

activate

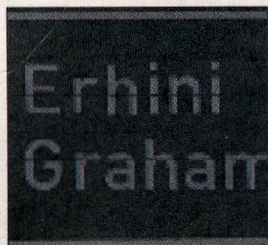
Independent Student Newspaper at Rhodes University
Edition 10 September 2005

PROUDLY
SOUTH AFRICAN



05

Google takes over the world



04

Rhodes University, eRhini?

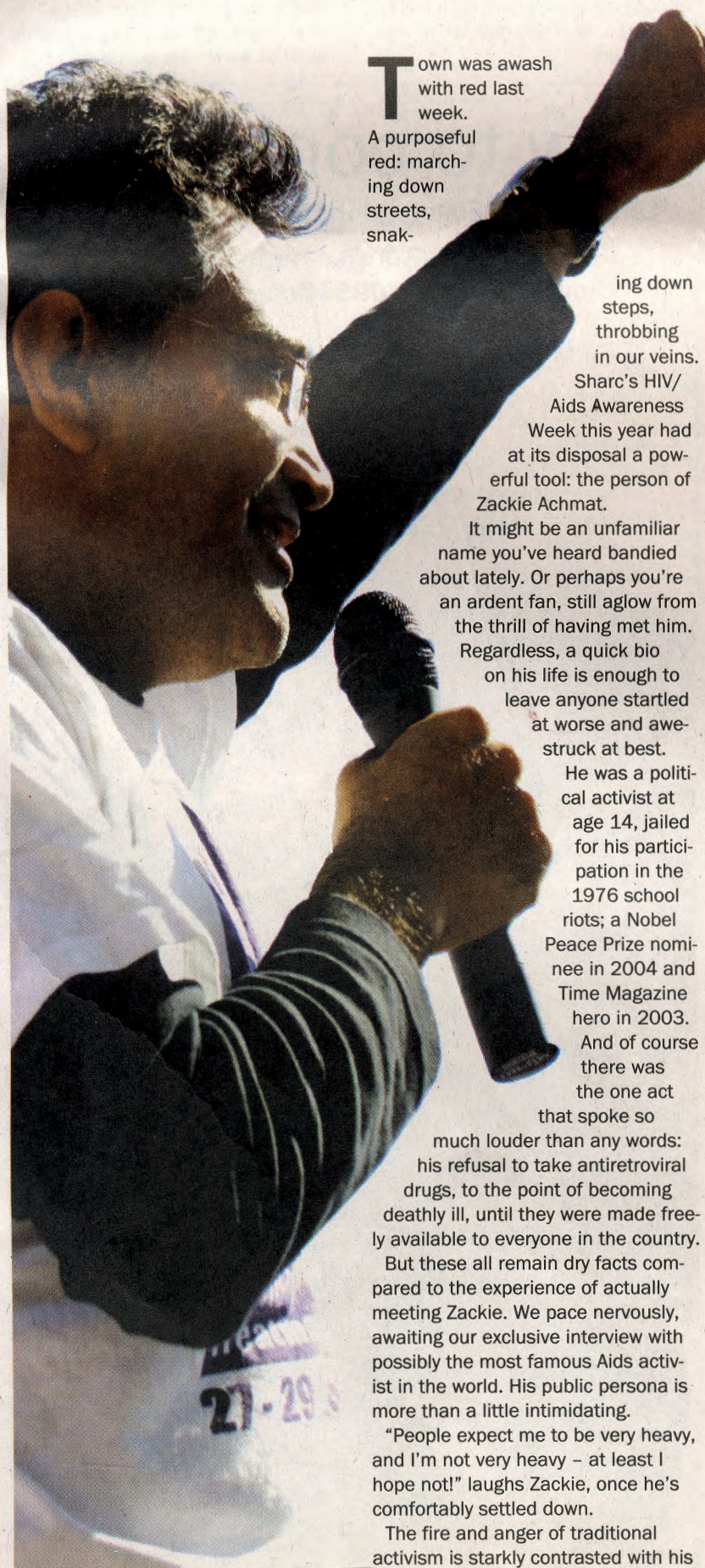


12

Sports awards evening

Zackie in Grahamstown

Legendary HIV/Aids activist Zackie Achmat joins Rhodes students in a successful bid to change University policy



Town was awash with red last week.

A purposeful red: marching down streets, snaking

ing down steps, throbbing in our veins. Sharc's HIV/

Aids Awareness Week this year had at its disposal a powerful tool: the person of Zackie Achmat.

It might be an unfamiliar name you've heard bandied about lately. Or perhaps you're an ardent fan, still aglow from the thrill of having met him. Regardless, a quick bio

on his life is enough to leave anyone startled at worse and awe-struck at best.

He was a political activist at age 14, jailed for his participation in the 1976 school riots; a Nobel Peace Prize nominee in 2004 and Time Magazine hero in 2003.

And of course there was the one act

that spoke so

much louder than any words: his refusal to take antiretroviral drugs, to the point of becoming deathly ill, until they were made freely available to everyone in the country.

But these all remain dry facts compared to the experience of actually meeting Zackie. We pace nervously, awaiting our exclusive interview with possibly the most famous Aids activist in the world. His public persona is more than a little intimidating.

"People expect me to be very heavy, and I'm not very heavy – at least I hope not!" laughs Zackie, once he's comfortably settled down.

The fire and anger of traditional activism is starkly contrasted with his

calm demeanour.

"Most people would assume that I speak activist-speak, which of course, I don't."

Indeed, it becomes clearer as we chat that he doesn't need to.

In a simple white shirt with his trademark 'HIV Positive' slogan in purple, there is nothing about Zackie's appearance that might distinguish him from anyone else. But if one can speak about presence, this man certainly has it. Humble as he is wise, he talks with a quiet passion.

I confess to Zackie that I feel weary always hearing about Aids, yet seeing more and more people dying of it.

It feels as though everything has been said – but has it? He nods in understanding, "We're not dealing with the epidemic, because everything we do is so superficial," he explains.

"The problem with the liberal paradigm of dealing with HIV/Aids is that it's only about individual behaviour change."

He is quick to add that individual behaviour is an important part of the problem, but structural barriers must be examined and dealt with too.

"You can't just say ABC to people," he points out, referring to the government's prevention policy encouraging people to abstain from sex, be faithful or condomise. "How do you say 'ABC' in a rural area where there are no condoms, where the only way women can get around is by having transactional sex?"

"The only way young men can exercise some form of masculinity is to have many sexual relationships." He shakes his head. "To simply say 'ABC' in that context does not address the structural things that influence behaviour change."

Political correctness often proves to be the biggest barrier to honest discussion. We need to be honest about what we think, even if it sounds prejudiced. "It's not saying you're a bad person. Many of my colleagues at TAC have challenged my sexist, racist or even classist behaviour. They have a right to do so and I have a duty to learn from it."

The biggest trap at a supposedly liberal institution like Rhodes University is a know-it-all attitude. "All of us as middle-class people think we know everything about everything, and therefore we're not easily susceptible

to education and to learning," says Zackie.

Ignorance is just one consequence of this disavowal; the other is a schism between our words and our actions. "We have an enormous public piety in which we're all holy, but a deep private permissiveness in which we allow anything to happen in our private lives."

We move on to his turbulent relationship with our ruling party. Having fought for them under apartheid, Zackie has continued the struggle in a sense, fighting against new forms of injustice. "For me, criticism is the most important form of loyalty. So for the ANC to see criticism as a sign of disloyalty is a symptom of a deeper lack of democracy within the ANC itself."

Of course, with the media eager to reduce the issue to a personal one, Zackie is often pitted against President Mbeki in the press. "There is an element of personal responsibility that all of us have to accept. I am responsible for infecting myself. On the other hand, the state has the most enormous resources and we are a very unequal society where the majority of people don't have anything.

"It's critical for the state to ensure that everyone can share in all public goods.

At the moment, the people in charge of the state in relation to health are the president and the health minister. And are they doing their job in relation to health? No. They don't accept the personal responsibility for that."

Its time for him to lead the march down High Street, and the interview draws to an end.

Does he have much hope for the future? "It depends on what time of the day you get me at," he laughs.

He grows serious. "I can't wait for the Mbeki era to end: the era of Aids denial. It's very painful. It's difficult to live in a country where the state allows hundreds of thousands of its citizens to die, without proactive prevention."

The pain in his voice is tangible, and one feels the full burden of the issue of HIV/Aids. A story that has been simplified, denied and confused till it has been robbed of its meaning for every one of us. But as Zackie heads out the door I know that I have hope.

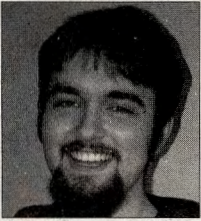
If a man faced with his odds was able to make a difference, I certainly can too.

Immediately after the interview, Zackie walked down High Street, greeting the public as he made his way to the Cathedral. He was to help lead a march that would change Rhodes' HIV/Aids policy permanently.



Zackie, Rebecca Davis and Leslie Odendaal, of SHARC, lead Rhodes students and staff in a landmark march to the university's administration buildings. ■ Lauren Clifford-Holmes

Editorial



■ Peter Barlow

I firmly believe that it is important to ask interesting questions because then you will hopefully get interesting answers.

So, here is a question for you: did you vote in the SRC elections and if so who did you vote for? By the time you read this the election would have come and gone, quorum (hopefully) reached and the new members of the SRC ready to begin doing whatever the SRC is actually meant to do.

Hold it right there, what does the SRC actually do? At times I am not sure that the members of the SRC themselves actually know.

Well, let's break down what the acronym SRC actually stands for: the "S" is for students, that's us. The "R" is for representative, which must mean they represent the students (us) and the "C" is for council which means, in my view, that there is a lot of paperwork involved.

Therefore, the SRC, in effect, are elected public servants of the students who will speak for us when admin does something and sort out things like societies.

The keyword here is "elected", as the candidates may choose to run but we choose to vote for them. So, here is another interesting question: if we vote in an SRC who doesn't do a good job, whose fault is it really? Let me answer that one for you: it is our fault, especially if you didn't vote.

This brings me to another thing I would like to point out. Students are great at complaining, and I am guilty of this as well, believe me (I mean, what am I doing in this column?).

The first thing I noticed when I arrived here last year was the amount of hot air students' spout in complaining to whoever will listen about anything and everything, but doing nothing about it. But in an election we get the chance to do something and make a change for the better.

What happens then if you don't vote? Are you still entitled to complain about the lack of service the SRC are giving us? My answer is a big hell no! We do just that anyway though, which is quite sad when you think about it, don't you think?

Let me just say at this point that while Activate is committed to watching every move the SRC makes and we won't hesitate to print an article when they mess up, we are also going to strive to print the good things too because often those go unnoticed.

So, what can you expect from us, the new team at Activate? Our goal is simply to create a stimulating paper and get it to you, the campus community.

In this edition we lead with the HIV/AIDS awareness week march which happened last Friday.

The reception the marchers got from Dr Woods and the policy SHARC gave him were truly amazing.

Rest assured we will be watching to make sure they carry through on their promises. But their actions can only go so far. In the words of Rebecca Davis, the Chairperson of SHARC, "AIDS is your problem too".

I hope you enjoy this first edition from the new team, have a great vac and you can catch the next edition in the second week of next term. Hold on tight, here we go!

Pioneering Rhodes researcher receives bronze order from Mbeki

■ Tami Duncan

On September 27, Professor Tebello Nyokong will receive the Bronze Order of Mapungubwe from President Thabo Mbeki at the Union Buildings in Pretoria.

According to a letter from the office of the presidency, Nyokong will be honoured for her "outstanding contribution in the field of science".

This is not the first time Nyokong has won a prestigious award. Last year she won the Woman of the Year award, sponsored by Shoprite/Checkers and SABC2.

She was also the second finalist in the South African awards for women working in science in the category of "improving the quality of life of South African women".

Dean of Science at Rhodes University, Professor Pat Terry, said "Her fellow scientists in this faculty – and, indeed, at other universities around the world – have all known about her passion for her subject and her outstanding achievements as a researcher and supervisor for a long time. It is wonderful to have the excellence and talent of this dynamic yet



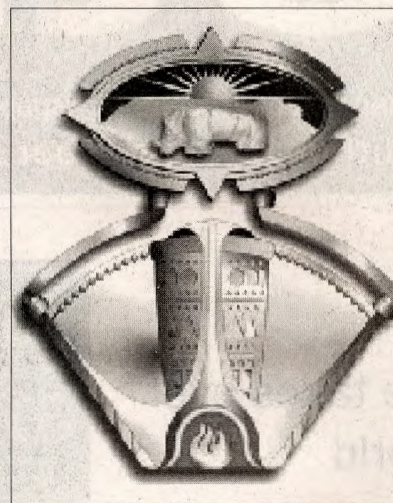
Professor Tebello Nyokong

modest colleague recognised in the highest offices of the land."

Nyokong is currently a professor of Physical-Inorganic Chemistry at Rhodes.

Her main research drive is the photodynamic therapy of cancer. She has taken a new approach on this field and is in the process of developing new light-sensitive drugs to combat this disease.

Although still in its testing stages, these new drugs are reported to be



Order of Mapungubwe

■ Pics supplied

less harmful than other cancer treatments such as chemotherapy, since they do not impair a person's vitality and strength. However, one of their side effects is that after receiving the treatment, one becomes very sensitive to light.

As well as being a full-time professor, Nyokong is a fellow of Nelson Mandela Hall. She is also involved in working with young female chemists to promote scientific development in South Africa.

Margaret Kenyon:

9 August 1945 - 21 August 2005

■ Ciro De Siena

Born August 9, 1945, Margaret grew up on a farm in Waterval and went to school at St Michael's in Bloemfontein. After graduating with a BA from UCT she went on to work as a journalist for the Cape times before leaving to teach English in Paris.

The Kenyon family moved to Grahamstown in 1982, and Margaret began her long history at Rhodes University shortly thereafter.

In 1997 she was appointed as Head of Collections and Technical Services. Just four years later, Margaret was appointed to the position of University Librarian. According to an extract from a tribute read by Viv Botha at the memorial service on August 25, Margaret "inspired her colleagues to do, and be, the best they could...she was extremely proud of her staff, delighting in their achievements."

Margaret was instrumental in taking the Rhodes University Library into the computer age. In 1990, the Rhodes Library went digital, with an online catalogue of over 90 000 entries. OPAC, as it soon became known, has undoubtedly helped students and staff in all academic endeavours.

A picture of the late Margaret can be found at: www.ru.ac.za/library

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Goodbye Grahamstown, molo eRhini?

■ Lindsey Tainton

Grahamstown, named after Colonel John Graham, has been highlighted by the South African Geographic Names Council (SAGNC) as one of the towns proposed to undergo a name change within the next few months.

The proposal has been met with vocal concern from some residents.

The cited problem with our historic town's name is that it commemorates a colonial hero.

The national name-changing campaign intends to reflect South Africa's new identity. The SAGNC believes this can be achieved by reinstating pre-colonial African place names, according to a report in *Business Day*. The proposed name for Grahamstown is eRhini, the town's original Xhosa name.

President Thabo Mbeki singled out Grahamstown as a particularly contentious South African name.

In a parliamentary address the president said that it was named after a brutal and vicious military butcher who starved the Xhosa into submission. Colonel Graham implemented a scorched earth policy, causing the death of thousands of Xhosa people.

The alteration of place names is inevitably a costly exercise and the government intends to use governmental funds to realise the SAGNC's goals. This has been widely criticized as another misuse of public money.

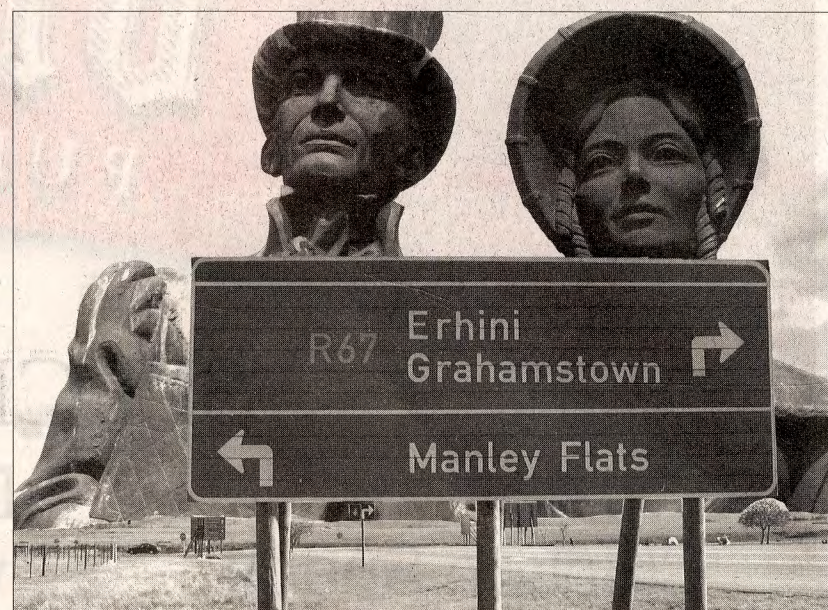
The question remains whether changing the names of towns can, in reality, achieve this. In certain respects it will, especially when it comes to town names like Kaffirspuit

and Boesmanskloof, which should be changed for obvious reasons.

The renaming process is meant to represent all cultural groups; for example Boesmanspruit will change its name to Waterval. The SAGNC was established in 1998 and takes applications for name changes from all over the country.

The names of 57 000 towns and cities and villages were placed under review at the beginning of the year. The problem with the process is that the council only meets three times a year.

Another issue is that historical names are exactly that, historical. They are brand names that South Africa has spent billions on in marketing, and by changing them the risk of obscuring history is heightened.



World renowned Arts capital Grahamstown will undergo a name change.

■ Graphic by Lauren Clifford-Holmes

Livingstone Res will switch gender

■ Tami Duncan and Lorenza Allan

Male students of Livingstone Residence will have to permanently vacate their rooms at the end of the year after a decision by the university to use the residence to accommodate female students.

According to Dean of Students, Dr Moosa Motara, the switch has happened due to the substantial number of female undergraduate residence applications. Currently female students constitute 60% of the student body and the University requires an additional 120 rooms for next year's female students.

An SRC representative confirmed that the switch would happen, saying that after several residence administration meetings were held earlier this year, a decision was made to convert the small male residence into a female residence because female student numbers were increasing at a faster rate than that of male students.

The change will only provide an additional 37 rooms, and other plans have also been made to provide more accommodation.

Cradock Place, currently staff housing, will also be converted into a female residence – providing an extra 40 rooms.

In light of the heightened demand for campus accommodation, university administrators have altered resident admissions criteria for the forthcoming



Livingstone female Residence: Opening 2006

■ Graphic by Gregor Rohrig

ing year – placing greater emphasis on good student behaviour.

However, Dr Motara has calmed concerns over rumours that accommodation would be limited to just first and second year students – admitting that this would remove important mentorship and guidance provided by the older students in residence.

Given that the university's decision was finalised in June, the SRC's decision not to make the news public until recently has been greeted with disapproval by many, although the student body claims it withheld the information in order to avoid placing undue stress on the Livingstone students during exam time.

On the first day of the third term, Livingstone students were greeted

with an unpleasant and confusing notice from Administration, informing them that two female sub-wardens were required for 2006.

The students proceeded to challenge the already confirmed decision by approaching Dr Woods on the matter, but without success.

Due to the residence's small size, some students are questioning whether the switch is really worth the effort, with senior student Shawn Miller adding, "They are removing the close family feeling and tradition."

The current residents of Livingstone will however be given preference for any other residence of their choice.

Dr Motara felt that this was the most appropriate action, but said that he could understand the students' anger.

Overhaul of the SRC elections

■ Ciro De Siena

It is often said that change is inevitable. However the ineffectiveness of the SRC at Rhodes University was en route to invalidate that notion had it not been for the intervention of a few individuals.

SRC Sergeant-at-Arms Paul Hjul highlighted some problems and changes surrounding the upcoming elections.

In a major change to previous election processes, students have not been able to vote online on Rhodes' StudentZone. "This methodology essentially turns every computer into a polling station", said Hjul. "In any democratic process, certain procedures need to be upheld, and this was just not happening." This process entertained the possibility for campaigning at every 'station': a democratic no-no. Hjul asserts that fundamental flaws like these have contributed to the fact that ultimately the SRC elect is not a legitimate one. The voices of the students are heard, but are distorted.

However in spite of these, and many other critical alterations, Hjul, on the Saturday before the elections, commented that "the elections will be definitively more legitimate, but shall probably be a shambles."

Activate went to print on Monday morning and therefore cannot report on whether his comment materialised. If a quorum of 40% is not realised it

will mean another election in the 4th term.

The outgoing SRC convened informally to review the elections at the beginning of the 3rd academic term. However it was only upon the return of Vice President Vicky Heideman from leave, four weeks ago, that the SRC convened to take decisive action. This resulted in the elections not featuring in the University's Calendar.

Difficulties like these will be addressed in this term of office. To augment these changes Hjul has been appointed to the newly created position of Sergeant-at-Arms by the SRC. The position's influence is not a seasonal one and according to Hjul, he will serve as the "the protector of the student body's democratic rights."

The position arose as a result of Heideman approaching Hjul with the intention of re-calibrating the election process. The SRC appointed Hjul to the position and the incoming SRC will have full right to dismiss him should they see fit.

The restructured SRC Electoral Committee will convene immediately after the 2005 elections to finalise the 2006 elections. Hjul insists that "it is measures like these which will guarantee that the SRC, and its elections, are exponentially more effective and representative of what the students want."

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Google and the information age

Google's astounding success has raised concerns about information control and world domination, writes **Luke Reid**.

Google is the world's most-used search engine with a current market share that is more than twice that of its closest rival: Yahoo. Since going public just over a year ago their share price has more than doubled. In June they became the world's biggest media company, valued at over \$80 billion on the stock market, ahead of Time Warner at \$78 billion.

Google has managed to inspire many people with its fresh, innovative culture and sense of youthful vigour. Their quirky style is funky, user-friendly and appealing to technophobes.

But with many other search engines aggressively competing with Google for market share, the search engine needs to improve its product constantly and branch into new areas. Many people in the IT business are concerned about Google's enormous size and power, and increasingly refer to the company as "the next Microsoft." For the majority of us, Google's search page is the face of the Internet. It is a deceptively simple face.

Search engines like Google have the enormous task of trying to find the exact page we happen to be looking for among the billions available on the World Wide Web. They do this by finding all the web pages that contain the terms we are searching for, and then listing them in order of usefulness.

What makes Google different from other search engines is how it decides which sites will be more useful to us than others. Google does this by judging a site's online popularity according to how many other websites have links pointing to it. The Google engine is by no means perfect and many webmasters' livelihoods depend on their ability to exploit problems with it.

Because of Google's popularity, a web page's success is often completely dependent on how the search engine decides to rank it. To make their sites seem more popular and important than they are, many webmasters use strategies like stuffing their pages with unrelated keywords or getting together and creating networks of interlinking sites.



■ Graphic by Dimitar Dobrev

Profit is not the only motivation for this. If one googles the phrase "miserable failure", the top result is a US government site advertising George Bush's autobiography. This prominent example of Google bombing was achieved by an online campaign by thousands of web loggers, or bloggers, to create links to the site using these words.

Strategies like these threaten the credibility of Google's page ranking and can often make it difficult for people to find what they want.

Most students will know how useful Google can be in the early hours of the morning before an essay deadline. However, in some of Rhodes' academic departments, googling is considered a major offence. Associate Professor of History Julian Cobbing says Google and the Internet are causing a general decline in the number of books students read.

"Students are under increasing time-stress," he says. "They no longer get to the answer with reasoned

arguments and background, because there is no time. There is no focus on content." This, according to Cobbing, amounts to "the collapse of intelligence".

These days Google is a lot more than a search engine. The company's mission is nothing less than to organise all the information in the world and make it universally accessible and useful.

This has led to a number of developments, ranging from Google Earth, which allows you to browse the surface of the earth using satellite photographs, to Google Print, which will eventually allow you to search the full text of all books available in major US libraries.

At the beginning of the year Google launched Google SA, a local version of the site that is rapidly taking over from local search engines Ananzi and Telkom's Aardvark.

Google plans to release a number of other programs that will directly attack Microsoft's position as the world's

dominant provider of day-to-day software. These will include a Google web browser to replace Internet Explorer and an alternative to Microsoft Office.

However, if Google wants to be sure of its place in the world, it needs to continue innovating rather than providing alternatives to existing products. Google employs more than 4 000 people in offices all over the world. Most work as engineers at the massive Google campus, or Googleplex, in Mountainview, California.

The Googleplex is a multi-billion dollar complex designed to facilitate the nurturing of ideas from some of the most creative and talented people in the world. It is often described as something like the geek equivalent of Willy Wonka's chocolate factory.

Large rubber exercise balls replace office chairs. Desk lamps have made way for lava lamps, and large dogs and toy cars roam the halls.

There are foosball and ping-pong tables, a sauna and a piano. Charlie Ayers was hired as the company chef, bringing with him what he calls an "eclectic repertoire of health-conscious recipes". Sections of the parking lot are roped off for twice-weekly street hockey games, and weekly TGIF (Thank God It's Friday) ideas meetings are held.

Google's fervour and escalating domination might be cause for concern. It has hired so many of America's top engineering graduates that numerous other companies have started complaining.

Google recently "stole" top research directors from eBay and Microsoft, and are facing legal action from Microsoft for this. They have even been sued for discriminating against people over the age of 40. In January a new employee was fired for joking that the Googleplex perks are only there to make sure that employees would work longer hours without complaining.

However one looks at it, Google is here to stay. While perfecting and running current projects is crucial, the most important thing is for Google to be the organisation that produces that next big idea.

Google's humble origins

■ Candace Whitehead

They started off with no more than a student budget. Today they are worth \$9 billion apiece.

Founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin met in 1995 as Stanford University graduates. Google legend has it that from their first meeting the two bickered constantly, turning every topic into a heated argument. Ultimately, their differences found common ground in computing's greatest challenge: the search engine. By January 1996, Page and Brin had created the search engine BackRub, Google's predecessor. Page, who had gained legendary status by building a working printer from Lego, designed a server replacing expensive machines with low-end PCs.

The two spent 1998 perfecting their technology. They maxed out their credit cards buying a terabyte of memory, and Page's dorm room became Google's first data centre. Meanwhile, Brin managed the busi-

ness side, and the two began seeking potential partners. It was around this time that BackRub became Google, a play on the word "googol". Coined by Milton Sirota, the term refers to the number represented by the numeral 1, followed by 100 zeros. With little external interest, Page and Brin decided to form their own company. They collected an initial investment of just under \$1 million, and Google Inc. was born.

The company exploded from a friend's garage in Menlo Park, California, relocating twice in one year. At this stage, Google answered 10 000 queries daily. On September 21, 1999, the beta "public testing" label came off the website, and Google became a sensation. They moved to their current headquarters, Googleplex, and foreign investors and partners began lining up to become part of the phenomenon. And the rest, as they say, is history.

What you said:

This week we asked what the Livingstone men think of their eviction in favour of the fairer sex and where they plan on going next year.



Alex Richardson

BSC

1st year

What have we done to deserve this?! I'm undecided about where to go - no other Res can compare to Livingstone.

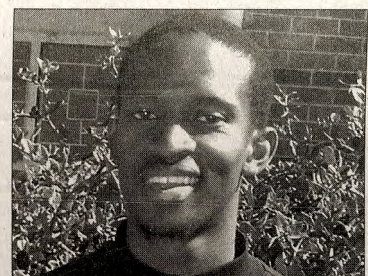


Alex Smith

BA (psych)

1st year

It's really unfair. This Res has something all the other Res's don't. I'm thinking about moving into Hobson House!

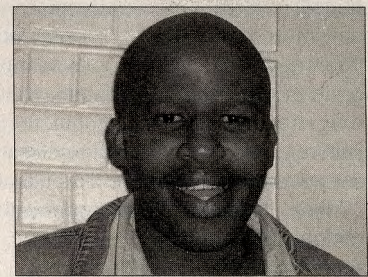


Kutlo Motseta

Journ Diploma

4th year

It doesn't make a difference to me because I am leaving at the end of the year anyway.



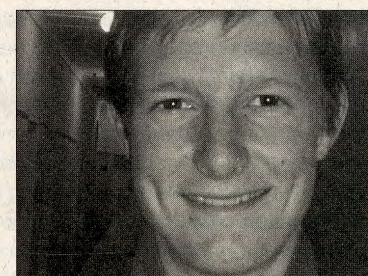
Mandilakhe Sijabulela

Lubisi

BCOM (law)

3rd year

I am angry because the varsity has taken total disregard for our Res and the guys that live here. I'm moving into digs next year.



Lee Richardson

BCOM

2nd year

It feels like we're being excluded. I'm going into digs next year.



Sergey Brin (left) and Larry Page were university students when they founded Google.

■ Pic Supplied

The Flip Side

For years now, Grahamstown residents and thirsty Rhodents have glared each other down, eyeball-to-eyeball, over noise levels in town and rowdy late-night drinking sprees. Jo Fitzhenry, a resident, and Penuel Mlotshwa, a student, present their own points of view.



■ Phillipa Ehrlich

Jo Fitzhenry would first like to put things in perspective for you. This is what is happening in New Street: there have been incidents of noise, disturbance, physical, verbal and mental abuse, vandalism and damage to property, uncontrolled littering of broken glass, used condoms, vomit, urine and faeces, prostitution, sexual abuse, drug trading, sale of alcohol to under age children, break-ins, theft, reckless driving of cars and motorbikes; the list goes on and on. These incidents have been witnessed by residents and

some have been recorded on camera. To date and after numerous meetings, many letters, hundreds of phone calls to the Municipal Environmental Officer, Municipal

Manager, the Mayor, the police and the University itself, there has been no acknowledgement of action taken against the above situations. It would appear that this situation is a direct result of the lack of control of alcohol sales and the unlimited hours at which anyone and everyone can trade. It would also appear that the pub and tavern owners are bent on selling as much as can be consumed by the young people of this town, with no conscience or regard for the consequences of their actions. Due to cultural changes in entertainment, noise pollution has unfortunately become a part of our daily lives. New Street is easily accessible to students and because the

“There comes a time in the 24 hours of each day when we all have a right to sleep and serenity”

At this point we would like it to be noted that we enjoy living in New Street and like the buzz and liveliness of the students. Sadly, it is a majority who appear to lack all social graces and knowledge of the basics of human behaviour. They should not be allowed to destroy our lives in Grahamstown! There are no official keepers of the law and no one that is willing to help us and understand our point of view. It is against the laws of this country to cause a disturbance of peace. Anywhere! We have been more than asking for in return is some thought for your environment, your University and the people that live in, look after and love this historic town.

■ Jacky Smith

about their desire to earn a living; to prosper like any hardworking individual, given the cumbersome task of not only satisfying the thirst of the thirsty, but also the hunger of the hungry? While on the topic of hunger: what about those individuals who seek the fulfilment of a meal from The Rat, but find that they can't have one due to grouchy residents who would rather have peace and quiet than let a hungry fellow eat? OK, fair enough, with the opening of the balcony, The Rat's noise level has increased, but even when analysing this, one should remember that it is only Wednesday, Friday and Saturday that are the noisy nights: three measly nights out of seven. I reckon that the residents are getting the better deal! Be that as it may, one has to consider that we're dealing with humans here, not machines that can be silenced at the flick of a switch! We therefore have to be sensitive to the residents' requests, considering that we too would like nights of peace once in a while, without drunken students keeping one up. It's true: Rhodes students get rowdy when they're drunk. It wouldn't take a rocket scientist to see this. But like any rational individual who understands the crux of democracy: all we would need to do is compare figures. No, not the waitress- and the beer bottle figures, but rather the numbers: the number of Rhodents and Grahamstonians that benefit from the late opening of The Rat and Parrot versus the complaining residents. You do not need to be studying maths or even be Pythagoras to see which picture automatically paints itself from this simple exercise.

■ Penuel Mlotshwa

In view of the fact that I've got a lot of support writing this counterargument to what would seem a futile debate, it would be convenient to write a random piece representing all Rhodes students and its lecturers. Considering that time is a scarce resource, I would indeed be wasting my precious writing and your precious reading time. Evidently this would be a frugal exercise considering the trees that died for this publication; and I'd much rather choose to give you the truth and fact of the matter at hand and make the trees feel that they died for a worthy cause. Residents living close to The Rat have been complaining about excessive noise coming from the establishment late at night, and have thus recommended that it close earlier... You gotta be kidding! The Rat has always been the way it is! Remember the well-worn line that talk is cheap? So cheap, in fact, that it's free! What is priceless though, is peace and quiet when you so desire, and this is evidently what residents would hope to achieve through their complaints. And more specifically, they would like The Rat to close earlier, for their convenience. First of all I cannot even begin to understand why a residence complex would ever be built adjacent to the main watering hole of the thirstiest bunch of students that ever did exist: us Rhodes students. Secondly, it is unfair of residents to expect a successful business and well-known establishment such as The Rat and Parrot to shorten its trading hours for their benefit. What about The Rat employees that earn a living working at the establishment? What





Eye In The Sky

■ Andrew Whitfield

The winds of change are blowing through Rhodes University as the end of the year draws near. SRC elections are taking place, the search for the new VC has been narrowed down, the *Activate* staff have changed over and summer is finally on its way.

With the joy of summer comes the pain of exams, and with the pain of exams come those two months of lethargic bliss in which the hardest thing you should have to do is open a beer. This is of course is what we deserve after a year of putting our brains through their paces and tackling that grindstone head on.

After a year of blood, sweat and toil in the much-loathed library and the countless lecture halls, it is our right!

Wrong. If most of us were to be entirely honest, which is sadly not often the case these days, we would say we could have worked harder.

Most of us harbour deep regrets when we realise that we could have gone just that extra inch further. I used to forget how to write after my summer vac and it made me realise that I had truly had a relaxing holiday.

However, all that 'work' we did the past year means nothing if we don't keep our brains ticking.

The dreaded summer job is not something that most of us want to talk about. Why talk about that when we can talk about beaches, surfing drinking and all the other slothful sins of summer.

This is a perfectly normal reaction but it is not the reality that we will soon have to face. This student took up two jobs in his summer vac in 2003/2004. One in the HR department of Volkswagen in the 'picturesque' little town of Uitenhage, and another in the smog of Johannesburg at 702 News Radio.

Both of these jobs were eight to five with no pay. I wanted the experience and I got it along with a big fat wake-up call from the real world.

It is a busy, busy world out there that isn't waiting for anyone. In order to keep up you need to be prepared and well-equipped for the gruelling competition and non-stop pressure to perform.

As boring as it may sound it is imperative to develop one's CV as early as possible in order to avoid the curveballs that the world of employment can often throw at you.

It doesn't help relying on your uncle's friend's mother's granny to get you a job. Connections are useful but cannot always be reliable as I recently found out, so a solid CV is key.

A summer holiday is two months, so why not spend half of it developing your knowledge and your list of work experience.

The world is changing every day and if we do not adapt to this change we will fall behind.

It is encouraging to see so many SRC candidates talking about putting an end to apathy - an issue I have been very concerned with over the years - and it will be interesting to see if the winds of change can carry this through and create a more cooperative and constructive campus.

Balagan, barriers and bullies

Two historic days in the Middle East - one after the other - presented hope and subsequently despair. What are the consequences of the recent Gaza Strip and West Bank pull-out and fence-in for both Israelis and Palestinians? And what does it mean for us, wonders

Carly Ritz.

There's a big balagan in the Middle East. Balagan is the Yiddish word for mess.

Understatement - I know. Now I could use this allotted space to give you a rundown on the balagan. But I won't. Firstly, the word count would not allow for such an indulgence; secondly, at this point in the game, I don't even know the root of the conflict that has since avalanched into the current status quo and finally, I fear my historical account may be tinged with subjectivity here and there.

For the above reasons, I will refrain from a historical and political account. I leave the history up to you, and implore you to turn to the wonder that is Google for a quick rundown, although I cannot guarantee objectivity on their part either. So, in light of recent events, what concerns me more than the history and the politics is the people. It's a global crisis - that the decisions of a few men shatter the lives of civilians every day.

August 23, 2005 was a significant day in the Middle East. It was a day marked by the withdrawal of Israel from all twenty-one Gaza Strip settlements and four isolated communities in the northern West Bank.

The pullout signified the first time that Israel has abandoned territory that the Palestinians wish to claim for their future state. The withdrawal was met with much goodwill, and visions of a renewed peace process crossed the minds of many who dared to dream beyond Israeli snipers and Palestinian suicide bombers.

August 24, 2005 was yet another significant day in the Middle East saga. Yet it was not characterised by nearly the same warm fuzzy feelings or hope. Just one day after the pullout, it was announced that West Bank land would be seized by Israel to extend the West Bank barrier around the largest Jewish settlement, Maale Adumim, and effectively annex the West Bank's largest Jewish settlement to Jerusalem.

Palestinian anxiety had been confirmed. Israel now appears to have used the Gaza withdrawal and the international goodwill it generated to consolidate its hold on the large

settlement blocs in the West Bank. Now that's a little bit sneaky on old Sharon's part, don't you think?

Sharon sits on his power podium and claims that the West Bank barrier is essential to prevent Palestinian suicide bombings. Perhaps. And it is true to say that the number of attacks has declined somewhat since the barrier's inception three years ago. But is it fair to go now and build the barrier inside the West Bank on land that the Palestinians are seeking for their future state? Should the building go ahead, the barrier would no doubt cut into the West Bank, thereby sealing off Palestinians in East Jerusalem. The implications are serious. What will this mean for the Palestinians in East Jerusalem? How will this barrier affect their access to their places of work, and their family and friends? Is it fair that innocent Palestinians must pay the price for Israeli fear?

Can anyone tell me how we go about defining ownership of land? Is it a first-come, first-served game? If it is, then as a white South African, am I not an illegal occupant in South Africa? Is ownership based on cultivation, growth and development of the land? Or is it a religious claim? Hegel believed that when you create or produce something, it becomes a manifestation of your will and part of you is imparted on that which you create.

In the light of such an opinion perhaps it could be said that the Israelis do have a claim to the land, since they have worked it and developed their homes there. But the philosopher Nozick had other ideas about land ownership. He proposes that a person who acquires a holding in accordance with the principle of justice is entitled to that holding. Some would then argue that the Israelis justly claimed the West Bank in the Six-Day War in 1967. But I am not sure if I agree. Is war really a legitimate and just way in which to claim ownership of a

here. Is it fair that 9 000 people must now pay the price? Is it fair that 9 000 people must leave the place they call home in order to remedy the situation? Was it fair that the inhabitants of District Six and Sophiatown were forced to leave what was their home? I am aware that we are dealing with two different socio-political contexts, but in the chaos of the politics, is the human issue perhaps ignored? And now, what are the interim plans? Where do these people go? Where do they work? And what will Sharon do when their frustration over their dislocation turns violent?

I once told my grandfather that I thought Jerusalem should be an international state. Big mistake. Never tell a staunch Zionist and personal friend of David Ben Gurion that you think Jerusalem should be an international state. For some Jews and Israelis

there is just no compromise. For some Palestinians there is just no compromise. And therein lies the problem.

I don't have the answers. But I am afraid. Afraid that Jerusalem, its heritage and its significance to three major religions will be the ultimate price in the conflict. Maybe

when the Western Wall is a pile of rubble, the Dome of the Rock is a heap of dust, and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre is a shell of the magnificent place of worship it was, the people will remember what they were fighting for in the first place. Because at this point, I

don't believe that anyone knows. But the reality remains that innocent Palestinian and Israeli civilians bear the brunt of the bullies who won't play together in the park. I fear that Jerusalem, the centre of the world's three monotheistic religions, will be the ultimate price of this conflict, and if that is the case, then we all lose.

“For some Jews and Israelis there is just no compromise. For some Palestinians there is just no compromise. And therein lies the problem.”

The Gaza Strip and West Bank

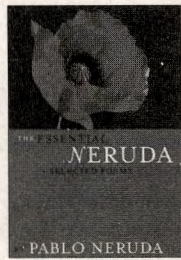


“Can anyone tell me how we go about defining ownership of land? Is it a first-come, first-served game? If it is, then as a white South African, am I not an illegal occupant in South Africa?”

holding - to take something by force? Hence the reason why some feel that Israel has illegally occupied the West Bank and Gaza since the Six-Day War. And that's a fair comment to make. But again there is a human factor

Reviews

Book

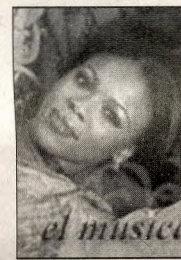


Pablo Neruda - Selected Poems

■ Zanele Nyingwa

Chilean-born Pablo Neruda, originally named Neftali Ricardo Reyes Basoalto, wrote poetry concerned with the socio-political struggles in South America. Many who have read his work will know that his poetry also includes plenty of love poems. The anthology presents a selection of some of his most compelling poems in English and Spanish. My personal favourites include "I'll explain a few things" and "The Widower's Tango". As someone who has not read poetry since high school, I thought this book would be a mission to finish but it proved to be an intriguing read. Just a hint: make use of the library and please take care of the books.

CD

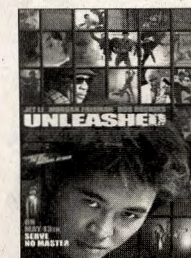


KB - El Musica

■ Siya Ngcobo

Recipe for a true Mzansi sound: use deep house as a base, add some African drumbeat and a pinch of kwaito, mix with R & B and some exotic Latino sound, and serve with a smooth voice. This recipe seems to work for former Backstage actress KB in her new album, *El Musica*. It offers an original sound that fuses deep traditional African beats with a Spanish dance groove. After you've been drawn into the funky dance track "El Musica", the album's tone mellows into softer, sexy lyrics in songs such as "Just a Thought". There is no doubt about her vocal ability and she gives some of her peers a run for their money.

Movie



Unleashed

■ Gabrielle Gray

This is an action drama about a man named Danny (Jet Li), who was raised to become a lethal human fighting machine. Bart, his 'owner', uses Danny to fight and make large sums of money until Bart lands up in hospital and Danny is left on the street. The story takes a predictable twist when a blind piano tuner (Academy award winner Morgan Freeman) and his daughter decide to take Danny into their home. He learns about love and passion through music. Good performances from both Li and Freeman make this movie worth seeing and Li fans will love the fight scenes. However, it remains just another action film.

A celebration of cultural pride

■ Caitlin Greener

Grahamstown is certainly a cultural hub for South African history, with the Albany Museum, the second oldest museum in southern Africa, celebrating 150 years of cultural history. What used to be housed in several small facilities around Grahamstown is now accommodated in the main block of the National Sciences Museum down Somerset Street.

The museum was founded on 11 September 1855 and later formed strong ties with Rhodes University. The birthday is a celebration not only of its history but also of the relationship that has formed with Rhodes. The collections showcased here reflect the core culture of Grahamstown over the years and capture the historical spirit through its art and exhibitions. The Khoi-san paintings are the more riveting works that create a certain pride in South African heritage.

A section that is not to be missed is the archaeological department. This

comprises of Early, Middle and Later Stone Age, Iron Age (first black farmers) and later archaeological collections from the Eastern Cape. An exciting but small collection is of Roman, Greek and Egyptian material – the Egyptian material including one of only three mummies in South Africa.

To celebrate 150 years of marvellous museum history, the Albany Museum prepared an eventful celebration calendar. It lined up a number of talks, by experts on the art. Last week Dr Melanie Hilebrond, the Art Director of the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Museum in Port Elizabeth, educated a packed hall of art lovers about art collections, specifically within the Eastern Cape. She concentrated her speech on how the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Museum has transformed. To keep up with the changes in South Africa. A question that arises here is transformation of student culture 50 years ago, Rhodes students could not interact with people from all walks of life. Lifestyle, nightlife and



The National Sciences Museum on Somerset Street.

■ Joni Els

even art were different then. Today we can appreciate theatre and art and still be loud on the sports ground together. The celebration is not only for museums but is also accredited to being South African. Dr Hilebrond said that now with the transformation of museums, anyone can appreciate the

artworks – to her this is the reason why museums are founded.

She said the art of South Africa has so much to offer that we should embrace any transformation that does occur. The museum is open weekdays from 9am-5pm, and closed during lunch 1-2pm and on Sundays.

Singing for the love of music and charity

■ Anya van Wyk and Nompumelelo Ngubani

The audience could well have donned their bobby socks and A-line skirts, patched up their Afrikaans and mellowed to Mozart's 'Ave Verum Corpus' all at once on Sunday August 28. This is when UCT and Rhodes' choirs presented a musical repertoire as varied as SA's eleven official languages at the Cathedral on High Street.

Just when people thought it couldn't get better the Rhodes University Chamber Choir (RUCC) presented an hour-long lunchtime music concert on Wednesday, August 31 at the Cathedral. Their entrance song

"Sizongena" was a statement about their entrance into "the home". An entrance into the audiences' hearts they certainly did achieve, as there were smiles on many faces. More smiles can be expected as the concert was aimed at raising funds for the Jabez organisation. Jabez is an organization situated in Joza that was selected by Sharc to receive funding, as they have been involved in helping the community.

The UCT and Rhodes choirs will be busy with their Eastern Cape tours in upcoming weeks. UCT kicked off a leg of their tour in Grahamstown. Maria

Zagorska, choir head, said that a tour like this allows UCT students to "share their love of music with other people". The RUCC consists of 38 students and is directed by Philip Burnett. These students are not necessarily affiliated to the Music Department, but are united by a common interest – the love of music. Students in the choir range from first years to doctorate students.

The choir not only heals through their myriad of sounds, but giving is essential to them. "We give to charity some of the money we get from the SRC," says chairperson Kim Russel. And according to choir member Robert Haxton, they are one of the most active societies, practising twice a week. Thursday, September 1 saw the collaboration of Rhodes, UCT and NMMU choirs in PE where they gave yet another outstanding performance.

The choir is embarking on a tour around the Eastern Cape starting from September 10 to 17. The first performance will be at Humansdorp/Jeffrey's Bay, next up will be Nieu Bethesda on September 11, then Aliwal North on September 12, Cradock on September 13, Tarkastadon September 14, Queenstown the next day, East London on September 16 and the fat lady will sing and wrap up at Port Alfred on the September 17.



■ Matthew Middleton



■ Matthew Middleton

Activate Gig Guide: The Vibe in and around your G-Town

■ Siya Ngcobo and Hayley Mueller

Wordplay open mic sessions at the Suite

Another cultural invention has hit Grahamstown in the form of Wordplay – open mic sessions hosted every Thursday at The Suite. Wordplay alternates weekly between two types of sessions: Alcoholic Coffee and Wordplay Live. Alcoholic Coffee is mellower with poets, performers and singer-songwriters under the spotlight and it provides a platform for anyone to display their art in exhibitions. Wordplay Live is more hardcore where music bands and comedians are welcome. The floor is open for inspiration in the form of poetry and music, perspiration in the form of dancing, and socialisation in the form

of laughter and chilled conversation. Thursday nights will never be the same whether being mellow is your thing or being hardcore live.

Powerzone is back

The Powerzone music festival 2005 will be happening on September 8-10 at the Halyards Hotel in Port Alfred. The line up looks bigger and fresher with big names on the South African rock scene like Fokofpolisiekar, Prime Circle, The Finkelstiens and Wonderboom. Other favourites to rock the party are Evolver, One Sock Thief, Fevertree, Airship Orange, The Parlotones and many more. Tickets are R100 for the whole weekend. Visit www.powerzone.com for more info or call 08611.

Shake your booty

The First Physical dance company brings you dancefest 2005. This festival will run on September 21-24 at the Rhodes Theatre and choreographers are invited to strut their stuff and showcase their talent. The closing date for application forms is 7 September and Calum Stevenson can be contacted on C.Stevenson@ru.ac.za. For the audience ticket sales will be announced next term. This is a not be to missed occasion.

Filmfest 2005, an Asian perspective

The second semester filmfest kicked off beginning of August and is going strong. Many of the movies show the

world through the eyes of the Middle East. Some upcoming and appealing movies are *The Circle* (Dayereh) on Tuesday October 11 about a woman's struggle with the full circle of injustice in the Muslim laws of Iran.

The remarkable *In This World* is about a journey of two Afghan males smuggled from a refugee camp to London; see it on Tuesday, October 18. A not to miss is *Osama* about a woman's plight to save her daughter by disguising him as a boy.

It will be shown on Tuesday October 25. All movies are showcased at 7pm at Eden Grove.

Socially conscious moviegoers will love this selection, but more chilled people might want to just rent a movie on these nights.

SADC Silver jubilee: 25 years of what?

■ Anja Muller-Deibicht and Lindsey Berry

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) celebrates its silver jubilee this year. Accompanying the celebrations at its annual conference, SADC set new targets and reviewed progress reports. The question of what SADC has done for you and me in the last 25 years is, however, of greater interest. But this question is harder to answer.

The organisation consists of 13 Southern African states, and has objectives similar to those of the African Union and the European Union.

It emphasises developmental and economic growth, as well as the enhancement of the general stand-

ard of living in its member countries. It also encourages support for the socially disadvantaged through a system of regional integration. Significant emphasis is placed on the alleviation of poverty and the ever-prevalent issue of HIV/AIDS.

Controversially, the SADC conference recognised the elections held in Zimbabwe as 'democratic'. SADC's official website states that "These elections are testimony of the consolidation of democracy in the region." However, most people considered the elections to be anything but free and fair. This makes one wonder whether SADC will continue to shield member states which do not conform to its ideology or take a much-needed stand

against corruption within African politics.

A more positive development is that the goal of free trade between SADC member states is being realised. Trade between SADC countries has increased by 25% since the establishment of a trading policy for the region in 1980.

At the conference, President Festus Mogae of Botswana was inducted as the new SADC chairperson. He pledged to uphold the ideals of SADC and strive for further development in Southern Africa. SADC can be commended for restructuring the organisation in 2001 to prepare it for the demands of the 21st century.

To find out whether or not SADC is

an effective organisation, it is necessary to explore what it has achieved. A policy introduced by SADC member states assigned areas of responsibility within the organisation to the different member states according to their unique strengths. Mauritius, for example, was assigned responsibility for the tourism sector, and South Africa was given oversight the finance, investment and medical facilities departments. A sobering point about this otherwise effective idea is that when countries experience extreme internal turmoil they become unable to contribute their part to the SADC community. The allocation of the areas of food, agriculture, natural resources and crop production to Zimbabwe is a

grievous example of this.

This policy of countries aiding one another in areas where they have surplus resources and expertise gives hope to the countries of Southern Africa. An example of this policy's success is shown in Tanzania, where the pre-SADC Tanzanian economy was underdeveloped and static, but is now growing, albeit slowly.

The alliances within Africa will surely serve to strengthen the continent, as seen in South Africa's mediation in attempts restore peace in the DRC, a SADC member country. It is therefore with sincere congratulations that we raise our glasses of uTshwala together to wish SADC well for the next 25 years.

Dr drain: Africa's newest poaching problem

■ Jean-Marie Cronje

African governments are no longer as worried about the illegal poaching of game in nature reserves as they are about the poaching of medical staff by first-world countries.

Many African countries are suffering as health workers seek greener pastures in wealthier countries. The BBC reports that Ghana still has only 1 500 doctors to serve a population of 20 million, despite spending R46 million a year on medical training.

Dr Victor Dedjoe, assistant general secretary of the Ghanaian Medical Association, said that the mass departure of medics is undermining his country's health system, and that recruitment offices have been set

up in Ghana to lure health workers abroad. Dedjoe commented that even though he can't blame medical personnel for leaving, it would be better if these agencies did not actively recruit them. The promise of better salaries, improved working conditions and more opportunities for career growth in developed countries has been the primary cause of this exodus of skills. Dr Dedjoe called on these countries to help stop the migration.

British Medical Association (BMA) Chairperson James Johnson supported Dr Dedjoe by saying that "rape of the poorest countries must stop", suggesting the problem lies with richer countries who are not training enough health workers themselves.

Kate Adams, deputy chairperson of the BMA's international committee, has said that poorer nations should be compensated for the loss of their health workers. She said that if football teams can pay other teams to get their best players, then developed countries can pay other nations for doctors as well.

Attention is being given to raising salaries and improving working conditions but it is hoped that a resolution to this problem will be reached at the end of August at the World Health Organisation (WHO) regional meeting in Maputo. Attempts to pass a resolution, aiming for developing countries to receive compensation for the loss of medical professionals are planned.



■ cartoon by Matthew Ackerman



■ pic supplied

Seen Hotel Rwanda- heard of Hotel Sudan?

■ Philippa Ehrlich

The two-year conflict between the Sudanese government and rebel groups has caused at least 180 000 deaths and has made refugees of 2 million Sudanese people.

"There is still rape going on. Genocide is still going on and burning of villages is going on." The chief leader of Riyadh refugee camp made this statement last week. The camp is in Darfur, the violence-riddled western region of Sudan.

The conflict flared up in February 2003 when the two rebel groups, the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), demanded an end to economic marginalisation and sought power-sharing in the Sudanese government. Since then, rumours of a humanitarian tragedy, likened to the Rwandan genocide, have been circulating throughout the media.

Many Rhodes students have seen the film "Hotel Rwanda". Perhaps one

of the most poignant questions raised in the film is, "How could the rest of the world do nothing whilst such atrocities were committed?" Once a conflict is labelled as genocide, the international community faces pressure to react.

Under the 1948 Genocide Convention, passed after the Holocaust, all countries are obligated to "undertake to prevent and to punish" genocide. The UN defines genocide as certain actions undertaken "with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such".

There has been much debate as to whether the recent violence in Sudan can be classified as genocide. In an article written in June 2004, Jerry Fowler wrote, "When asked why their villages were attacked and burned, most of the refugees said it was because of their black skin. They believe that the Khartoum-based government of President Omar Hassan

Bashir wants to give their land to his Janjaweed allies who, like him, are Arab."

This contrasts with the opinion of members of Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders or MSF), the biggest aid agency in Darfur. Jean-Hervé Bradol, head of MSF, stated last year that "the use of the term 'genocide' was inappropriate". Bradol added, "Our teams have not seen evidence of the deliberate intention to kill people of a specific group".

In February 2005, a UN commission of inquiry reported, "The crucial element of genocidal intent appears to be missing, at least as far as the central government authorities are concerned".

Following that, in July this year there were reports that a UN envoy for Sudan was headed for The Hague to meet with the chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC). The ICC is investigating 51 people suspected of committing war crimes in

the region. Luis Moreno Ocampo, the ICC's lead prosecutor gave some indication of the crimes he would investigate, including the killing of thousands of civilians, widespread rape and attacks on humanitarian workers.

However, since the death of SPLM/A leader John Garang on July 30, it appears the UN's focus has shifted. The loss of this recently appointed Sudanese vice president and peace-maker has necessitated urgent action to stabilise renewed violence in the area. On August 30, UN and AU officials met to discuss the ongoing preparations for negotiations, which will tackle the issues of power- and wealth-sharing and security arrangements.

Meanwhile, aid workers are struggling to ease the desperate plight of Sudanese civilians in refugee camps throughout the area.

The United Nations estimates that 3,2 million people in the region need aid.

Africa in Focus

■ Cassian Meki

Full name: Ghana

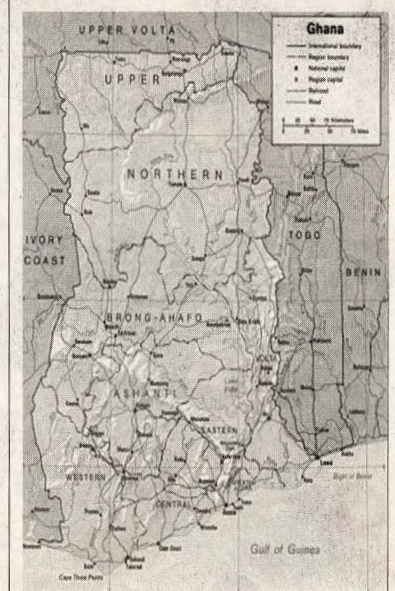
Capital City: Accra

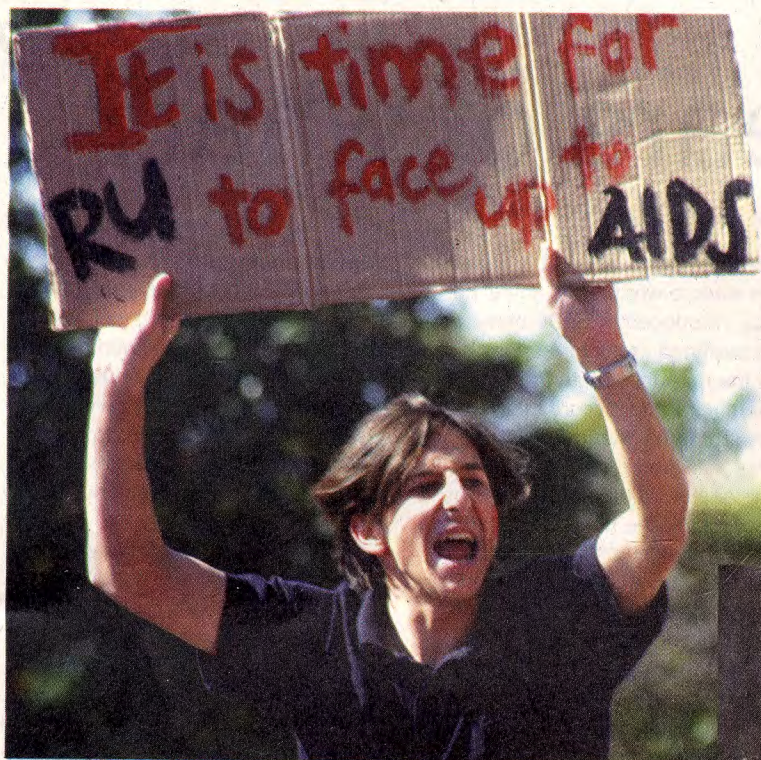
Population: 21 946 247

Languages: English, Ga, Fanti, Ewe, Akan

Head of State: John Agyekum Kufuor

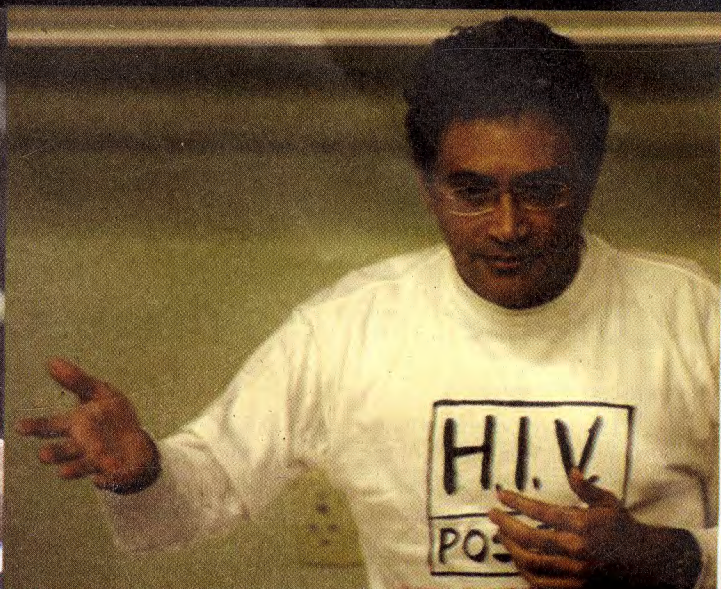
Quirky Fact: Ghana achieved independence from the British on March 6, 1957. Dr Kwame Nkrumah was Ghana's first African leader. Nkrumah brought many foreign dissidents and freedom-fighters into Ghana to be trained in the art of guerrilla warfare. Ghana's independence inspired Togo, Zambia, Nigeria and Zimbabwe to get rid of colonial rule.





The HIV Aids Week at Rhodes was hosted by the Student HIV Aids Resistance Campaign (SHARC) and included events such as talks, fundraising, condom distribution, free HIV testing and ended in a march to admin to propose a new Aids Policy for Rhodes. Thank you to everyone who supported this successful week!

Pics: Matthew Middleton, Philippa Ehrlich, Lauren Clifford-Holmes Gabrielle Gray & Dimitar Dobrev



No-holds-barred netball inter-res style

■ Tim Hancox

It was not only the women that strutted their stuff at this year's Inter-Res netball. The guys did too, in a most entertaining affair. After much coaching from female friends, the men's teams had at best a vague idea of the game's structure. The idea of not running with the ball left many of them looking generally bewildered. After watching some of the women's sides display some wonderful handling and smooth interaction between players, it was time for the guys to give it a go.

In each game, two sides of rather lost-looking men stared blankly whilst trying to remember the rules. By comparison to the slick passing shown by their female counterparts, the men appeared far less graceful, and were more likely to ignore the strict 'no contact' rules. Although they were certainly committed, it must be said that the men did little to impress techni-

cally. Even so, they were wonderfully entertaining. Although it appeared to be all fun, these games were closely contested and taken seriously by the teams in contention to win Inter-Res sport.

There were many light-hearted moments as the guys got into the spirit of the event, and enjoyed the opportunity to try a new sport. The Guy Butler team not only appeared to understand the game fairly well, but dressed accordingly in mini-skirts. This by no means reflected on their attitude, as they performed well, finishing on top of the tournament. Piet Retief, Stanley Kidd and Winchester/Salisbury also did well on the day.

All the guys who attempted netball realised that the game is harder than it looks. Perhaps it would be better for the guys to leave it to the professionals, and admire the skill from the sidelines.

Inter-Res points standings after Cross-Country		
	De Beers	41
	Stanley Kidd	38
	Botha	35
	Cullen Bowles	26
	College	25
	Adamson	18
	Oppidans	13
	Graham	10
	Livingstone	10
	Oakdene	2
Piet Retief	98	
Goldfields	76	
Cory/Matthews	75	
Winchester/Salisbury	66	
Jan Smuts	61	
Guy Butler	54	
Centenary	43	

Tough week for women's hockey

■ Candice Wiggett

Last week, the Rhodes women's first hockey side endured an extremely tough time, playing five league games in seven days. Most of these matches were away games, requiring the girls to travel to Port Elizabeth.

Of these five games, Rhodes won one, drew two and lost one. Both of the losses occurred on Rhodes' home turf. Hannah de Wet scored the only Rhodes goal in

the game against Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU) A on Thursday night. She also scored the lone goal against Gelvandale on Sunday afternoon.

For the team, this last week has been one filled with both highs and lows and many stiff, sore bodies. Despite the long hours spent on the road and the ever present flu, the girls maintained high spirits and an all-round enthusiastic attitude.

Results:	
Rhodes vs NMMU B:	1-0
Rhodes vs NMMU A:	1-4
Rhodes vs Old Grey:	0-0
Rhodes vs Gelvandale:	1-1
Rhodes vs Old Grey:	0-1

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Rowing the distance

■ Elle Blignaudt

The rowing club at Rhodes is described on their web page as the "premier university boat club in the country". They dominate national rowing events.

With Boatrace round the corner, I spoke to Christopher "Finn" McQuaid to find out if their great reputation is warranted, and ask what we can expect from this year's event.

Elle: Firstly, what is a regatta?

Finn: (Laughs.) A regatta is a rowing competition, an event like the boat-race that's coming up.

Elle: Who will be competing in this regatta?

Finn: Boatrace will be taking place early September. All varsities in SA compete.

Elle: Rhodes Rowing did quite well at Tri Varsity...

Finn: Yes, we only lost one race, the women's B team. Other than that, we were undefeated.

Elle: So you, personally and as a team, have high expectations for Boatrace?

Finn: The year has been fairly good but Boatrace is an entirely different race: we row three times the distance.

Elle: Three times the distance? Do you think RU is disadvantaged as a result of this?

Finn: No, we train on the river we race on. We're training specifically for this race. It just means you can't base your expectations on how you've



Christopher "Finn" McQuaid (left) and Phillip Brierly

■ Gabrielle Gray

performed so far this year. But I'm positive.

Elle: What about the universities you'll be competing against? Any tough competition you're looking out for?

Finn: We need to focus on our team and on getting prepared. But I heard UJ and UCT are quite good.

Elle: So your training is quite hectic? Finn: We train in Port Alfred, where the race is happening. It's time-consuming, but we enjoy it.

Elle: Rowers are known to form an exclusive community of their own...

Finn: We spend so much time together: all weekend, most weekends and quite a few weekdays all with the same nine people.

Elle: Are misconceptions about rowers exactly that: misconceptions?

Finn: We put a lot of hard work into

what we do.

We train hard and sacrifice weekends. For some people success leads to arrogance, or at least pride, but that doesn't make all rowers egomaniacs.

Elle: How long have you been rowing?

Finn: I've been rowing since 2000, when I was in high school.

Elle: In one sentence, convince me to join the rowing club.

Finn: I couldn't in one sentence, but I can tell you why I love it. Rowing is an incredible way to build yourself physically and mentally.

Like I said before, it's really time-consuming and you put a lot into it. You need to be focused and disciplined.

You learn to manage your time and you are given the opportunity to improve yourself as a person.

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Internal rugby sets the field alight

■ Adam Wakefield

This year's internal rugby league kicked off on August 17 with eight teams entering the pool stages of the competition. The teams, split into two pools, were as follows: Jan Smuts A and B, Heathens, Skidd, Zambucks, Dream Team, Founders and the Hill.

The first round of fixtures saw Smuts A being out-muscled by a powerful Heathens side, while Dream Team outclassed the Hill. Skidd's backs ran amok in a victory against Smuts B, and Zambucks fought their way to victory over Founders.

The 2nd round of pool games took place the following Wednesday with a large crowd gathering to enjoy the action. First up was Heathens versus Skidd. Considering how the Skidd backs performed the week before, many spectators believed they would be in for a treat. The match got off to an unfortunate start, with Heathens player Jonathan Owens being carried off the field with an ankle injury. Heathens came back from this disappointment, choking the Skidd backs for room and winning 17-3, although the Skidd squad played better than the scoreboard suggests.

Zambucks faced Dream Team in what was always going to be a tight encounter. Both teams traded tries as the forwards dictated the pace of the game, with both defences remaining

solid. Eventually Zambucks nudged ahead with a late penalty and held on for a hard fought 15-12 victory.

The Smuts derby was eagerly anticipated, with the crowd supporting the underdogs, Smuts B. Smuts A played an expansive game, with their backs gaining ground consistently, but when Smuts A did keep it tight on the rare occasion, they found their opposition were hard-pressed to keep up. At the final whistle, Smuts A emerged 41-3 victors, but credit must be given to a brave Smuts B for a marked improvement since their previous outing against Skidd. Also, their fearless tackling provided the crowd with several 'big-hits' to appreciate.

The evening's big surprise came when the Hill defeated Founders. The Hill, having endured a beating from Dream Team the week before, was given little chance against a strong Founders XV. The Hill's backs showed pace and penetration in breaking the Founders' defensive line several times. In the end, the Hill outplayed Founders for a 15-10 upset victory, sparking raucous celebrations from their supporters.

The final round of pool games took place on Sunday, with semi-final spots still up for grabs. Heathens had already been guaranteed a spot in the semi-finals, when Smuts A came up against Skidd in a play-off decider.

The game was a struggle for supremacy, with both packs trying to give their back-lines quick ball. Skidd opened the scoring with a try, but Smuts soon replied with one of their own as the teams headed into the dressing room at half time all-square. Soon after the break, Skidd broke the line and dotted down for a try. Smuts were throwing men forward in an attempt to level the scores but in doing so, they gifted an intercept try to Skidd, putting the result beyond Smuts. As the final whistle approached, Smuts seized a loose ball after a lineout near the Skidd try line, allowing Brian Rose to charge over the line for a consolation try. The final score was 17-12, with Skidd emerging on top.

Zambucks faced the Hill with a spot in the semi-finals up for grabs. After their previous victory, the Hill were again looking to a similar performance against Zambucks, who relied on their strong pack of forwards. With the Hill's vocal supporters making their presence known, the team took the lead midway through the first half with the opening try. The Hill went into the halftime break holding the advantage, but this was soon to change when a re-energised Zambucks scored two tries in quick succession. The sides traded tries and at the final whistle, Zambucks had claimed a 15-10 victory over a determined Hill XV.



■ Matthew Middleton

Powerade and Rafsoc touch-rugby

The RAFSOC Touch Rugby Tournament, sponsored by Powerade, took place on Saturday August 27. The event was a great success with impressive skills on display. Team Papsmear won the men's category while Team Klop Klop won the women's category.

Dream Team faced Founders in a must-win game to ensure their qualification for the next round. As Founders could not progress to the knockout-stage of the league, they were playing for pride alone. With nothing to lose, Founders found the energy that was so badly missing against the Hill, as Dream Team had to battle it out inch by inch in the trenches to make any

progress. When the final whistle was blown, Dream Team scraped home with a 22-21 victory.

The final pool fixture was Heathens, guaranteed a semi-final spot, against a fragile Smuts B who were depleted due to several injuries in their squad. Heathens ran out comfortable winners, outscoring their opponents by at least 10 tries.



Rhodes' Sports Personalities: Gareth Young and Sanel Sobahle

■ Philippa Francis

Rhodes' personalities in the 'sport' light

■ Philippa Francis

It is not often enough that true personalities of the sports field are recognised. That is why it is so fantastic that Rhodes University Sports Administration organises an event every year in honour of these young ladies and gentlemen that have stood out in their particular fields and have made an impression on the sportsmen and women around them.

Friday August 26 saw the Mr and Miss Sports Personality event take place. Most of the top sport achievers and members of different sporting committees were present at the smart occasion.

A number of sportsmen and women were nominated and elected as finalists for the award and after a process of interviewing and eliminating, three winners were chosen. Mr Sports Personality went to Gareth Young, an avid athlete and committee member of the Rhodes Athletics Club. His woman counterpart was netball player Sanel Sobahle who won the Miss Sports Personality award.

Second and third prizes in the men's division were awarded to hockey player Travis Stedman and to basketball player Sandimampita Razafimbola. The women runners-up were both

hockey players; Gina Eley coming away with second prize and Kate Langlois acquiring third place.

Kate Mapham, who was one of the nominations for Miss Sports Personality, said that "It was awesome having all the different committees together for the evening as it doesn't happen often."

"Besides the cold, it was a great evening," she said.

According to Pete Andrew, outgoing Head of Sport at Rhodes University, "It was a highly successful evening, it was great fun." Andrew went on to say that in general, Sports Administration had received positive feedback.

Most people agreed that it was more rewarding than the Tri-Varsity balls that had been held in the past.

It was also a perfect opportunity for sports bursary holders to meet their Old Rhodian benefactors who were also present at the event.

"The old Rhodians really enjoyed the evening," Andrew said.

Overall, everybody seemed to enjoy the evening filled with laughs, delicious food and of course excellent drink, in the true Rhodian spirit.

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