

activate

Independent student newspaper at Rhodes University
October 2006 Edition 1.2

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SOUTH AFRICAN



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Just taekwon-do
it!

Organised crime at Rhodes

By Michelle Solomon and
Clare Kaeflein

Crime syndicates are operating in Rhodes University residences, says David Brown, senior campus protection officer.

The theft in residence has increased by 10% since June this year, comprising 35% of all crimes committed on campus, according to Campus Protection Unit (CPU). CPU has also discovered that residences from Kimberley, Nelson Mandela and Founders' halls have had a recent spate of break-ins.

According to Les Reynolds, director of the Estates division, who addressed students in a letter, the potential thieves will loiter outside a residence

until a student arrives. The thieves then ask to be let in on the pretence of wanting to visit one of the residents. They search for any open, unoccupied rooms, take anything of value and are gone within 10 minutes.

Academic departments have also been robbed. The Geography department's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) laboratory was broken into on September 29. Seoras Graham was working in the laboratory at about 11pm and left the laboratory for 15 minutes. "I did not have the keys for the department, so I went out through the fire escape. I left the fire escape door a little open so I was able to get in when I came back," said Graham.

When Graham returned, he found two men in the GIS laboratory. "I initially

felt nervous as I was sure that these guys were up to no good," Graham said.

"I realised that I was responsible for these guys getting in and therefore it was my job to get them out," Graham asked them to leave and after the men had left, he checked his belongings and found that the pair had stolen his bag, Oakley sunglasses and car radio face.

"I thought that to chase after the guys would be foolish considering there was two of them," he says but he also felt that "to stay [in the laboratory] would be silly considering I felt the thieves were bound to come back and attempt to steal the computers."

Graham decided to inform CPU of the theft, and described the thieves to Eugene Jansen, head guard at CPU. "There was an almost immediate response from one of the CPU officers [patrolling campus]," says Graham. The thieves had been spotted and were immediately arrested by CPU guards David Douglas and Nkosinam Mcuba, who recovered Graham's belongings.

According to Brown, it was discovered that one of the thieves was an illegal Pakistani immigrant. Apparently the man had bribed a Home Affairs office employee by paying R10 000 for false official documents.

Brown believes that there are other illegal immigrants operating in

Grahamstown who pay people to steal from residences and then sell the stolen goods at various places in town.

"Any people who look suspicious are questioned and, if necessary, escorted off campus," says Brown.

Brown also believes syndicates are running within residences. According to Brown, a student was arrested recently for stealing from

students in New house. The thief was apparently

recruited by another student, and together the two stole from their fellow students for many months. Brown says that it is easy for students to commit these crimes, as they have inside knowledge as to the habits of the students they live with.

Both Brown and Reynolds encourage students to lock their doors when they leave their rooms, even if they only leave for a brief moment. "The CPU [officers] are apprehending numbers of suspects and indeed known criminals," states Reynolds.

"There are [however] always many more who are coming onto campus and vigilance is the key to our success."



Right: David Brown, senior campus protection officer
Above: CPU's offices
CINDY ARMSTRONG



MICHELLE SOLOMON

Brutal rape and murder case goes to court

By Ashleigh Swaile

The magistrate's office on High Street became a site of protest and singing last week Thursday, as Rhodes University staff and students gathered to urge the denial of bail for the alleged rapists and murderers of Christina Royi and her aunt, Boniwe "Hola" Ngwendu.

The attacks and deaths of the two women recently made headlines in Grahamstown and have subsequently sparked an outcry within the community.

Royi and her 78-year-old aunt were attacked and gang raped more than two weeks ago outside Royi's Extension 6 home. Covered in paraffin and set alight, Ngwendu was found by the police, unconscious and critically injured. She later died from her injuries in Livingstone Hospital in Port Elizabeth. Royi had been strangled by her attackers, and was dead by

the time the police had reached the scene.

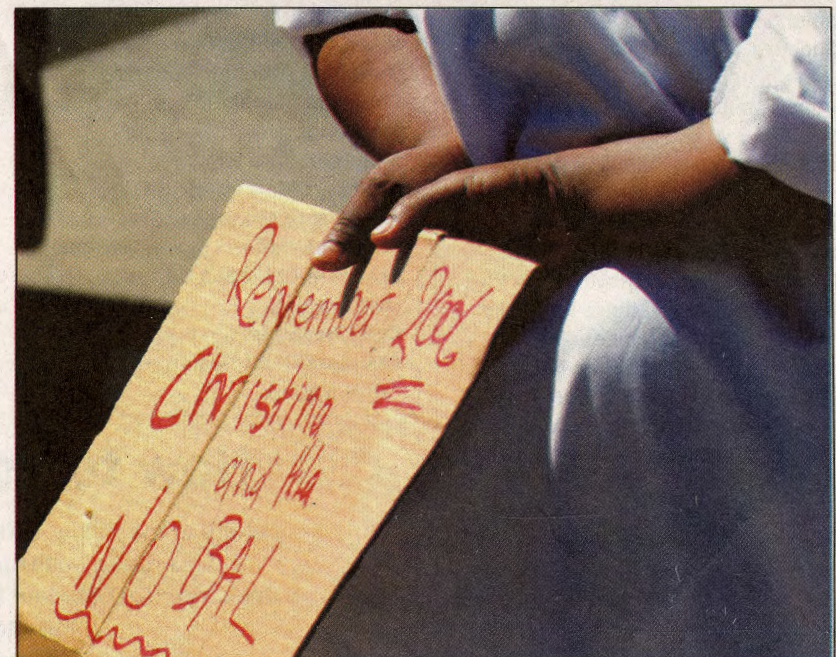
"We are just here to support," said one Rhodes staff member who wished to remain anonymous.

Commenting on her presence outside the magistrate's office, she says: "We're so tired of this raping. I didn't know them very well, but what I read in the paper was very sad. What happened to them could happen to us as well." According to this employee, "people that are doing this should be hanged. There are some serious crimes that must have a serious penalty." A growing demand for the severe sentencing of Royi and Ngwendu's alleged attackers was confirmed by Larissa Klazinga of the Rhodes Treatment Action Campaign (TAC). Klazinga, also a supporter of the One-in-Nine Campaign, said that "there is a real call among people to reinstate the death penalty in this case. I personally do not believe in it, but I do

think there is a great need for swift and efficient court proceedings."

She added that she believes the community is justifiably outraged by the attacks, saying "we call for justice, and believe that the accused should be denied bail." The deaths of Royi and Ngwendu have been added to a growing list of rape statistics in Grahamstown. Approximately 150 rape cases are reported in Grahamstown every year, however One-in-Nine statistics place this figure in the region of 1 350 cases, most of which are never reported.

Commenting on the student turnout on Thursday, Klazinga stated that "it is always hard at this time of year for students to focus on anything other than exams. But people, including students have become desensitized to rape in this town. There is definitely a level of complacency, even with something so serious." The trial of the women's murderers continues.



People protested against bail being granted to the alleged rapists and murderers of Christina Royi and Boniwe Ngwendu
MATTHEW MIDDLETON

Editorial The International Student Barometer – how do we rate?



By Xanthe Galanis

Vuvuzelas are a fantastic invention. You can do anything with them. You can scrunch last week's tut into a little ball and play a warped version of lacrosse, which is even more fun than watching people wipe down the Rat stairs after RAFSoc. Then you can use your vuvuzela to hit people on the head when they get upset about the above mentioned little balls of paper flying around the corridor.

They make perfect funnels, and you can even use them to attract hot cricketers from the second floor of the Union. You can blow into them to turn your digs' paddling pool into a cold-water jacuzzi. You could even stuff the jersey your grandmother knitted you last Christmas into the top, pour over a bottle of paraffin, light it and you'd have one those kief torches they use in B-grade adventure movies to uncover buried treasure.

Failing all that, you could take one of these incredible inventions to Tri-Varsity/Boatrace/Inter-Res something and make copious amounts of noise while you're pretending to watch the sport. All this with one piece of black plastic. Amazing. Or rather, it's amazing what you come up with when procrastination sets in. Anything to refine the art of doing tomorrow what needs to be done today. And what's worse, exams haven't even started yet!

Before we know it, Procrastination week, aka Swot week, will be here and finding the motivation to memorise reams of social (or worse, scientific) theory is like trying to find the cheese at a cheese and wine.

Someone told me that procrastination is all about taking the time to build an environment where the creative juices can flow at their optimum level. It's an interesting theory, and one we dissected at length, but to be honest, you can only get so creative about Media Economics and discussing procrastination is one of the best ways to procrastinate.

If there comes a point this Swot Week when you've exhausted all the possibilities, sit down and write a really kickass sentence with the word "vicissitude" in it. I know this sounds like that tedious homework we got given in Grade Two but there's a point to this! Prof. Davies-Coleman was lamenting the lack of vocab among his students. To be fair, Chemistry types aren't usually known for their linguistic prowess but I think he's right. With that, enter Word of the Week. I'll unearth a suitably intellectual-looking word from the depths of the Oxford English Dictionary that we can whip out in tuts to impress lecturers and if you email me a creative use of the word you get one of those vuvuzelas I was in raptures about earlier. So, compliments of Prof DC, the first word is "vicissitude". It means a change or alteration in condition or fortune, which I think bodes well for exams!

Hopefully though, we'll all do what ever it is we need to, including procrastinate til the panic sets in, and get through another set of exams. And then, happy days, three months of doing whatever it is we do when we're back in the real world.

Enjoy it!
Xanth

By Marius Vermaak

International students had the chance to air their views on the quality of their "Rhodes experience" in a survey conducted in August. Rhodes has 1 300 international students, or 22% of the total student body. Out of the 1 300, 428 chose to complete the survey.

All international students were invited to participate in the International Student Barometer (ISB), a web-based survey questionnaire, developed by independent UK company, I-Graduate.

I-Graduate offers evaluation and monitoring services to a group of universities that includes heavyweights such as the University of Cambridge, King's College London, and locally the University of Cape Town. The International Office and the Academic Planning and Quality Assurance Unit at Rhodes commissioned the study.

Both the response rate and the results were interesting. Brian

Fitzpatrick, a student from Zimbabwe, was the lucky winner of the incentive R500 Musica voucher prize. The data from the survey are still being analysed and will be available on the International Office website in due course (<http://www.ru.ac.za/international/>).

In the meantime, here are some of the highlights from the executive summary of the ISB report. The ISB measures the importance of, and satisfaction with, the learning, living and support elements of student life.

Responses are compared to a benchmark set by 27 other participating universities. Rhodes scored well above the international benchmarks for satisfaction ratings for all aspects of the learning experience.

International students showed some unhappiness with opportunities for earning money in Grahamstown, with financial support and the cost of accommodation. Students expressed high levels (35%) of dissatisfaction

with the services provided by South African embassies.

Support services that scored high levels of satisfaction were the Student Bureau (94%), the Fees Office (87%) and Student Counselling (90%), which considerably outperforms the ISB benchmark). Rhodes did especially well on internet facilities (94%) and opportunities for worship (90%). Good news is that 92% of international students would "recommend this university to others" while fewer than 1% would bad mouth Rhodes.

The ISB was a very valuable experience and the dean of the International Office plans to use the data to further improve the quality of the academic and living experience of international students at Rhodes. The ISB might be applied every year and might in future be extended to all students.

Marius Vermaak is the dean of Rhodes University's International Office.



Surf the net behind the wheel

By Kim van Beeck

Two Rhodes students have started OverDrive, their own motoring web site. Ciro De Siena and Ross van der Linde started building the site at the beginning of the year and so far the site has received 11 000 hits from 40 different countries from as far away as Trinidad and Tobago. The two want to provide an alternative motoring publication that, as Van der Linde explains, "is young and fresh", something they believe other motoring publications in South Africa lack. "There is nothing in SA that provides both entertainment and motoring information," says De

Siena. Both Van der Linde and himself are aiming to stay away from the 'drab' mentality and reworked press releases of other publications.

The two do admit that the site is still in the development stage, this is due to time constraints and a small staff. They are working on getting content up and hopefully securing more advertising. "Cracking the motoring industry has been hard," says De Siena, "in order to get advertising we need a reputation, but in order to get a reputation we need advertising, it's the chicken and the egg dilemma."

Although they believe their publication still needs to expand, they have

grown since they launched and have made lots of good contacts. "We are on all the big motoring website lists," explains Van der Linde. He adds that they have tickets to Auto Africa, an international motoring trade exhibition. De Siena had the idea for the site, and then approached Van der Linde as has had previous experience with website design. The two have been working hard to juggle both academics and the site's upkeep. They have big plans to expand and are currently working on OverDrive TV, an exciting concept that will provide short video clips to viewers of the site.

Activate wishes all students the best of luck for the forthcoming exams, and all staff members the stamina and patience required to mark our papers. Look out for the 0-week edition of *Activate* next year.

Get tested

Getting tested for HIV is important but there are circumstances that make HIV testing a must. This is how you know if you must be tested for HIV.

Difficulty: Easy
Time Required: 5 minutes

Here's How:

1. Have you had unprotected sex with someone you know has HIV or Aids?
2. Have you had a sexually transmitted disease like genital herpes or syphilis? Having sexually transmitted diseases makes it easier to get HIV.
3. Have you had unprotected sex with a man or woman who has had multiple sex partners?
4. Have you had unprotected sex with someone who uses injectable drugs or shares needles?
5. Have you had unprotected sex with a person who has had unprotected sex in the past?
6. Have you paid a man or woman to have sex with you?
7. Have you had unprotected vaginal, anal, or oral sex?
8. Have you had a blood transfusion or received blood products prior to 1992?



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It's time for something nude

By Robbie White

Rumours that have been going around on campus have been confirmed: a new society for the less inhibited is starting up.

Nudesoc is about the ability to practice naturism in the comfort of Rhodes University campus and its surrounding areas including farms and beaches.

Support came from the Rhodes forums, and while it is still a new idea, it obviously caters to specific people on campus. The society will struggle with many of the problems previous naturists have had, namely breaking the social barriers that surround the issue as well as the legal implications which are always inevitable in such societies.

When students were asked their opinions of Nudesoc, responses varied greatly. Kate Meyer felt that "it's not right to just allow people to run around nude." She refers to streaking as a pastime which usually requires a steady alcohol consumption before

it can happen, although it must be understood that streaking is not naturism. Meyer feels naturism "shows no respect for your body". This seems to be a point which many students share. Some, however, argue that nudism is accepted in various other parts of the world and that it is merely our particular society which rejects it, making it seem improper. If everyone is truly entitled to their own opinion, are they not entitled to their own clothing – or lack thereof?

Christopher McConachie (SRC Societies Councillor) stated he had no personal objections to the society but that "there may be issues relating to the Student Disciplinary Code". This again shows possible problems for the society in terms of merited support from the university, and local police support is also doubtful. The problem seems to be control of the society's boundaries. Many of these questions cause problems for the society and its inception. By looking through the

various views and opinions it must be noted that although Nudesoc may gain some popularity, its implementation in the Rhodes culture may cause major problems and upheaval with many other societies.

Michael Kaeflein is one of the organisers of this newly formed club and a member of SANFED (SA Naturism Federation). He was liberated from the confines of clothing in Barcelona and has had various naturist experiences since then. He explains that the club realises the problem of relating to the university and so it has adopted a very informal style for now.

Kaeflein explained the interest in South Africa with regards to naturism. As a Johannesburg local he explains that many resorts have been created around the Gauteng region and that his experiences there have been positive. Although the intentions of naturist ideas such as freedom, liberation and self-esteem are good-hearted, they are misunderstood by many as an



Nudesoc hopes to break social constraints

MATTHEW MIDDLETON

excuse for cheap voyeurism. Kaeflein has set up a new structure through which he hopes to facilitate the naturist experience. His personal email is g04k0230@campus.ru.ac.za. Forums had previously allowed for linking with the Rhodes group; however the new

stable link for them is, http://groups.yahoo.com/group/rhodes_naturism, otherwise the South African governing body is <http://www.clothesfree.co.za>

For the time being, Nudesoc remains a mere idea waiting to enter into Rhodes' societies list.

RU failing dismally? You are not alone...

By Luke Reid

The failure rate among Rhodes students for the 2006 June exams was higher than previous years, according to unofficial reports.

The statistics themselves are confidential, and no official statement can be released. After lengthy discussions however, current SRC Academic Counsellor Katherine Furman, does not believe there is a problem.

Furman gives various explanations for the alleged failure rate. On one level, she says, South African high schools are to blame.

"There are generally high failure rates at all universities, and that says a lot about high schools in this country, and it's going to become even more difficult to safeguard the types of students we have at universities because of things like [Outcomes Based Education]."

In response to this, Rhodes has recently been forced to introduce an entrance exam, Furman says. The

Academic Development Centre also offers help for weaker students.

One area of concern is that individual courses had very high failure rates, even among students who normally do well. Furman refers to the view of Professor Christine Boughey, head of the Academic Development Centre, that there should be better co-ordination between courses at Rhodes.

Although Boughey is able to detect when courses are badly structured, there is no overseeing body which examines student assessment forms from different courses.

"We need to be smarter about the way in which we collect feedback from courses. At the moment there is very little co-ordination of course assessments," says Furman.

Furman believes that there is a high level of apathy among students, and many students do not care enough about their degrees. "Students fail at every varsity, all the time. This isn't a high school; you can't baby people into doing their work," she says.

Optional academic development programs are available in many courses at Rhodes, particularly in the commerce and science faculties. The SRC has also implemented a student-to-student academic help program in the commerce faculty, which they hope to extend to other faculties.

"It's always the university's responsibility to have supplementary support available for those students who are battling and to a large extent that's already there. There is a huge amount of student support going on; it just requires that the students take enough time and effort to get involved. You can only push it so far, and the rest you have to leave up to students," Furman says.

Furman hopes that the failure statistics will decrease significantly in the upcoming November examinations. "Marks generally go up in finals because people take them a lot more seriously than the June exams and those students who've done badly tend to pull themselves up."

Stabbed at Fish

By Georgia Lennard and Cairen Harry

A Rhodes student was violently attacked at this year's Fish River paddling competition in Cradock on September 30. The student, who does not wish to be named, was allegedly stabbed in the neck by a local car guard at a camping site near the river.

The student was stabbed after confronting the car guard about the theft of his girlfriend's cellphone.

"I had been spending time with some friends not very far from my girlfriend and her friends. I later went to see my girlfriend, who was sleeping in a car at the campsite," he said. "She told me she had been woken up when she felt someone taking her stuff from the car," he said.

"Earlier on, people had seen the car guards hanging around the cars and looking suspicious and my girlfriend saw them running away when she woke up."

The student confronted the car guards and offered them R400 for the return of the phone. "There was a group of four car guards that were about 15 years old and we offered them money to give back the phone, which they considered," he said.

"When they came back, they asked us if we had the cash on us."

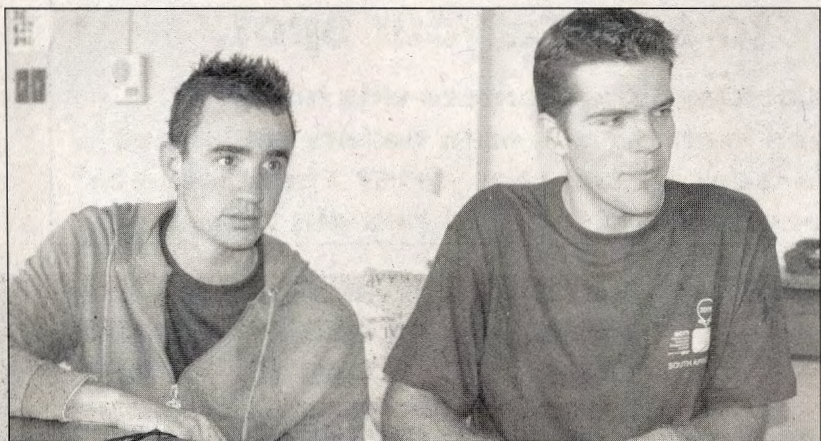
"We told them that we did have the money but they quickly ran away before we could get the phone back from them."

The student then followed one of the car guards and demanded that they return the phone, after which a fight broke out with one of the car guards. During the fight, which lasted only a few minutes, the car guard pulled out a knife which he used to cut the student's throat. "I didn't realise I had been stabbed until I got back to the car and my friends saw blood pouring everywhere. It was really horrible."

His friends rushed him to the hospital in Cradock where he spent a few hours before he was taken to Greenacres Hospital in Port Elizabeth, where he stayed overnight. The cut was stitched up with no complications but the student was left with a noticeable scar.

This was not the only report of violence between supporters and the local car guards over the weekend. "My mates had been fighting with the same car guards earlier on," he said. "They had been causing trouble all weekend." Another person was allegedly stabbed in the eye.

Programming pays in laptops



Nick Pilkington and Glenn Wilkinson were applauded for their student disciplinary computer program, SDAS, and won first prize and a laptop each

JONI ELS

ET phones Rhodes

By Stuart Buchanan

Rhodes University's Department of Physics and Electronics is heading the South African bid to build the world's largest telescope in the Karoo desert. Last month, South Africa became one of the shortlisted countries for the project, thanks to the work of Professor Justin Jonas and his team of Rhodes graduates.

South Africa's shortlisting as one of two possible sites for the Square Kilometre Array telescope (SKA) is a big step for science in South Africa. Not only will it be the biggest but also the only one of its kind to be built in the world.

According to the official International SKA Project press release, "it is the only instrument which can solve the

most basic questions of the origin of the universe and the birth and evolution of stars and galaxies. It is expected to solve the problem of the dark energy which has recently been found to fill the universe and will test Einstein's Theory of General Relativity. It will investigate the origin of magnetism in the universe and will be the most powerful instrument ever to search for extraterrestrial intelligence."

Not only will the project bring great prestige to the host country but also huge investment and economic benefits. The telescope itself is currently budgeted to cost R1,5 billion to build and about R150 million per year to operate. A significant part of both the capital and operating cost is likely to be spent in South and southern Africa,

and particularly in the Northern Cape.

Equally important, however, is that the SKA will be unique, and so South Africa would become one of the major centres in the world for fundamental physics, astronomy and high-tech engineering (such as very fast computing, radio frequency engineering and so on) and would attract some of the best scientists and engineers in the world.

The SKA would provide a tremendous boost to South Africa's development of very high-level skills and expertise and would strengthen its ability to compete effectively in the global knowledge economy.

The final decision on where the SKA site will be built will be made in 2008, and is currently a work in process.

BRAMPTON

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The invisible heroes

Danielle Brock and Filipa de Oliveira investigate the role of the support staff – the backbone of our university

Delphine Kivitts wakes up at 4.30am every morning so that by 6.20am she is in the Nelson Mandela Hall kitchens, preparing breakfast. Once the breakfast rush is over at 9am, the chance for her to have her own breakfast finally arrives. From 9.30am until 2pm she is busy again – this time preparing lunch. From two until four is her chance for lunch, and along with many of the other kitchen staff, Kivitts takes the opportunity to lie on the grass and catch up on sleep. It is not long before the dinner ritual begins and she is occupied from 4pm until 7.30pm, serving dinner, cleaning tables and preparing the kitchen for tomorrow's shift. Her day has not yet ended and relying on public transport, it takes her about an hour before she can go home to her two children.

Kivitts

forms part of the Rhodes University work force. The support staff makes up a large group of the university's employees and include the catering and housekeeping staff, the grounds and gardens staff, the sanatorium workers, departmental secretaries and the IT division. Working efficiently in the background, most of these employees go unnoticed by students yet are integral to the efficient running of the university. The majority of support staff employed by Rhodes are from Grahamstown. The university first looks within currently employed staff when positions need to be filled, and if no suitable candidate is found, the university seeks prospective employees in Grahamstown. All support

staff are employed through strict

adherence to the

Recruitment

and Selection

Policy.

The

catering

department

is a well-

struc-

tured one, where employees begin as kitchen attendants, setting and clearing tables, and move up through the ranks where they have the opportunity to become the head caterers of a hall. They then report to Jay Pillay, the catering manager. "I believe we have a participatory relationship that is one of support and encouragement with my staff," says Pillay. "We have an open-door policy for all levels of staff and respect for each others' diversity is the key to our team dynamics." The catering staff benefit from various training programmes which improve and empower the staff. "Training is ongoing. Empowered and happy staff are committed staff which creates happy and satisfied customers. We are currently upgrading kitchens and dining halls to create a better working environment for the staff," says Pillay.

The Grounds and Gardens staff also provide us with an effective and helpful service. Consisting of over 50 staff members, this department is divided into various organisational structures that consist of a supervisor and his team. Heading the department is Mark Hazell, and his team works to maintain the gardens on campus, prepare the sports fields and assist in odd jobs that involve the university's grounds.

Hazell believes that his relationship with the various supervisors is an effective one and like most departments within the university adopts a 'grow your own timber' policy. Through training courses that

supervisors attend, workers can learn and develop their skills from them.

"I would like to see some of the guys be upgraded and working in higher positions. It would be nice to have more money allocated for the training of staff members. This would have them operating at a finer level of skill. However, the prospect of taking the entire staff to this training is just too expensive," Hazell said.

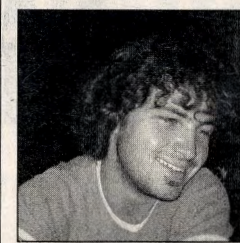
Edward Maboza, who began working at Rhodes in 2004, expressed some concern over this matter.

"Unfortunately it is only the supervisors who get most of the training and because we don't have it, we can't ask to be paid more for experience. We want the university to pay us in comparison to other ones like UPE [NMMU] and UKZN," he said.

All support staff are provided with salaries, and according to the university, this income is comparable to the current market for support staff in other South African universities. Each employee has a pension or provident fund and medical aid. The university also provides a Group Life insurance scheme. Sick leave, family responsibility leave and annual leave are also available to the staff. For all support staff who fall below a certain income bracket, the sanatorium is available for their use at a nominal fee. As an added service offered by the university, an educational programme is offered for those wanting to earn their matric. All staff are employed following national laws of equity and are represented by the local workers' union should there be a problem the university cannot deal with internally.

While it is logical to understand that there will always be some employees who are unhappy, the majority of the Rhodes support staff seem satisfied with the way they are treated by the university. Perhaps the only thing lacking is the true appreciation from the students themselves who benefit the most from the work they do. Torran Murray, first-year BJourn student says: "I think they're friendly but I don't feel I make enough of an effort to talk to them. I can't really relate to them but I think I'll try make a more conscious effort to appreciate what they do."

Ciro De Siena



on dithering debaters

I'm quite worried.

You see, there's a very controversial media bill which may enact pre-publication censorship on every public medium in this country, going to parliament for approval next week and what do we know about it? Nothing.

The Tripartite Alliance has been described as "a couple on the brink of divorce" – given the tensions between Mbeki, the South African Communist Party (SACP) and Cosatu. The happy three are not so happy, because of some issue or another.

That nutter running North Korea seems to have tested a nuclear bomb, and Hugo Chavez, the president of Venezuela, called George Dubya 'the devil' in front of a clapping UN, accusing him of keeping the world hungry.

And what do I know about all of these things? Nothing.

All this raised quite a discussion at the lunch table this afternoon, basically with us trying to understand why we don't really understand.

So in an inevitable student fashion we tried to blame everyone and everything around us our lecturers, the government and all the big newspapers for being a bunch of capitalist swines (which isn't exactly untrue).

Now while it may help me to pick up a paper and really try digest what the hell is going on, in my defence I have, sort of, and it hasn't really helped. I'm not an economist, I'm not a political scientist, and most of what is said and written goes at least three feet over my head.

So where does the responsibility lie? Who should be educating the laymen on issues which may seriously affect where we put our Xs in 2009?

I truly feel academics need to go some way in helping out. I don't want to point fingers, but why hasn't the School of Journalism, as the leading institution of its kind on the continent, come out and said, "Hey, we've done some research into this whole media bill, and this is what it means. Let's start a petition, or demand some public hearings in Grahamstown."

After all, this is a bill that the guy who started the *Mail & Guardian*, Anton Harber, is calling a big mistake.

On another note, why did Harvard University, and not UCT or Wits or Rhodes stand up and say, "Hey, Thabo, these economic policies of yours are a load of bollocks, and we know they don't work." As far as I can tell, this seems to be the cause of all the abovementioned tension within the party, but hey, for all I know someone may have kicked Thabo's dog.

It's frustrating, really I'm an educated individual by world standards, I'm at a top academic institution, I do a fair bit of reading and I'm still battling to understand all that's going on our country and with the world.

If I can't get it, then how on earth is the man on the street meant to?

I'm going to open a debate here. I'm going to say that there is not enough direct engagement with the community, let alone students on vitally important matters. And I think that academics, as a whole, need to get on it. Maybe I missed a meeting, and maybe I just missed all of the attempts that have been made.

But then for crying out loud, say so.

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To the point with:

His People Pastor Gareth Lowe

By Ilana Koegelenberg and Rodain Joubert

Pastor Gareth Lowe, former Rhodes student, currently fills the senior pastor position at the His People church. Married with two children, aged one and three, he and his wife Taryn are actively involved in the church where he's been since his university days.

Q: How did you personally get involved with His People?

A: I got involved with His People when I came to Rhodes as a student in 1994. I heard about it and I went to Bible School first, and just gradually got more and more involved from there.

Q: What is your membership like?

A: There's not one type of person who comes to His People. There's a very mixed membership from a very diverse background.

Q: Could you tell us about the sort of events and activities that His People organises or partake in?

A: Well, there are three main activities that His People arrange. The one is the Sunday service: people come along on a Sunday and typically there is praise and worship, a sermon, often praying for people's needs and the fellowship afterwards. The second one is cell groups: these are small groups that meet in homes or coffee bars to develop more personal relationships. The third one is our part-time Bible school, ENLI (Every Nation Leadership Institute) on Tuesday evenings, which is a quite intense teaching of the word of God.

Q: What current projects are you and HP involved in?

A: We run a crisis pregnancy centre in town. We also do quite a lot of work in the township, especially with the youth. We offer things like extra lessons and tutoring to them. We recently ran an arts concert called *Sketches* featuring talent in the church. Another thing is all the praise and worship we sing in the church has been home-written within the past 12 months by people in the church. So there is a lot of creativity going on there.

Q: What are His People's goals?

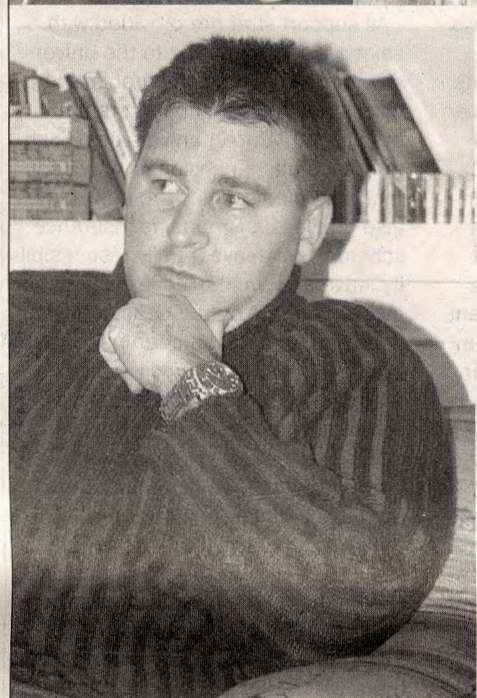
A: To love God, to love people and to make Jesus famous.

Q: What is the Christian denomination of the His People organisation?

A: It's called Every Nation. It's a family of churches worldwide. They're growing all the time and have up to 500 churches worldwide. Their aim is to literally take the gospel to every nation.

Q: Do you advocate the "aggressive conversion" which some people have been concerned about?

A: The only time we do street evangelism is during Orientation Week and I think we need to do it then because it's an extreme time for people. His People are not the only people evangelising at this point. The biggest evangelists are the drinking evangelists. They have well surpassed His People for many years and they



JACKY SMITH

are very direct and confrontational about it. All we are asking for is a free chance to be able to share with people. I think it's fine as long as people do it by giving someone dignity and respect, which means that when someone says they don't want to be spoken to, then they mustn't be.

Q: Is there a disproportionate amount of attention paid to your evangelism as opposed to that of other groups?

A: Definitely. There are certain kinds of people fighting for a monopoly on campus and those are the drinking people, the people who are advocating a humanistic world view in life, an immoral life style. They basically want supremacy and dominance on campus and they deliberately want to silence anyone who has a different worldview to them.

Q: What is your response to the anti-Christian sentiment displayed by some groups at Rhodes?

A: The way I see it is that Jesus promised us long ago that persecution would come for anyone that lives a righteous lifestyle. I think that people who want to live a certain way will resent people who live a different

way, especially if they're telling people about it inviting into that lifestyle. So to me that's the bottom line. They feel convicted when people live a certain way and get spoken to about certain things. If they feel challenged about it, they resent it. They would prefer to have no one say anything about those things.

Q: Do you believe that people have maligned views about His People?

A: Definitely. I think people misconstrue what His People is really about. They take one aspect of it, which is sharing our faith with people, and they make that the whole. We love God and we love people, and we're trying to get the message of salvation, the gospel (which literally means good news), out there. But the challenge is that people

only want help if they think they need it. So our difficulty is to communicate a message that will help people when they think they don't need it. That's where resistance comes in and where people don't want to hear what you say, or perhaps they have heard it and they don't like it and they react against it.

Q: Has the organisation been treated unfairly as a result?

A: I definitely think so. A lot of people who like HP, or are perhaps indifferent to HP, don't say anything. The few

people who have an axe to grind are the ones who have access to journalistic posts on *Activate*, or stick stuff up on the Internet, or scream the loudest where they are. I think you generally find there are just a few people who really don't like it and they make a big noise. And the people who like it won't stand up and shout about it because it's something they just get on with. I would say the perspective has been made negative by a few people.

Q: Do you believe that Christian views are under-represented at Rhodes?

A: Very much so. By and large Rhodes University is a secular university. It's a very postmodern university and postmodernism by its very nature rejects the notion of truth and absolutes. It's sceptical and cynical of authority and fears any kind of organised spirituality or religion. I would say Christianity is often underplayed, ignored, or even attacked.

Q: What do you think is the role of religious structures on campus?

A: I think perhaps the biggest role is to fill the massive vacuum that has been left in education. Most of our education today tries to teach you a skill to make you employable but education doesn't tell us how to connect with the spiritual side. It doesn't tell us anything about God, anything about morality, or about how we ought to live. So I think Christianity has a huge amount to say in the modern university context.

Q: What is your attitude towards other religious bodies?

A: First and foremost I believe in free speech and in a free society. What we stand against is totalitarian societies which forbid the freedom of speech, the freedom of worship and the freedom of expression. So we are totally for the existence of other societies with diverse and even contradictory beliefs to our own. But going beyond that, I also think that in the free marketplace of ideas, truth will prevail. So we feel very much at ease with other organisations out there.

Q: What's your view on the current state of our youth, especially Rhodes university students?

A: I would say that very unfortunately the dominant worldview is not going to cause the youth to maximise their life and reach their potential. They have a worldview of everything being absurd, that life is meaningless. This results in despair and often tragically, suicide. So I do think young people today, especially on our university campuses, are not getting the truth, love and meaning that they need to live a fulfilled life.

Q: What is your message to the students of Rhodes?

A: It would be that Jesus is King of kings but also a God of great love who longs to have a personal relationship with each and every one of us.

Off the point...

Q: What's your favourite toothpaste?

A: Aquafresh.

Q: Jelly tots or Smarties?

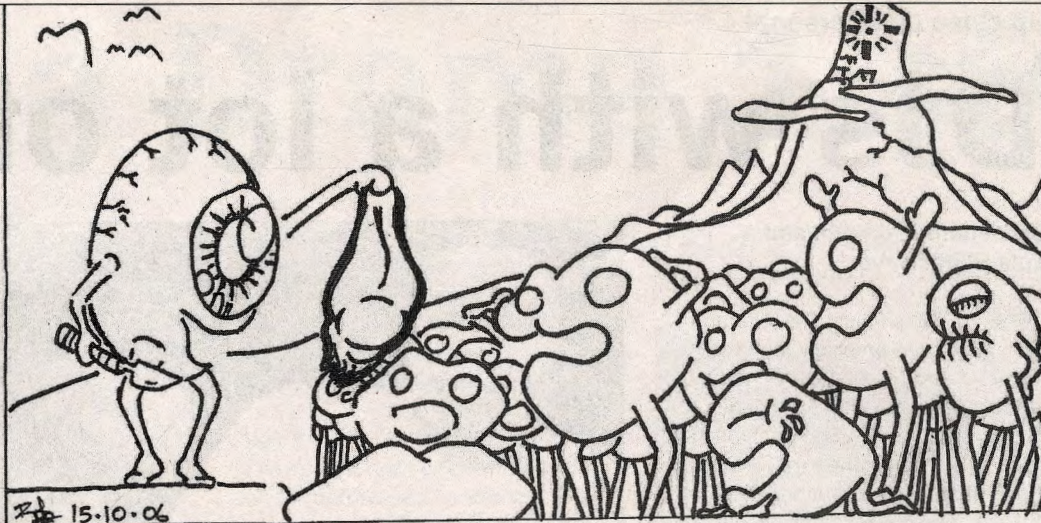
A: Both, please

Q: Funniest movie you've ever seen?

A: As a kid it was *'The Gods Must Be Crazy'*. *'Father of the Bride'* was pretty good, but now with my son I watch *'Shrek'* a lot.

Q: Favourite pizza topping?

A: Mushrooms (but not magic mushrooms).



KAMBANI RAMANO

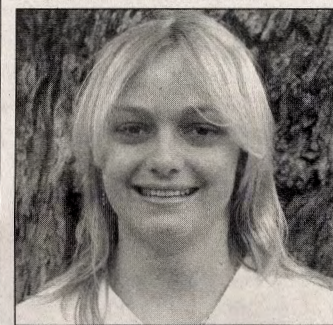
What you said:

By Simnikiwe Mzekandaba
and Geoffrey Wakefield

Who would you most like to see at Nudesoc and why?



Siyabonga Sisilana
First-year BCom
"Alicia Keys. She's the most beautiful woman I've ever seen."



Jess van Zyl
First-year BA(law)
"Andy Roddick because he is my favourite tennis player and he has a 'great personality'."



Alex Kaminski
First-year BSocSci
"Angelina Jolie, She's f'n HOT!"



Gcobisa Madlebe
Second-year BSc
"Marques Houston, because he has a steaming body."



Maxine van Niekerk
First-year BJourn
"Vin Diesel. He's HOT and definitely has the body to show off."

The forumites go cold turkey

The unexpected closure of the Rhodes University forums left many students and staff confused and bewildered. **Ilana Koegelenberg** and **Deva Lee** delve into the forum world...

One moment you're sitting there, idling between the "How do you feel" thread and the "Homophobia" one, the next it's gone. You click "Refresh" but the same message still fills your screen: "RU Forums. This menu has been disabled. Board offline." You type in your username again. Still no luck. This is when you start hyperventilating and the orange light of your MSN Messenger starts flickering like crazy. So far, 16 people have been added to the conversation and they just keep coming. Dicksy Normous, Peachy, Aidan, Little BT. All forumites. Panic has struck as everyone scampers around trying to find out what's going on. But then it hits you – it's gone.

Four years after Pierre Nel first created the Rhodes University Forums, the message board says that Forums have been taken offline while being reviewed. The board message that still appears on the Forums home page claims that the administrators have "decided to review both their administrative and structural processes". They apparently decided to review the forums because "an increasing number [of users] have overstepped the boundaries of acceptable use". Very few active forumites can argue against that. Bryony Green, the SRC president and a prominent member of the forums, said that "people abused the privilege in the name of free speech, while crossing the line into hate speech". Communications and Development officer Natasha Joseph says the review is in aid of making the forums a "more welcoming space for all members of the Rhodes community". At the latest, Admin says, the forums should be up and running by the beginning of 2007 and, according to Joseph, a zero-tolerance policy may

be on the horizon.

The hasty decision to close down the largest form of communication Rhodes students have has left many upset and angry. It was not the shutting down of Forums that had the most impact – it was that it happened without warning. Even the moderators were unaware of when it was going to happen. "I think that it was a hasty decision that needed more thought," said Blessing Cele, stressing the general feeling amongst the forumites. Serious consequences followed the shutdown. Everyone was affected, not just the forumites.

The forums had a whole section dedicated to finding digs and digsmates. For some the only contact they had with their future digsmates was through forums. It was the perfect place to advertise for almost anything. Well not any more. What used to be a direct link to the SRC is now also severed. SRC President, Bryony Green often used them as a platform to communicate with students and lend an ear to their requests. Even she did not know it was going to be shut down, and was disappointed in the way the matter was handled. "I feel that the lack of collaboration and student input on this decision gives the impression that the administration that authorised the closing of the Forums in such a manner have little or no faith in students," she said.

Possibly the most noticeable problem with Forums being down is the loss of the events calendar. All the events listed on Studentzone were directly linked to Forums and have disappeared since Forums went offline. Forums were a vital part of ensuring that people knew what was taking place, when and where.

However, not everyone was upset

over forums going offline. Kelly Quantrill said, "I think that forums should be shut down in fourth term, regardless of the circumstances, since it's final exams and people don't need another excuse to procrastinate." Forums are sometimes viewed as a place to waste time and post nonsense, yet they are also a secure medium for students to express their views and argue with others.

In rebellion against the loss of valuable communication, a number of student-run forums have popped up all over the web. Most name themselves as an alternative to Rhodes forums, with some being run by prominent senior students on campus. RMR has started a campus forum that links to their homepage. This forum seems to serve its practical purpose, whilst forums such as "That Place*" are dedicated to keeping forumites entertained and informed. The Rhodes Alternate Forums probably has the most old forumites onboard and has provided new accommodation for the virtually homeless. The introduction states: "Because we all need our fix".

Most forums seem to be keeping Rhodes forums' seat warm, and are predicted to die out when it returns. Christopher Davies, a moderator on the Alternate Forums, says that after the reinstatement of the Rhodes Forums, they will "pretty much cease to exist. The creator of the alternate Forums himself has expressed the same sentiments – that the alternate forums are really just a temporary solution, a way for people to keep in touch." Although none of the sites have reached a membership of 200 yet, posting is high and rules are a little more lax. Still, as much fun as these more lenient rules on the new forums may be, the general mass still

wants their old "home" back.

Joseph stated that there has been a surprisingly large amount of feedback received from Rhodes students. To contact the administrators with your comments and suggestions, email forum-admin@ru.ac.za. Until the return of Forums, your free time may be filled with, dare it be said, exam stress.

Forumite Quotes

The Big ST – "Oh my Gaa, bitch please, I'd rather not work!"

Seed – "It's ghey."

Peachy – "I feel less in touch with Rhodes and its community since forums have been down."

Dicksy Normous/Trixa-belle – "I guess we should just shut it and take their tagline."

Splendour – "Without the forums, I will just have to go out...*sighs*."

Stargirl – "Forums was a wealth of information and a place where I met some amazing people."

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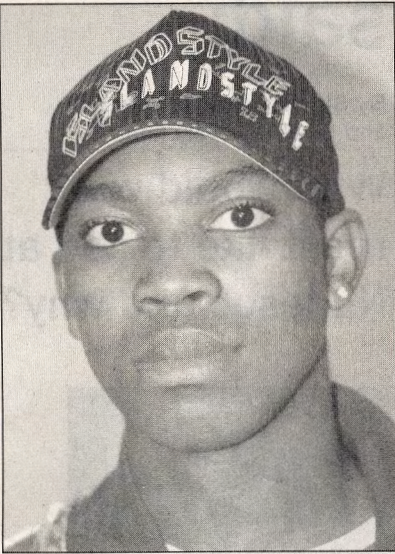
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Poetry Spot



The poets we are

By Kgothatso Sethole

I write what I feel
Therefore my imparting of this that
I write
Is a mere plea for you to feel what I
write

I am wounded, bruised, I am pained
Your words have cut through my
flesh
My soul is stained
And I bleed tears of melancholy
Tears of melancholy I bleed

I am tired, weary, I am dismayed
By the notions that poets have to fit
Into a certain criterion to qualify as
such
Well allow me to disillusion you
My poetry does not hang on the
sleeve of my Von Dutch
It does not occupy the follicles of my
black fro
It is all colorful why you assign just
one colour to my poetry
The only materialization of this Word
is through pen and paper and occa
sionally
The mic helps me tell this story

Stop your pretence, it sickens me
It drills through my physical and cor
rupts my thoughts
Are you going through some kind of
reality disorder?
Or does my weakness feed your
strength, I wonder
Oppressor had me find myself lost in
spaces that confine me
Gasping for air, I had to repossess
the truth to redefine me.

A boy introduced to the word
Through the evangelism of other
poets
See what they did with their poetry
Was like a gospel of good news
And till this day, I am a convert, testi
fying and singing halelu

Fibber free yourself from these
notions
Decide to defy these trends that are
here today
And tomorrow a memory
Poets, free yourself from these lies
and be
Share your soul, live and let live
Because when this temple perishes
It is the soul that lives on

Ashes to ashes my temple will be
But my soul, my poetry will always
be...

Up close and personal

DJs with a lot of finesse

By Khumo Makgothi and
Lula Hlatshwayo

Durban's Finest DJs, Tira and Sox are precisely that: the finest DJs that Durban and the rest of the country have ever seen. After promoters deemed each one as "Durban's finest" when they were first discovered while competing against one another, it was almost inevitable that they would join to become the formidable force that they are now. Tira is a humble and business-minded individual who has accomplished quite a lot in his 29 years. Sox, 28, is an ambitious man who, along with Tira, has big plans for the hit-making duo. Greeting everyone in sight, Sox is a sociable person who only comes to perform for one reason: entertaining the crowd. That is exactly what he did at the City Hall on Saturday, October 7. With drinks raised high and a crowd of heads bouncing at the same time, there is no denying that they are crowd pleasers. They have six companies (two event, two production, and two academy schools for aspiring



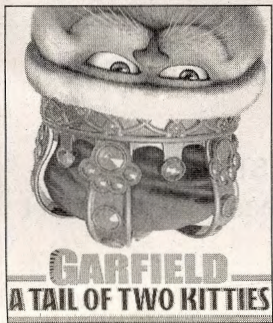
Durban's Finest, Tira and Sox, in their element PIC SUPPLIED

DJs) under their wings. Both members have shown that hard work truly does pay off. When they started in 1996 in Durban, it was merely a hobby and even though they were big way back they still needed DJ Fresh to take them way forward. Tira describes Sox as a go-getter and Sox describes Tira as focused. They

say that they are now trying to "give back to the community", says Sox. They are presently running a music academy and DJ school where they are grooming other guys, as Tira says. Durban's Finest have visited London three times since March this year. He says that their style of music is different to the mainstream and the fact

that they are not from Johannesburg makes them even that much more unique. Besides being business moguls and deck players, they have recently ventured into production. They produced three songs on Tweety's album and are currently working on Chinaman's album. At a stage in his life Tira's favourite song was a hip-hop tune. When the two house DJs were asked about what they thought about the rise in hip-hop in the music industry and what they think it could mean for house music, they said that house music is definitely one of Mzansi's most loved genres. Although Durban's Finest have been active with a lot of projects and people, they have not been neglecting their first love which is compiling music. One can only sit with bated breath for the next compilation that should apparently have a matured production sound. "We'll be releasing our third compilation early next year, by Easter," says Sox.

Movie reviews:

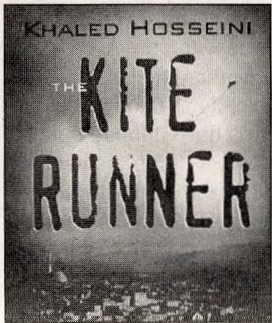


Garfield: A Tail of Two Kitties

By David van der Walt

Breckin Meyer and Jennifer Love Hewitt star alongside the in famous ginger cat, Garfield, as he parades across the screens for the second time around. Following the recipe of the first Garfield film, physical comedy and silly humour abounds when Garfield follows his owner Jon (Meyer) to the United Kingdom where, due to a case of mistaken identity, Garfield ends up ruling over a castle. The ridiculous plot ensures 78 minutes of chuckling from a 12-year-old. It is not, however, a bad film; it is simply intended for an immature audience. Do not expect Oscar nods soon for this family comedy. If you enjoyed the first Garfield film, this one will tickle your fancy. If you're older though, you'll have a problem staying awake.

Book review:



The Kite Runner – Khaled Hosseini

By Shea Karssing

Khaled Hosseini manages to set a story of relationships amidst the political turmoil of Afghanistan. This is his first novel which focuses on the individual rather than the political context. It revolves around the relationship of the privileged Amir and Hassan, the son of his family's servant. After betraying his best friend Hassan, Amir is forced to emigrate to the US after the Soviet invasion, leaving the matter unresolved and weighing down on Amir's American life. Amir then returns to Afghanistan during the reign of the Taliban to make amends for his disloyalty. Hosseini writes succinctly, giving the novel a sense of power and confidence. Hosseini presents the heavy content with sensitivity so that the text is not a loaded read.

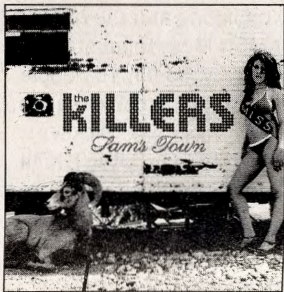
CD reviews:



Audioslave – Revelations

By Yashen Moodley

The super rock band, Audioslave, have released their third album, Revelations. Audioslave manages to create a sound that has a strong relationship between the band members. They have been described as sounding like the Motown legends Earth, Wind, and Fire. Revelations is funkier than the two previous Audioslave releases. The album incorporates a distinctive and unconventional style of playing the guitar and is complemented by Chris Cornell's vocals. The first single, "Original Fire", is the ideal song to show the old school method that Audioslave have taken in recording this album. The sound of Revelations is full of energy but is different to the last albums. Fans will not be disappointed by the lyrics and instrumentals.



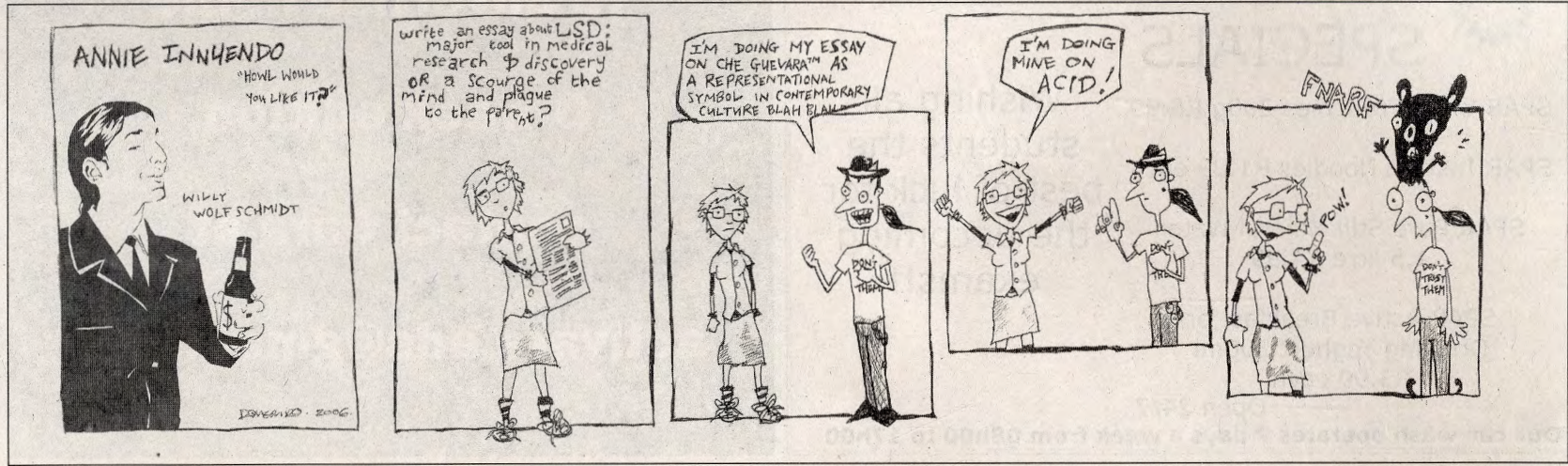
The Killers – Sam's Town

By Ilana Koegelenberg

Sam's Town is a delivery from Las Vegas indie-rockers, The Killers. They have washed off their make-up for a new image. Sam's Town features the single "When You Were Young". They still sound like Bruce Springsteen – despite Brandon Flowers' unique voice. If you were hoping for a repeat of Hot Fuss you will be disappointed. This album shows their heavy side with fast guitars and heartfelt lyrics, which one finds hard to associate with these boyish rockers. Sam's Town often teeters on the line of pop and some fans may have outgrown them in their two years of absence. Views are widely divided on whether this is an improvement on their debut album or not. This album will attract new fans but will lose a few old ones in the process.

Annie Innuendo

DAVID QUERIDO



Diary of a Drama 1 student

By Shea Karssing

The life of a first-year Drama student could be described as arduous, if not simply excruciating. With the cumbersome task of having to balance the workload of four (sometimes five) courses and one's social life, life becomes a pear-shaped experience. It is terribly difficult to mix an awesome life, packed with all sorts of exciting adventures, with taking a first-year Drama course (and still attempt to come out with your sanity intact). This however, is not a diatribe against the Drama department but merely an account of the ever-joyous experience that is being a first year Drama student.

Day 1

It is only a week away from our theatre-making performance and we have to change our entire piece... again. After being told what did not work in "40 different ways in accordance with the adopted style of drama criticism", we understood the gist of the lecture. Basically, our piece was bad, and the punishment: a rehearsal schedule that is gruelling enough to make Chuck "The Man" Norris cry. That was just theatre-making, never mind the movement and voice exams.

Day 2

It is another Friday and I am watching my friends get sloshed. Please note: key word - watching. Here I am playing drinking games with my mug of caffeine and glucose.

I am anxiously hoping that it will keep me awake for the next two hours of "crafting", as they like to call the harrowing process of trying to suck out your thumb, or other bodily orifices, "theatre".

Day 3

Note to self: Friar's is not a pleasant place when sober! After being relentlessly pushed around midway through "Nelly the Elephant", I decided to go home so that I could get up for my movement dawnie in (surprise, surprise) the Drama department. Luckily a member from my theatre making group is away for the weekend so at least we can postpone the "this doesn't work, scrap it all" problem to next week.

Day 4

Group work is a hack at the best of times. But this really is carrot-grinding stuff. A certain member (let's call them Nob Roll, for argument's sake) has neglected to attend practice again. We had the glorious honour

of being kicked out of our precious-booked practice venue by third-year students today. Isn't that just lovely? Thus, we had to move outside and I subjected my new white shorts to the wrath of the grass-stains.

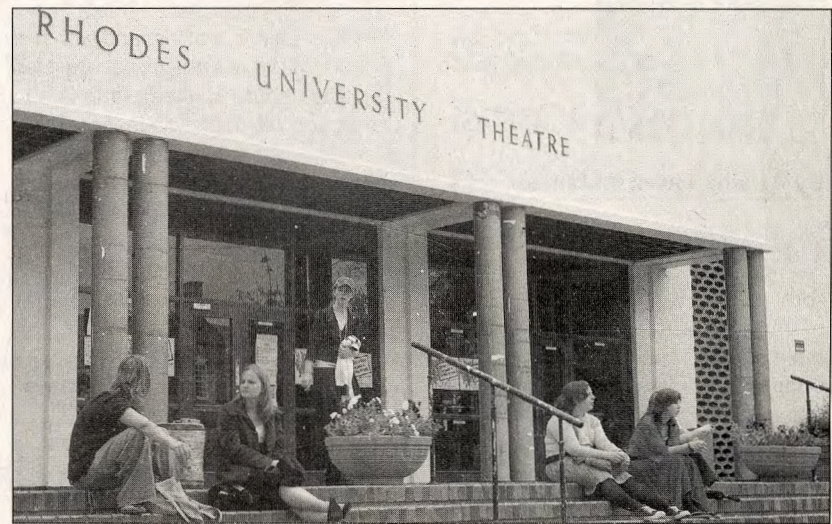
Day 5

I have a movement exam later today! Due to "unforeseen" circumstances, our ever-reliable friend Nob Roll did not pitch for practice. So with minimal rehearsal, my group officially asserted themselves as the writhing, messy mass of flesh on stage associated with those who have no clue about what they are doing. Fortunately, the theatre was packed with older drama students who come specifically to mock our efforts to make us feel even more content with our performance. High fives all round and let's get drunk!

Day 6

I woke up this morning with not only a headache from hell, but a severely diminished voice. Not exactly an item off the drama genie's wish list as the voice exam tomorrow is examined on... well, I'm sure it's pretty self-explanatory.

I did not enter my place of residence from the hours of 8.40am to 5.30pm.



Drama students working 'hard'?

CINDY ARMSTRONG

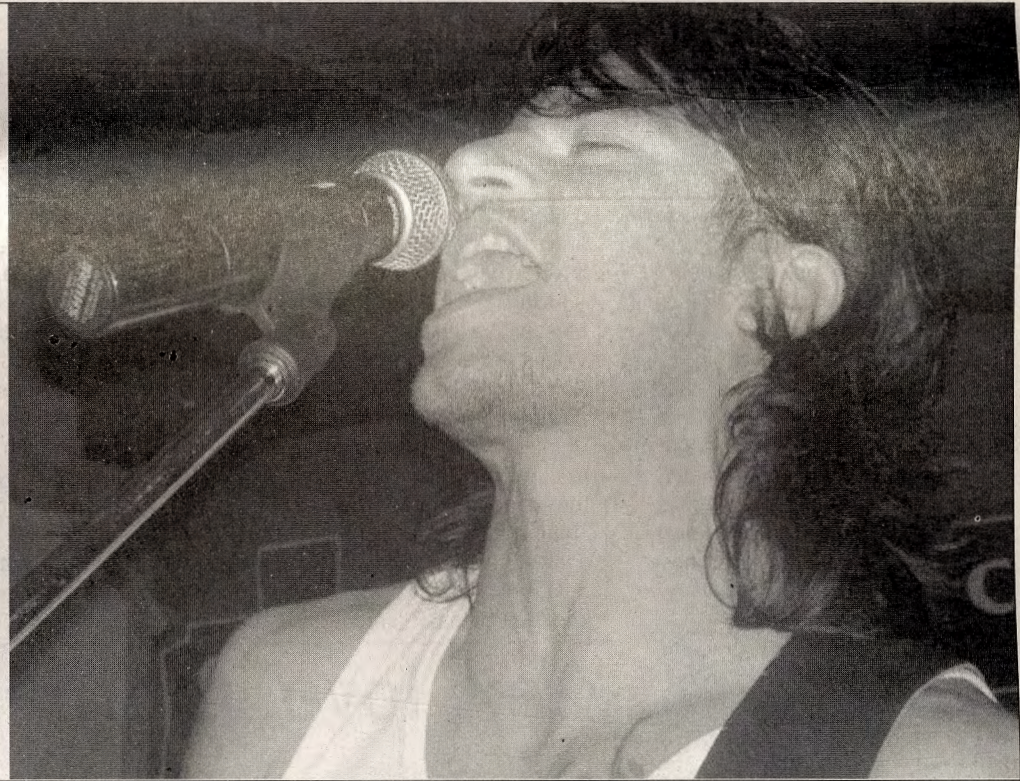
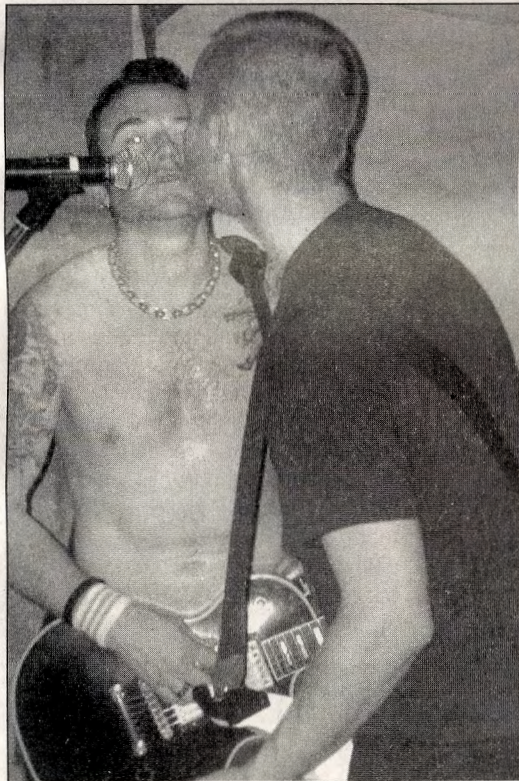
Lectures had to be forsaken (pity) and I bettered my plagiarism time record for my English essay (Yes, other subjects DO exist!). By this time I have not only established a blossoming relationship with the theatre cleaning staff, but even the spiders, with their almost non-existent memory span, recognise me.

Day 7

The voice exam went well considering my croak and that I had only finished memorising my poem during

the warmup (blame the schedule). I had to do an impromptu speech and I was quite pleased with my little number entitled "Bitching About Drama Exams". It was quite a well-researched and sincere delivery. Tomorrow evening at 8.30pm is highly anticipated - the end is nigh! Freedom (translation: inebriation) beckons me like that creepy Uncle Sam guy in the war propaganda posters. Well, it will have to wait. The imminent end will arrive just as soon as I've finished my two essays for Friday.

Wonderboom tears De Tap Huijs apart



Wonderboom hypnotised the small but eager crowd at De Tap Huijs on Saturday October 7. The band, who have recently finished recording their seventh album, entertained the crowd, after stalling for an hour and a half, with electrifying music and a performance that was reminiscent of a Rolling Stones show. The band performed covers of Johnny Clegg's "Afrika" and Koos Kombuis' "Johnny is nie dood nie" for the crowd. The show went smoothly and the crowd was given a dose of their favourite hit single, "Charlie", by the bare-chested band. The crowd screamed "Wonderboom" as the band left the premises.

CHEREEN GIBSON

Vote for Kyle, up-and-coming MTV VJ

By Filipa de Oliveira and Samantha Scott

Kyle White, first year BJourn student, has been selected as one of the top four contestants for an MTV Base presenter search.

Entering the competition through 5fm, White saw himself competing against thousands of hopefuls. MTV Base launched their nationwide search for potential World Chart Express presenters in October.

Auditions were held in the Port Elizabeth, Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town. Almost 3 000 people showed up in Johannesburg for auditions and so instead of taking 1 000 competitors to the audition (which is the usual amount), the Johannesburg judges decided to take on 2 000 applicants. This upped the competition for White, but he pulled through and came out tops in Johannesburg, which is the city he will now represent. Since making the top four in

the country, White has been busy in and around downtown Johannesburg, Soweto and the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits), filming footage for his profile advert. As part of the advert, each of the top four was expected to perform an outrageous stunt. For his, White ran around Wits in a Speedo and socks with a megaphone encouraging people to vote for him. His stunt, which created a stir in Wits, had him spoken about on 5fm by Sasha Martinengo. The Cape Town

finalist, Fikile Moeti, bungee jumped and Port Elizabeth contestant, Xylon Van Eyck did a helicopter flip.

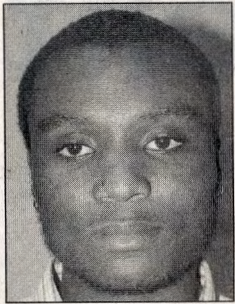
The last week has seen White face an array of publicity and attention as he was filmed for the show *20something* on Monday and attended a press conference on Tuesday. The final winner will be voted by the South African public on the MTV Base *World Chart Express* show which will be aired on MTV Base and e.tv.

"I'm really excited about this and I

hope everyone at Rhodes will support me," said White. If White wins, he will become the new MTV Base presenter for the World Chart Express.

You can catch Kyle on the *World Chart Express* every Wednesday until the final on November 8 on e.tv at 9pm and MTV Base at 8pm. To vote for him, SMS "Kyle" to the number that will appear on screen when the show is aired. For any other information you might need, visit www.mtvbase.com

Politics behind politics



By Azwihangwisi Mufamadi

Of course the future of Africa is looking bright, or should I use "orange" as Evan Ford, the treasurer of the SRC, likes to put it. The first female president was elected in Liberia, Congo had its elections, so did Zambia. Every pupil is going to get a laptop with internet connection in Libya and Zimbabwe's inflation has dropped a bit, to name a few. Over the past few years, whenever one uttered the word Africa people would immediately think about civil war or famine.

Now when people hear about Africa they think about leaders such as Robert Mugabe, or Uncle Bob as he is known these days. The famous or rather infamous president of Zimbabwe has appeared to be at the centre of many talks both in Africa and abroad. Don't get me wrong, I am neither a fan nor an enemy of Mugabe but who will ever forget his World Summit speech in South Africa? What he said was just not expected in a gathering of that calibre.

I have to admit that Mugabe is not the type of person who will shy away from raising his opinion. He is one of those people who acts first and does the thinking later. Whoever his advisor is, he or she has the perfect recipe for turning something good into a disaster. Mugabe's policies have done more harm than good in his country. The latest on the list of things he did to Zimbabwe is congratulating the Zimbabwean police for beating the unionists. With injuries ranging from broken limbs to a crack on someone's skull, I still find it hard to believe that Mugabe would give thumbs up to people who performed those acts. He further accused unionists of using the beatings by the police as a publicity stunt to attract the attention of countries such as the United States of America and Britain. Even if it is, who doesn't do publicity stunts? In my eyes the infamous land reform was a publicity stunt and even "Operation Clean Out the Trash" was a publicity stunt, although I am not sure whose attention the two campaigns were targeted at attracting.

I am sure about one thing though, Mugabe is not the type of man who will do something today and then after a while apologise for what he did. Unlike the former deputy president of South Africa, Jacob Zuma, who attacks the gay and lesbian community today and tomorrow apologises for what he did and accuses the media of putting words in his mouth. Zuma really is trying so hard to mobilise fans but the way things are going for him it seems he is successfully doing the opposite, mobilise people against him. At least something good is coming out of his crazy talks. Reporters no longer have to spend a lot of time looking for stories, he just provides.

Now back to what I was saying, it really riddles me how Mugabe would still remain in power after everything that he has done and is still doing for the once economically promising Zimbabwe. He should step down and give others a chance. Although there is not much one can learn from Mugabe, I have learnt one thing: when the police say move I will move because if I don't, I will get a beating.

Socialism or Death

By Brett Petzer

Fidel Castro is ailing, and with the Third World struggling to develop, the debate is whether the Cuban Revolution will outlive its leader. For decades, Latin American communism appeared to be the only alternative to liberal capitalist economic models. Castro, who is the longest ruling head of state, is unlikely to return to office. The Third World can use this changing political climate to assess the relevance of Cuban communism.

Castro has launched a broad-based battle of ideas to replenish the ideological capital of his movement. Referring to the United States, he said, "they cannot destroy [the Cuban Revolution], but we can." Cubans still live in considerable poverty and the tension between black market trade on the island and political zeal has fostered public dissent. After 46 years of communist rule, the state appears to be taking strain and could be dismantling itself.

When asked about the continued relevance of communism, Rosa Whitcher, a first-year Journalism student, said, "I don't think communism is a viable political system. I mean, it's

such a global world, I don't see where it fits."

The success of Venezuelan leader Hugo Chávez's "Bolivarian Revolution" may offer an alternative political strategy.

Chávez aims to leverage the state's oil wealth to improve the economic situation. More than two million Venezuelans have consequently been lifted out of poverty in the last year alone.

The issue becomes the translation of the Bolivarian Revolution to the rest of the developing world. David Fryer, an Economics lecturer, says, "the basic problem remains the empowerment of people", especially as states become more investor-friendly.

Economically, South Africa is far from the actions of Chávez, which appear bold and sometimes even rash. NEPAD may come closest to the Venezuelan model. The plan is a formal undertaking by African states to promote economic development but the generous social grants and easy state credit that are having an effect in Venezuela cannot be realised in Africa without the income from oil generated by Venezuela.

One aspect of the Bolivarian



Dictator Fidel Castro PIC SUPPLIED

Revolution that is export-ready is its people-centred approach. According to Pakama Ngweni, the gender officer for SASCO's Rhodes branch, any form of political leadership that "advances a broad-based ownership of society, and collective decision-making, has a fighting chance at displacing neo-liberalism".

The debate over political philosophy may never die, but Castro certainly will – thus lending a new twist to the popular phrase "Socialismo o muerte" – socialism or death.

Fun Fidel Facts

By Qhakaza Mthembu

1. It's unlikely that anybody has not had their shot at trying to kill Castro. He has survived over 600 assassination attempts.
2. Some conspiracy theorists claim that JF Kennedy may have been killed by Castro.
3. If you are curious about killing Fidel, then the documentary "638 Ways to Kill Castro" describes 638 tried, but unsuccessful, past assassination attempts.
4. Castro holds two records. The first is for the most difficult man to assassinate and the second for the longest United Nations speech, which was approximately four hours.
5. His famous quote, "Condemn me. It does not matter. History will absolve me," is featured in the book *In Time of the Butterflies* by Julia Alvarez, which was turned into a film starring Salma Hayek.

Waste war: the underbelly of globalisation

By Leila Hall

Thousands of Abidjan residents recently protested in the streets of the Ivory Coast's capital, with placards pronouncing messages such as "they are killing us for money". Citizens are understandably angry because on August 19, a Netherlands-based company, Trafigura discharged 500 tonnes of toxic waste around the city. Since then, there have been eight deaths and more than 85 000 residents have complained of health problems – including nausea and constant nosebleeds. The incident eventually led to violent demonstrations and, in early September, the prime minister and his government resigned. Prime Minister Charles Konan Banny blames severe corruption in the past government for the scandal. Greenpeace has filed criminal complaints in Amsterdam against Trafigura. Dutch environmental authorities, the city of Amsterdam and the Dutch parliament have also

opened inquiries. Six Ivorians and two of Trafigura's officials have been jailed so far. However, a press release by the company claims that it followed all international safety standards and the material disposed could not be defined as toxic by international health standards.

The incident in the Ivory Coast has brought the subject of waste disposal to the forefront of environmental debates. In December 2004, the tsunami that hit southeast Asia also unearthed massive quantities of toxic waste that were illegally buried in the Indian Ocean, largely by European corporations. People on the northern coast of Somalia became affected with illnesses, including acute infections of the respiratory

apparatus, and abdominal haemorrhages, all of which were linked with the emergence of the toxic wastes. Allegedly, unofficial Somalian authorities received large sums of money in exchange for authorisation to dispose of the toxic waste.

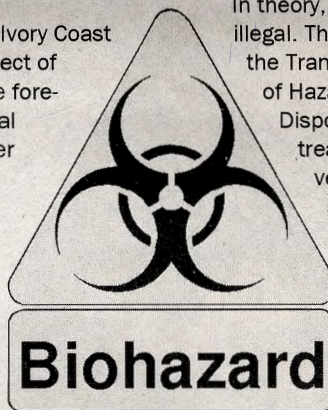
In theory, toxic waste dumping is illegal. The Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal and various offshoot treaties were drawn to prevent it. However, there are sections of the Basel convention that remain unratified. The US and Australia particularly prefer to dispose waste abroad, as this is much cheaper than a clean disposal at home.

Toxic waste dumping is described as the underbelly of globalisation – a continued exploitation of developing countries by multi-national

corporations. Lack of political will and the opportunities for money that toxic waste dumping provides to poorer countries remain obstacles to overcoming the unsafe disposal of waste.

On a smaller scale, there were reports earlier this year of Grahamstown's hazardous rubbish dumping. Residents in Fingo village and Robertson Street complained about the proximity of rubbish dumps to their homes. The stench of the rubbish, the invasion of mosquitoes and green flies in homes and the health risks posed are severe challenges faced by the community. The municipality, however, has been very slow in responding to these concerns.

Larissa Klazinga, the TAC secretary at Rhodes, commented that rubbish is dumped "throughout Joza, Egazini and Rini as a last resort by communities that receive few services". The municipality had been contacted on the allegations, and refused to comment at this stage.



Sex, love, marriage, and the World Wide Web

By Monique Senekal and Zikhona Tshona

The African traditional wedding does not usually bring webcams and service providers to mind, but the practice appears to be changing as many Africans abroad opt to have "cyber-weddings". In this case, the couple legally weds out of the country, but the bride and groom communicate with their families at home over the Web and traditional customs are performed in their absence.

Many Zimbabweans working as foreign labour who cannot afford to return home but do not wish to completely ignore their cultural commitment have discovered the web as a useful tool. It helps address tensions between economic and cultural concerns. "It does satisfy minimum requirements, because in the actual process of paying lobola [bride price],

the couple does not play a major role," says Zimbabwean playwright Stephen Chifunye.

In sub-Saharan Africa, the tradition of lobola remains popular even in an increasingly Western environment. As with most traditional practices, opinions on lobola are diverse as couples try to navigate western expectations and their traditional obligations.

When asked about the meaning of lobola, Mbali Khumalo, a BA student said, "It's not a matter of buying the bride. With modernism, people are losing their culture. Our cultures are rich and since we've transgressed it's not easy to maintain that. Lobola is a way of saying that you appreciate what your parents have done and how they've raised their child."

In many cases the legitimacy of traditional practices is being increasingly questioned. Siyabonga Khadafu said, "I don't believe in it [lobola].



Old ideas of marriage are increasingly being reworked

PIC SUPPLIED

It makes people broke. Why pay so much money for a wife? You shouldn't have to buy love." The more basic question is whether the meaning of love and marriage in the Third World really has changed with the inclusion of technology. The observation can be made that love has taken an ironic

leap in an ever-changing global world. Traditional courtship and arranged marriages are becoming antiquated ways of meeting one's mate. Today, the poorest countries are increasingly leaning towards Western ideals and desire to catch up with high-tech developments in all spheres of life.

Is Africa dumb or just really stupid?

Ok someone had to say it. It's not politically correct, but secretly the belief that a continent that seemed to let itself be colonised must at least be slightly daft is not inconceivable.

By Setumo-Thebe Mohlomi

I have often questioned what it was that made Africa lose so much of itself for what seems, at the moment, like fire sticks and shiny trinkets. One is likely to concede that the downfall of the continent was the result of an overly developed admiration for sparkly, shiny stuff. It is natural to examine what could have led to the colonisation of a whole continent by a few European states.

Before a brush with Steve Biko, black consciousness, an education on the 1976 uprisings, black pride and all that, I came to the conclusion that Africa is really just dumb after realising that white people around me assumed that I, and any other black person, was stupid by virtue of being darker.

This revelation, coupled with the fact that the school I went to had a completely white teaching staff, except for the archetypal black vernacular teacher, further engrained the idea that knowledge was the bastion of the European.

I believed white people's intrinsic intelligence was the reason for my classmate Nicholas's ancestors having managed to exploit "the natives" in times neither his nor my great-grandparents were old enough to remember. Going to school with Nicholas and other white pupils was an uncomf

able and seemingly endless experience. I discovered I was perpetually frightened by what I believed to be the truth about my intelligence, and that of other black people.

I strove to write and speak English as well as, if not better than, Nicholas and all my white peers. I would pull out all stops in ostentatious performances of my dexterity with the language, and I suppose I still do when the need arises.

My favourite audience is the condescendingly slow-speaking white people who omit parts of speech they think are too complex for my black brain. This and many other traits make me a typical black private school specimen. I am not alone however, as many black acquaintances share the almost nasal accent, have the same anger, the barely concealed insecurity, and have just as much to prove as I do. For a student, the possibility of Africa actually being stupid, or at the very least really dumb, is presented in lectures and is too real to ignore. We tear through the post-1994 political correctness and see the history of colonisation taught to us for what it is and it can be concluded that they came, saw, conquered, built suburbs, swimming pools and universities.

To say that Africa, and by association Africans, are stupid is considered controversial, and even unacceptable by most people who are well trained in



MATTHEW ACKERMANN

political correctness. One cannot help but wonder about Africa's intellectual capacity when an entire academic year of theorising about theorists can pass without a single black thinker having been mentioned as being pivotal to humanity's development. The message behind tutorials, lectures, assignments and readings is that black people do not think as deeply, abstractly or as well as the

white intellectuals who deserve inclusion in the syllabus. Africans seem to study, learn and cram European theory on Europe, Africa and the world, with the hope of one day finally proving that we are not as stupid as others think we are, and even more importantly to prove we are not as dim-witted as we have been taught to think we are.

We pass, graduate and write with lit

tle chance of ever being intelligent enough to be considered worthy of mention. We are after all spawned from the seed of the people who sold what they had for fire sticks and trinkets.

There is a part of all Africans that thinks about it, and sometimes, perhaps after a few drinks or just receiving a bad test result, we must all consider that Africa may just be dumb.



Wine Science Research Niche Area

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Opportunities for Postgraduate Studies in the newly established Wine Science Research Niche Area at Stellenbosch University

Would you like to join a multidisciplinary team that will apply emerging and cutting-edge technologies to the study of wine and wine-related organisms? If you are currently completing your studies in the fields of biotechnology, microbiology, biochemistry, chemistry, bioinformatics, food science or related fields, or are enrolled for a HonsBSc, HonsBScAgric, MSc or MScAgric degree in these fields, you can apply to join the new NRF-approved Wine Science Research Niche Area at Stellenbosch University.

This newly established Wine Science RNA will combine research groups from the Department of Chemistry and Polymer Science, the Department of Food Science, the Department of Viticulture and Oenology and the Institute for Wine Biotechnology, and in a scientific theme of *Metabolomics* and *Metrics* of vine, wine and wine organisms. The focus of the research will be to provide a fully integrated and controlled research chain starting with characterised model vineyards and ending with a comprehensive chemical, sensory and quality assessment of the final product. Each of these partners offers specific postgraduate opportunities within their degree structures.

If you are interested in completing your postgraduate studies in these fields within the integrated scope of the Wine Science RNA, you can apply for in the following postgraduate programmes:

- Analytical and Wine Chemistry
- Food Science
- Grapevine and Wine Biotechnology
- Viticulture and Oenology

These programmes are unique to Stellenbosch University and can be followed to obtain the following degrees: HonsBSc or HonsBScAgric; MSc or MScAgric; PhD or PhD (Agric). Postdoctoral positions are also available.

What does the Wine Science RNA offer postgraduate students?

- Integrated training in the wine sciences, as well as emerging technologies.
- Exposure to cutting-edge technologies and innovative research.
- Financial support for full-time students with South African citizenship.
- Incentives to top students, e.g. outstanding international exposure and training at world-class international institutes.

More information on the programmes can be found on http://www.sun.ac.za/wine_biotechnology

If you wish to apply for postgraduate studies for 2007, contact Stephany Baard on 021-808 3797 or at iwbt@sun.ac.za

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SRC, Out Rhodes and YOU stand up against inequality.

By Ricardo Pillay

SRC and Out Rhodes: is fully behind the united stance of the gay community on the Civil Unions Bill that was discussed in Parliament on the 17th October 2006. The bill allows gay and lesbian people to form a civil partnership, however, in our view, civil partnerships are not equivalent to marriage. They entrench institutional segregation in our law and a separate, inferior status for gay relationships. This is in defiance of the Constitutional Court ruling which ordered parliament to ensure that gay people are accorded the same status as heterosexual people in our law. The only way to do this in our view is to amend the Marriage Act by including the words "or spouse" in to the marriage formula and definition of marriage. The only way to achieve the equality, freedom and dignity promised

to gay and lesbian people by our Constitution is for Parliament to allow gay and lesbian people to marry civilly in the same way that heterosexual people do. Up and Out (SRC and Members of Out Rhodes and other national organizations will attend): a march from Sammy Marks in Pretoria to the Union Buildings, where they staged a further demonstration and handed an official memorandum to a representative of government. The memorandum stated the unequivocal opposition to the Civil Unions Bill and called on Parliament to adopt a universal, gender neutral Marriage Act. The march took place on the same day that the parliamentary hearings on the bill commenced.

SRC and Out Rhodes urges you to become active in what will probably be one of the most important campaigns in our lifetimes for full equality of gay

and lesbian people. From Monday 16th of October (this will run for next two weeks): A nationwide petition will be circulated: So step up to the challenge and put down your name in support of equality.

From Monday 16th of October a library Display relating to the Bill will be put up to educate us further and by Wednesday 18th of October a report on the march will be added to the Display.

On Thursday: 19th of October (Yes to day) From 12-1 RMR: will be holding a Debate on the Bill at hand. (This excludes discussions held on Robin Vember's Breakfast Show)

Your support will not only be a stand against inequality, it will demonstrate that the gay community will not be ignored, will not be defied and will not



Ricardo Pillay SRC 2007: Social Awareness and Activism

tolerate discriminatory treatment. This is an opportunity to change the course of South African history. STEP UP and make a difference!!!

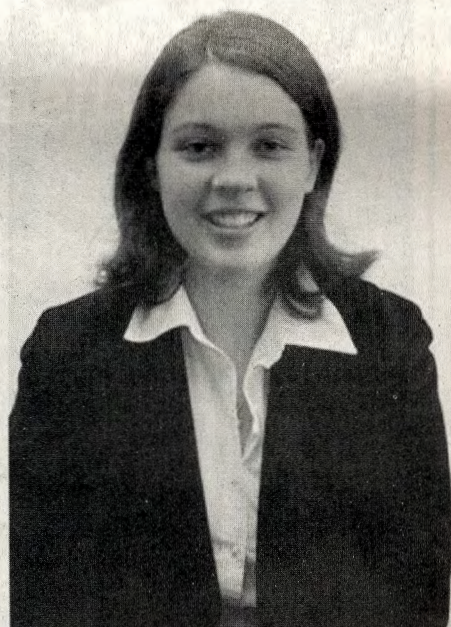
O-Week Helpers

By Fatema Morbi

Do you want to experience an amazing O week all over again? Come be an SRC 2007 O week helper. what do you get out of it? - Experience working with a dynamic and diverse group of people. Be the first to chat to our new first years and show them around. Meet the parents ;o) Help organize O week events that will be remembered for the rest of the year (and more). Get to know your SRC. We provide you with free accommodation and food, a helper t-shirt and free entrance to our events. Plus we even throw you a welcome and thank you party!!

Come on board and join the crew for a fantabulous o week 2007 next year!!!

Apply now - forms available from SRC secretary, 3rd Floor Union building. Applications due @ 15h00 on Friday 20th October



Katherine Furman. SRC:2007: Academic Councilor

Lost your DP? Kat's your woman

By Katherine Furman

My name is Katherine Furman and I am the new SRC Academic Councilor for 2006/2007. I am in my second year of a BA degree and am presently studying Politics2, Law2, Philosophy2 and Economics2. I am hoping to

major in Politics, Law and Philosophy. Until now I have devoted my life to the Rhodes Debating Society, but now I am looking at devoting myself to the SRC and to aiding students in their academic grievances. Let me know if I can help you and contact me at: academic@src.ru.ac.za

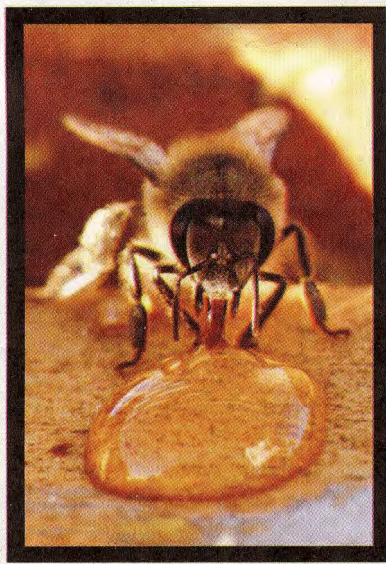
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SRC
2007

Photography competition 2006:

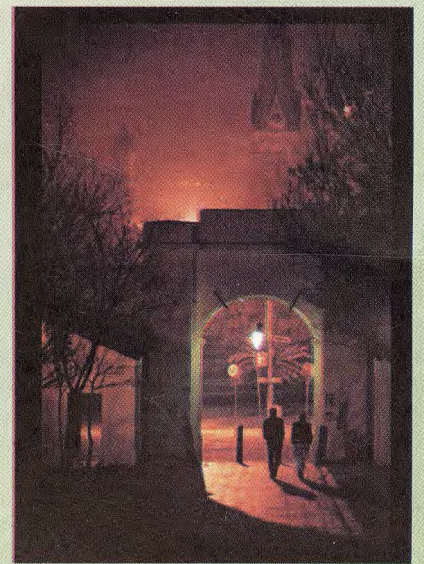
These are photographs from the Activate pics team's recent competition:



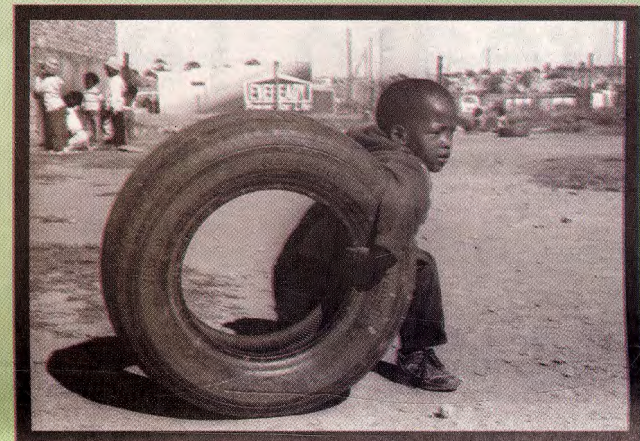
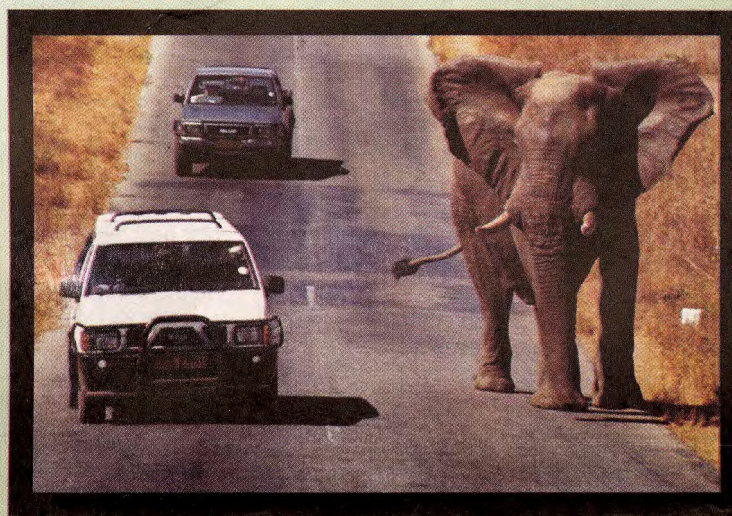
1st : Karolina Komendera



2nd : Matthew Middleton



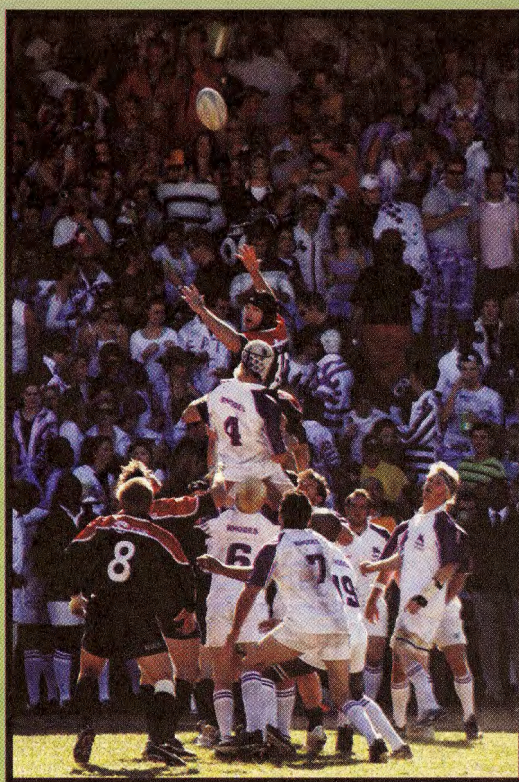
3rd : Dan Calderwood



Stacey Nel



Renatae Abrahamse



Anwen Evans



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Cricket takes to the field

By Tracy Lynn Chemaly

This year's cricket season ended with Rhodes' first team coming fourth in the Border Premier League. Not bad for a team that has been having constant battles all year with its main field, Prospect Field.

Due to the unsuitability of the pitch, the annual Inter-Res competition, which would have served as a warm up for this new season, could not take place. Also, the Great Field was being used too late into the season by the rugby league.

According to Ian Coulsen, chairperson of the cricket club and member of the first team, his squad of 14 managed to do some pre-season net training at St Andrew's College before the start of their new season four weeks ago.

Kerr Rogers, head of cricket administration, says the Prospect Field is now up and running. The Rats and the Rhodents (Rhodes' second and third teams) and the Shrews (fourth team) will be playing games on the refurbished field.

As part of the first league in the

Grahamstown Cricket Board, only the Rhodents have had a game on Prospect Field so far this season. All other games have been cancelled due to rain. The first team has already played four games, having won two and lost two.

Referring to the remainder of the games to be played this term (both of them away games), Coulsen says: "We've played all our hard games, so we should win the rest." Some of these matches were being played at the time of writing.

The first team has a lot going for them. Matthew Richardson has been selected for the Border amateur side and was also named Border player of the year for his impressive eight 50s and three 100s last season.

The team will be participating in the South African Universities competition to be held in Pretoria from December 4-8. Coulsen is proud of his side.

"Considering the [small] size of our university and its cricket club and the fact that we have no professionals, we do well against teams like Tuks, the University of



The Rhodes Rats play some attacking strokes into the outfield. The cricket club now under anew committee will be hoping to make this season one to remember
GEOFF WAKEFIELD

Johannesburg and NMMU who have centres of excellence and cricket academies." The team will be looking to replace their opening batsman at the end of the year. When he completes his studies. Coulsen

admits that due to the lack of sport bursaries, it is a challenge to recruit top cricketers to come study at Rhodes.

The cricket season will continue into March next year and looks to be

in decent condition going into the new season. With a newly elected committee, the hope now will be that weather can hold out and more importantly that the team can play to their full potential.

Dream Team get heathened in final

By Warrick Smith and David Muller

Heathens won the final match of the internal rugby tournament, achieving a glorious comeback against the Dream Team on Friday, October 6.

During the semi-finals of the tournament, Heathens faced Stanley Kidd, beating them in a close game at 26-21. This match was a crowd raiser as Skidd fought back in the second half from 14-0 in the initial five minutes.

The other semi-final match was played in a similar style, with the

Dream Team beating Founders by 10-6 in another very tight game.

A highly anticipated final between Heathens and the Dream Team took place on the Great Field with the final score ending 15 - 8 to Heathens.

An inspirational comeback and an outstanding individual effort from Chris Juries allowed the Heathens to snatch the victory. Juries, a South African Academy rugby player, scored three amazing tries in the second half to ensure the victory.

"To win was awesome," said Heathens captain Damien "Moses" Bailey, as many of the players were

playing their last game for Heathens. In addition, Heathens has lost both finals in the past two years.

Bailey also stated that the forwards had an excellent game, and the back-line members showed strength on attack. Keegan Sloman was noted by Bailey for a putting in his best effort for the Heathens.

The Heathens played solid rugby throughout but went into half-time 8-0 down in what was proving to be a very difficult challenge.

For many players in the Heathens team, it would be their last game at Rhodes and they decided to give it

their best performance in the second half.

In the dying moments of the game it looked as though it had gone the way of the favourites, the Dream Team, but Juries' pace and agility gave Heathens the upper hand. Juries scored two fantastic tries to put the Heathens ahead 10-8 in the last minutes of the game. The game ended at a frantic pace with Dream Team trying to pull it back. However it was Juries who had the final word, dotting down one last try for the Heathens in the last movement of the game.

The well-spirited game did not result

in any fights, which showed a tremendous amount of sportsmanship carried out by two of Rhodes' best rugby teams and the drinks at The Union afterwards saw both teams acting pleasantly.

Although Heathens were crowned the Rhodes Internal Rugby League champions, the Dream Team played with determination and deserved no less than second place.

The tournament was a wonderful end note to the old rugby committee and in the hands of the new committee we can only hope that supporters of rugby can see more displays of this enthralling sport.

INTERVARSITY

Student hijacker may be deported

By Philippa Levenberg (UCT)

Tinashe Rioga may be facing deportation or a life-ban from returning to the Republic of South Africa.

Rioga is the 21-year-old Zimbabwean UCT student who allegedly threatened a flight attendant with a hypodermic syringe on an SAA aircraft on June 17.

The possible sentences were confirmed by Rioga's attorney, Reuben Liddell, at the Bellville Regional Court on Thursday, September 7.

Rioga's case was postponed to October 11 as more time is needed to lay the groundwork for "a more appropriate representation", according to Liddell.

Rioga's recently decided to end his mandate with his previous attorney, Joshua Greeff.

Rioga faces charges of assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm and other related charges under the Civil Aviation Act.

Liddell hastened to add that rumours regarding charges for the

attempted "hijacking" of an aircraft are obsolete and "may have just been part of the excitement."

Another possible sentence is "imprisonment for a period of not less than five years, but not exceeding 30 years", as defined by the Civil Aviation Act.

However, Liddell verified that "it is up to the court" and is not yet clear as the case is currently subjudice, and still pending.

Nick Georgiades, a UCT student and passenger aboard the SAA aircraft during the incident said, "I think jail time is a must."

It all depends on the findings of the hearing. Obviously, this is not something that can go unpunished, especially in light of the 2010 World Cup.

In the meantime, Rioga remains in custody at Goodwood Prison after he was denied bail on July 10 under the Criminal Procedure Act due to the seriousness of the charges.

Liddell refused to comment any further on the case's proceedings.

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Friar Tuck's charity evening

Andrew Merryweather is an average 24-year-old who was having a good night out in Claremont, Cape Town. On Saturday September 9, at around 2am, he stopped off at a garage to get some food before heading home. He was attacked by a group of eight youths and thrown head first against a car, breaking two vertebrae. The attackers thought he was dead and fled. Andrew is now unable to walk and is confined to a wheelchair. The rehabilitation therapy he needs costs R200 000 for 12 weeks. The Merryweather family is unable to afford this treatment.

On Friday November 3, Friar Tuck's will be holding a charity night for Andrew. Although there will not be a cover charge, Friar's appeals to its patrons to donate R2 or more.

Taekwon-do championships

By Brett Bruton and picture by Chris van der Merwe

To say that the Rhodes Taekwon-do Club's participation in the South African Taekwon-do National Championships in Port Elizabeth this year was a resounding success is an understatement. With 21 medals won – seven of which were gold, ten silver and four bronze – we returned to Grahamstown on a well deserved high.

Regardless of the four days of travelling, early mornings, long days and late nights, the bumps and bruises of the past weekend were forgotten. We had beaten even our own expectations and were, if I do say so myself, bloody chuffed with ourselves.

For me, however, it was more than simply riding the waves of good spirit after a great competition. It was the culmination of a year of new experiences and surprises, not to mention a dash of self-discovery thrown in to boot. Standing on the bronze podium besides my fellow competitors, the weariness of the long day of final events was forgotten as I bent my head to receive my medal.

A modest bronze it may have been, but it could have been a blazing nugget of solid gold strung around my neck for all I cared as I stood, grinning like a loon in front of the gathered assembly. As wild cheers and snip-pets of "That's the way, uh-ha, uh-ha, I like it, uh-ha, uh-ha!" rung out from the giant crowd of my red-jacketed

Phoenix teammates, I began to realise that, somehow, the random group of strangers that I had met only a few months before I now counted as my friends. I had somehow become one of the newest members of a small family of high-flying, arse-kicking, board-breaking nutters with an extended family of colourful relatives that would put the whole Ireland to shame.

Stepping down from the pedestal, the temptation to rush off en masse and start a bar fight somewhere was strong. Somehow, we resisted.

But I've begun at the end – woe is me should my high school English teacher ever pick up this article. Never mind that the added weight of press-molded metal and colourful ribbon meant that

the car trip back added R50 to the price of petrol: there will always be more competitions and more medals. As clichéd as this may sound, what truly matters is the people.

The Rhodes Taekwon-do Club is affiliated with Club Phoenix, or Bul Sa Jo Kwan, of Port Elizabeth. Having met almost none of my fellow

team-mates previously, I initially felt compelled 'cluster' with Grahamstown clan.

This sentiment, however, was short lived, as we all soon found ourselves standing side by side with our PE comrades, screaming ourselves hoarse as we

supported our friends and chanted encouragement at a combined volume that would have put a Durban taxi to shame – a volume that, in the end, won us the coveted Spirit Award. Tri-Varsity, eat your heart out – we did this sober!

Writing on behalf of our Grahamstown clan, I think that my team would agree with me when I say that the big reason for our success at SA Champs is the strong feeling of camaraderie and friendship

that permeates everything we do as a team.

Whenever one of us climbed up onto the podium, the rest of us may as well have climbed up next to him or her, so strong has the support been throughout the year.

From road-tripping to PE every second weekend to forgetting team mates at the Spar in Central at 11pm, we've done it as a group. Under the eyes of our coach and friend Matthew Esof, we have learnt to believe in ourselves. We've also learnt a few dirty jokes, but unfortunately I'm running out of space.

As for all of those who won medals, they'd kill me if I didn't include them. And so, in no particular order: Keri Werth with a silver, Robyn de Jager with a gold and silver, Laura Street with a gold and two silvers, Thabo Limema with a gold and silver, Matthew Esof with gold and a bronze, Butsha Zwane with a silver, Jai Clifford-Holmes with a bronze, Andrew Duggan with silver, Orrin Snelgar with gold and myself, Brett Bruton, with a bronze. Thabo, Matthew, Andrew, Orrin as well as Byron Truscott and Dave Morrison were also the recipients of numerous team awards

All these terrific performance enabled us to walk away from the championship with true recognition for the hard work we have done. On top of this the friendships made and the skills learnt truly made this competition a memorable occasion for the Phoenix club and in particular the Rhodes students involved

Although Matt is leaving us at the end of this year his guidance and care have created a solid base for Rhodes to build on. I'd like to say that all of these medals are truly for him. He has been a leader who has taken much time to build us up through his training and wisdom in taekwon-do. Without his help, support and friendship, none of us would have been able to make this happen and we wish him the best of luck in his life to come.

With that said, it's time to kick arse and chew bubblegum. Damn. All out of gum.

Rhodes students rip up the East coast

By Michelle Solomon

This year's surfing has been filled with fantastic wipeouts, awesome waves and beautiful weather, which created the perfect setting for Rhodes' best surfers to compete in various competitions along the coast.

Over the last few months the eight Surf Club team-riders have competed in several competitions around the Eastern Cape coast, namely three Von Zipper (VZ) Revolts, the South African Students Sports Union (SASSU) tournament, Inter-Res and Tri-Varsity.

Part one of the VZ Revolt Surf Series went off successfully, but part two had several administrative problems which meant that the event had to be postponed several times. When the event was eventually held on Saturday,

September 30, the weather was great for both the surfers and spectators. Julia Baker won the women's section, and Darrin Petzer and Nick Kerr tied for first place in the men's section, after a "powerful performance stumping judges on a stand-out in the final heat" says this year's Surf Club president, Julie Coetzee. In the bodyboarding section Shane Liebowitz won, and in so doing got closer to winning the Bodyboarder of the Year award.

Part three of the VZ Revolt started off with really poor weather, but the surfers and bodyboarders committed themselves to the task.

Throughout the last year, the team-riders have been allocated points according to their participation and seeding in the six events: eight points

for coming in first, zero if they did not show up for the event. These points were added up, and the man and woman with the highest scores were then awarded the Surfer/Bodyboarder of the Year award.

The announcements were made at the Surf Club AGM on last Thursday evening, with Petzer and Baker awarded surfer of the year, and Michael Atkins awarded bodyboarder of the year. Baker also stunned the surf team with her 100% win, meaning she had participated and come first in every event she competed in.

The committee for next year was also announced, with Darrin Petzer as president for next year. The Surf Club has come far from its initial formation a few years ago, and hopefully it will develop further as it grows on campus.



Nick Kerr goes vertical during the VZ Revolt

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Rhodes ride rapid of success at the Fish



Running a dangerous line down the rapids.

PIC SUPPLIED

By Fleur Rollason and Oliver Field

The Fish River Canoe Marathon has a hype that rivals sporting events such as Tri-Varsity and Boatrace. This year the marathon lived up to its reputation as an event which puts Rhodes University on the national sporting scene. With a record 30 participants from Rhodes in this year's event, canoeing in the university is at an all-time high.

The overall results for the 2006 marathon caused many of the event's records to be broken, proving that the competition was tougher than ever. Despite the high performance of the canoeists this year, Rhodes was still

able to produce an impressive placing in both the men's and women's categories for SASSU.

Chairman of the Canoe Club Sabrina Chesterman, Amy Whiting, and sisters Tarryn and Jess Goble came first for the women, while the six-man team of Seth Berrange, Rory Carter, Dave Chaplin, Ross McGeary, Athol Holmes and Ian Dummer came third. Both results pushed Rhodes up the SASSU table.

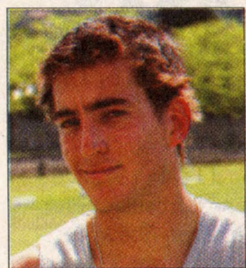
This year also saw an immense amount of support from Rhodes students, notorious for their drunken antics over the years at the marathon. However, Chesterman believes that the large groups sporting purple overalls "had a positive impact on the

canoeists, particularly on the demanding second day." The tricky Cradock weir is both a difficult part of the course for the canoeists and a popular site for Rhodes supporters.

Despite the good-natured Rhodes support, the event did not go without incident, as the prizegiving witnessed many inebriated students getting up to the usual Grahamstown mischief.

Next year's event promises to continue the success from this year, as the canoe club hopes to extend its membership, as well as introduce novices to the sport. Canoeing at Rhodes has been one of the strongest and most social sporting clubs in the university, and it seems Rhodes canoeing is certainly on the up.

From the stands



By Adam Wakefield

The Currie Cup is the oldest domestic rugby competition in the world and this year's competition has been one of the better ones, with the "big" five being competitive up to the last week of the round robin competition. (Though as a Lions fan I was saddened by their demise before the semi-finals.)

Apart from rugby, the Currie Cup has always been an awesome show piece for provincialism. South Africans from around the country have found any reason possible to prove that their province is the most worthy of them all. Conspiracy theories have emerged as to why certain players aren't selected for the Springboks all because they play in the wrong region of the country. About half of Kitch Christie's 1995 World Cup-winning side consisted of old players from the old Transvaal, which does make you wonder.

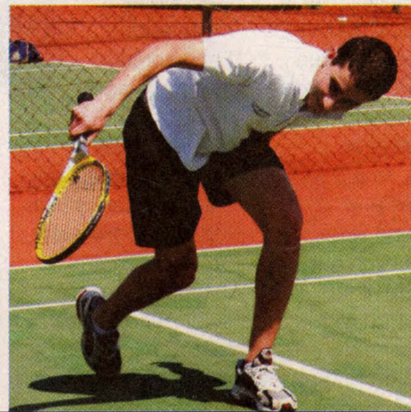
This provincialism can be seen around campus. I have heard endless arguments between good friends as to how "Luke Watson is being discriminated against!" These arguments sometimes verge on civil warfare, especially if a few empty draught glasses happen to be in the vicinity.

Why do rugby fans, and those of any sport, get riled up for the cause of their province? It could be that sports fans enjoy being part of a common cause, where their teams represent themselves as well as their provinces.

What can be said is that when this fervour is channelled into sport, the result is magic like the Currie Cup. Provincial rivalry adds an interesting subplot to what is happening on the field.

There is nothing better than walking up to a friend, whose team got destroyed by yours over the weekend and giving them a reassuring pat on the shoulder. Laughing at your friend will follow this warm display of sportsmanship. This is acceptable behaviour because you know your time will come where the situation is reversed.

Some say provincialism is bad for the game. Rubbish. We all enjoy a good soap opera, especially on the sports field.



Some of the many sporting codes offered at Rhodes, all of which were celebrated in the Inter-Res competition

JONI ELS, MATTHEW MIDDLETON, SEAN MESSHAM, GEOFFREY WAKEFIELD, KELEBOGILE MOELETSI

Guy Butler and Canterbury overall Inter-Res winners

By Adam Wakefield

The Inter-Res Competition has been concluded for another year and it can be safely said that all those who participated in the event last year and this year have noticed a marked improvement in participation and competitiveness. Sports that usually didn't receive too much attention from the Inter-Res program last year, such as water polo and underwater hockey, proved to be popular events with the participants and the spectators.

Spectator participation in general, especially compared to last year, has improved as spectators have been willing to brave the mornings, even if they might be feeling slightly "fragile" from the night before.

The most successful events were the main sporting codes and other events that were popular last year. These included touch rugby, tennis, hockey, table tennis and swimming, which has always seen lots of enthusiasm since

this event is held during or around the O-Week period. The Inter-Res chess also proved to be a surprisingly successful event, especially since it was held the day after St Paddy's Day, with many of the participants having to fight the effects of "beer fatigue", among other things, to apply their minds.

The winning houses have changed, with last year's champions Piet Retief and Ruth First being toppled by Guy Butler and Canterbury respectively. Katie Wilter, the Canterbury sports representative, said that they tried to enter every single sporting event and tried to enter as many teams as possible. "This got a lot of the Cantabs involved and was quite fun when I finally dragged the girls out of bed on a Saturday or Sunday morning with a hangover." A lot of begging and manipulating went into getting girls to actually participate in sports that they had never tried before but when they actually did they had fun. "We focused more on participation than on winning

a few selected events. We are very excited that we won as we have come second for the past two years," said Wilter, followed by a "Go Cantabs!"

Unfortunately the Guy Butler sports representative couldn't be reached for comment, but the main theme that can be drawn from this year's competition was that participation was the key to ensuring that your respective residences always kept in contention.

Botha house won the Spirit Award and from my personal perspective, rightly so. A fine example of Botha's commitment to Inter-Res would be their B-side they entered for the Inter-Res hockey, where even though they didn't boast the talents of a Peter Nicol, they received support from the other houses in their travails across the hockey field in a losing cause.

If the success of this year's competition is anything to go by, next year's Inter-Res competition will be looked forward to by both participants and spectators with the same zeal and relish as was shown this year.

Inter-Res final points table

Men	Points
1. Guy Butler	114
2. Botha	107
3. Goldfields	97

Women	Points
1. Canterbury	117
2. Victoria Mxenge	83.5
3. Ruth First	68

Spirit Awards

1. Botha
2. Guy Butler
3. Canterbury

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