

activate

second Edition

Independent Student Newspaper

CORY LIBRARY
FOR HISTORICAL RESEARCH

They Fought

For

Freedom!

by Maria McCloy

Despite Nelson Mandela's absence at the event the African National Congress archives were officially opened at Fort Hare University on Sunday, March 17, by Deputy-President Thabo Mbeki.

Included in the audience at the Fort Hare Indoor Sports Complex were members of the ANC National Executive, veterans of the anti-apartheid struggle and former students and teachers of the Solomon Mahlangu Freedom College in Tanzania.

Mbeki conveyed Mandela's apologies before saying the records of the ANC's 84-year-long struggle were now in their natural home - "the alma mater of many to whose leadership we owe the emancipation of many of the peoples of our continent". He described the guests as a "representation of many generations of the struggle".

Mbeki stated that the experiences conveyed by the material in the archives showed the masses who struggled and risked their lives for emancipation, conveying a message that urged South Africans to continue "to struggle and change" for progress and stability and the "elimination of socio-economic disparities" based on race, colour and gender. The event coincided with the 80th anniversary of the University's founding in 1916.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mbulelo Mzamane, told the guests that, as the oldest university for Africans in East, Central and Southern Africa, Fort Hare played an important role in the growth of the African independence movement.

A number of Africa's Presidents and Liberation Struggle Leaders - President Nelson Mandela, the late Sir Seretse Khama of Botswana, Lesotho's Prime Minister Ntsu Mokhehle, Zimbabwe's Robert Mugabe, late Oliver Tambo of the ANC and the late Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe first president of the PAC, amongst others - are included in

Fort Hare's Alumni. Therefore, he saw it as "a fitting tribute to Fort Hare that the institution should be entrusted with the responsibility for being the custodian of the archives" of the ANC, PAC, the New Unity Movement and the Azanian People's Organisation.

The atmosphere was enhanced by a Marimba band and the singing of the Fort Hare choir, the Alice Primary School choir, as well as an Imbongi (a Xhosa praise singer). The ushers wore traditional Xhosa and Venda dress.

Dignitaries included the Speaker of Parliament Frene Ginwala, the Chancellor of Fort Hare University, Govan Mbeki, Walter and Albertina Sisulu, chairperson of the ANC, Jacob Zuma, the Minister of Health, Nkosazana Zuma, Minister of Sport, Steve Tshwete, Minister of Posts and Communications, Pallo Jordan, Provincial MEC for Education, Nosimo Balindlela and Finance MEC, Thobile Mhlahlo; all of whom received a warm welcome. Govan Mbeki said the University was at the heart of the struggle for liberation that was headed by the ANC. He added: "I hope that you students will take advantage of these facilities placed at your very door step."

Former president of Zambia, Kenneth Kaunda, said it was an emotional moment of great historical value, and said by not acknowledging the ANC's history we "would

be having a big gap in our history of Southern Africa." Chairperson of the ANC archives committee, Frene Ginwala, said a R200 000 scholarship was in place to help write a thesis on South Africa's history. Referring to South Africa's distorted history books, she stressed that "those who are now trying to study any process over the last 80 years will have a more comprehensive picture of the actors".

ANC Parliamentarian Gertrude Shope highlighted the importance of the archive saying "many people have passed away in the struggle and these things tend to be forgotten by the next generation".

Adelaide Tambo described walking through the archives as an emotional experience; "some of the pictures are those of the comrades I worked with for years, who are no more, so there is a sense of longing". She commented that the pictures of her husband made her feel strongly his absence, but added that at the same time she was "very happy about what he did for the liberation of the country".

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The truth comes out.
Find out about the
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Admin? See centrespread.
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A Call for Justice Pheko: no need for commission

Maria McCloy & Zandile Nkutha

AN ANGRY group of parents and students from more than three local schools marched on March 12 to protest bail given to David Robertson whose been charged with sodomising twelve year old boys from the townships. David Robertson who works in the township as a town planning engineer was arrested and charged in February with four cases of indecent assault and two cases of sodomy according to South African Police Branch Commander Captain Bosche. After appearing in Grahamstown Margistrate court last week, he was released on R2000 bail with conditions that demand he may not come in contact with minors without another adult present. Robertson has to report to the Grahamstown police station between 8 and 9 am every monday, added Captain Bosche.

Robertson is to appear in court on the 25th of March.

The National Childrens Rights Committee Secretary Ms Nomfuneko Ntamo said she was not happy about the bail given to Robertson "If you charge R2000 that's really nonsense. What is R2000 to him, "questioned Ms Ntamo.

Among the protestants, two mothers who declined to give their names in order to protect the identity of their children said that they only suspected that something was amis when their children would not eat when they got home from school because they were being fed elsewhere. One of the women said that the boys later told that they where given money by the man who was fondling them. "I wonder wether this man would be out on bail if these children been white?" added the woman. Both of the women said they wanted justice done as their children could be scarred for life.

Maria McCloy

SPEAKING at a Sobukwe Day commemoration at Rhodes University, Pan African Congress (PAC) Deputy President Motsoko Pheko criticised the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the ongoing trials and the imprisonment of Azanian People's Liberation Army (APLA) members.

Pheko said it was wrong that by International Law, "perpetrators of crimes must appear before the same commission as the victims". He said Apartheid had been declared a crime against humanity, with International Law declaring that those who commit such crimes must be punished; "we should have punished people without having to resort to the Truth Commission".

Pheko believes the truth about the Apartheid was long established, so "I don't see what new truth could be established by the Commission"

He said the continuing arrests and trials of PAC/APLA members after the organisation was asked to suspend the armed struggle were a "breach of trust...we want them all released...no one who...fought Apartheid committed any crime, so they are being illegally arrested and persecuted".

Pheko stated that when people who negotiated to be part of the process are arrested, with hundreds of APLA members in prison and others in court "you begin to wonder whether we were tricked...people begin to wonder whether the position we're coming up with is correct or not".

Pheko described reports of PAC disarray as media propaganda saying: "We have had setbacks and progress...so many coffins have been prepared, when the coffin is opened you find there is no PAC inside." But he acknowledged that there are differing positions within the PAC, which will be discussed at the PAC April congress in Bloemfontein.

Pheko criticised the sale of land to foreigners, and the Interim Constitution's stipulation that land reform would only take into account land taken from blacks from 1913 onwards, stressing that black people's poverty would never be resolved as long as the minority held most of the land and its mineral resources, and described the proposed privatisation of state assets as something that only "really benefits the rich".

Regarding the supposed discovery of King Hintsa's head, he said Hintsa "wants to lie in land that's liberated". Commenting on the continuing KwaZulu Natal violence, he expressed reservations about how successful the planned KwaZulu Natal Imbizo will be, as he thinks there is a conspiracy of somekind involved.

Pheko spoke of the importance of establishing Afrocentric education to counteract the effects of colonial Eurocentric education that subverted African achievements, thus undermining African people.

RADIO GHT PROTESTS

Maria McCloy

Radio Grahamstown picketed RMR's Independent Broadcast Authority (IBA) temporary licence reapplication hearing on February 23, due to the IBA's refusal to let them apply for a temporary licence in January 1996.

The protesters, holding placards reading "We demand to be heard" and "People have a right to broadcast", stressed in a statement that they supported RMR's licence application but felt that, as a community interest station serving Rhodes, RMR can never claim to be in a position to be catering to a Radio Grahamstown market. Radio Grahamstown coordinating

committee Chairperson, Happy Tom, said not being given the chance to apply for a licence was "unfair, because we'll have to wait until next year for a hearing", when the station does have some funds, and believes having to wait will divert potential interest and advertisers, further increasing their financial difficulty.

IBA Co-chairperson Peter de Klerk told the protesters they were out of order, but could stay "If you remain silent and those placards are put on the floor." They were given permission to hand over their complaints after the RMR hearing. RMR station Manager, Rycherde Walters, said RMR supported Radio Grahamstown's demands.

De Klerk said Grahamstown was one of 40 areas that had a technical problem, so interference ensured there is only space for one frequency. De Klerk said Radio Grahamstown could apply for short term special events licences-which Radio Grahamstown has done for the Easter Festival and the Standard Bank Arts Festival. Radio Grahamstown coordinating committee secretary, Rod Amner, believes the protest was useful, as it made the IBA aware of the station, but regarding there being only one frequency, said: "Why not give us the chance to compete for it...maybe we are a more worthwhile operation". He says Radio Grahamstown's market is "94 000 mostly extremely poor people: do we want a pop station or one that supports all?"

Grad dress change

Zandile Nkutha & Maria McCloy

AFTER a meeting of the Students Senate Liaison Committee in March, the graduation dress code has been rewritten by Registrar Stephen Fourie, and two SRC members, and ratified by Senate. The 1996 booklet states men are to wear a dark suit, black tie, black shoes, white shirt and black socks. Women are to wear a long sleeved white or black dress or a white blouse and black skirt with matching stockings and no jewellery other than wedding, engagement and signet rings. The SRC proposed the change to Admin, saying the current dress code is inconsistent with the equality clause in Section 8(2) of the Interim Constitution

which allows no discrimination on the grounds of race, gender, sex, ethical or social origin, colour, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, conscience, belief, culture or language.

"The old policy on graduation was designed to keep the English image of the institution and this failed to recognise other cultures of South Africa... Parliament has set an example, all traditional wears...are given equal status. The formal wear should take into

consideration the diversity of cultures", said SRC President, Vasco Zama Ndebele, in a paper presented to the Committee.

Fourie said the dress code in the booklet has not been strictly applied, pointing out that women of Indian descent have worn saris. He said this issue never arose before because "no one ever challenged the dress code".

He claimed that contrary to what many people believe, graduands with dreadlocks have never been told to cut them. He said the dress code would be "formal defined in terms of one's cultural norms...we can't have a hodgepodge arrangement, legitimate cultural dress is not a problem".

"It was our input as the SRC, to ensure all people of all cultures should be allowed to wear their traditional clothes," said Ndebele.



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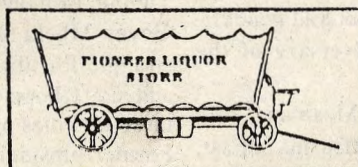
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Truth and Reconciliation

Maria McCloy

TRUTH and Reconciliation Commissioner Mary Burton spoke recently on "The Truth and Reconciliation Commission and its relationship with Non-Governmental Organisations". She outlined the role of the Commission and its committees, stressing the importance of public participation in the commission's work.

The Commission's main office is in Cape Town with other offices in Johannesburg, Durban, and an office in East London headed by Commissioner Reverend Bongani Finca. The Commission consists of The Amnesty Committee, the Committee on Human Rights violations, an investigative unit and a Committee on Reparation and Rehabilitation of victims. Burton, who serves on the Violation of Human Rights Committee, illustrated the Commission's role in reconciliation by using Desmond Tutu's analogy of a wound that needed to be opened up and cleaned out, "to allow healing to take place".

The first public hearings are due to start in April, probably in the Eastern Cape because, as Burton stated "so many human rights violations took place in the Eastern Cape". She added that they did not want to be seen as only dealing with famous cases but as "holding hearings everywhere".

The Amnesty Committee is made up of judges and deals with granting amnesty to those who make full confessions regarding

political crimes committed between 1 March 1960 and December 1993. Burton acknowledged the anger felt by people around the granting of amnesty. However, she said these conditions were part of the negotiated settlement that brought South Africa to its present situation, and the granting of amnesty is an important part of the reconciliation process in South Africa.

December 16 1996 is the closing date for amnesty applications, but the Commission has noticed that people fear picking up amnesty application forms from the magistrates office because they are afraid of recriminations. Burton hopes churches and other organisations will make it easier for people to get the forms without such fears.

The Human Rights Violation Committee will deal with victims coming forward with their stories and evidence. Burton said it was crucial that people felt safe, respected and comfortable giving statements so the Commission has employed people experienced in taking statements in a sensitive manner -such as Lawyers For Human Rights, Civic groups, Psychologists and Doctors. Help in setting up these data bases will also come from foreigners who have served on similar truth commissions.

The information needs to be gathered before the first hearings and the Commission will depend on a network of Non-Government Organisations, the Faith Communities and church organisations who will be "statement receivers". The

Commission will provide training so people coming forward will be treated in the same way and information gathered uniformly. Issues brought forward by victims will be followed up by the Investigative Unit, made up of local and international experts, who Burton said would "put together a whole picture of what happened".

The Reparation and Rehabilitation Committee will deal with people who have been traumatised by events and will be made up of doctors, psychologists and psychiatric nurses. Cases of families needing social benefits due to the loss of the breadwinner is being dealt with, although, as Burton stated, the money for reparations in the President's fund may not stretch very far so they are "thinking very hard about what form reparations will take".

Burton stressed that the commission would result in people having to relive and deal with painful incidents they may not yet have dealt with because they "just went on fighting for liberation and change". These people will need both psychological and emotional support.

The Commission will last for 18 months with a possible extension of six months and a three month period to write the report on the findings. Burton believes the report will educate the next generation who will then ensure "nothing like this happens again".

*The first hearings will be held in the East London on April 15. Anyone who wants to come before the commission to give a statement can phone Kahyaletu Plaatjie at 320204.

Attempted Rape

Maria McCloy

A **STUDENT** who was attacked by an intruder in her Hill Street home on March 6 alleges that police did not taking the case seriously.

The woman, who does not want to be named, awoke at 5:00am to find a man in her bed. Thinking he was a friend she spoke to him and he played along, acknowledging her questions.

When she realised that he was an intruder, the man straddled her and tried to pull her jeans off. "I screamed and he began to strangle me", she said.

The intruder entered by bending the burglar bars on a window that does not close properly. The owner of the house came to her assistance after hearing her scream and the intruder escaped through the open window. According to the inhabitants of the house a local security firm responded "within a minute" but the police arrived at the scene 25 minutes later.

The woman alleges that the police advised against opening a case for attempted rape as there would be no evidence in court. As the intruder escaped with two music systems the only charge that could be brought against him is theft.

A resident of the digs said the police took down a basic statement and believes "they were more concerned with what was taken than the fact that someone was nearly raped".

Both women were incredulous that even after describing what had happened, the police just noted down that she was threatened.

When the woman who was attacked asked the police to do more, they promised a detective who "they said would be around that afternoon but who never came".

They said police did not take a detailed description of the man as the victim "had a fairly good idea of what he looked like and what he was wearing", so she could be contacted to do a lineup or identify an identikit. "It really makes me angry, if the detective had been there that day, I might have been able to go through photos and identify him...now its too late".

The woman described how she and her friends are so insecure that all three women have moved out of the house. The burglary was so quiet the dogs didn't awaken which indicates to her that "they are professionals, they could be breaking into other houses...I got attacked in my bed and it was not taken seriously".



Student donor prepares to give blood at the Great Hall Big Bleed
pic: Sara Davies

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Broad Transformation Forum to be Established

Steven Moti

AFTER protest and negotiations by the Crisis Committee, (Paso, Sasco and the SRC) over academic exclusions, agreement was reached over the excluded students and the committee and Admin agreed to form a Broad Transformation Forum.

The Committee was demanding the blanket re-admission of students, who were academically and financially excluded. Admin response they would look into individual cases but not give blanket re-admission.

Admin's position resulted in the march on February 19 by Paso and Sasco students who repeated their demands for blanket re-admission. Before the march, spokesperson for the Committee, Patrick Mahlangu, stated students have the right to education and should there be any flaws, students should be allowed to repeat no matter what.

Sasco Vice-Chairperson Thembinkosi Lehloesa said the protest was also addressing that support structures for students from disadvantaged educational backgrounds were not in place, that the ADP system was failing students generally. Regarding the fact that students from DET schools experienced bad conditions "we are saying ...the university should have had a policy which recognise...these problems...which recognises that change has to happen...that is why we...are proposing the broad transformation forum".

Smout countered with his belief

that there are sufficient support structures in place at Rhodes, and commented that "most students from disadvantaged backgrounds got through last year...to believe that every student has an automatic right of coming back is a very difficult thing to accept".

When the joint forum negotiated their demands with Admin, out of the 45 sensitive cases, at least 17 got re-admitted, nine did not get interviews, and so were excluded. Four had unsuccessful interviews and the other six apparently went to other institutions.

According to Lehloesa, the nine other cases were not examined, because the students came from advantaged educational backgrounds, and the criterion for re-admission was a disadvantaged educational background.

Lehloesa felt the campaign was successful because "if you look at the students who were re-admitted, we got many of whom admin would have totally excluded". He believes they made the university aware of student problems with its policies on academic exclusions.

He sees the campaign as moving the university towards transformation, as admin has agreed to the formation of the Broad Transformation Forum (BTF), which he describes as a platform where students, the Grahamstown Community and Admin are going to deliberate on transformation issues. "With this campaign, we have set the pace for transformation and in that light, it was a success."

Radio Station for University of Venda

Stephen Grootes

A REPRESENTATIVE from the Department for Public Relations and Development from the University of Venda visited RMR last week to gather information about campus radio stations.

Mr Masia said RMR is one of the best examples of a campus station he could examine. The University of Venda intends to have their station on air by June, broadcasting to the 200 000 people who live in their 30 kilometer planned broadcast area. They have already applied for a licence, and are waiting for a response.

In an interview on RMR Masia said the major problem was the spread out nature of their community, as most people live in rural villages.

The Venda station will broadcast music, as well as local news and community items. Education will be one of the stations main aims. They will broadcast primarily in English, as this is the one language most people can understand.

There is a possibility that some students from RMR will go to Venda to assist in setting up the station. RMR representatives said they hope the University of Venda will go live soon, and would like to participate in a joint link-up with them.

IBA Hearing

Robin Kelly

RMR'S licence renewal to broadcast in Grahamstown is being looked upon favourably by the IBA following the station's hearing last month.

Although it was hoped that a four year licence would be granted, the IBA said it could only offer a temporary one year licence. The reasons weren't entirely clear but amounted to administrative problems in the IBA due to the an increase in applications.

The issues raised at the hearing, which was originally scheduled to be in May, were critical of RMR's responsibility as a community broadcaster. Since 17 May 1995 RMR has increased its listenership and quality of broadcasting, but how accurate the psychographic representation of the defined community is, in terms of membership on the station, came under question. Despite the fact that RMR defines its community as Rhodes, the IBA was sceptical that the station succeeded in representing black, coloured and Indian students who make up 60% of students registered at the university this year. They also questioned the lack of staff and worker representation. Following from this, the board questioned RMR's constitution and its commitment to affirmative action. The challenge put forward is for the station to be more affirmative, as opposed to merely "allowing the opportunity", as the mission statement

reads.

On the issue of editorial independence, the IBA questioned the idea of the RMR foundation, which in effect allows for representation of academic staff - including Prof. Berger and Dr. Fourie as well as the Ed In Chief, Ms Jeanne Du Toit - to direct the running of the station.

Responding to RMR's initiative to eventually become financially independent of the University, the IBA stated that the contact with the university is essential, and that the ties should not be severed.

Furthermore, the IBA suggested RMR improve its support for local talent, as well as offer a more serviceable Grahamstown news broadcast.

The hearing was rushed through, yet not without a slight disturbance in the form of a protest staged by Radio Grahamstown. Rod Amner, secretary of radio G-Town, was given speaking rights and submitted a formal complaint criticising the IBA's refusal to consider alternative proposals for licences. The IBA responded that another licence would not be an option in G-Town, unless it was granted at a minimum of 1W and at a maximum of 10W for a period not exceeding a month.

RMR currently broadcasts with a 200W transmitter and will soon be relocating the transmitter on top of Sugarloaf Hill, thus enabling the entire town, including a substantial peripheral area, to receive the 24 hour broadcast.

SRC By-Elections

Ismail Mahomed Ali

THE SRC opened nominations for positions that were available at the beginning of the year due to members not returning. There were five vacancies to be filled; for the representation of Kimberley and Hobson Halls, one Oppidan and two General representatives. Nominations were opened on March 11 and 12, when four nominations were received - two general, one Oppie and one Hobson. Constitutionally, nominations have to be re-opened on the third day to fill vacancies which received no nominees. Nominations were opened again

on March 13. Only one nomination for Kimberley Hall was received.

As there were only five nominees to fill the five vacant positions, these candidates constitutionally become elected unopposed. The new SRC councillors are Leonard Olyott (Oppie), Motsamai Mothaolwa (General), Zine Mkatshwa (General) and Zandile Nkutha (Kimberley Hall).

The fifth candidate from Hobson Hall subsequently withdrew. The Oriel Hall Representative has left Rhodes due to unforeseen circumstances, leaving two vacancies. Another by-election will be held shortly.

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The Inside Story

Bern

HOW does one describe addiction? One could start with the lack of control and not actually wanting that control. There is frustration at the inner conflict of knowing what is and what should be but never quite reaching either. The high has to get higher and the low lower no matter how long or short the process.

I started smoking grass at 14, a clever little girl, but do not be deceived by the 'symptoms graph', no one in the world would have guessed. Mine was a slow progression. Although at first events were few and far between, I could never say no. What captivates the mind with drugs? For me it was pure curiosity that has developed into a knowledge which is now my weakness.

At 16 I took my first quarter cap of LSD. It did not do much, so I decided to take it again. We all used to go to a club known as Fourth World, a trance/techno club where I was introduced to a level of perception quite different to normal reality. My mind was taken off as I slipped into a trance-like state. This hypnotic state, which I want to warn others about, takes a lot more than one, two, three to get out of. When your mind returns, it is lonely, confused, depressed and worthless.

I took a year off after school to decide what I really wanted to do and to maybe go overseas. Going overseas never materialized, as my money was either swallowed, smoked or snorted. It was in this year that I was introduced to coke. Some of the "friends" I had tripped with in school were now coke dealers and had become cokeheads themselves.

Cocaine is an instantly addictive drug, it is just up to the user whether or not they choose to feed this monster. One's mind set is peculiar on coke - you smile but your teeth are bared; the pistons in your head constantly overheating, exuding negative emotions against everyone, whilst thinking you are quite 'cool'. I developed severe

paranoia and agitation and began hiding behind my best friend and boyfriend's backs. I praise God that I never went all the way with coke. I am thankful that certain influences in my life prevented me from being eaten by the money-hungry, mood altering, life destroying beast that would certainly have taken control. My problem now lies in saying no to the lifestyle whilst still being hooked on the substance.

It turned out that my father overheard me talking about certain drugs on the phone and promptly shipped me off to a care centre in Pietermaritzburg known as Shikane. This is where I was introduced to older people. People that had their lives eroded away by chemical abuse. People that had shattered family lives, no jobs, no goals, their hearts were hard and calloused. Drugs alienate you. Your friends are either on the same roller coaster ride or else you have the whole playground to yourself. You lose yourself in the monotony of trying to maintain the rush. For some the light comes soon, for others it takes a while. Some people just accept the fact that they are the way they

are, and each consequence will have to be dealt with as it comes. They adopt an apathetic attitude and can actually enjoy the gradual downward slide. Others try to overcome the obsession and begin the bitter battle to extract themselves from the jaws of this serpent. Few succeed.

However, there is help out there and I believe there is inner strength within every person to win this struggle. To escape the escape one must draw from iron-will determination, completely separate themselves from the

whole scene and endure.

I wish for normal life. I want to go to the beach on Sundays and feel the sand between my toes - a natural sensation, not heightened. I wish to giggle because I am truly content and not just truly stoned. I am still enclosed in my bitter battle and I know I should turn to a natural way of thinking and to God for spiritual upliftment, but like the others I am trapped. My face is smiling but my conscience is crying, my lungs are bleeding and my heart is cold.



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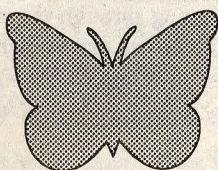
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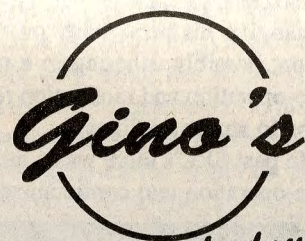
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WORKERS UNITE

Welcome to *ACTIVATE's* new column designed to include the views of Rhodes' Workers. This edition focuses on the challenges Nehawu faces this year.

SINCE its inception Nehawu has faced a number of serious challenges. Nehawu at Rhodes has been working upon consolidating its goals and much as we fully agree with the saying that, "Leaders come, leaders go" our strength has been shaken by the removal from our ranks of Elijah Ntentile. This is as a result of a very high turn-over of leadership. We keep on losing experienced leadership to government and other organisations. The present leadership is faced with total onslaught from the management.

1996 is the year of delivery

1996 is the year of delivery. This is the year workers will judge whether the RDP is delivering or whether they are just noble words which will remain an elusive dream. Nehawu is committed to serving its members. Though the Union is faced with the task of changing the management's attitude, it is also charged with the task of winning on critical demands of the workers like job preservation, full time employment, training, promotions, better wages and better benefits.

...power lies in the hands of the workers

We have managed to show the University our strength. Nehawu is looking forward to organise across the board including those that are viewed as professionals. Nehawu is looking forward to see to it that the Broad Transformation Forum is in place so as to transform all tertiary education institutions apartheid created. This year we will make sure that a centralised bargaining with CUP/CTP and government is in place. The fact that we have changed our approach from a confrontational approach to negotiations does not imply that we have forgotten about our objective.

The power lies in the hands of the workers. We call upon all peace loving people of Rhodes to come together. Transform and Reconstruct our institution through democratisation.

X. N. Nojoko



Zama Zama: The man who says he can

The Man Who Says He Can

New president Vasco Ndebele is going to revitalise the beleaguered SRC and put it back on the campus map - or at least he says he can. In his electoral campaign Ndebele bravely offered himself as a "living sacrifice" and promised to end the fun and games: the SRC will be taken seriously again, he swore. Matthew Buckland speaks to the man to find out just exactly what he is doing, and how he is going to do it.

LAST year saw the SRC in probably its worst state yet. While achieving new highs of unpopularity among students, the organisation was virtually pinned into inaction by internal problems. Smeared by incessant in-house squabbling and embezzling allegations, the SRC barely secured enough votes for a valid election - second time round.

But this year things have changed. New president Vasco has arrived on the SRC scene like a breath of fresh air. Determined to end the internal spats and restore its waning popularity, Vasco has brought his own brand of diplomacy to the organisation's structures.

For Vasco the problem is simple: past SRC's were out of touch with the student body. The new SRC must be "student directed" if it is going to make any impact, he says. "The squabbles that were occurring was a sign of a lack of tolerance and lack of respect for the SRC by some members. So the challenges are to ensure more tolerance in our structures and thus move in our activities as a team," added Vasco.

Under the new president, a relative amount of order has been restored within the SRC. Vasco has, to some extent, succeeded in stamping his personality on the organisation; possibly ushering in a new wave of co-operation and motivation recently lacking in student politics.

"In past SRC's there was a lack of co-operation and communication. During

our meetings we always ensure that decision making happens in a democratic way. All views are expressed, and the best view wins at the end of the day. We ensure that all our decisions are collective," emphasised Vasco.

Among the new president's many challenges, Vasco realises the greatest is transforming the organisation into a truly representative body.

"I'm of the conviction that South Africa is for all people of all races - although the composition of the SRC is mostly male, the racial composition reflects our society. There are still six posts to be occupied, I hope these posts will be occupied by women," said Vasco.

The SRC has formed a "Structured Programme" which embodies their plan of action for the year.

Vasco claims the programme will address issues ranging from the rigid graduation dress code, transportation for Oppidans, and the ongoing academic exclusions, to questions over transparency in financial assistance.

"Already, if you had to go around, people are talking about the SRC, about the good work our councillors are doing. This is a sure sign that it is being revived," said Vasco.

With the SRC barely a month into the new academic year, Vasco is quick to sing his organisation's praises. Most of its programmes are still in their planning phases and remain to be tested in practice.

But despite the relative amount of stability, the SRC is running at anything but full steam. One SRC member recently resigned citing workload problems, bringing the number of resignations to three. Adding to these resignations are two other members who have not returned to Rhodes to take up office.

Presently, just under half the 16 SRC portfolios are standing empty. Both oppie, two general and three hall portfolios are still vacant.

Despite this gaping hole in its structures, Vasco is confident the SRC has been able to handle student problems "amiably".

He promised that five of these posts would be filled by the end of next week, while the other two would be opened for by-elections. Despite the SRC's new co-operation and vision, the organisation has been slow to act on certain issues. The SRC has been dragging its heels on Rhodes' name change, Rhodes Music Radio's apparent neglect of the community, and Rhodes' stance on Affirmative Action.

Vasco quickly dismissed Rhodes' name change debate as "not a priority right now", and explained in sweet political rhetoric that changing a name won't do any good unless the "core of the institution changes". The priority is to first change the institution's policies and improve the lives of the students in it, he said.

Although Vasco acknowledged affirmative action was a "major issue", and said there was a need for a programme similar to that of Wits University, the SRC has rarely spoken out or spelt out any clear action on the issue.

Vasco criticised RMR for neglecting the Grahamstown community and certain aspects of Rhodes, but has yet to consult with the Radio station or take any decisive steps towards resolving the issue.

Vasco also failed to mention that the SRC's "Structured Programme" includes many of the unfinished kickbacks and promises of previous SRCs - of which the president and his crew are now no closer to acting upon than their predecessors.

Despite these shortcomings, the current SRC is in its infancy and has many more months to prove itself. So far it has negotiated the first hurdle successfully: survival. Now, what remains to be seen is if the fun and games are really over as Vasco promised and if the SRC can pass the most important hurdle of them all: fulfilling its promises.

MEET: "ZAMA ZAMA"

Matthew Buckland

NEW SRC president, Vasco Zama Ndebele, has been involved in politics, some way or another, whether he liked it or not, for the better part of his life.

Like most black South Africans in the apartheid era, his political awareness was awakened early. Born in Soweto to a dress maker and studio technician in a photographic firm, Ndebele grew up in turbulent and dangerous times.

Although still young at that stage, Ndebele can recall the his emotions during the turmoil of the 1976 Soweto uprisings.

"Ever since I was a young person, I was very aware of what was taking place in South Africa. The time we were born there was this notion of black power, and that we needed to fight. My dream then, was to join MK - I had relatives in the liberation force. I was very inspired by that as a young person," says Ndebele.

Soweto was becoming increasingly dangerous to live in as the struggle was stepped up against the government. During this time many of his parent's family friends had either skipped the country or died as a result of the struggle.

It was then that Ndebele's parents moved him to the Eastern Transvaal to continue his schooling in a safer environment. Three years later, Ndebele was moved to

Zimbabwe to finish off his primary and secondary schooling at Cyrene Boys Secondary school in Bulawayo.

"Being away from my parents was the most painful part of my life - I had only really stayed with my parents up to the age of four. But at the same time it was a blessing in disguise because it enabled me to learn, explore and be responsible," recounts Ndebele.

In Zimbabwe Ndebele was to have first hand experience of a newly independent country going through the motions of nation-building - an experience which, he believes, instilled him with insights into South Africa's present nation building programme.

"I have been exposed to different atmospheres - dating back to the rural life in the Eastern Transvaal, township life in Soweto, to a highly political life I led outside South Africa. In Zimbabwe I experienced the visions of a post independent country - so I know what challenges we are to be faced with as a nation which is actively involved in rebuilding," explains Ndebele.

While studying for his O-levels, Ndebele became president of the 'Scorpion Club', which actively challenged students to participate in extra curriculum activities such as sports and community work.

"Our guiding philosophy was that if an energetic person is not always engaged in constructive activities that person can

ultimately engage in an action which is contra bone mores. We disputed the school's practice of labelling certain students 'mischievous'. Instead we saw them rather as 'energetic' - energy which needed proper channelling. Scorpion became a platform for this," recalls Ndebele.

In 1990 the organisation called a strike at the school to protest against 'bad' hall food and unfair treatment by the administration and prefects. For these efforts, Ndebele was 'black listed' which effectively prevented him from completing his A levels anywhere in Zimbabwe.

After eventually finding a college that would accept him, Ndebele finished his A-levels to return to South Africa.

By a twist of fate that resulted in his application for Wits University being too late, Ndebele found his way to Rhodes University to study a BA LLB degree.

While holding the political education portfolio in SASCO in 1995, Ndebele was aware of, and frequently concerned about the problems the SRC was experiencing.

It was, in part, Ndebele's frustration at what he perceived to be the SRC's lack of sensitivity to student needs, and his driving determination to change this, that caused him to run for Education Officer of the SRC.

And now, after being elected as SRC president in 1996, Ndebele has the perfect opportunity to put his skills as a leader to the test.

A Dog's Life

Sara Davies

WE HEARD a bang, a car zoomed off, backfiring down the street. We went round the corner and there he lay. The big dog we had seen around the neighbourhood for the last few days. The animal had no chance of surviving, so instead of calling the vet we called the police to come and put the mangled dog out of its misery. He wagged his tail to show his appreciation of the small amount of affection we gave it, and breathed his last breath. Why didn't the car stop? Why was the dog wandering the streets in the first place? Whose dog was it? How many times does a dog die in Grahamstown - through neglect, lack of responsibility or just lack of compassion? Who is to blame for this death? Not everyone stops when they run over an animal. Somehow they believe that there is no need, or think it would be pointless to stop because the dog must already be dead. Why not just stop to see and give it some affection in its last minutes of life?

We should also consider our own pets. Dogs in particular. All too often students decide to get a dog without thinking of the consequences. It is a big responsibility. It takes more than love for a dog to survive, and however much of an animal-lover you might be, other things must be taken into consideration.

Feeding costs are substantial. You can expect to pay R30 to R50 a month for a small dog, R80 for a medium dog and up to R400 a month for a large dog (such as a rottweiler). A dog should be given food in the morning and evening and fresh water should always be available.

Medical care must also be considered. A dog needs vaccinations at six weeks, after three months, after six months and then yearly injections thereafter. These protect the animal against distemper and the parvo virus. An injection against rabies should be administered every three years.

The SPCA says a dog must be dewormed every six months and should be dipped weekly to prevent ticks and fleas. The SPCA charges R3 for a dip and R5 for deworming. Have your dog spayed to avoid unwanted puppies. It costs R155 at the SPCA and they recommend the operation to lower the number of unwanted animals. It can also make your dog friendlier and a better watchdog.

If you need to leave your dog in Grahamstown when you go home for the holidays, the SPCA does provide kennels. The charge R7 a day with meals or R5 if you provide the food.

Marcelles Botha, a SPCA employee, said "when students went home at the end of last year they just packed up, locked up their houses with their stuff and left their pets." The SPCA had to care for as many as 30 animals that were left behind. This year, the SPCA has given (for a donation of at least R25) 50 dogs to students and Botha says he "hopes it will be a great year with no problems."

If you decide to get a dog, consider it carefully. It is a big responsibility and one that you probably don't need as a student. If you do conclude that a dog is for you, the SPCA still have a lot of unwanted animals waiting for homes. Give them lots of love and attention, plenty of exercise and keep them off the streets.

SPCA emergency number 082 5654656

Free At Last!

Zandile Nkutha

HAVING taken my journalist self to the launching of archives from Solomon Mahlangu Freedom College (SOMAFCO) at Fort Hare University last weekend, I did not imagine that I would be moved by seeing fellow refugees and being told that part of an account of my life is embedded and recorded for all to see in the country but I could not have been more wrong.

SOMAFCO is an ANC school that was built in 1978 in Tanzania for South Africans in exile after many youths fled the country two years earlier in the Soweto uprising, and continued to leave in great numbers.

Apart from the fact that the president did not turn up to launch the archives as was expected and that more than half the people that had lived in Mazimbu, a camp in rural Tanzania, where SOMAFCO is situated, had not been formally invited to this occasion, it was highly successful.

Hundred of exiles and ex-SOMAFCO students like myself were present and they spent the earlier part of the occasion hugging and kissing and crying, reuniting after many years. It was almost as if they were silently congratulating each other for making it back to the country and achieving the goal that had sometimes felt impossible to reach back in the malaria-infested and far-away land of the Masai people in Tanzania.

We all believed that we would get back home to South Africa someday and that belief held everyone together and kept us

alive even when it did not seem likely that we might make it back. Some of the most vibrant and strong ones amongst us died from illnesses and accidents, circumstances that no fighter for a liberation foresees or easily accommodates.

As students we fought for our freedom with a pen as opposed to an AK-47 and the launch in Fort Hare confirmed amongst other things that the course was worthwhile.

Some of us were very young and others had been born outside South Africa but all, even the most junior section of SOMAFCO - the nursery school children, sang about getting back their freedom one day and being in the country of their mothers' birth.

South Africa was an illusion almost.

It was good to see these people almost ten years later, looking happy and incredibly healthy. Everyone looked distinctively different. They had lost the distant determined expression that they wore so unmistakably in Mazimbu. It took seeing them now all together at Fort Hare to recognise and realise that the refugee look had been wiped off from their faces.

That is what I call getting one's freedom back and liberating oneself.

As opposed to being a group of ANC refugees, they were all individuals now, with unique and different characters. Their personalities were clearly expressed in their dress, that was obviously not "Mpando" a name we used for the donated clothes that we wore in exile.

As the saying goes there really is no place like home.

UPB - Your Opinion...

Lineke Moen & Donna Kipps

MANY students experienced frustration and panic this term due to the setwork crisis. The liquidation of University Publishers and Booksellers (UPB) meant that Rhodes University took over the ordering and selling of books before lectures began. Unfortunately, many students' books did not arrive in time, and they were forced to go to lectures unprepared. Three weeks later, some students are still waiting for books.

"The fact that books are not available is not good at all. And it costs a lot to buy cash." James, LLB (intermediate)

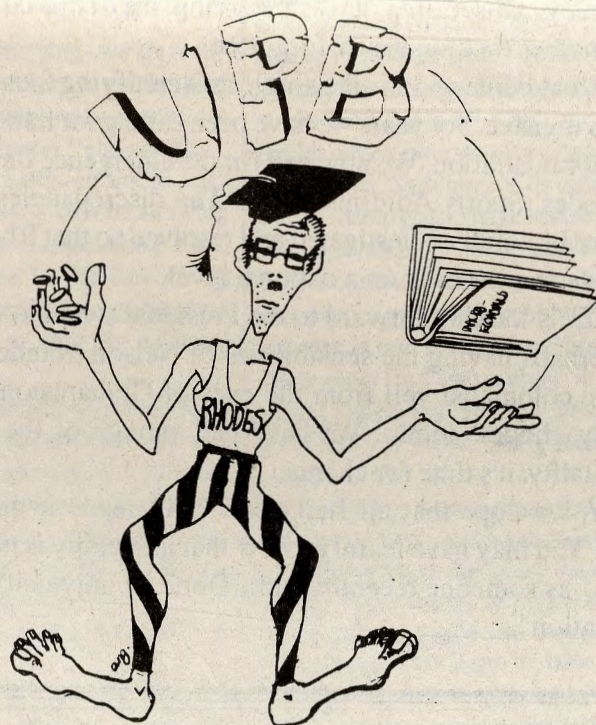
"They should know by the beginning of the year how many books they will more or less need. people have had to ask for books for up to three weeks in a row. And having to pay cash really messes up your budget." Lee, BJourn II

Further complications were caused by the fact that UPB's account facilities are no longer offered, and cash-strapped students are experiencing difficulties in paying for books. Rhodes did send out letters warning students of the cash-only policy, but many simply did not receive a letter and could not prepare for this eventuality.

"Why don't they charge it to our university accounts? You don't always have cash on hand." Candice, BSocSci III

"I think they're good! They had all the books I needed, and even ordered extra stationary for me when I needed it." Nadine, BAI

UPB are rumoured to be closing their doors at the end of April. Apparently, any students with money left in old accounts will have to spend it on stationary in the shop before they close, as they will not be allowed to draw the balance from their accounts.



Red Nose Day

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Editorial

THERE are many important issues that have been brought up in this edition of *Activate* but before commenting on any of them we would like to raise a more pertinent point.

The function of media as we perceive it is to inform its audience, to report to them on events and to empower them to act upon current and arising issues. To achieve this end media has to be immediate. In this context *Activate* is failing to entirely fulfil its role as a media source. The reason is simple. For the last year *Activate* has failed to meet its print deadlines because of technical difficulties founded on the inefficient facilities provided for us by Rhodes University and the SRC. We find it ridiculous that Rhodes' only independent student newspaper has to operate in less than ideal situations, sharing four computers and a single and often unworkable laser printer with at least 20 other campus societies on a regular basis. This has, apart from hampering our meeting of deadlines, prevented us from imparting media skills to the rest of campus and the greater Grahamstown area to the best of our ability since our media workshops have often been cancelled because of a lack of working equipment.

In the past *Activate* has served as a media trainer for the universities of Vista, Fort Hare and Transkei. In keeping with our vision of "Empowerment, development and growth" we wish to extend this service to the people and organisations in Grahamstown as part of the community development process that is occurring nationally. We urge Rhodes to join us in this initiative by providing us with the facilities that are necessary to enable us to assist in empowering these people.

THE opening of the ANC Archives at Fort Hare University has highlighted an often overlooked but important fact. While many of us are familiar with the central figures of the struggle against apartheid, we forget that the major part of the movement was made up by ordinary people who shared a strong passion for freedom and justice. These people should be saluted in the same breath as the Mandelas, the Tambos and the Slovos. Furthermore the establishment of the archives at Fort Hare is a recognition of the role the Eastern Cape has played in the freedom struggle. Now a relatively marginalised area, it was the birthplace of this country's greatest leaders - another fact too easily forgotten.

IT'S a pity that while sport is the single most unifying factor nationally, at Rhodes it is divisive. For years we have been calling for transparency within Rhodes' Administration. We now call for the emergence of the same factor within Rhodes' Sports Administration. The discrepancies within Sports Admin must be solidly investigated and resolved so that Rhodes may unify and compete competently on a national level.

ACTIVATE is looking forward to the President's visit to Grahamstown in May. Perhaps having the sensibilities of Nelson Mandela in our midst will lift the colonialist veil from the eyes of Grahamstonians and, more importantly, rhodes' admin. We have had enough of the "oxford in the bush" mentality. it's time for change.

FINALLY, we hope that all first years have made it through the term unscathed. You may have learnt by now that university is not always about academics - as someone recently said: "Don't let university get in the way of an education".

creditorial

Claire (I'm going to stick this ping-thing up my arse), Carlien (I think I'm losing it!), Maria (I said "hi" in my eyes!), Roy (where's a nice piece of wall?), Joanne (how does she draw such straight lines??? Oh! She's got a ruler!), Brigid (watch out or I'll set my broomstick on you!), Karuna (don't joke about infections), Hungover Swapna (I'm sorry, I've got blonde roots), David "Quickdraw" Whisson (in spirit, we think), Taryn (something better will come up), Mboneni (I was TERRIBLY suprised!), Matthew (hears "rumours perculating"!), Lukes (my life's mundane), Tess (I wanna be a whirling Dervish), Zandi (can I make myself useful?), Ilja (so where *did* that Argus story go???), Katie (missing in action), Brendan (fluttering from shop to shop), Dylan (I have no glue), Tim "Mighty Mouse" Wege, Dror, Robin, Diane, Sharon, Celine, Lineo, Johnny, Brian, Graunt, Natalie, Rycherde, Steven, Brin, Maria, Nicky, Sarah (x2), Sara, Lineke, Jenny, Melissa, Gunther, Tiro, Adrian, Vince, Julie, Ken, Donna, Niel, Bonita, Tshepo, Jason, Bern, Ismail, Trusha, Jonathan, Richard, Garth, Gerald, the faithful Simpsons (not you OJ!)...and we'll all have 4cm of sugar and 3 pencils of coffee!

RHODES Music Radio was concerned by an article we read in the October edition of *Activate* last year and would like to take this opportunity to clear up some misunderstandings that may have arisen from the "casual interviews" undertaken by your reporters.

RMR undertook some formal research of its own in October and November last year. The result, to answer to the first question posed by Helaine Redpath and Sjanie Hugo.

Yes, people do listen to RMR. In fact the vast majority. Our figures show that 83 percent of the student populous tune in. This figure reflects a one percent increase on the number of students who said they would support a campus station, in a 1994 SRC survey. Our influence does not stop there. In a sample survey coordinated with the help of Dr Monana of the Department of Economic and Social Research, 55 percent of the Greater Grahamstown said that they enjoy tuning into the Rhodes community "state of mind".

In answer to the second question, our survey concluded that not only do students tune in but they also enjoy the programming. In fact a greater number of respondents listed RMR DJ's as some of their favourites on the airwaves. I think what is important here is that not only students, but everyone associated with Rhodes remembers that RMR is just as much their own as it is the members of RMR. Members of our community are not only asked to send in ideas about their station, it is expected of them. The reason for this being that only with their input can RMR truly become a station for the Rhodes community.

RMR- Your Station, Our state of mind.

Rycherde Walters
Station Director (February 1996)

WHOEVER the Crisis Committee was, and whatever it may be they thought they were going to gain they must be students of deeply flawed intellect and failing common sense that they did not foresee the consequences of their action. Perhaps the following points can help shed some light on this.

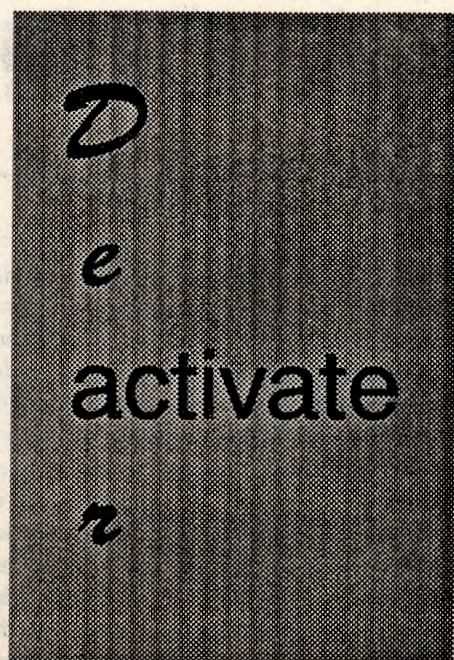
a) By disturbing the VC's address to the new students and their parents, they harmed Rhodes in the gravest possible manner by harming it's reputation and public standing, which will have far reaching effects on the calibre of students that will apply to Rhodes in the future. Many parents favour Rhodes for their children because it is away from cities and all the nonsense that sometimes accompanies them, such as self-nominated Crisis Committee.

b) The previously excluded students are being deprived of learning something else, e.g. at the technikon, which could give them skills to survive in the concrete jungle. This country needs people with real skills who can use their training to earn a living while at the same time thief services are building houses, laying electricity cables etc which improve the infrastructure of the economy. No social science is useful here.

c) The re-admission of these students will cause a traffic jam on the education highway by preventing the rest of the uneducated masses (who will now remain uneducated because X is taking 20 years to get a BA) from getting to university level.

South Africa is in desperate need of increasing it's literacy rate and developing it's grass route entrepreneurial drive, and cannot afford to have people who have these skills kept out of tertiary education because of students who show obviously don't have the inclination for a theoretical education (pun not intended).

d) A member of the Crisis committee argued



that if these 45 students were excluded, then theft would have to go back to the township to live in poverty. Is a university degree a prerequisite for wealth? It is perhaps if one intends never to employ anyone (not even oneself) and remain forever employed by someone else (presumably some capitalist who had more ambitions than making a noise for publicity) or unemployed in which case one blames the state, but if that is the case, then it's "Hallo anarchy....here we come" anyway. So what possible good has come to the Rainbow Nation from this?

e) The message that is being sent students who get excluded at the end of this year is a recipe for disaster, rest assured, there will be more than 45 protesters during the 1996 orientation week.

f) Finally for what possible reason does the administration succumb to these demands? Why is the SRC not condemning it? Perhaps they are still suffering from "Swart Gefahr" mentality in an era where it's not politically correct to call in the police anymore.

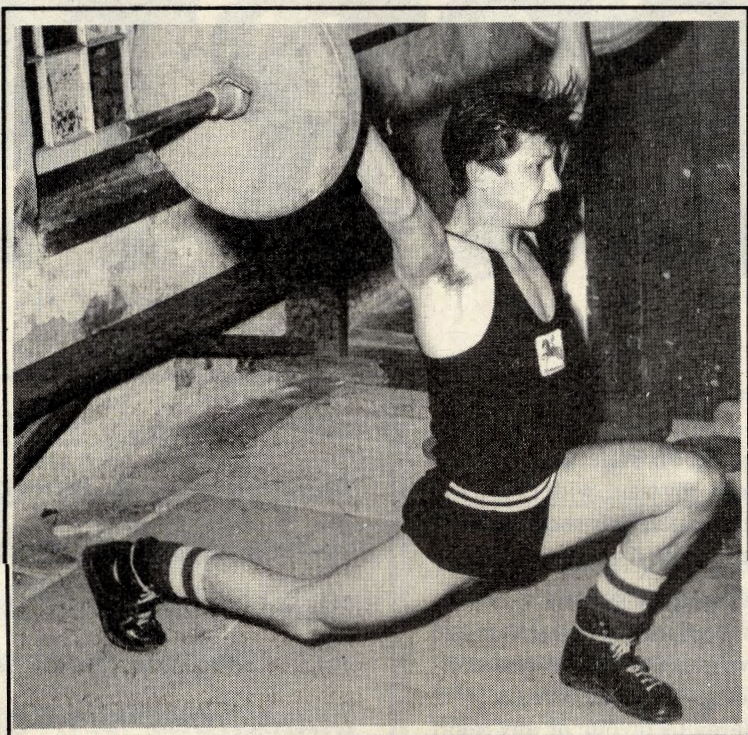
...and all this for 48 students who for all constructive purposes have shown that they don't have the inclination, if not the intelligence required, to be studying at a University. ...and all this by a group of students who have shown that they are not the brave ones amongst us, but rather the ignorant ones.

A Toffy For Punishment

WHY the hell is it necessary for us to write our names on our exam answer sheets? Surely the onus of proving this necessity lies with the Administration, and our family and Christian names our own dilemma. We have been given numerical names by the university and this should suffice for administrative purposes, unless of course there are hidden agendas, such as taking account of language problems at exam times instead of during the term and (I hate this word) affirmative passing. We are academic students, and the product of our intellectual efforts has no correlation whatsoever to our names, surnames, titles, extraction, race, religion or gender.

So, please change this by voting in the plebiscite.

Julius Albrecht Ernst-August Freiherr von dem Bussche zu Haddenhausen.
(also known as "694v3799")



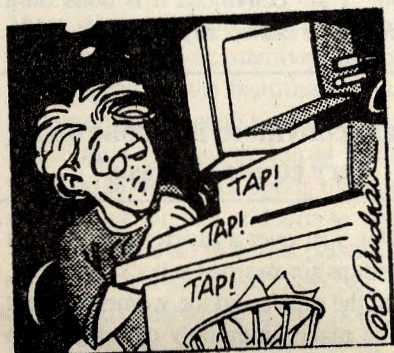
Dear Madge

Hello dearies, I'm Steroid Madge. Push and pump and one,two, three. I will lift your burdens, shoulder your troubles and carry your weights - if it doesn't cut into my gym time. . .

Dear Madge

I feel so unfulfilled. I have nothing to do late on Friday and Saturday nights and if I have to go to bed early on a Sunday night and get up after eight on Monday morning one more time, I think I'm going to crack! I really wish there was something time consuming and stress inducing for me to do. What do you suggest?

Antonio



Dear Tony

You sound like some kind of desperado. Well I can offer you two choices: a) give yourself up now and move into Fort England, b) join Activate - Rhodes' most stressed, most computer unfriendly, most insomniac, independent student newspaper - you have found your niche!



Dear Madge

I don't want to sound snotty, but what kind of place is this anyway? The weather is so changeable - my wardrobe is in chaos and everyone around me is coughing and sneezing. Now my nose is running and I can't even leave my room without a wad of tissues! Help!

So Niffy

Dear Sniffy

Darling, that's what Grahamstown is all about! We're in a weekend rainfall region, you know, and four seasons in one day makes this little town feel accomplished. So learn to dress in layers and get over it!



Dear Madge

A friend of mine told me that some character called Mickey Moose beat him up outside the Vic and Kolors. I have been watching Disney cartoons for years but never came across Mickey Moose...err have I missed something.

Kolorful beat

Dear Kolorful

Honey, you ain't missed a thing. But you've been looking at the wrong species. Mickey isn't a moose, it's a rat. Don't worry about your cartoon knowledge being thin, though, because I hear via the grapevine that he isn't popular anyway.



Dear Madge

My gearbox fell out the other day as I went over the speed hump near the Great Hall. When I got out of my car to retrieve it I was run over by a car that tried to avoid the hump. I am now paralysed and missing an ear and an eye and I think I should be compensated for it.

No humping around

Dear No Hump

The loss of an ear and an eye is actually a rather mean feat. Congratulations, my dear. As for the paralysed bit - if this came about by going over the speed humps, I guess it is logical to assume that Admin has been going over speed humps for years since they can barely move, especially forwards!



Dear Madge

I have been hearing lots or rumours about upset stomachs and ques at the toilets. There is nothing that I hate more than a warm toilet seat. Please help.

Imodium

Dear Imodium

I suggests three things. Number one, stock up on Lomotil. Number two, take along some ice the next time you want to sit down. And lastly, unbook that pork!



Dear Madge

I've seen many signs around campus advertising happy hours, happy half hours and happy two hours...I've been really depressed lately and wondered if going to one of these would be therapeutic?

Grin and Beer it

Dear G & B

Hmm... this is a difficult one, my dear. I have heard from many people that happy hour group therapy sessions twice or thrice a week have been very helpful. They don't remember much of what goes on in them but about 10 bucks is all it takes to get you on a relatively wacky high.



A SPORTIV

Brigid Martin

AWARDING scholarships is a tricky business. Someone has to decide what they are given for, who gets them, why they get them, and above all, how much they get. Sports scholarships at given out at Rhodes are no exception. They are also particularly controversial considering the number of students requiring financial assistance with their academic fees. There are 84 people on sports merit scholarships this year, who receive from R1000 to R3000. This means that more than R84 000 will be spent on sport alone this year, not include coaching, equipment, travel and other expenses that relate to playing competitive sport.

More than R84 000 will be spent on sport alone this year

This is not to say that no money should be spent on sport. It is an important part of University life for both recreational and competitive players. The question is, how many of these scholarships are awarded to people who really deserve them and, who really need them?

Many people who have received merit scholarships have only school provincial sport behind them, and while this is alright for a first year who has yet to prove their potential, surely a third year who has not progressed any further, no longer has the qualifications necessary for a merit scholarship. Not so, says Pete Andrew, Head of Sports Administration at Rhodes. He feels that in some sports like cricket, it takes a while to develop the skills required to move up the ranks, and having promised financial assistance to students, it cannot be taken away. However, he says, students have to reapply for these scholarships every year and so their achievements could be

reviewed at the year end.

At the University of Port Elizabeth, sports scholarships are no longer given out however, each club manages its own finances and is thereby at liberty to give financial aid to their players if they so choose. Senior Sports Manager at UPE, Mr. Olivier, said that while a student may play brilliantly at school, it is not an indication of their potential to move up the sports ladder at university.

He goes on to say that if a student improves during the season, they are given money at the end of the year, so they are rewarded for their achievements rather than for their potential. First team rugby players are paid for each game they play, with the money increasing if they win. This provides an incentive for players to train hard and play to the best of their ability.

The money for this comes from the sponsorship that teams receive from private companies. Whole events are sponsored, with the name of the company on the team shirts, as well as on billboards that line the pitch permanently. Rhodes teams are allowed to have sponsors, but billboards are only permitted for the duration of the game as the University feels that this will divert attention away from the institution. There is of course the problem of getting sponsors in Grahamstown, because of its size and location.

People at Rhodes who receive merit scholarships are required to play the sport for which they received the money. They have to attend practices regularly and help with coaching of other team members. If they do not fulfill the terms of their scholarship, it can be taken away, but this rarely happens.

According to Andrew, scholarships are awarded entirely on merit, irrespective of the sport the applicant plays. This is as it should be, but there is the feeling that some sports suffer because of this. For example, 10 scholarships were awarded to squash players this year, seven of those players are men. With only six members in a squash

team, theoretically, all the men's first team players could be scholarship holders. In comparison, seven scholarships were awarded to the rugby team, with 15 in a side. During their last match, only two scholarship holders played for the first team. Money

has been spent on providing an international coach for the rugby team and yet the players are not up to his standard. Andrew believes that to deliberately skew the scholarships in favour of any sport would draw criticism from the sporting community, and with so many sports offered at Rhodes, they cannot afford to let this happen. "I am convinced it is done on a very equitable basis," says Andrew.

"I am convinced it is done on a very equitable basis"

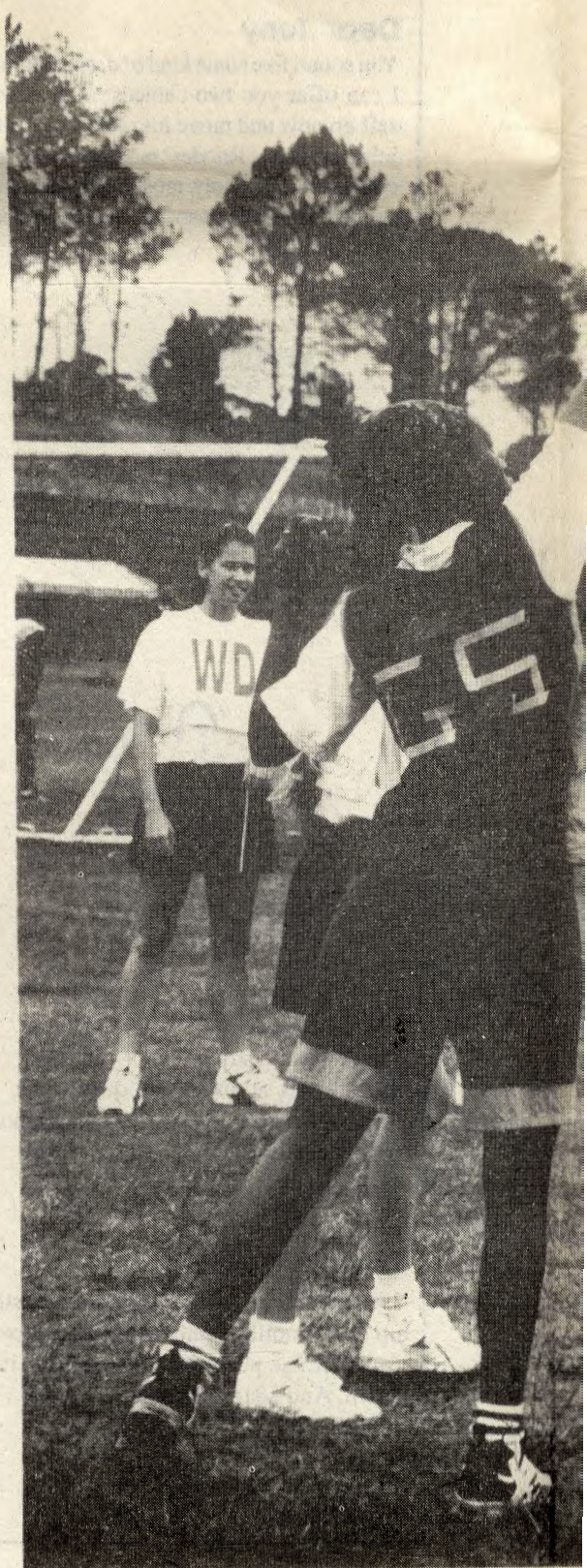
However, just over a quarter of the merit scholarships are awarded to hockey players, so both the men's and the women's teams could be made up entirely of scholarship holders. According to Andrew this is because women's hockey is one of the most popular sports in the country. In boy's schools there is a move away from typically popular sports like rugby to hockey, so more scholarships are naturally given to that sport. Andrew feels this is because hockey is gaining popularity in boy's schools and it has always been a very popular woman's sport.

Every year Rhodes' Schools Liaison Officer visits some 300 schools in the country in order to recruit people. He speaks generally about Rhodes and not specifically about sports, so there is no "head-hunting", as such, to bring sports people to the University. Prospective students are sent information about scholarships on request, and once they have applied, their applications are reviewed by the Sports Council. The Council is made up of lecturers and students who represent the sports on campus, but the students have no say in who gets scholarships. This is because the selection process takes place during exams when students are not available. It is understandable that these student representatives can't spend long hours discussing each case, but it means that they have no chance to advise the Sports Council on scholarship holders who do not pull their weight in the team.

Because so much money is spent on sports scholarships, candidates have to be selected very carefully. They not only have to be good at sport, but they need to be able to cope with their academics as well. It is both not fair and a waste of money to award scholarships to a person who fails their exams and is refused entry into 'varsity the next year. Universities are first and foremost academic institutions and while sport is important, it is not the point of tertiary education.

In a sport-mad society like South Africa, to spend money on sport is entirely natural but at a university where money is always a problem, this expenditure has to be justified to prevent wastage.

One drunken night, I foolishly got into an argument with someone on the importance of sport at university. After a few more beers all inhibitions flew out of the window and some personal opinions about Sports Admin were revealed. Looking into it I discovered (as usual) two very different



ING CHANCE

sides to the story. Complaints from the students were obviously highly opinionated, but they were based on each individual's experience. Sports Admin had a slick answer for each complaint but they failed to convince me that everything in Rhodes sport was as it should be...



Brigid Martin

UNDERWATER hockey, aikido, rock climbing: at Rhodes you can do it all!

For such a small university, Rhodes offers a wide variety of sports. With at least three teams in all the most popular sports, there is a chance for everyone to play, even those who are not so competitive. But before this sounds any more like an advert for Rhodes sport, the system needs to be looked at more closely.

There are about 1500 people, almost half the student population, involved in sport at Rhodes, and yet the facilities and support systems leave much to be desired.

The Sports Administration at Rhodes is made up of only three sports officers who each have a number of sports to organise. With 28 sports offered, this places a strain on the officers who have to oversee the co-ordination of each club in their portfolio.

Comparatively, RAU offers only six sports which allows for a concentration of time and money on them. This obviously has its pros and cons. It means that the varsity can excel at a few sports and gain a reputation which draws people specifically to play that sport. On the other hand, less popular and non-competitive sports get little encouragement. UPE, our sporting rivals, offer 20 sports and have five sports managers. Athletics, rugby and cricket each have their own managers as they are the major sports. Students do help with the running of the clubs, but the managers do the bulk of the organisation and provide support by watching practices and attending games.

At Rhodes, most of the organisation is left up to students themselves. With so many sports to co-ordinate, it is very difficult for the Sports Officers to give the time and effort needed to support all the clubs.

Sue Powers, one of the Sports Officers at Rhodes, says that she is lucky because all the clubs that she looks after have very strong committees and so are well organised. She believes it is important for students to become involved in the organisation of their sport because it gives them good experience

At Rhodes, most of the organisation of sports clubs is left up to students themselves.

which will help them in the future. The main problem with the organisation of the clubs seems to be that students expect too much from their Sports Officers, and Sports Administration does not make its position clear. They are there as facilitators, to guide the students in their sport, rather than to be like teachers, telling them what to do. However, this is easier to accept for well established, high profile sports. A good team, with an organised committee will obviously draw more people to that sport, and with more attention, the sport will continue to grow.

Jeremy Ashton, a former Rhodes rower, believes that "it is naive to expect the same assistance for a low profile sport that a high profile sport receives". In the mercenary world of capitalism, this may be the case, but there are teams at Rhodes who have great potential yet suffer for want of special support and encouragement.

Ashton has only praise for Rhodes Sports Administration who he says were very supportive during his career. Not only did they give him financial aid, they were always interested in how he had done. Sports Administration are not obliged to help students financially, but it is their policy to help students as much as possible when they are able to do so.

"Sports Admin is not a charity organisation" said Ashton.

While acknowledging that the Sports Officers are over-worked, Martha Banda, a Rhodes basketball player said that it would be nice if they could find the time to come to a few practices to see who actually participates. Her main complaint is that scholarship holders are supposed to put in 100% to help their club and yet there are some who do nothing at all. If the Officers came to the practice sessions, they would come to know the people who do not fulfil their part of the scholarship bargain, and could take action accordingly.



Another concern is that out of the 28 sports offered at Rhodes, there are only five who have paid, professional coaches. The other teams are coached either by students, or by volunteers who get paid a nominal fee for their efforts. Money and the availability of coaches are responsible for this situation, but again, this places a burden on the students to provide their teams with something approaching proper training. Student's love and dedication to a sport does not necessarily qualify them to coach and they may in fact damage the team. A non-student coach gives added professionalism to the team, making it harder to get out of practices and easier to motivate the players. Pete Andrew, Head of Sports Administration, says that to provide a coach for a team that is not dedicated is a waste of money. There needs to be a good coaching environment.



This makes sense, but perhaps a coach would provide the team with the motivation they need to create a good coaching environment. There are also teams who have a lot of dedication and talent and yet do not have a coach.

Last year, neither the men's nor the women's basketball team had a coach. When a new lecturer offered to coach basketball, he was appointed to the men's team, even though, in terms of dedication, there was no difference between the teams. At the moment, Rhodes has three international coaches for the cricket, rugby and men's hockey teams. Sylvester Manana, a Rhodes soccer player, thinks that to hire international coaches is unnecessary when there are many South African coaches who could do the job just as well. But according to Andrew, South African sport is still in its infancy, so there are not that many trained coaches here who would be available for the required job. He says that good local coaches actually cost a lot more than the international coaches Rhodes has at the moment. The hiring of coaches obviously depends on more than who needs one, but it does seem that some sports have priority, and this causes bad feelings among the teams who lose out.

In any organisation, there are bound to be problems and complaints and it seems that Rhodes sport is no exception. The real problem probably lies in communication, or the lack of it. Sports Administration needs to make their position known to sports clubs, and clubs need to be aware that if they want anything done, they will have to do it themselves.

Watch this space for more gory details about Rhodes sport. The next edition will focus on racism and sexism in sport. If you have any personal comments or experiences to share, please contact Brigid Martin on 23966 or e-mail: activate@rucus.ru.ac.za

SABC face lift

Nicky Manson

EVERYONE has seen the new elaborate adverts and we have all seen the new layout in the TV guide, but what exactly has SABC done to improve television viewing? They advertise their new channels by saying that "new look television" is here with its full spectrum of languages representing all South Africans. However, in a small town like Grahamstown where we are without SABC 3, our English viewing time has been cut down considerably.

Of the twenty or so university residences that were spoken to, only two of them have SABC 3 because they have the necessary aerial and another is busy installing one. So every other residence which does not have the finances to spend on such an aerial are reduced to watching the other two channels, namely SABC 1&2. After briefly scanning through the TV guide, it became clear that one must either watch television at College house or take up reading.

On Monday nights SABC 1 offers *Hlab' Ukhangele*, a Xhosa drama series which is followed by the news in Zulu, which is further followed by a discussion in Zulu. On SABC 2 you can sit down, relax and watch *Crucible of Conflict* in Sesotho or the news which is (surprise) also in Sesotho. This

fulfils their aim to cover all language groups, but where does English fit in? A bit later *Beverly Hills* is on but even after SABC's so-called facelift, it is still in Afrikaans and is followed later by *Die Buitenste Ruim*. The rest of the week follows in the same light, need I say more? In reviewing all this I found having no SABC 3 "the English channel" rather off putting, so I decided to enquire into the matter.

Grahamstown officially only gets SABC 1 & 2 on the airwaves. You require a special aerial to get SABC 3 and you cannot just go out and buy one because the Rhodes Estates division doesn't allow them to be put on roofs any more. So your only option left as a student in res, is to get this aerial fitted into your roof at a cost of R105, not including the labour fees at R120 plus vat and if you already have the other two channels you will have to have all three of your signals combined at an extra cost of R45. So after paying your TV licences you still have to fork out another R270 just to receive the missing channel!

It is also only the smaller urban areas like Grahamstown that have to pay for this channel as an extra. Port Elizabeth and East London are closer to the SABC transmitters and so receive all the channels easily. Out here in the bundus the signal is too weak, being only one kilowatt whilst SABC 1&2 are ten kilowatts each.

On speaking to a representative of the SABC in PE, I was told that this matter is currently under discussion. SABC are trying to improve their frequencies and the situation has been brought to the Independent Broadcasting Authority's attention. It is the IBA's approval which is needed in order for SABC to spend the necessary amounts to install new satellites which will enable the entire Eastern Cape to get SABC 3 as a regulatory channel.

NEWSFLASH!!! I've just been handed a copy of the newspaper. It seems the IBA have given the SABC the go-ahead. While we at Rhodes sit and wait for new developments to come through, my advice is to switch off the television and take up a sport!

at FIRST glance...

Ken Rayner

GRAHAMSTOWN is simply an enigma. The only way to try and understand it is to admit Grahamstown just cannot be understood. Someone did put it in perspective when she said the whole Rhodes experience was an extremely fast roller-coaster ride. It's easy to do because it doesn't take much conscious effort. The only choice you make is which seat to take, but it really doesn't matter because none of the seats have safety-bars anyway. Emotional electrodes are placed on your forehead and the volume on the speakers of life are turned up to full.

But seriously, what's with the weather? One tends to feel that like everything else in Grahamstown, it simply arbs around. Just like most of the students, it doesn't know if it is coming or going, so it simply hangs around indecisively.

According to a recent underground poll, first-years have unanimously agreed the

food is actually more unpopular than the schizophrenic weather. Complaints were wide and varied - from cold passage floors to the distance between the Union and the Vic. But it is rather hard to take these complaints seriously, because anybody who has encountered a student will tell you students complain only for the sake of complaining.

Strangely enough, no one says much about being homesick, or maybe they are too embarrassed to say so. One common opinion among the first years is that there is actually no place to run and hide when everything becomes too much.

Just observation (and obvious experimentation) lead many first years to really believe Rhodes was designed as an excuse for getting raucously drunk and disorderly. Whatever your fancy is, Grahamstown will satisfy your desires. Unfortunately, to some this entails their demise, but c'est la vie. One thing's for certain, no one leaves this place unchanged.

Explicit Talk

IT DOES not call for any ingenuity to see that some Governmental departments are really determined to haphazardly drain their accounts in the name of RDP. Subtle signs of competition with the Minister *sans* Portfolio, Jay Naidoo, to spend as many cents as possible and as quickly as possible, are not hard to see. Indeed so many cents are there that are being spent that the Ministers themselves have lost count and simply decided to convert them to the nearest rand which, to their belief, yielded R14 000 000.

This seems to be the case with Our Minister of Health, with regards to Sarafina 2. Given what Sarafina 2 entails, there can be only two ends to it. Informing and educating people about the dangers of AIDS; and Black Economic Empowerment (of course there's an entertainment aspect to it which remains a trivia within this context). It appears as if our Minister is wittingly trying to kill two vultures with a stone. Being from a disadvantaged sector of our economy myself, surely I do preach Black Economic Empowerment but certainly not the one advocated by our Minister of Health and her ministry. Black Economic Empowerment does not mean trampling on other people's heads. Surely a person of charisma and integrity like Mbongeni Ngema should have known that. His claim of commanding a million rand might be genuine and sincere, but please before we make such exorbitant claims let's put public funds off limits.

Perhaps with regards to the R300 000 being used to thank Ngema, we can give the man the benefit of the doubt, but what the rest of the money goes into remains a mystery. It is all one big extravaganza. New luxury buses, sophisticated lighting and sound equipment, many staff members, and the crew (not forgetting our industrious producer himself who only knew about AIDS from A-S). An appropriate and much more pertinent question is perhaps, did he really need R14 million and all that equipment to drive the AIDS message home? It seems that our Public Protector, Selby Baqwa, has an awesome task facing him before we can all start dreaming (literally) again!

Given his international acclaim one finds it very disappointing that artists who can be thought of as his 'students' have managed to produce and effectively deliver the message on AIDS without having to run a few extra zeros in their budgets. Granted, AIDS is growing at a rate that calls for concern and a burning urge to contain it; but it does not mean we should imprudently blow our budgets out of proportion. Without being naive and unrealistic, I still think that the AIDS proportions confronting us do not inhibit us from sane deliberations that will allow a careful selection of our noughts. Now if other plays have proved effective in the past at a lower cost, can't they be regenerated and have a fraction of that R14 million diverted to research and medicine? It appears as if people like Dr. Nkosazana Zuma are oblivious to the real issues within the medical and health care fraternity. It would have warmed a few hearts and solicited gratified smiles if the AIDS play fund had been re-directed to clinics and medical services in the most neglected parts of our country which might not even be aware of the controversy staining our country; with the potential of leaving some

Governmental departments reformed.

What remains is for us in the latter part of our country - appropriately and affectionately known as the City of Saints - to await Mr Ngema's million rand landing so as to begin our meticulous weighing of the play against the six and not-so-lean zeros that made it a 'reality'. But then I guess the whole crew will have been fattened by the salary packages and benefits attached thus presenting us with half the message, half the entertainment, and double the boredom. Maybe I'll stay at home and watch 'Mind Your Language'. At least it is explicitly stupid unlike our play. This will allow me to divert my R20 to a much more prudent use.

Come to think of it, I now understand why the President placed our Minister of Health on the guillotine earlier this year. It all makes CENTS! May our honourable Minister keep alert lest the stone she hurls at the two birds makes a sudden rebound come Baqwa's report.

LIGHTEN UP

While working for Rhodes during registration, I was stationed at the vehicle registration desk. Browsing through the list of registered owners, I found on each row, a student number, name, address, telephone number, colour (or so I thought), make and registration number. A peculiar thing about this 'colour' is that it tended to be white in every row, but then, an Asian 'colour'? No it is not a colour of the car but that of the owners. What relevance race has to the make or ownership of a car at Rhodes University, still leaves me innocently perplexed.

Still on cars; surely Prince Alfred road does not have so notoriously dangerous a record that Rhodes had no choice but to plant potentially dangerous humps on it. Maybe they can erect robots to add more colour and glamour to campus...

and furthermore...

At some point in our lives, the opposite of our intelligence tends to get the best of us, especially when being blown by winds of excitement.

It is very natural for people to get over-excited and to celebrate their achievements, and soccer is no exception. However, according to FIFA celebrations should have limits enforced by the authorities. Players will not be allowed to 'over celebrate' a goal during the match because this wastes time and delays the match. Determining what constitutes 'over celebration' is left to the poor referees' discretion. Now it seems players have to strive hard to score goals without the reward of excitement and jubilation. Makes me wonder what that's going to do to their motivation.

Tiro Mokoditso



Pigs in Digs

Diane Awerbuck

MOVING into digs sounds very cute. You, three of your closest friends, maybe a dog, real food, carpets. This is what they want you to think. After a while you start thinking other things, like, if I plead temporary insanity, how much time would I have to do? Basically you have to make a decision between an American Me-type existence and contact on a daily basis with people who think that hanging plates on their bedroom walls is a really cool thing to do.

I wasn't born this way. Everything I am about to tell you actually happened. Every word, gospel truth. Here we go.

Once upon a time there was a digs in Bathurst street. In it were five rent-paying tenants plus one Other. (We never found out what his exact function was. Mostly he just stayed in her room. Once or twice we heard him scrabbling at the door.)

In the beginning everything was fine, for a few months we cooked together and everybody bought pink toilet paper when it was their turn. It was paradise.

One day one of our digsmates was diagnosed as suffering from a nervous breakdown. She twitched a lot and said things about people hiding the tuna from her and scratching through her underwear drawer. When we tried to explain to her that nothing in her room held even the remotest

interest for us because we had lives, she got really upset.

After that she pursued a scorched earth policy, taking no prisoners and inviting her sister over. This was purely in order to force The Enemy to endure them squealing like heavy machinery (the kind you're not supposed to operate if you're on prescription drugs). You haven't lived until you've been exposed to two crazy women with sinus problems, who say "avant garde" at every opportunity.

Things snowballed, from minor skirmishes to major altercations with heavy losses to both sides. The Great Tupperware Debacle, The Battle of the Bread Money and The Pubic Hair in the Bathroom Debate headed the list as the most bloody. Eventually there was full scale nuclear armament. And you know what they say about radiation. Only the cockroaches are going to survive.

Perhaps one of the most contentious issues was whose music got played on the communal sound system. We, all unknowing, had moved in with people who had extensive Kate Bush and Barry White collections to their credit. So our options were limited - yai ai, babushka babushka or a lot of grunting if it was a good day. You got used to it. Babe.

It's amazing what you do get used to, how much bizarre behaviour passes for normal. Things like lying systematically over the telephone to concerned middle-class

parents, who've somehow managed to produce the kind of offspring they used to strangle at birth in the good ol' days - Hi, yes, I'm fine. No, she's not here. She's at the library. No, there's nothing in my throat. That squealing in the background? That's the TV. We always watch TV at lunchtime. CNN. Yes. Okay. Goodbye. Click. Not.

Things like people's boyfriends wearing your underwear and running around on all fours. And not denying it. (It's not that I'm prejudiced against men who're getting in touch with their feminine side, it's just that it's inconvenient. He could have asked.) Things like staying in the bathroom for two hours because you know she wants to get in but you're damned if you'll let her, mainly because you're shredding her Minnie Mouse g-string with a pair of nail scissors and a razor (blunt).

Things like your rational, male, rent-paying digsmate finally losing it and pissing on her vienna-coloured car from the balcony. And finding out the next day that the people next door beat him to it.

All of the above.

All I'm saying is - watch out, it bites. And not in the places you expect either. Just ask John Wayne Bobbitt about that one.

Find out all you can about your digsmates. Yank open those closets, scour those dental records and try to avoid exchange students. You just don't know where they've been.

Campus Voice

FIRST year students are beginning to discover the realities of life at Rhodes. Academic heat has been turned on for those who have been unsuspecting and living in a world of false imagination. All those jovial and relaxed faces which I constantly met during the first weeks of term seem to be fading away. The truth of the matter is that life at Rhodes is about to take a turn for the worst in terms of headaches, strain and frustration, but one has to constantly remain optimistic and ready for any challenges or obstacles. Assignments that take eternity to complete, tests that will almost stop your heart with shock and many academic aspects of life at Rhodes are gradually going to become painful experiences.

I have learnt from past experiences to never judge a student's academic ability on the basis of facial or physical appearance. Most of those beautiful, handsome and intelligent looking faces that I thought would do so well seem to have passed away from this institution. The reason for their disappearance could be that they did not survive 'the survival of the fittest' game created by those in administrative high places. Through this game the academically sharp and adequately resourced students are most likely to survive, leaving behind those who vainly try to find the enigmatic meaning of being a first year student. It seems a coincidence that it is the better-looking students who did not seem to score so high last year. Although to say that the bold and the beautiful on campus are heading for a year of academic disaster is not a theory that has been proved. It is simply an innocent observation which should not be taken as gospel, especially by those who think highly of themselves.

A booming social life does seem to exist for most students (who are only human). That supply of alcohol which seems to flow for eternity has become a somewhat approved staple food for most Rhodians. Weekend parties which run into examination periods are a reality. Sightings of romantic couples and courtship gossip have become a favourable past-time for most students. Everybody's business has become public disclosure even if you are a nobody. The gossip industry is one place where first year students may find themselves in, but they should realise that any investment in such an industry will only bring about negative returns.

Surely for first year students this new found freedom which comes as a result of being away from home has made them into new people. It is unlikely though that this institution and its people will accept any artificial beings. This issue of false characters has become a sensitive issue to many older folks (ie second years and older!) who have even taken certain measures which are aimed at curbing this disease. This disease mainly encompasses those with a suddenly developed snobbish nature, those who are consciously unsociable and those who seem to require royal treatment. Maybe such people should come down to earth and be normal or natural.

This enlightenment of life on campus is not meant to frighten anyone. You will definitely experience enjoyable times. For many older students life here has been filled with many joyous experiences. It should be remembered that self discipline is a necessity. You can make more friends and more parties happen, but at Rhodes I am sorry to say that you will never be able to make more time.

Philani Vince Masuku

Community Radio Clash

Matthew Buckland

A HEAD-on clash between Rhodes Music Radio (RMR) and a local community radio station seems almost inevitable following a recent IBA ruling granting RMR exclusive access to the Grahamstown airwaves.

Local community radio station, Radio Grahamstown, are complaining they have been left out in the cold by the IBA after RMR re-applied for an extension on its temporary broadcast licence.

In an interview, Rod Amner stressed his station, Radio Grahamstown, was not opposed RMR itself, but to the "rigid" IBA ruling which allows only one broadcast frequency in Grahamstown.

He warned although Radio Grahamstown wanted to avoid any possible conflict with RMR, a confrontation seemed inevitable unless the IBA relaxed its regulations.

"We don't want to come to a head with RMR - but it might happen. Both RMR and us want to carry on with our business. We are not necessarily upset with RMR. The real problem here is the IBA. It should be here to empower the people - but it is at the moment empowering the empowered," he added.

Radio Grahamstown was eventually granted an audience by the IBA after protest demonstrations outside last week's hearings to review RMR's licence.

Amner confirmed Radio Grahamstown had officially appealed to the IBA to grant Grahamstown another broadcast frequency, but has as yet received no answer.

At the end of the year the IBA will again review the licence and decide whether a four year 'permanent' licence should be

awarded. When RMR's present licence comes up for review, Amner said Radio Grahamstown would submit a formal application to the IBA for a licence.

Although Radio Grahamstown did not submit a formal application at the recent IBA hearings because they "were not ready", Amner said his organisation would be ready to apply when the licences come up for review at the end of the year.

This will undoubtedly bring the two stations into direct conflict for the same frequency. Barring the unlikely event of the IBA granting two frequencies to Grahamstown, this will effectively result in IBA making a choice between the competing stations, unless a compromise is reached between the stations.

It is thought Radio Grahamstown will have an added advantage over RMR because of its greater commitment and closeness with the wider community.

However, RMR's experience on the air and highly organised administration structures, should also count in its favour during the hearings.

Amner criticised RMR for not serving the Grahamstown community and being mainly student focused, and added Radio Grahamstown would effectively serve a larger community if granted a licence.

RMR station manager Celeste Dickimson acknowledged that the student station needed to become more community orientated, but noted efforts to redraw the station's constitution and integrate with the community were underway.

"We have been a campus station for 14 years, and during that time represented very limited interests. This kind of change needs time and we are going to have to go about it

very carefully.

"At the moment we are trying - we are really trying. It is frustrating when we get this kind of criticism - we are working our backsides off and getting no support," she added.

Celeste noted that RMR's efforts to integrate with the community include allowing Radio Grahamstown broadcasting time, plans to participate in the upcoming 'Grahamstown Easter Festival', and plans for talk show hosts to visit the coloured communities.

She added that Grahamstown schools were being invited onto RMR for their own talk shows - although these schools were only from the historically privileged areas of Grahamstown excluding township schools. RMR are soon to meet with SASPU to discuss criticisms that it fails to represent aspects of the Rhodes community, such as the working staff.

Presently, both radio stations have come to a temporary agreement where Radio Grahamstown has an hour every Saturday on RMR airwaves.

Amner said he was grateful to RMR for the airtime, but he was not completely satisfied, calling the agreement "limited" and "one-sided". Amner indicated that although Radio Grahamstown would be happy to share broadcast time, it would have to be on a "fair and equal basis" only.

Celeste noted that although she supported Radio Grahamstown's efforts, RMR would be reluctant to give Radio Grahamstown equal airtime. "I'm not sure about that. We have done a lot on RMR, we're very protective of it and put a lot of work into it - so naturally we would say no. But if it had to come to that we would have to sit down and discuss it," she said.

STRING THEM UP?

Trusha Reddy & Sarah MacGillivray

BRAZIL 1993 - A young man is accused of murdering his wife. Police and a host of other key-witnesses give testimony to the brutal crime. He is found guilty despite his plea of innocence. He is sentenced to death and is subsequently executed. Two weeks later his identical twin brother confesses to the murder...

This and many other similar cases sparked a multitude of questions and arguments against the practice of the death penalty in the modern world. In South Africa, we have recently witnessed the abolition of capital punishment, but many still believe that there is a vital need for it, especially in today's increasingly violent society.

Who has the right to take another's life? If a murderer infringes on another person's right to life, surely they deserve a punishment fitting their crime? In this light, The pragmatic view however, suggests that merely imposing the life sentence as a maximum penalty is inadequate. It does not

quell the fears of the public, because as a deterrent it is seen to be ineffectual. South African prisons have poor success with rehabilitation and face increasingly crowded jail conditions. Many believe that it is unjust to use taxpayer's money to clothe, feed and provide shelter for hardened criminals who have violated the laws of society and yet still seem to enjoy the compassion of the state. BJourn student Ann said that "in South Africa, in the interim period, we need a harsher deterrent in our crime ridden society."

To execute that criminal would be to ensure that they never kill anyone else, and thereby pay the ultimate price for their sin.

But who is entitled to make the decision that execution is the right and fair form of punishment? Is it the public's or the government's choice to condemn someone to death? Surely it is beyond mankind's authority to decide another's fate in this manner. Furthermore, if you condemn a criminal for murder then killing them is synonymous with committing the crime yourself. A first year student on campus

believes that "it's almost like legalising murder!"

And what about the inhumanity of the execution methods employed? Death by firing squad, electrocution, hanging, gassing and the "humane killer" injection. These supposedly merciful killings are brutal and crude further bringing the ethics of the death penalty into question.

Specific religious conflicts also arise. A fundamental commandment in the Bible is "Thou shalt not kill", and this does not exempt judges and executioners. Yet what about the Jewish and Arab beliefs in an "eye-for-an-eye and a tooth-for-a-tooth", the code of Hammurabi? Countries that practice punitive measures such as the amputation of a thief's hand, and the execution of a murderer by brutal means, often have an extremely low crime rate. But Brendan, an Activate member, points out South African singer Stimela's lyrics, "an eye for an eye makes the world blind".

In South Africa, if such methods were to be adopted, the recent upsurge in countrywide violence may be reduced or at least serve as a deterrent to would-be offenders. To

reintroduce the death penalty, would be to dispel many criminals' perceptions that the government, the justice system and the police are soft on crime and incapable of stopping and preventing crime.

With Human Right's Day on 21 March, this controversial issue has brought conflicts to a head once more. A small survey conducted on Rhodes University campus provided the following statistics regarding the reinstatement of the Death Penalty in South Africa: 58% are for it, 33% are against it and 9% were undecided.

As in the Brazilian case of mistaken identity resulting in the death of a wholly innocent man, sentencing someone to death can be an irreparable mistake because proof, evidence and judgement are completely subjective concepts. In that instance, how does society absolve itself of the guilt after making such a disastrous error?

The final argument for the reinstitution of the death penalty perhaps comes out of the 1995 S.V. Makwanyane case: if you don't want to share this earth with another person, then we don't want to share it with you.

Hometaalk

Maria de Gray Birch, Benita Kursan, Sarah Wyllie, Graunt Kruger

THIS week Activate poked its nose into the private lives of various unsuspecting Rhodians, curious to find out why some people chose to spend their entire university careers in res while others grab the opportunity to move into digs.

We conducted a survey and found that most students think that one should brave res life for at least the first year. As one student said: "You get to know more people and you feel part of the university". After that one can make a choice between (1) staying in res (2) moving into digs or (3) commuting daily from home in Sandton - doll!

Many think that moving into digs automatically assures one of more privacy, freedom and better food. Obviously the extent of this varies from one digs to another so be sure of what you're getting into. You may end up eating Nutrament -T and living with members of the Addams family for the next year. Socially, digs tend to be more sedate. One has to go out in search of action, whereas in res, one has to hide from it. But as a student who has lived in digs for two years exclaimed "its freedom, absolute freedom!" Digs can also help train one for marriage...or put one off it. There are a lot more responsibilities in digs - not only do you have to clean up your own room, but the rest of the house has to be taken care of too. Then

there are the added burdens of paying the bills, shopping and cooking. As second year student Adrian complains "the only way to make the chores bearable are to talk to your dishes!"

Digs is usually cheaper provided you control yourself. Its easy to splurge on the "little extras" like two-ply toilet paper.

Some people who stay on in res become sub-wardens. They earn about R500 a month which reduces their living costs.

Living in res and having the campus on your doorstep can be a real bonus for those who wash, eat, dress and do their homework in the five minute period between waking up and going to lectures. Some students also prefer staying in res because of the close contact they have with fellow students, there's always someone to ask for advice or to just kick the occasional ball around with. Head Student of Drosty Hall, David Newton, says each year you make new friends and often fraternal bonds are formed. Being exposed to diverse cultures in res is an education in itself. One has to live with far more people in res than in digs. One therefore does not have to see the same face around every corner.

Finally, the choice between whether to live in digs or in res is a very personal one and depends entirely on each person's situation. If you can stomach the food, ignore the noise and comply with the rules, res is for you. If not, join the real world and practise your shopping, cleaning and cooking skills!

Hitting The Right Note

Carlien Vavruch

"I LOVE the sound - I still get goosebumps when I hear it now!" When Trevor Pocock first heard the bagpipes at St. Andrew's College he was so struck by the music that he was determined to be a part of it.

This sound he loves is very much part of the eclectic Grahamstown atmosphere. We can hear him practising on the Great Field and we often hear the well-known Scottish melodies of the St Andrew's band that he belongs to.

He went to St Andrew's in standard seven and his dorm prefect was Pipe Major of the band and looking for people to join. After seeing them perform, Trevor decided that this was what he wanted to do.

As a beginner, he started on a practice chanter (like a recorder) to learn the notes, scales and tunes. Once he mastered it he was allowed to get his set of bagpipes. This is a significant achievement at the school and he got his pipes in standard eight.

The pipes are not difficult to play, you just need "a really big breath" and then to co-ordinate your arm and your breathing. It is a strenuous activity and you work up quite a sweat.

At the moment, Trevor is using pipes belonging to St Andrew's, but he will be getting his own set in about two years. They are being handmade by Chris Terry who is also the leader of the St Andrew's band. He wears the Graham of Montrose tartan which is the school kilt, although one day he will wear the Johnston tartan of his distant Scottish ancestors. The pipes and the kit are expensive and it is therefore definitely not something to get involved in on a whim. Trevor still plays with the St Andrew's band because there are no other pipe bands in Grahamstown and it is an opportunity to carry on playing and learning.

He practices by himself as often as possible, mainly to prepare for the solo piping competitions in which he participates. The Eastern Cape Highland Gathering is coming



pic:Ja Grauch

up in April, and although the solo competition has been cancelled this year, the band competition will still be held at St Andrew's. The gatherings usually include piping, solo drumming, dancing and the competitors combine their talents in the finale for a mass band.

At these competitions children as young as seven years old play the bagpipes and it is not at all unusual to see women pipers. DSG girls have played in the St Andrew's band in the past and there are also many female drummers.

Trevor is not strictly Scottish, but he is carrying on a family tradition of sorts, as his father was a drum major during his years at St Andrew's.

He is modest about his achievements, but it is obvious that he is passionate about his playing. The end of his career at Rhodes will definitely not see Trevor packing away the bagpipes. There are bands all over the country that he can join and it is clear that piping will continue to be an important part of his life.

HIS MAJESTY'S

AT LAST...

Going Full Dolby Surround Sound very soon!!!

TOUCAN

13 High Street

Exciting Student Clothing

Washed Out!

Who says that nothing exciting ever happens in Grahamstown? Sceptics were proved wrong on Saturday March 9 when the Pyramid hosted its most well-attended rave in recent weeks, aptly named "Washout!" Which all goes to show that the rave scene is actually alive here, albeit slow to raise itself on its hind legs...Katie King reports.

THE poster boasted gleefully "10KW of Sound" and alongside the names of the deejays displayed were such descriptive labels as "hardhappy trance", "tripfunk" and "chunkyhouse". The event? The second Rush Rave of '96, and undoubtedly, the most popular gig ever hosted at the Pyramid.

Grahamstown was there in full force - the curious "to see what it was all about", the devotees, to show off what they'd bought at Diesel during the vac, and the regular yobos, there despite the apparent clash between their bungee apparel and the ultra-amped setting. So what exactly was all the hype about?

Think of it like this: rave disciples descend on the Pyramid sometime after 11pm to share in the vibe, pumping bass and the overall effect of visual and aural stimulation, all of which act to enhance the narcotic-induced euphoria which pervades the scene. Multi-coloured search lights probe bodies gyrate en masse, and all human life is infused with what the Prodigy would term, "the pulsating, rhythmical remedy".

Look up from your position on the dance floor and you'll see dilated pupils nestling behind Oakley shades and a swelling tide of stripy neon garments closely covering perspiring flesh. This then, is what lent the Pyramid its particular ambience that night. Those not occupying the dance space meandered across to the bar in search of liquid refreshment. Energade pulled in some good trade (it was either that or possible dehydration). Otherwise, there was always the option of going outside to recuperate, cool off and socialise. Nearby the entrance to the dance dome wafted the distinctive smell of cannabis, which pricked the nostrils at various stages of the evening.

Those who took the trouble to dress up, came up with some class-A outfits. One question we were all quite sure on was the Prize for the Wackiest Get-Up, which went to the lad with painted blue tresses, a white complexion and very, very bizarre attire (the word "bag-lady" comes to mind).

Other awards for the evening: the most Entertaining Award, which went to the screwball who did a Charlie Chaplin act for about half an hour outside the Pyramid entrance, and the Voyeur Award, which goes to all of you who insisted on dancing upstairs so that you could watch what the rest of us were doing downstairs unobserved. And lastly, we have the prestigious Die-Hard of the Evening Award, which undoubtedly goes to the Pyramid deejays - Rory, Robin, Gary and the bunch who headed on to the Mot for Sunday morning breakfast after the rave was over.

Tale of Two Cities



Lisa Greenstein, Kate Bramwell and Glen Vaughn rehearse a scene from *A Tale of Two Cities*.

Donna Kipps

THE Drama Department's Graduation production for 1996 is *A Tale of Two Cities*, based on the novel by Charles Dickens.

Matthew Francis' adaption of the classic tale recaptures all the romance and adventure of The French Revolution, with a large cast of characters and an exciting script. At first glance, it seems an unusual choice of play for the present situation in Rhodes and in South Africa as a whole. Director David Alcock explained that he liked the dramatic possibilities of the script, and felt that the story is indeed very relevant, as it explores the themes of revolution and social change which are an integral part of our political situation, and even our personal lives.

This production promises to be a vibrant and inspiring one, using the actors and members of the Drama Department to their fullest potential. Drama III and Honours Design students designed the elaborate period costumes, and Drama students from all

years make up the large cast. The innovative and contemporary approach which we have come to expect from the Rhodes Drama Department is evident in their original use of lighting, sets and special effects.

The play has three essential purposes. First and foremost, of course, is its entertainment value. Secondly, it gives the members of the Drama Department the challenge and opportunity to develop their skills. Thirdly, it has an educational value as the Dickens novel is a school setwork for this year, and the play will be used as part of an educational drama experience for local schools.

A Tale of Two Cities will run at the R.U. Theatre from March 27 - 30, and the Graduation weekend (April 12 - 13). From there, the production will go to the School's Festival in Port Elizabeth.

Bookings can be made through the theatre secretary. Telephone 0461-318538 (mornings only) or can be purchased at the box office from 7pm on the night. So if your out for a feast of Rhodes culture, *A Tale of Two Cities* is a must-see.

Dista

3105

CONFESIONS OF A COFFEE ADDICT

TOO early for the rave, my partner and I decided to head to the Spur for some coffee to get us going, before heading up to the Pyramid. It was the last coherent decision we were to make for the next two days as the world began to spin in our own paranoid rave. My coffee-stained clothes tell their own story, but I'll concentrate on what fragments of memory I retain from that night. Those who saw me later can probably fill in some of the details.

It started off innocently enough with a couple of quiet coffees, a chat about the importance of smoking cigarettes and the charges of epiphenomenalism brought against Davidson's Anomalies Monism ... but before I knew it, we had gone over that line when your brain has more caffeine than it can handle. For some unapparent reason, well unapparent now, but perfectly clear at the time, our waitress kept up a steady supply of coffee ...

"More coffee, sir?" A flurry of red and white stripes erupts out of the left corner of my eye.

"Yeah, sure ..."

"More coffee, sir?"

"Yes, please ..."

"Can I get you a refill?"

"Yes, why not ..."

"Can I top you up?"

"Errrrr ..."

Mmmmmmm...

I look across at my partner for some sort of salvation. I notice her glazed expression, she looks as bad as I feel. The realization hits me ... we're OD'ing on caffeine ... she is as about as far out on the

perimeter as I am ... there will be no salvation coming from that corner. In my heart I begged my three favourite deities for help; Christ, Allah and L. Ron Hubbard ... Well, I didn't expect anything from L. Ron Hubbard ... he isn't big on giving advice and well Allah hadn't shown himself to anybody in a while ... but I had big hopes on Christ ... he seems to be appearing to all sorts of people lately ...

But alas nothing ... pretty soon we'll be speeding on coffee and complaining of large dragons and spiders ... we've got to leave soon. I search my mind for some sort of response ... the perfect alibi for my mind ... "Errrrr ... yes please..."

The perfect answer! A total positive, nobody could mistake that for a negative. Short and to the point.

I try to lift the cup to my lips, but I seem to be shaking ... the coffee spills everywhere ... I'm fine ... really I am ... smile ... smile ... nod ... shit, shit they're watching me ... got to keep control ... can't let them see that I

I down the coffee ... it sticks in my throat ... sweet and lukewarm. I think there's fur growing in my throat ... maybe they've

poisoned the coffee ... that must be it ... they've poisoned the coffee ... bang ... bang ... bang ... My heart is going to explode The music ... goddamn this music is starting to get to me ... wait ... this is part of the plot they're playing the same songs over and over on purpose ... I've read about this in a Chinese torture manual ... Christ ... the music ... bang ... bang ... bang ...

My partner looks around suddenly ... gets up ... and ... leaves via the back door ... where is she going? ... Creeping Jesus, she can't be leaving ... she must be in on it ... I can see them hovering nearby ... waiting ... like some exotic species of red and white vultures ... waiting for me to show some sort of weakness ... probing me with their eyes ... this is a test ... they're waiting for me to turn paranoid ... a quivering mass of jelly ... bang ... bang ... bang ... I refuse ... I'm not going to crack ... they won't get me ... INCOMING FIVE O'CLOCK ...

They're hovering again ... waiting for me to show weakness ... this damn beat is driving me mad ... bang ... bang ... bang ... some sort of huge creature ... a heartbeat ... one of them is coming closer ... act nonchalant ... everything is fine ... just relax ... she'll save you ... red ... white ... red ... white ... redwhite ... redwhite ...

redwhiteredwhiteredwhiteredwhite ... "Would you like some coffee sir?" ... I'm inside a whale ... I can hear its heartbeat ... what am I doing in a whale? "Would you like some

coffee sir?" ... Good Lord ... an enzyme dressed in football gear! ...

"Hi, can I get you some more coffee?"

... errr ... "Yes ... what?" ... shit ... losing ... game over ... insert another coin ... "More Sugar?" ... not paranoid ... "More sugar?" ... not paranoid ... not paranoid ...

"More sugar, sir?" ... "errr what?" ... "Are you okay?" ... mind reeling at the speed of light ... okay? ... okay? ... its a test ... and the correct answer is ... maybe it isn't ... its a test ... "Yes ... please..." ... always polite ... shows them you're still all there ...

"Can I top that up for you?"

"Yes, please ..."

"Can I top that up for you?"

"Yes, please ..."

"Can I top that up for you?"

"Yes, please ..."

"WOULD YOU LIKE SOME COFFEE SIR?"

... It speaks ... this is all a plot ... they're really out to get me this time ... must leave ... go home ... where is she? ... bang ... bang ... bang ... "SIR?" ... "Errrrr ... yes?" ... "Would you like some more sugar?" ... "Errr yes?" ... can't give in ...

She's back ... gotta go ... gotta get out of here ... walk ... move ... keep moving ... walk ... walk is good ... yes ... keep walking ... gotta keep moving ... get outta here ... walk anywhere ... cool air ... water ...

"More coffee, sir?"

Xiola Blue

This is not a story

Robin Kelly

REZA De Wet's car sputters into life and rolls up a deserted Prince Alfred street. The show is over, it's Saturday night, and the *First Physical Theatre* cast and crew are going home.

"I might not have enough petrol," she says as the car winds down Somerset and turns into African. She has the most curious accent, but before I can place its origins, Gary Gordon begins directing us to his home in Croft street, where the rest of the theatre will be arriving shortly.

I had seen the performance of *The Unspeakable Story* the night before, and had interviewed Professor Gordon, Andrew Buckland and Margot "standing ovate" Beard, that morning. After the interview I was invited to attend the Saturday performance, and after the Saturday performance, I find myself walking into Gary's home, with pen, paper, collared shirt, and the presence of a journalist about to get a really great story.

The first to arrive are Lanon, Craig, and Sam. The conversation they bring is of the performance and the slight timing difficulties that occurred that night. Not knowing too much about their side of the stage I comment that it was extremely stuffy in the theatre (the Friday evening show was cooled by the rain) and that the performance had reached different extremes of high and low, as opposed to Friday, when the progression was more noticeable. I add that people had applauded between the six scenes on Friday night, whereas on Saturday the work got an outstanding ovation at the end.

Reza responds that she loves Heather Nova and begins to sing "I put my hands where your wings should be...", while Craig and Lanon begin to tell me about the authenticity of the Stellenbosch audience.

"They were drunk, a large portion of the crowd, like one half had arrived pissed and during the performance we could hear them asking 'Wat doen hulle... Wat gaan aan' and laughing, while the rest, the sober half, where going 'Shooooosh'."

Lanon sees me scribbling away and suddenly becomes aware what I'm doing there...he changes character, becomes a showman.

The maharani incense is lit, the music is playing, the scene is set and Andrew arrives. I'm most curious about Andrew Buckland, I remember seeing his work from as early as seven years prior to me being able to go backstage and invite him to an interview. He is quiet, almost shy, and keeps his theatrical presence tucked away with his hands in his pockets. I ask him if he is aware of the connotations of wearing red laces with black doc's - "No." I tell him the implications are connected to the rebellious punk movement - "Oh."

Calum Stevenson and Guy Nelson, the technician, arrive, followed by Nathalie, Athena, then Leonhard Praeg, the composer, and finally Juanita. Wine and fruit-juice from Friday is brought out and we all begin to drink and talk. I sit in the shadows, behind the scenes, trying to be as inconspicuous as possible. These are personalities of carnival.

I stare around the room, trying to absorb the scenery, while the rest all wait for Calum to connect the VCR. The lounge is dominated by a painting of a young fisherman



Samantha Pienaar and Andrew Buckland in 'The House' episode of Gary Gordon's *The Unspeakable Story* pic: Val Adamson

sitting on the rocks. Gary tells me that it has been passed down the generations, and means a lot to him.

The video begins with hysterical laughter as we see a good 10 minutes of scenery from above Table Mountain through the tired eyes of Calum, Gary and Guy. It's a riveting 10 minutes of sun-rise and boring dassies that we pressurise Calum into fast-forwarding before we get to the real scenes of *First Physical* action.

Maybe I should just make something clear at this stage: this is a group of twelve theatrically competitive and strong personalities, touring the country, in the middle of summer, in a mini-bus. And someone brought a video-camera.

The next scenes are the ones everyone has been anticipating - Andrew, Lanon, Craig and Nathalie jumping off a bridge. Only thing is, Calum filmed the wrong people jumping, so once again the group dunks his cinematic ignorance and incompetence and we move into the UCT Drama school.

The scenes of the group stretching and rehearsing are incredible to me as the romance of the situation begins to become clear to me: I am sitting in a room with a professional company of modern performers and peering into the lives of a group of late twentieth century artists unwinding. Magritte, Breton, Dali, these great names underlie the minds I felt moving about me, and I shift slightly in the chair.

The Unspeakable Story is a powerful display of the creative muscle and wicked intellect that surfaces when one artist recognises the power, fear and celebration of another. The dance drama the audiences were astounded by on both evenings, and all across the country, is the result of the fire the dancers feel when they relive the story, together, in a world of the avant-guard.

The video rolls along scenes of Gary's bald spot, a shot he most despises, to scenes where he refuses to walk the bricks during a rehearsal.

During the scenes of the performers being openly crude, scenes I think should remain behind the scenes, again I am amazed at the level of conversation between these

people. There is small talk, but it doesn't operate in any trivial way at all, it is incidental - any twitch, shudder, slight turning of the shoulder or nip of the lip is noticed for what it is, and what it is is what they spend most of their time discovering.

Dancers express themselves in motion, in rhythm, even by breathing. There are no physical inhibitions, only innovations and constant challenges.

The video ends and the group are restless that the show is over is temporary - all the while I can feel the energy in the room, the desire to create never seems to end. A silence lasts long enough for Leonard to put the music of Michael Nyman "Live" on.

The door bell rings and the pizza's are brought in. Three are vegetarian, three are for the meat eaters. I take a slice of seafood and listen to the discussions about the naïvety of Ballet, the prospects of international tours, the tensions within the group. At one stage I add something about the future of the arts only to have Reza comment on how the conversation is split in two: Lanon, Calum, Guy and myself talking about advertising, promotion and world tours being banal; while her conversation with Andrew, Leonard and Craig, about drugs and books and spirits is better. I go inside and tell Gary once again that the scene were the corpse comes back to life, the scene were the floater starts to sing Vaya Con Dios, is sick, and twisted. He laughs, but only because it is meant to be. Nervous laughter.

I extend my hand to Gary, I have had an incredible evening and have been elevated in the presence of a group of performance artists. But he doesn't shake my hand, he holds it, and slowly strokes the back of my hand with his thumb. It is the most incredible gesture, soft, yet full with the strength of touch. I stand there and for a few seconds I feel the power of an expressive touch, for those few moments I feel what these people explore for hours, daily. The richness of the gesture makes me feel stupid at the formality of the hand-shake, the firm lock of fists I thought would be adequate. The group smiles at me as I walk out, and I slip out into the audience once again.

Bass Line

IF A crap haircut is what it takes to conquer the Independent music scene then *Cast and the Bluetones* have undoubtedly jumped to the head of the queue, surpassing bands that are referred to as Britpop. Their arrival on the music scene has heralded the rebirth of the jangly, loved-up psychedelia that has been sorely missed for a number of years. This return to the sound of the classic era of 1989-91 is both refreshing and breathtaking.

Cast have successfully reincarnated the busker-influenced movement which dominates the Liverpoolian ethos of music with their glorious debut album *All Change* released on Polydor Records.

The four-piece was formed little over a year ago by former *La's* bassist, John Power, who has traded in his bass for the rhythm guitar. Whereas *The La's* were negative lyric-wise, their homespun philosophy has been adopted by Power but is constructive in its clever lyrical structure and ideology of mankind and the human existence by appealing all "to pick the right time and make a change". *All Change* weaves through its course with a delightful energy and versatility. The album begins its journey with the hugely successful, hyped-up *Alright* which alerts the Indie world to the fact that Power is no longer lurking in the shadows of ex-*La's* cohort, Lee Majors, but has broken free of the beliefs that doomed *The La's* to self-destruction. This spirited musical genius is echoed throughout the album in songs like *Sandstorm*, *Fine Time* (the debut single that marked *Cast's* arrival) and *Mankind*. *Cast* are by no means limited to the vivacious elements of music but are more than capable of producing ballads that tug on the heartstrings and never let go. *Four Walls* and *Walkaway* leave you breathless by the magnificence of the melodies and counter-harmonies.

It's difficult to explain what draws you into *Cast* but their musical heritage shines through in the parting gift of a Beatle-esque instrumental after one of those irritating 20-minute breaks record companies love to put in because they can and because it's there. The other emerging saving grace of Indie from the grasps of *Blur*-induced Britpop comes in the form of *The Bluetones*. After their debut single *Are You Blue Or Are You Blind?* and the follow-up single *Bluetonic* they have released another single *Slight Return* which has been lifted off their soon-to-be-released album.

Slight Return is possibly the most perfectly structured Indie song in the last five years, complete with jangly guitars, airy vocals and a hook-line that keeps you biting. Let the saviours have their say and keep the earbuds at hand.

Adrian Battye

Rhodes House Blues

Melissa Cook, Jenni-lee Crewe & Jonathan Savage

"JOL while it lasts". This is Larry Strelitz's immediate plan while he plays the blues with his new band, but when looking at his history, it seems his 'jol' has lasted and will continue.

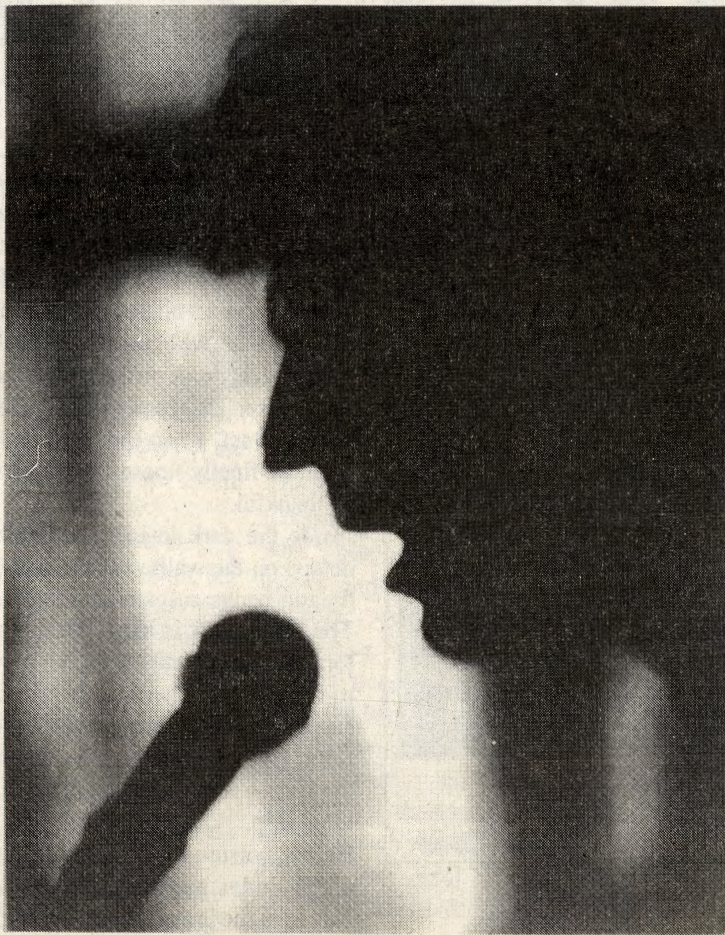
Larry Strelitz was a student at Rhodes University where he began his career in music, playing in a folk club in the late 70's. He remembered nostalgically how the Great Hall was packed with students sitting contently on cushions, drinking wine and listening to good music. Larry firmly believes that we should reincarnate this event so that perhaps the many 'closet' musicians we have here at Rhodes will be given the opportunity to play in front of a crowd and share their knowledge.

In 1986 Larry joined with a drummer, Simon Jones, and together they "packed it out" at a late night show in Cuyler street. After nine years of solely playing acoustic guitar, Larry slipped back easily into playing the electric guitar when joining Rick van Heerden, a saxophonist who played on James Phillips' last album. The band grew to include Anthony Kaplan (drums), Tim Bouwer (mouth organ) and Shawn their new bassist.

Larry is influenced by a wide range of music. One band that features prominently in his memory is *Little Feat*, a band that played in the 70's and who still play today. Generally he likes the feel of American electric blues because of the melodic, cooler

approach as apposed to the British scene. While studying his MA at university in London, Larry sent a demo tape to Warner Brothers who were interested in working with him. Unfortunately they contacted him two days before he was to leave London. It makes you think what could have been!

Apart from writing a lot of music with Robert Berold, a well known South African poet and writer, Larry has worked with Chris Lecher from Urban Creep and James Ribbons who is prominent on the local music



Strelitz's silhouette blues at The Blue Note.

pic : Taryn Cass

scene. Larry is essentially an acoustic guitarist who happily admits that having his own style is limiting in some respects while offering the band a unique, distinctive sound. If you get the chance to listen to Larry out of the lecture theatre don't pass up the opportunity of seeing this fantastic musician in action!

THE multi-talented Joe Edwards did it again last Wednesday evening at the Blue Note. Is there anything he cannot do? Changing the scene quite a bit since last year with his purely original band, 'What Joy Says' (named after their drummer, Joy, who never said anything), he is alone and unplugged.

With his bassist graduating and Joy heading for Cape Town, he is left on the stage strumming out popular hits on an acoustic guitar, accompanied only by his voice. Playing well-known covers from Radiohead to Oasis and REM and even squeezing in some originals, he keeps his audience well-entertained and his fans (Robin Kelly!) loyal. His little 12-bar blues improvisation, near the end of the evening was well appreciated and many encores were highly deserved. Joe is a busy Drama student here at Rhodes (and quite a personality within the Rhodes world) and even though he doesn't have much time to practise his music, he still manages to put on a good performance. Like I said, is there anything he cannot do?

Festival '96

Claire Smith

PREPARATIONS for the 1996 Standard Bank National Arts Festival are already in full swing. From the July 4-14, eager festival goers will be able to indulge in music, drama and visual arts performed and produced by top overseas and South African artists.

Festival highlights include works by the 1996 Standard Bank Young Artist Award Winners for music, Victor Masondo; drama, Lara Foot Newton; and visual arts, Trevor Makhoba. Masondo, a bass player/singer/composer has performed with the likes of Miriam Makeba and Dizzy Gillespie and is sure to enthrall music lovers with his vibrant style. Newton outdid herself at last year's Festival directing eight productions. This year she will present Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*, the story of the Salem Witchtrials. Not to be missed is Makhoba's exhibition in oils and media graphics, commenting on his community and the political liberation of South Africa.

Locally based Andrew Buckland is workshopping "Human Race", a mix of dance, mime and story-telling with the President's Award Gumboot Dancers and members of the First Physical Theatre Company.

Other attractions include a French photography exhibition, "Magnum Cinema", celebrating 100 years of cinema magic, Pieter Dirk-Uys's "Truth Omissions", a tongue-in-cheek look at the Truth Commission, and symphony concerts by the National Symphony orchestra and the Cape Philharmonic orchestra.

This is merely an inkling of what the Festival has to offer. Craft markets, jazz festivals, sundowners and tattoos may not be included on the festival programme but they are a must see and a must do. As a final persuasion, to all you first years who have never before experienced Grahamstown in mid-winter: it is freezing, amazing, culturally satiating... an experience that will alter your thinking, expand the corridors of your mind and leave you hung-over and completely broke! See you there!

Stool Talk

SOMETIMES things slip off the tongue like dream-woven drool, yet other times they fall like unchewed mince. In the last edition of the Activate creditorial read that I no longer need sex, and that I have a cat. The two facts were separated by a full stop, but joined by a wealth of suggestive and hateful implications. I apparently said this at some stage while they were collecting quotes. And what I meant is not what you read. The simple point I was making was that in Japan, businessmen are given pets to relieve any stress build ups, and cats were generally preferred because they're cleaner and more homely. The stroking has a soothing effect. Sex is internal stroking of soft flesh and firm tissue, without the fur, if you look at it from that perspective. So its soothing. When I said I don't need sex, I meant that I have no stress build-ups, and hence, if I did, I already had the cat. So f-k all of you who thought I was beefing my cat.

I was sitting in Kaif the other day, talking to a great redhead. After a while, in a moment of silence, she asked me if I had done anything particularly impressive that day. I responded spontaneously that I had pee'd in the pool. With equal spontaneity she asked

me if I had been in or out the water at the time.

Think about that.

Could you imagine how decadent and vile it would be if all the public refuse that gathers in the pool over a week, in the form of saliva, mucus, urine and sweat, were concentrated. If all the offenders got together, lets say on a Monday afternoon, and collectively did all of the above while standing round the pool. Sudden death is preferable to slow torture, but in the case of the swimming pool, a week of steady peat is far better than a sharp belt of effluvium.

The red-head rated the conversation 9 out of 10, I said it was probably more along the lines of 7.5, and we went our separate ways. Later that evening the absurdity of the conversation swamped my mind in mid-sentence, and the friend I was now sitting opposite was told the finer details. To my surprise, the story about all the shit in the pool washed her features over with what turned out to be a real deep childhood fear. Blushing, she told me about her public initiation into pool peeing. She had grown up in the States and because Texas always seems so big, they have to devise ways and means

of controlling the hordes of public swimming pool offenders. At five years old you don't give a shit though, if you gotta go, you go, but unfortunately, you don't actually go, you stand right where you are. She was in the pool. But so was this transparent substance that turns blood red when mixed with all the components of urine. And she peed. AND LO! The water did turn red and did follow her as she desperately tried to escape. But NAY! Even once out the pool, her costume did still retain the tender pigment of sheer shame and scarlet humiliation.

Back to my cat though. Or rather, back to the woman I don't have...I wonder what she'll do when she finally comes round and is greeted by the acrid smell of Kafkaesque's toilet\my kitchen? You see, the cat, Kafkaesque, is petrified of the poodles that roam the garden, so in turn she petrifies my carpeted kitchen floor. Or, when in the morning the woman I don't have wakes up and decides to have a bath, but ends up having to yank all the kit-kak out of the basin before she runs the water?

Ordinarily this wouldn't be much of an issue. I've learnt to live with my cat, and after

a year I can confess to having forgiven her for eating, scrumptiously, the afterbirth of five kittens. I've learned not to take it too hard when I open up a can of "Beef and Heart" Pamper, and bang-a-gong-get-ready-for-a-shock I've even managed to swallow a mouthful of seafood pasta after she spewed the lowest form of cephalisation, half-eaten, all over the table! She has learned to tolerate me too.

But these are not ordinary times. You see, I have seen the other, and the other has no fur and doesn't zoom at the sight of a moth flying about in the room. The other is beautiful, and civilised, talks, reads, charms me with history, skin and the magnificence of only two breasts. The other has hands and feet that are different, soft rounded ears that don't twitch and sharpen in the direction of beetles, and although I kinda dig the raspy tongue, a mouth with lips full and completely separated from the nose.

But alas, the other, the her of all she's, has another, and this other happened to be in the pool the other day, in fact, the same day I happened to have a conversation in kaif.

Robin Kelly

Talking Hands



Marita van der Riet at the Talking Hands Educational Puppetry Program

pic: Sara Davies

Sara Davies

BASED at the Grahamstown railway station, Talking Hands, an Educational Puppetry Programme, is a part of the Umthathi Training Project. As Elyse van Houten, at Talking Hands, says: "it is not *puppetry* puppetry" rather it involves collaborative art involving a variety of art disciplines - music, art, drama etc. Van Houten and Marita van der Riet are the masterminds behind the programme who put together and perform the shows, with help from other people for the lights and music.

At the moment they are rehearsing a show on bullying, called 'Each of us is different...each of us is special', which van Houten emphasised was only an aspect of the programme. Other subjects they deal with are nutrition, drug awareness, tobacco, alcohol, preventative health care, STDs etc. Their projects involve more than just simple puppet shows. At each performance they act out a puppet show, followed by a 40 minute workshop where children take part in creative expressionism, such as drawing, painting, clay modelling or creative movement. They also have a mobile classroom which van Houten says: "is a way of training people how to use puppets as a methodology for teaching." Puppetry is a way of teaching "teachers that don't have resources or materials, it is a fun way to make it known that learning is fun!"

The puppets are very simply made from cardboard boxes, wool, cloth, toilet rolls and other easily accessible materials. Van der Riet is a qualified nurse and clinical psychologist. She says that "in play therapy I have experienced puppets creating an openness which is conducive to therapeutic

intervention."

They have been in Grahamstown for a year and chose to base themselves here mainly because they don't want to be in a big city. However the programme is not appearing as often as it could for they really need a committed team of enthusiastic workers. You don't need to have much experience to get involved although having an understanding of children would be good. Drama is probably the best background. Van Houten, herself, has not had any professional training in puppetry, but it has been something that has interested her all her life. For her, puppets are an expression of her "social and environmental awareness". So if you want to get involved all that she asks is "PLEASE!"

They focus on child education, visiting different schools in Grahamstown, planning to expand to East London and Port Elizabeth. They believe that puppets are a really therapeutic medium which opens emotional avenues in children. It helps children to express their own feelings. It is also a very powerful medium which is not threatening or embarrassing. At Talking Hands they believe that "puppets help us to accept each others' differences and to laugh at our shortcomings. We learn to live, work and grow together."

Their workshop was such a hive of activity when I went there to interview them. They are very busy at the moment, working on their show on bullying, but were eager to tell me what they were about. The crew are very vivacious, full of life and terribly enthusiastic about their project. They really make the puppets come alive. With such incredible, outrageous puppets the children will be wonderfully entertained AND educated at the same time!

SUGARDRIVE

Dror Eyal

WE ARE sitting in what could arguably be the only real club in Grahamstown. Definitely the only one open after 3am. Outside sprawls the township of Rhini, with its thousands of shacks and even more inhabitants most of whom had never heard of Sugardrive, don't own the album and don't really care ... By 1am, after Suagrdrive play their last set, when the booming from the Pyramid finally stops, they'll probably just be thankful.

Inside the dark interior, strobes pick out details on the walls. A huge sculpture of a dragon hangs suspended above the stage. The stage itself is laden with amps, monitors and other black boxes humming quietly to themselves. The DJ is perched in a box suspended three metres above the dance floor. He is warming up the crowd. This is the only opening act Sugardrive get. Its a long drop.

Below, various grungeheads, gothlings, metal-dudes and assorted students who balked at the prospect of a Great Hall party, have assembled to hear the first band to play in Grahamstown this year. They are draped on chairs, tables, floors everywhere in fact, except on the dance floor.

Sugardrive have however played to tougher crowds. Scheduled to play in Rustenberg, they stood up in front of a "bunch of rugby players and their wives," thinking that "we were going to die in this place." But from the opening chords the 'rugby players and their wives' got up and started dancing. "They were unstoppable."

This crowd has waited for two hours now, and is in a foul mood. A tall man in a blonde cornet steps up to the stage. "That must be the band now." I said to my partner.

"He's wearing a Sugardrive Roadcrew T-shirt" she replied. "Either he's crew, or the band have a really good sense of humour." "This is boring ... when are Sugardrive coming on?" whined someone to my left. At this precise point, perhaps in order to ease the boredom, the bartender; a well-dressed student in a tight-vest and make-up, decided to spill half-a-bottle of blue Sambuca over herself. Sugardrive, taking this as their cue, assumed the stage.

Eeeeeeejooooooooo ratatat ratatat rrrrrrrrrrev ... the dance floor erupts into a mass of t-shirted students, shaking their blow-dried locks to the sound erupting from the speakers. Where have all these people come from? Paul E. Flynn, the vocalist, is bent over at the waist, brown hair in a Prince Valiant style and dressed in non-descript clothing. He hunches over the microphone like some amphetamine addict on a downer. With his eyes closed and his neck muscles bunched up like he is about to go into a diabetic fit, he is communicating the arrogance of someone who is sure he's the next big thing, and the fear of an imposter who is sure he will be pelted with rotting vegetables before he gets through his third song.

The rest of the band is made up of Michael, his guitar chirping and twitching like the dying gasps of the last replicant in Blade Runner. Gavin on bass, unleashing crunching lines competing with Gavin's completely insane drumming.

Reetuuuuurn back to the plaaaaace where weeee firssst beaaaaaame In a Rhodes Music Radio interview, Paul claimed to be disassociating Sugardrive from the dreaded 'alternative rock band' sobri-

quet, describing Sugardrive's sound as "Just a rock n' roll band along the lines of Led Zeppelin .. the Stones. A very sort of alcohol fuelled gutsy sort of stuff".

Heyyyyyy, maaaaaama, wheeeere's my daaaaaddy gone? Seeeeeeepparatiooooo time leeeeeeeaving I'm gooooooing out to plaaaaay

Eeeeeeejooooooooo ratatatatat rrrrrrrrev Chords crunching, bass thumping, lights flashing ... out of the corner of my eye I notice the sound engineer/road crew going completely manic on the lights board. Sitting behind the desk like the sorcerer's apprentice in fantasia, his fingers tapping, rapping, summoning red, green and white lightning. Whenever his left hand touched the board, either a green or red light would illuminate the bassist - hands frozen hammering a beat, hair flying, face caught in a nonchalant smile. The right hand flashes the drummer in a explosion of white light, freezing him in a tableaux of flying sticks, arms in the air, a glimpse of a Celtic armband tattooed on a bicep, and those maniacal eyes flashing at the crowd.

"How many of you have got the album?" demands Paul, he is referring to Sugardrive's last album, Hey God its me again, which did quite well on Barney Simon's Modern Rock Chart, thanks in particular to Barney's one-man campaign to push them into the mainstream. A handful of people raise their hands.

"The first album, was a very riff-orientated album, concentrating on rhythms and stuff. What we've started working on in the second album, obviously we're going to change the sound a bit, there's no point in going out and recording the same album again. The new stuff is probably more melodic without losing any of the power of the old album. There's going to be more in it for more people now," claims Paul.

Tonight at the Pyramid, Sugardrive look possessed. Their brand of noise ranging from the even more dreadful and cliched label of grunge, to the kind of music Van Gogh would have made, had he poked his eyes out instead of cutting off his ear. The band's songs are all about "having fun, playing in a band, meeting women ... stuff like that ... Not the sort of angst ridden stuff that's prevalent of the alternative scene." says Paul.

Rock n' Roll is a metaphor, and that is why you can find the most meaningful lyrics in the cheesiest pop-song. Sugardrive is just another rock n' roll band. Stay tuned, if you can find the station.

Attention Music

Lovers

ON MARCH 28 the Department of Music and Musicology will be having a farewell concert in honour of Professor N.W. Nowotny. The concert will consist wholly of the compositions of students in the department and promises to a feast for lovers of twentieth century music. The concert will start at 19h30 and will take place in the Beethoven Auditorium.

The windband is starting up again this year. Anyone playing wind instruments is welcome to go along to the department on 19 March at 19h30 to join up. Contact the secretary for more details.

A new jazz band is being formed this year. Rehearsals will be on Wednesdays at 19h30 in the department. Anyone interested can contact Mike Skipper at DSG at 27203.



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CRICKET STARS

Garth Theunissen

RHODES cricketers are once again forcing people to stand up and take note of them. First it was Steve Palfreman who has been thrilling us with some amazing catches behind the stumps at the World Cup.

Hot on his heels are three more Rhodians who hope to make it big in the cricket world. Brendan Horan, Quentin Still and Wayne Wiblin have been selected for Border 'A'.

Brendan, aged 21, is a B.Comm student from Port Elizabeth, where he attended Grey High School. At school he began to show promise and represented Eastern Province at the Nuffield Week for two years.

He was selected for Border 'A' last year after taking 5 wickets in a preseason match against Kenya. He is first change bowler for Border 'A', with best bowling figures of 4/43 against Western Province. He describes himself as "a bowler who can bat", undermining this with 56 against rivals U.P.E.

Quentin Still from the East London campus has been

making waves since his Selbourne College days. He represented Border at school level from 1989 to 1992 and soon afterwards was selected for the Border 'A' team.

Quentin is a technically sound batsman who can boast with a top first class score of 129 not out against Free State 'B'. He is also a more than capable left arm spin bowler.

At 27 years of age Wayne Wiblin is the senior of the three. He attended Graeme College where his coach Ian Suttie played a major part in his development.

Like his two team-mates he has an impressive pedigree and this year he graduated to Border 'A' after scoring an impressive 160 for Border 'B'. He is an aggressive batsman but admits that he sometimes needs to be more restrained and controlled in his approach.

Hopefully these three young cricketers will achieve their goals and become permanent fixtures in the Border team, and who knows...the next World Cup is only four years away!

Albany Night Race

Lineke Moen

RHODES Athletics Club made history on Wednesday 6 March when they won the shield for the best overall team in the 10km night race held by the Albany Sports Club. This was such an unexpected victory that most team members had already left by the time the award was made. Xalani Ngicikhwe came in first for Rhodes in 4th position in a time of 34:00. Neale Jackson (9th), Brin Hodgkiss (15th) and Mark Haw (37th) completed the team. This is the first time that Rhodes Athletics Club have ever won the shield.

People come from as far as Port Elizabeth and Uitenhage to take part in the race each year and include athletes such as Treloar Childs, a South African biathlete. The race is also well-supported by Rhodes and the local schools.

This year the number of entries was well over 500, bettering the previous record of 491. The men's record stands at 29:59 set by Absalom Kemp, the women's record is held by Treloar Childs at 37:09. She won the race this year for the fourth time in a time of 38:47. Thomas Pongolo from Ben Mahlaselo School in Rini came in first for the men in a time of 31:34.

The full results were as follows:

- MEN:** 1. Thomas Pongolo
2. Tshunungwai Zandisile
3. Magopeni Sinipiwe
WOMEN: 1. Treloar Childs
2. Joey Simpson
3. Zoleka Mbunge

Albany Sports Club took the race over from Rhodes in 1991. It is an official Eastern Province race, which is why they have to issue temporary licences to participants. Two thirds of the entry fees go to the Eastern Province Athletics Union and the rest goes towards badges, prizes and cooldrinks. They depend mainly on volunteers which makes it a big community event each year.

The mayor of Grahamstown, Mzukhize Mpahlwa also attended the race for the first time, although he declined to participate in the run.

The Final Whistle

IT IS impossible to believe that South African soccer is still not taken seriously by the majority of whites in this country.

Their ignorance is summed up in statements such as: "South Africa would not beat England", "Liverpool on their own would probably beat South Africa" and "South Africa might reach the World Cup finals in 1998, but wait until they get there, that will be a different story."

To be sure, Bafana Bafana are not world beaters, nor are they in the same class as world champions Brazil (yet) but then again, few teams are. There is no doubt, however, that they can now feel confident taking the field against any team in the world - the results speak for themselves.

In the last year Orlando Pirates were crowned the best club team in Africa.

The national team have drawn with world powers Argentina and Germany, won the Four Nations Cup and, of course, their emphatic victory in the African Cup of Nations early this year. In winning that tournament South Africa has lodged herself firmly in the top five teams in Africa.

This is important since FIFA have allocated five places to African teams for the coming World Cup in France in 1998. "And how will they fare should they reach France 1998?" the sceptics ask. "Surely they will be totally out of their depth?"

After watching our team draw 1-1 with Argentina and 0-0 with Germany, why should anyone doubt their right to share the world stage with the football elite.

But the sceptics are never satisfied: "Argentina and Germany played with weakened teams and did not take the matches seriously".

Of the eleven players who took the field for Argentina against South Africa, nine played in the Copa America. Germany were missing four of the players named in their original squad when they played us but only one, Matthias Sammer, was a player of any renown.

And as for the ludicrous idea

that those two great footballing nations were not even trying - what bullshit. Imagine the reception they would have received from their media and their fanatical supporters if they had lost to a soccer team with no great reputation.

Admittedly, both teams may have underestimated South Africa and been overconfident but teams will do this at their own peril in the future.

Also, both matches were only friendlies, a fact the sceptics delight in pointing out. But if anyone wants proof that South Africa can play well against quality opposition in a competitive situation, then they need look no further than the semi-final performance against Ghana in the Nations Cup. This 3-0 victory was South Africa's finest ever.

South Africa produced football of such high quality that even the great Pele postponed leaving the match early.

So South Africa have shown themselves to be on a par with African teams who have campaigned in various World Cups with some success. These facts bring a few pertinent questions to mind.

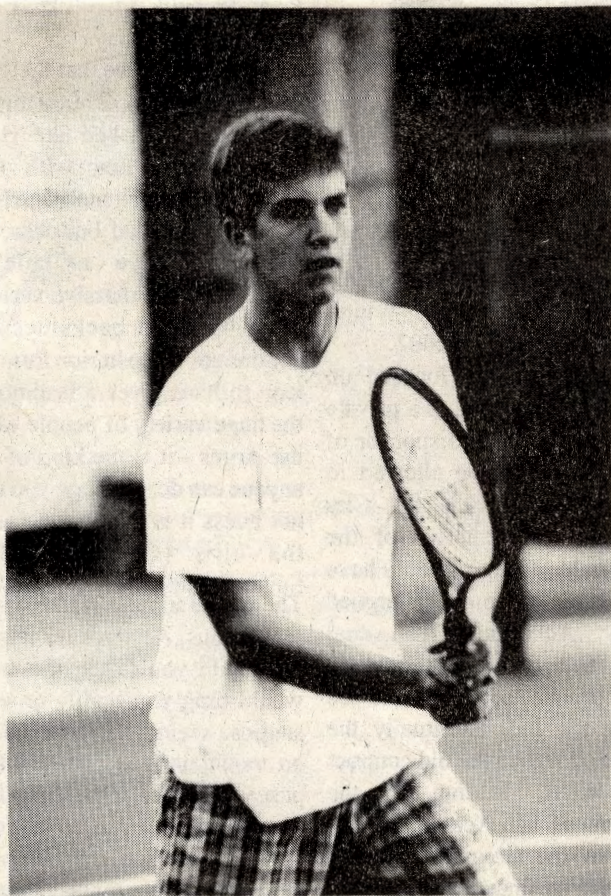
Why do certain white South Africans still maintain that our team cannot beat England, a team ranked below us on the FIFA world rankings, who did not even qualify for the last World Cup? Why do they not believe that Bafana Bafana can be competitive at the next world cup? Why do they spend time trying to find excuses on behalf of the teams South Africa have beaten?

It seems to me that these people have two choices. The first, they can go on supporting England, a team 7000 miles away, a team who won the World Cup in 1966 and will never win another - a team in decline.

Or, they can see the rainbow light and support their own team, in their own backyard - a team on the rise, a team that dreams of many World Cup victories in the near future!

Marc Strydom

Tennis Star



pic: Ilja Graulich

Lineke Moen

RHODES' mens tennis team has a new member this year: Arne Hansen, currently ranked one of the top ten junior players in the country after winning the Durban Dunlop Masters in January. He has received a full sponsorship from Dunlop who provide him with all his tennis equipment. He has also received a

Rhodes Sports Bursary for the year.

Arne was born in Port Shepstone and started playing tennis when he was 8 years old. He went to Glenwood Boarding School in Durban to be coached there. He is managed by Bruce Davidson who has managed some of South Africa's top tennis players, including Jeff Coetzee.

Arne is studying for a four year degree in BSc Geology.

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Editorial

THANK God it has finally happened. Don't get me wrong on this, I would have loved to have seen Hansie and the Boys lift the Cricket World Cup but more importantly, it is now up to all South Africans to cope with this setback as eagerly and as enthusiastically as they have with all our past victories.

There must be something wrong in the system. We win all our preliminary matches and lose out to a team in the next round that only got through on a difficult run rate calculation formula. Funny, how all these formulas rule the cricket scene (22 of 1 ball!).

Closely on the heels of our exit from India and Pakistan is the ever going discussion on the Springbok emblem. Looks like Madiba has finally decided to be all for it, more as a symbol of reunification rather than one of oppression. Poor Edward Griffiths though, from brilliant sportswriter in the Sunday Times, to Rugby Administrator, to nothing. Louis still rules this sport in the country and something must be done soon, before it is all too late.

Congratulations to Penny Heyns, once for breaking steroid abusing Samantha Riley's 100 metre breaststroke record and secondly for being named female athlete of the year at the Victor Awards. Penny and Okkert Brits, male athlete of the year, are definitely medal hopefuls for the Atlanta Games, only 200 days or so away.

More importantly to all Rhodians is our local sport. Registration in all disciplines has been up this year. Soccer has sorted itself out and might be reaching the heights it scaled ten years ago. Activate is also featuring a special centrespread on sports, with articles that have been extensively researched by my fellow colleagues.

As I am writing this, the two under 21 rugby teams are busy fighting it out. With such strong support, the future of this sport at least should be secured.

It is once again rowing though that always seems to steal the limelight. Not only have they received a new boat, the Henderson, but are actively involved in coaching disadvantaged children and rowers and thereby passing on some of their knowledge. Commercial Union Insurance Company has been announced as new sponsor of the Universities Boat Race on the Kowie River at the end of September. No doubt that Rhodes will take this victory again.

Somebody else who is not feeling victory is Frank Bruno. Mike Tyson certainly hit his big mouth shut and is well on his way to ruling boxing as he did previously.

Congratulations are still in order to Sri Lanka for winning the Cricket World Cup. In such difficult times for our country is facing at the moment, the achievement should by no means be underestimated. Their record before this World Cup was 20 losses and 4 wins in 26 matches. This time round, they won all their matches and Jayasuriya was rewarded with Man of the Tournament. His blistering runmaking feats will most certainly not be forgotten in the near future. For South Africa, a new era begins with the development of new players as the old guard such as Donald and Matthews will not be available for the next World Cup.

The next time your sportiest student newspaper speaks to you is during intervarsity. All of Rhodes will migrate to PE, for various reasons and I think it is time that we show those big town boys how it is done here in good old Grahamstown. So till then, all the best and train hard.

ALBANY'S 10KM NIGHT RACE TAKES OFF!



see page 19

GOOD-BYE OLYMPICS?

Gerald Garner

CAPE Town's bid to host the 2004 Olympic Games received various setbacks in the last weeks.

While the city is struggling with its in-house problems, famous cities around the world have joined the race to host this sports spectacular. Among them are Seville, San Juan, Puerto Rico, Istanbul and possibly St Petersburg, Beijing and Rome. St Petersburg, venue of the 1994 Goodwill Games is planning to bid as well. "We will formally submit an application to the International Olympic Committee within the next two months," said Svetlana Smirnova of the Russian Olympic Committee.

The biggest blow for Cape Town came from inside its own ranks due to a dispute within the Bidding Committee. Raymond Ackerman bowed out of the bid after losing a power struggle with the National Olympic Committee (NOCSA) chairman, Sam Ramsamy. Firstly, the dispute was over a "secret contract" between NOCSA and the City Council. It gave NOCSA extensive powers and

made the city responsible to foot the R190 million bill for the Winter Olympics in 1998 and 2002.

The dispute secondly focused on whether Mr Ackerman, as a private sector businessman and sponsor of the Games, should be allowed to sign a contract, or if the City Council as representative of the public should. Both instances have disadvantages, it could be argued that Mr Ackerman had dual interests and is unrepresentative, but the private sector would be financing the bid. Eventually the City Council signed the bid contract with NOCSA, leading to the resignation of Mr Ackerman, this means that the Council (ie rate payers) will be financing the bid. Concerted efforts were made to reinstate Mr Ackerman as joint head of the Cape Town Olympic Bid Committee. NOCSA has also decreased its financial demands on the city and scrapped the secrecy clause. The new contract only holds Cape Town liable to pay NOCSA R60 million for the bid, and not the R190 million for the two Winter Olympics.

Hopefully the bid is back on track again. If Cape Town wins the bid in 1997, the whole of South Africa will benefit in 2004!

Argus Cycle Tour

Brin Hodgskiss

THE Rhodes University Athletics Club sent down a record number of entrants to the country's premier cycling event, the Argus Cycle Tour. This supplemented the already large number of Rhodents who chose to migrate to Cape Town for this annual race.

After a "trip from hell" of about 11 hours, Cape Town arrived. Registration on Saturday and Sunday, the big day.

It is hard to believe that there were so many bicycles, 27 000 this year, at the start. It looked like Beijing in morning rush hour, with wheels, spokes and (much more terrifying) cycling-short clad buttocks. Only the abundance of bicycles outstripped the massive variety of cling-wrapped backsides. This continuum of posterior form from lean to hard gives a testimony to the huge variety of people who do the Argus - it is the kind of event anyone can do, although you would not guess it is looking at some of the hills (Chapman's Peak, Suikerbosje).

The crowd support all the way was marvellous. At times it seemed as if, should you falter, the crowds would drag you bodily onward. I suppose seeing ten year olds on mountain bikes come happily past you is also a great motivator to any sense of macho pride you may have. Refreshment stops and the ever-popular massage stations aid you on your way towards the end at Maiden's Love.

The first Rhodent home was alumni student Barry Knox-Davies. Competing in the A group right up front, he completed the course in 2h55mins.

Most of the newly formed RU team found the course a bit longer, considering it was their first Argus, the result was still very satisfactory. However, whether a speed demon or a social cyclist, the Argus Tour was an event that will definitely be added with pride to anyone's list of sporting achievements.

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