productions by well-known actors and directors and provide a platform for youth groups such as those from Kliptown, Soweto and the Eluxolweni Shelter in Grahamstown. Most of these performances are either free or charge a low entrance fee.

For a complete cultural experience immerse yourself in a variety of dance styles. These include gumboot, free flight, ballet, tap, and classical dance forms. Highly acclaimed choreographer Jaunita Finestone-Praeg brings her latest offering, *37 Degrees of Fear*, fresh from the Johannesburg Women's Festival. Escape into the realm of dynam-

ic installation pieces, sculptures, paintings and photography from artists such as Wim Botha, Gregor Röhrig and Brendhan Dickerson among others.

The National Arts Film Festival promises an exciting variety of films for big screen lovers this year. The films will be showcased at various venues in and around Rhodes campus and Grahamstown. A special selection has been included to celebrate the film industry's breakthrough to international ground, and to pay tribute to directors, filmmakers and actors who have contributed to the film industry, both locally and internationally.

Viewers are in for a great treat with some of the best films by South Africa's most talented directors being screened. The line-up includes the Oscar-nominated *Yesterday* starring Leleti Khumalo in a story about the struggle of an HIV positive mother living in a rural area and the family documentary, *Don't fuck with me; I have 51 brothers and sisters*, by young director Dumisane Phakathi. The award-winning drama *Forgiveness* featuring Arnold Vosloo and the infamous Sophiatown film *Drum*, winner of the coveted Golden Stallion of Yennenga, are exceptional depictions of pre- and post apartheid South African society. Other films that will be screened include *Max and Mona* directed by Teddy Mattered and Revel Fox's *The Flyer*.

The Film Festival does not end there, but also pays tribute to acclaimed foreign films. Director Orson Welles is honoured for his artistic contribution to the industry and five of his movies will be screened. More recent films to look out for are *Dogville* starring Nicole Kidman, Denys Arcand's *Barbarian Invasions* and *Ripley's Game*, the sequel to *The Talented Mr Ripley*, directed by Liliana Cavani.

In the words of Festival director Lynette Marais: "A new tribe of mature and professional South African



Rain in a dead man's footprints ■ Suzy Bernstein
artists with international experience are cooking up a storm in the Mzantsi arts kitchen." So, the question now is: stay or go?

For further information consult the National Arts Festival Booking Kit available from UPB book stores or online at info@nafest.co.za

The Festival gig-guide

■ Katie Wilter

Where: The Trading Store on High Street

When: From 6pm onwards the best food for the soul will be served followed by the best jazz south of London (starts at 8:30/9pm).

Who: Artists including:

- Siya Makuzeni (vocalist)
- James Bassingthwaighe (pianist) with his quartet from Cape Town
- The Offshore Jazz Ensemble from Knysna

Where: The Old Gaol

When: Every evening.

What: A showcase of local Grahamstown student and township bands. Their new bar will also be open and accommodation will be fully booked. Expect a great vibe with a wide variety of people during the week.

Where: De Taphuijs

When: Every night from 8:30pm

What: The SAFM stage where two late-night bands will perform.

Where: St Aidan's Manor

When: 10am until 10pm daily

What: Nine or 10 local and national theatrical performances in the Media Centre and Chapel.

Where: The Village Green and Church Square

When: Twice a day daily

What: Wheel of Death performances

What: 20 minute busking sessions

When: Daily

What: Bungi Rockers - a fun activity for the adventurous, where participants are strapped into a harness and catapulted into the air.

What: Marquee where beer and food will be served. There will also be a canteen next to the chapel.

When: 10am until 10pm daily

* Times, venues and dates subject to change

The Comedy Corner

This week Blessing Cele looks at feminism.

I apologise in advance for any grammatical errors that you may pick up. I am a commerce student and grammar to me is more like that bicycle artwork near Eden Grove - it looks nice, but nobody would care if we woke up tomorrow and it was gone. I take pride in the fact that I have the ability to say what's on my mind, even though I end up offending people most of the time.

Feminism is the thing that has been getting on my nerves lately, but before you call me a male chauvinist pig, just read this article. I love the fact that

we are all trying to achieve equality because men have been pigs in the past. They have denied women of many of their rights and these 'pigs' need to pay. Fair enough. But some things in the world can never be equal.

I do not mind whether the toilet seat is left up or down, but women do. Ladies, have you ever thought about how much energy you would save by just pulling it down instead of screaming: "Who left the seat up!" and then having to pull it down anyway? I don't feel the need to have 375 pairs of

shoes and wear 300 of them once in this lifetime. I believe that we can only reach equality when men and women are prepared to be equal in absolutely everything.

Another funny thing is that women have Women's Day when they get together and discuss important issues, such as how they can prevent Italy from declaring war against South Africa as this will result in a shortage of quality shoes. The SRC decides to give us Men's Week, but what do we get? We get to discuss the negative aspect of being a man (i.e. the ability

to rape a woman). We were also given a chance to play a game of soccer for R200 because all men are shallow and love soccer. If men erected posters claiming: "Real women do not drive their husbands into insanity and insolvency," on Women's Day all the feminist movements in the world would be up in arms screaming: "Is that all that women do? Spend money?" I strongly believe that for us to be truly equal, we need to fix the loopholes. Then maybe we can consider equality as the way to go. Did I offend anyone?

Founders' Challenge a success



The effort put into the Founders' Challenge paid off for the athletes

■ Dan Calderwood

■ Jessica Newmark

The fourth annual Founders' Challenge held on Sunday May 8 was "an enormous success", according to organiser Richard Holland.

The event, which consists of a 5km orienteer around campus, a 20km cycle to Jameson Dam, a 5km canoe, a 1km swim and a 12km run was entered by 40 teams and 10 individuals. This is the biggest number of participants the event has ever had. A seeded start allowed for the teams to race in their categories (individual, men,

women, mixed), which intensified the racing and allowed for the accommodation of more teams.

The individual men's event was won by Miles March who recently competed in the SpecSavers Iron Man held in Port Elizabeth. Kate Mapham from St Mary's Hall was first to finish in the individual ladies section with Ange Bott close behind in second place. 'Jock Soc', consisting of top athletes Andrew Morphew, David Wood, Nic Burden, Calvin Trautman and Justin Gray were the winners of the men's division, completing the race

in a record breaking time of 2:29:37. The ladies of 'Leicester Square' (Julie Langlois, Sabrina Chesterman, Amy Whiting, Lauren Elkington and Kate Langlois) took first place in the women's section and the mixed teams division was won by the 'Hobson House Legends', which consisted of Taryn Pascal, Michael Boule, Emma-Louise Gray, Jane Charlton and Fin Mcquaid.

Matthew Gibb, from team 'Matt Attack', commented that he was more excited to finish the challenge than he was when he ran the

Comrades Marathon. Another competitor, James Ferguson, said the atmosphere at the finish line of the Founders' Challenge was incredible and that it had the same sort of feel as the one at the end of the Two Oceans Marathon.

The 2005 committee put a great deal of work and effort into the organisation of the race. All their hard work definitely paid off as the event was a huge success and was enjoyed by both the participants and the spectators.

White sticks to his guns with squad selection

■ Adrian Nel

Jake White has opted for consistency in the selection of his Springbok training squad, which was named recently. White has stayed true to his word in only selecting three new caps in the 33-man squad; he has always advocated the need for consistency in selection and has not altered much from the squad he used during the 2004 international season. At the squad announcement Peter Jooste, convener of the selection panel, said the policy of the panel was to "strive for continuity, consistency and to integrate new players, rather than wholesale changes."

The three new players are Enrico Januarie of the Cats, recently recovered from knee surgery, Tonderai Chavanga, the Stormers speedster who is finally eligible to play for South Africa, and Gary Botha, the Bulls hooker whose exclusion thus far from the Springboks has been point of contention for many fans. These three come as no surprise, as White had always earmarked Chavanga and Januarie for his side, and Botha was awarded a Springbok contract at the beginning of this year.

The exclusions from last year's squad are Tim Dlugane, Jongi Nokwe,

Gcobani Bobo, Juan Smith, Gaffie Du Toit and Michael Claasens. Explanations for these omissions may be along the lines that Bobo, Claasens and Du Toit have had mediocre seasons, while Dlugane and Nokwe were never given opportunities to impress last year.

Juan Smith seems to be the most unlucky, having produced a great Super 12 season this year, and in this regard questions are being asked about the form of Joe Van Niekerk, who despite his obvious class, has not been up to his usual standard. The same can be said of Marius Joubert,

but White has shown confidence in the players he believes to be capable. Pedrie Wannenburg and Lawrence Sefhaka got recalls to the national side, while Richard Bands, and two of the public favourites in Luke Watson and Etienne Botha were overlooked. Schalk Brits, a phenomenal young talent from the Cats, was also overlooked. There have been criticisms that he is not a specialist hooker, yet his impact for the Cats in his first Super 12 was huge.

It is impossible to please everybody in selecting a squad, but we must assume that White knows what he

is doing - he has picked those players he has confidence in, a strategy that Clive Woodward used to great effect with England, resulting in them becoming World Champions. The South African public seems to have a quiet confidence in White, and despite tailing off at the end of last year, he produced nine wins from 13, a huge step up from the pitiful depths that Springbok rugby had sunk to. White's new squad faces upcoming home tests against Uruguay and France, and we eagerly wait to see how they fare.

Backs:

Percy Montgomery (Newport), Brent Russell (Sharks), Bryan Habana (Bulls), Jean de Villiers (Stormers), Breyton Paule (Stormers), Ashwin Willemsse (Cats), Tonderai Chavanga (Stormers), De Wet Barry (Stormers), Wayne Julies (Cats), Marius Joubert (Stormers), Jaque Fourie (Cats), Jaco van der Westhuyzen (NEC, Japan), Fourie du Preez (Bulls), Bolla Conradie (Stormers), and Ricky Januarie (Cats)

Forwards:

Joe van Niekerk (Stormers), Jacques Cronjé (Bulls), Schalk Burger (Stormers), Solly Tyibilika (Sharks), Pedrie Wannenburg (Bulls), Danie Rossouw (Bulls), AJ Venter (Sharks), Victor Matfield (Bulls), Bakkies Botha (Bulls), Albert van den Berg (Sharks), Os du Randt (Cats), Eddie Andrews (Stormers), Gurthro Steenkamp (Bulls), CJ van der Linde (Cats), Lawrence Sefhaka (Cats), John Smit (Sharks, captain), Hanyani Shimange (Stormers) and Gary Botha (Bulls).

Big breakthrough for Barcelona in Spanish football league



Barca celebrates after winning the league

■ pic supplied

■ Sameer Naik

Thousands of Barcelona fans flooded the streets of Catalan City as they celebrated their teams first league title. For the first time in six years, an estimated 10 000 fans with firecrackers and flags roamed Catalan Street in celebration.

At the same time, the Barcelona soccer team, led by ecstatic Brazilian Ronaldinho, celebrated with champagne and danced away their lap of honour on the Levante pitch. An overjoyed Barcelone president, Joan

Laporta was also in the stands to witness his team winning the title for the first time since he took over two years ago. "What the Barcelona players have done is absolutely magnificent," said Laporta at a press conference held in Catalan City in Spain after the victory.

Dutchman Frank Rijkaard, presiding over his first title as a club coach, dedicated his triumph to his supporters. Rijkaard also said on the occasion that his "first thought is for the fans

who have given us such fantastic support throughout the season". He was evidently enthusiastic on behalf of his players, who showed dedication throughout the season.

Real Madrid, who have been winners of the La Liga for a few seasons, praised Barcelona for the spirit that they showed. Barcelona can now focus on winning next year's La Liga in the fashion they did this season, as they have proven that they are capable.

Showing support for the SPCA

■ Jenna Viljoen

On Sunday May 22, the Rhodes Athletics Club held a street mile run in support of the SPCA, which is presently in a dire financial crisis.

The run started at the arch, winding its way down High Street, circling the cathedral and ending back at the arch. It was not a difficult distance and the club encouraged all to participate - runners and non-runners alike.

The mile is held in recognition of Roger Bannister, the first man to run a street mile in under four minutes.

Students, townfolk and pets alike turned up in their running regalia to make the most of the shortest run Grahamstown has ever seen.

The first person to cross the finish line back at the arch was 39-year-old Basie Bonaparte with a blistering time of 4:23, while the first female was Terri-Lynn Penny, who clocked a time of 5:32.

The committee said beforehand that those involved could "run, walk and even crawl" if they wanted to - the main aim was to get as many people as possible to participate in the event.

There were 86 participants, a figure which the committee says it was very happy with, since this is the first time the event has been held.

The club is looking at making the event annual and bringing aboard more sponsors.

There were many spot prizes on the day such as meal vouchers, t-shirts and energy supplements, thanks to various companies in Grahamstown getting involved in sponsoring the worthy effort.

The day proved to be entertaining with the weather behaving itself well. The emphasis rested on having a good time all in the name of assisting a worthwhile cause.

The entrance fee on the day was R5, but substantial donations over-and-above this fee were received and the club managed to raise around R1500 for the SPCA.

Champs hits the corner pocket

■ Adam Wakefield

Every Tuesday evening, strangers from different walks of life meet at Champs Action Bar to take part in a weekly pool competition, with pride being the main prize.

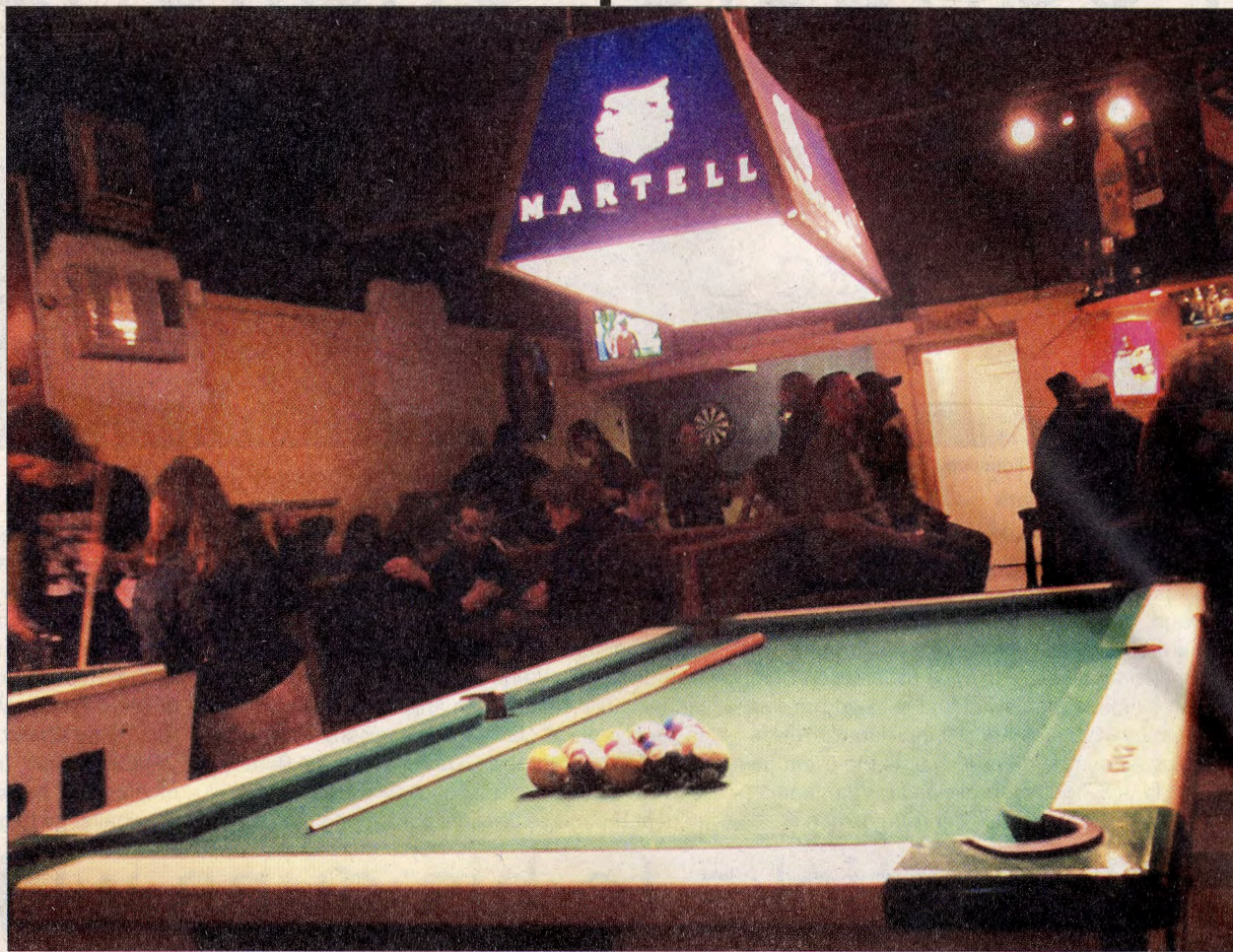
Champs has always had the reputation with the student population of being the 'alternative' bar in the area. The supposed motivation behind this accusation is that some perceive it to be the home of what they label the 'different' crowd, including stereotypes such as hippies, metal heads and Goths who supposedly dislike the more conventional party spots. Having frequented Champs fairly often, I feel that this perception is stereotypical and untrue. The attraction of Champs lies in its simplicity: drinks and pool.

I first heard about the pool competition from a friend, and after my first competition, I became a regular competitor. To enter, you pay R5, and after enough players have entered, the draw is put up. You subsequently play the best of three games against your opponent. How far you can progress all depends on how you play. A game of pool at Champs will usually cost you R2, and since the games you play as part of the competition are free, it is an inexpensive affair and for students who sometimes suffer from budget

problems, it is a godsend. If you do happen to get to the final, prizes are of the alcoholic kind, ranging from a bottle of Crackling to a very useful bar tab. Having lost my fair share of first round games, it only motivates me to go back the next week and try that bit harder. If you do sink your way through to the final though, it doesn't matter if your opponent annihilates you. All that matters is that you made it to the final and in so doing claimed some form of bragging rights as consolation.

The results of the pool competition are not formally recorded, but the competition is often won by third-year student Aidan Douglas, who is the reserve for the EP U-23 Pool team. Even though there is a slight monopoly on first prize, don't assume that the quality of play is poor. The pool played at Champs is better than average, so if you do progress through the draw, it wouldn't be by chance.

A first-year student, when asked why he enters the competition each week, said: "I enjoy a drink and playing pool. Champs is both in one." If you enjoy a challenge with a good atmosphere, are looking to improve your pool or if you just want to chill, Champs is the place to be every Tuesday.



Go towards the light: Champs has become the first stop for Grahamstown's pool players

■ Adam Wakefield

Proteas enjoy Caribbean whitewash

■ Tim Hancox



Pollock looks for a high five as the Proteas congratulate one another

■ pic supplied

The Proteas' long visit to the Caribbean has come to an end, and Graeme Smith and his men have returned home justifiably proud after a wonderfully successful tour.

The Proteas won the four-match test series 2-0, with convincing victories in Trinidad and Barbados. The other two matches turned out to be draws, with pitches that were a dream for the batsmen but a nightmare for the bowlers, who toiled endlessly in the unforgiving Caribbean heat with little reward. This was evidenced by the fact that there were four centurions in each side during the final test in Antigua. This is a new world record, and should spark debate about ground staff preparing wickets where no result is possible.

On a more individual note there were a number of inspiring individual performances, none more so than the three centuries scored by South African captain Graeme Smith that earned him the man of the series award. Makhaya Ntini also took up the reins as South Africa's premier bowler, taking 13 wickets in the match, and claimed the best ever figures for a South African against

the West Indies. Furthermore, Chris Gayle will fondly remember his blistering 317 at St John's.

The five-match limited over series was a whitewash, with South Africa winning all the games. An exciting moment came in the third ODI in Barbados, when Charl Langeveldt took a hat-trick in the final over to seal a one run win for South Africa, as well as the series win.

His achievement is even more significant because he is now the first South African to have taken a hat-trick in a limited overs international. The other matches in the series were easy victories for South Africa's Proteas, with the top four in the batting line up cashing in regularly. Boeta Dippenaar has shown he is at his best at the top of the order with a number of impressive displays, leading to his being the obvious choice for man of the series.

Ray Jennings' contract as coach has now expired, and although he was hoping for an extension, Mickey Arthur has been named as his successor. The other candidates were Vinnie Barnes, and former Australian test players Rodney Marsh, Geoff Marsh and Steve Waugh.

**9 Leicester St
Grahamstown
6139**

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