

activate

Independent student newspaper at Rhodes University
Edition 4 March 2006

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New Season
New Opportunity



The "1 in 9" march on Grahamstown's High Street coincided with nationwide marches in Cape Town and Durban as well as East London



■ Lauren Clifford-Holmes and Gregor Röhrig

Students break the silence

Rhodes students collaborate with the Grahamstown community in support of Jacob Zuma's rape accuser.

■ Luke Reid

On Friday, March 24, members of the Grahamstown community joined with protesters from across South Africa to march as part of the One in Nine Campaign. The campaign aims to support Khwezi*, the woman who has filed a rape charge against the former deputy president of South Africa Jacob Zuma.

The march was organised by Theresa Edlmann, of Spiral Trust, and Larissa Klazinga, TAC Rhodes secretary, to coincide with similar marches taking place at high courts in Durban, Cape Town and Johannesburg. It was supported by various provincial and national NGOs, Rhodes societies such as SHARC, the SRC and OutRhodes, students from DSG and St Andrew's, and local organisations such as the Makana ANC Women's League branch and church groups.

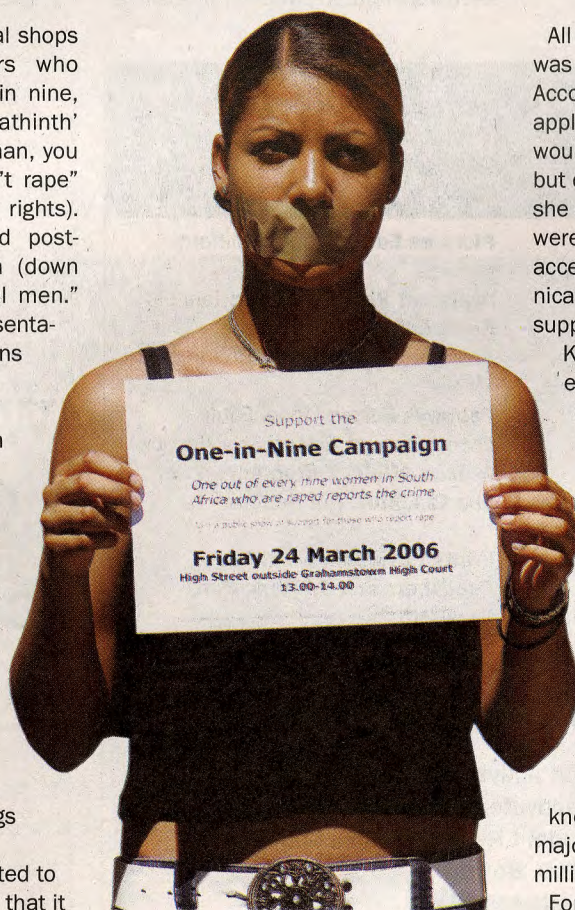
At lunchtime, the almost 300-strong crowd met on the Drostdy Lawns and walked the 100 metres down High Street to the Grahamstown High Court. They were led by nine women students, eight of whom had their mouths taped shut. This aimed to symbolise the fact that, according to statistics, for every nine women raped only one reports it.

Crowds gathered outside local shops to watch the demonstrators who sang and chanted "viva one in nine, viva", "Wathintha bafazi, wathinth' mbokhodo" (You strike a woman, you strike a rock), "real men don't rape" and "amalungelo wethu" (our rights).

Two individuals also waved posters saying, "phansi ngoZuma (down with Zuma) and we need real men."

Outside the high court, representatives of the various organisations involved gave speeches to the crowd. History lecturer Carla Tsampiras read the declaration of the One in Nine Campaign. She called for the passing of the Sexual Offences Act within the first quarter of 2006, and for adequate policing, information services and one-stop trauma centres for abused women. Theresa Edlmann called on the crowd to make sure that this march signalled the beginning of turning society around to "talk about it, write about it, do things differently in the future."

A document was then presented to court officials, who guaranteed that it would be handed over to the judge.



■ Gregor Röhrig

All involved agreed that the march was an unprecedented success. According to Edlmann, her original application for permission said there would only be 50 to 100 supporters, but close to 300 attended. However, she says "only 20% of the people here weren't from Rhodes. Rhodes has access to more sophisticated communication, so it was able to garner more support."

Klazinga said that she was delighted with the turnout. Referring to how One in Nine operates, she says that "it's grown quite organically, very fast. It's kind of old-school, grassroots activism."

"I think, considering that we had two days to organise the march, it speaks to the fact that people are really focused on this issue and it's an issue that really resonates with people."

"I think that's why a lot of people are impassioned: a lot of people are the other eight, or know the other eight. It's the silent majority, it's millions and millions and millions."

For many students, getting impassioned is quite difficult. Second-year

BCom student Brett Petzer explained that, "it's immensely intimidating to think about public displays of emotion."

Second-year BA student Simon Allison said "I want to show my solidarity. It's not only a woman's problem, but it's a male problem as well. Just because it happens to females, doesn't mean males can absolve themselves of responsibility."

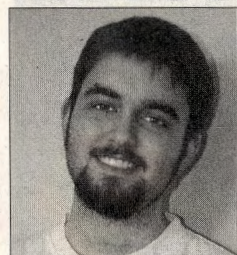
Another student, Mandy Capela, felt that students were too apathetic.

Students were also a bit frustrated by the lack of communication from their societies. Ricardo Pillay, referring to Amnesty International, said, "We hear nothing from them, and then they just come out of nowhere and give a speech at the protest. We only heard about it from OutRhodes."

Klazinga says that the march that took place at Rhodes was the largest in the country. According to the Mail & Guardian Online, "more than 100 people gathered outside the Cape High Court" and approximately 200 people attended the march in Johannesburg. Protests in Durban and East London were much smaller.

* not her real name

Editorial



■ Peter Barlow

Hello and welcome to the last edition of *Activate* for the first term.

In the last edition we ran a story about His People Christian Church which turned out to be quite controversial. The latter part of that statement, you might be saying to yourself, is certainly not exaggerated. But I received only one email about the story. It was from a peer and friend of mine, and I want to share it with you. It is printed next to this column if you haven't noticed it already. The phrase "if you have friends like these then who needs enemies" comes to mind. Bianca and I have replied to her personally and I am sure many of you agree with some, if not all, of what she said. I would like to state that everyone is entitled to their own opinions on issues arising in this newspaper and we are not averse to printing letters which slate us. Indeed I have actually received many emails complimenting us in the past and I have chosen not to print these. I decided to print Ms Coetzee's letter because she was the only person who had the courage to say what she did and put her name to it. For that I am grateful as I simply cannot take anonymous correspondence seriously, the forums included. This is all I shall say on the matter and I now consider the His People issue closed. If you disagree, write an email to me. I make no secret of my email address. If you don't want to do that, try the forums and good luck to you.

Well, we dealt with a lack of water last edition but this time around there was altogether too much water in Dingemans House. A faulty water pipe was the cause, of but the shocking part of the story is that it was reported several times and nothing was done about it. This is frankly unacceptable and a good example of the service delivery which we are afforded on this campus. The sooner the relevant authorities realise that a university such as Rhodes is more than an academic institution and that people actually live here for most of the year, the better. The Dolphin Kaif, that sorry excuse for an eating place, only serves to reinforce this. Oppidans not able to get into a dining hall are offered a mere three places on campus to eat, while the Main Kaif serves as a store for building supplies. While I understand that it will cost a large sum of money to revamp the Main Kaif, I feel that money shouldn't really be much of an object when it comes to giving the students, and let's face it, the staff, better service on campus - starting with the food. I really don't think that's much to ask.

The issue of the ownership of ideas has come to the fore once again and catapulted the Sociology department into the spotlight. The truth is that the story has been blown out of proportion. Go to page three to see what we could find out about the matter. Hopefully we have blown it back into proportion.

On page six we look at stem cell research in our To the Point with Dr Patricia Murray, and we deal with homesickness, an all-too-familiar feeling for many people, on page seven.

That's all from me for this week; bye for now.

Response to the His People article

Dear Peter Barlow

After reading the latest *Activate* I wonder if you have attended any of the media ethics lectures prescribed to 3rd year JMS students, or if your mind glosses over while the lecturer speaks and you slide into a dream world where your newspaper content is actually public interest and fair news coverage.

Your article on 'His People' this week was absolutely appalling. In fact I couldn't read the whole thing, I was so offended. I don't even attend His People Church yet my blood began to boil. The article smacked of your agenda for the outcome. Balance? I think not. And the pathetic excuse at an Apartheid suggested blackout picture? Peter, this is not Apartheid and hardly as controversial, it is people's beliefs that don't affect those who don't bother to go to church. If anyone wants to see what the church looks like they can go any Sunday of the year, it's not a jail holding cell closed to the public. Get some perspective. You were not 'banned', why not feature an article about Islamic religion, try and get a camera into a mosque, let alone your own shoes. But you see we all know you won't cover that because that IS too controversial. News is not

controversial because you make it so. If you are anti-Christianity and arrive at a Church service with an agenda like you clearly did for this article, it is not in the public's interest to know how you interpreted the service, feature writing or no feature writing.

To be honest you and staff came across as the sour grapes that were kicked out of Sunday school once and now hold a grudge. This is not a Jihad (holy war), it's a university newspaper. This story is overdone every year, this exact time. You and your staff of nerds often miss the boat when it comes to retro story ideas and just come up seeming plain old. And if you think that's opinionated, you should read this week's edition of *Activate*. The point is, if your savvy motivated group of 'journalists' had done any background research into religion before commencing your campus Jihad (only on Christianity of course, because you're white) you'd realize that no religion, belief or spiritual 'cult' will allow you to freely photograph its services. That negates the whole thing of being a spiritual time, not visible to the naked eye, yes? But that was clearly not obvious to your staff of well research reporters and yourself. You try take a camera into a Muslim

prayer time, or a Jewish temple, or an Buddhist yoga session for that matter. How about Standard Bank, seeing as so many people worship money. You will find the answer is no, as this is not about the outward appearance you see. It's SPIRITUAL, clearly a bit hard for your mind to fathom, so you just keep dotting the I's and crossing the T's for your fascist editorship, and have a look at UKZN press and get some ideas of newsworthiness, you seem a bit out of touch. And please by all means, go on the forums with your friends and talk about this, I won't be there to read it. That's the great thing about forum posts, they only affect those who waste their time reading them. Of course you won't publish this as letter to the editor as it is not praising your journalistic efforts, as all have done so far. Go search moodle in your free time and look up the word 'journalist' and then 'Heat Magazine'. See a difference? And if you think this is opinionated, badly written or whatever, it can be, it's not claiming to be the voice of a campus. I am one person speaking out, I recognise that. Thanks. Thank goodness for freedom of expression, I feel much better now.

Julie Coetzee

Letter published in its original form.

Meningitis infects student

■ Delia de Villiers and Matthew Townshend

Third-year BA student, Rupert Lancaster, recently contracted meningococcal septicaemia. This is a bacterium that causes an infection of the bloodstream.

The symptoms are headaches, extreme neck stiffness, high temperatures and a dark purple rash that does not turn pale on direct pressure.

In the event of contact with an infected person, an antibiotic should be administered. This medication is effective up to 10 days after exposure or contact with the infected person.

Dr Bull of the High Street practice has taken on the active duty of Rhodes sanatorium doctor. She is installing a proper protocol for cases such as these. The sanatorium now follows strict guidelines when dealing with this bacterium. While this illness is a serious one, cases of actual infection are rare. The symptoms often bear direct resemblance to many other common illnesses.

Lancaster is back in Grahamstown and well on the road to recovery. No new cases of the disease have been reported.

Muggings increase around campus

■ Michelle Solomon

Over the past few weeks there have been allegations about various muggings in areas surrounding the university grounds. Most students don't know what measures to take to prevent such situations. Even fewer students know how to react if they become a victim of a mugging.

David Charteris, the head of the Campus Protection Unit (CPU), said he hadn't received any reports of mugging. "Many students feel they can't report the incident if it occurred off-campus," said Charteris. He encourages victims to report the incident to CPU, whether it occurred on campus or not. This is so that they may patrol those areas if they become a serious problem.

Charteris said he noticed over the years that "sometimes the same students become victims of muggings several times a year". He explains

that this generally occurs due to the victims' repeated carelessness: "It is an established fact that most crimes are alcohol-related. Students are often targeted when they are inebriated as they become soft targets."

Three weeks ago, on Somerset Street in front of Albany Museum, three students were mugged for their belongings. This occurred at around 3am. According to the report, the students were walking back to their residences at Allan Webb Hall when they were assaulted by a group of youths of school-going age.

After the incident was reported, CPU had a guard moved from the Blue Route to the Somerset Street area to prevent further cases from occurring.

Charteris said the police force has limited resources. As a solution to this problem, the police have divided Grahamstown into sections, and these sections are then patrolled by a single

vehicle. "The CBD of Grahamstown is one large section. It is difficult for one vehicle to patrol such a large area, and so students must always be on their guard," he said.

Charteris identified African Street as another problematic area: "It's had a bad history for four years now."

During O-Week this year a male student was mugged while walking alone to his friend's house at 1:30am. He wishes to remain anonymous. He says he was SMSing a friend when he heard footsteps behind him. "I assumed it was a friend so I didn't turn around immediately." He says he was grabbed and he punched his attacker and tried to run. Two accomplices then appeared and surrounded him. "They pulled me to the ground and I was showered with punches and kicks until I handed over my phone," he said.

He asked his attackers for his

phone's sim card, but when they couldn't remove it from the phone, they ran off. Thereafter he managed to tackle one of the attackers to the ground, but he soon ran off and three others allegedly disappeared into the storm drains. "They probably could have either killed me or seriously injured me," he said. He reported the incident to police the next morning.

Charteris explained that "it is very important for all students to remain alert when walking at night and it is imperative that they do not walk alone".

"If students do find themselves in a situation where they are at risk, they should cooperate with their assailants and remain calm. Thereafter they should call CPU and report the incident as soon as possible, so that crimes in that area can be prevented in future."

activate
staff

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Sociology lawsuit rumours cleared up

■ Jennifer Campbell, Cairen Harry and Shelley Jacobs

Rumours of plagiarism surrounding the Sociology department have finally been quelled. The rumours were that the department was sued for millions of rands after illegally copying second-year Industrial Sociology notes. According to representatives from the department, no copyright laws were broken and they are not being sued.

The confusion was created by the new plagiarism policy that the university has recently adopted. Rhodes University's Communications Co-ordinator Natasha Joseph said "the entire situation has been blown out of proportion". She explained that just before the academic year began, the department was issued with a new interpretation of copyright laws. This meant that a licence would need to be obtained in order to distribute copied readings.

The Sociology department did not have sufficient time to wait for the licence to be issued before the academic year began. As a result, permission was requested from Dr Stephen Fourie, the university registrar, to continue producing the lecture notes without the licence, so the department could keep up-to-date with their lecture schedule.

The request was approved while awaiting a licence application to reproduce the notes. This request was forwarded to the Dramatic, Artistic and Literary Rights Organisation (DALRO). During this time, the nine materials (extracts from books) were distributed to the Sociology 2 students. On March 2 the university was informed that DALRO had only approved the request to reproduce six of the nine materials distributed. The copyright organisation said the "reprographic reproduction rights cannot be cleared through DALRO". The Sociology department recalled the three unapproved readings from the students. A register was set up to sign the material in and these readings will be shredded. Copies of the readings will be kept at the department for students to take out on short loan.

According to the university's plagiarism policy, "plagiarism, simply put, is taking and using other people's thoughts, writings or inventions as one's own" and is taken "in all its forms very seriously." Rhodes is implementing a new online system called MyDropBox to prevent student plagiarism. The system is capable of detecting even masked plagiarism in academic works. See page 5 for more.



Sociology department reviews copyright laws after allegedly being sued.

■ Matthew Middleton

Dingemans flood: Estates Division in hot water

■ Candice Bradfield

The first level of Dingemans House was under water when a pipe burst at around 1am on March 11, flooding the passage, foyer and four other rooms. Immediate measures were taken by the residents to clear items from the floors of the flooded rooms. When the water had been disconnected, the flood water was 'brushed' down the stairs leading to the ground floor and swept out.

The problem started last year when Celeste Bronkhorst, who is in her second year at Rhodes, found that

her basin was dripping constantly. The cracked basin was replaced but the problem continued. Bronkhorst lodged several complaints in the hall repair book during 2005, regarding the dripping taps. While waiting for maintenance to tighten the taps, she avoided using her basin. "I had to use two hands whenever I opened my taps. It was very frustrating," said Bronkhorst.

When the leaking began to affect the carpet, she lodged a further complaint. When the housekeeper was in the room to evaluate the prob-

lem, the dripping had ceased and Bronkhorst was told to report it next time it happened.

After this month's incident, the bathrooms on three levels, as well as the basins connected to the same pipe, were without water for a week. Contract plumbers were called in to replace the pipes with copper piping. Bronkhorst's computer tower was also damaged in the flood and is currently under repair. Whether or not the costs will be subsidised by the university is still unknown. According to Natasha Joseph of the

Communications Division, such matters should be addressed to the Dean of Students. "I think she has a strong case," says Joseph.

According to the quality of life survey report of 2004, 43% of Rhodes students said that maintenance problems were not resolved quickly. 30% of students did not feel that their residence was well-maintained and improved when necessary. The report identified this as an area of concern within the university and proposed to inform the Estates Division of the problem.

The 2002 report on the review of administrative divisions acknowledged that the university's ageing infrastructure was "creating severe maintenance and repair problems". It also said that the increasing number of students was putting pressure on the Estates Division, which is responsible for maintenance at Rhodes.

According to Andrew Hatting of Rhodes maintenance, most of the repairs are done by Rhodes staff, but some jobs need to be contracted out, because "staff numbers cannot cope with the demand".

Big Bang: Creationism vs Darwinism

■ Ashleigh Swaile and Michelle Solomon

Creationists and Darwinists have been debating their views and philosophies regarding the origins of the universe for over a century. A presentation by Creation Ministries International marked the beginnings of Scifest in Grahamstown last week, with speaker Dr Johann Kruger offering what became a highly controversial talk.

Kruger, a professor of Zoology, illustrated his argument to a large audience.

The debate referred to moral, biblical and scientific areas of controversy, drawing comment from students across both the science and humanities faculties.

The talk was based on the young Earth creationist theory that claims that the earth is approximately 8 000 years old. This is in contrast to the Big Bang theory which estimates the age of the earth to be about four billion years.

The creationist theory challenges the failings of various forms of historical dating processes, such as radioisotope and carbon dating. These failings demonstrate that the tests themselves do not recognise whether the sample being tested is in its original state of radioactive



Students looking for answers

■ Dan Calderwood

decay, whether the rate of decay has been hastened in some way, or whether or not certain elements were added or removed.

Kruger also referred to the biases of opinions which characterise most human disciplines in the fields of archaeology, geology and other sciences and philosophies. With this argument he stated that evolution and creationism are simply opposing

theories, and that the open-ended and interpretive nature of creationism is difficult to prove or disprove. According to Kruger, young Earth creationists believe that God created the earth 8 000 years ago. Kruger said that due to limited time, he was unable to elaborate more specifically on scientific theories underpinning these ideas. Some students present at the talk questioned the validity

of his statements, because they felt there was a lack of scientific proof for them.

Francis Williamson, lecturer in the Philosophy department, commented on this particular debate as "a crisis in culture between competing schemes of reality...contemporary science and religious belief". According to Williamson, "science is very relevant to philosophy as part of the knowledge about the world in which we live."

From a philosophical point of view, "most philosophers will reject the theory of young earth creationism", due to its questionable scientific basis. Williamson said, however, this "is not to say that we may not be mistaken". Williamson stated that religion and science do not necessarily have to be incompatible, even though there is a belief that faith and science cannot be argued on the same level. "The opposite is true in my view," he said.

Twentieth-century cosmology is based on the concept that "the universe is a large and fine-tuned thing," which opposes the nineteenth-century view that the universe was primarily an "uninteresting place with pockets of order in some plac-

es". According to Williamson, the precise laws of science imply intelligent design, and "belief of God does not have to conflict with science."

Williamson believes that the type of argument that occurred at Kruger's presentation simply "fosters and exaggerates antagonism" between religion and science, because Kruger's statements were not properly qualified.

The evening concluded with a heated questions and answers section. Comments from across the humanities and science faculties were aired with regards to moral and scientific standpoints on the creationist theory.

Tendai Chitsike, campus pastor of His People Christian Church believes in a "transcendental standard of law which cannot come about with human reason". His argument in favour of the existence of God and the theory of creation was contested by geology and zoology students who strongly supported and explained the processes of carbon dating in estimating the age of the earth.

Many students believed that questions were not adequately answered and went away dissatisfied with the events of the evening.

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To plagiarise or not to plagiarise?

Ines Schumacher and Lionel Faull ask the question.

Shakespeare did it, Dan Brown did it, Even an educated Britney did it. Let's do it, let's plagiarise. - adapted from "Let's Do It (Let's Fall In Love)" by Ella Fitzgerald.

The annals of plagiarism read like a who's who of the rich and famous. For example, Martin Luther King Jr plagiarised his final doctoral dissertation when he was at university. His famous "I have a dream" speech was also plagiarised. Osama bin-Laden, in one of his post-9/11 videotape tirades, adapts a poem by a Jordanian poet to serve his purposes. By their own admission, Coldplay plagiarised extensively in their latest album, *X & Y*. Lead singer, Chris Martin, says, "To me, at the end of our album we should have had a bibliography."

The plagiarism issue came home to roost recently when Antjie Krog, author of *Country of My Skull*, was accused of plagiarising from the late British poet laureate Ted Hughes. Her accuser, Stephen Watson, the head of the University of Cape Town's English department, also claims she did not acknowledge material from African oral tradition. Author and poet Dr Dan Wylie, a lecturer in Rhodes' English department, believes that the plagiarism controversy surrounding Krog is "a storm in a teacup". Wylie reveals that over a year ago, a Rhodes Master's student was the first to notice that small phrases of Hughes' poetry were replicated by Krog. Wylie believes Watson is annoyed that Krog shares similar research interests to his own, and that Watson lacks conclusive proof that Krog plagiarised.

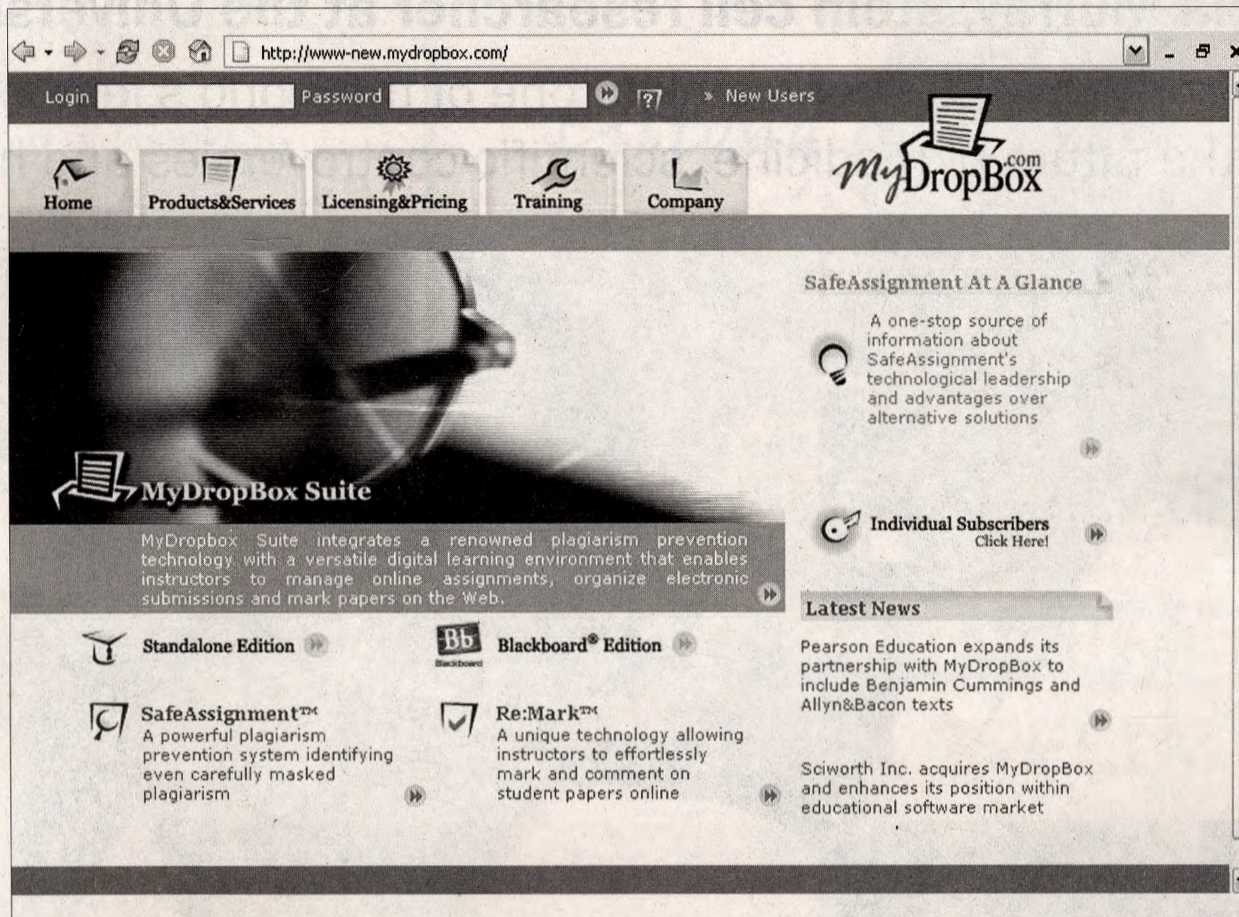
The Krog controversy has brought plagiarism into the public eye, but does nothing to clarify the grey areas which surround the use of other people's ideas. Rhodes University's plagiarism policy defines plagiarism as: "taking and using the ideas, writings, works or inventions of another as if they were one's own". Minor first-time offenders are treated leniently: the student receives a mark penalty of up to 100%. Repeat offenders run the risk of losing their DP. In the case of severe plagiarism, the student is subject to a Senate Committee hearing, even if it is a first-time offence.

The university's tough stance on plagiarism bemuses some students. Mercy Chigoma, a second-year BSocSci student, says, "The fear of being caught [plagiarising] stifles innovation." Chigoma believes that universities no longer encourage independent thought.

Professor Fred Hendricks, the Dean of Humanities, believes that the university's stance is all about promoting academic integrity. He says that plagiarism is the biggest academic crime and that it amounts to "academic theft".

Professor Pat Terry, the Dean of Science, says, "In an age when information can be passed around so freely, many people ask, 'So what?' There are double standards everywhere." However, Terry does not condone academic plagiarism in any way: "It makes a mockery of the evaluation and accreditation processes which constitute a university degree."

The extent of plagiarism varies between academic disciplines. Subjects with essay components are more prone to cut-and-paste plagiarism. Nevertheless, Terry points out that plagiarism is also rife in subjects



which assess students' practical skills, such as Computer Science. The answers to practicals can be duplicated and shared among students.

Professor Warren Snowball, a senior Classical Civilisations lecturer, says that in the past year he has discovered and punished three cases of plagiarism. Professor Larry Strelitz, head of the Department of Journalism and Media Studies, reports that he encountered two minor plagiarism offences last year, and adds that other staff may have dealt with lesser infringements. In the History department, cases of plagiarism were considerably higher. Professor Paul Maylam says, "About twenty cases of varying degrees were detected. I suspect some may have gone undetected."

Dr Gareth Cornwell, head of the English department, notes that the vast majority of plagiarism offences in his department were committed by first-year students. Chrissie Boughey, Head of the Academic Development Centre (ADC), has an explanation for this: "Plagiarism can result from a lack of command of academic discourse and not only a deliberate intention to deceive."

The ADC plays an important role in supporting academic departments by formulating general policies on plagiarism, running assessor courses and helping staff that use the MyDropBox software. This software is one of the ways in which departments deal with plagiarism. It is an online programme that is one of the few internationally-recognised plagiarism prevention systems. Boughey explains that it serves as a teaching tool: "MyDropBox allows students to submit work in advance of the due date and see what the programme is picking up as plagiarised," she says. MyDropBox can also act as a plagiarism deterrent. According to the software's website, the programme compares written text against more than eight billion documents, nine million articles and

an archive of previously submitted papers. Academic departments who choose to use MyDropBox are able to detect deliberate plagiarism after assignments have been submitted. Boughey explains how Rhodes acquired the software: "A working group set up to investigate plagiarism in the Faculty of Humanities and chaired by Professor Maylam recommended the purchase of a plagiarism detection tool."

This recommendation was made three years ago. In 2005, the ADC organised a free trial of MyDropBox and, based on the results, the university senate bought a licence to use the software from this year onwards.

Dr Tony Fluxman, a senior lecturer at the Department of Political and International

Studies, is one of the people that ran MyDropBox as an experiment last year. He tested the software on his third-year class and was surprised at the amount of plagiarism it uncovered. Fluxman suspects that 30 to 40% of students plagiarise. He finds that it is a big problem at Rhodes and believes the new software will make a difference. "The programme is fairly easy to use and saves me a lot of time," Fluxman says. Other departments that are planning to use the programme this year include English, History and Anthropology.

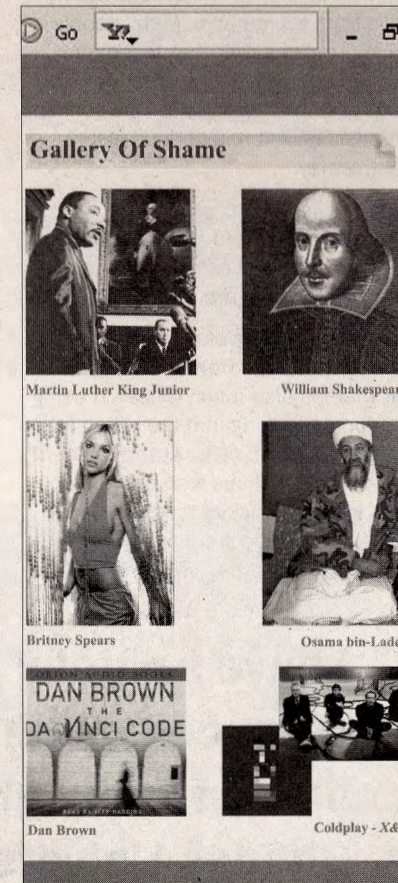
Sarah Fisher, a first-year BA student, has already used MyDropBox for her Anthropology assignments. She explains that the software is easy to use. Fisher received a log-on code to register for the programme. Students like her can submit a draft essay and receive a MyDropBox report on it two hours later. The plagiarism prevention software has not been overlooked by other South African universities. Stellenbosch University and the University of Cape Town are among the institutions that use it. The University of the Witwatersrand

"30 to 40% of students plagiarise" - senior Politics lecturer

■ Screenshot from mydropbox.com

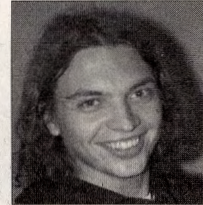
also uses a plagiarism prevention programme, but has not made it compulsory for all their staff members to use it. Dr Derek Swemmer, the registrar of Wits University, says Wits is well-equipped to prevent plagiarism. "The knowledge lecturers have of the discipline often enables them to recognise plagiarised content. The obvious change of style evident in a submitted script is another way of spotting plagiarism," he says. South African universities are not the only ones that struggle with plagiarism. This year, Oxford University has admitted for the first time that it has a problem with plagiarism. Up to ten students were excluded last year and the university fears that plagiarism threatens "to undermine the worth of an Oxford degree".

No matter where in the world plagiarism occurs and at which universities, Wylie's comment still rings true: "Plagiarism is a short-circuiting of everything academia stands for."



■ Graphic by Lauren Clifford-Holmes

Confessions of a fierce invalid



■ Harry Haddon

Religion is the opiate of the masses, says Karl Marx. If we believe this then it follows that religious fundamentalists are opiate junkies. I don't believe that this does follow, because surely opium or any other opiate for that matter is more pleasant than religion. Maybe it's subjective. Maybe those fanatics who hound us non-believers, telling us that we are going to hell, or that we are not the chosen people, or that we will never reach nirvana, maybe for them a good prayer or hymn, or a really good conversion is just as good as a mind-altering substance.

If this is the case, if we can on some level compare religion to drugs, then the question that is raised is, why choose one religion over another? Do you get more 'high' going to a church service than you do going to mosque? Maybe religion in general is the ultimate drug: you get as high as you want when you want, which brings me to my next point.

There are definitely some similarities between drug-taking and religion. For example, I happily blame the procrastination I had trying to write this column on pot. I say it all the time: "I was going to do it, but I was stoned." I hear very similar excuses from the religious bunch: "I wanted to win, but I guess it was God's will." Rubbish. If you didn't win you probably weren't good enough. And if I was really going to write this I would have. Using a crutch of any kind is a plain and simple cop-out.

Another blaringly obvious similarity is that warm fuzzy feeling you believe is proof that there is a purpose to the world, and there is an all-powerful being looking after you. Well, getting high offers a similar feeling; you are not worried, you also have a warm fuzzy feeling, and for a while you are sure that the world has some overarching purpose. What do you think meditation, praise and worship, chanting and similar religious activities are trying to achieve? They are trying to get you high! They are trying to get you to transcend your normal boring life and make you feel good about yourself and the world. Otherwise, no one would do it. If religion didn't give you a happy feeling then no one would be "religious". So why not incorporate drugs into religion? The Journal of Philosophy considers this. It looks to examples such as the peyote of the Native American (Indian) Church and Mexico's 2 000-year-old "sacred mushrooms", the latter translated from the Aztec as "God's flesh", a remarkable similarity to "the body of our Lord" in the Christian communion. The journal also cites the "Zen's tea whose fifth cup purifies and whose sixth calls to the realm of the immortals". I have been to Christian praise and worship rallies where there have been people falling over, going into trances, talking in tongues. As I look back now all of these people could have conceivably been on drugs. I wager that you could attend one of these 'sessions' (I'm not singling out the Christians; it's just my experience) on acid or mushrooms and no one would know the difference. They would probably be happy for you, thinking you were filled with the Spirit.

So what am I getting at? I suggest that religions should start encouraging drugs as part of the worship experience, because at the end of the day is there a difference between a religious experience and a drug experience? It's all about euphoria.

To the point with...

Dr Patricia Murray, stem cell researcher at the University of Liverpool

Heidi Hagemann and Michael Spicer speak to one of the world's leading stem cell researchers about the future of medicine, scientific controversies and horses...

Q: What brings you all the way from Liverpool to Grahamstown?

A: The purpose of the visit is due to our [University of Liverpool's] recently-established collaboration with Greg Blatch [Professor of Biochemistry at Rhodes University] regarding the chaperoning of cells [a recent medical alternative to the transplantation of cells].

Q: What is a simple definition of stem cells?

A: Stem cells are different from other cells because they have the ability to generate lots of different types of specialised cells. A normal cell is specialised to do a particular job in the body but has a very limited capacity to replicate itself. Stem cells can replicate themselves indefinitely, and under the right conditions can generate a cell line. We can then promote them to develop into particular cells.

Q: Where did stem cell research originate?

A: The first mouse embryonic stem cell was isolated in the United Kingdom in 1981, but it was not until the first human embryonic stem cell, derived in 1998 by American scientist James Thomson, that people first started to gain interest in the therapeutic potential of stem cells.

Q: What medical applications do stem cells have?

A: There is hope that in the future stem cells could be used to treat illnesses such as diabetes and Parkinson's disease. The reason the focus is aimed at diabetes and Parkinson's is because these diseases specifically damage one type of cell. If we can get stem cells into a culture dish that will generate those particular damaged cells, we could then transplant the newly-generated cells into patients and theoretically the patient should be cured.

Q: Is stem cell research being conducted anywhere in the world and how safe is this treatment?

A: It is the general consensus that too little is known about stem cells to practice them safely as there is a chance of dangerous side effects, but there are practitioners in India who are injecting stem cells into people to observe the results.

Q: There is a lot of controversy regarding stem cell research; would you care to comment on this?

A: There are a number of ethical issues surrounding stem cell research. The one attracting the most attention is the technique of therapeutic cloning. The reason for anyone wanting to clone stem cells is to generate a stem cell of the same genotype as the person being treated. This is because of a potential problem with stem cells, that in just the same way one would get an immune response to kidney transplants, the same thing would happen with stem cells. So there needs to be



Murray is optimistic that stem cells will cure diabetes in 10 years' time

■ Joni Els

some sort of method to get around that. One countermeasure would be to create a stem cell line of the same genotype as the patient. However, in order to do that, one must place a cell of the person being treated into an embryo, and then remove the stem cells from the embryo. Many people have problems with that technique because it involves the creation of an embryo only to destroy it. This concept parallels abortion, a serious global controversy.

Q: To what extent are other options of retrieving stem cells being explored and how feasible are they?

A: The only way of retrieving embryonic stem cells is from an embryo, but there is also much research being conducted looking into the potential of using adult stem cells. At the moment one of the problems with adult stem cells is their difficulty to isolate. Unlike embryonic stem cells, which can potentially grow forever in the

laboratory, the adult stem cells have a limited lifespan, which make them reasonably difficult to work with and to characterise.

Q: What are your aims as a stem cell researcher?

A: The aims of our lab are to try and understand the mechanisms that make the cells self-renew as stem cells, rather than differentiate. The reason we are trying to do this is because currently we do not understand what makes the stem cells self-renew. To isolate human stem cells and grow them at the laboratory they have to be cultured with mouse cells. This means that all the stem cell lines in circulation today could never be therapeutically used because of the risk that pathogens in the mouse cells would pass over to the human cells. We need to understand more about the mechanisms involved, so that we may find clean conditions wherein to keep the stem cells without having to

culture them with mouse cells.

Q: What do you foresee the future of stem cell research to be?

A: We have been quite fortunate in our laboratory in that we have made significant progress in providing conditions whereby we can keep the stem cells self-renewing. I may be sounding a little optimistic, but perhaps in about ten years' time it may be possible to use stem cells to treat illnesses such as diabetes, although there is still a large amount of work to be accomplished before this can happen.

Q: Is stem cell research forbidden in certain countries and why?

A: There are no countries that outright ban stem cell research, but there are many restrictions placed on stem cell research around the world. In America, for example, one cannot use government money for stem cell research. In Germany strict laws also apply; no German scientist may work with stem cell lines derived after 2002, even if they leave the country to research.

Q: Will stem cells eventually be able to manufacture skin tissue for transplanting?

A: Yes, there is quite good evidence that they could certainly be used to generate tissue. Whether we will ever

advance to the stage where we can generate whole organs (such as a heart) is still quite far in the future.

Q: From what you have seen of the facilities at Rhodes, how far away is Rhodes from conducting stem cell research?

A: I have actually brought some stem cells with me, which are currently growing in the Rhodes University labs. I must point out that the facilities needed for obtaining new lines of human stem cells are different from the facilities needed for culturing an established line. The facilities at Rhodes are sufficient to grow these already established cells.

Off the Point

Q: When you were young, what did you envision yourself doing when you grew up?

A: I really liked horses, so I suppose I would have liked to be a showjumper.

Q: Did you have a previous occupation before getting involved with your research?

A: I was a nurse for ten years.

Q: So you're from Liverpool. Describe Liverpool in three words.

A: Exciting, friendly, humorous.

Q: Liverpool FC or Everton FC?

A: I am not a great fan of football but I do follow Liverpool.

Q: What has been the best thing about South Africa?

A: The traffic, because there isn't any and it is fantastic. In Liverpool there is just congestion all the time.

“ I have actually brought some stem cells with me, which are currently growing in the Rhodes University labs

”

Homesickness: where is the love?

Homesickness is a more serious condition than people believe, write Taryn Zieseniss and Gisela Wolff

Homesickness is a dark topic for a sunny day. The focus group is gathered on a lawn to discuss the one thing they all have in common - missing home. One girl misses her dog. Another misses the predictable weather of her hometown. They all miss the familiar comforts of home.

Mandy*, a first-year student from Johannesburg, says, "I cried every night for the whole of O-Week. I miss the love. No one cares here, everyone pretends. It feels like you are the only one [who is homesick]." Up to this point, Mandy seems happy enough, if a little bit withdrawn. Now the focus group has some inkling of just how homesick she really is.

Many students have no idea how serious homesickness can get. But when you start having fits, like Thandi* did in high school, homesickness is not just something sissies suffer from. Robyn would get homesick even if she was away from home for just a single night.

Every year, thousands of students come to Grahamstown from all around the world to live and learn together. Most students are now cut off from home and find themselves in a completely alien environment, surrounded by people from a variety of different backgrounds.

In this situation, it is inevitable that most people would experience some sort of homesickness. Yet, in the hustle and bustle of hectic university schedules and demands, homesickness is a condition that is often overlooked.

Dr Lance Heath, director of the Rhodes University Counselling Centre, says homesickness is "something which normal, healthy people experience. In fact, it takes a certain amount of mental well-being to form new relationships in the first place." However, homesickness is not a personal weakness. Heath says that it is the beginning of "the journey towards total independence from parents and self-responsibility".

Students aren't the only ones who feel alone. According to Heath, many parents struggle to come to terms with the absence of their children. Some parents phone the Counselling Centre for advice on dealing with empty nest syndrome. The hardest thing for parents is to accept that their children are on the path to attaining complete independence.

Although homesickness is a natural experience, it is hardly ever discussed. The very word "homesickness" seems to have a stigma attached to it. Women seem to be much more willing to talk about homesickness than men. However, Heath says that homesickness is not gender-specific. It may seem that more women than men experience homesickness but this is only because women are generally more

open to discussing emotional issues. Our voluntary focus group is a case in point. The majority of participants are women. The few men present are a lot less forthcoming with their experiences of homesickness.

Shane Torr, a third-year student, is one of the few men who is not afraid to admit that he misses home "every single minute". Torr agrees with Heath's comment, saying,

"Men are supposed to be butch; they are supposed to suck up their feelings and get over it."

Viwe Soga, subwarden of Goldfields, says that most men in residence do not talk about homesickness, because "a man pouring out his feelings to another man is awkward". Men are supposed to be able to deal with problems on their own, but Viwe feels that this opinion could be problematic because "when people bottle up emotions, it's a recipe for disaster".

Viwe knows that homesickness is a particular problem for first-years, but

he believes that it is even worse for international students. Sophie Friedling, a French exchange student, admits that it is difficult being so far away from home. Although Friedling has travelled abroad for several years now, she still finds that she gets homesick whenever she is away from home.

She says that homesickness is worse if one does not speak the local language fluently. Friedling deals with homesickness by regularly phoning

home, surrounding herself with pictures of her family and friends, counting the days until she returns home and going out of her way to meet new people.

Rebecca Holtzer, an American exchange student, has a slightly different approach to Friedling. She tries to keep as busy as possible and gets involved in everything she can. She says,

"Students aren't the only ones who feel alone"

"The less time you have to sit on your butt, the less time you have to think about other things.

"It's easiest when you're on campus, because there are so many other people around." Holtzer says that people who feel homesick should find supportive people with whom they can discuss their feelings.

The Rhodes res system seems to facilitate this process, particularly in women's residences. The subwarden system is particularly helpful in providing support. A woman subwarden, who declined to be named in case she compromises her relationship with the students who confide in her, says that it is important to have "a big-sister" relationship between subwardens and students.

She says many students make use of this option, and often come to her just to chat or to discuss their issues.

Some students advocate the simple remedy of a good night out. Torr says that when he is feeling down he likes to go out and

socialise to try and get his mind off home. Thandeka* says, "When coming here, you have to bring yourself out of your shell. You can't just feel sorry for yourself." Sarah* said that she dealt with her problems by going on a drinking spree.

The problem with drowning your sorrows, as Vusi* points out, is that when you are sick with a hangover you feel even more sorry for yourself and end up missing home just as much as before.

Another way to deal with homesickness is to go for counselling. However, this depends on how comfortable an individual is with talking to a stranger about their problems. The Counselling Centre has relocated to the top floor of the Union building, and it is relatively easy to get an appointment. The whole process is discreet, confidential and completely free of charge.

* Some focus group participants' names have been changed to protect the anonymity of sources.

How to beat homesickness

- Sign up for a society or two and actually get involved in them.

- Get involved in residence functions: get to know people in your res and on your corridor.

- Realise that it is normal and healthy to miss people.

- Talk about your feelings with other people.

- Get out of your room, go to movies, take a walk or just visit your neighbour and chat.

- Play a sport: the exercise boosts serotonin levels, which elevates mood.

- Don't be too selective about who you speak to: you never know if someone you talk to may turn out to be your best friend later.

- Look for people who seem to be feeling the same way as you are and reach out to them. By helping them, you will be helping yourself.

Signs of homesickness

- Feelings of sadness and isolation, and a belief that you are the only one who feels this way (which may prevent you forming new friendships)

- Tearfulness whenever you think about home or things associated with home

- Possible loss of appetite or overeating

- Continually wanting to be left alone and avoiding social events, even avoiding going to the dining hall

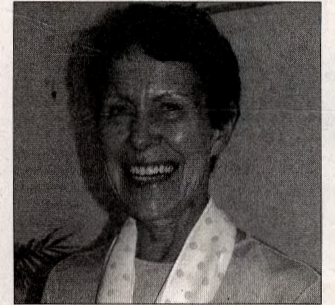
If your negative feelings start affecting your academic performance or your ability to socialise, or if you notice a change in your mood, then look for a more senior person to talk to, like your warden, a subwarden, a tutor or a lecturer. If this does not help, you may need to seek counselling.

Based on information provided by the Counselling Centre.

What you said:

■ Michelle Solomon & Philippa Ehrlich

We asked lecturers what their favourite hangover cures were. Take a look at what they had to say.



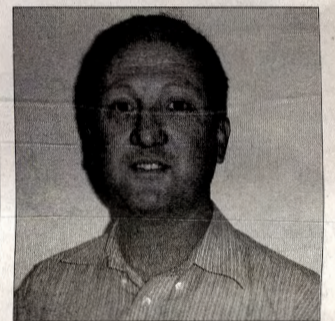
Professor Lilla Stack

Professor of Accounting
"An ice-cold shower"



Professor Fackson Banda

SAB Chair of Media and Democracy
"Watching my children walking along the beach."



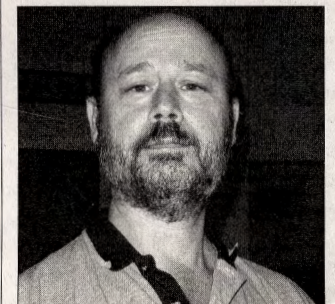
Brad Ripley

Cell Biology lecturer
"Drink expensive booze and you won't have a hangover!"



Prabashini Appalsamy

Psychology lecturer
"I've never had a drunken experience before, I wouldn't know what it feels like. I've never tasted alcohol."

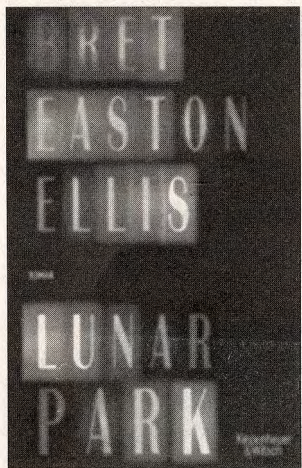


Dr Gary Watkins

Inorganic chemistry senior lecturer
"Tall glass of coke and an aspirin; look at the Scifest website for the reason why it works!"



Reviews



Book Review:

Lunar Park

by Bret Easton Ellis

■ Nicola Nel

In his latest novel, the controversial author of *American Psycho* and *The Laws of Attraction* explores his own life. *Lunar Park* follows the history of Ellis' early success, his jet-setting life and career, and his problems with heavy drug and alcohol abuse. What makes the book remarkable is that Ellis draws a number of parallels from his previous works. The other side of this story is less credible. It deals with Ellis' personal and family life as well as a number of chilling hallucinations connected by a string of macabre occurrences. Ellis declares in this novel that "every single word is true". The story-line and the characters are, however, questionable. All told, the book is a gripping and fascinating read. Ellis' fans who have enjoyed *The Laws of Attraction* and *American Psycho* will love this piece of chilling autobiographical writing. Those who haven't read any of his works will get great insight into his life as a writer and his personal conflicts.

Up close and Personal

Rhodes' stage sweetheart

■ Shea Karssing and Lula Hlatshwayo

Outside the Dolphin Kaif, a bubbly voice approaches. It comes from Jessica Harrison, a lead star in the upcoming play *Big Love*. She perches herself enthusiastically on the opposite bench. It is chilly, so she curls her legs underneath her. Her exotic features are strikingly beautiful: dark eyes, reddish-brown hair and a comforting smile. She modestly states that she doesn't know why we are interviewing her.

Using her hands expressively, Harrison tells us about herself. She lives in Durban and was born on January 23, 1985. She is currently a third-year drama student and plans to do Honours in Drama next year. What most people don't know is that she is also a qualified teacher.

Harrison says she acts because it "feeds her soul".

She has played a variety of roles in many productions, but most memorable was her male role in the critically acclaimed *Marat/Sade* (where she had to put a sock down her pants). That role as an unapologetic, aggressive man contrasts sharply with her role in *Big Love* where she plays an idealistic and naïve young girl who is a people-pleaser and does not assert herself.

Harrison is passionate about South African theatre but does not travel on the "Theron Train", preferring local actors such as Pieter Dirk-Uys. She realises that opportunities for actors in South Africa can be limited but she wants to keep her roots here.

She is quite happy to "survive on bread and soup" if she has to. She is proud of South African theatre and wishes to develop it more. She feels

Jessica Harrison as Courmier in last year's Master's play *Marat/Sade*.

■ Jacqueline Cochrane

our local theatre scene is eclectic and unique.

You can't help but be drawn to this down-to-earth woman, as she tells us how she backpacked through New Zealand and can burp the ABC. As she tries to "find herself in this big bad world", Harrison exudes a unique energy and depth of character.

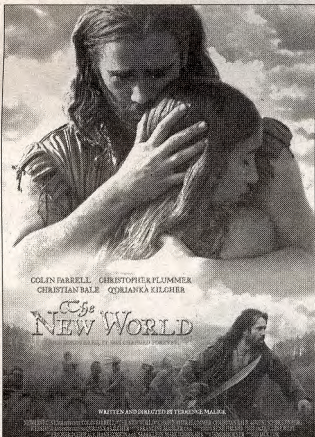
You can catch her in action in *Big Love* from April 7.

Big Love at Rhodes

Rhodes MA graduate Dion van Niekerk is the director this production that will be showing from April 7-22 at the Rhodes Theatre. Van Niekerk has returned to Grahamstown to present *Big Love* after spending two years in New Orleans as an actor and designer.

The play tackles the social tension between men and women in a farci-

cal way. Its plot centres around 50 sisters who are forced to marry 50 of their cousins because of an ancient contract. They run away from Greece and find refuge in an Italian home that has its own share of problems. All hell breaks loose and the sisters have to come up with a deadly plan. The play addresses issues of marriage, love and gender differences.



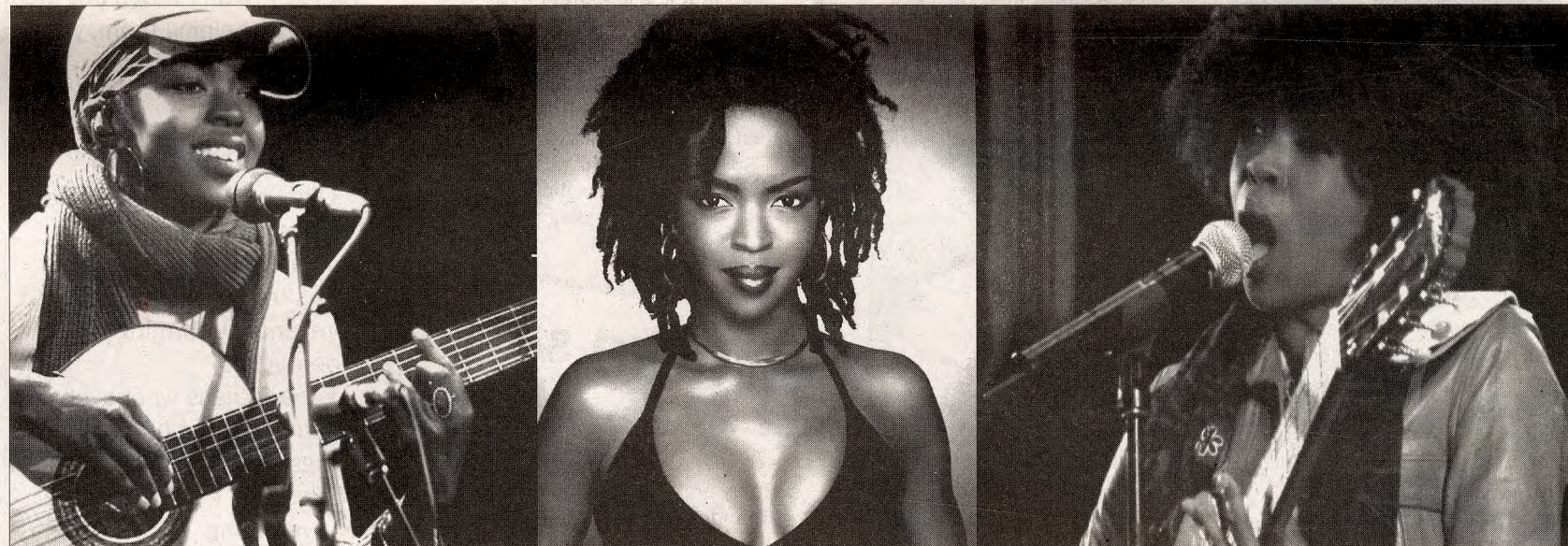
Movie Review: The New World

■ Matthew Von Abo

The New World is an epic tale inspired by the legend of Pocahontas. It depicts the encounter between the native American and European cultures in 1607. John Smith (Colin Farrell) is an ambitious mercenary who develops a forbidden love for a native American woman, Pocahontas (Q'orianka Kilcher).

The two strong-willed people are torn apart by their civic duties and the unavoidable demands of their hearts. The adventure, directed by Terrence Malick, is a sweeping exploration of new discoveries, love and inevitable loss against the backdrop of a historically accurate America. It is a bit tedious at times but also mesmerising and ultimately quite moving.

It's definitely worth seeing, especially for anyone interested in North American history and the story of Pocahontas.



The many faces of Lauryn Hill

■ pics supplied

Lauryn Hill Live in South Africa

■ Lula Hlatshwayo

Legendary singer Lauryn Hill will descend upon African soil in April for a concert. This performance will take place at the Coca-Cola Dome on April 15 and her South African fans are doing everything they can to witness her performance.

The question everyone is asking is why Hill decided to re-enter the music scene. This lyrical goddess from New Jersey first took the music industry by storm with fellow musicians Prakararel 'Pras' Michel and Wyclef Jean when they got together to form The Fugees.

Their second album entitled *The Score* sold 18 million copies worldwide, making The Fugees the biggest selling rap group of all time.

However, the group broke up

because Jean and Hill found themselves at odds with one another. But that was not the end of Hill and she released her solo project *The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill* in 1998. Her claim to fame skyrocketed as she became a six-time platinum-selling artist and seven-time Grammy Award-winning rapper, songwriter, actress, activist and mother.

There was an unexpected U-turn in her career when she became devoted to her religion and subsequently the new discovery caused her to ask herself, "how did something I love so much...turn into something I loath and hate?" Hill rejected the movie deals that she received and other promotional deals for TV adverts, fragrances

and commercial houses of business.

She stopped interviews and started to deny the inevitable wealth that came with her success because she apparently felt like her soul was being sold. Her next album *Unplugged* reflected this.

The album had lyrics like "I must get out, Mr Intentional", and these lyrics reflected her dislike of the music industry and the commercialisation of the industry. The album did not do well, barely reaching platinum in America.

After The Fugees' performance at the BET Music Awards in America last year, reports said that Hill is releasing a new LP. The Wailers are reported to feature in her new album, as well as

two tracks that she has recorded with R'n B star John Legend who recently visited and performed in South Africa. One of the songs is a remix of his Grammy nominated hit, "So High". The Hill concert promises to reunite Hill with her South African fans.

The certified queen of R'n B and hip-hop, now a mother to four of Bob Marley's grandchildren, seems to be in top form again and ready to feed hungry fans the same Hill magic she did years ago. Fans claim that there are still problems within The Fugees but they are trying to sort them out. They have released a new song entitled "Take it easy". Tickets for the show range from R150 to R320.

Sex, drugs and South African musos

■ Deva Lee and Piroshin Moodley

South Africa's black butterfly Tsakani "TK" Mhinga's drug abuse was recently made public. To the shock of many of her fans, Mhinga was found dead in her hotel room. The room was scattered with empty bottles and a plastic bag containing a white substance. She had spent some of her evening with kwaito kingpin Mandoza, who has openly admitted to taking drugs in the past. Mandoza says he has quit smoking, drugs and alcohol through the help of rehab aftercare programs. Police have not yet confirmed whether Mhinga died as a result of a drug overdose or from strangulation.

Mhinga's story throws us into a whirlpool of SA artists who have lived on the edge. Brenda Fassie, the undisputed queen of the South African music scene and an iconic figure so popular that she was proclaimed "Madonna of the Townships", was shockingly open about her sex romps and drug and alcohol abuse. In 1994, when asked to comment on working with king of rumba rock Papa Wemba, she off-handedly remarked, "I can't remember a thing, I was so high."

Fassie rocketed to stardom in the mid-1980s, achieving a lethal mix of fame and money by the age of 21. The 90s were troubled times for her. Fassie was plagued by a cocaine addiction and several performance no-shows, and lost her house in Johannesburg.

In May 2004, Fassie passed away from what was reported to be "compl-

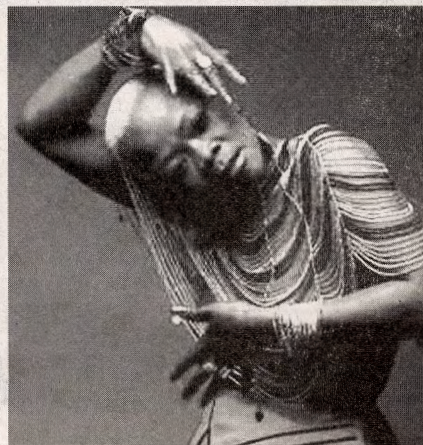
cations following an asthma attack". An inquest held by the Randburg Magistrate's Court has, however, concluded that Fassie "collapsed into a coma after smoking cocaine". Her drug addiction had cost her over R1 million in drug debts and ultimately her life. Rumours that she had contracted HIV/Aids also surfaced at the time of her death.

South Africa's celebrity class is growing fast and drug addiction often becomes normal in celebrity circles. The problem, according to industry heads, is that many of our South African musicians spiral into fame and fortune unexpectedly from very different backgrounds.

Hugh Masekela is an SA music pioneer who kicked the habit and is now an anti-drug activist. Masekela enjoyed fame and fortune in the US as a jazz musician during apartheid. He has called on the government to start a national campaign against drug abuse and to start educating people about the problem.

Some call it a stimulant for creativity, or even a performance enhancer for demanding stage work. Others feel that it is simply part of the celebrity lifestyle where hard drugs are easily available and alcohol flows freely. But drugs have invaded the lifestyles of many Mzansi artists. For most, the result has been death.

As lyrics from the Cape Town rock band Fetish aptly describe: "It's easy to be hip, cool and composed when you've got R300 up your nose."



Hugh Masekela (top) survived drug abuse, TK Mhinga (bottom left) and Brenda Fassie allegedly didn't. ■ Pics supplied

Reviews



CD Review: Catch me if You Can – Lady Lea

■ Jessica Blasé

"Hear the music, breathe the music, feel the passion, take the music into your own." The release of Lady Lea's hot new album, *Catch me if You Can*, is sure to send her popularity soaring. Lady Lea has developed into one of South Africa's most respected and well-known house DJs. Unlike many house albums, Lady Lea's funky tunes have mass appeal. The album is a superb mix of deep and electronic house with a trendy upbeat vibe. This sizzling mix features two of Lady Lea's own productions, including her chart-topping single "You and Me". It is an energetic, catchy album which is likely to put just about anyone in a party mood. This lady is a fierce force in the land of house music. She started out pumping on the Jo'burg club dancefloors and went straight to the top. Lady Lea is sure to leave a permanent mark on the SA dance and club music scene in the future.

The Suite has reached its expiry date

■ Britt Poorter

There is terrible news for hip-hop, R'n B and house-lovers who have enjoyed many late nights jiving at The Suite. The trial period that was set for the club to shape up has not met the owners' required standard.

A bartender, who did not want to be named, informed *Activate* that The Suite would definitely be closing down. He says: "Not enough cash has flown in and the renovations that need to be done are way too expensive and so it won't happen."

These renovations include better toilet facilities and proper working fridges for the outside bar.

A group of first-year girls said: "We are hugely disappointed, and many other students are shocked that The Suite hasn't made enough money, as the place is always happening."

Peter Mooeketsane, one of the owners, was asked to verify what his staff had said but he refused to comment. According to a guest DJ who played there a few weeks ago, club owners in Port Elizabeth do not want Mooeketsane to give up The Suite as they fear that he will steal their business in PE by opening a club there. Meanwhile, there has been speculation that the hangout might be turned into a restaurant.

Local artists honoured as MTN SAMA award nominations released

■ Zikhona Tshona

The 12th annual MTN SAMA Awards nominations took place recently.

With no surprises in some of the categories, the show promises to be bigger and better. Fans can vote for the most popular song and most popular artist of the year by calling 083 123 SAMA (7262).

Best Female Artist

Judith Sephuma – New Beginnings
Blonde sultry Lebo Mathosa – Lioness
Pebbles – Playful Soul
SA gospel queen Rebecca – Qaphelani
Sibongile Khumalo

Best Male Artist

Andile Yenana – Who's Got the Map?
Arno Carstens –
The Hello Goodbye Boys
Jimmy Dlodlu – Corners of my Soul

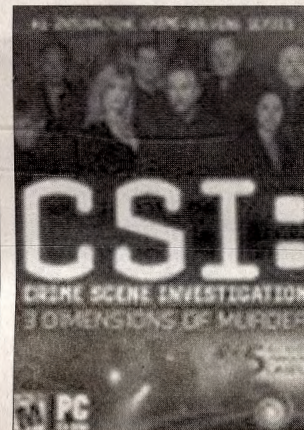
Jonathan Butler – Jonathan
Selaelo Selota –
Stories Lived and Told

Best Duo or Group

Bongo Maffin – New Construction
Joyous Celebration – Joyous 9
Malaika – Vuthelani
Revolution – Roots
Wessel Van Rensburg &
McCoy Mrubata – Kulturation

Most Popular Artist of the Year

This category is the biggest honour for an artist. The nominees are Judith Sephuma, Jimmy Dlodlu, rock contemporary legend Arno Carstens, newly reformed Andile, Yenana, Pro-Kid, Karen Zoid, Malaika, Rebecca, Ntando and Brickz. Many of these artists have released platinum albums.



Games Review:

CSI 3 Dimensions of Murder

■ Staff Reporter

The title of the game says it all: it's the normal CSI, only now it's in 3D.

Don't start jumping for joy: this is by no means a first person shooter, but you are no longer stuck floating in a 2D landscape with an expectant-looking partner breathing down your neck and only your mouse between you and the clues.

Well, your mouse is still the main crime-fighting tool but the crime scenes have been totally transformed, as now there are more angles and that means more possibilities. Also, with the coming of 3D to the CSI universe the graphics have improved significantly. Other than that nothing much has changed.

The crime lab is contained in a nifty van parked right outside the crime scene, but because of the way the game handles different locations it might as well be on the other side of town like it was in the previous games.

So all in all, there's no real change, just more crime scene-combing with your cursor and clicking frantically, hoping to find a different clue. It's heartening to see that the creators of the game have taken to 3D, it's not like it's a innovation at all.

Tid bits: your guide to what's happening in and around G-town

■ Kirsten Mawdsley, Paula Gilbert and Lindsay Callaghan

Party your way into the vac

The end of first term is expected to end on a high note with the first RAFSoc party of 2006. This notorious event will be taking place on March 31 at the Drill Hall. The dress code is smart-casual and transport will be leaving from the pool gates from 7.15pm onwards. Admission is free for members and R40 for non-members. If history is anything to go by, this will be the party of the term.

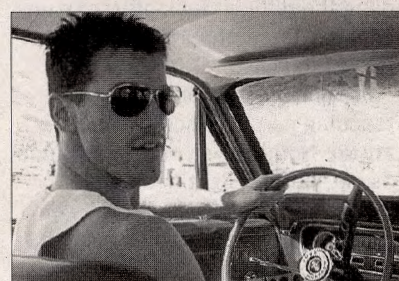
Picasso in Africa exhibition

The art exhibition Picasso in Africa is on display at the Standard Bank Gallery in Johannesburg until April 13, when it will move down to Cape Town where it will be on display until May 21. This is a landmark event not only for the art world, but for our continent in general. Picasso was greatly influenced by traditional African art and to

show this connection, the exhibit will be centred on a selection of African masks. A brief history of Picasso and some of his thoughts on art and Africa will be on display. The exhibition is an ideal platform to show Africa's critical influences in the European history of art and its movements. This is one of Africa's most exciting art events in recent years.

On a bizarre holiday note

If you prefer being in your birthday suit and are from Gauteng there is a party for you. Harmony Naturist Resort is holding a naturist youth rally which entails a weekend of hiking, sporting activities and socialising entirely in the nude. If this tickles your fancy, go along on April 7-9, and remember to leave your clothes at home. Go to the Studentzone calendar for more details.



■ Pic supplied

Upcoming SA film

South Africa's golden boy, Colin Moss, has his first leading role in the feature film *Number 10*, which hits local cinemas on April 7, 2006. This film from Oscar-nominated director Darrell Roodt tells the story of a provincial rugby player trying to make it into the Springbok team. The romantic drama also stars acclaimed actor Ian Roberts and has a debut performance

by kwaito star Mandoza. The movie boasts an incredible soundtrack from South African artists such as Karen Zoid, Watershed and Mandoza as well as a ballad by Colin Moss himself.

Entertainment in style and good taste

Tomorrow night (March 31) at 7pm, singer/songwriter sensation Marisa Du Plooy and her band launch their debut CD at the Trading Store. The musical vibe is rhythmic acoustic guitars coupled with an ashen voice. Food will be served at 7pm and the music will start at 8.30pm. R20 gets you in and it's a dress-up night. On Friday, April 7, The Random Jazz Quartet will be reuniting at the Trading Store for one night only. The musical vibe will be an eclectic mix of classical jazz. This may be your last chance to see these maestros together.

Colour and culture – who is African anyway?

■ Zuki Kota, Leila Hall and Laura Durham

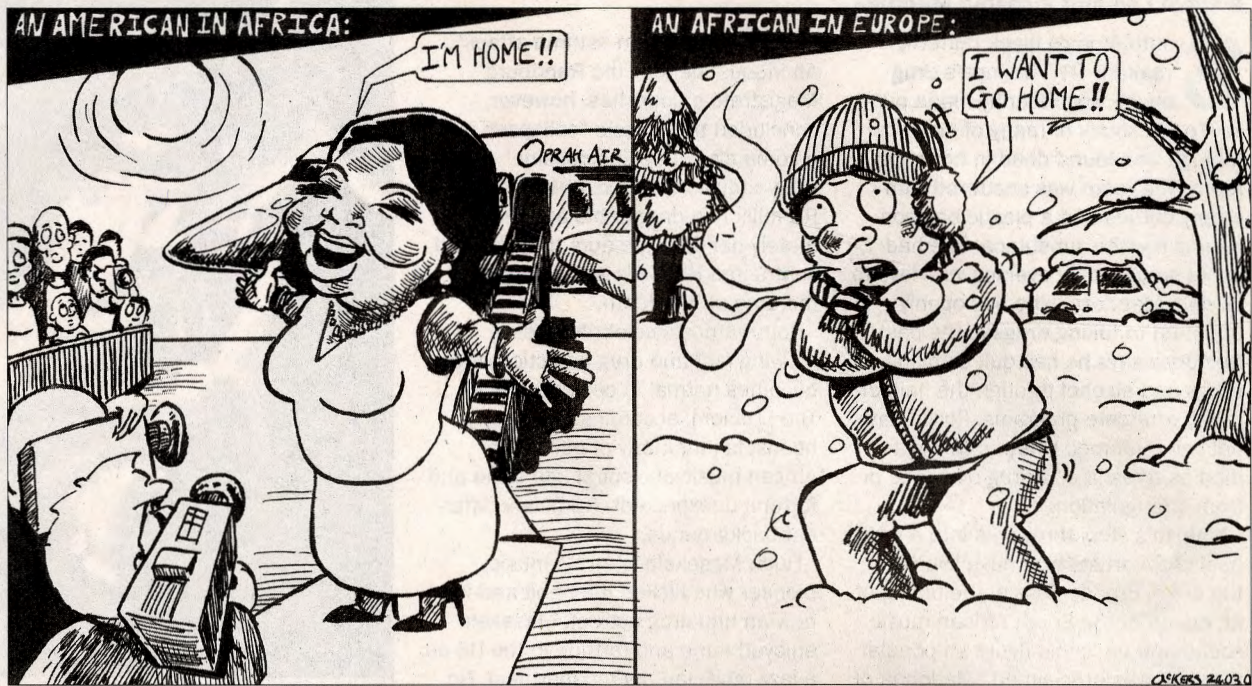
Oprah Winfrey recently announced that she had taken a DNA test which "proved" her Zulu ancestry. While visiting South Africa last year, she told fans: "I feel so at home here." Historians have been debating her claim, but the concept of black Americans visiting an African country with the idea of returning to their roots is nothing new to us. Many black Americans will fiercely defend their claims to be African despite the fact that they have spent their entire lives in the US and often lack basic knowledge of the languages and cultures of the country they are visiting.

Do they have a more valid claim to being African than, for example, a white farmer in Zimbabwe who has spent his entire life in the country? What makes a person African? Can we define particular criteria? How important are factors such as colour, language, ancestry and place of birth? What about emigrants from African countries?

Homecoming Revolution is a non-profit organisation which encourages South Africans abroad to return. It recently commissioned a survey which showed that many South Africans liv-

ing abroad retain their African roots. They stay connected to their home country by keeping up-to-date with the news, maintaining investments in South Africa and joining clubs that promote our unique culture. Among these are the Voetsek and Jislaaik clubs in the UK, which provide a variety of services to their members, including news, dating services and even biltong. Other clubs, such as the tokoloshe club in the Middle East, simply aim to create the South African vibe needed to unite expatriates.

What does colour mean in terms of being African? Does a darker complexion give you a claim to a certain ancestry and heritage? What about the issue of language? How essential is it to have a basic knowledge of one of the many indigenous African languages? Many people argue that white people living in Africa refuse to embrace African culture and make little effort to learn indigenous African languages, attempting instead to impose their own Eurocentric languages, moral order and lifestyle on African society. But what about those who have lived in Africa for generations, are fluent in the local language and are very much aware of African



Matthew Ackermann

customs and culture? The issue of language remains fundamental to the definition of "African" and learning a language is an important part of the process of integration into any culture. Having said this, English is one of South Africa's 11 official languages. Surely then, any English-speaking individual living in South Africa is entitled

to being considered African?

In his famous "I am an African" speech, Thabo Mbeki said: "We refuse to accept that our Africanness shall be defined by our race, our colour, our gender or our historical origins." By defining African identity using these criteria, we are attempting to simplify a complex issue. In a continent where

division and oppression have often been based on classifications according to race and ethnicity, these should not be considered part of the definition of Africanness. It is more important that all who live in Africa should look to what unites them and accept all the diverse characteristics that make up this continent.

Capitalist nigger: Africa's solution?

■ Brett Petzer, Zama Nsele and Hlawulani Mkhabela

U buntu is killing Africans and they are too distracted by its principles of compassion to notice their own collapse. So says Chika Onyeani, the author of the new economics manual *Capitalist Nigger*. He is part of a school of thought based on the idea that an African mentality makes African renaissance impossible. They believe that a redefinition of African values is needed to achieve capitalist success.

Onyeani states, "Blacks are economic slaves because they lack the killer instinct of the Caucasian." He believes that a culture incompatible with a capitalist worldview has retarded Africa's development.

Decades after the fall of colonial regimes, Africa remains impoverished. Famines in West Africa and

sub-Saharan Africa's inability to stop the spread of HIV have become more synonymous with the continent than safari trips. It is argued that if Africans wish to solve their present problems, they must stop feeling that the world owes them something.

Onyeani suggests that the best way to solve Africa's problems is to become a "capitalist nigger". Onyeani uses the word "nigger" to show the degree to which he has overcome the past. He believes that Africans can redefine the insults of the past, using them to reinvent themselves into a product more suitable to global capitalism.

Africans must mimic other cultures that have achieved economic success, says Onyeani. Black people, he says, should reinvest funds in black-owned enterprises. He recom-

mends that Africans use globalisation to their advantage. He says that "Africans are a non-productive race and depend on other communities," and believes renaissance can only occur when Africans learn to be self-sufficient.

Former head of the World Bank Jeffery Sachs, rebuts the capitalist doctrine proposed by Onyeani. He says, "Every society that was once poor has been castigated for being lazy and unworthy until its citizens became rich." Sachs argues that although capitalism has been most successful in the West, this does not make it a Western philosophy or a system that will only be successful with the adoption of Western values. Onyeani promotes a false picture of a passive African state unable to cope with capitalist competitiveness,

Sachs says. His theory is a simplification of African culture and completely ignores the strong history of pre-colonial forms of capitalism.

Some analysts initially doubted China's ability to become economically prosperous because they believed China was slowed by a Confucian culture that did not value competition. The country's recent economic success disproves this theory. Capital accumulation is not solely reliant on certain aggressive cultural characteristics.

Capitalist Nigger is based on Onyeani's idea that African people should not be ashamed to say they are motivated by greed. Although Onyeani's argument has many flaws, it is a useful talking point that can encourage Africans to think of better solutions to our problems.

Controversy corner – Zuma's plot

■ Lauren O'Brien and Holly Pratt

O ver the past year the name Jacob Zuma has become synonymous with sex, lies and corruption. As his latest trial unfolds we have been able to add stupidity to that list. Not only did he have unprotected "consensual sex" with the HIV-positive accuser, but he has also said that the trial is all part of a political plot to overthrow him. But are we not giving him enough credit? He can't be that stupid after all, since he apparently could still be our next president.

Perhaps there is more to the story than meets the eye. Consider for a moment that we have a hallucinating accuser who has previously been institutionalised. There is also suspicious evidence such as discrepancies between the accused and accuser's reports of the alleged rape site and the supposed forgetfulness of a veteran commissioner when completing the necessary police report. Not to mention that the trial is currently being arbitrated by its fourth judge, after three recused themselves for various reasons.

But it can be seen in the support being shown him that Zuma retains his popularity: the burning of the accuser's picture outside the courthouse and the still fanatical and fervent following of the ANC Youth League. Perhaps it is not the power of Zuma's charisma, but rather in the power of his wallet that wins him this support. Perhaps all this recent exposure was Zuma's own plot to galvanise support and elevate him from his position under Mbeki to one squarely in the public eye. (This would explain all the discrepancies in the hastily concocted trial.) It's well known that any publicity is good publicity, but if that is the case we just wonder at Zuma's faith in the wondrous abilities of his supporters to see past his seemingly selfish character and continue to hail him as a man of the people. But wait...does he stand for the people?

Thetha uvakale – speak and be heard

■ Zikhona Tshona, Syanda Ngcobo and Mkatoko Mdlhuli

E nglish is the language used most in South African offices and universities, and even in parliament.

But in a country where the majority of the population are unable to speak English fluently, the language becomes a barrier isolating them from the rest of the world.

Does the use of English not discriminate against such South Africans? And what is Rhodes doing about this?

Imagine coming from an isiXhosa high school, entering a university where only English is used and being expected to understand the big words used by the lecturers. Fortunately, most universities, like Rhodes, offer an extended studies programme to help students from underprivileged backgrounds.

A student who wishes to remain anonymous said that he found the programme useful as it helped him to understand his academic readers and write better essays.

Rhodes' language policy states that "The language of teaching and learning at Rhodes University is English. However, the university supports the national commitment to ensuring that language should not act as barrier to equity of access to success."

Mark de Vos, a lecturer in the English Language and Linguistics department said that the use of English as a national language is justified, because English is widely used in politics and economics. The use of English as a common language not only brings national unity but connects us to the world at large.

Using English is a political choice, and what makes the situation difficult is that preferring one language could come at the expense of others. There is a strong need to recognise all 11 official languages that reflect our nation's diversity.

Professor Russell Kaschula, head of the department of African languages, said that indigenous lan-

guages are not given enough status in universities. He said Rhodes is making plans to increase use of isiXhosa on our campus. He is handling the difficult task of translating all departmental names and policies into isiXhosa.

The university is also looking at teaching certain disciplines in isiXhosa. Nothing has been confirmed as yet, but the fight has begun. "The glass is half full and will get fuller if we are allowed to flourish," Kaschula said.

According to the South African constitution's Bill of Rights, "everyone has the right to use the language and to participate in the cultural life of their choice."

Since English is seen to be the only medium of communication in many spheres, other official languages are losing status.

It is imperative to reverse this trend on campus, and in South Africa as a whole, if we are to maintain our cultural diversity.



Prof Russel Kaschula ■ Dan Calderwood

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Essay Competition:

What if I were Dean of Students?

The SRC wishes to involve all students in the search for the new Dean of Students. So write an essay either serious or comical, about what you would do if you were the Dean of Student, between 500 and 700 words.

Prize: **R300**
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 At: **SRC Office or**
president@src.ru.ac.za

Accountability Policy:

Mike Winn, the SRC treasurer, has written an accountability policy for the SRC. The entire document can be found on our website at src.ru.ac.za. The following extract consists of part of the evaluation tables to rate performance. Please check out the website for the full document. This policy is still in its draft form, and any comments would be welcomed. Please e-mail treasurer@src.ru.ac.za

This document is very important. Rhodes' SRCs have been accused in the past of being inefficient and of not producing results. This document will, eventually, become part of the Students' Constitution and will prevent this from ever being the case again.

1. General Standards

SRC members are expected to act and perform in accordance to Sections 2.1 through 2.3 of the SRC Code of Conduct.

	Surpasses Expectations	Acceptable	Needs improvement	Unacceptable
Attitude	Performance well beyond the call of duty	Performs in the spirit of the SRC mission and vision	Performs only when required	Perform duties with an undesirable attitude
Role Performance	Performs all duties with autonomy and actively seeks additional role related involvement.	Performs all agreed duties of the portfolio and any additional tasks agreed upon	Performs only the requirements of their mandate	Does not complete all required work
Team Performance	Works well in a team, leading and facilitating	Performs well with cohesion with the team	Involvement low and with poor team spirit	No involvement or camaraderie

2. Internal SRC Expectations

SRC members are expected to meet the standards of general duties, set out of Section 2.5 of the SRC Code of Conduct.

	Surpasses Expectations	Acceptable	Needs improvement	Unacceptable
Internal Meeting Attendance	Attends all meetings	Attends 90% of meetings	Attends 80% of meetings	Less than 80% of meetings attended
Meeting conduct	Punctual, and adhering to Roberts rules of order	Mostly punctual, and adhering to Roberts rules of order	Occasionally tardy, and lacking order	Often late, or severely lacking the ability to stay orderly
Office Attendance	Is in the office on average four days a week	Goes to the office three times a week	Goes to the office less than three times a week	Office attendance significantly less than suggested three times a week
Communication	Communicates frequently with the rest of the team	Communicates acceptably with the team	Corresponds infrequently	Never or seldom communicates

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SRC
2006

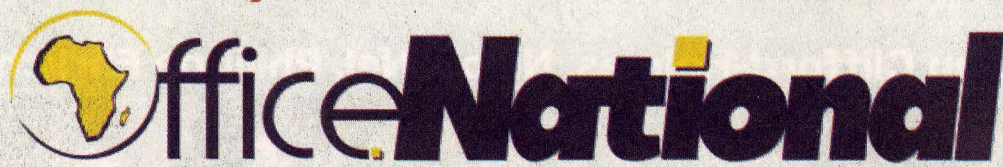
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Rhodes students have been kept extremely busy with the huge number of Society Cheese and Wines taking place over the last few weeks. We grabbed photos at a few events to see why they are so popular!

pics by: Anwen Evans, Lauren Clifford-Holmes, Nicola Nel, Philippa Ehrlich & Renatae Abrahamse



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Rhodes rugby tackles new challenges

■ Scott Reinders

This year is looking to be a good one for Rhodes rugby, as the season got off to a promising start. On Saturday, March 11, the under-21 A side beat the East London Police squad quite convincingly. This was followed by a further win over Border Tech the following weekend. The open side, fondly dubbed the Old Bulls, played their first game on Saturday, March 18, against a touring team from Cedara in KwaZulu-Natal. The nail-biting 19-18 encounter went the way of the Old Bulls, who sent the Cedara team packing.

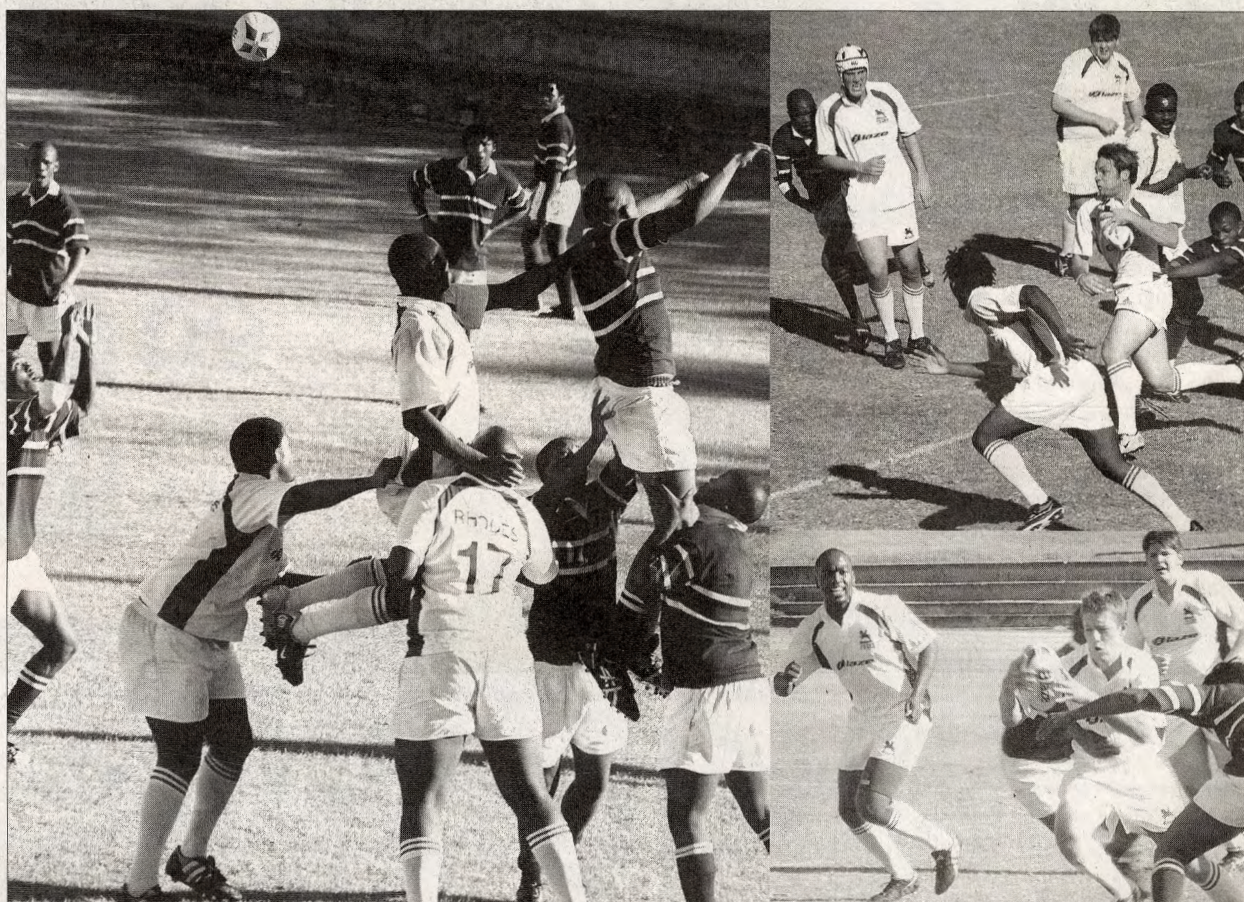
These three wins are not all the Rhodes rugby union has to be proud of, as they are also celebrating the merging of the women's touch rugby club with the Rhodes rugby club. Touch rugby is more popular than ever, and the team has over one hundred members this year. Watching the women's electrifying style of rugby, it seems certain that they will do well. The first team already has a tour lined up for later this year.

On the men's front, the club is working on its development programme. Coaching is underway at the Ntaba Maria School and a large number of

teams are expected to emerge from there this year.

Chairman of Rhodes rugby, Nick Barrow, had this to say about the year ahead: "The rugby committee is aiming to set a far more stable base this year and try to keep people enjoying their rugby and attending practices."

The club also welcomes two new coaches, Lwazi Mzozoyana and Sandile Ngcese. "We are looking to make Rhodes rugby more of a professional outfit," says Mzozoyana. There are a number of new and exciting players this year, with a good few of them emerging from the Coca-Cola Craven Week. We can expect some fantastic play with a shared passion from players and coaches alike. "We play for the Rhodes badge," says Ngcese with pride. The atmosphere in the rugby club is positive. The players are enjoying themselves while still playing a brand of rugby which they hope to develop under the new coaching staff. With the help of two personal trainers, the under-21 A side has begun a rigorous gym schedule by which they hope to become bigger, faster all-round rugby machines for the coming season.



Rhodes rugby on the charge

■ Dan Calderwood and Siphos Kings

Flying high in Mullins Hall

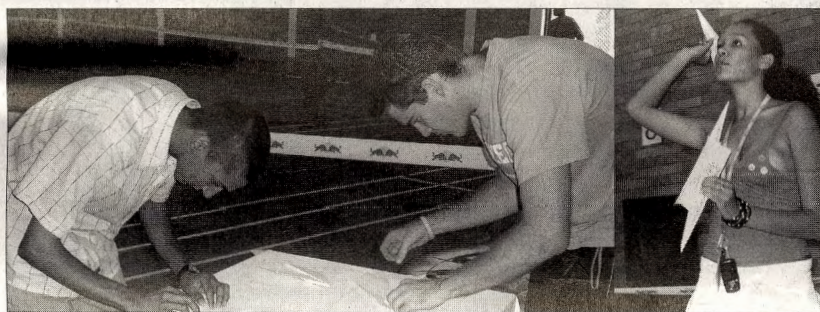
■ Azwihangwisi Mufamadi and Adam Wakefield

A plane soars through the air, gliding gracefully. As it lands, there is a shout of glee from the crowd.

No, this is not an international air show. It's the Red Bull Paper Wings competition that took place in the Alec Mullins sports hall on Saturday, March 18. The event was divided into three categories: the long-distance throw, the longest flight time and lastly, aerobatics.

"Three winners from Rhodes University will go to Johannesburg on an all-expenses-paid trip, where they will compete against other winners from seven South African universities," says Tyne Lankwarden, the Johannesburg Red Bull brand manager. She said she was delighted to be at Rhodes University.

The other universities that will feature in the Johannesburg competition will be UKZN, Tukkies, Stellenbosch, UJ, Wits and UCT. The overall winners of this competition will compete in Austria, where the winners will be



Pilots construct their aircrafts

■ Michelle Solomon

crowned international Red Bull Paper Wings champions.

The atmosphere in Mullins was festive as James Spiers started the competition with a flight of 6m in the long-distance event. Over the course of the afternoon, over 50 competitors threw more than 150 paper planes, trying their best to win the opportunity to represent Rhodes in Johannesburg. Red Bulls were consumed at the same rate as beers in the Rat & Parrot on a Friday night.

Eventually the dust settled and the energising effects of the Red Bull

wore off. Rhodes had found its three winners. In the longest distance category, Rhett Quinn booked his ticket to Johannesburg with an impressive distance of 29,8m.

Darryn Pollock, who was decorated with Red Bull ribbons, won the longest flight time award with a toss lasting 4,97 seconds, while Agnes Kanengoni spun her way to victory in the aerobatics category with an average score of 4,4.

All the winners will be leaving for Johannesburg on Thursday, April 13. Let's hope they fly to victory.

Did you say men's netball? No skirts for these men

■ Thobani Mesani

Men's netball at Rhodes started in 2004 when some men joined the internal league hosted by the Rhodes Netball Club. Men were invited to join the club the following year.

The men's team participates in the Eastern Province (EP) League, playing home and away games. Although they lost three out of four matches, two of their players were selected to play for the EP men's netball team. But only one of the two, Adrian Abrahams, actually played with the team. The other, Lunga Dikana, was unable to participate due to other commitments.

Many people on campus cannot understand why men would play netball, and some ask why they don't play basketball instead. "You do get criticised and given bad names. This hadn't happened to me but to some other guys in the team," said Abrahams. When asked why he plays netball, Abrahams says "I always watched netball on TV and I played it

mentally. Then I just told myself that I should start playing it physically and look, now I play for the EP team."

The men practise together with the women's teams. This is not ideal for them because then they have to do training suited to women. This becomes a problem when they play against other men, who have a different style to women. They played in a tournament in Port Elizabeth on Saturday, March 11, where they dominated both of their games and took home the trophy. Both of their games in the tournament were against a PE team called Malherbe. Rhodes beat them 10-3 in the first match, and 13-11 in the second match.

The team went to PE again on Saturday, March 18, but two of their best players didn't arrive, so unfortunately they were beaten. One of the two games they lost was against Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU).

Some NMMU players also joined the Malherbe team.

Athletics 24 hour walk/run or whatever



The Rhodes Athletics Club's 24 hour walk/run was a successful charity event. All proceeds went towards the SPCA. Throughout the night students ran, walked and sometimes crawled. The event was most enjoyable, with several inebriated athletes running in the early hours.

■ Anwen Evans and Stacey Nel

From left field



■ Tim Hancox

At this time of year Rhodes rugby fans can be found watching the Super 14 at ungodly hours. Saturday mornings can be tough after a big night out, as the die-hard fan drags himself out of bed for an Australasian game. I planted myself at one of the local watering holes for the weekend's games.

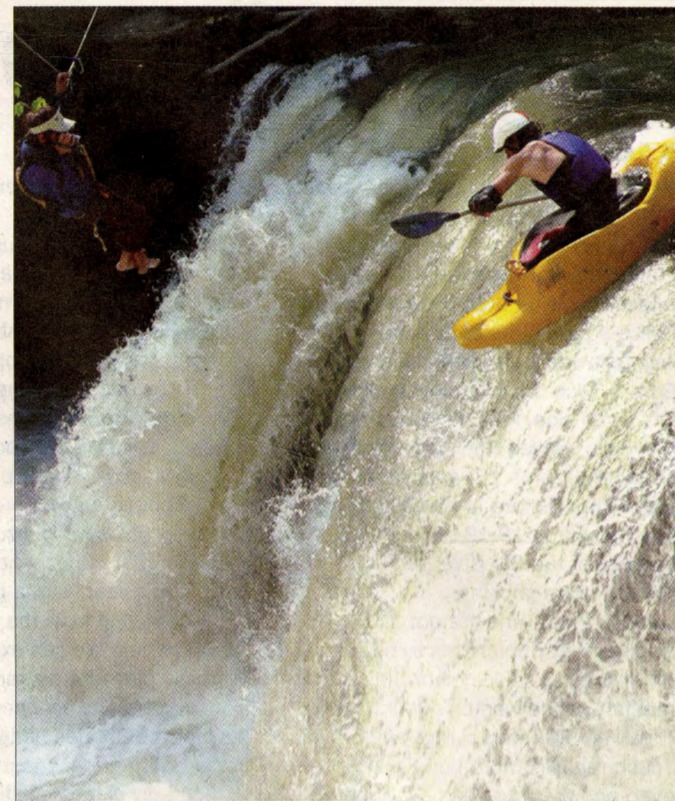
All the early morning efforts can be in vain, as the South African teams fail away from home more often than not. In the pub there are also the much-ridiculed fair-weather fans, for whom watching the likes of the Cats goes beyond the call of duty.

The SA rugby fan is one of the most entertaining creatures one could ever wish to meet. I sat next to an enthusiastic fan to watch the Cats play the Highlanders. As expected, the game resembled an under-16 team playing the first XV. The Cats players looked like they had only just met their teammates moments before the game and lacked any kind of continuity. I was bewildered to hear my neighbour shout "the referee must be blind," after a blatant error. This comment could have made the most enthusiastic ref-bashers blush. The more the Cats fumbled about wasting great chances, the more animated the man became. Later, the referee humanely blew the final whistle to put the Cats out of their misery. After that dismal performance, I prepared to watch the Bulls who were about to play the newly-formed Western Force.

The Perth-based outfit have been the whipping boys in this year's competition. I was amused when I noticed the same fan was once again seated near me. There were, I might add, several empty beer glasses at his table. To the delight of the entire pub, the Bulls dominated the game. At the end of their 30-21 victory the most bizarre things happened. The vocal supporter removed his shirt, jumped up on the table and shouted "Take that, you sheep-shaggers!" To my horror, he then hugged me and said "That's what boereiseuns do to convicts." Rhodes fans certainly know how to celebrate. Even my beer tasted better.



Craig Rivett and Scott Reinders doing what they love. Very brave, or completely mad?



■ Nico Chassing (left) and pic supplied (right)

Kayaking adrenalin

■ Robbie White

Two new Rhodents, Craig Rivett and Scott Reinders, are caught up in today's ever-increasing obsession with extreme sports. They are two of South Africa's top kayakers and are already trying to introduce their hair-raising sport to what they hope will be a receptive audience.

On first meeting Rivett and Reinders, one would view them as pretty relaxed people. Both are talkative and well-mannered. Their everyday lives seem fairly normal, but their hearts' passion is anything but ordinary. Simply put, these two love to make fifteen-metre drops and perform huge mid-air tricks on their kayaks. These exploits have turned them into extreme kayakers.

Most people can't imagine doing moves such as cartwheels or end-over flips on a kayak, but Rivett and Reinders assure me that these tricks are old news in the kayaking book. "New ideas are being created daily," Rivett tells me. The thrill of being launched into the air and spun in every direction imaginable may appeal more to adrenaline junkies than those of us who are less courageous. However, even for the faint-hearted it is an enjoyable sport. After

watching footage of both Rivett's and Reinders' recent expeditions to the Zambezi River, I could only stare and utter the occasional "ouch". Seeing Rivett being churned around Thrombosis Gorge in KwaZulu-Natal, an act which Reinder's describes as being "the scariest moment on a river", made me realise the severity of this sport. As Reinders and Rivett use the words "helix" and "blunts" to describe the rerun of the tricks, I question their sanity, but somehow find myself attracted to their sport.

Although the two assure me the various runs one can take on a river vary from grade one to grade six on a scale of difficulty, I somehow feel travelling with these two does not involve many grade ones. They educate me on the separation between freestyle kayaking, a form of trick kayaking, and extreme kayaking, which involves feats such as paddling down rocky gorges. Both kayakers found themselves on the water daily from an early age. They have both become not only international athletes, but also kayaking dealers for their sponsors, Fluid Kayaks. They are currently part of the Rhodes canoeing club, but are in the process of creating a club



■ Mike Pennefather

entirely focused on kayaking, especially the extreme aspects of it. For now they continue to be busy on the water, but are more than willing to help those interested in joining their sport. Their plans for this year include an expedition to the Wild Coast and another crazy trip to the Zambezi. Reinders hopes he can get some valuable footage from these expeditions which he can use to make a film based on kayaking, through his own business, S&M Productions.

These two have brought a fresh sport to Rhodes, which offers a whole new level of exhilaration to students. It seems likely that the sport could become popular here.

What they've done...

Craig Rivett

2003: Placed 32nd Junior at the World Champs, Austria. Was the youngest competitor at the Nile Freestyle Festival in Uganda. [Placed fifth]

2004: Placed 10th Junior at the International Champs, Australia. Part of the team that made the first descent of Grosse River, Australia. **2005:** Placed 52nd Senior at the World Champs, Australia. Part of the first Freestyle Kayaking team to be awarded full SA colours. Won the Big Air Competition in the Zambezi Festival, placed sixth in main event.

Scott Reinders

2003: Placed first at SA Champs. Placed first Junior at the Clarens Cold Water Classic. **2004:** Placed second at the Thrombie Extreme Race. **2005:** Co-organised the first annual Zambezi festival. Paddled snow-melt in Quebec. Worked as a river guide on the Zambezi.

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