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# Photojourn Scholarship

## ACTIVATE reporter

**THE** Department of Journalism and Media Studies has announced the launch of the new Smirnoff Photojournalism Scholarship. The scholarship is worth R1500 and is only available to Rhodes University Photojournalism students. The shortlisted applicants will have the task of photographing specific Smirnoff jazz functions for the first six days of the National Arts Festival held in Grahamstown in July.

On the sixth evening, the best work will be exhibited at the Crillion Hotel, the new "home" of Smirnoff at the Festival. A panel of four judges will then select the winner, who will be awarded the scholarship. In addition to the main award, the sponsors have agreed to award a further R1500 to the winner in the form of a photographic contract to shoot the rest of the Festival. The department wants to thank Mr. Eddie Cassar from Smirnoff for his support and sponsorship, and wish all applicants the best of luck.

# Human Rights Day

## Francoise Gallet

**MARCH, 21**, previously known as Sharpeville Day by all South Africans has been renamed Human Rights Day. Students, led by the various Human Rights groups on campus: Amnesty International (AI), SASCO and Rhodes SRC actively celebrated in recognition of human rights. The day consisted of a letter writing campaign run by AI and culminated in an enthusiastic celebration that evening.

AI, a world-wide non-government organisation strives to uphold fundamental human rights and prevent government violation of these rights. The letter writing campaign was aimed at obtaining signatories for a letter to president Danuelarap Moi of Kenya. Josephine Nyawara Ngeni, a member of a non-violent campaigning group called "Release Political Prisoners", had been held illegally for 22 days before release. She and 18 others have subsequently been re-arrested and are awaiting trial. AI is concerned that the charges against them may have been fabricated and that they may have been tortured. The signatories of the letter thus appealed to Moi to use his influence to rectify the situation. According to AI the letter writing campaign went extremely well and they were pleased to note that the students took a keen interest in the situation they were signing against.

The evenings celebrations comprised of speeches, songs, dance and music in true African spirit. AI

spokesperson, Tumi Mosathoane, reminded us that humans rights are indeed women's rights (the theme for AI this year). General secretary of the SRC, Pam Ntshanga, also emphasized this in her speech while SASCO called for a solemn remembrance and respect for those who had died fighting for our human rights. Guest speaker Pastor Nigel Desmond spoke with great fervour and emotion. He declared that our rights are "God given" and that no government has the right to take them away. He said the government must be there to protect these rights and that we cannot allow a doctrine which would make some less free than others. He also said, "Rights also mean a responsibility. As a nation we must think of our rights and responsibilities in equal terms. We need to build a nation that is strong, prosperous and free."

The spirit of the evening was enhanced by the moving and enchanting singing of both Voice of Glory and Creative Arts. While Zicusa, in true African fashion, set our feet beating to their lively music. Although the evening was somewhat disorganised, the spirit was alive and fervent. It came from South Africans who knew the chains of domination and the joy of freedom. There was an overwhelming sense that the students not only appreciated but relished the idea of human rights and wanted to see a new South Africa built on that principle. That, in itself, was the essence of the evening and if that spirit can motivate our people then we will go far as a nation.

# Pharmacy Success



Students wait their turn to be tested at Pharmacy Day on Kaif Lawns

Pic: Indressa Naidoo

## Indressa Naidoo

**PHARMACY** day, held on Kaif lawns last Friday was "a huge success," said chairperson of Rhodes University Pharmacy Student Association, Wendy Meyers. She said the aim of holding such a day was to "promote pharmacy on campus while allowing them to practice the skills they are going to use in the future."

Pharmacy students, working in

shifts, took blood pressure and blood sugar readings, gave eye tests and worked out body-mass indices. "It was enjoyable and we had a great response from students," said a PharmIII student, Reshma Thakur, "people are actually getting something out of it!"

Efzal Ismail, BPharmIII, working with Reshma said, "It is also a good experience for us pharmacy students."

An anonymous BCommII student,

waiting to take an eye test said that pharmacy day was "an excellent idea - at least you'll know if you're still living."

Another student who took most of the tests, Philippa Kay, BAII, said she had never taken any of the tests before and "these are things you need to know about yourself, and we rarely do."

Peter Menezes, BSocSci III, said, "It's nice that these tests are being offered on campus. Pharmacy day should happen here more often."

# Nehawu 1995

## Karuna Gopal

**NEHAWU'S** goal for 1995 is to "educate our members on the processes and issues that affect them regarding transformation at Rhodes University," said Nehawu chairperson, Xhanti "Norris" Nojoko.

The Union's goals were set out at its annual workshop, held in the Resource Centre last Wednesday. The purpose of this year's workshop was to "try and elevate Nehawu to be

on par with transformation in the rest of the university," Nojoko said. He added that Nehawu fully supports transformation but its participation in the process itself is not visible because the process is "very fast and very confusing". "We are inside the train but are not able to catch up with the issues," said Nojoko. He emphasised that Nehawu need to "educate people to arm themselves in order to participate fully in transformation". Commenting on Nehawu's low profile at Rhodes last year, after the

strikes of 1993, Nojoko said 1994 was an historical year because of the national elections. "Workers were not sure what their role was - they were victims of transition. We now need to step back and assess our position in order to advance again." Nojoko does not anticipate any mass action on Nehawu's part this year. "Embarking on industrial action this year depends on the annual negotiations between Nehawu and Admin," he said, adding that "it is not worth embarking on industrial action until workers are educated".

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# New Registrar

Indressa Naidoo

**PRESENT** Director of the Rhodes East London Division, Steve Fourie, has been named as our new registrar but the process of his selection may still be in question.

SRC president, Kim Jurgenson said, "Initially the selection process was confusing and unclear.

"Rusa (Rhodes University Staff Association) at the first meeting was unhappy. We were also unhappy at first - we didn't want to be part of a process that no-one was sure about."

She said the SRC and Rusa eventually held a meeting with the selection committee.

"To accommodate us, they let three of us go through all the applications and candidates. It worked out best for everyone."

However this is not necessarily the case. Some have questioned the legitimacy of the appointment of Steve Fourie on behalf of the Rhodes Council because the full compliment of council has not held a sitting to discuss the new registrar.

"The application is questionable in constitutional terms," says Sociology lecturer Colm Allan, "given that it didn't go before a full sitting of the Council. The question is who takes the final responsibility for making these appointments. If the same people who set up the selection committee make the final decision, then why don't they just dispose of with the selection process in the first place.

"An unrepresentative selection committee, an untransparent process - another nod and a wink appointment by the old guard," concludes Allan.

•see centre spread

# From victim to leader

*From victim to leader: Mzukisi Mphahlwa speaks to ACTIVATE reporters Jonathan Aker & Sarah Skinner.*

**THE** office is big and light, high ceilings and lots of suits with pressed white shirts and 'sunshine' ties. "Morning comrade" was our first introduction to Mzukisi Mphahlwa as he greeted a fellow 'civics' man, a moustached Afrikaner. They both chuckled loudly and shook hands.

This was an ironic setting to Mphahlwa's story of harassment by the security forces which began 13 years ago and ended with his election to public office as chairperson of the Transitional Local Council (TLC). This is the equivalent of Mayor of Grahamstown.

"We were victims," Mphahlwa said as he described the loss of his matric year in 1976.

**"I am friendly with Colonel Meister, the man responsible for my arrest."**

His activities for change started in 1982 while he was studying for an education degree at the University of Zululand. He became involved with the Azanian Students Organisation (Azaso) which was aligned to the ANC and involved in campaigning for basic student issues.

His activities also revolved around building an organisation opposed to

the domination of Inkatha within the University. This resulted in his first detention, a verbal questioning by the police for six hours before he was released. During his third year, he was finally expelled from campus.

Mphahlwa then taught at Umfundweni School in Grahamstown and became involved with NUSTE (National Union of School Teachers), which was also ANC-aligned. This resulted in further visits from the security forces, and his dismissal from the school.

**During his third year he was finally expelled from campus**

As 1985 drew closer and the rise of tension and oppression grew stronger, Mphahlwa went into hiding. When asked what going into hiding meant, he smiled shyly and said "never staying too long in any one friend's house in Grahamstown". This lasted from April to December 1986, so we concluded this man must have a great number of friends. The security police finally caught up with him and he was detained on December 9, 1986. "I suspect that someone must have informed on me. I think I was tapped and followed. They [the police] came right to where I was hiding."

Mphahlwa remained at St Albans prison in Port Elizabeth, where he was detained without trial for the rest of 1987.

A room the size of a large sitting room with 40 foam "beds" became his home. He gave a description of an average day during his detention. 5am... lights on... music and a bell ringing and then it was bread and jam, porridge and "not so white coffee" for breakfast. One hour of exercise, 12pm lunch of samp decorated with dried fruit "which looked like a cherry!" says Mphahlwa. Supper at 3pm and back to the cell. Ten hours to do what?

"To wait for five am... lights on...". Time in the cell developed into a highly organised network with 'reps' for everything. The food reps would taste the meals and decide if the others should eat that night.

The political reps fuelled discussions and debate. Ironically the South African Police provided the prisoners with the unique opportunity to join forces and plan, right under their noses, for the new South Africa.

**"Perhaps they thought I had finally learnt my lesson"**

Mphahlwa was released in 1988 and remarked thoughtfully: "Perhaps they thought I had learnt my lesson!"

After his release, he joined the South African Communist Party and was involved in a negotiating forum set up in Grahamstown. His involvement in local politics led to his appointment as chairperson of the TLC.

He bears no grudges against his detainers and says: "I am friendly with Colonel Meister, the man responsible for my arrest. But we leave the discussion of my detention out of our conversations".

Mphahlwa is not alone in his type of

**"Grahamstown is a sort of model that the nation is looking at"**

experience. Speaking about the proposed Truth and Reconciliation Commission, he poses the rhetorical question: "How can generations of black South Africans be compensated for spending time in jail?" Stressing that there were different degrees of intensity of the violence experienced, he said only those people maimed and families of people killed need to tell their stories to the Commission.

"Children need to know what happened to their parents, and those who are personally responsible for brutal actions must be brought to book".

And rumours of the continuing violence in South African jails? Mphahlwa said his gut feeling was that Grahamstown was trying to move that extra mile, for example the public were asked to visit prison cells to check conditions "Grahamstown is a sort of model that the nation is looking at".

Mphahlwa has returned to being a student at Rhodes and when he is not being the "Mayor" he is reading for a Diploma in International Relations.

# pussycats sex troupe

Roy McKenzie & Ilja Graulich

**IF** you haven't heard of the Pussycats yet, don't worry because they (and pornography) are going to be here for a while, says their "tall, dark, well hung stallion" leader, "Ivan the Terrible".

The well timed arrival of the Pussycats sex troupe in laid-back Grahamstown earlier this month came amidst well publicised controversy over pornography in the city. A conservative women's group, Women Aglow, were calling for the immediate removal of pornographic material from Grahamstown shops. These calls coincided with leaflets and flyers being placed on wind-screens and walls, advertising "hot sexy lusty ladies, girl-on-girl live shows, 3-sums and couples", all on standby, 24 hours a day.

When phoned by ACTIVATE, Ivan was reluctant to speak to the press

following the "bad" publicity they had recently received.

He did not elaborate on his whereabouts but assured potential customers that "people who are looking for us will find us".

They operate from a cellular phone and with Grahamstown's limited range, they are obviously located somewhere nearby. Ivan said they have had a "good response" here.

"We are strictly confidential and try to be very discreet", he said. The Pussycats are also "very AIDS conscious and have regular checks".

Asked whether they are going to establish a permanent base here, Ivan was very non committal, only saying that they are a travelling group and that "a rolling stone gathers no moss".

Ivan admits to making a "good living" and added: "If we weren't,

we wouldn't be here".

The biggest opposition to the Pussycats' presence in Grahamstown comes from Women Aglow.

The Christian-based group's spokesperson, Mary Truscott, told ACTIVATE she felt "very sorry for the girls selling their bodies", not only in pornographic magazines but also for those currently working as Pussycats.

Shoprite/Checkers recently removed all pornographic material from their display shelves following pressure from the group.

A letter commending their action was distributed to local news agents and cafes, encouraging them to follow suit. The letter included statistics and "facts" about the alleged effects of pornography.

She said they "achieved an 80 percent success rate" with this letter,

except in the case of CNA. But closer investigation revealed these figures to be exaggerated.

Grocott's and Avalon's were the only shops visited that were no longer selling pornographic material. Avalon's management said they had taken this decision independently.

Paula's owner, Achilles Phieros, said he felt the whole debate was "absolutely pathetic" and that he had a constitutional right to sell it as much as people had the right to buy it.

He also found it ironic that a lot of women who complain about the degrading nature of "girlie" magazines were the ones who bought issues of "Playgirl".

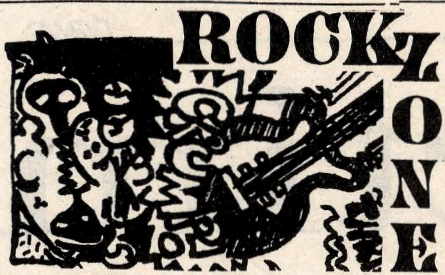
Bambi's still sold these magazines because "at the end of the day one has to make money", the owner said,

even though she saw them as "disgusting".

Wellington's and Naran's Fresh Produce also continue to sell them. Even University Publishers and Booksellers, after being "raided" following complaints that magazines were on display without their plastic covers, were still selling these, now strategically relocated to the counter in order to keep stricter control of them. Agnes Bean of UPB said "the whole situation had been blown out of proportion by the EP Herald and it was angled that this shop only sold pornography". She has even been called "Porno Queen" by certain academics.

With the constitutional debate about freedom of expression and information hotting up, it remains to be seen whether Women Aglow's campaign will be heeded.





VAN HALEN have never really hit it big in South Africa, and one wonders why a band of such legendary status are mainly known for their pop-hit *Jump* released over ten years ago. Overseas, they are demi-gods in the world of rock, surviving the transition from glam to grunge, from grunge to melodic pop.

Their new album, *BALANCE*, is both a testament of their staying power, but also a sign that in order to maintain their innovative style, something different is desperately needed.

Produced by Bruce Fairbairn (*AEROSMITH* and *BON JOVI*), *BALANCE* is essentially a musician's album, exhibiting VAN HALEN's remarkable dexterity and musical timing. The guys have been playing together for nearly 18 years, and of course, the brothers, Eddie and Alex, basically mindread each other to give the songs an unbelievable tightness. This is not raw sound, this is musicianship at its best.

*BALANCE* contains a fair mixture of hard rock, pop and even experimental music. *Strung out* is an instrumental that sounds like John Cage going ballistic. It was actually recorded inside a piano, using cutlery and tools. *Seventh Seal* utilises monk chants, and is classic VH. The most obvious single is *Can't stop loving you* which is bound to get some local airplay, and is indeed very listenable. The rest of the album is very solid, although few tracks rise above mediocrity. As far as guitar is concerned, Eddie is still king. Using a cleaner, electric sound, he is true maestro of the instrument, even though he never bothered to learn how to read music. "People tell me I use the pentatonic scale. To me, I have 12 fuckin' notes and I just mix them up" Eddie recently said. An incredible drum solo on the instrumental is definitely worth checking out and Alex Van Halen is still one of the most

underrated drummers around.

VAN HALEN are following on the enormous success of their previous album *For Unlawful Carnal Knowledge*. (Nice abbreviation) They have changed their image from wild rockers to a more laid-back, classy style. However, with the current direction that rock is heading these days, one can understand why the album has been panned by overseas critics. It's nothing new. However, why should they change if it still works? If you are a VAN HALEN fan, or someone who appreciates genius musicianship, the spend that student loan. Otherwise, invest in their last album first, it says and does it much better.

*CANDLEBOX* were voted best new band in 1994 by several music mags, above the likes of *GREEN DAY* and *OFFSPRING*. Why they haven't exploded in this country is typical. (It took *PEARL JAM* years) *CANDLEBOX* a second generation Seattle band and grew up watching *GREEN RIVER* and *NIRVANA* playing in their clubs. As a result, they display definite grunge characteristics but also breathe some fresh air into the overly-hyped scene. Their self-titled debut album has sold millions, with their single *Far Behind* being a top 10 hit around the world. (Even Barney played it a couple of times) They played Woodstock and have toured with the likes of *RUSH*, *METALLICA* and *AEROSMITH*. Vocalist Kevin Martin says "PEARL JAM, *SOUNDGARDEN* and *NIRVANA* are great bands. They changed rock from that stupid, cheeseball, glam-rock, big-hair spandex crap to what it is now." This is precisely what *CANDLEBOX* show in their music. No image, just emotion and raw honesty. The songs are lyrically intensive; these guys have a lot on their minds. The track *You* is a powerful statement against chemical abuse and *Change* has some great riffs. Of course, *Far Behind* stands out, progressing from a soft-ballad to a distorted symphony of guitar. *CANDLEBOX* may be destined to slip past this country with other ignored bands like *QUEENRYCHE*, *TOOL* and *DANZIG* but if you are looking for some excellent rock and all-round excellent album, give it a listen. Rob Kalmek.

# 10 years ago

Imagine this: A mass gathering of students mobilised in fierce protest against an oppressive regime to fight for their basic rights. A Rhodes journalism student is assaulted after he is mistaken for an informant. And a half naked body in a laundry trolley in the Milner Common room.

**Matthew Buckland** dusts off a couple of old RHODEO'S to bring you news of the past.

## Student Power!

AFRICAN pharmacy students achieved a major victory after their demands were unconditionally accepted by the Vice-Chancellor, reports Rhodéo. Among the demands were that the VC write a letter to the Ministry of Education and Culture condemning a permit system required for African pharmacy students, and that the academic point system be reviewed and revised. The Black Students Movement (BSM) had threatened to boycott Kaif and the Union, and write letters to universities in Europe and America telling them to ban Pharmacy lecturers from attending conferences or taking sabbatical leave at these universities if their demands were not met.

## RAG debauchery

A crowd of students viciously turned on a fellow student in possession of a video camera at a RAG braai, accusing him of "setting up" a tear gas attack for the police. The student and ex WEEKLY MAIL

photographer Steven Hilton-Barber, was filming the RAG gathering as part of his Journalism III course when a group of inebriated students apparently began assaulting him and threatening to take his life thinking that he was a police informant.

"I detest being a victim of drunken hysteria and unfortunately feel this is indicative of naïve societal conformatism," he said.

## Hey Bra!

AS part of a res prank "to raise res spirit", various students from Cullen Bowles house launched an all out campaign to steal brazziers from the unsuspecting members of Atherstone house. Apparently one of the Cullen Bowles culprits tried to return one of the bras to a friend of his at Atherstone, and was forced by his own res to attend a "residence trial". Sentence was passed and he was stripped down to his underpants, stuffed into a laundry trolley and wheeled into the Milner common room.

# electronic mail

Michelle Lentin & Tammy Lloyd

"SNAIL mail" is a thing of the past. Electronic mail (E-mail) is the fastest, cheapest and most convenient way of contacting anyone anywhere in the world. All you need is a computer with a modem or a Rhodes computer login.

E-Mail is available free of charge to all Rhodes students and not only computer buffs taking Computer Science as a major. Tim Dore, of Computer Academic Support, says the university sets aside money each year for a subscription to UNINET ZA (University Network South Africa). This

connects all universities and tertiary institutions to the Internet (International Network) and allows Rhodes to use e-mail, network news and other facilities available from the Internet. Getting connected is as simple as filling in a form.

Dore says that using e-mail lets people from around the globe get in touch instantly. A student working in Grahamstown can send questions to a researcher in another continent and receive a direct answer within hours.

Dore cautioned that e-mail can be abused. It has happened at Rhodes, mainly with people sending offensive mail through other people's accounts.

Sources in the Computer Science department have indicated the someone broke into lecturers' accounts last year and sent students messages that their DP's had been revoked.

This is taken quite seriously by the Computer Science department. The suspected student has been threatened with disciplinary action, and may escape suspension because of a lack of hard evidence.

Privacy on e-mail is limited, and students are warned against sending highly sensitive messages or giving anyone else their computer password.

"You cannot depend on the recipient being the only person to read what you have written," according to an article in "Internet And Comms Today" (I&CT), a magazine dealing with computer communications.

In "the secret life of e-mail", I&CT writer Darren Irvine gives the example of Mathew M. Thomas, a 19-year old who received a five year prison sentence and \$250,000 fine on January 21 this year for sending threatening e-mail to USA President Bill Clinton. Thomas was caught despite using someone else's name, date of birth and social security number to gain access to a university computer.



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# Old Guard Resist Democracy

*Sociology lecturer and convenor on governance and accountability within the Forum for the Democratic Transformation of Rhodes, Colm Allan, reveals the "naked truth of the disbanded VC selection process".*

THE interventions of the Rhodes Council are responsible for the disbanding of the recent Vice-Chancellor selection process. The acrimonious shambles to which the process was eventually reduced illustrates the incompatibility of their old boys network style of management with the demands of transparency and accountability within the new South Africa. The rest of the world may well live in an age of enlightened management practice but the Rhodes University Council is still shackled to the old nod-and-a-wink mode of making appointments.

The Executive of the University Council, (the standard bearers of the Rhodes Old Guard), clearly have little notion of the political changes that have swept our country. Their insular and conservative views were forged during the era of high apartheid and have not changed since.

Had the Old Guard got their way, the whole process of securing a new VC would have been a lot less problematic. Put bluntly, this is because there would not have been a selection process. An unrepresentative committee would have sat behind closed doors and ratified the choice of their preferred candidate Professor David Woods (the present Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cape Town). Toward this end, the University Senate, in October last year,

## *"Average academic" and "poor presser of the flesh"*

voted 31 to 12 in favour of a secret selection process. Professor Woods was subsequently invited down to Grahamstown, entertained at Dr Henderson's residence and introduced as heir apparent to a management committee of the University. Significantly, all of this took place prior to the first sitting of the selection committee. This attempt to preordain the next leader of Rhodes was only thwarted with the intervention of the Forum for the Democratic Transformation of Rhodes (FDTR). The FDTR argued for the ethical necessity of a transparent and representative process. After a number of meetings with members of the executive of Council the principal of a democratic process was agreed to. Broader community representation on the selection committee was also conceded. The leadership of the University at this stage looked as if they were about to open their arms and embrace the new South Africa. The first representative selection committee in the history of Rhodes had been constituted.

This air of optimism did not last long. The Old Guard set in motion a welter of machinations that subverted any prospect of a democratic and dignified contest. Despite prior assurances that he would not involve himself in the process the outgoing VC, Dr Derek Henderson, appeared before the selection committee during the initial shortlisting of candidates. He sought to

provide a personal assessment of his potential successors. In doing so he focused his criticisms on one particular candidate, his own Vice-Principal, Dr Michael Smout, and his wife. He suggested that Dr Smout was an "average academic", a poor 'presser of the flesh' and not a credible candidate. Dr Smout's wife, he opined, was not capable of entertaining the goodly dignitaries

## *Three good old boys were somewhat arbitrarily procured*

that VC's get to rub shoulders with. He openly endorsed Professor David Woods (and, for that matter, his wife). In his view there was "clear daylight" between Woods and the other candidates.

Despite Henderson's interventions, Dr Smout was placed on a final shortlist of three candidates. He joined the much feted Professor Woods and a rank outsider from Wits University, Professor Eddie Webster. Few members of the newly representative selection committee were impressed by Dr Henderson's efforts to influence the outcome of the process. Most seemed to recognise that the future of Rhodes depends on choosing the right leader at this critical juncture in the University's history.

The FDTR proposed that the prospective candidate for VC should not only have the moral capacity to unify the campus, but some vision for the future of Rhodes. This vision, they proposed, should include the University contributing to the educational upliftment of the broader community. Professor Webster's public utterances seemed to coincide with this view. A straw vote (taken during the final shortlisting of candidates) demonstrated that at least half of the committee might be prepared to convert this vision into a reality by voting for Webster. His vision was clearly antithetical to the mythical 'Oxford in the bush' view of Rhodes so dear to the hearts of the Old Guard.

Council's original intention was to install their candidate by the 9th of December. This rushed timetable meant that students, preoccupied with their exams would be unable to participate in the selection process. The FDTR forced the final decision to be postponed until February when the students had returned. This delay signalled to Council that their candidate could not be assured of getting the post. They responded by changing the rules of the selection process as it was about to come to a conclusion.

At Council's meeting of the 9th of December, its chairperson, (and self-appointed chair of the selection committee), Dr Brian La Trobe, launched into a stinging attack on the credibility of Professor Webster as a candidate. This outburst was calculated to prejudice Webster before the same body that would have the final say over his appointment. Having thus undermined one of the candidates the Executive of Council (through La Trobe) now moved to undermine the integrity of the selection committee itself. It withdrew the voting rights of the FDTR's four representatives. It also opted to load the composition of the selection committee decisively in favour of the Old Guard. An additional three good

old boys were somewhat arbitrarily procured and added onto the committee in time for its final meetings.

Council justified the removal of the FDTR's voting rights by claiming that it had serious doubts about the FDTR's democratic credentials. The constituent members of the FDTR were justifiably angered by the suspicious timing of Council's doubts. Nonetheless, they duly submitted their credentials to the selection committee despite the fact that the equivalent was neither sought, nor produced, by its other members.

In the interim, Council's interventions in the selection process had attracted the attention of the press. As a result of the public acrimony, firstly Professor Woods, and then Professor Webster, withdrew their applications. This left one candidate, Dr Smout. Although there was no longer a contest for the post he was prepared to forgo the ethical niceties that had eliminated his fellow contestants and exploit the opportunity of walking into the post of VC by default. Toward this end he readied himself to present a public talk in motivation of his candidacy on Friday, February, 24. The committee duly convened that Friday afternoon expanded by Council's additional three representatives. Given their previous preoccupation with denying the FDTR their voting rights the three newcomers seemed curiously devoid of democratic credentials. They were, in fact, little more than Rhodes Council's own production of the 'Three Stooges'.

Firstly, there was Dr Keith Hunt whose position on the selection committee as representative of the University administration, by his own admission, was finalised in Dr Henderson's office. He also just happened to be one of Dr Smout's referees. Next there was Mr Trevor Long, the supposed representative of all Grahamstown schools, excepting that eleven black school principals signed a letter to the effect that he had no mandate to represent them. Finally, the representative of the Grahamstown business community, Mr Niel Pike, not only failed to obtain a mandate from the Black Business Forum, but omitted to mention that (as of 1995) he no longer held a portfolio on the Grahamstown Chamber of Commerce.

Given the farce they had just staged, the Old Guard were in no mood to revisit a discussion on credentials. Dr La Trobe's response to those who attempted to reject

## *The process had been manipulated and deprived of credibility*

the packing of the committee was to 'sit down and shut up.' He quashed all debate from the chair. When the progressive representatives started to walk out he hastily closed the meeting. No decision regarding Dr Smout's candidacy had been taken by this stage and over half of the (original) selection committee now wanted the process stopped. The representative of the Provincial Government had come to the meeting with a strict mandate from the Minister not to vote, but to call for the whole process to be halted and restarted. As with the other protestors, however, Dr La Trobe refused him the right to speak.

Before the start of Dr Smout's public ad-

dress on Friday evening, Mr Mtwe Nkwinti, selection committee member and member of the Grahamstown TLC, attempted to redress this absence of free speech. Speaking on behalf of 10 members of the selection committee as well as 14 community, educational and student organisations, Mr Nkwinti pointed to the way in which the process had been manipulated and deprived of credibility.

He called for Dr Smout's support in having the process reconstituted. When Dr Smout got up to deliver his speech apparently undeterred, the progressive members on the selection committee left the hall in utter frustration. They were followed by over a third of the audience. Following their withdrawal students disrupted the talk in protest at not being allowed to debate the way in which the selection process had been manipulated and the committee members themselves prevented from debating Council's machinations.

At the following morning's meeting of the

## *Active participation in the university as a whole.*

selection committee it was unanimously decided to call for the process to be reconstituted. A special commission is presently investigating the composition of a new selection committee and the nature of the procedures to be followed within the reconstituted process.

Council should now do what should have been done in the first place and convene a fully inclusive and democratic selection committee with the confidence of all stake holders in the University. Their ill-judged interventions have already brought the good name of the University into disrepute and cost us the best potential leaders we were likely to attract. Their actions have deepened the present sense of crisis and division at Rhodes.

In order to unify the campus we need to transform the vision of Rhodes from its present obsession with going it alone and preserving a mythical past to a vision which embraces the socio-economic, geographic and temporal realities of the Eastern Cape, South Africa, and 1995. Constructing such a vision would require the active participation of the University as a whole. It would also entail engaging with the community at large to assess how we can contribute to the reconstruction and development of our country. We need to urgently address our collective social responsibilities.

In order for these things to happen Rhodes Council needs to signal its readiness to embrace the democratic ground rules which characterise social interaction in the 20th Century. Only then can they help to facilitate an inclusive and wide ranging debate around the pace and direction of change within Rhodes University. If such a debate is to take place, however, it will have to be critical in order to be constructive. We will have to dispense with the conventions of confidentiality and indiscretion that have so effectively immunised the Old Guard against criticism. If we are going to construct a culture of democratic practice at Rhodes then we need to realise just how far from this goal we are at present.



# Editorial

"Death to student apathy"

Activate - the independent newspaper of Rhodes University

Amidst ongoing cries for a transparent democratic selection process, Rhodes' new registrar was named early last week. However, the method of appointment is truly questionable. How was the final decision made when Council, who should be involved in the selection process, had not had a full sitting before the successful candidate was announced? Also, what was the selection criteria employed and who has the final say as to whom is put in any position of authority?

These questions require an immediate response but there seems to be a "matter of principle" and refusals to comment that have serious implications for Admin's accountability to the students - or does Admin think we have no role to play in transformation?

The recent and ongoing crises in tertiary education have been publicised in terms of protest and violence only. It is disappointing that the media has failed to focus on the fact that transformation is not an isolated process but an extension of the reconstruction and development process itself.

This has resulted in the view that students calling for transformation have irrational demands and demeans the role student action plays in the transition to democracy. Even students themselves, steeped in complacent attitudes and a deep-seated sense of apathy, fail to comprehend their role in nation-building.

This brings us back to Rhodes. Why are we not taking any form of action to dispute some of the decisions made about our future? Why do we sit back and let things take their course? Why do we not try to harness some of the intellectual energy that we possess and take a stand against those who disregard our right to improved university policies and a better education system for all?

It is always so much easier to sit back and criticise what others are trying to accomplish and belittle their attempts than to offer solutions of your own. Students must realise that the days of being lulled into a false sense of security are over. It is now time to Activate. There are only a few days left to register for the Local Government Elections in November. The need to register as soon as possible is imperative. Most people, especially students, seem unaware of the significance of these elections and how they can contribute to reconstruction and development. An important concern is why there is no registration point on campus or anywhere more accessible to students than City Hall? There is also insufficient media coverage and campaigning for these elections. Who would guess that a national election is about to happen?

Censorship has also been a high-profile issue of late with the police 'raid' on UPB and the demand that pornographic magazines be taken off bookstore shelves. We must be careful, when dealing with issues such as these, that we do not overlook the freedom of expression and the freedom of choice. With regards to pornography, critics should try to analyse the reasons why people look to make money from exploiting pornography and those who contribute to it. We were surprised that the South African Students Liberation

Organisation condoned pornography in their article to the Eastern Province Herald. They fail to address the issue of child pornography which is a bone of contention in the pornography debate.

We find it surprising to note that on a campus which is vastly arts-based, something as important as Ilitha, the Arts in Education Conference, has not been generating much interest. The conference will involve promoting the use of arts in education as innovative teaching methods to encourage creativity, freedom of thought and expression. It therefore deserves as much support and participation as it can get.

The recent removal of cycads from the Eastern Cape soil has emphasised the growing move away from conservation principles to an avid disregard of how the rape of our environment will impact on future generations. Activate endorses environmental awareness and the preservation of our natural heritage. Our new environment column (see page 10) highlights the importance of becoming environmentally aware and joining the green revolution.

Apathy thus appears to pervade all avenues of our lives and we need to shrug out of it and get involved in trying to make a better life for all.

## CREDITORIAL

Jonathan (I'm actually scared of most of my friends), Maria (Let's just stab him to the door), Michelle (Where do you want it Matthew?), Tess (you can put it in manually), Roy (Keep it in Tess, I know you can - I do it everyday), Karuna (I'm very specific about who I hand deliver), Swapna (I can't straighten it further than this), Matthew (I get a pain in my back), Taryn (The chickens were scrumptious, so was Fanie), Ferret (Hmm, mine's bigger than yours), Kearn and his armadillo, Robin Kelly and his stools, Sanja, Robin Kalmek (this isn't an Aunt Madge, hey!), Ilja and his feline fantasy, Craig, Claire (I never get anything next to it), Lauren, Hannah (I can't get it off), Michelle L, Marc and Gareth (We're coming again together), Dani (I know you want it), Ivan the terrible (Don't be nervous, Caryn a.k.a. Karuna), peanut butter, again, Nirvana, The phantom of the opera, RMR for their midnight mass, David Newton's tribute to Kurt No-Brain, drunken bums, union-ites, Bell's Skotch Frisco, canned corn and cigarettes, Anton Calitz, Pharmacy Day and everyone else we forgot about.



## Access to Computers

MAY I, through the medium of your newspaper, voice my dissatisfaction about the access to the computers and printers in the Struben Building.

Any frequent user would have noticed of late the enormous increase of users, particularly on nights and mornings before essays are due.

As we progress into the computer age with more and more people discovering all that the Internet has to offer, as well as more departments asking for essays and assignments to be typed, it has come to light that this university is in real need of more computers and printers, and that these must also be more accessible to students.

Any student who, hours away from the deadline, is met by a full computer lab and jammed printers as has happened to myself recently, can surely understand the frustration experienced.

What made the situation even worse recently, were the rude people working in that building, who closed the downstairs lab because it was "untidy". Okay, so maybe it was a mess after hundreds of frustrated and mainly computer-illiterate students were trying to print ten page essays on temperamental printers, but I am sure they could have found other means of punishment. A few people I know of eventually handed their work in late, losing valuable marks.

May I appeal to the university to rectify this situation.

Yours sincerely  
Frustrated

## Wits Defence Campaign

I would like to comment on the WITS "Defence Campaign" article in your last issue. The group of students who approached the Liberty Life "bureaucrat" to protest that Liberty Life's funds are being used to maintain "racist control over the university" have neglected a few important points. Surely Liberty Life has the right to use their funds as they wish? This protest sounds to me as if the students are biting a hand which is feeding them. A well organised protest should have made an appointment to speak with the relevant person to ensure that he had time to hear them out. I am sure that shouting at a donor can have no constructive effect.

I am glad that President Mandela called on university administrations to "crack down on unruly students". Perhaps the protestors could think of a more positive course of action than throwing litter on the floors of the buildings that they must study in.

Of course the "Wits Defiance Campaign" has a point to make, and they have a right to protest for "Transformation" but such unnecessary offensive behaviour seems to have absolutely no point. How can we condone efforts which seem to be aimed more at antagonism than at change?

Yours sincerely  
Pamela Wright

## Journ Department Complaint

I would like to complain about the approachability of certain members in the Journalism department. I find their lack of sympathy towards students with genuine work difficulties (such as computer breakdowns) alarming. The last I heard lecturers were there to help, not get on some power kick when turning down a five minute late essay. What I am infact trying to say is that certain of our newly acquired lecturers, no need to mention names, have serious chips on their shoulders. Maybe the rumour is true that the reason our lecturers aren't practising journalists is because they can't cope with reality, or deal professionally with their colleagues. I am truly sick of this obKNOXious attitude.

Yours sincerely  
I.B.Peeved

## Loud Mouths

I don't know how to express my anger at those ninnies who complain about the noise coming from the Union. It is a bar, it is a student hang-out, it is a place where we can release our hyper activity, our need for noise. Where those sods get off killing our joy I know not. Go to the library to work, and if you can't hear your TV set, then turn it up. Bring back parties to the Union, and turn up the volume.

## Proud to be Loud

## RAG in Third Term

I would like to suggest the following to my fellow Rhodians:

Firstly, that Rag should be held in the third term.

Secondly that they change it to "RAGE" weekend (Remember and give Extra)

Thirdly that my colleagues in higher learning & raging join me in a mass demonstration to Admin to demand recognition and permission to stage this crucial part of any university's social and welfare calender.

Would it be too much for the students, from which I have seen as yet no determination towards this quest, to voice their disapproval of this inhumane decision.

I came to Rhodes knowing full well about Grahamstown and the university's reputation for supporting culture and welfare. But now this reputation is in jeopardy.

Yours sincerely

C28

## Censorship of Pornography

WHAT'S with all this talk about the evils of pornography? Where has it ever been proven that pornography leads to rape.

censoring pornography is not going to get rid of its supposed consequences but is likely to make the problem even worse. I do not doubt that some women (and men) who are involved in pornography do get exploited and abused and believe that children should be protected from its practise. But outlawing it is not the solution. It turns the people involved into criminals and deprives them of protection by the law in cases of abuse. Any form of censorship is wrong as it sets a precedent which might result in South Africans losing the very rights they struggled for. If we give the government the right to ban pornography, what wil prevent it from withholding information in the future in the "national interest"? If we are really concerned about ending pornography, it would be much better if we looked at the social and economic factors which force people to enter the profession in the first place. The solution is not raiding UPB and other scape goats but challenging the inequality and poverty which force people into pornography.

Still a believer in freedom





**Hi, I'm Registrar Madge.  
I love promoting student  
relations - so talk to me.  
I may be White and Old  
but I'm also funny!**

**All Fired Up**  
I'm destitute! My husband has dumped me, I've been fired from my job and my husband has found a new queen to spend his time with. Help me!

Royal Pain

**Dear Royal Pain**  
Sweetheart, the glory daze are over, but don't worry. Contralesary to popular belief, autocracy still reigns in the Eastern Cape - I heard Rhodes is looking for a new V.C.

**African Queen**  
I heard that the Queen of Africa has been dethroned. I didn't know that Q.E. II had made such an impact on the continent. Just another weenie

**Dear Weenie**  
It's a no - winnie - situation.

**Out for a Duck**  
I was walking down High street last Saturday and I saw a guy handing out menus outside of the Wimpy. Everyone was clamouring for one. Did Wimpy have a special on?

DeVill-ed eggs

**Dear DeVill**  
That's not "Fanie". It wasn't the menu, they were just being "bowled over", and if you don't know who that guy was, your name must be a Quirk.

**Nature Lover**  
Apparently there's a new pet store advertising all sorts of erotic, I mean exotic breeds. What exactly are 3-sums and couples? None of my Biology text books could satisfy me.

Paws for thought

**Dear Paws**  
I'm afraid you're not looking at all the possibilities. Try to get a magazine, but if you can't find one, you might have to Hustle(r) the sales-attendant.

**Terrible tragedy**  
I heard this guy called Ivan is well-hung. I didn't know they were still doing public hangings in the Old Gaol. How to I get to participate?

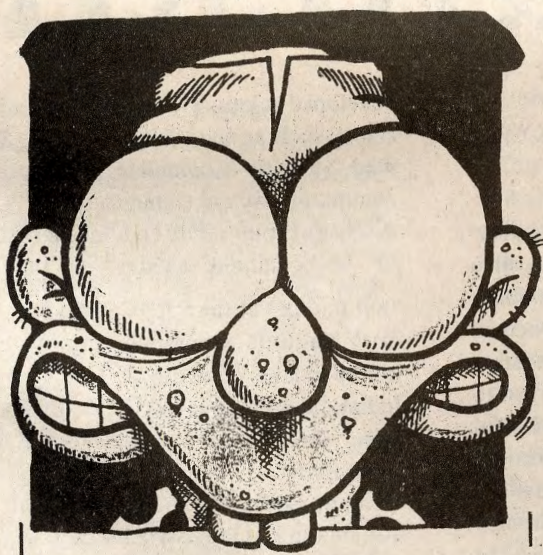
Anything goes

**Dear A.G.**  
Apparently this is the first time this has happened in Grahamstown and they are being very discreet about it, but they do cell tickets-to-ride.

**The Bare Facts**  
The other day a woman walked passed the Hustler stand at U.P.B. and spontaneously combusted. I thought that sort of protest action went out with the Vietnam War!!

Burn in hell

**Dear B.I.H.**  
No you idiot, that wasn't a woman on fire, it was a "Woman Aglow".



•IS it just me, or is anyone else out there BORED out of their FRIGGIN' minds. Lately, weekdays have become as dead as a fried cat hung on a washing line. Yes, I'm afraid that the situation demands that sort of demented imagery, tis' not good. The Wednesday night excitement has been replaced by the urge to merely go out and get screwed; basically getting all dressed up, and nowhere to go. I want to dance, and because Tuesday nights only come once a week (like most nights), this leaves me in a rather difficult position: go ape at home, or go to the Vic. If I go ape at home, I will surely go bananas, whereas if I visited the Vic, I will be blasted by some bimbo telling me about "Saturday Night." Either way, the situation looks about as promising as our national jukskei team. •Weekends have thankfully been plagued by a wide diversity of digs parties, which have come galloping on a horse named Silver to break the routine. Usually

frequented by a variety of weirdos and the sort, it is not uncommon to find yourself so inebriated as to question on what planet you're on. I had the fortune to have bumped into some aliens recently, fresh from their visit to Jo'berg and Bloemfontein, where they caused quite a stir. They told me they were Trolleywogs, universal travellers in search of the ultimate party. Sucking down a smart drink, they gratefully allowed an interview:

**RZ:** So, what do you think about our town, does it roll?

**TW:** Well, it's nothing to write home about (considering the postal service is still run by boneheads) and it sort of reminds

me of Uranus.

**RZ:** You mean it rocks in a greenish haze of debauchery and fun?

**TW:** No, I mean its dark, damp, and lots of weird properties pass through it.

**RZ:** Have you found that different societies

co-exist here with the common goal of passing and partying? At least partying, anyway?

**TW:** We find that if everyone would just come together, join forces for at least one big party instead of splintering into groups, not unlike the Gweepuck from the planet Crappola, then this town has the potential to be the funkier place in the universe.

**RZ:** Finally, what do you think of Rhodes' permanently horned-out student body?

**TW:** We would have liked to have taken advantage of this, but unfortunately we are asexual androgynes. However, we met some similar creatures at the Vic.

•It would be interesting if a Great Hall party, like the ones in the past when everybody used to go bezerk, and the booze was cheap and the music was fine and the floor was slippery, could ever be successful again. There hasn't been a party that has appealed to all types: Bungies, Ruggers, Ravers, Rockers, Techno-heads,

CompSci-freaks and not forgetting alcoholic aliens, for what seems like millenniums. This is an appeal to the SRC to bring this campus together again, to revive the atmosphere that once surrounded this strange, energy-discharging, evil little Stephen King town.

•I heard a Grahamstown legend the other day, similar to the notorious "The hill was once a graveyard" and the classic "Alec Mullins was a mortuary." Apparently, Grahamstown lies directly below converging major lines of latitude and longitude. The only other place in the world that shares this unique feature is none other than Stonehenge. Not surprising then that G-town has several of its own "stoned structures", like that thingie at the top of High Street and those "thingies" who hang out at the back of Kolors.

Adieu, and for best results, roll this column and smoke it.

Robin Kalmek

# BOLING ZONE



# Redirecting



## A Quieter

Karuna Gopal

WHILE some of its peer institutions have chosen active protest, the University of Durban-Westville has opted for a quieter strategy for transformation.

SRC president, William Mpurwana, explained why there has been no violent mass action on campus: "Transformation is not an event, its a process. In the past, UDW was known as a problematic campus. We are breaking away from that image". He added that the "political context" of the period when UDW was problematic "must be understood."

William said an eruption of protest, similar to that of Wits, is not anticipated at the Durban-Westville campus. "In December last year the SRC held workshops to discuss possible problems this year. Violent campus protest was not identified as a possible problem."

He added that the transformation process at UDW has taken the form of a number of

# Drastic Readjustme

While "Liberal" tertiary education institutions are facing enormous pressure and demonstrations from students calling for transformation, two Port Elizabeth institutions widely regarded as seats of Afrikaanderdom during the hey days of apartheid are relatively quiet. **Lukanyo Mnyanda** spoke to officials of the University of Port Elizabeth and Port Elizabeth Technikon who attributed the relative calm on their campuses to their transformation processes being at an advanced stage.

UPE rector, Jaco Kirsten, believes the relative calm and the feeling of co-operation which exists at the institution can be traced back to his appointment in 1993. "The process was fully democratic and transparent and this created an atmosphere of trust between us and members of the wider community," he said.

"Obtaining that trust has not always been easy," said Kirsten, "there was a lot of suspicion because of our past as an Afrikaans controlled university and some people in the community doubted our integrity." But once both groups had discarded their suspicion and prejudices, a Transformation Forum representative of the wider community, which is still in place to deal with specific problems, was

institutions' transformation drives.

"At the Technikon, we have an Institute of Building and Research which is involved in assisting builders within the disadvantaged communities and all our projects are RDP related and deal with issues like housing, education among others," said Barnard.

Kirsten squashed suggestions that UPE's Transformation could be another form of window dressing to make the university more acceptable to the new order and said: "We take transformation seriously and we understand that it's not just about changing Council and employing more blacks in high places."

"Our past as a white male university means we have to reposition our university and introduce a new culture," says Kirsten.

He announced plans to restructure the roles of the University's rector and vice principals to make them more democratic and accountable to the university community.

"We are going to get rid of centralised control by ensuring that the rector no longer has dictatorial powers but works with teams which make decisions in a democratic and transparent manner."

Kirsten said UPE is also planning a "drastic readjustment" of their language policy. In the past, lectures were conducted in the two "official" languages; Afrikaans and English but as he points out, it is "unacceptable that anyone should receive tuition in a third language".

The changes might involve a downgrad-

ing of Afrikaans in favour of English, conceded Kirsten who also said they were set up.

Port Elizabeth Technikon senior public relations officer, Hein Barnard, also attributed the relative calm to a smooth transformation process which resulted in the formation of a representative Transformation Forum which students can use to air their views. "Also, we have wonderful students who have behaved well in dealing with their grievances," claims Barnard. He said the Technikon is busy initiating a plan which will result in changes to the composition of their Council "to make it more representative of the community". Kirsten said participation in the Transformation forum has taught them a few things about negotiating on an equal and democratic level.

"We are no longer negotiating in the old style...It is no longer a question of 'us against them' but a question of how we can work together to solve problems." He had kind words for the South African Students Congress (Sasco) and the National Education and Health Allied Workers Union (Nehawu) who have been in the forefront of struggles in other institutions.

"Sasco and Nehawu were brought into the (transformation) process at an early stage and their contribution has been tremendous. Personally, I've learned so much from them about democratic negotiation." UPE also works closely with and has

developed relations of trust with external actors such as the ANC, NEECC, Sadu who "give us a complete picture of the community we are trying to serve."

A sense of community consciousness seems to be common theme in the two "not looking at the SABC option".

Both institutions reported large increases in the intake of African, Coloured and Indian students, suggesting a move away from their past as purely Afrikaans institutions.

Barnard said at least 50 percent of Port Technikon's students are black; compared to only 36 percent in 1993.

The move to a more reflective campus was shown by the fact that this year they "had more blacks than whites obtaining diplomas in analytical science," said Barnard.

UPE has also experienced similar increases with Kirsten saying that statistics have indicated that UPE is more popular among black than white students. He believes that white students could be scared of the changes taking place in the university and are opting for more conservative institutions. Kirsten warned that such students "will not get the type of education necessary for life in the new South Africa."

The two campuses reported that financial exclusions, which are the bone of contention in the crises occurring at other campuses, were a rarity.

Kirsten stressed the importance of having structures to deal with the problem in



# the Struggle

## Strategy

## Getting Back to Work

forums for discussion and negotiation. "The forums deal with issues of academic and financial exclusions, and admissions policies. Through the forums most issues of transformation have been addressed to a certain level."

The forums have been held between student representatives and the university's administration, as well as between the SRC and other university societies. "A Policy Formulation Workshop was held two weeks ago between the SRC and clubs and societies to discuss issues that affect students. Through such national support we achieved victories that may seem minor to other universities", William said. Their greatest victory was not meeting any resistance from students against transformation. However, he admitted that some apathy from the student body is occasionally encountered. "The only strategies that work to overcome apathy is to address the fears of apathetic students. It's a give and take situation in any university."

Jonathan Ancer

**THE** campaign to transform Wits University is being spearheaded by an alliance between the South African Students Congress (Sasco), the National Education, Health and Allied Workers Union (Nehawu), the Socialist Students Action Committee (SSAC) and the newly formed Meshawu Union.

They are demanding the disbanding of the University Council and the establishment of a new structure representative of the whole South African community. According to SSAC member, Claire Ceruti, the main focus of the group (known as the Transformation Front) is to ensure dismissed workers and students are reinstated. In an attempt to pressurise the administration, the Transformation Front has embarked on joint pickets outside Wits University.

The administration proposed a deal to immediately reinstate dismissed workers and reinstate expelled students next year, but this was unacceptable to students and workers who demanded the reinstatement of students without delay. In response, the university reportedly withdrew its proposal. The administration stated that students and workers could appeal against their dismissal through formal University channels. Claire, however, maintains that

students and workers are unlikely to be reinstated because Administration members preside over the appeal board.

Claire believes there is support for the transformation campaign on campus. "While students and academic staff are not in complete agreement with the campaign, they do not approve of the administration's behaviour".

She cited the example of a single person

collecting funds to support striking Nehawu workers and raising R70 in an hour.

This, believes Claire, proved that people were prepared to give small support to the campaign, even if they were not prepared to become actively involved.

She denied the university was racially divided and explained: "The majority of activists are black, but there is a growing number of white students joining the campaign. During all this activity there has only been one incident where classes have been disrupted."

Claire believes that, although the administration does not have a clear programme, future negotiations might prove fruitful since the administration "is increasingly concerned about getting workers back to work."

She concluded: "Nehawu workers, who are still on strike, have underpinned the whole struggle."

# ent

place before before they arise.

"As part of our Transformation Forum, we have a working group on student welfare

which functions as a crisis committee. We have had problems but the point is that this structure is in place and is able to deal with problems."

Kirsten said the university had increased its allocation of funds for bursaries and "no-one was refused permission on financial grounds".

Recent changes has seen the technikon being viewed in a more positive light by the community and this has led to an increase in financial support from outside sources, said Barnard.

This was echoed by Barnard who said the Technikon had a bursaries and loans committee representative of the wider community. "Not many students have been excluded on financial grounds. We do give students who can't pay more time to settle their fees and the rector has an open door policy towards students who experience problems."

Kirsten has very clear ideas about what is necessary to make transformation a smooth process. "You must be pro-active, you must have vision and set up structures before problems arise and everything is calm because it's hard to set them up in a volatile situation."

## Re-ordering the Institution

Indressa Naidoo

**RHODES** University's new registrar, present director of the Rhodes East London Division, Steve Fourie, who will be taking up office in May, is looking forward to the challenge he will be faced with at Rhodes.

Fourie said his immediate plans, once he has taken up office, are to "pay a lot of attention to contact with constituency outside the university - that is other universities and technikons and with the Grahamstown community. A major item on the agenda is to see who we're serving in the community."

He believes there are problems in communication between the students and administration.

"I abhor the adversarial relationship that is sometimes present (between students and Admin). I want to work closely with the student body."

Fourie believes in win-win situations. "At the end of the day if we don't have a win-win, there will be no workable solution."

"We need to work out how to work together and with all the constituencies. We also need to avoid a Vice-chancellor who cannot work with the university if whole groups are alienated."

He maintains students also play a very important role in transformation. He sees transformation as a "re-ordering of the institution - its procedures as well as its life. Rhodes University in, computer terms, should be a user-friendly place."

Fourie believes that democracy is critically important. "Democracy involves the

process as well as the result. If there is no consensus, then there is no commitment to everybody.





# ONLY BAD NEWS IS GOOD NEWS

Sarah Skinner & Jonathan Aker

ON April 6, 1995, the South African cabinet ratified a proposal that the cut-off date for amnesty will be the December 5, 1993 and amnesty applications will not be held behind closed doors. Perpetrators, it continued, would be able to make arguments for their applications to be held *in camera* only at the preliminary stages of the inquiry.

Piers Pigou, a senior researcher for the Independent Board of Inquiry described this move as, "a victory for victims". "But", he warned, "we don't know the terms of reference that will be used to interpret under what conditions perpetrators' applications will be heard secretly."

Activate spoke to anti-apartheid activist Chris Mbekela, who, because of his political involvement, suffered a great personal loss. Chris is studying for a joint honours degree in Industrial Sociology and International Relations at Rhodes University.

"I am sceptical of you journalists," he grinned, "They have a saying about journalists. 'Good news is no news, but bad news for a journalist, is good news'."

This is his story.

Chris became involved in politics in 1977 after the 1976 student uprisings in Soweto and the death of Steve Biko.

"I was influenced by the conditions of the time. We didn't have direct access to what was happening to our leaders, so we learnt the history of our president, Nelson Mandela, through the underground."

In 1977, Chris was coming home from NV Cewu Primary School in Joza Township, Grahamstown East, when he was arrested. "I was taken with a few of my friends to the Police Station in New Street. This was my first taste of prison life and although we were all released one day later, I felt very angry."

"During the late 1970's people were being

arrested indiscriminately. The police were targeting older students and those identified as 'ringleaders' were beaten.

"The police beat people to intimidate them and to try and recruit them to become police informers. I was 16 years old and I was very politically immature. I thought that freedom was around the corner."

In 1980, Chris left Grahamstown and went to live with his sister in Durban. Later that year, he was detained and spent two weeks in prison without being charged. Chris said: "To be detained is a bad thing. You are isolated from your community, your family and from all spheres of life."

The police also went to Chris' parents and warned them that if Chris carried on with his political involvement he was going to die. This was the first of time that the police threatened his life. He remarked: "The police used psychological tactics to intimidate us."

He returned to Grahamstown where he became the second president of the locally based Grahamstown Youth Congress (Grayco).

Grayco was established to accommodate unemployed youth, "because unlike students," Chris explained: "They didn't have a political home."

"Our function was to mobilise and politicise all sectors of the youth. We wanted them to understand the nature of our struggle."

During Chris' term as President of Grayco he was frequently arrested by the Special Branch. The reason for this, he explains, is because the police were trying to monitor Grayco's activities and track down their leaders.

Chris reflects: "This was an aspect of their psychological strategy. The police were trying to evaluate your personal level of understanding and your limitations. They wanted to know to what extent you were a threat to the state."

Suddenly Chris became tense. "My house was fire-bombed," he trembled. "It was during the height of oppression on Mav

25, 1985. The person that I was in love with died in the bombing. She died at Port Elizabeth's Livingstone Hospital." Chris was badly burnt. He attempted to describe what happened: "The house was engulfed by fire. I woke up and I grabbed Maseka Tonyela. I don't know what happened after that." He shrugs: "It was a painful event."

Chris tried to phone the police, "but twice", he remarked dryly, "it was engaged". He then phoned the fire brigade only to be told that they were not allowed to enter the township because 'the situation is volatile'. He received the same response from the ambulance service.

He relaxed and continued, "I phoned Precilla Hall and she came to my place." He then chuckled as he recalled the notorious student spy, Olivia Forsyth, who he described as a 'friend' of his, also coming to his aid.

"Olivia took me to Settlers Hospital and the superintendent insisted that I be admitted for the night." However Chris was suspicious because of "concrete facts I had been told by Roland." Roland White, a prominent anti-apartheid activist, told Chris that the security branch was keeping the hospital under strict surveillance. Chris wasn't sure if Security Branch were just monitoring him or if they were planning to abduct him. White took photographs of Chris and then disappeared. Police came to his home and were only able to recover one of the two firebombs. Chris kept the other and sent it to experts who diagnosed it as a firebomb made up of highly sophisticated chemicals.

"I know it was the police. I have information and I know that they wanted to kill me. Just before my home was bombed I was detained for questioning by Warrant Officer Strydom. He told me in straight language that he was going to bomb my house."

Chris returned to Grahamstown where he was forced to lead a semi-underground existence. "I was moving from one place to another. It was a

torturous situation and I was totally disorganised personally."

He was treated by nurses and a specialist friend from Cape Town who came down twice a week. Chris also received emotional support from friends as well as a house described by Forsyth as, "very safe from the police"!

Although it was his own home that was torched and his lover killed, Chris was charged with arson, attempted murder and two counts of public violence, which were supposedly in connection with attacks on police and councillors houses.

He was reluctant to appear in court as exposing himself in public could lead to his detention under State of Emergency regulations. After managing to avoid the security police at two court appearances, they eventually walked into the courtroom and arrested him. The charges were dropped, but Chris was detained for three years.

He was eventually released from St. Albans' prison in Port Elizabeth, with fellow prisoners (some of whom are now cabinet ministers) in 1989. He described the year of his release as: "My first year of freedom".

In 1991 he was elected Eastern Cape chairperson for the ANC Youth League. Following advice to "go back to school" he enrolled for a Bachelor of Social Sciences at Rhodes University.

Chris believes that Rhodes students have a valuable role to play as intellectuals in a fragile democracy: "by injecting a new thinking in our community". He suggests that law, psychology, journalism and other students could provide skills that could be used by the Truth Commission.

"I think the Truth Commission is a good thing. If the Commission is open to everyone I will be prepared to tell my story. I will be relieved if the people who wronged me confess. But I hold no personal vendettas. These people have a responsibility to disclose their wrongs - we need to rewrite our history."

## STOOL TALK

I heard that I ended the last column on a weird note that made no sense. In fact, I had to argue with ACTIVATE for them to actually run the last paragraph, the one that had the bit about the erection. Whhooah - Controversy. Implications. Nudity. Offensive. Pointless. Granted.

Well then, let's all suck on this instead...

A friend I had met during the vac recently came to spend the week-end in Grahamstown so he could visit his girlfriend who, two months ago, left both him and Joburg, for Rhodes and first year University. The plan, he had told me in January while we were working in a restaurant, was that he would visit his girlfriend at regular intervals during the year. "Shhhooowa," I had replied.

But he arrived, in March, on a Friday afternoon. That night he went out with her and her new friends. He stumbled into my room at three, drunk, depressed, disorientated and quite flatulent. They had had a fight, and had broken off the relationship. The following weekend, another of my friends, whom I met this year, had his girlfriend from Durban arrive to spend a few days. He too got drunk, but instead of them fighting, they barely spoke. They ended, she left.

Besides all the faults we could dissect and discuss in long-distance disasters, I think the pool of bleeding hearts and rebounders left to rue in remorse, is a more scathing pot to dip my typing finger-tips into...

When cross-country relationships run out of breath, kinky sex and semen, the veterans are left in lil' 'ol Grahamstown to pull themselves together. Invariably, they get connected to the incestuous internet that occurs here, *here* being the peripheries of major civil society (as you may have noticed already, things are a tad bit different here, folks).

The Incestuous Internet. Now there's a concept. And there's even a virus involved, but if at this stage of your sojourn at Rhodes you do not practise (*who's practising?*) rubber sex and latex, you shouldn't be reading this column:

Aids is no joke!

So, when these people part with their partners, they find new ones in the City of Sinners and Saints. Sorry, *get found by old ones*. It's almost as if a social scene of lay-lowers lurk at the seams of your sexual relations, and as soon as you are "available", they set in motion what they have had in mind ever since they saw you or your partner. Yes, what I am saying is, that there are people watching your boy/girl, and wanting them, and waiting for the slightest sign of dissatisfaction so that they can, well, get in there...

With the exception of those smooth as shit seducers who intoxicate themselves with social lubricant, slip in and out of sleazy one-liners and fall asleep like rats or parrots: They don't care if you're attached: "Bheebi (bhhurp), Izz a whole lotsch biiga dan he ish".

But not only that, nay, for on this network, although there may be few users, there are many side-line subscribers. It is frightening first of all to have your partner eyeballed, but even morose when you consider all the spectators, and the interest they show, and the shit they know about your once private life! Voyeurs here are so much worse than any others in any other place I know. They're too clever to just be happy watching, they're all in the business

of knowing, watching and analysing, and because this town is small and social settings are few and select, their job isn't very difficult. You stick out when you go out!

What really makes the socio-sex scene here so steamy though, is not *how much* sex is happening or who is watching, but *how many people are actually involved!* You know those spray diagram charts that look like tangled webs? Well, when people have been here for a while, and the people they have been with have been here for a while, the network expands, and because relationships in Grahamstown never end - they only have new beginnings, you will eventually find that a single one-night stand is personal, usable gossip for every person that buys a drink and plays a game of pool on a Friday night!

In conclusion then, although it can get a bit much, a bit incestuous, we can quite safely have the sexy 60's in the 90's as long as we realise that the sex bit must remain a little synthetic and that there are emotional consequences to what (and who) we do: As a friend of mine and yours said: "If its not on, its not in".

And if its not in, *they'll* find you...and I'll hear about it.

And I guess that's why I have this column. Now, SWALLOW...

-Robin Kelly



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# The Green Armadillo

OKAY, so armadillos aren't green. At least not in the chlorophyllically pigmented sense of the word. Yet in other ways they are very Green indeed. For one thing they don't make headline news very often. Also nobody knows much about them, hardly anyone understands them and very few people care. They are seen as removed from peoples' immediate experience and not relevant to their everyday lives.

In days gone by environmental issues were viewed in a very similar way - they received about the same amount of attention as the proverbial armadillo. This, however, is changing fast. The environment is, out of necessity, rapidly becoming a mainstream issue. Yet, since this transition has just begun, the concept of what it means to be "Green" still depends very much on your perspective.

Commercial companies such as Richards Bay Minerals (St Lucia) might consider it Green to put back the trees after mining the guts out of a nature reserve.

Radical environmental organisations such as the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) might say being Green includes forcibly and illegally entering animal research laboratories to free the animals and film the atrocities being perpetrated in the name of science.

Caltex seems to think it's Green to have its employees lecture students on environmental journalism. The Wildlife Society thinks it's Green to "Save the Rhino".

BP tries to be what it considers Green by sponsoring the annual National Wildlife Expo in Durban. Earthlife Africa Durban

would disagree - since they boycotted the '93 Expo on the grounds that it was an exercise in corporate public relations rather than an environmental event. Personally I felt the experience was like being inside a BP television advert and found the "how to skin a crocodile" (green or not) demonstration in very bad taste.

These sort of goings on are viewed by some as "Greenwash" - using apparently Green

agendas as a whitewash for Un-Green practices. This brings us to the issue of the Green Bandwagon - the moral and financial importance of being perceived to be Green, regardless of what you actually do for a living. A good example would be a current advertisement for Armscor featuring flowers and bees. Keep an eye on the media for the use of Green associations - its amazing what's out there.

Governments and political parties are just as concerned about being seen to be environmentally correct and our beloved GNU (a very green concept since it's a synonym for "moose") is no exception. Whether this has more to do with political expediency or genuine concern for the environment is for you to decide.

It is interesting to note that, during the period in which the RDP document was being drawn up, the Johannesburg spokesperson for Earthlife Africa received several enquiries from the ANC as to Earthlife policy on certain issues. One of these had to do with St Lucia and the development-environment debate. It is even more interesting to note how closely the environmental section of the RDP echoes the Leftist-Green perspective.

Then, of course, there is the recent issue of one of our legitimate government's representatives ordering the forced removal (by bulldozer nogal) of 30 tons of endangered prehistoric plant life (cycads) from the Eastern Cape - to decorate a casino in Sasolburg.

In the ANC's credit, however, they have moved leaps and bounds (at least in theory) towards a sound environmental ethic for government. In practice, Mandela is doing his best to keep reconstruction and development within manageable parameters. Though this may have a lot to do with financial constraints it is nonetheless environmentally sound.

All of this information seems to indicate that, on the whole, people are still missing the (Green) boat. The armadillo agrees, saying that humans never cease to amaze

her: "Every day they breathe air, drink water, eat food, wear clothes, use electricity, petrol, gas or firewood and yet at the same time don't really consider themselves part of their environment".

It seems that we have become so involved in our own artificially-constructed humanity (society, economics, politics) that we have lost touch with reality.

When fishing a R20 note out of our pocket, we don't stop to consider that a tree was cut down to make it; that the chemicals impregnating it come from a long production process involving substantial waste production. When we buy a hamburger with the note we don't consider that we are contributing directly to soil erosion through the cow that it came from. If we choose a salad instead it doesn't concern us that the pesticides used to produce it are still out there in the soil, the groundwater, the rivers. When we drive home in our car afterwards (if we're so lucky) we don't worry that we are actively altering the composition of the atmosphere. There is no use then, in struggling to be Green when this does not relate directly to environmental reality. The current perception is that you can somehow become as "Green" as Terreblanche Y-fronts without making any fundamental changes to your social, political or economic values. This perception will have to go if we are to have any environmental success as a species. When asked for her opinion on this the armadillo became very excited. She started saying things like "vested interests" and "western industrial capitalist ethic" very loudly. At one point she stood up on her hind legs, waved her little scaly paws and shouted "DOWN WITH THE CAPITALIST PIGS. VIVA THE GREEN REVOLUTION VIVA!"

Fortunately the transition does not need to be anything like this traumatic. In fact its remarkably simple. We'll deal with the hows, whats and wherefores next issue - the armadillo and I.

*Kearn Bamber*

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# Capital Importance

*The Government's policy to bridge the economic disparity caused by apartheid has been formulated in the Reconstruction and Development Programme. Reconstruction will take place within the framework of the redistribution of resources and capital and once achieved, the focus will be on development by economic growth. The chief question is how sustainable will this reconstructed economic growth be and who will supply the capital to see it through? Karl Delpert looks at how the Grahamstown TLC is handling the situation.*

TO many Grahamstown residents it appears that our Transitional Local Council has missed the RDP bus. But this is not the case, as R12.5million has been allocated to the Grahamstown Housing Commission with 800 houses already on the drawing board.

In Grahamstown East (formerly the "Coloured" township), 214 sites have been developed and are ready for building.

A brick making operation has been established to reduce the price of bricks to enable the community to build their own houses.

Deputy city secretary, Francois Human said, "In the eastern Cape each town is expected to build 800 houses per annum to improve living conditions, it would be nice to do so but it is not possible. It is more likely that 400 houses will be built this year."

Planning is expected to be finished by May, after which the houses will be built.

The reason why planning is to take so long is that an effective working paper is being drawn up to ensure that the houses are what the community wants and the whole plan does not "backfire".

"The planning stage to the implementation of the RDP is the most important because if you do not plan very well it is going to fall through in a year. This has already happened in smaller towns where not much thought was given to the sustainability of projects," said Human.

The eastern Cape has been allocated R68-million to see RDP projects through, but as Professor Bill Davies of the Institute for Social and Economic Research has warned, one must not think of a "magic RDP money pot".

Funding for RDP projects must rather come through local TLCs. This is unfortunate for Grahamstown as it has inherited a deficit from the previous administration.

TLC Finance chairperson, Leslie Reynolds, pointed out that "under the Local Transitional Act all external debts are written off, however internal debts must be

accounted for. Rents and Services boycotts against the illegality of the previous regime has caused the TLC to inherit direct debt from the old council."

This poses a threat to the implementation of the RDP at a grassroots level, as time consuming social compacts have to be drawn and submitted to the Provincial Government in Bisho. They then decide, using certain criteria, as to whether the community actually needs what it is asking for.

TLC Development Works and Electricity



Everyone is waiting for the RDP to be implemented but it is not a process that can happen overnight.

chairperson, Pirawaden Ranchod said, "R50.1-million has been made available to NGOs (non-governmental organisations) for development in the Eastern Cape.

"NGOs have to apply through the Public Works Department in Bisho. To receive funding, like everyone else, a social compact has to be drawn up. This is to ensure that organisations do not embezzle funds and that they are accountable for the funds given."

Journalism and Media Studies Professor, Guy Berger said, "A triangular process has been created between the NGOs, society and the state to develop a different growth path with sustainable results."

The Mont Fleur Scenarios drawn up in 1992 predicted four possible scenarios for South Africa, namely the Ostrich; a dictatorship resulting in war if the old apartheid government did not get its head out of the sand, fortunately we have passed this stage.

The second scenario was the Lame Duck, referring to an incapacitated government that achieved nothing and bounced along the water, neither drowning or flying.

Another scenario, the Icarus, focused on developing too fast without taking sustainability into account which would lead to economic collapse after an initial growth.

Finally, there is the Flight of the Flamingos which requires strategic direction to ensure sustainability.

This direction takes time to negotiate, but the results do not compromise future generations' ability to meet their own needs.

RDP expectations are that of the Flamingo

scenario and therefore take time to develop. Scenarios are not predictions of the future, but rather guidelines as to what direction the future can take.

"Setplan, a TLC commission of urban planners, has been working (in Grahamstown) for the last two months to come up with a ground needs analysis," said Reynolds.

This is to ensure that projects entered into are dictated by the needs of the people and are sustainable in the long run. The establishment of an industrial infrastructure to create jobs for the Grahamstown community will help achieve this.

"These programs cannot be implemented overnight, it is a long term process that must be well thought out if it is to have any positive effects on the community, there is no point in giving people tar roads if they want running water," said Mr Reynolds.

Professor Davies pointed out the RDP takes place on three levels. The first level is the "Presidential projects that cover a range of projects from housing to nutrition to land reform and so on. These are contained in the white paper for urbanisation and must

be seen separate from the RDP fund. The Minister without portfolio, Jay Naidoo, has jurisdiction and funding comes from a national level and foreign investors."

The second level is the Provincial Premiers 100 day projects that were announced after 100 days in office, during August last year. Again, the issues include infrastructure and housing projects. These projects utilised funds from the previous Cape Provincial Administration and Local Black Authorities. Some of these projects have become ineffective due to lack of

funding and the short period of planning. The third level or the RDP proper which consists of non-specified projects is directed by the TLC. Funding is the responsibility of the TLC and reallocations have to be made in order to budget for community projects.

Communities say what they need and this is articulated by NGOs who then submit a request to the TLC for funding. If the TLC cannot meet these proposals, it must then submit an application to the Provincial RDP Unit.

Funding is given on a need basis and therefore many projects are not likely to take place in the near future until further funding has been given. That is not to say that nothing is happening as at present many projects are on the drawing boards and are near initiation.

The length of the planning is to ensure that projects are not purposeless and do not "waste rates and tax payers money. We are here to do a job and we wish to do it properly," Ranchod said.

If you are not happy with the current situation and wish to determine your own future you should then place your name on the Local Elections Voters Role which can be done through the SRC or the City Hall. Registration closes on April 28.

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# Passion to cut

Sanja Gohre

**"CUT it, you bitch."**

And so Miranda Harris' career as a film editor began.

Now a part-time lecturer at Rhodes' Journalism Department, Harris recalls the moment vividly.

Living in Australia at the time, 19 years old, married with one child, Miranda wanted nothing more than to break into the film industry.

Working under editor Max Lemon as his assistant ("Max: the editor, me: the slob...All he ever said was hmmm") in a film company renowned for TV series like "Skippy, the Bush Kangaroo" and "Minus Five" had been very trying until Miranda's day of reckoning.

Sick of not being allowed to edit film, Miranda remembers exploding in Lemon's face, criticising his work, his chauvinism, his silences while gleefully throwing film bobbins (plastic reels onto which films are wound) at him.

She found his response written on a white card in front of a stack of film reels the next morning: "Cut it, you bitch." She cut it well enough for those checking it not to notice the difference. Shortly afterwards, Max handed in his resignation.

Miranda has been working in the Journalism Department since 1993, when she was asked to help teach construction of documentaries and films and serve as external examiner at the end of the year.

She had moved down to the Eastern Cape when she and her husband, cameraperson and editor Roger Harris, bought a guest house, Findon Guest House, outside of Bathurst.

In 1994, she was co-opted into redesigning the Journalism IV TV course and this year her and Roger run "First Film School", the Journalism IV TV course almost exclusively sponsored by First National Bank.

She said the standard of journalism she found at Rhodes was very low. "We were pretty bloody horrified at the standard...nothing was coordinated, the students' shooting was bad, they had not learnt to think visually, to be creative, structured...It was like home videos," she says in an interview at her guest house.

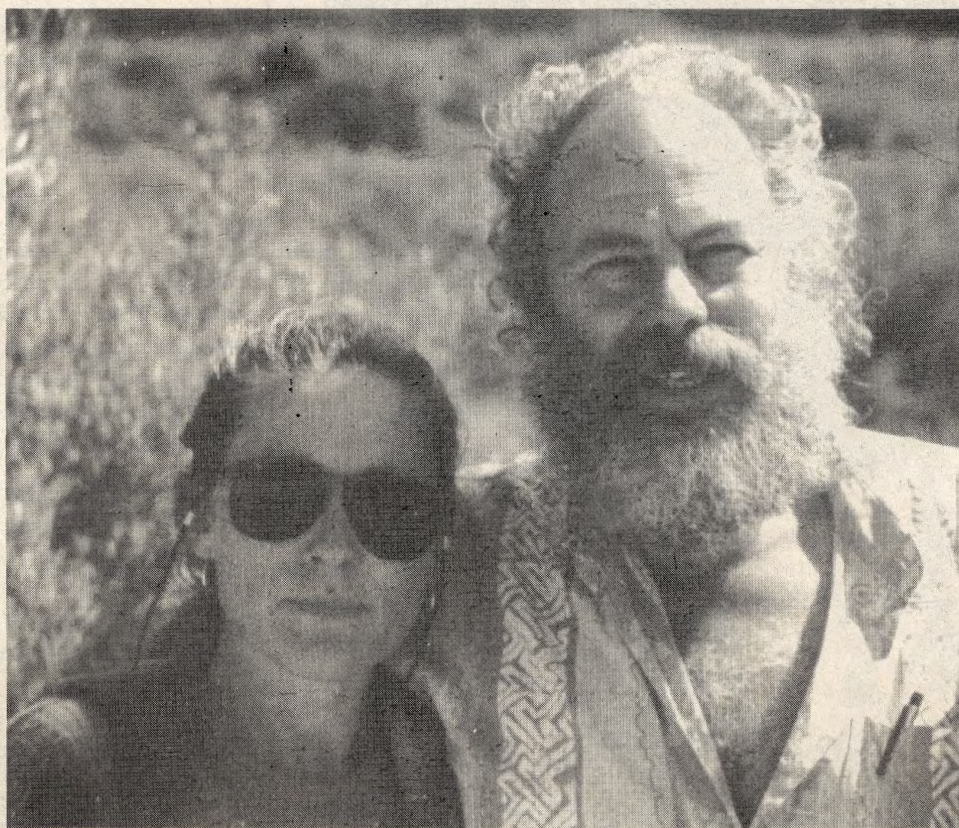
She recalls a Swiss client's comment after a Rhodes student helped Miranda while she was freelancing in 1991.

"I don't want to sit with this girl for another five minutes. She has obviously lived in a political, intellectual, creative vacuum all her life." This lack of a proper work ethic worries Miranda.

"Mediocrity sucks. We should be teaching students to strive for excellence, to hunger for knowledge, to thrive for achievement," she says emphatically but realises there is a certain limit to what she can do about this.

"The standard of journalism is appalling...but at the end of the day, we can't force-feed the students, they must take from us what they can."

Miranda leads by example and students understand what is expected from them because her high standards are made clear. During one of their editing sessions, one journalism IV student moans: "Miranda



**Miranda Harris and husband Roger - not here to produce mediocre students**

isn't going to like this", and proceeds to redo what was done before - only better.

About herself, she says she can leave nothing "half-baked". "I don't understand anyone who doesn't strive to do anything perfectly."

This perfectionist was born 44 years ago in the Drakensberg mountains and spent her first five years under the auspices of a very strict Zulu man before moving on to Durban where she matriculated at 16 from the Natal Arts School. After six months of Fine Art through the same school - where she was frustrated because "all I wanted to do was paint nudes and people" but didn't - she started working for a film company where she earned R60 a month to help design and structure film sets. It was here that her passion for editing was born.

"I adored editing. I found the whole editing thing absolutely delicious because that's when it all came together," she said.

She then married an Australian and left for his home country, where she assisted with studio dramas at Channel 10 TV station, before landing with Max Lemon at Fauna, which was well-known for making TV series.

She moved through commercial companies experimenting with animation and also became involved in the advertising world before returning to Durban at 20 where she continued doing adverts for companies like Dunlop, Clover Dairies, I&J and the Bear Brothers. She then changed to producing feature films with Flip Bezuidenhout where she, then 22, met Roger, 27.

From 1975 both worked in Johannesburg, Miranda as a freelance editor and producer of documentaries, while Roger started up two companies in succession for freelance shooting and editing, before working more and more for Central Broadcasting Service (CBS). During this time, both were producing their own documentaries, Roger shooting the required footage and Miranda editing at home.

In 1979 Roger joined UPITN (now

Worldwide Television News, WTN) and when "the shit really started hitting the fan" politically, Miranda was roped in more and more to help cover the news events that were unfolding. She had to leave the world of documentaries for news.

"News was like a holiday compared to documentaries, it drives itself. Making documentaries is like a marriage - a hell of a commitment," she says of the change.

But there is an added bonus in news, which is not as demanding creatively as documentaries: "I love to beat the shit out of the opposition," she grins.

In 1985 both the Harris' left WTN, taking a few of their clients with them and focused on background news. "We didn't have to do hard news, agencies did day stories and we did background," she says.

In 1991, they sold Future Video, which had evolved since 1975 from Roger Harris Pty Ltd and had supplied stories and facilities to stations which did not have foreign correspondents. The decision to sell was made after Roger experienced serious back problems as "we had burnt ourselves out physically".

In a career that is renowned for breaking up marriages because of its instability, one wonders how these two people have managed to survive for this long together.

"The husband has to be incredibly patient," Roger jokingly pitches into the conversation at this stage, busily preparing a meal for their guests, but quickly adds the key might be that they don't have "ego problems". Besides, "when we were competing, I just dropped out and did something else," he laughs.

"Marriage is a lot of work. Keeping oneself interesting is part of keeping going. Through our work we have kept ourselves interesting...We like each other," Miranda adds, although she admits with a smile that divorce loomed seven times.

Although working in a field known for its chauvinism, Miranda does not see herself as a feminist in response to it.

"It's very distasteful when women run around burning their bras. They are

morons not to think that they are not better than men, and I don't mean that in an arrogant way...

"I have never been intimidated by men...I like my head, I like winning," she says. What about someone calling her a woman with a male ego?

"I take that as an insult to other women, because there are no differences in egos...Perhaps they say that because I am a pushy bitch, maybe because I like to be in control and that's not usually the way women are perceived."

If there is one thing that does "piss me off in a big way", black male chauvinists are it.

"The plight of black women drives me insane. And that's not feminism, it's just demanding your right in society...I admire the incredible spunk of these black women and they have the capacity to lift this nation," she says.

Miranda respects integrity most in a journalist and "the kind of striving for something...a striving for excellence".

"TV is a little more than just telling the story...if you can make people feel what is happening a million miles away..."

She criticises the SABC for only showing "a hosing down of what happened during the day" and adds their investigative stories are "pretty piss poor, because the whole culture has not been to investigate, not to tell the truth".

She admits that journalism is not as straight forward as it used to be and "to tell the story today requires a lot more savvy...Ask yourself questions all the time. Question the story all the time," she advises.

If Miranda could have been a journalist in any era, she says the Vietnam war would have been it. "I would have loved to have done the Vietnam story...I don't believe it was covered accurately - sure covered accurately in terms of getting the news out every day, but not in terms of describing the wave of what was happening in society..."

"The spiritual awakening goes beyond Woodstock and shit like that...we moved from individual to group thinking." She adds she is also sad she and Roger did not cover the falling of the Berlin wall, the fall of Russia and the Tianamen Square massacre, a story which called to her immediately.

"I just wanted to move over there and shoot every frame of those children and scream to the world to help them."

Miranda Harris, chain smoker par excellence, says she does not regret "a single thing" about her life. She swears her four children did not hold her back in any way, only made her work harder because she was a mother. She believes people allow structures to limit them and lives by the credo that "life can be terribly exciting if you take the challenge".

She is a woman with incredible energies, the perfect radio voice and almost waist-long hair that is always tied up. Her doubts about herself do not include doubts about her professional abilities and her answer to the question of "Any doubts, Miranda?" is refreshingly surprising:

"I doubt my ability to survive without someone to love and nurture me. I need to be loved and nurtured."



# Over the top



Shannon Law, winner of SA national rockmasters, in action. Pic: Cathy O'Dowd

## Matthew Dickason

EVER dreamt of hanging from the roof of Mullins? For the two hundred Rhodes Mountain Club members, this is a reality.

Every Tuesday and Thursday the club meets to climb the existing wall which has a choice of three different routes.

This wall will be greatly enlarged this year thanks to a grant of R8000 by Rhodes Admin. Outside sponsorship has also been tentatively arranged for the club.

The planned wall will be one of the

biggest in the country, and will include a bouldering cave which has already been partly built. This will enable people to climb at any time without the aid of equipment. The planned wall should greatly improve the high standard of Rhodes climbing.

Shannon Law and Jeremy Colenso, two experienced members, won the Rock Masters National Climbing circuit for 1994. Beginners have the opportunity of learning from these climbers.

The club has two weekends away per year and climb every Saturday and

Sunday. This is where climbing in Mullins is put to the test. The Saturday climbs are mainly for beginners and are at places such as Mountain Drive and Spribs. Sunday climbs are more advanced with climbers climbing far higher grades, at places such as Coombs and Thorny's.

Climbing is for everyone - the very beginner trying to get over a fear of heights (who usually turn into very good climbers) and the experienced champion.

For further details contact James Mather at 29615

# Soccer revamp

## Activate Reporter

AS part of a determined drive to boost Rhodes soccer this year, the student executive of Rhodes Soccer have instituted plans to expand the popular internal league and use it as a selection springboard at intervarsity level.

According to Ntando Khoza, chairperson of Rhodes Soccer, these changes have materialised out of student initiative to curb last year's organisational "demise" of soccer at intervarsity level, and expand soccer further into the community.

Khoza attributed this "demise" to a lack of qualified coaches and a general communication breakdown with provincial football structures. He said the internal league was such a success that by the end of the year intervarsity players were owing allegiance to their teams in the internal league rather than to the Rhodes team.

In an effort to mirror the success of last years internal league, a new selection process has been devised. For the first time a team to represent Rhodes at intervarsity level will be selected from the ranks of the internal league.

An additional second division has been attached to the internal league which now comprises a total 20 teams and over 350 players. The league has expanded to include societies, and more independent teams drawn from community in addition to the usual Res teams.

Last year's league included the 'Young Stars', comprising of street kids from around Grahamstown. There are plans to draw further teams from the community such as the Transfiguration College which has been invited to participate.

As part of the expansion, Khoza hopes Rhodes Soccer Club will field a womens team to represent the University at Intersarsity.

## sports editorial

THESE first few months have certainly flown, we're already nearing the end of our first term and intervarsity is only a month away! This year has heralded a fresh promise of democratic transformation and reform in Sports at Rhodes. The fruits of transformation are beginning to materialise it seems. For the first time ever, Fort Hare University students are able to participate in intervarsity together with (and against) Rhodes and UPE. The inclusion of Fort Hare will most certainly add a new, exciting competitive dimension to this year's intervarsity...and perhaps a few surprise upsets.

Sceptics who claim "standards will be lowered" due to the inclusion of Fort Hare, will hopefully be pleasantly surprised. To the paranoid: there can be no affirmative action or tokenism in sport. On the fair field only one thing counts, the player's gruelling determination and accomplished athletic ability. We predict that this year's intervarsity will raise standards to new competitive heights,

rather than lowering them.

Furthermore on the transformation front, the commendable efforts of Rhodes Soccer to assist the community can serve as an example to other sport clubs. In the spirit of transformation, Rhodes soccer has expanded into the community by inviting teams outside of Rhodes to participate in the internal league. One such team, which enters it's second successful year in the internal league, is the "Young Stars" - a team of street kids who have found dignity and direction through their participation in Rhodes soccer. Our national Cricket team are shining examples of transformation and development in South Africa.

The resources that have been wisely donated to development Cricket has led directly to the resurgence of Cricket amongst the underprivileged in South Africa. Fanie De Villiers, who was in Grahamstown just this week on a Wimpy promotion, and his team, have dedicated admirable effort to assist in the transformation process.

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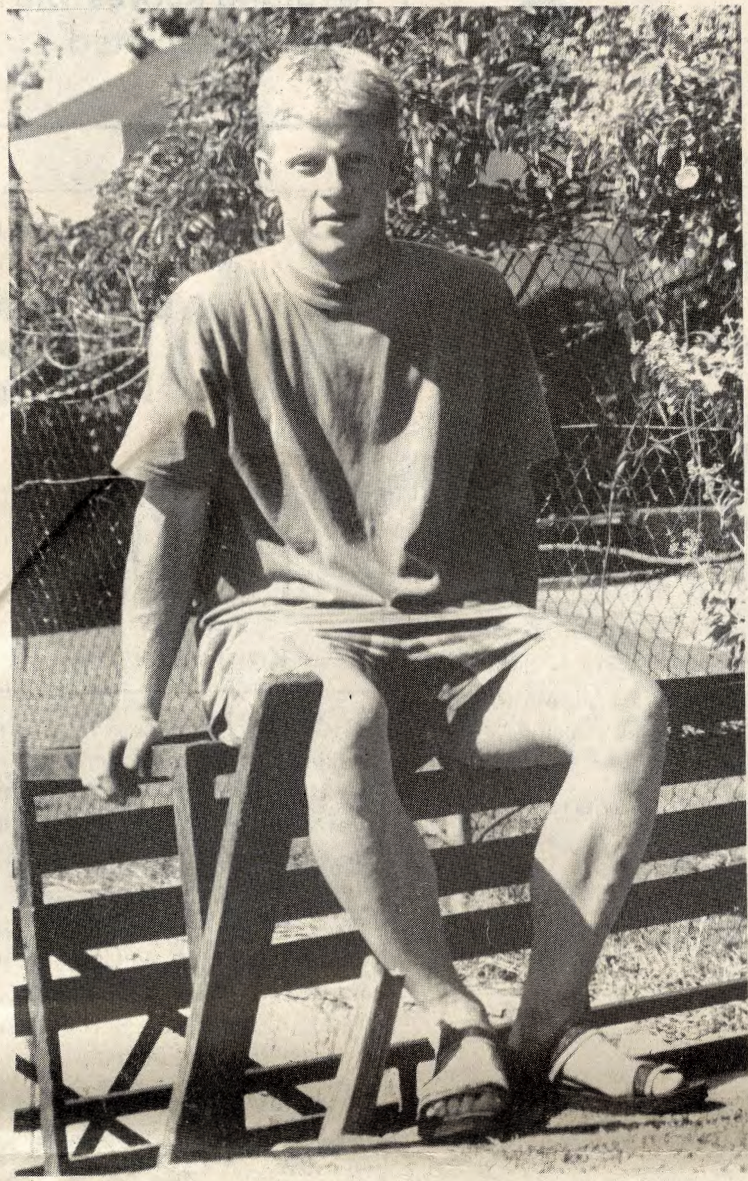
Issued by Activate and G'town SAP

**Isn't it time you made  
the news? The deadline  
for the next edition of  
activate  
is May 11.**



# Sports Profile: Andrew Milne

Karuna Gopal



Rhodes scrum-half, Andrew Milne is aiming at professional rugby

pic: Indressa Naidoo

ANDY Milne is short. He is hardly the size of a person one would expect to captain the Rhodes First XV rugby team. "5.6 and a half feet," he confirms, although he sometimes "lies" that it's 5.7. Speaking to Andy, though, one quickly realises that his height is his least memorable characteristic. Quite simply, it is overshadowed by his obvious and absolute love for rugby.

"Rugby is an inspirational sport," says the 23-year-old scrumhalf matter-of-factly. Evidently so inspirational that prior to playing in South Africa he turned out for teams in the Middle East, Namibia, the North and Midlands side in Scotland, and toured England while at school.

## fast pace of South African Rugby

His international experience, he explains, was a result of his family's somewhat nomadic lifestyle. "My parents were in insurance so they travelled a lot," he says. They lived in the Middle East for 10 years and later in Namibia. Home these days is Simonstown, in the Cape.

Andy's distinctive Scottish twang is a tell-tale sign that he spent a great part of his life in Scotland. He attended university in Edinburgh before arriving at Rhodes, fresh out of a Business Science degree, to take up Human Movement Studies. He finds Rhodes a "more student

orientated" university, and South Africa a better climate for rugby. "In Scotland it's more of a kicking game because of the weather," he says, but prefers contending with the "faster" pace of South African rugby than the "rain in Scotland".

However, despite his experience overseas, he finds it difficult to assess the standard of Rhodes' rugby teams. "The First team is very good at the moment but the players are still very young considering the age of the players we often play against," he says. He adds that Rhodes also has a limited choice of players - "about 20 players who will fit into the Super League with ease, which makes it a problem if there are injuries".

Andy believes the strength of the First XV is their ability to work together: "Rhodes may not be one of the better teams points wise but we are still a good team. There are no superhero egos to contend with."

"Rhodes rugby is also one of the best known clubs on campus, after Rowing. There's a real buzz around the club itself."

He also attributes the increasing standard of Rhodes rugby to the input of its coach, Lipi Sinnott. "Lipi has made a huge difference," Andy enthuses, "He is an excellent coach - the perfect platform for a university side." According to Andy the Rugby club see Lipi as a "father figure".

"Lipi looks at us all as becoming adults, and he encourages us to think about each game like adults. He has made us see that as a team we have a responsibility to behave well."

Andy is looking forward to reclaiming this year's Intervarsity title and believes that a Rhodes

victory is not impossible if the team go in with the "right mental attitude".

He expresses a keen interest in the development of rugby in South Africa and has an obvious admiration for the South Africa rugby team, particularly SA wing, Chester Williams, whom he believes has "proved himself beyond being a token figure".

"South Africa has an incredible amount of untapped potential. The standard of school rugby is phenomenal."

## "professional rugby"

Although Andy is planning on a career in ergonomics, he makes no secret of wanting to pursue professional rugby. "At the moment rugby is a full time hobby, but I will definitely play for a team after varsity. It may even become a profession - that seems to be the way it's going."

He is presently awaiting a possible call up for the EP second team after being invited to EP trials a few weeks ago, an invitation he "didn't expect".

At the moment, though, he is juggling his time between academics, rugby and his months old dog, Tama, which he describes as "a handful". He is also looking forward to Rugby World Cup. His Scottish accent thickens slightly as he confesses that despite his admiration for Francois Pienaar's team, his sentiments lie with Scotland. "I think I'll put on my kilt and dish out some verbal abuse..."

## Rhodes Sports Scholarships

Ilja Graulich

EACH year, over 400 prospective sportspeople apply for the numerous sports scholarships and bursaries available at Rhodes University.

The money, about R200 per year, is made available by the following organisations: Rhodes University, Old Rhodian Club in Johannesburg, EP Rugby Union and EP Cricket Union. The money is divided into three categories, a Merit Scholars,

a Senior Scholarship for sportspeople who also involve themselves in coaching and administrative procedures, and a Development Bursary for prospective sportspeople who show talent but come from less privileged backgrounds.

The scholarships, ranging from R1000 to R15000, are awarded according to merit and achievements attained.

Pete Andrew, head of Sports Administration, said: "All sports are recognised on an equal level, for men and ladies."

Once a scholarship has been awarded, Rhodes is committed to assisting these sportspeople and improving their skills.

## no privileges

For the individual sportspeople, there are no privileges when it comes to the academic field. They must still comply with the respective rules with regards to the degree course the person wishes to obtain, for example a BA course must still be completed within the five years.

At present there are about 70 scholarships that have been rewarded to Rhodes students, varying in sports from rock climbing to the better known sports such as Hockey and Rugby.

Rhodes is also very active in their recruiting programme, with information regarding Rhodes sports being sent to about 500 schools every year.



Pic: Taryn Cass



# SPORT

Activate supports Rhodes sport. Submitted details of all match fixtures and resulting scores will be appreciated.

## Fanie spins in!



Fanie, together with his daughter on the right, signing autographs.

Pic: Taryn Cass

Ilja Graulich

THERE were thrills aplenty when "Vinnige Fanie" visited Grahamstown last Saturday. Hundreds of fans, including schoolchildren and Rhodes students waited eagerly to get cricket hero Fanie de Villiers to sign anything, from hats and bats to scrap pieces of paper.

In between bites of his Wimpy burger and signing autographs, he was also very willing to speak to ACTIVATE about his cricket career and his family.

No time

According to his wife, Judy, he "is the best husband a wife could have". "He is caring and hardly anything is too much for him," she said. This was further portrayed in his open approach while speaking to fans clustered around him.

Fanie expressed relief to be having a break after a non-stop cricket tour of virtually two years. Fanie's

highlights include the Sydney Test in 1993, The Lords Test in 1994 and the thrashing of Pakistan at The Wanderers in 1995.

Not having time to pursue favourite hobbies, like fishing and scuba diving, he had to make do with his now famous jokes of the infamous radio controlled car in Australia and a certain "diving expedition" in New Zealand.

Fanie, who has been married for nearly five years and has two children, said his toughest experience is "definitely" being away from his family for long periods of time. He is glad he now has the opportunity "to take a break from it all" before the season gets into gear again with the touring English side and the World Cup in Pakistan next year.

On the question of retirement 30-year-old Fanie was very non-committal and said if his family can be combined with his cricket career he will be around for "a long time". How-waz- that?

## The Fort Hare Factor

Karuna Gopal

RHODES' Sports Admin are looking forward to the inclusion of the University of Fort Hare in this year's Intersvarsity according to the Head of Sports Administration, Pete Andrew.

"We see Fort Hare's involvement very positively. It will add a new dimension," Andrew said. He added that Fort Hare will participate in order to "see what Intersvarsity is".

Rhodes met UPE last Wednesday to discuss this year's programme but still have to meet Fort Hare to "match strengths and look at the available sports where they can compete".

"Development Facilitator"

Rhodes' previous attempts in 1993 and 1994 to initiate a Fort Hare intersvarsity failed because of sports administration problems at the university. However, Andrew sees this year's event, which will take place over the weekend of May 5-6, as a practical step towards eventually establishing a separate Fort Hare-Rhodes Intersvarsity weekend.

"Contact with Fort Hare has developed over the years and has become fairly regular." He commented that Intersvarsity will be "development facilitating" and will be "the most effective way of Rhodes being involved".

Andrew said Intersvarsity will host 18 different sports with a particular focus on soccer. "Soccer will be highlighted in a greater way. It will dominate the Saturday morning agenda."

The social calender for Intersvarsity is an equally busy one, beginning with the Champagne Ball on May 3, followed by a Purple and White Party and an Intersvarsity Disco over the sporting weekend.

Andrew is confident that with the participation of three universities this year, Intersvarsity "will be very competitive".

### SPORTS RESULTS

#### AQUATICS

March 20 - 26

RU vs DSG	Won 6-4
RU vs Pinelands	Lost 1-2
RU vs Hershel	Lost 1-5
RU vs Simonstown	Won 7-1
RU vs Alex II	Won 6-2
RU vs Alex I	Lost 0-3

\* RU vs UPCC

Rhodes 205 for 6

Wiblin 69

Carlisle 52

Rayner 3/22

UPCC 143 for 9

\* RU vs Union

Rhodes 203 for 7

Rothman 61

Emslie 50\*

Union 123 all out

Rothman 3/28

CRICKET (end of season)

March 20 - 26

HOCKEY

March 27 - April 2

Indoor Intersvarsity

RU Men 1 vs UPE Men 1

Won 5-3

RU Women 1 vs UPE Women 1

Won 1-0

RU Men 2 vs UPE Men 2

Lost 1-7

RU Women 2 vs UPE Women 2

Lost 3-5

RU Men 3 vs UPE Men 3

Drawn 4-4

RU Women 3 vs UPE Women 3

Won 9-0

RU 1st Res vs Crusaders

Lost 14-32

RU 3rds vs Crusaders

Lost 3-27

#### SAILING

March 20 - 26

Border Championships

C. Felu - 2nd - Open Class

#### SQUASH

March 20 - 26

1st Res vs Crusaders

Lost 6-12

#### VOLLEYBALL

March 20 - 26

RU Men vs Tech

Won 3-0

RU Men vs UPSEC

Won 3-1

RU Men vs Fort Hare

Won 3-0

RU Women vs Fort Hare

Won 3-0

#### BASKETBALL

March 27 - April 2

RU Men vs Trojan

Won 67-48

RU Men vs Blue Streaks

Won 65-64

RU Women vs Strikers

Lost 30-34

RU Women vs Blue Streaks

Lost 31-36

RU Men 2 vs Bullets

Won

RU Men 2 vs Blue Streaks

Lost

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