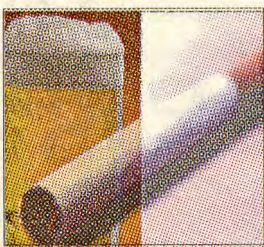




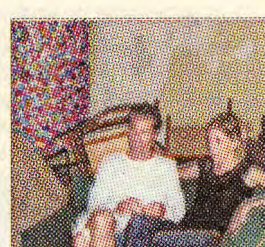
03

RocSoc caught in
feminist landslide



06

Flipside: new price
for old habits



07

Jazzing up your
night out

Who is to blame?

The birth of a child should be a joyous occasion. However, for a woman living in Grahamstown East, it turned out to be a tragic nightmare that will haunt her for the rest of her life.



Flashing red lights on ambulances such as this one do not necessarily mean that those in need will receive swift medical response.

■ Gregor Röhrig

■ Lindsey Thorpe and Alex Dubb

On the December 26, 2004, 19-year-old Thandi* experienced birth contractions and phoned Settlers Hospital for an ambulance. According to her mother, Thandi was assured that the ambulance would arrive at 12am. However, it came much later, only arriving to collect her five hours later than expected.

Upon arriving at Settlers Hospital, Thandi was informed that she needed to have a caesarean. This procedure could not be performed as the hospital is not properly equipped to carry out this operation. According to the acting Executive Director, Irene Solomon: "When there are complications, we refer patients to more capable institutions." When questioned about the ambulance's failure to arrive on time, she said: "We have an affiliation with the ambulance service, but do not have direct authority over their operations." Although already several hours into her contractions, Thandi was then supposed to be rushed to Dora Nginza, a larger and better-equipped hospital in Port Elizabeth.

The journey to Port Elizabeth lasted longer than initially anticipated. Instead of travelling directly to Dora Nginza Hospital, the over-extended ambulance staff first responded to calls from patients in Port Alfred, Kenton-On-Sea and various Eastern Cape farms,

prolonging Thandi's journey considerably. According to Thandi's aunt, Nompumelolo, who lives in Port Elizabeth, it was only nine hours after Thandi had originally been promised medical support, that she arrived at the Dora Nginza Hospital.

Nompumelolo, who was with Thandi at the hospital, said that although Settlers Hospital advised that Thandi undergo a caesarean, Dora Nginza acted against this advice, deciding instead to administer drugs and undergo a normal procedure. After the birth of Thandi's son, the hospital staff failed to provide him with the necessary oxygen to sustain him, which eventually resulted in his death. Two hours later, Thandi underwent post-operational procedures and was informed that the hospital would not provide any further care and that she would have to leave.

Dora Nginza would not issue a statement to *Activate* concerning the death of Thandi's baby, excusing themselves from any comment in the absence of a formal complaint regarding hospital mistreatment. The newly appointed superintendent of Dora Nginza, Dr Zehbi, explained that "I have only been serving as superintendent since the first of February, and so I am unaware of any situation of this kind; if I were to receive a formal complaint in writing, only then could I begin an investigation." Dr Zehbi added that compen-

sation for Thandi would be likely if a formal investigation found her to be a victim of malpractice or negligence. He encourages victims who suspect mistreatment to issue a written complaint so that investigative procedures can continue. "Once such a process is underway then we can find out what the circumstances surrounding the situation were; was it a junior doctor without supervision, was it a senior doctor finishing a thirty-something hour shift, or just negligence, but until I receive a complaint I can't take more than a personal interest. I mean, we are talking about the death of an infant, and it deserves further investigation." He assured *Activate* that Dora Nginza would be prepared to release their findings should a complaint be lodged.

The ambulance company was contacted for comment but refused to offer any explanations as to why the situation turned out like it did.

Dr Zehbi also expressed interest as to whether or not any formal legal action had been planned. Legal aid proceedings have been scheduled for March 10 in an attempt to uncover the circumstances at both hospitals that resulted in the death of Thandi's child, and whether or not further action should be pursued.

* Name has been changed

Editorial



Pride & Prejudice

■ Carly Ritz

Is it just me or is there a wave of antagonism washing up on this campus? When forum threads read: "What's the best thing that came out of Auschwitz?...an empty bus" and: "why is Rhodes infested with Zimbabweans?" It's a clear that the intolerance monster is back in town – not that it ever left, because prejudice is as old as society itself. Cain decided he didn't really like his brother so much and killed him.

When societies sell women in controversial posters to buy membership it's evident that either we've become desensitised to discrimination, or freedom of expression has reached new levels. But what makes me hopeful is the handful of people on campus who are not afraid to say something, not afraid to complain or defend their beliefs. The society in question came under scrutiny after individuals on campus made a noise about the inappropriate posters (see page 3 for full story). Most of us saw the posters. I did, and carried on with my day-to-day business. Is that me being apathetic or just caught up in my own life?

But fortunately for this campus, not everyone is like me. SHARC and Amnesty International are proof that it's possible to live outside of your own bubble. They dedicate hours to their respective causes. I was fortunate enough to meet with the Anti-Retroviral Task Team at Settlers Hospital this week and they are doing amazing work with the HIV positive members of our society. Their biggest challenge at the moment is education. So I take my hat off to Rebecca Davis and Lesley Odendal for spearheading their HIV awareness campaign in O-week. It's strange how some people are working so hard to unite our campus, help and educate while others are trying to create dissent and divides. Maybe the people who spend their time starting inane threads about Jews and Zimbabweans should join Rotaract, SHARC, Amnesty International or the new United Nations society and do something constructive with their time, rather than to 'other' sections of our campus. Give 5, join Rafsoc or help out at Habitat for Humanity.

I'm not advocating that we spend the rest of our lives dedicated to the cause of others, but with so many global and national tragedies and crises, we need to do our bit. And it's easy to do that using your own interests, such as the Argus cyclists who cycled their hearts out for the Sunflower Foundation. Their generosity of self is inspiring. There are amazing people on this campus doing amazing things all the time and we don't even know the half of it.

Well, there's something to think about over the vac that has arrived so quickly. Time flies when you're on deadline. It feels like the term has just started and now it's over. Hope you all chill out over the break and gear up for the term ahead, which promises to be a busy one. Maybe next term will be more than a drunken montage – maybe not.

Travel safe.

See you soon.

Wanted: bright young minds

■ Ahmed Areff

Brightest Young Minds (BYM) is a campaign and competition that was launched five years ago to find the most promising students in tertiary education. Bright does not necessarily refer to academic intelligence, but rather to qualities including zest, passion, initiative and leadership. The BYM competition is sponsored by leaders in modern business, namely VenFin, BHP Billiton, Sanlam and Shoprite Checkers, and has 100 winners instead of just one. It is aimed at post-graduates and students in the later years of their studies.

The competition aims to merge student communities with the business world; to equip these students with a deeper understanding of the commerce industry, and to stimulate discussion among the students regarding social and economic issues. The week-long conference takes place in Johannesburg at the end of June, and all expenses are paid for by the campaign. Finance Minister, Trevor Manuel, and the BHP Billiton Africa Chairman, Dr Vincent Maphai took

part in last year's conference.

Tracy Hammond, a Rhodes graduate, was chosen to participate in the 2004 conference. Hammond, who completed her honours in Politics and Industrial Sociology last year, admits the conference was one of the best events in which she has taken part. She praised the innovativeness of BYM, saying the conference inspired her to think beyond the norm and strive to make a difference.

The aim of BYM is to encourage students to become more actively involved in society at large. The 100 students chosen will be selected according to their knowledge of and involvement in current events in South Africa, rather than on their academic achievements.

Students wishing to submit an entry can do so online at www.bym.co.za.

(ym)^B

Brightest Young Minds

It's all in the mind

activate
staff

Activate is the Independent Student Newspaper at Rhodes University. The paper is published every two weeks during term time.

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SRC Societies Councillor under fire

■ Kate Thompson

SRC Societies Councillor and Kimberley Hall Representative Sasha Dudley has recently been met with serious criticism from campus societies, following mishaps with the O-Week campaign and Societies Evening.

Societies including Greek Soc, Debating, Amnesty International and the recently formed United Nations Association have complained that Dudley has utilised her power as societies councillor to make unfair and invalid decisions.

Amnesty International's O-Week events were left out of the events guide, and Debating events were scheduled without the knowledge of Debating Chairperson, Janet Jobson.

Dudley responded that the O-Week events pamphlet was organised by SRC Vice-President Vicky Heideman. "I have never made decisions for societies and I have always tried to be completely fair," said Dudley. SRC president Telana Halley confirmed that Heideman produced the pamphlet because Dudley was too ill to do so. "Miscommunication between the two may have produced mistakes," stated Halley.

Administrative problems that arose on Societies Evening have also been attributed to Dudley's alleged misconduct. In particular, Greek Soc, who wished to hand out a traditional Greek drink – Ouzo – to members were told that they could not do so without written permission from the Registrar.

"I held a meeting last year where societies were told about the alcohol policy. Greek Soc did not choose to attend. They went over my head to Telana, who gave them permission," said Dudley. She added that this was in opposition to the SRC societies policy; that she was not consulted and that the decision should have gone to a vote at an SRC meeting. Halley defended her decision, saying that the Ouzo handout was a 16 year tradition. "It was handed out in a controlled environment. No one was drunk as a result. Furthermore, this was my first executive decision and I was well within my right to make it."

"The SRC executive committee tend to make decisions concerning societies without my knowledge. Miscommunication with the SRC is a major problem," asserted Dudley. Halley later confirmed this, saying "some hall representatives are doing their own things without telling the executive committee, so communication is a problem."

Dudley's legitimacy as a member of the SRC has also been called into question. While she was voted into the position of Kimberley Hall Representative, she is presently an Oppidan.

According to Dudley, she was forced to move out of residence because her MIP did not clear in time, and that she had no intention of moving into digs when she ran for the position. A forum is being held over the weekend for Kimberley Hall residents to decide if they wish Dudley to continue representing them. If not, she will be forced to resign from the SRC.

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RocSoc posters raise feminist awareness

■ Maire Bonheim and Natasha Boddy

The recent uproar surrounding RocSoc's controversial posters has highlighted the prevalence of sexism on campus. The geology society's promotion posters depicted bikini-clad women draped across rocks and extinct reptiles in sexually suggestive positions. Following objections and petitions from students, a formal complaint was lodged by History lecturer, Carla Tsampiras.

In her letter to the SRC, Tsampiras said women were compromised on a campus where such posters received the validation and approval of the SRC. Vicky Heideman, Vice-President of the SRC, said the stamps which appeared on the posters did not condone them, but were rather proof of permission for display. "Since this incident, SRC members will stamp the posters so that the content will be reviewed at the same time," said Heideman.

Gus Rowland, chairperson of RocSoc, disagrees. According to Rowland, the society went to the SRC specifically to ensure endorsement of the posters' content. "An SRC member looked through them and objected to two, so we threw them away. The SRC secretary approved the rest and I stamped them in front of her," said Rowland. In addition, RocSoc was then informed that they were to be disciplined by the University – not as a society, but in their personal capacities as students. "We found out that there was an investigation against us and spoke to the University Prosecutor. The University was bypassing the SRC constitution and that's probably why the prosecution didn't go through," said Rowland.

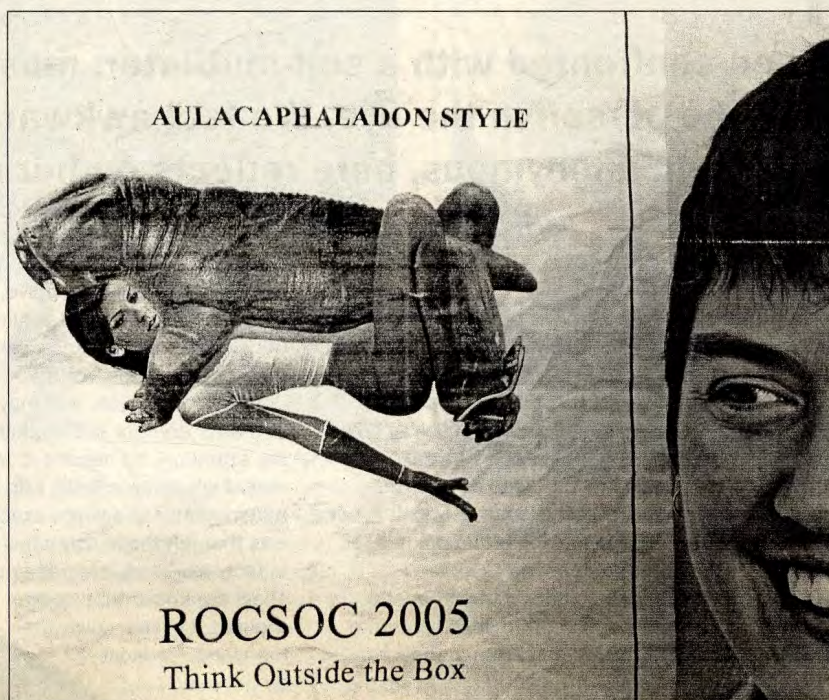
RocSoc removed all posters voluntarily and displayed apologies on campus. The SRC Constitution of Students, in its Freedom Of Enquiry and Expression clause, states that societies should be free to express even unpopular opinions publicly, and that "institutional control of campus facilities should not be used as a device of censorship." According to Media Law lecturer Robert Brand, however, the ban may be justified in this case if the posters "contained matter in conflict with the Constitution, which bans hate speech, and the

Promotion of Equality and Prevention of Unfair Discrimination Act."

Dr Motara, the Dean of Students, said the University Prosecutor would not press charges against RocSoc members after having seen the evidence, as "they seem to have apologised and removed their posters, so the case is closed." Motara was unimpressed by the posters and added, "I take objection to using women to sell products. RocSoc's posters were inappropriate, belittling and demeaning."

Sandisiwe Ncube, SRC Gender and Transformation Officer, agreed with this statement. "I really felt that the posters were degrading, lewd and sick. They totally disregarded the importance and value of all women on campus," said Ncube, who believes that the posters are indicative of a prevalent attitude of men towards women on campus.

Tsampiras says the issue "is part of a much broader concern with objectification of women because sexism is prevalent on this campus. The whole point of objectification is that women are turned into objects to sell things." She added, "this is not a personal attack, but rather an example of a significantly broader issue about sexism and what can be



History lecturer Carla Tsampiras standing next to one of the controversial RocSoc posters. Tsampiras wrote to the SRC after her post-grad students took offense to the posters and formulated a petition.

■ Lauren Clifford-Holmes

done to address it."

Rowland responded to the allegations that his society's posters were chauvinistic: "Our aim with the posters was to get attention from guys as the society already had 80 women. We didn't want to target just one sector of students. I recognise our posters did this, but we thought the fact that the society had so many women was a bit worrying as we wouldn't have done anything," he said. Despite the sexist nature of the posters, Rowland said they were intended as a joke and he "didn't think they would cause such a stir. It was all in good humour." Tsampiras responded by saying, "sorry is meaningless if they don't know why."

I in the sky



Violence on a global and local scale

■ Andrew Whitfield

Global society exists in a web spun by corporate capitalists who are constantly searching for the jackpot at any cost. The concept of globalisation refers on one hand to the wealthy, technologically advanced states and, on the other hand, to the poor, underdeveloped and exploited ones. Democracy and capitalism are the order of the day and even communist China reaps the benefits of globalisation, while still maintaining a strong grip on its communist roots. The West is perpetually trying to inject democracy into the rogue states that 'threaten' international stability – namely Middle Eastern States. However this notion of democracy might be confused with human rights abuses and violence that are tearing up the region it is attempting to uplift.

The people seek political freedom and the governments recognise this popular demand. With an unstable and underdeveloped system, however, the region may take some time to establish a legitimate political regime.

Violence exists throughout society at varying levels. The Middle Eastern example is an extreme form of militant uprisings in defence of strong religious and cultural beliefs. Group violence, individual violence and even corporate violence set the trend for our society, which was, believe it or not, founded on violence. It is as much a part of us as our arms and legs. It is an inescapable phenomenon that can only be cured by more violence. Thus, we exist in a vicious, neverending cycle.

On a smaller scale is the violence that exists here in our small town. This violence encompasses a broad range of criminal activity to me because where there is the potential for violence, it exists. Digs breaking has become a popular means of supporting the local unemployed community in Grahamstown and it is reaching levels of preposterous proportions. Whether you are a girl or a guy, if you bump into this local entrepreneur in your digs there is the potential for serious injury. The threat of violence creates an air of insecurity and fear in which no one should have to live.

The international arena is host to a culture of fear and insecurity in which trust rarely exists and anybody could be a terrorist. Although it may appear that things have calmed down, all you have to do is turn on CNN or Sky News to witness incidents related to this culture of fear.

So, although we might appear safe in our little academic enclave, we exist as part of a bigger system that infiltrates even our *klein dorpie*. We are not immune to violence and precautions need to be taken whether you live in digs or in res. The threat is invisible and can attack at any time. Be cautious, be aware and you will have already prevented the possibility of an incident occurring. The University provides various safety infrastructures so make use of them if insecurity is an issue for you.

By playing a part in looking after yourself and your possessions you can curb these local entrepreneurs and help to make our community a safe one in which to live.

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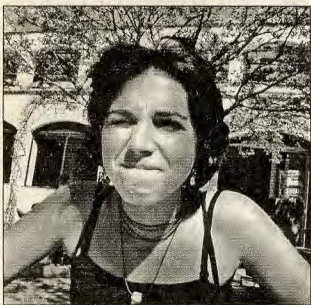
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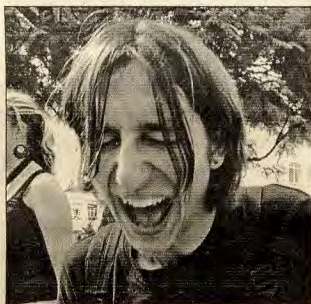
What you said:

If you could invent something, what would it be?

■ Kiril Dobrev and Melissa Parkin



Danieyella Rodin (1st year)
“If I could invent one thing, I’d create a space in which everyone that walked in would lose all inhibitions that they had.”



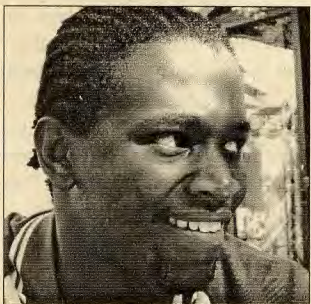
Dimitar Dobrev (1st year)
“Waterproof paper, ink and a book that you can use underwater. And a love potion.”



Emma Dewet (1st year)
“I would invent a machine to clone Johnny Depp.”



Jin Jeon (3rd year)
“Super powers so I can fly and avoid traffic.”



Kagisa Komam (1st year)
“An automatic hair-plaiting machine.”

OPINION

Self-mutilation: pleasure from pain

When confronted with a self-mutilator, most of us don’t know what to do. We can’t look the person in the eye. We feel awkward. The writer of this piece, who wishes to remain anonymous, here reflects on her experience as a cutter.

“Sometimes it hurts so much on the inside that you have to see it on the outside too.”

The life of a self-mutilator is a tough one, filled with contradictions – especially the one that concerns who really is in control. The above quote describes that desire to hurt yourself most effectively. I am a self-mutilator, although I stick to only one form: cutting. Some mutilate for the sake of feeling the pain, knowing that deep down inside, you are actually alive, that the world is real. It is not, as many assume, about seeking attention. It is far more involved than that.

I do not want to find a solution or offer an alternative to the ‘habit’. I only want to shed light onto the subject, so that people may change their perceptions of us. Essentially, I want to challenge the generalised view that all self-mutilators do it for the attention.

First, the facts. Self-mutilation involves three types: major, superficial and stereotypical. Superficial mutilation is the most common form. This type is broken down into smaller groups, which include bulimia, anorexia nervosa and episodic. The latter is the most prevalent form on campus – or at least the most visible – and is also the

by the brain, usually after exercise or laughter, are also released when you get hurt. This is the chemical that self-mutilators crave, and is what keeps the blade against the flesh. Again, self-mutilators are not suicidal, and do know when they reach the point that just precedes ‘too far’.

This is my opinion, and may be entirely different to that of another self-mutilator’s. I do not do it for the attention. If I needed it, my psychiatric ward record would be infinite. I do not need the average non-mutilator to ask me exactly what breed of cat it was that left those scratches upon my arm, when, in fact, you know it is done out of sheer politeness. They do know that some or other object wielded by your own hand did of all, I the damage. Most do not need the pity.

that I am not (according to all that shrink talk) truly in control. I am allowing the pain to control me, and will continue to as long as I can seem a little more alive to myself.

If you were to compare my habit to those of others, it would appear minor, simply because of what I choose to use. Hardly any of my scars are visible, except two on my forearm; the others are in places that none can see. I felt that they drew too much attention to me, so I changed the area upon which I canvassed my pain. I have tried my best to keep the scarring to a minimum. I do not need the average person to know of my habit. All that I need is to be able to feel the relief that follows the pain and precedes the scar.

I know that my friends and family cannot deal with what I am going through. Some so much so that they pretend they know nothing about what I do to myself. In a way I am grateful for that, at least they do not play the guilt game with me. The others that know what I do are the ones that I struggle to cope with. I cannot be in the same room with them soon after a session of cutting because it feels as though they are inside my mind, knowing all that I have done. And the disappointment in their faces hurts me more than it would have if I had cut them instead. Some days, their disappointment convinces me to stop, but never for long because the craving speaks so much louder.

There are forms of treatment for those stuck in this circle of pain. The most common are counselling, various support programmes and medical treatment such as the use of anti-depressants. There are no local support groups for self-mutilators, but there are various places where you can receive counselling. The closest one is the Rhodes Counselling Centre in Prince Alfred Street.

need

the pain
– the control.

I need to know

that I can open up my
flick knife whenever I need
it. I cut myself whenever I need

to be reminded that I am real, when

I need to feel something more than the numbness stagnating within me. Nothing could possibly describe the feeling of having a blade split my flesh, as it bites into the pent-up pain that has been there begging for release all day. Nothing can describe the relief that the sting sends pulsing across the threshold of nerves hidden in the layers of my skin. The release of those feel-good chemicals in my system is what keeps me in this circle of scarring.

I know that the idea of being in control may contradict itself. How can a self-mutilator be in control? I know that I am not in control of my life or this habit of mine. I am constantly giving in to the urge to harm myself, but I am able to create the idea that I am in control. I am, after all, able to decide whether or not I want to allow myself relief. I am in control in the sense that no one but me is able to decide what happens to me. I know that the ‘urges’ show

bracket
into which I fit.

Episodic self-mutilators cut and burn themselves as a means of escaping their distressing emotions, which are often caused by depression or personality disorders. They have a desire to exert control over themselves, due mostly to self-hate, and they achieve this by inflicting pain upon themselves. It must be kept in mind that self-mutilators are not trying to kill themselves. They do it in order to make themselves feel better. Endorphins, which are feel-good chemicals released

Contact details

Rhodes Counselling Centre:

16a Price Alfred, opposite Jan Smuts House

SRC Counselling Centre:

Union buildings
Tel: (046) 603 8089
(office hours 09:15-12:45)

Emergencies:

The San: tel: (046) 603 8523

Student Adviser’s Office: lower ground floor of the Eden Grove Building
Tel: (046) 603 8180

Rhodes University Psychology Clinic:
Tel: (046) 603 8502

Note: Counselling and psychotherapy is free of charge to all students

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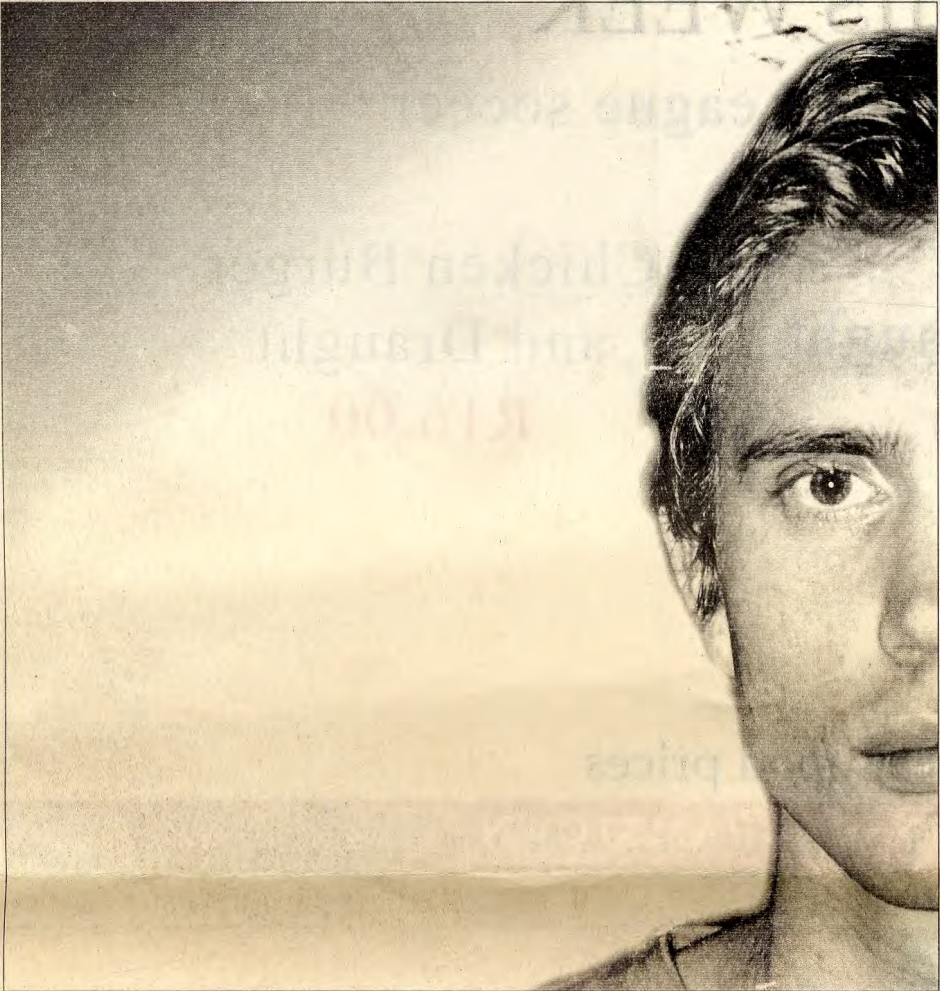
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The dirty Side

Sin taxes: are they justifiable?

No matter on which side of the fence you sit, there's no doubt that if you are a drinker, smoker or both, the new sin taxes have probably affected your budget more than you would like. But is the government's whacking on a little extra per quart justifiable? *Activate* asked Jono and Simon Ferreira to offer their different opinions on this subject.



■ Matt Middleton

■ Jonathan Ferreira

I like beer. I also like money. I'm not so fond of tax. But my brother's and my personal preferences for more of the first two and less of the third, is not enough to support the claim that sin taxes are unfair. I don't enjoy paying more, but as far as I can tell, the government is perfectly justified in making us cough up a few extra cents for each beer.

The question of whether or not sin taxes and their recent increase are justified is both economic and political. Economics can tell us why the government can do it, but it doesn't tell us whether or not they should. Broadly speaking, they can do it because the nature of tobacco and alcohol products is such that a significant increase in price won't cause a significant drop in the quantity being bought. So, theoretically, the benefits from the additional revenue (assuming it is properly spent) should outweigh the detriments of a fall in the quantity consumed, such as the effect on tobacco farmers. However, that's not to say that the price increases won't discourage smoking and drinking – just not significantly (relative to the revenue raised). Ultimately, the government can raise revenue without doing anyone any serious harm.

That's why the government can, but should they? Government taxes these items so heavily because they actively want to discourage smoking and drinking. But how, I hear you ask, is that possible since I just argued that the respective price hikes wouldn't cause a decrease in the quantity consumed? Well, all in all, the increases probably aren't so great that they will cause people who already smoke or drink to quit, but the high total rate might just discourage people who don't already do it from starting.

The important issue in this debate is therefore political. Are sin taxes legitimate? Aren't we living in a democracy where the autonomy of the individual is paramount? If my drinking

and smoking doesn't harm anyone else, what right does the government have to stop me from doing it?

My response to these sorts of questions is two-fold. Firstly, government isn't actually saying that we may not smoke or drink, they're just trying to discourage us from doing so. Secondly, even if they were stopping people outright, they would be well within their rights to do so. It's commonly accepted that government has an obligation to do what it reasonably can to protect its citizens from harm. The fact that this particular harm may be self-inflicted is irrelevant. That's why government is justified in making us all wear seatbelts and preventing BA students from taking acid, even though both can conceivably be contravened without harming others (and in the latter case without anyone even noticing the difference).

But surely these taxes are regressive since the extra few cents for a beer or a cigarette represent a far greater portion of a poor person's income than a rich person's? While this may be valid, I'm not sure that this argument is particularly strong. The people who are going to feel these increases the most are those who are spending excessive amounts (relative to their incomes) on these products. These taxes target those who indulge excessively in what the government deems undesirable or, at the very least, unhealthy activity. Furthermore, despite what Rhodes culture would have us believe, cigarettes and booze are not necessities. If regressive taxes were introduced on certain food items, that would be hard to justify. A regressive tax on an unhealthy luxury, on the other hand, is easier to defend – particularly when one considers that the additional R1,6 billion generated has partly contributed to the finance minister's ability to grant income tax relief to mid- and low-income earners.



■ Matt Middleton

Okay, so that's the cynical view. The more care-bear justification is that government really doesn't want us to smoke. It's nice to know they care. Unfortunately, it isn't government's place to tell us what to do. Certainly, when we affect others, they can jump in and tell us to back off by banning smoking or drinking in public places for example. But, if we really want to smoke and drink, without harming others, it's not the government's job to pass moral judgment on us.

Even private consumption harms others, the argument continues. Alcohol is the root of a lot of domestic violence, so if we target the cause we can defeat the symptom. Aside from the fact that there are already laws in place to combat domestic violence (and the effects of secondary smoke), this doesn't work because the increase in sin tax isn't trying to ban drinking or smoking (which worked so well in America during prohibition) – so you've still got an abuse problem. If they were, they would raise prices out of anyone's reach. So we're back to the regressive nature of sin taxes: the rich can still pay, the poor can't. One of the touted benefits of this policy is that government can reduce its health care expenses. With fewer smokers and drinkers, hospitals will have to deal with fewer liver and lung complaints. The problem is, these damn things are addictive, so you're not actually getting fewer smokers and drinkers. When the price of ciggies goes up, people turn to the roll-'em-yourself kind (although still taxed, they are cheaper), albeit without filters – which aggravates the problem. Effectively then, the rich can still poison their families with secondary smoke. The poor can poison themselves by drinking meths. This leaves me feeling that government has overstepped the mark.

I'm a smoker and I don't mind a drink or three. So maybe I have a vested interest in this debate: sin taxes nab me more than they would somebody who didn't have these two nasty habits. More particularly, they get me more than they get my more restrained brother on the opposite side of this page. But that's not the issue here. The issue is whether or not government is justified in raising sin taxes in the general case, not just in mine. Depending on your view of government, there are two possible explanations for sin taxes. The first is the rather cynical belief that government is greedy and intent on sucking every possible cent out of the hapless public. Cigarettes and booze are therefore obvious candidates for increased taxation for two reasons. Firstly, they're addictive, so people won't/can't just stop using them. Secondly, taken as an aggregated product (cigarettes, as opposed to Marlboros) there just aren't that many substitutes.

So we'll keep paying and the government will reap the rewards. Which is okay, because the government does nice things with our money. They redistribute it, for starters. They help the poor and disabled. This, unfortunately, is where the argument breaks down. The problem with sin taxes is that they are regressive. That is, the poor pay proportionally more tax than the rich. That can't be right, if you're trying to do nice things. This brings me back to substitutes: what I meant was there just aren't many substitutes that most of us would consider. For some, filtering methylated spirits through half a loaf of bread is a real option. Although this year's increase alone might not be enough to drive anyone to that extreme, the sin tax increases every bloody year and the problem is compounded by ordinary price increases.

REVIEWS



CD: *All that is should be*

■ Robyn Cox

Plush is a South African band based in Cape Town. Their second album *All that is should be* is a blend of chilled music addressing issues such as love, politics and life in general. The band consists of Chaz (lead guitar and backing vocals) and Rory (lead vocals and acoustic guitar). Together, they have created harmonious, mellow and emotional music. Plush is set to become huge on the South African music scene and already have a large fan-base in Cape Town and Kwa-Zulu Natal. They have also appeared on MTV. *Tainted* and *My Baby* are tracks to keep an ear open for. The album is available at www.worldofplush.com.

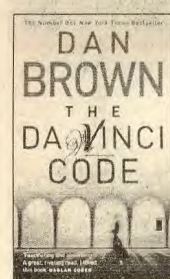


Movie: *The Barbarian Invasions*

■ Jade Menezies

The Barbarian Invasions, the follow-up to Denys Arcand's 1986 film *The Decline of the American Empire*, is an award-winning French film with English subtitles. It all begins in Montreal, Canada, where Rémy (Remy Girard), an absent father and adulterous husband, lies on his death bed. His son Sébastien (Stéphane Rousseau) is called upon to make his father's last days on earth less miserable. He looks to Natalie (Marie-Josée Croze) and her drug of choice, heroin, to help Rémy with his pain.

This film may not appeal to everyone, but if you appreciate good acting and witty dialogue, then try not to miss this. It is, however, no longer on circuit at Roxbury, but if you have any chance of catching it, do so. It is a worthwhile excursion.



Book: *The Da Vinci Code* – Dan Brown

■ Victoria Immelman

Riddles, code-breaking, art, history, religion, murder and mystery are encapsulated in Dan Brown's latest bestseller, *The Da Vinci Code*, which has captured the imagination of millions of people worldwide.

Have you ever wondered what Mona Lisa is smiling about in Da Vinci's painting? Well, this book reveals the answer. The novel delves into the secret world of art, which holds the clues to a millennia-old secret, known only by an elite few. When the curator of the Louvre is murdered, it is up to Brown's favoured protagonist, Harvard academic Robert Langdon, to decipher the Da Vinci code and save the truth from being lost forever. The writing is fast-paced and gripping, and the book fully deserves the acclaim that it has received.

Entrepreneur turns fabric into jazz

■ Zanele Nyingwa

Just when we thought we would never escape the clutches of the nightclubs on New Street, 131 High Street, formerly known as the Fabric House, now offers an alternative – it is due to be transformed into a bistro and entertainment venue, scheduled to open at the end of April. Ford and Ronelle Evanson, owners and creators of what is to be named The Trading Store, say patrons can look forward to exciting meals and diverse musical evenings.

Those who attended the National Arts Festival last year might be aware that the Evansons opened the High Street Jazz Café in the same place. It was then that the couple felt that they could operate a similar venture on a permanent basis. Perhaps they sensed the magic that permeates this town during Festival.

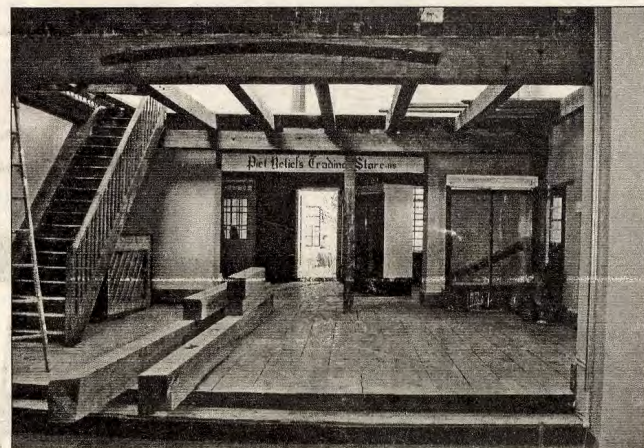
As to why they chose Grahamstown, Ford replied: "A lot of business is moving to High Street at the moment, and regardless of [which town] it is in, a venue will always be faced with challenges." The key, according to Ford, is tapping into the needs of the local community, not just those of the students'. On jazz, his first reaction was: "It's amazing because it invites people to watch, listen and also chat to their friends."

Performances ranging from jazz, experimental rock, classical evenings and possibly a small chamber orchestra are in the pipeline. Poetry lovers looking for new channels to express themselves will be happy to know that there may be poetry slams too. Jazz acts that are in line to play at the club are Rick van Heerden and Gareth Walwyn, who, according to Ford, are just as excited about this place as he and Ronelle are. An innovative menu is being planned, with bistro fare ranging from big country salads to deli sandwiches and special morning breakfasts.

I was excited even before I entered the old Fabric House. I thought that a jazz club and fancy food are treats that one can only experience during the National Arts Festival. It looks as though all that has now changed.

Ford summed it up by saying he hopes they can "combine ideas and entertainment mixed with good conversation", not an easy achievement since keeping abreast with the latest societal trends is difficult.

The Trading Store will be open on weekdays for breakfast and lunch as well as on selected evenings for dinner, with a full bar. For more information and/or bookings contact Ford at (046) 622 9987



Renovations in progress at the old Fabric House. Finally Jazz steps its foot into Grahamstown. ■ Katie Wilter



Owners Ford and Ronelle Evanson have settled comfortably into The Trading Store, which will soon open its doors and offer good food and diverse entertainment. ■ Katie Wilter



■ Cindy Stocken

Undone, up in smoke and on fire at the Taphuijs

■ Demelza Bush

Three of Grahamstown's hottest local bands got together on Wednesday March 1 to raise funds for the members of Undone, whose digs recently burnt down. Students ranging from the girlfriends of the band's members, to exchange

students from Canada and France, showed up to give their support.

Before the bands even started their sets the atmosphere was humming with lots of drinking and laughter. Tash Joseph, the MC for the night, began the evening with an introduction of the bands, setting the scene for what was to be an awesome night.

The night started off on a rocking note with Captain Kidd's Adventure Galley. The atmosphere was amazing – one fan said: "It's great that the Grahamstown music and student communities can come together to help out fellow students in need." And come together they did, with an estimated 300 people crammed into Taphuijs, all in support of the students who had lost everything.

Next up was Toby's Ghost who kept up the tempo, but it was clear that the crowd were anxiously awaiting the band of the night, Undone. When they eventually took to the stage the crowd went wild. There were obviously many groupies present as everyone seemed to know all the words to all

their songs, especially *De Aar*, an old favourite among die-hard fans. One fan said: "I've seen Undone play a few times before, but I've never seen them rock the crowd like they did tonight. They were fantastic." That seems to sum up their whole performance with both the crowd and the band itself enjoying the show. After Undone finished their set, the crowd screamed for more – a clear indication that the night was successful – so much so that Taphuijs's owner offered to add another R500 to all proceeds made, bringing the total to R4200.

Grant Mears, a member of Undone and one of the residents of the burnt digs, said most of the night's proceeds would go to the people who lost everything, replacing basic furniture, beds, clothing and other essential items.

All in all, the night was an experience to remember. It really showed how the student community can come together for a good cause. As insensitive as it sounds, let's hope that we don't have to wait for another digs to burn down before we get another night like that.

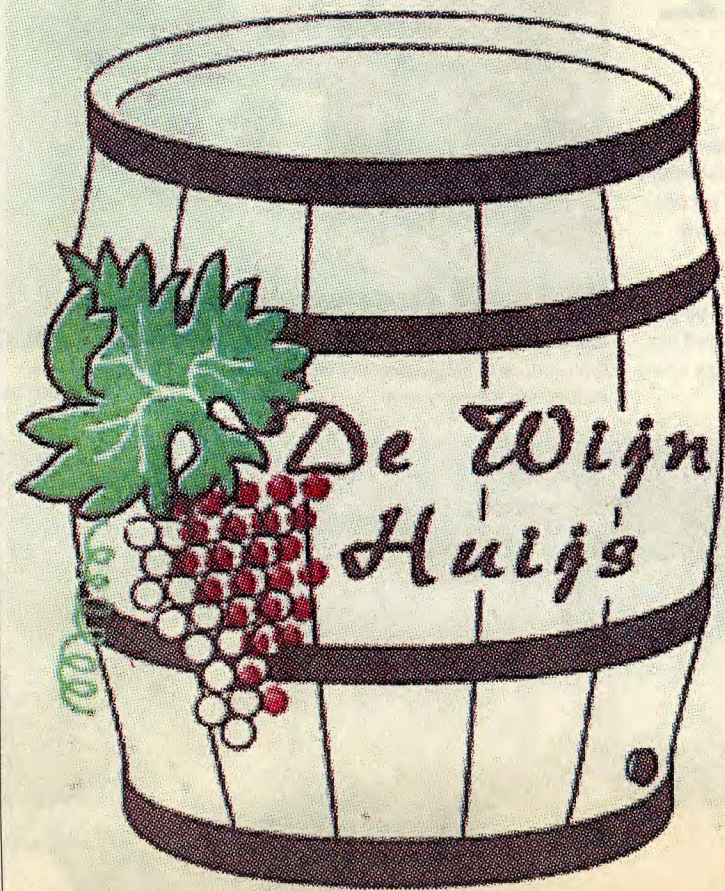


Crowd supporting the cause for the victims involved in the digs fire two weeks ago.

■ Gaynor Barnard

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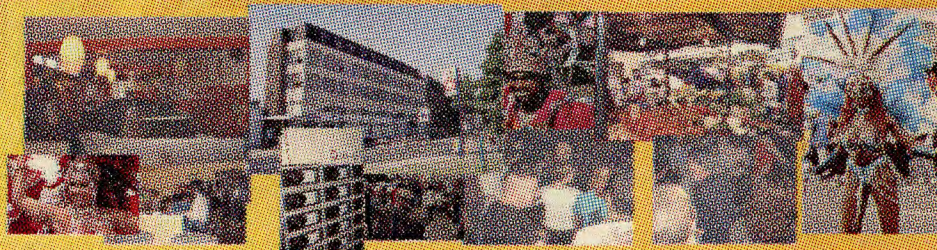
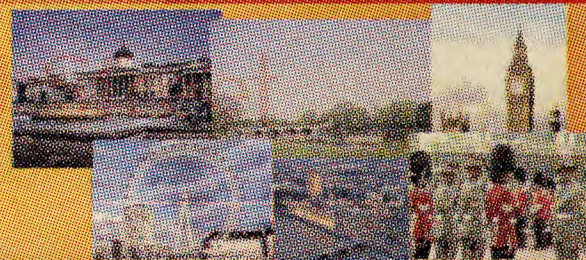
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Eye on the election

■ Adrian Nel, Philippa Ehrlich and Cassain Meki

The upcoming Zimbabwean general election will be held on March 31. Under the shadow of suspected voter rigging in the previous election, the central debate this time focuses on whether or not this election will be 'free and fair'.

The Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front (Zanu PF) has been in power for 25 years, and was at the forefront of the liberation struggle that eventually led to the first free election in 1979, and the subsequent Declaration of Independence in 1980. In the last presidential election, Zanu PF won 56.2 % of the public vote and currently hold 62 of the 120 seats in parliament. Party leader Robert Mugabe was the country's first prime minister, and was voted in as president in 1987. Zanu PF has promised to resettle 400 000 people in the next five years; they have, however, only resettled 15 600 in the last five years.

The Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) first made its presence felt in the 1999 Zimbabwean constitutional referendum, leading the public to a no-vote against all expectations. In the last presidential election they won 41.7 % of the vote and currently hold 57 seats in parliament. One of the difficulties that the party has had to face is having their leader Morgan Tsvangirai in and out of court on charges of treason. The MDC, after much debate, has decided to contest the upcoming election, stating that they "participate under protest" to "keep the flames of hope for change alive".

There are two minor parties and 14 independent candidates contesting the election, including the recently ousted Minister for Information and Communications Jonothan Moyo.

The two minor parties are the Zimbabwean African National Union (Zanu-Ndonga) led by Wilson Kumbala, and the Zimbabwe Youth in Alliance (ZIYA) led by Moses Mutiyaira.

70% of Zimbabwean citizens sit below the poverty line



■ pic supplied

Kumbala recently complained of "unfair legislation", which excluded smaller parties from the election by denying them access to government funding for political campaigns. The minor parties have also protested against the 2000% rise in costs of registration per candidate, as well as the cost of Z\$5 million per copy of the voters' roll per constituency.

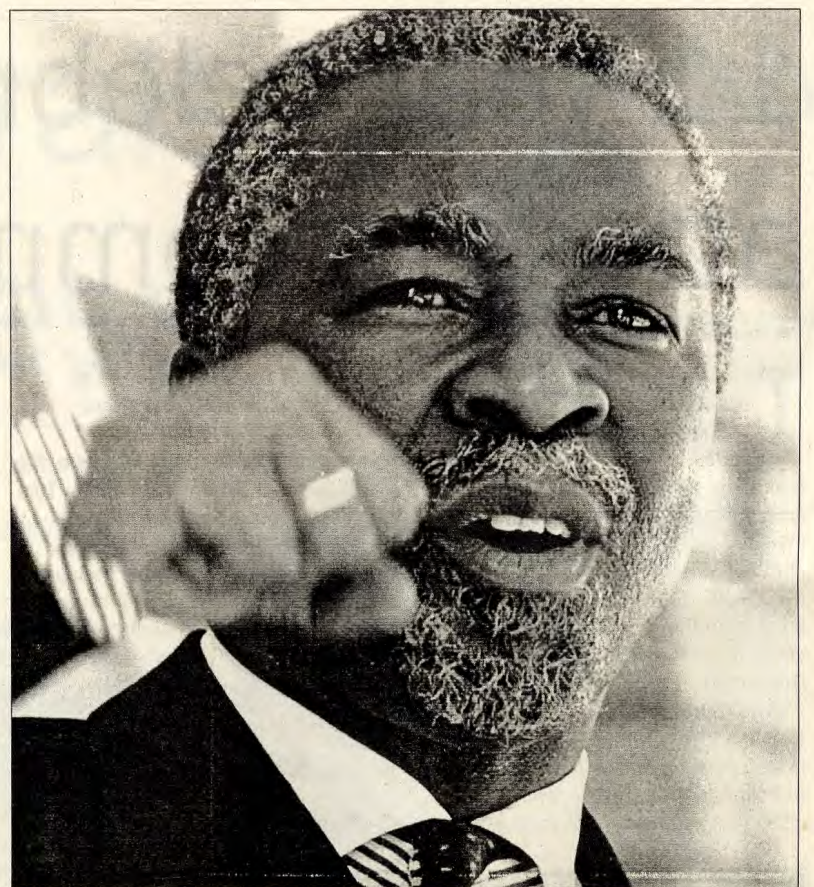
In order to handle the voting process more efficiently this year, the Zimbabwean government has set up electoral courts ahead of polls to handle legal matters, and has appointed observers it deems fit to monitor the electoral process. Officials say they will not allow those with "preconceived negative perceptions" to be involved - referring to the condemnation of the 2002 election by countries such as the USA and UK.

The government announced that it would allow only "friendly African" observer missions, resulting in the majority of observers coming from Africa or the Caribbean. Groups such

as the African Union (AU), Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the United Nations (UN) are represented. However, Zimbabwean Foreign Minister, Stan Mudenge, said observers would not be allowed to monitor the election themselves, adding that only locals would be entrusted with tasks such as observing ballot counting. MDC voter inspection auditors have alleged that the voters' roll has "glaring errors that are likely to disenfranchise thousands of voters".

As in 2002, Zimbabwean voters outside the country will still not be allowed to participate in the election, as the constitution only allows for "Zimbabweans on national service to cast postal votes. Critics say this will disenfranchise three million Zimbabwean voters, of which two million are estimated to be in South Africa. This is a significant figure considering that there are only eight million registered voters in Zimbabwe.

The stage is set, but the fact still stands that with 70% of Zimbabwean citizens sitting below the poverty line and a massive public debt there will be significant work in store for any future Zimbabwean leader.



■ pic supplied

Mbeki calls on African academia

■ Jean-Marié Cronjé and Claire Nielson

Speaking at the 11th annual General Conference of the Association of African Universities in Cape Town, South African President Thabo Mbeki challenged African academics to take part in the challenges facing the African continent.

The focus of the conference was to develop and strengthen awareness surrounding issues of peace, stability, conflict resolution and management in African states. The president addressed the key concepts in which African universities could contribute to the African Renaissance, while continuing to recognise their African roots.

Mbeki asserted that the role of African universities is not only to analyse the problems of the continent, but also to offer practical solutions and engage in the processes that seek to address various outstanding developments. He also called for stronger links between university programmes and those of the African Union and the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

The president spoke extensively of an African worldview that would break away from the colonial past. According to Mbeki, educational problems lie mainly with African heritage in terms of what to retain, modify or replace. Mbeki also said university education needs to address both learning for self-reliance and learning for technological advancement, in order to create new opportunities about the people of Africa. He stressed his concern for the so-called brain-drain: the emigration of African graduates to other parts of the world, which he believes is due to African universities being less competitive financially and in their research programmes.

The president concluded his speech by encouraging current African political leaders to act in a way that respected the views of the African intelligentsia with regard to the changes facing the continent, and asserted that "the African dream should no longer be a gigantic mirage that shimmers as a false hope on the vast expanses of the Sahara Desert".

Africa's debt could disappear

■ Bianca Camminga

In 2000 world leaders met at the United Nations Millennium Summit in New York and formulated eight development goals that had to be fulfilled by 2015. According to Gordon Brown, the British Chancellor of the Exchequer, "the richest countries, every international organisation, every world leader, made promises that by 2015 we would halve poverty [and] give every child an education... on present rates of progress, primary education in sub-Saharan Africa will be delivered not in 2015 but only by 2130".

As G8 president for 2005, the UK has decided to make poverty in the poorest nations a key objective. Brown has called for a plan which would effectively mean a large cash injection into Africa. Recently the G7 leaders and financial advisors met in London to discuss the possibility of a 100% cancellation of third world debt and the removal of trade barriers. The plan also suggested the creation of the International Finance Facility (IFF) to spearhead aid.

The meeting has been touted as "the 100% debt relief summit". According to Brown, "we could be at the beginning of the final stage of the

process where the debts that were owed by the poorest countries, debts that are simply unpayable in the real world, are finally taken care of".

Many believe that it is simply an agreement in principle and that the big step will be to look at how organisations will make this work. This has already become a major issue, as the US stated after the meeting that it could not support the IFF. According to US Treasury Under-Secretary John Taylor, the US could not support the IFF because this "particular mechanism does not work for the United States." International Development Secretary Hilary Benn told the BBC that a solution would be found by 2006, with or without the US. "You don't need everyone on board to launch the International Finance Facility. What is inconceivable is the world will come to [Scotland, where the next meeting will take place] at the end of this year without finding ways of raising the additional money."

According to Oxfam spokesperson Max Lawson, "two million children will die needlessly between now and the next meeting in April. If rich countries are going to keep their promises to tackle obscene poverty they need deliver - and deliver quickly."

Profile: Mozambique

Full country name: Republic of Mozambique

Former name: Portuguese East Africa

Capital city: Maputo

Language: Portuguese, Swahili, Banto

Head of state: President Armando Guebuza (since February 2005)

Quirky Fact: Despite the floods in 2001 that brought the country to its knees, Mozambique has plans to export natural gas reserves to South Africa. This is expected to be a saving grace for the country's devastated economy.



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11 year celebration attest to community growth

■ Jessica Cash

The Grahamstown Bowling Club celebrates the 11th anniversary of its annual bowling tournament this year. The tournament kicked off on January 24, 2005.

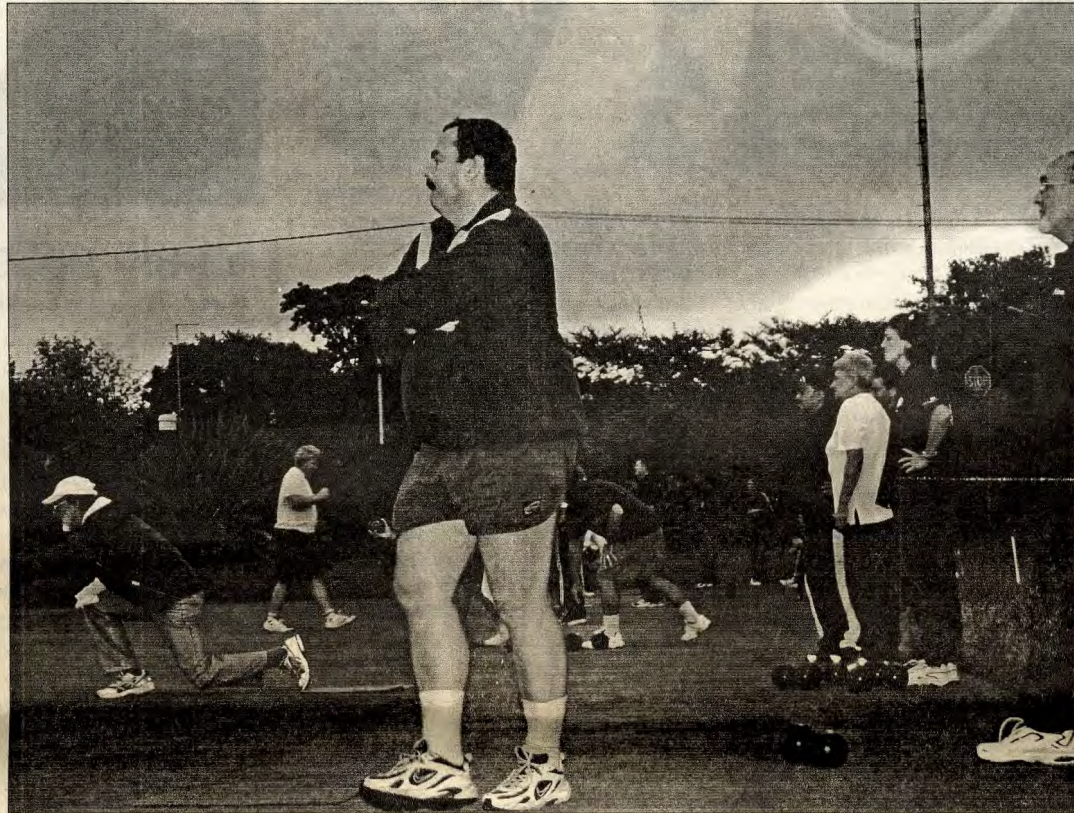
In the past 11 years the club has gone from strength to strength. This year, 84 teams are participating in the tournament, compared to 24 teams in 1994. This ample increase reflects the growing interest in the sport, as well as the time invested by the committee in popularising bowling. Members of the bowling club appealed to the committee to establish a tournament that would include the greater Grahamstown community. Local businesses also received invitations from the club to join in the tournament. With cabling and floodlights sponsored by various businesses, the tournament was well-received by residents of Grahamstown from all walks of life.

"With four members in each of the 84 teams," explains Phillip McDougall, a member of the committee and the Mad Hatters team, "there is quite an atmosphere about the event."

Scholars, students and the working public make



The annual night bowls tournament at the Grahamstown Bowling Club is the biggest one of its kind in the southern hemisphere, and has led to a great deal of involvement from the community.



■ Lauren Clifford-Holmes

Polo players already making a splash

■ Megan Mullin

Sport on campus has begun with most of us not even realising it. Sports sign-up evening was on Tuesday February 22, but many clubs took their time to get started with practices.

One sports club organised their newcomers early enough to be fit for the first tournament. The waterpolo club picked new girls during O-week and the team has been in training since. Their first tournament was held on the weekend of February 25-26 in Port Elizabeth. Ten teams participated in the women's section, with most of them being school teams.

Out of the nine matches played (six on Friday and three on Saturday), the Rhodes first team won seven, drew one and lost one.

According to the players, their strongest competition was Kingswood College (Rhodes won 5-4) and Alexander Road firsts (Rhodes lost 2-1).

The team spent the weekend in a backpackers lodge and aside from the partying, it was essentially a team-building experience for the new players and a good start to the season. Waterpolo is a promising sports club to be watched closely this year.

The results were as follows:

RU vs Alexander Road seconds (5-1) W
 RU vs Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (1-0) W
 RU vs Alexander Road firsts (1-) L
 RU vs Stirling firsts (2-1) W
 RU vs Stirling U/16 (5-0) W
 RU vs Hudson Park (10-0) W
 RU vs DSG (2-2) D
 RU vs KHS (5-1) W
 RU vs Kingswood College (5-4) W

Rhodes' soccer prepares for kick-off

■ Mandla Masingi

Trials to pick the first and second Rhodes' soccer teams were held over the past few weeks. Those selected for the teams will compete in separate leagues and competitions in and around South Africa. The first team will participate in the South African Student Sports Union (SASSU), a campus league, while the second team display their skills in the Port Elizabeth Football Association (PEFA) league.

The acting coach of the Rhodes' soccer club, who preferred to remain anonymous as his contract has not yet been signed, is confident as skilled players have rejoined the club and will play in the teams. Masimba Mandiwanza, Tariro 'Tari' Mudzayi, Ayanda 'Ace' Ndinise and Brian

Mavhuka are some of the players that may lead the first team to victory. Ndinise, Rhodes' dribbling wizard, said the team made Rhodes proud last year by out-playing the University of Fort Hare and winning the Tri-Varsity tournament. He said: "This was the biggest thing for the season and everyone was proud of it."

Last season, however, the team struggled as players failed to turn up for matches due to demanding academic commitments. One particular player disclosed that "sometimes we would play with 11 players, even at our home ground". In spite of this, both teams have secured fourth position in their respective leagues.

The Rhodes' teams will start their first league matches in the next few weeks. The first team will test their

strength against Border Technikon at the University of Fort Hare on March 13. Mandla Gagayi, a Rhodes' sports officer, said the reason the match is to be played at Fort Hare is that the venue centrally located for both teams. As the second team league will start after the Easter holiday, their fixtures are yet not up to date.

The first team has high aspirations for the year. "We plan to qualify for the SASSU National Championship, which will be played by the top three teams at the end of the season," said Gagayi. He added that even if the team does not qualify for the champions' league they have other options to put Rhodes soccer on the map, mentioning a possible tour to Johannesburg and Cape Town to play against institutions in those areas.

Rowing by the rules

■ Michael Salzwedel

The recent Buffalo Regatta in East London has caused considerable disquiet around the country. Not only have several elite Gauteng rowing schools such as St John's College threatened never to return after they received shoddy treatment and experienced chronic disorganisation at the event, but two crews were also disqualified. A school crew was disqualified from a race because they arrived late after having allegedly not been informed of the correct starting time. Rhodes University's men's A Eight crew was disqualified from their final race after race official Duncan Gray-Browne chose to apply a technical rule which, according to Rhodes' rowing club president, Andrew Craig, "has been mostly ignored up until now".

The crew fared well and came second, losing to Old Edwardians, but were disqualified because they had a female coxswain, Julia van der Meulen. She has been the cox for the crew since the beginning of last year and says there has never before been a problem. Rule 12, as published in the official rule document on the Rowing SA website, states that "coxswains are deemed to be members of the crew [and that] in Senior 'A' classes and U19 classes a women's crew may not therefore be steered by a man nor may a man's crew be steered by a woman." Julia, who is in her seventh year of coxing, says this is a new rule, which came into effect quite recently.

"There were changes made to the rules last September, but no-one was informed; no clubs were notified." UCT and RAU also raced with mixed-gender coxes, but were not disqualified as they competed in the 'B' section of the regatta. Andrew said the crew was only informed on the day that if they raced with a female cox they would be disqualified. "We decided to race anyway to see what kind of result we could get," he said. The men also came second to Old Edwardians in last year's Buffalo Regatta.

"I feel terrible," van der Meulen said emphatically when asked about the disqualification. "If they [Rowing SA] say I can't cox, I'm going to be distraught. One of the reasons I came to Rhodes was so I could cox the men's crew because they are so much more competitive on a national level than the women," she said. Plans are afoot to launch an appeal against the disqualification, say both Craig and van der Meulen. The appeal will be based on the grounds that Rowing SA did not make an adequate effort to inform rowers of the modified rules in good time. "Everyone I've spoken to is supporting us all the way and agree that it's ridiculous – the rules can't just be changed like that," said van der Meulen.

The next event in which the crew is scheduled to compete is the SA Universities competition, to be held from March 18-19 on the van der Kloof Dam. This event does not fall under the jurisdiction of Rowing SA, hence the crew is completely free to row with van der Meulen as their cox without having to worry about being disqualified again. However, the South African Championship starting on May 1 in Johannesburg is a Rowing SA event and the crew will therefore need to have reached an agreement before then as to whether or not they can row with van der Meulen.

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■ Matt Middleton

Brawn vs. brain at inter-res triathlon

■ Candice Wiggett

The hotly-contested Rhodes inter-res triathlon was held on Sunday February 27, starting at the Union gates. The event required both physical and mental endurance, and even the intense heat did not deter the rows of enthusiasts from taking part in gruelling sessions of cycling, running and swimming.

The daunting task of swimming 20 laps, cycling 12km and running 3km did not stop 12 male teams and nine female teams from entering the triathlon. In the opening speech it was requested of the entrants: "Please don't get lost, because f*ck, we can't find you." Fortunately, there were marshals along the route to guide competitors should they have lost track of the route.

In order to avoid disqualification, cyclists were only allowed to mount their bikes once outside the Union gates. One of the cyclists, wearing a Harley Davidson helmet, decided it would be easier to run while carrying

his bike rather than pushing it. The De Beers cyclist, keeping in line with his residence's name, donned a construction worker's helmet.

Despite the 3km run, the Winchester runner continued to sprint back and forth across the grass quad outside the Union building while his team-mate battled along the laborious cycling route. The sprint for third place in the women's section inspired the crowd to cheer loudly, and the runner from Ruth First finished just ahead of Hobson's entrant.

The enthusiastic supporters who cheered the participants on throughout the event deserve special mention. They showed their support when a few of the fans helped to carry a swimmer who had collapsed due to sheer exhaustion.

Bodies and minds were pushed to their limits, but once aching muscles have healed, all participants will probably agree that the event was well worth the effort.

Results at the end of the day were as follows:

In the men's section:

- 1 Piet Retief - 38,01
- 2 Winchester - 38,38
- 3 Smuts - 39,31
- 4 Graham House - 40,00

In the Women's section:

- 1 Olive Schreiner - 49,41
- 2 Helen Joseph - 54,21
- 3 Ruth First - 55,04
- 4 Hobson - 55,07



Triathletes had to complete the customary swim, cycle and run - while trying not to get lost - in the inter-res triathlon. ■ Matt Middleton

Storming start to Super 12

■ Adrian Nel

The Super 12 kicked off on February 24 with some great rugby and is set to have many rugby fans glued to TV's at the Rat, Taphuijs and res common rooms for many of the upcoming rugby weekends.

The Stormers vs. Sharks game was to be the day of the little men, with both Breyton Paulse and Brent Russel, standing out as the big boys, failing to gain the upper hand over each other. The Stormers emerged victorious with a 26-12 important home win. Although their illustrious backline put in three good tries, the team didn't quite live up to their potential. There is the feeling that there is plenty more fuel in the tank and that they can only improve from here. Trevor Halsted put in a strong performance, often running up the middle, and it was good to see Butch James put in a full 80 minutes of play. On the whole, however, the Sharks did not manage to get going and the Durban boys really have to get their act together ahead of their overseas games.

The slick Auckland Blues side beat the Highlanders 30-14 in their own backyard. The Blues' defence was solid and the lacklustre Highlanders seemed to be playing off their mistakes. Despite a few breaks, Cameron McIntyre was indecisive at fly-half and, without some serious effort, the Highlanders may drop to the depths of the table this season.

The Brumbies beat the Crusaders 32-21 and picked up an important bonus point in a hyped-up match in Canberra on Saturday February 25. The 2004 finalists were deadlocked until Corey Flynn, the Crusaders' hooker, was sin-binned just before half-time, allowing the Brumbies to dominate possession and take the lead. Andrew Mehrtens failed to over power at fly-half for the Crusaders, which led to speculation that coach Robbie Deans may give Dan Carter the position next week against the Chiefs.

Matt Rogers was the man of the moment for the Waratahs as they cruised to a 25-7 win over the Chiefs. He cut the Chiefs' backline to pieces and appeared to be back on form, despite the fact that he missed six kicks at goal. In the final overseas match, the Hurricanes came



Stormers player Breyton Paulse (with ball) in action.

■ pic supplied

away with a crucial win over the Queensland Reds. They each tried twice, with a late score by winger Lome Fa'atau wrapping it up for the visiting Hurricanes.

The Cats' win over the Bulls in Johannesburg caused some discomfort for Bulls fans. The Cats bettered their opponent's conservative 10-man-rugby approach to the game. Their defence was laudable, absorbing all the pressure from the Bulls' battering rams. Former Bok Brendan Venter, who took over as the defensive coach, deserves full credit. His approaches to training have made a tremendous impact on the team's performance. Although they enjoyed the bulk of possession in the last 30 minutes, the Bulls did not appear to be thinking, as they refused to spread it wide. The only time this was done resulted in a superb try from Bryan Habana - an important player for the Bulls, who fans believe is being wasted on the wing.

With the Waratahs and Brumbies topping the table with their bonus points, it remains to be seen how the South Africans will perform this season. However, one cannot help being hopeful, and one thing is for sure: there will be no lack of support on our part.

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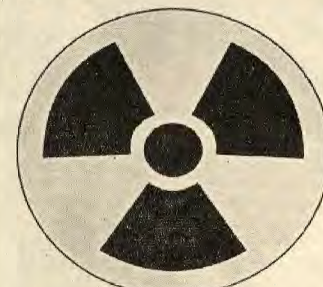
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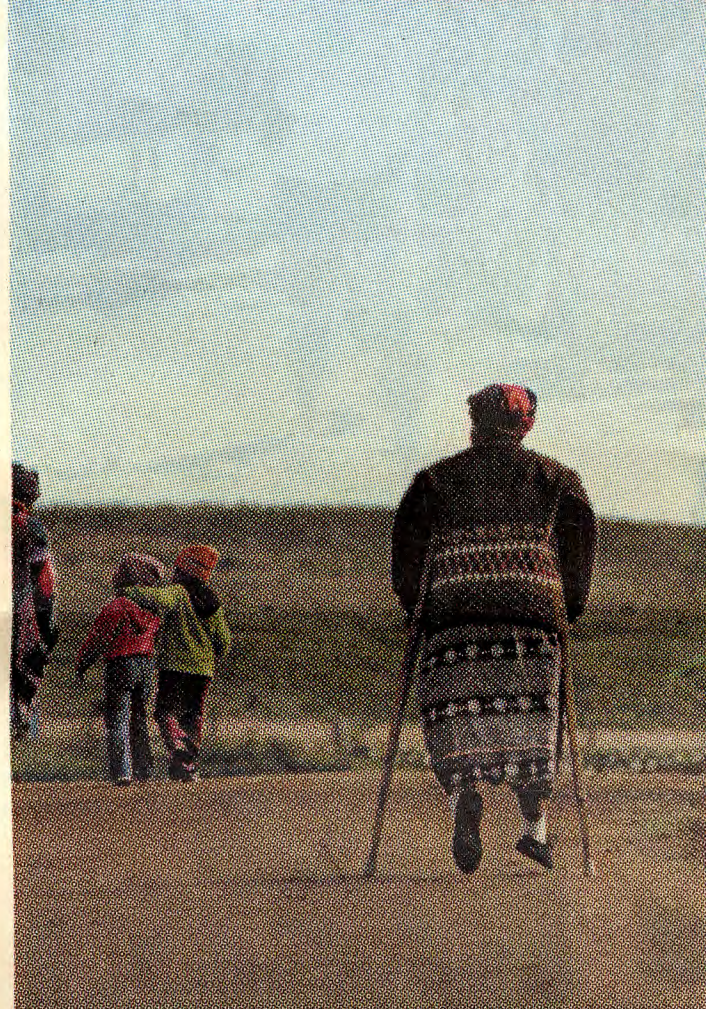
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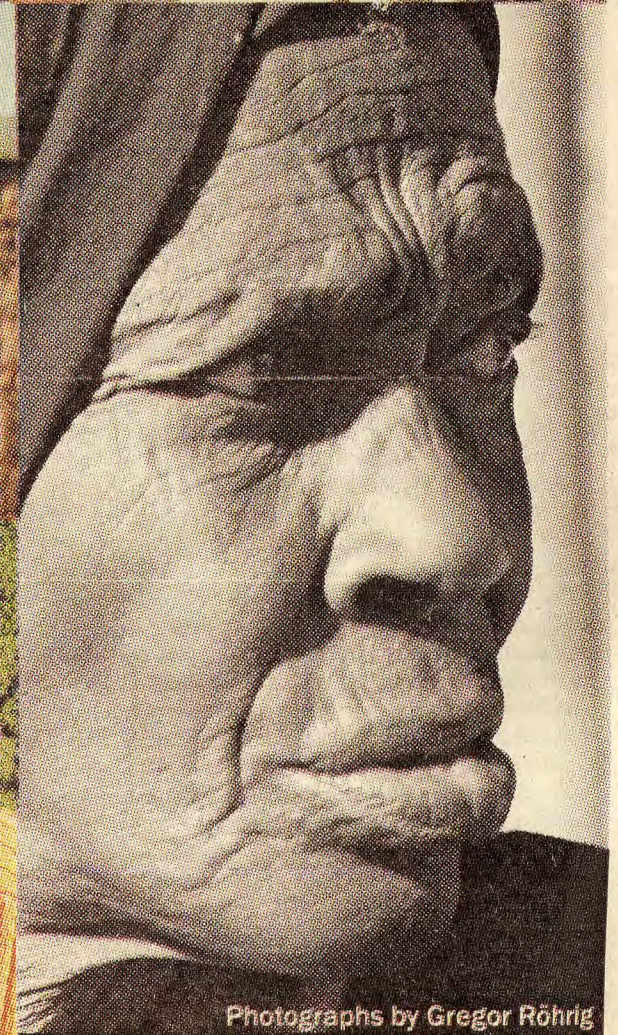
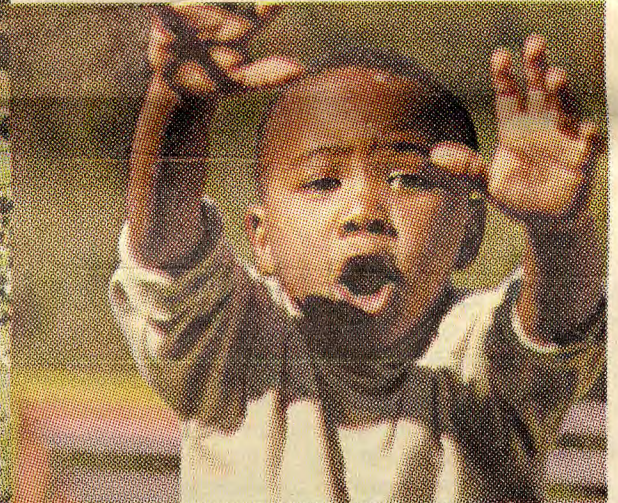
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