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in the AA



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dominate

Scott Parker

A Tribute

■ Tami Duncan and Lindsey Tainton

Scott Graeme Parker, known to all as Scotty, was born on June 28, 1985. He attended Underberg Junior School and later attended Michaelhouse to complete his schooling career.

In Grade 10, Scotty was part of an exchange programme and travelled to Toronto. In matric he was elected to be a prefect and obtained results that his parents are very proud of. After completing matric, Scotty was invited to spend a year in Balarat, Australia where he was selected to play rugby for the Victoria Province as their scrumhalf. During his travels Scotty also sailed to the Caribbean and Basses de India, which is submerged mid-way between Madagascar and Mozambique.

Besides rugby Scotty also loved other outdoor sports such as cricket, abseiling and surfing. On Saturday April 16, 2005 Scotty was selected to play for the Rhodes rugby first team.

Scotty came to study at Rhodes University at the beginning of 2005. While at Rhodes Scotty lived in Jan Smuts Residence. It was here that students got to know him "as the funniest, craziest person that always made us laugh" says close friend Kelly McBean.

Rob Day, another of Scotty's close friends from Smuts, recalls the first day that they met. He remembers Scotty standing in his doorway, stick in hand, and described as "looking like Moses", ready and waiting to introduce himself and welcome yet another person into his heart.

Many of Scotty's close friends from Smuts said that when Scotty walked into a room you felt his presence. You met him and he was the most genuine person you met. Rob Day said that you wanted to remain friends. He believed in building people up, not tearing them down, and in doing so changed the lives of everyone he met.



Described by the Smuts boys as having a "random personality", Scotty was viewed as unique in every way, from wanting to play tennis at four in the morning to having an otter (named Nimrod) as his favourite pet. Blane Hansen, a close friend said, "[Scotty] was known for his uniqueness, he did stuff that no one else would think of". He was known as "a friend to all, a special friend to many and a good mate to most", says Cassi Blesovsky.

Scotty was a guy who lived for the moment and never looked back, "He made anything fun, he had fun in the moment and just didn't think of the consequences" said close friend

Steve Schroeder.

People are really upset because he had such a huge effect on so many people's lives. Kelly McBean said that she: "Hopes he [Scotty] knew how much people loved him."

Scotty was not only unique in his personality but also his clothes and taste in music. From the black leather shirt that he loved so much and wasn't allowed to leave Smuts in, to the music taste that he picked up when traveling to Australia and no one understood.

Scotty once said of Smuts: "Love them or fear them - something like that! As individuals we're individuals when together we're a

formidable force. Is the general way of looking at it!"

The Smuts boys want Scotty to know that "It is said that great people leave footprints behind and Scott Graeme Parker was definitely a great person. Even though he had only been a member of our family for a term and a bit, his footprints have been left in both the house and all of our hearts forever. Scotty you were a true legend and we as Jan Smuts House will miss you and will never forget you", says sub warden Zane Plesica.

A friend Lindsay Smail recalls a grade 7 farewell where "While the rest of us were too embarrassed to do more than shyly shuffle our feet from side to side, Scotty danced. Not only did he move his feet drastically but he swung his arms too. I think this was one of the first times of the partying Scotty that was to come."

"Scotty will be loved and missed. His life and cheerful charm is an example to us all" says good friend Paul Collins. Carey Lindsey, Scotty's best friend, says "not a day will go by without me thinking of the last 17 years I've spent with you [Scotty]. You were my best friend in the world". The impact that Scotty Parker had on everyone's lives is now visible for all to see and learn from. Scotty's close friends encourage all to "always ask for help".

Mrs Peta Parker (Scotty's mom) wanted to say to all "Don't be sad, I KNOW Scott is alive and happy and having a great time and with the greatest respect, heaven is a better place for having him there."

Scotty was a great man, an even better friend. He taught people the true meaning of friendship, he will never be forgotten and in the words of Cassi Blesovsky and Paul Collins: "Fly my friend, fly high, rest in peace and soar with the angels."

Editorial



Real People

■ Carly Ritz

I'm sure most of you remember Charlie Theron and the 'Real Men Don't Rape' ad campaign that filtered into our living rooms a little while back. A good friend of mine was highly offended by the blonde bombshell and her definition of real men. He suggested a counter ad – Colin Moss or Chester Williams and a 'Real Women Don't Lie' affirmation. His idea didn't wash too well with the female members of our social circle as I'm sure you can imagine. How dare a man detract from the severity of the rape issue by suggesting that women are part of the problem?

But he really does have a point. Rape cannot be condoned. I don't care if a woman prances around in nothing but a thong, whipped cream and cherries – it's not an invitation to violate. But if men have no right under any conditions to abuse women, and society enforces this through rule and regulation, then women have no right to abuse men. So maybe I'm not physically strong enough to tie some hottie down and rape him – but as a woman, I have the power to do damage in other ways.

To lay a false rape charge isn't fair. With such a stigma attached to rape, to be associated with this crime impacts on all areas of an individual's life. Men stand to lose their families, friends and careers when associated with such a crime. Not only do false rape charges have the power to destroy lives, but they also compromise those women who are raped.

Last week was heralded as Men's Week. I bumped into an SRC 'Real Men Don't Rape' demonstration while minding my own business in Prince Alfred Street and my friend's words came to mind: "If real men don't rape, then real women don't lie," followed by the question as to why someone would lie about something like rape.

Maybe some guy cheated on you and you want to make him sorry. Maybe you hate men and patriarchy. I have no idea what would possess anyone to lay a false rape charge – but I know that it happens. A 17-year-old girl in India accused her father of rape this month after he hit her for doing poorly at school. I'd like to connect my fist with his nose for laying a hand to his daughter, but to accuse him of rape in response to a smack?

I also don't see the relevance of running a 'Real Men Don't Rape' campaign in a Men's week – surely there are other things to celebrate about men other than the violence barometer? If women have expectations of men to conduct themselves in a certain manner, then we should meet them half way. And is there even a need for a men's/women's week? Shouldn't we rather strive for mutual respect on a regular basis rather than slap ourselves on the back for dedicating a week here and a week there to gender awareness? So here's to real men and real women – real people – taking responsibility for themselves and looking after each other.

More on the gender issue on page five as our Flip Side engages with the issue of female condoms.



■ Gregor Röhrig

■ Ciro De Siena

The Grahamstown Feeding association (GFA) will be the beneficiary of funds raised through an exercise in sleep deprivation. On Monday April 25, the Breakfast on the VErge, with hosts Vergelheo Das Neves and Janelle Scrimgeour embarked on a radio marathon, and "26 hours of mayhem" ensued.

Last year the GFA fed 57 000 people at three soup kitchens, an average of 237 people per day, every weekday of the week. This is an understandably costly exercise, leading VErge and the team at RMR to challenge all of Rhodes University's Halls and Grahamstown's businesses to pledge R10 an hour for every hour that they survived.

Immediate response flew in from almost every addressee in town and on campus, with certain donors placing confidence in the team by pledging the full R260 before the first song had gone to air.

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Frequent car break-ins cause distress

■ Ashleigh James

Over the past few weeks, many students have been victimised by various crimes to their vehicles on campus and around Grahamstown.

On Tuesday April 12, student Candice Logan had her car stolen from outside Hobson House. She reported the theft immediately to the Campus Protection Unit who tried to recover the stolen vehicle as quickly as possible. Senior Campus protection Officer David Brown says that when a student reports a stolen vehicle CPU will attempt to reclaim it immediately by thoroughly searching the vicinity of Grahamstown and possible routes the car may have passed. They also check various petrol stations to ask attendants whether they may have seen the vehicle.

Student Ivan Hodgson, had his car recently broken into on the morning of April 13, at 26 Francis Street where his radio and speakers were stolen. Since then, there have been four more car-related crimes on the same road. Another student had her car broken into and her radio and cds stolen the following Saturday, outside KFC.

The Grahamstown Police attempt "pattern analysis" when trying to recover a stolen vehicle. This is a

method whereby they track down the vehicle according to the history of previous stolen cars and what had been done to them.

Police spokesperson Milanda Coetzee states that every month approximately 20-30 car thefts and break-ins are reported. "But it changes," she says. "During the Arts festival, there are more cars and more opportunities."

However, both CPU and Grahamstown Police agree that, on the whole, car thefts and break-ins are not as common as the other crimes that occur around campus. What concerns the Grahamstown Police more is the high numbers of assault, rape, murder and house-robberies.

"Most of the people who commit the crimes are opportunists, sometimes street children," Brown said, "people without jobs, perhaps, because of the unemployment".

Students are encouraged to be vigilant at all times and to keep valuables in the boot or cubby-hole of their vehicles. CPU says that in order to prevent a car theft or break-in, students should install whatever protection they can in their vehicle, such as gearlocks and alarms.

Letter to the Editor

I would like to congratulate Shellique Carby on the courage she showed in writing an article about her condition and submitting it to Activate.

I live in the same residence as Shellique and see her in one of my lectures. At the beginning of the term, like most other people, I thought she was very strange. She made strange comments and did unusual things, the reasons for which I didn't understand. I also eat in the same dining hall as Shellique and commented on the way she eats, and even laughed at her.

One night, my friends and I decided that she must have a disorder. We didn't pay enough attention to our assumptions to realise that she actually does. After reading Shellique's article I now understand that there is a reason for the way she acts and does things that I wouldn't consider 'normal'. Now I make an effort to be more understanding and to say hello to her whenever I see her. I'm sure that if the chance came for me to have a conversation with her I would see that she really is just a normal person.

To Shellique: Congratulations. You are a brave person. Don't let people's comments get you down.

■ Anonymous

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RAPA in danger of being shut down

■ Tim Walker

A meeting will soon be held to discuss the future of RAPA (Rhodes Association for Political Awareness).

While the thought of disbanding RAPA was brought up at the end of last year, a motivating speech on activism by Carla Tsampiras at the annual general meeting inspired many of the RAPA members to join the committee for this year.

However, RAPA has not organised many events during 2005. Although it was recently involved in the Trade Justice March on Friday April 15, no events were organised during Orientation week. Currently, no events have been planned, but according to Chairperson Stephen Moore, once RAPA "has some serious activities underway, we can have the fun activities".

One of the problems RAPA has encountered has been in its organisation of meetings. Moore and Olivier Serrao, RAPA Treasurer, both say that finding a time to gather all the members has been difficult. As the committee consists of students in different academic years, there is seldom a time that suits everyone. This year, the RAPA committee has only been able to meet once.

Another difficulty RAPA has experienced has been its low membership level. This year, RAPA has 27 members, which is significantly lower than last year's total of 62. Their membership is only one higher than the minimum required for a society to exist.

If the society is to close, however, membership sub-fees will not be paid back to the students, stated Serraro. Moore said, "if the society were to go

dormant, its funds will be kept for next year, but if the society is disbanded, RAPA will distribute its funds among other Rhodes activist societies".

The concept behind RAPA originated in 2003 after discussions between politics students and Dr Leonhard Praeg, a Politics lecturer. Dr Praeg will discourage RAPA from disbanding, but if the society was forced to close, he believes that the structure should be kept in place in case future students wish to create a new political society at Rhodes.

Both Moore and Serraro stressed that if members of RAPA become more involved in the running of the society there would be no need to disband. Moore said that although it is unlikely that RAPA will be shut down, it is a possibility. He added that an announcement about RAPA would be made in the next few weeks.

History repeats itself

■ Julia Mafcher

The annual Makana Freedom Festival in Grahamstown started off with a 'bang' when the 1819 Battle of Grahamstown was re-enacted by the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) on April 22.

The festival, which takes place for a week and coincides with Freedom Day, celebrates the cultural heritage of the area. It has been an annual event ever since its launch in 2003, and is entirely funded by the Municipality.

According to Ramie Xonxa, the festival director, the highlight of the festival for all was the mock Battle of Grahamstown which took place behind Fort England, where the original Battle was fought. Major Gysman from the SANDF and the company Commander of the people, who takes part in the Battle, said that their aim was to "show history repeated." This is only the second year that the mock battle is being done.

The festival also attracts tourists to the area. Nozipho Mphahliwa, chairperson of the festival and councillor at Makana Municipality, said that there are various people from Canada and Scotland who heard about the Makana Freedom Festival and came here to witness the re-enactment, as their forefathers fought in the original Battle of Grahamstown in 1819.

This year, the Festival launched the Egazini Outreach Interpretation Centre. Situated in Joza, the Centre is where people who were unable to attend the festival can go and obtain information about the Battle of Grahamstown and general history.

Xonxa stated that the Festival is very relevant to the youth of Grahamstown because it is incorporated in their curriculum.

A University disabled



Many areas of the campus are not easily accessible to people in wheel chairs

■ Ciro De Siena and Nikki Ritchie

While Universities such as Wits and the University of Cape Town have firm infrastructures set in place to accommodate disabled students, Rhodes is far behind in this regard. Many parts of the campus are not wheelchair friendly, and this may deter potential students who are disabled from applying to the University.

These critical issues have been highlighted at Rhodes by Vanessa Haarhoff, a fourth year New Media Journalism student who cannot walk. Haarhoff was involved in a road accident during her career at Rhodes, leaving her wheelchair-bound. Although she knew the challenges she would face at Rhodes, Haarhoff decided to return as she had been enjoying her degree and had settled in socially.

The policies page on the Rhodes University website does not show an official disability policy, and it would appear that the university does not have a person specifically in charge of such issues. Before Haarhoff's accident, it may be accurate to say that the University was not geared towards accommodating disabled people.

Rhodes University Vice Principal, Colin Johnson, helped bring *Activate* up to speed with regards to the policy. A final draft of an official policy, of which Haarhoff has had valuable personal input, has made it through the extensive and complicated administrative structures and is currently awaiting review from the Council. Before this draft was drawn up, there existed a common practice, a sort of unwritten code that was adhered to with regards to this issue. But one must ask why it taken Rhodes so long to look wholeheartedly at such an issue?

Moreover, if a future student, who is disabled, were to consider applying to Rhodes, would he or she consider the campus to be disabled friendly? In light of the above circumstances, is the University discriminating against disabled people?

One is hard-pressed to find information regarding disabilities on the official university website, even with the help of the search tool.

The undergraduate application form on the website does, however, include a checklist for disabilities. This is apparently for "statistical purposes and is not intended to place you at any disadvantage." Does the University make a conscious and effective effort to ensure that if a disability is ticked that the applicant is cared for appropriately, or do they simply keep score?

Johnson adamantly maintains that the University is not in the business of simply keeping tally. He insists that every student who does declare his or her condition is handled thoughtfully throughout the process of admission for study, and even though the policy has not been signed off as official yet, he personally acts according to it. He said: "Each student is looked at individually and the application is dealt with through a number of different departments." For instance, if a blind applicant wanted to study microbiology there would be understandable difficulties and the Career Guidance Centre would assist in such a case.

There are currently three students in wheelchairs at Rhodes and Johnson alluded to the fact that a conscious and even personal effort is made to make sure these students are accommodated close to the centre of campus and that access to their everyday facilities is made as easy as possible. What must be taken into account here is economies of scale. Johnson added that he is "confident that the University's efforts and spending on this matter is on par with other national institutions". Indeed, all new buildings have been designed with disability access and amenities in mind, in contrast to older buildings where renovations may be the only option.

Haarhoff said the University had been co-operative in complying with her needs. She moved into her own flatlet adjoining Beit House and ramps have been built to ensure that she can get in and out easily. The fact still remains, however, that Haarhoff has to be carried into one of her lecture venues by her classmates. It is understandable that the University may find it difficult to orientate an entire lecture schedule around the New Media class of around 10 students.

Perhaps the government needs to put its money where its mouth is. If our constitution enforces quality in education for all, perhaps they should step in and help financially. There is an underlying speculation that the government is overlooking Rhodes for logistical reasons: the University is much smaller than other institutions of its nature and is therefore being ushered to the back of the queue.

It seems that the University is making a conscious effort with regards to this issue. What remains to be seen is whether or not the new policy will improve upon current practices. But perhaps with the push for equality assurance, we should look for answers beyond Rhodes.

■ Phillipa Ehrlich



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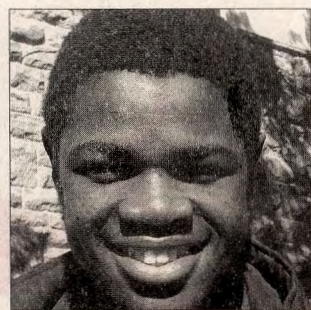
If you had one line in the *Penis Monologues*, what would it be?

■ Jess Deckers and Dan Calderwood



Demelza Bush
B-Journ
1st Year

"Only one head can think at a time"



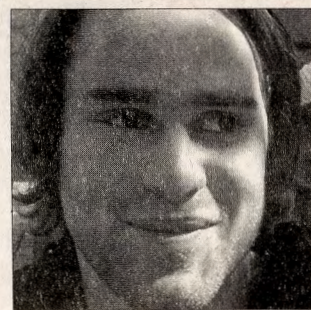
Elethu Pambo
BCom-Law
1st Year

"We should support our women"



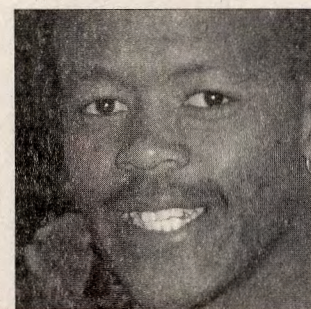
Ishtar Lakhani
BA
3rd Year

"Little animals with lives of their own..."



Robert Haxton
BA
1st Year

"Straight, proud and very happy"



Tokoloho Moeketsi
BA/HKE
2nd Year

"The Pen...is mightier than the sword"

Another world in cyberspace

■ Anthony Andrews

Deep in the netherworlds of Rhodes University's cyberspace lurks a new sub-culture, a new form of expression; perhaps even a new form of reality. Okay, maybe it's not that extreme, but there is definitely something more out there on the Rhodes intranet than badly-designed department websites. It is the astoundingly intricate world of the forums and its members.

For those of you oblivious to their appeal, the forums are the spawn of ex-Rhodian Pierre Nel, who began with a much humbler version of this program on his computer a few years ago. Nel, now a member of the IT staff, would chat to his friends online and exchange ideas on various topical issues. Since then, the concept has blossomed and evolved into a labyrinth of topics including academics, classifieds and spirituality. Since the establishment of the forums, a whopping 250 000 posts have been made, with over 3 500 registered members although not all of them are active i.e. currently making posts on the forums. The most prolific forumite boasts more than 4600 posts over their years at Rhodes.

It all works like this: a student, staff member or ex-Rhodian may go onto the forums and register with a handle, be it his/her actual name or a pseudonym. They may then participate in discussions, post new topics, sell paraphernalia or simply read the literary gems on display. Other forumites can then respond to these posts either by adding a reply, which can be read by anyone logged on, or send a PM (personal message) to another member.

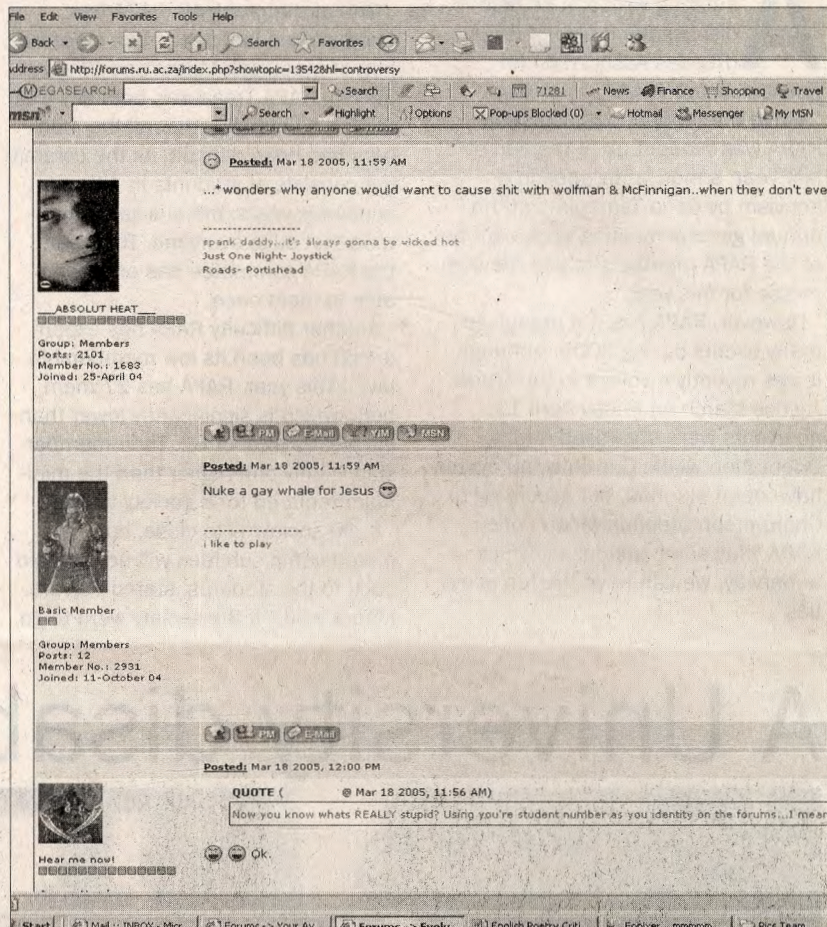
This is where the forums acquire their lustre. They give ordinary people the opportunity to express themselves (in anonymity if they wish) about a given topic, enabling them to stretch their opinionated legs. This anonymity also gives people courage that they otherwise might not muster. The butterflies fluttering in any shy person's stomach dissolve when they can voice their opinions behind the safe veneer that the forums provide. Some have described the experience as similar to a talk show or debate. Others say that they like it because they can just talk rubbish. Whether or not you agree with the opportunity for anonymous expression, it would be difficult to say that it doesn't have its appeal.

Naks, a moderator on the forums, candidly exclaims: "Forums, where leaders learn to procrastinate." I must also concede: it is an enticing place with amazing time-wasting opportunities. After a few minutes online I too have to force myself from the screen. Slowly.

'Real' socialization, for lack of the antithesis of virtual, also occurs. The forumites, Admin and Mods (the moderators who police the forums) meet once a term at a bar and, well...socialise. They can finally put faces to the icons (or avatars) on the screen and discuss things in real time. I am even told that it is frowned upon to single out certain people at these gatherings – people who do not want to reveal their true identities. There are clear codes of conduct governing these events to protect those who wish to remain anonymous. At any rate, one could not accuse them of being introverted nerds who dwell behind their computers. On the contrary, one would be hard-pressed to put them into any box. They are like anyone else – even some lecturers indulge in the occasional discussion. Some openly log on with their true identities, usually to dispel any rumours that might be circulating. However, there are lecturers who assume aliases and attempt to mingle with the commoners. I am not at liberty to expose those Peter Parkers who lecture you by day, but you could call out one of their pseudonyms in a lecture to test for a response. The truth is out there.

But what's the catch? Well, as is human nature, people tend to corrupt that good kernel in all good ideas. Accusations of sexual harassment have been made, and some forumites have been sinistinely threatened. Hence, the Moderators and Administration staff patrol the beat under the authority of the Rhodes computer AUP (Acceptable Use Policy) to keep animosity at bay. They have the power to give unruly cyber-surfers warnings, with the accumulation of five warnings resulting in the expulsion of the said perpetrators. They constantly

"[The forums] give ordinary people the opportunity to [...] stretch their opinionated legs."



The forums allow you to say what you want in anonymity

monitor content to keep their fingers on the pulse, and are always ready to expel someone – yes, even uncouth lecturers.

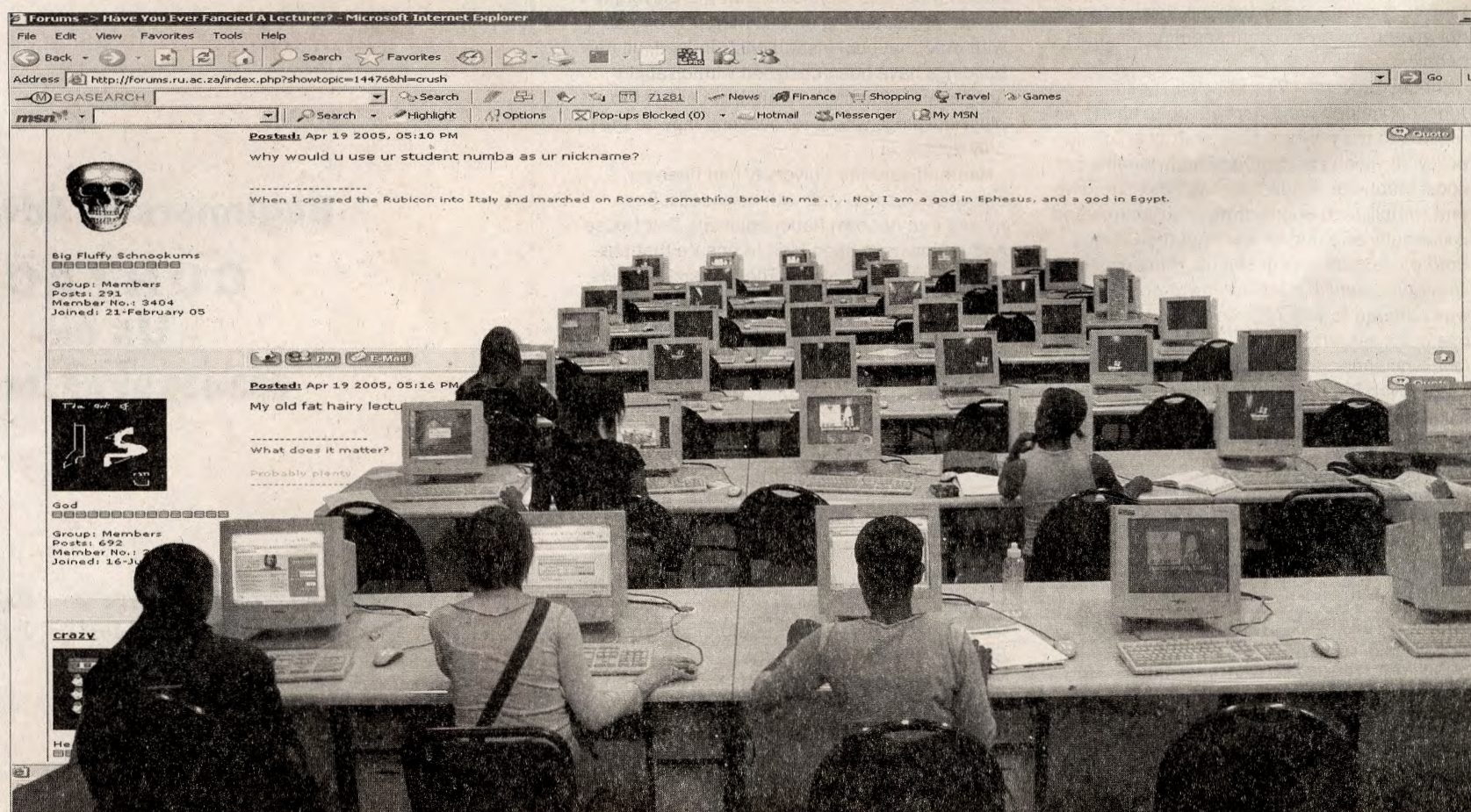
As you might have guessed, some people tend to go to extremes and set up camp on the forums. Certain students have been known to nestle behind their computer screens for over five hours a day. There have even been threads where people discuss their addiction, sort of like a support group for alcoholics in a bar.

Is this a problem though? Why do we have this unhealthy stigma attached to computer users? We call people who engage in sport for five hours a day motivated and passionate, but people behind computers are termed nerds and geeks, although I am told this is a positive term now.

According to Dr Lance Heath of the Counseling Centre on Prince Alfred Street, any activity becomes a problem when it is detrimental to other activities. When people neglect their work, their relationships and their bodies, it becomes a problem. It must be stressed, however, that the vast majority of forumites would probably not fit into this category, but for those who do lose control, and it can and does happen, the first step would be

acknowledging the problematic nature of their habit.

The truth is that the novelty of the forums tends to erode after a while, when people find other things to do or when reality hits home. The duration of this "honeymoon period", as Dr Heath eloquently puts it, ranges according to the individual. So get on the web, register and experience the joys of the forums; just remember to exercise the same discretion you would with any other activity. Before you know it you could find yourself in the belly of the Rhodes netherworlds – commenting on this article.



The labs are hubs of activity for the 'Forumites'

■ Graphic by Gregor Röhrig

The flip Side

Banyana Molefe and Dominic Gaobepe are both pretty passionate about the issue of protection. Given the gender issues raised by the Vagina Monologues and the recent Men’s Week, they probably have every right to be. Here they address the issue of condoms versus femidoms.



■Banyana Molefe

Why did society give men the power not only to think for women, but to act their on behalf when it comes to protection against AIDS? Why make male condoms free and more accessible, but not female condoms? The person most likely to violate and infect a woman with AIDS through sexual intercourse has the power to protect himself, but not the other way around. I really do not see the logic in that. We have middle-aged housewives dying from AIDS because their husbands refuse to use condoms. Shouldn't this be telling us something about the inefficiency of male condoms? I think the whole concept is ridiculous – our society propagates certain assumptions about the stubbornness of men. Many more men rape women than women rape men, yet the man is given the power to choose whether he wants to use a condom or not. How many rapists stop and think about using a condom? As a woman, I am not given the choice to protect myself from that rapist. Instead, I am to use my supposed supernatural female powers to convince him to at least wear a condom before he rapes me. What is our world coming to, when the interests of the victims are not considered, and the power of choice handed over to the violators?

Is there still an assumption within our society that men are so rational that they are given this huge responsibility of making sure they protect themselves and us from contracting STDs and AIDS?

Why shouldn't female condoms also be free

and more accessible? If you have a partner who refuses to protect himself from STDs, you would at least have an opportunity to protect yourself from them and an unwanted pregnancy, free of charge. With this is in place, saying no to unprotected sex will actually mean something, because you as a woman are sure you are protected, as you implemented the procedures of protection yourself.

There is this idea that the reason we have male and not female condoms is because it is cheaper to produce the former. How can we be willing to settle for a cheaper but inefficient method of protection even though millions of people are dying of AIDS?

The production of male condoms could be slowed, or stopped completely, and the funds used instead for the research, production and promotion of easy-to-use female condoms which do not inhibit sexual pleasure. If female condoms were as accessible, free and promoted as much as male condoms are now, I would bet my life on it that the AIDS statistics would drop.

We as women should stop settling for second best. It is time we strive to be in charge when it comes to such disastrous situations where men are clearly not in control of the problem. I argue for all women to consider this idea, not just as a passing thought, but as a goal for us to strive towards: having the same opportunities to protect ourselves from AIDS and STDs – free of charge.



■Dominic Gaobepe

Female condoms are the topic of the day and here's my two cents worth. If a woman wants to use a condom, I feel it is her right and her choice to do so. With the proliferation of sexually transmitted diseases, people are probably beginning to breed their own type of infection, and who knows what else.

The question you may ask is: what about trust? Isn't that a major part of being in a relationship and trusting that your partner will do right by you? For sure it is, but a woman putting on a condom does not imply a lack of trust any more than when the guy puts his on. A woman using a condom does not necessarily mean that she's trying to protect herself from what- ever the guy may transmit, or even imply that she doubts his loyalty. However, there is the possibility of pregnancy, and I personally expect and what you do not expect from your partner.

A condom will not stop a hormone-raging male from taking away what is precious from a woman. She can still be violated even with that condom on. A female condom therefore only forms part of the solution. Ultimately, we as young men and women of today must engage in relations of mutual respect, and when it comes to 'doing it' we must make sure that we do so responsibly.

become a game. Given the nature of our cir- people they can 'go at it' with seems to have Going out every weekend to see how many example. People hook up day in and day out. about. Take our situation here at Rhodes for and the sanctity that sex is supposed to be the fun of it and not really for the intimacy Quite a number of people sleep around for world when I can't even look after myself yet. ally would not want to bring a child into the is the possibility of pregnancy, and I person- you expect and what you do not expect from and make it clear as to what you desire, what lies in being able to take a stand as a woman celebration of each other. True empowerment rather about the respect and shouldn't be about power, but initial assumptions. Having sex have is based on the wrong intercourse they are about to because, quite obviously, the has a chance to protect herself

“ Having sex shouldn't be about power ”

has a chance to protect herself intercourse they are about to have is based on the wrong initial assumptions. Having sex shouldn't be about power, but rather about the respect and celebration of each other. True empowerment lies in being able to take a stand as a woman and make it clear as to what you desire, what you expect and what you do not expect from your partner.

A condom will not stop a hormone-raging male from taking away what is precious from a woman. She can still be violated even with that condom on. A female condom therefore only forms part of the solution. Ultimately, we as young men and women of today must engage in relations of mutual respect, and when it comes to 'doing it' we must make sure that we do so responsibly.

■ pics Dominique Schäfer



In The Sky

■ Andrew Whitfield

It is common knowledge that we study at the best institution in the world. You would be hard-pressed to find anyone who has a bad thing to say about Rhodes and the good times that we enjoy here in good old Grahamstown. Whether you are in res or digs, life is good. The digs life has been a great experience for me – albeit a wake-up call to the realities of budgeting and general admin that res would otherwise have taken care of. Nonetheless I wouldn't have it any other way.

However, it has come to my attention that there is a general dissatisfaction amongst oppidans with regard to the rent being charged for digs in town. Digs owners seem to be playing a cruel and malicious game of monopoly in Grahamstown where they feel that even the most unworthy digs is a hotel on Eloff Street or Jan Smuts Avenue. Let's face it, they know that we will pay almost anything because we have to have accommodation, it is a basic necessity. This is an unfair advantage as they always have the upper hand in this unbalanced game of monopoly, where going to jail is almost more appealing than going into digs. In fact some digs even resemble the dingy and dank confines of our country's 'superb' correctional facilities and are not worthy of human occupation. Is this not where the problem lies? Students are seen as a sub-species of humans and are viewed and treated as if we are different. We are 'The Other' – the individuals continually shunned by people who themselves were students once upon a time. Is this some sick power trip reminiscent of the Matric versus Grade 8 relationship where right is a rite of passage and not something that is earned?

Do not pass Go, do not collect R200, go directly into digs and suffer the exorbitant fees that burn holes in your parents' pockets. Don't get me wrong, I love Rhodes and Grahamstown, but let's be realistic, this is no Jo'burg or Cape Town. Our digs aren't exactly waterfront properties overlooking a golden beach while we sit sipping Pina Coladas on a Friday evening. No. This is Grahamstown where we gather around a table covered with cards and ashtrays while schluking back on a bottle of Crackling and enjoying the company of good people. It must be noted that one is likely to have more fun with Crackling than a Pina Colada any day of the week. So maybe that's it. They justify their high prices on the basis that we have more fun here than in Cape Town. No, that can't be right; they don't really give a fart if we have fun or not because we are an irritating sub species.

The high prices are a clear representation of the demand for accommodation in Grahamstown. We supply the demand and they supply the contract with more zeroes than you have ever seen. The justification for digs prices is implicit in basic economic theory. However, basic moral theory has been overlooked in order for the core to benefit from the periphery – the sub-species. Thus the cycle of capitalist exploitation continues. So pull up a chair and join the giving, receiving and taking of more than one person meeds.

How to not end up in the AA

What is drinking? Is it an art or is it just a path to iniquity? We face a problem phrased wonderfully by Lord Chesterton, a well known writer and lecturer; "no animal ever invented anything so bad as drunkenness – or so good as drink." **Harry Haddon** tries to find a way around this problem, by questioning how we can drink and still behave like humans.



It is not always the best idea to just knock them back

■ Matthew Middleton

So, you are at Rhodes, supposedly eager; ready to learn, expand your mind and ultimately get a degree where-after you can make copious amounts of money. To be honest, I doubt it will ever happen. You came here fresh from school or a long holiday ready to drink, get completely and utterly slaughtered, take new kinds of drugs and have lots of sex. Now this is traditionally part of what university is all about. However, most first years (as well as most of the remaining student body) have absolutely no idea how to go about this in the correct manner.

It is common knowledge that this campus is known for its students' abilities to consume large quantities of alcoholic beverages. What is not so well known, however, are the implications of this excessive consumption. (I think it needs to be known that I love to drink, consume drugs and all the other activities associated with 'varsity. This is therefore not a 'holier than thou' piece aimed at telling people not to drink, but rather; how to drink.) It shocks me sometimes how completely facile and juvenile many students become when they are drunk. Last year someone in my res was so drunk that when he decided to use the toilet he was not able to aim properly. As a result, his excrement ended up all over the floor and down the side of the toilet. This behaviour at a place of higher learning is surely is unforgivable? Why is it that when students drink here they miraculously reverse evolution and behave like primates?

So what, then, is the point of this piece? I do not believe for one second that anyone is going to change their nauseating drinking habits because of what I have written. I hope, however, that I can offer an amusing and enjoyable read about drinking and what you drink; while also sending out a message that drinking is fine, but getting so drunk that you end up beating someone up, sexually assaulting someone and then rounding off your evening by shitting on the floor, walls and ceiling, is not.

Beer – the beloved drink of the common man. Beer is probably the most consumed snifter here at Rhodes. The funny thing about beer is that many first years arrive here all bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, hating the stuff. After some intensive training by the older students, however, they eventually come round and end up enjoying this ancient combination of yeast, barley, hops and water. This sentiment was expressed by none other than Winston Churchill while speaking with his wife.

Lady Churchill: I hate the taste of beer.

Sir Churchill: So do many people – to begin with. It is, however, a prejudice that many have been able to overcome.

As with most alcohol, there are other problems with beer – the infamous hangover. This is something many of you will be feeling for the first time due mainly to that last pint at the rat. Hangovers are easily avoided if one drinks sensibly. By this I mean sticking to one drink throughout the evening and not trying to finish an entire keg in one sitting. Another means of lessening the affects of a hangover is what I like to call the 'bread and water method'. Before you begin drinking, eat something and once you are finished drinking have a couple glasses of water. This generally works for me.

The next drink I wish to consider is always placed neatly next to beer on signs and in sentences. It is also the only booze on sale at Pick 'n Pay. It is, of course, wine. The red variety is one of my favourite drinks. It loosens the brain and causes the tongue to flow in a pleasant manner. Yet, I doubt many students understand this concept as they bypass this stage eight in the evening, when they are already quite pissed. There after, they begin to assault this quiet town with their drunken, abusive natures. The consequences of wine are well-known to most, as it is believed that red wine induces very bad headaches. I can attest to this; a result of the before mentioned 'loosening of the brain'. Thomas Cooke, the inventor of the holiday tour, told of the effect of cheap wine when he saw his tour group running to buy cheap local wine. He said; "Gentleman, do not invest your money in diarrhoea!" So, for those experimenting with Tassies for the first time – beware!

The final drink I wish to examine is a spirit. Normally I would leave it at beer and wine, but as many of you may fall victim to this boisterous, violent drink, I thought it only fair to give you prior warning. The definition of brandy given in The Enlarged Devil's Dictionary by Ambrose Bierce is:

Brandy, *n.* A cordial composed of one part thunder-and-lightning, one part remorse, two parts bloody murder, one part death-hell-and-the-grave, two parts clarified Satan and four parts holy Moses!

This, I believe, is warning enough. It is also well-known for brandy to induce fighting. Now could someone explain to me (with this being known) why anyone would continue to drink something they know is going to get them beaten up? And then wake up with additional pains? Maybe one could look to Samuel Johnson, one of the most highly quoted English writers' explanation, "but he who aspires to be a hero [smiling] must drink brandy".

I am sorry if I have left out your drink of choice, your preferred tittle. The result of all of them (if consumed in large enough amounts) is the same, disgusting behaviour. I have always wondered why this is so. Some I guess should look to the advice given by Tom Robbins' character Switters in his novel *Fierce Invalids Home from Hot Climates*: "I tend to avoid any substance that makes me feel smarter, stronger, or better looking than I know I actually am."

This is an opinion and some of you might desire these drunken effects, but there are other reasons for not drinking gluttonously. For one, it does not help your libido. Even Shakespeare tells us this in Macbeth; "Drink, sir...it provokes the desire, but it takes away the performance."

There are of course serious implications from the over-indulgence in alcohol. They include liver damage, alcohol poisoning, and, if continued, the long term effect of alcoholism. I hope that nobody ends up with this, especially if it was because of the stupid amount of booze consumed at 'varsity because "everyone else is doing it". It would be my wish that people here could drink responsibly, and by that I mean don't drive home slaughtered, don't drink until you puke on purpose, and please, if you know you can't aim on the toilet when you are pissed, go before you start drinking. I will end off with more advice from Switters on drinking; "Setting out to get drunk is pathological. I like to drink just enough to change the temperature in the brain room. I'll turn to less mainstream substances if I want to rearrange the furniture."

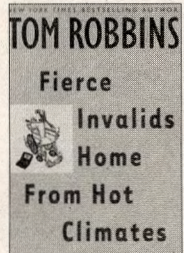


It pays to know what you've been drinking

■ Matthew Middleton

Reviews

Book



Fierce Invalids Home From Hot Climates by Tom Robbins

■ Harry Haddon

If you are looking to change your life, forget any religious text or self-help book you may have read. Instead, read *Fierce Invalids Home From Hot Climates* by Tom Robbins. The story centres around Switters, a character with piercing green eyes and bad teeth who travels through dense Amazon jungle while tripping on a pyramid-headed Shaman's medicine. He crosses the Syrian Desert in a wheelchair and meets the Pope, who is dressed as a nun, all while trying to finish Finnegans Wake. Robbins is a genius who, as one critic put it, "has a grasp on things that dazzle the brain". All I can say is that once you have read it you will want to stand up and scream at the top of your lungs.

CD



Love, Angel, Music, Baby – Gwen Stefani

■ Claire Keet

Love, Angel, Music, Baby is Gwen Stefani's newly-released album. It is a glamorous fusion of '80s-style beats and quirky lyrics. The former lead singer of *No Doubt* channelled her new-found fascination with Japanese subculture and fashion into the creation of this eclectic and vibrant album. The soundtrack is a blend of several music genres and includes catchy collaborations with Andre 3000 (*Bubble Pop Electric*), Eve (*Rich Girl*) and The Neptunes. The single *What You Waiting For* shows the diversity of Stefani's innovative approach to her music. This is her first solo project and expresses her individuality and freedom.

Movie



Hero aka Ying Xiong

■ Liam Brickhill

The story of *Hero* is told through a series of flashbacks by Nameless, a mysterious sheriff from a small province in China. Nameless arrives at the palace of the king claiming to have killed three legendary assassins – Sky, Snow and Broken Sword – and the plot unfolds through the telling of his battles with them. The hype surrounding the movie is that Quentin Tarantino, director of *Kill Bill* and *Pulp Fiction*, is associated with it. However, Tarantino merely presents the film – which makes it seem as though the producers just wanted a famous name attached to help market the film. *Hero* is perhaps let down at times by some slightly awkward wire-work during one or two of the fight scenes, but overall it is a remarkable work of visually appealing cinematography.

A little more movement 'e-Dakawa'



■ Hayley Richardson

■ Tasmin Vosloo, Ashleigh Nash

The atmosphere of the Dakawa Community Centre buzzes with excitement as costumes are handed out, the beat begins and the 11 young dancers of the newly-established First Physical Youth Company start rehearsing.

This dance company, due to be launched at the National Arts Festival in July, was created with the aim of training young individuals with a passion for dance and molding them to eventually make the grade for Gary Gordon's First Physical Theatre Company. Noni Makhatini, the group's choreographer and a resident dancer in the Theatre Company, said the youth group's formation will not only benefit the 11 new recruits, but will extend an interest for the arts "into the townships and basically everywhere".

Auditions were a grueling process, as only 11 out of 50 dancers were chosen. Many of the candidates were already involved in Janet Buckland's Township Dance Project, and others were experienced dancers from schools around Grahamstown.

One of DSG's pupils, Anthea Gilfillan, was selected for the Youth Company and said: "It is a great achievement to have been one of the privileged few." Preparations are in full swing and it is easy to see why these dancers, the youngest of whom is 12-years-old, were chosen for the Youth Company.

Seventeen-year-old Nombulelo High School pupil Ziyanda Songongo, has been dancing with Buckland, or 'Mama J' as she is affectionately known, for the past four years. "The auditions were tough, but I am excited to have made it. My family is very proud," she said.

Her dream of becoming a professional dancer, like her mentor Makhatini, is now one step closer to being fulfilled. The 11 dancers have previously trained in ballet, acrobatics, belly-dancing, Latin American and Traditional African dance styles. Makhatini instructs the group on Fridays, when the dancers are trained in her style of contemporary afro-fusion.

The project is aimed at enlightening the

Grahamstown community by developing a larger audience for not only established dance forms, but also fresh and contemporary dance. The Theatre Company has extended into the townships and as a result young dancers are now empowered to exhibit their talent on a more recognised platform. "There is a lot of dance in the townships, but not necessarily theatrical dance," Makhatini said. The Youth Company will enable the new recruits to further extend their knowledge of dance and prepare them for the upcoming Grahamstown and PE eisteddfods and the National Arts Festival.

As the rehearsals draw to a close, the dancers, despite being exhausted from an intense dancing session, remain vibrant. Gordon and Buckland, as patrons of the Youth Company, put their best foot forward in establishing this project. The dancers are talented, cheerful individuals who are sure to inspire the success of the company. We're not kidding when we tell you to take time to catch one of their performances.

The Comedy Column: Comedy sobers up

■ Jill Ambrose

Right, before I'm tarred, feathered and urinated on by jocks, let's get one thing straight: I'm a big fan of the occasional alcoholic beverage. In fact, in my now distant youth, I too sang the praises of the Great High Bear, Benevolent Bat and all wine that embraces the virtues of a screw-on cap. That's right, I too was a first year. Like so many, I too worshipped at the altar of the great glowing Rat. At least until second year when I found divine guidance from a rather aggressive

Friar named Tuck.

But this extended pseudo-spiritual metaphor basically adds to the idea that excessive drinking at Rhodes is somehow more acceptable than in other more civilised areas of society. Let's be honest, at Rhodes, 'alcoholic' is a term much like 'first-year spread' or 'fungal infection'. We all know it's a reality, but no-one wants to talk about it, and certainly not with reference to themselves. But let's think about this just once...

An alcoholic is someone whose drinking is excessive to the point of interfering with one's daily life – and if

I had a rand for the number of times I nearly lost my DP because my life had been 'interfered with' I could live off the interest and screw my degree.

Just ask the next dumb jock you see casually holding up the bar, how long it's taken him to get to the final year of his BCom and you'll understand what I'm saying. Just remember: the guy is probably not doing Masters. Over-indulgence will probably ensure that you don't make it to your dawnie. Even if you do, your head will tell you it wasn't worth the effort. Basically, booze makes you stupid.

Why do we seem to have some need

to counter the intellectual benefits of studying with the brain-cell killing habit of drinking too much? Why do we have dawnies in the first place? Deep, existential questions abound. But, believe it or not, this is not a sermon. After all, when I'm forced into defending this story I might well be on my way to causing some major interference for Thursday morning myself. All I'm trying to say is that if your reverence for a particular shooter and mix is causing you to act less like a saint and more like a suicide-bomber, then... oh hell, give me a call next time you go out!

History's bloodshed erased through art

■ Katie Pearson, Caitlin Greener

The Egazini Outreach Programme is a Grahamstown-based initiative, which was established in 2000. Through arts and culture, the project aims to develop education, provide jobs and teach skills in an effort to reconcile and preserve local heritage. The programme operates out of a building located in the township, which was occupied by the Riot Police during the Apartheid regime.

On Friday April 22, the Egazini (which means 'place of blood') Outreach Programme launched a festival. The certified inauguration of the festival was signified by the official opening of the Interpretation Centre at the site, and was attended by local dignitaries and officials as well as chiefs and kings of the council.

The festival commemorated the Battle of the Grahamstown – a skirmish between the British colonial soldiers and the local Xhosa

warriors. The historical battle took place on April 22, 1819, hence the significance of the opening date. The festival includes three art exhibitions at the Outreach Programme building. The exhibitions showcase local artworks, which are all historically related to Egazini. The emphasis of the exhibition is on the collaboration between visual artists and local historians who re-examine the Battle of Grahamstown.

By opening the centre to the public, the programme aims to develop community tourism in Grahamstown. The public can visit The Egazini Centre from Mondays to Fridays between 9:00am and 4:00pm and will have the opportunity of meeting artists and asking any questions pertaining to the centre. Works are available for purchase, as well as a host of craft products available in the centre's curio shop.

The festival is running until Saturday July 9.



Uyanda Tom (Artist) looks forward to the opening so others can enjoy his artwork

■ Joni Els

From here to Timbuktu

■ Lindsey Berry and Nicole Hyman

Lights. Camera. Action. It's time to illuminate the Dark Continent as scripted by Darwin as opposed to Hollywood's manipulated creation. A continent with crevices where there lie idiosyncrasies of more than just genocide, drought and malnutrition. Forget Café Latte and Coca Cola; think sipping banana beer while indulging in the realisation that going to Timbuktu is no longer merely part of one's idiomatic repertoire. Take a voyage of discovery into the untouched and, at times, undiscovered.

The beauty of Africa lies in the seemingly obscure geographical and social gems throughout the continent. Timbuktu, usually thought of as a city of colloquial hyperbole, is in fact a real place with a deep, luxurious history. Timbuktu is situated in the North West African country of Mali and is considered to be one of the spiritual and intellectual capitals of the continent. Of particular interest to travellers and those interested in the Islamic faith are the beautiful mosques found there, as well as the city's rich history of emperors and sultans.

Mauritania is a North African country which the ill-informed might confuse with Mauritius. Yet, it is a country with its own unique persona. It is here that the world's longest train, which covers about 700km, can be found. Traveling on a second-class coach in this train must be an experi-

ence: 150 people in the coach with mere holes as windows. The Mauritians follow a conservative culture which vehemently condemns many of the intrinsic Western conventions like the use of the word 'girlfriend'. In a Mauritanian context such a concept is associated with loose morals.

Another unheralded place in Africa is the small country of Benin, found at the bottom of the geographical bulge of the continent. The Republic of Benin offers a spicy ingredient to the African cocktail as it is a country associated with Voodoo and Fetishism. This nation, which has approximately six million inhabitants, was the setting of a large proportion of African slave trading, and is packed with political dynamite as it is rated as experiencing the third highest number of coups in Africa.

You may have heard the word bandied around, but frowned in disbelief when people mention the French influenced Arabic country of Djibouti. The country does not have a high tourism level as it is often in a state of conflict, but when a tourist does set foot on the pristine shores, they are treated as attractions, much like a zoo where the animals are the visitors. Due to their scarcity, tourists are often taken in and treated to the finest hospitality by the local population. The country is known for what the locals refer to as the 'lava fields' which paint parts of Djibouti black and emit smoke from their natural chimneys.

The last of the unknown beauties lies on the



It's not often you see these names on a boarding pass ■ Graphic by Gregor Röhrig

shores of the red sea. Eritrea means war, but it is also known as the Land of the Gods, making it the craze of the Egyptian Pharaohs of yesteryear. The people of Eritrea are passionate about food and drink. They have a reputation for their local beverage of choice, namely Asmara gin. Yes, gin. It's not only the drink of choice for middle-aged housewives and wealthy race course enthusiasts, but a national pastime in Eritrea.

Africa is often seen in a purely negative light, but there is so much more to this continent than just politics and pessimism. It is a continent with depth and diversity and which is accessible to all those who wish to scratch beneath the commercial surface. Little places scattered throughout Africa like Timbuktu, Mauritania, Djibouti, Eritrea and Benin are a few examples of the gems to be found in Africa – one of the most

Africa in Focus : Mali

■ Bianca Camminga

Full name: Republic of Mali
Capital City: Bamako
Population: 11.6 million
Languages: French and Arabic
Head of State: President General Amadou Toumani Touré

Quirky Fact: Mali is the home of the famed Timbuktu. Within this city there is an ancient mosque whose doors have remained unopened since its construction. It is said that opening the doors will signal the end of world.



Pan African Parliament turns one

■ Nicole Hyman and Bianca Camminga

Did you remember to say happy birthday? The Pan-African Parliament (PAP) is now a year old. How could you have known, however, when on March 18 the PAP was probably regarded as it is on any other day – not as the acronym for a polemic parliament, but as a staple food? This does not bode well for the African Renaissance or for removing the enlarging shadow that looms over Africa.

The PAP was established as a supervisory arm of the African Union in March 2004. Its aim is to facilitate co-operation between African countries and empower the populace at a grass-roots level. More importantly, the PAP aims to encourage the notion of democracy and Pan-Africanism and hence encourage a sense of unity among African countries. Any obliviousness with regards to this body will be alleviated by simply juxtaposing the

PAP with the European Union. One of the pivotal problems associated with this parliament is that it is meant to represent Africa and its inhabitants, yet so many are completely unaware of its existence. Despite this obscurity, the African Union (AU) has granted the PAP a budget of \$5 million for 2005.

PAP president, Gertrude Mongella, made the point that the mere establishment of the PAP was an indication of "democratic maturity in Africa". However, what has been achieved by this parliament? It has assumed a rather passive stance in terms of disputes; it has merely sent observer and information missions to countries like Togo, Ivory Coast and Burundi. Interventions have been made by presidents such as South African Thabo Mbeki and Nigerian president Olusegun Obasanjo who are sent to help restore order and stabilise conflict situations.

The PAP has not made an impact in countries like Zimbabwe, although

it did send a fact finding mission to Sudan and also encouraged the Sudanese government to co-operate with the AU so as to end the conflict in Darfur. Furthermore, an African Court of Justice, an integral part of the PAP mandate, for human rights abuses still needs to be established. Although the PAP has only been in operation for a year, it is essential that it ascertains itself correctly if it aims to achieve anything conclusive. At present, the PAP cannot pass laws or intervene in countries where human rights abuses are being committed. It can simply observe and make recommendations on conflict resolution.

One of the biggest goals for the past year set by the African Union has been the implementation of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM). The APRM is meant to be carried out by participating countries every three years. Countries are assessed on how they are furthering their goals and moving towards poverty alleviation,

putting Africa on the path of sustainable development and halting the marginalisation of the continent in the process of globalisation.

The PAP is integral to the process of APRM implementation and ensuring that outstanding African countries accede to the self-imposing mechanism. So far, their pressure has yielded little success. Many countries believe that the practice is futile as it is difficult to understand and was created at continent level for country level implementation.

Something one should ponder is the probability that this body will succeed. When one considers Africa's track record, one cannot help being skeptical. It seems as though the PAP has a lot of work ahead of it if it wishes to achieve the eminence which pervades the European Union. After one year of life, one can only expect so much from a child, yet a large proportion of Africa expected the PAP to be a miracle baby.

No more visas till 2006

■ Jean-Mariè Cronjè and Kristin Paremoer

As of Monday April 11, Britain imposed a ban on visas for Nigerians between the ages of 18 and 30 intending on visiting Britain for the first time.

The reason for the ban is that visa applications have doubled in the last two years to 23 000 applications per month. The British High Commission in Nigeria says they cannot deal with such a large number of applications. The ban will be enforced until 2006 while the visa service is re-organised and improved.

This problem started as a result of new application procedures introduced in July last year. Nigerians could make use of courier firms to lodge their applications instead

of travelling to the British High Commission in Abuja or the Deputy High Commission in Lagos.

Chris Dix, director of UK Visa Services in Nigeria, said in August last year that "from now on, whoever you are, wherever you are, if you wish to apply for UK visa, you can do so".

The expected approval rate of 70% of applications was inaccurate as an estimated 80% were turned down this year. The high refusal rate is in part due to forged documents and the lengthy amount of time needed to interview applicants. Interviews are conducted to evaluate the intention to return to Nigeria by all applicants.

However, the ban does not apply to students planning to study in Britain,

business travellers and applicants who are married to someone who can prove that they had been in the UK within the previous five years.

Foreign Office also said that they will consider "genuine emergencies and cases based on compassionate grounds".

Nigeria is not the only country where in provisions have been made to halt visa applications. The British Foreign Office is investigating visa fraud amid fears of an immigration scam. This has led to bans being applied in Malaysia, Namibia and Sri Lanka.

Even though the restrictions have been provisionally implemented, there has been no guarantee that applications will be re-considered in 2006.



■ Cartoon by Dimitar Dobrev

Underdogs Mandela Hall win SRC soccer tourney

■ **Mandla Masingi**

Nelson Mandela Hall won the soccer tournament organised by the SRC on Saturday April 16. Held at the Prospect Field, the tournament was part of the celebration of men's week.

Jan Smuts Hall beat the Oppidans 4-2 to secure a spot in the semi-finals. Allen Webb hall hammered the Muslim Students Association 4-2 on penalties after regulation time ran out with the scores levelled at 1-1. Mandela Hall claimed the third semi-final spot by beating Founders Hall 3-2.

Kimberly Hall, who were on standby, got a free ticket to the semi-finals but lost 5-4 on penalties. The game between Jan Smuts and Allen Webb was a do or die match but Jan Smuts lacked the qualities to win, with Allen Webb taking a 2-0 victory. The Jan Smuts captain, Wandile 'Mlakalaka' Nkosi said that the reason they lost the match was because they did not have time to rest after playing their quarter-final match against the Oppidans.

Nelson Mandela locked horns against Allen Webb in the final. The match was very entertaining with scintillating skills being displayed by players of both teams. Mandela claimed a 3-0 victory at the final whistle.

It was surprising to all that top dogs like Founders Hall and Kimberly Hall did not make it to the finals. These teams were initially feared because they had many experienced players in their teams.

Mandela Hall were not expect to win the tournament due to this. "We did not think that we would win, because we were playing against experienced players from Founders. We had doubts at the beginning but after beating Founders we gained so much confidence," said Nelson Mandela captain Marwick 'Makwini' Makwini.

"The boys played very well, they played as a team and the defence was particularly well organised," he added.

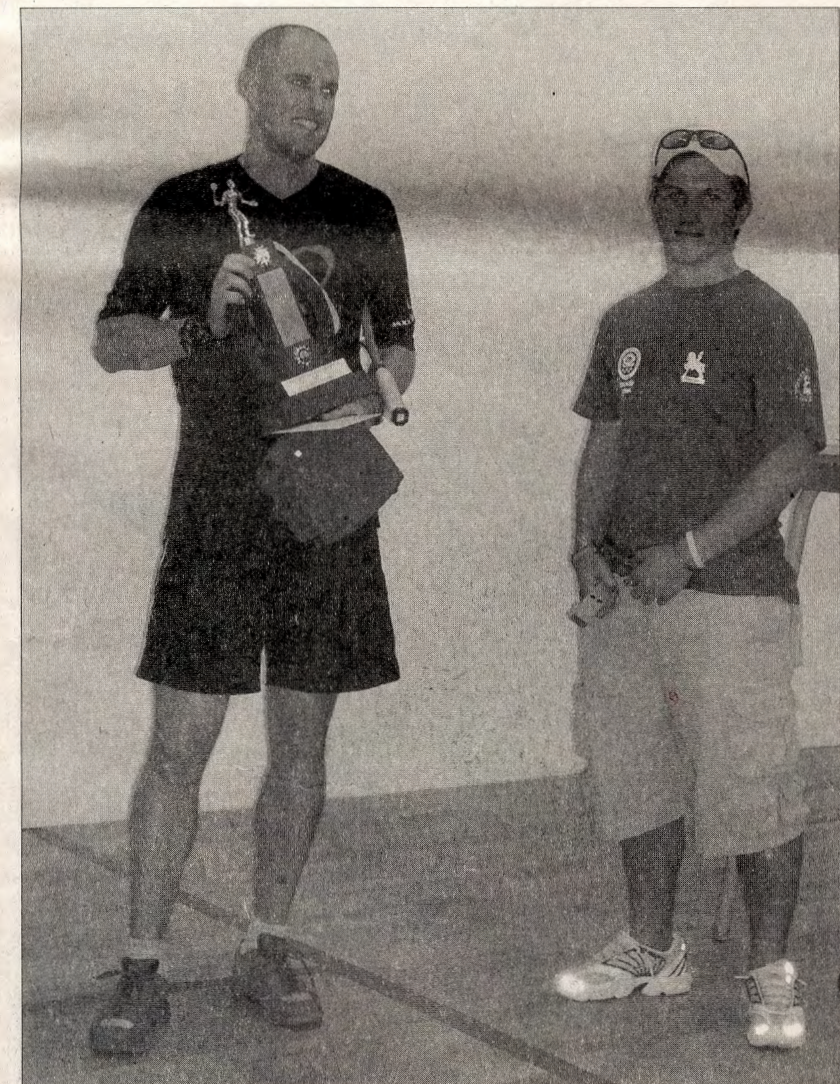
The prize money of R600 they won will contribute towards buying soccer kit for the team.



Triumphant cheers from Mandela's victors

■ **Derek Culliers**

Top turnout for Rhodes squash



An impressive trophy, a smiling Hansen

■ **Cath Lewis**

■ **Jessica Newmark**

Seven of the top 20 men's squash players in South Africa (SA) turned up for the ninth annual Rhodes squash open, which was held over the weekend of the April 15-17. It is the first time that the tournament has attracted so many of the men's top players in the country.

South African number one, Adrian Hansen, who has been playing squash in Switzerland and Holland, defeated Rowan Smith (SA no 5) from Western province, to win the men's final. The ladies final was won by SA Students player Gina Robinson from Cape Town, who battled it out on court with Anlen Jarmin (SA top 20), the Eastern Province number one.

Kelvin Edwards (SA no 18), the Border number one finished third while the 2004 men's winner, Clinton Leeuw (SA no 6), from Western Province came fourth. In the ladies section third place was taken by Jacqui Trevarthan and fourth place by Rhodes' very own Kierryn Gendall (SA top 20).

Chairman of the squash club, Andrew Blake, said that the tournament was an enormous success. Not all the fun was had on court, but also at the 'Bad Taste' party held at the cowpat and the evening spent at the Slip Stream Sportsbar. Blake went on to say that having so many of the country's top and experienced players at the open was great for Rhodes squash.

Founders' challenge takes sport to a whole new level

■ **Richard Holland**

It's Founders' Challenge time again. The event is set to grace the campus with a weekend full of sporting fun and one heck of a race. From the inaugural event in 2002, the event has grown in stature and popularity. Participants from around the country compete in the five-legged relay which starts on the Great Field and has Jameson dam as its turnaround point. Teams of five, or brave individuals, have to complete five separate legs in the biggest relay race the campus and Eastern Cape has to offer. From a 5km orienteer, on to a 20km cycle, a 1.5km swim, a 5km canoe and a 13km run, it's clear that the Challenge is just that.

The Founders' Challenge will happen on the May 8, with proceedings starting 9:00am and finishing in the late afternoon. Two teams are allowed to enter per Hall which equates to some 40 teams and 15 individuals predicted to enter this year's race. All

sports clubs, the military, the Health Suite, Sports Admin and University staff teams have also been invited to participate in the event which is promising to be tightly-contested. The first groups of athletes will start at 10:00 and the last at 10:30. The new start format allows teams to leave in their seeding category which should intensify the racing on the day.

A day of entertainment has been scheduled for spectators, including the fun run, which has been shortened and also made into a relay event, and a charity spin-a-thon, which sees people paying R1 for a minute on the spinning bike with all proceeds going to a local charity. "Expect big things" was the word from the organising committee. They are not giving much away but seemed excited for the plans and weekend to arrive. "We have got huge sponsors, loads of goodies and freebies for all who attend the day, loud music and lots

of media coverage," said committee member Terry Hatting. "It is truly a day not to be missed, we have got much more going on this year, through more teams and a few years of experience behind the committee, this one is going to be the best one yet," he promised.

This event is purely student-initiated and driven, making it a practical display of what our students can do when they set their mind to a task. The reigning Founders' Challenge champions will have their work cut out for them with stronger and more competition than ever before; and as always the crowds will cheer their heroes on to the finish line and display the true Rhodes spirit. Catch all the action on Sunday May 9 on the Great Field and at Jameson Dam.

For more information, or to complete a late entry, contact founderschallenge@ru.ac.za

RMR

Two lucky Rhodes students will be flown, courtesy of RMR, One Time Airlines, BMG, Edgars and the Protea Hotel to Johannesburg to see rock n' roll wild child Avril Lavigne in concert on May 8, 2005.

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She will perform in **Johannesburg** at the **Coca Cola Dome**, in **Durban** at the **Westridge Park Stadium** and **Cape-Town** at the **Bellville Velodrome**.

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Well Done to **RMR** and Jason von Berg of the JB show for putting together such a superb prize!

■ **Carly Ritz**

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Positive developments for Health Suite



Things are looking busy at the Health Suite

■ Jenna Viljoen

The Health Suite has been doing a considerable amount lately in terms of improving and enhancing its facilities. Membership at the facility has grown significantly and boasts people from all walks of life, ranging from students to Rhodes staff and the general community. With this influx of people there is an increasing need for expansion of the facilities. The gym becomes congested at peak hours, especially at popular equipment such as the bikes and circuit machines. Machinery that is out of order just extends the already frustrating waiting period.

Health Suite Manager Janet Kelly says that maintenance is a constant concern but there is continuous behind-the-scenes assessment of the problem. This year, two maintenance workers have been employed, a step up from last year's one.



■ Gabrielle Gray and Philippa Ehrlich

The Health Suite is always trying to make members' experiences more enjoyable and acquiring new equipment is a big step in this direction. "The primary concern is service; firstly to the members and secondly in terms of making the most of what is already available," Kelly said. The need for expansion is recognised but there are many considerations to be made, such as whether to expand the building they are working from now, which will give faster results than the second option of whether to look towards the future and plan for the building of an entirely new complex. The problem with the latter is that the Health Suite understands the present subsidiary payers need to benefit from the money they contribute and a scheme such as this would take the better part of a decade to complete due to the capital required. If this project was undertaken it would also mean the channelling of all funds into the scheme and no bettering of what is available at present.

These issues require substantial contemplation, and the exploration of all possibilities is being done at present, with the maximum benefits for members always the main concern.

At the beginning of the second term, all involved in the running of the Health Suite went to Port Alfred for a weekend. The structure of the weekend was for all to interact, both socially and on a constructive level, with teamwork being the main focus. Kelly said the section heads of the gym this year are extremely impressive and the dedication they have shown to their positions, which are voluntary, exhibits their commitment to their area of interest as a whole.

Members can therefore only remain positive about the steps the Health Suite is taking, and Janet says it would be fantastic if they were able to see the "behind-the-scenes planning" rather than simply what is on show on the outside.

Baby Boks triumph as World Champions

■ Tim Hancox

It was a highly-anticipated match between two of rugby's oldest rivals – and the final of the IRB Under-19 World Cup did not disappoint those of Springbok alliance.

Led by their inspirational skipper, Alistair Hargreaves, the young South African side threw down the challenge to the New Zealand side from the onset, with an early try scored by PJ Vermeulen. This set the scene for a scintillating and highly entertaining match, with tries from both sides, and a drop goal from South Africa's

Francois Steyn.

In the second half the Baby Blacks attacked and managed to slowly chase down the Baby Boks' lead, leaving spectators on the edge of their seats wondering if it would be another game whereby South Africa lost its hold in the dying moments. This proved not to be the case and some dogged defence and crucial turnovers allowed the South African side to hold on for victory.

This result once again illustrates the strength South Africa has emanating

from schoolboy rugby. Surely the club system needs to be addressed so that the young talent is not lost to rich overseas clubs? The success South Africa has had in both the Under-19 and Under-21 World Cups in the past few years should provide a strong base of talent coming through.

Competitions such as these are acting as valuable stepping stones for our young players, and the emergence of the likes of Schalk Burger, Ashwin Willemse and Jean De Villiers are just some examples of the success stories.



The Under-19 'Baby Boks' are making moves

■ pic supplied Superrugby.co.za

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SHARC, the Student HIV/AIDS Resistance Campaign, assisted the Raphael Centre on Wednesday the 20th April with the launch of their "Mother to Child" transmission program. Students can participate in programs such as these by joining SHARC.

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