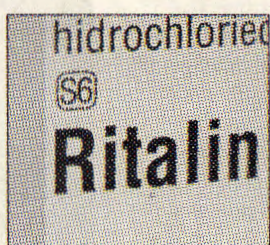


09

An African pontiff?



04

The truth behind  
Asperger's



12

Caught in the  
Slip Stream



## The SRC bares all

■ Nicholas Haralambous, Carly Ritz and Magriet Cruywagen

**W**ould you be able to list five things that the SRC has done this year? If not, we suggest you keep reading. The Executive staff of the Student Representative Council (SRC) invited two *Activate* writers as well as one independent writer to meet with them and lay bare all of the issues surrounding the successes or lack thereof of this year's SRC.

The first question posed to the SRC was why they want to expose themselves to the student body. The unanimous response was a simple one: the SRC apparently feels that they do not know what students want or need, as channels of communication are not what they should be. The SRC wishes to be more transparent.

The SRC feel that they are not doing enough for the students who voted them in to their respective positions; they have also been unable to achieve everything that they set out to do. The SRC provided a host of reasons justify-

ing their admitted failures. The general feeling among the SRC Executive is that there is a lack of communication and co-operation between certain members of administration and the SRC body. According to the SRC Vice President Vicky Heideman's O-Week report for 2005, "narrow mindedness, stubbornness and two-

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students should be supportive in light of these achievements. Yet how can students be expected to support the SRC when these successes are only being communicated now for the first time?

Dr Stephen Fourie, Rhodes University Registrar, is puzzled by these allegations. He claims that the only reason the administration is not going to tamper with the public holidays this year is because of the SRC request. He says, "in terms of official channels of communication, nothing is different this year to last year. They (SRC) know we have an open door policy."

However, he added that: "The SRC can't expect to get what they want all the time, if that's what they thought then they are barking up the wrong tree."

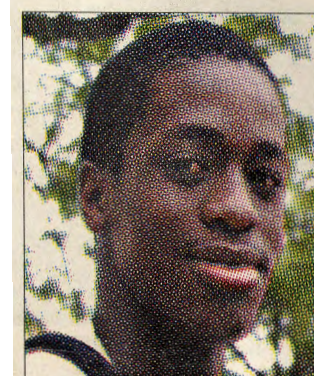
The SRC admits they are not sufficiently aware of what really matters to the student body. The SRC states that they will be conducting 'imbizos' (a gathering of people where complaints and criticisms can be voiced) to find out what matters are of great concern to the student body. Yet what is the point of discovering what students want when the SRC doesn't have the clout to institute change? Before the SRC can institute any change within the University on behalf of the students they need to correct the internal strife that they are faced with. When asked about the internal strife riddling the SRC, the Executive fell silent. When SRC President Halley was asked whether she actually runs her own meetings, she did not respond. Dr Johnson suggests that the SRC need to learn to interact with each other.

It is clear that the SRC is faced with many limitations. There is inadequate communication between the SRC and Administration as well as between the SRC and the students. The SRC has taken the first step towards improving the channels of communication. However, they need to take responsibility for their actions. They have been put in positions of power and it is now time for them to exercise that power even if it means going up against admin.

SRC President Tellana Halley

■ Gregor Röhrig

### What do you want from the SRC?



Lutho Dzedze  
1st year

I want them to be more accessible to students, so we can approach them for our needs as students



Louisa Korkie  
2nd year

I want them to be more active and to utilise their resources more effectively



Lara Proud  
3rd year

Seeing as they are student reps, they should liaise between students, the lecturers and admin and should be a body that students can approach for help



Juliet Nanfuka  
4th year

I want them to have a visible impact and to leave a memorable stamp on students' minds



# Editorial



■ Carly Ritz

Most of us have a love/hate relationship with the news. We have a "need to know what's going on" syndrome, with a touch of the "can I really stomach this" virus.

Well, that was my self-diagnosis during the holiday when Terri Schiavo's story pulled at my heartstrings. On February 25, 1990, Terri Schiavo suffered severe brain damage caused by a cardiac arrest, brought on by a potassium deficiency in her blood due to bulimia. Now, in March 2005, after being in a vegetative state for the last fifteen years her husband and guardian felt that it was no longer fair to keep her alive and her gastric feeding tube was removed on March 18 under court order, despite vehement reluctance from her parents and religious groups. Schiavo died of dehydration on March 31 after 13 days without food or water. Major debate about bioethics, euthanasia, legal guardianship, federalism and civil rights has emerged.

Schiavo's story is one that represents a much larger ethical issue. Does man have the right to play God in such cases, but is it fair to let someone live that way? Most religious groups campaigned vigorously to have Schiavo's feeding tube replaced and condemned the decision as murder. This case has also sparked issues about abortion and human intervention in these cases. One journalist said that removing Schiavo's feeding tube and saving her from a life of misery is like having an abortion and saving a child from a life of poverty – but is that a call humans should be allowed to make?

Can the issue be reduced to quality of life? Is that an adequate measure to decide whether someone should be left to live? These are highly contentious opinions with which the world will continue to debate and grapple for years to come.

Michael Schiavo, Terri's husband and legal guardian, maintains that he has carried out his wife's wishes not to be kept alive in her vegetative state. Terri's parents, Bob and Mary Schindler dispute their son-in-law's claim. The courts ruled in favour of Mr Schiavo despite Terri's parents' appeal on a judicial level. The Schindlers are convinced that Terri had shown responsive signs and refused to give up hope of further recovery.

This issue has been hotly debated between classmates and friends. Some seem to think that 15 years is a more than adequate time-frame to ascertain her levels of recovery. But can we put a time-frame on human recovery? Is there a time to give up hope? I don't know. My best friend's fate was decided by a doctor and the switch on a respirator after a tragic car accident, so I guess I don't have a very objective opinion on the Schiavo story. But I can tell you that ethics, healing and medical opinions aside, it's a heart-wrenching experience and a decision that no one should ever have to make.

## Panic button pranksters await prosecution

■ Irshaad Gangat

Four Rhodes students will face disciplinary action after they, in two separate incidences, pressed the SOS alert button outside the Student Union Building while under the influence of alcohol on a Friday night last term.

Linda Bottaman, spokesperson for the Campus Protection Unit (CPU), said the control room received a call at about 10:50pm on the night, informing them that there were two second year students who were refusing to leave The Union after they had been asked to. Security officer Johnson Donase was dispatched to investigate the situation.

When Donase arrived at the scene he asked the students for their student cards. They started verbally abusing him and he proceeded to escort them to the CPU offices for questioning.

Nikki Bradshaw, who witnessed the incident, said the students were evidently drunk. "I can't believe they pressed the button. What idiots," she said.

A friend of the two second-year

students went to the CPU offices and argued with David Holness, the acting Oppidan warden for the weekend. This student was also under the influence of alcohol, and threatened to kill Holness if he did anything.

The same evening, another second-year student was caught by CPU security officer Nkosinan Mcuba, outside the Union Building after he pressed the SOS button in the presence of CPU guards for the third time. The student took a breathalyser test which indicated he was over the driving limit, and confessed to pressing the SOS button.

When asked whether it was the responsibility of the CPU security officers to stop students from pressing the SOS button, Bottaman said: "No, it is not our responsibility." She added that students should learn from the mistakes of others because the university would hand down severe punishments to those who consider the SOS buttons as toys.

The incidents are still being investigated and the prosecution of the four accused is pending.

# activate staff

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

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## Red Bull and road safety



On the last day of first term, Red Bull and the Grahamstown Traffic Department set up a roadblock, which aimed to ensure students' safety en route home. Drivers' licences were checked by a traffic officer and promoters handed out free Red Bulls to revitalise the bodies and minds of drivers.

■ Pics by Gregor Röhrig



# Transport services in a spin

■Tami Duncan, Ahmed Areff and Ashleigh James

**M**any complaints relating to problems associated with the transport system from Grahamstown to Port Elizabeth have been heard from Rhodes University students after the recent April vacation. These complaints range from flights being missed or being stranded for long hours at the airport.

On the April 3, a group of students were forced to wait three hours at the Port Elizabeth airport due to delays on the part of the Spindizzy service. Although transport was present at the airport for the students involved, Spindizzy allegedly failed to notify the students when they booked that they would have to wait until all paying customers were accounted for before departing for Grahamstown.

According to two students who were travelling on the Spindizzy bus, it ran out of petrol 10 minutes outside of Grahamstown. The students, who did not wish to be named, felt it was unjust for them to have to pay for this service after these alleged problems.

Spindizzy argues that the source of this issue was due to an unexpected exhaust problem which was only discovered the following day. Spindizzy also works in co-ordination with Settlers Hospital, and their first response is to assist them. During the breakdown, Lee-Ann Biller, who owns Spindizzy, along with her husband Luke, was on her way to assist, but first had to attend to an emergency call from Settler's Hospital.

Another student, Shaakira Tharmahomed, missed her flight departing from the PE airport on Saturday March 19 and had to pay for a new ticket, costing R1500, due to Spindizzy's late collection. Biller states that sometimes the service cannot control what happens as many unforeseen incidents can occur.

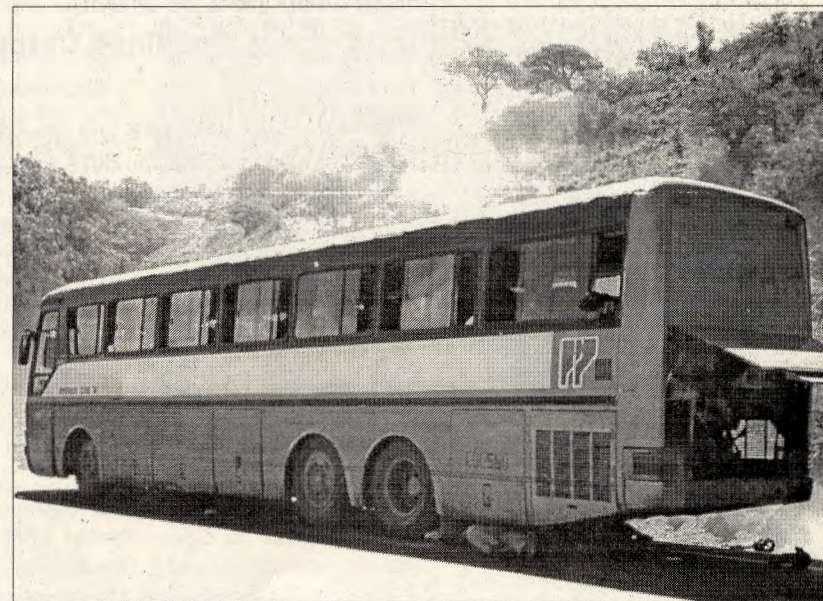
Biller explains that if a plane is delayed, Spindizzy re-schedules their shifts to and from the airport to accommodate the delayed students. This disadvantages other students as they then have to wait until the bus is full. "People complain before they

realise the circumstances behind problems," she says. "It is our policy to never leave students stranded at the airport."

Another service available to students is the Rhodes University transport system, which, unlike private services, does not charge a transportation fee.

Although many students have complained about having to wait at the airport for a Rhodes bus, this is, according to the transport office, due to their own errors when booking. Some students book flights that land later than the time for which they book their seats on the bus. This means that students have to wait at the airport longer than they had intended, as transport has to be rearranged in order to accommodate them.

There has also been some dissent regarding the notable rise in the fees from R100 to R400 for bookings less than seven days before the scheduled flight arrival. However, a student will not be charged a fee if the plane is delayed or if the reservation for the



Transport services are urging students to be patient with them

■ Pic supplied

bus is cancelled, provided the latter is done a week in advance. The Rhodes transport clerk, Tracey van Aarde, explains that this is to ensure that students do not to abuse the service. "We are looking for a new system in order to make booking easier and

more informative for students," she stated.

Other local transport services, such as Rhodetrip and Beeline, stress that patience from customers is needed as unforeseen circumstances can and do often arise.

## DSG girls trek to raise funds

■Natasha Boddy and Jacqueline Lazic

**A** group of DSG school girls have just returned from a training camp for what could be considered as one of the country's most gruelling physical challenges. On April 16, 18 girls will compete in a 7.5km swim from Table Bay to Robben Island. During the subsequent week they will cycle and run from Cape Town to Grahamstown. The swim, cycle and run will be completed in relay teams consisting of four or five girls per team, all to raise funds for the Raphael HIV/AIDS Centre and the Vista Nova Special Needs School, a school for children with special needs which attempts to provide the best facilities without being an exclusive school.

According to Lynn Oberholzer, the girls' trainer, the event is merited both in its capacity as a fundraiser and as an immense physical challenge for the girls. It is the athletes' responsibility

to find sponsorship from friends and family, who sponsor on a per kilometre basis.

Considering the intense regime, Oberholzer has instructed the girls to train in two sports a day, in small groups. "The entire team meets twice a week to do bike rides with David Right, our cycle fundi, but most of the girls also do a five kilometre run four or five times a week as well as their normal swimming or water polo training," explains Oberholzer. During the event, the girls will be running 20 to 25 kilometres a day or cycling roughly 60 kilometres a day which is remarkable considering the girls are of an average age of 15 years.

Currently, fundraising is slower than it was for the event two years ago, when school girls participating in a similar event in Europe managed to raise a staggering R800 000, which was donated to the Raphael Centre to

help AIDS orphans.

"Corporations are not that interested this time around. Every year HSBC Christmas Fund donates to a charity and we arrived on the day when they decided the charity would be a South African AIDS charity. We presented our proposal and received £300 000, which is why we managed to raise such a large amount last time," says Nel. Despite a markedly slower response this year, Avis is currently sponsoring the team with hired transport.

"The bond between the girls is unbelievable because this has really been life-changing," says team member Kate Loggie. "Developing our minds is the biggest challenge, but it is such an amazing feeling to know what you are capable of putting yourself through," she added.

Oberholzer is adamant that "the contribution of these girls is enormous."

## Friar Tucks involved in racism incident

■Tumi Mpete & Irshaad Gangat

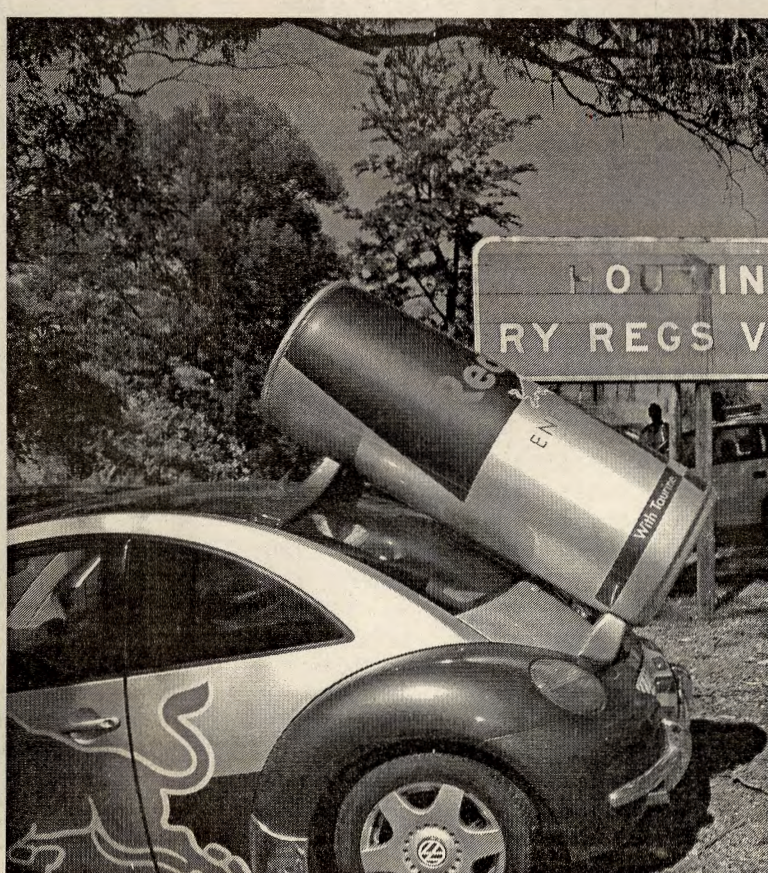
**F**riar Tucks has been accused of racism. Three Zimbabwean students were involved in a brawl at the local pub just after 4am on Wednesday February 23 after one of the students verbally abused DJ Jesse, an Indian staff member.

One of the students alleges to have been shown the right of admission sign by one of the staff members. As the students vacated the premises they shouted profanities such as "kill the whites". Manager of Friar Tucks, Greg Hubbard, said one of the students threatened that his family in the Zimbabwean government would close Friars down. Both students and management called the police to the scene where the students were manhandled into the back of a police van by a female officer who received a blow to the face by one of the students.

In a separate incident, a black female student, who wishes to remain anonymous, laid a complaint with one of the *Activate* news reporters. The student related an incident where she was allegedly refused entry into Friar Tucks even after she produced both her student card and her identity document that the bouncer had asked for as proof of identity.

She added that she was with a group of both white and Indian women who were allowed into the bar. Management at Friar Tucks say the student did not lay a formal complaint to the manager who was on duty and therefore cannot refer to the incident.

Hubbard said Friar Tucks' staff includes people of various ethnic backgrounds, and that no-one would be refused entry on the basis of their race.



■ Pics by Gregor Rohrer



# What you said:

## Who would play you in the movie of your life?

■ Donna Stokes, Jennifer Campbell and Katie Wille



Kagiso Komane  
1st year  
Mos Def



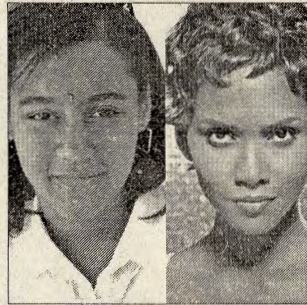
Patience Ostrich  
1st Year  
Gabrielle Union



Kelly McBean  
1st year  
Kate Winslet



Jonathan Davy  
3rd year  
Nicholas Cage



Melissa Evans  
2nd year  
Haile Berry



Nico Seakamelo  
2nd year  
Al Pacino

# Do you feel like an alien?

There are people around us who suffer from life-altering conditions which we cannot even imagine, or know anything about, **Shellique Carby** has Asperger's Syndrome and explains what it is like to live with this disorder.

The movie *I Am Sam* is one of several movies about autism. But it's not just a movie. There are people who feel like aliens, and people who see you as an alien. Asperger's Syndrome (AS) is why. This condition has been spoken about on radio and TV, but most people don't even know its name. It does, however, affect us, along with other similar conditions.

I live in Hillcrest, Natal and I have AS, ODD (Oppositional Defiance Disorder) and mild ADD (Attention Deficit Disorder). These are all forms of autism.

Asperger's Syndrome is not a disease. It is a neurological condition, named after Hans Asperger who discovered it. This disorder affects the nerves and messages are therefore not sent efficiently to the brain. It is a high functioning form and different symptoms manifest themselves in different situations. These symptoms are subtle, so you are not immediately aware of them. People's expectations of sufferers are often too high as, although they usually have an above-average IQ, it is somewhat fractured. We are sometimes called "little professors" because we have a compulsive interest in one or two areas, but no interest in other things.

Doctors generally explain the biological symptoms of this disorder, but these do not provide you with an understanding of the condition. The main symptom is social ineptitude. Sufferers do not know how to interact with others and we lose a lot of friendships without meaning to. No matter how hard we try, we hardly get anything right socially. We often don't fit in and feel as though we don't belong, as though we are from another planet. People seem different from us and they don't seem to understand. This makes us feel like aliens. We see the world from a different perspective, which is inspirational if you

are open to listen to our opinions. We love to observe other people's behavior; it fascinates us as we can't comprehend it.

We have very little eye contact, especially during conversations. It is usually impossible for us to look into someone's eyes and register what they are saying. We cannot interpret non-verbal language like facial expressions and physical gestures. Sometimes we give out the wrong signals or messages without knowing it. We may look serious or soulless, but not necessarily feel it.

We struggle to keep our thoughts to ourselves and can be very loud. I often talk to myself and comment about every unusual thing I see. I no longer care about doing this in public as I have accepted the reality of the condition. Sufferers are much more sensitive to noise, sharp sounds and intense light. Some of us dislike being touched, and so it is hard for me to respond to my mother's love. Sometimes I feel dead inside when she holds me.

We have high anxiety and stress levels, but experience bouts of depression. When I feel stressed and work out at the gym or hold a light object in a fragile position, my hand or body shivers. My mouth trembles when I am on stage. Sometimes, for no reason at all, my body jerks involuntarily. We have poor motor co-ordination, so I don't have the ability to learn dance steps. When I was little I couldn't tie my shoelaces properly and I struggled to use a knife and fork until I was 11 years old.

Sufferers interpret comments literally and we often need clarity when given instructions. We will take your every word and think you mean exactly what you say. We can't grasp abstract ideas because our cognitive development is hampered. We usually don't catch jokes or sarcasm, and are gullible and naturally naive. We do not have 'common sense', but are always honest to the extreme and good at speaking our mind and confronting people. We can be brash and in-your-face, which is often seen as rude and insensitive. We also do not register that other people have plans or feelings.

We are generally impulsive in our initiated actions, including physical gestures if we trust you. We look rather clumsy in our mannerisms. However, we are slow to respond to something you initiate, unless we see it coming. We rely on predictability, and so we can't improvise or react spontaneously.

Ever since I started mainstream school, I was bullied and teased. Some called me a retard without knowing about my syndrome. The kids spread rumours about me and criticised me. I didn't see what I was doing wrong. I would plan social situations in detail, but my words usually came out wrong. I'd get frustrated, asking myself: "Why did I say that?" People told me that I was immature and that I behaved like a five-year-old. Kids at school found me annoying. I still don't see why 'telling on' someone is wrong, because I am just exposing the truth. I do not think that it is wrong to tell the lecturer or tutor that it is time to go.

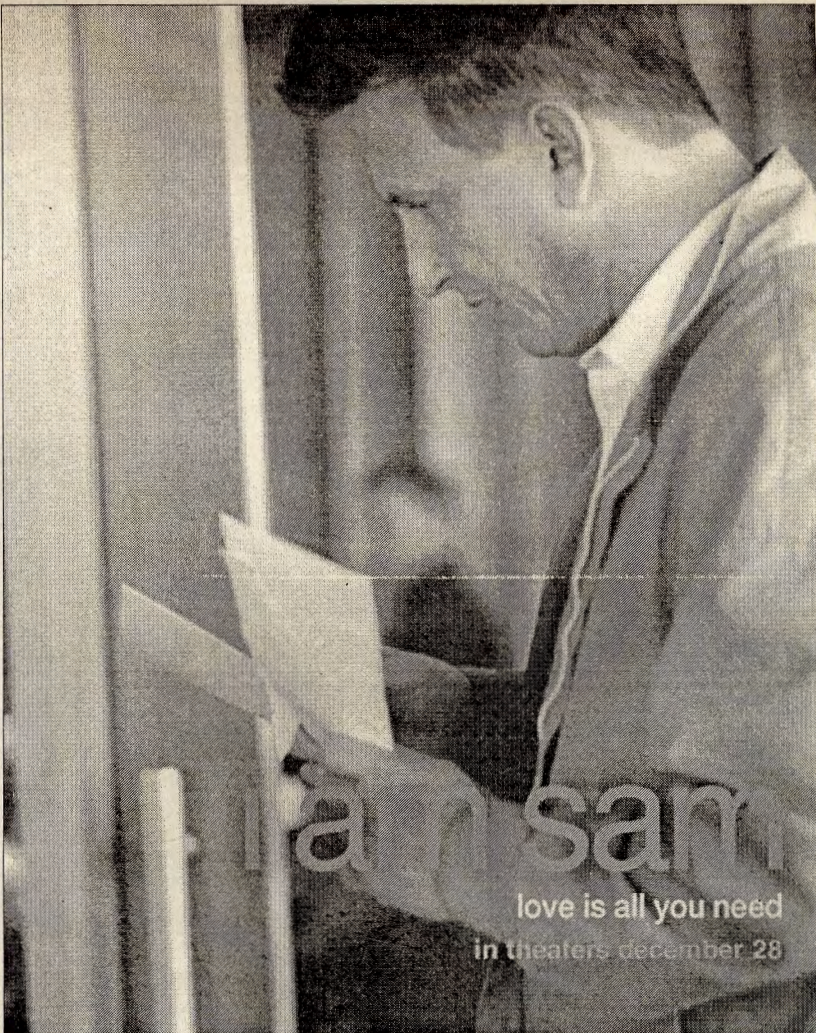
I ask many 'inappropriate' questions, often personal ones. I loved pushing the kids into the pool at social braais. I still love colouring-in books. We are obsessive compulsive and are ritualistic to an abnormal extent. I can't help scraping every last scrap of food off my plate when eating. Self-injurious behavior is evident - I bite my nails. Adults find me offensive and blame my parents for my behavior, although it is not their fault.

Due to my ODD, I have been defiant since I was a baby. My parents abused



me physically, emotionally and verbally before they knew I had it. I ran away from home twice. Even the police did not know about these mental conditions. They did not believe that I was abused, but thought that I was spoilt. My parents sent me to a crisis centre because they couldn't handle me, and I was always told that it was my fault.

Autism is becoming common. If you think someone has AS, please tell them, or they will endure unnecessary pain for the rest of their life. If someone tells you he or she has AS, they are not making an excuse for their behavior. Many people, good friends of mine, don't believe that I have it. Sufferers will be happy if you tell them you don't understand something about them. Do not judge them and exclude them from your social life because we can usually tell if you just glimpse at us in a nasty or judgmental way, which makes us want to isolate ourselves from society.



Sean Bean's performance highlights the reality of Autism

■ pic supplied

You are welcome to contact me with any questions or stories. Please tell me if you or someone you know has AS or ODD. My email address is [g05c3101@campus.ru.ac.za](mailto:g05c3101@campus.ru.ac.za)

I have not found much support in South Africa. Books are hard to find, but South Africa's autism website is [www.autism-sa.org](http://www.autism-sa.org). A good website on Asperger's Syndrome is [www.udel/bkirby/asperger](http://www.udel/bkirby/asperger). I have also found a forum in [www.aspergia.com](http://www.aspergia.com), under "diagnoses".



# The flip Side

## Euthanasia: right or wrong?

The recent Terri Schiavo case has thrown the issue of euthanasia into sharp light. How important is life, and in what circumstances, if any, do we have the right to take it? Daylin Paul and Nicholas Pansegrouw share their diverse opinions.



■ Daylin Paul

Do you value your life? Do you cherish every moment that you're alive no matter how bland, frustrating or miserable it may seem? With that in mind, do you feel you have the right to decide whether someone can live or die? Do you even know what death is? Do any of us? Is death the opposite of life?

Our physical beings and their intrinsically primal nature give us our animal fear of death, yet our human minds and social behaviour seem to gravitate toward death everyday. Abortion, sterilisation, terrorism, dead-ends, deadlines, genocide, insecticide, homicide – these days even the life creating act of sex can bring death. We are fascinated, drawn to it like innocent moths toward a black all-consuming flame.

There seems to be no answer to the inevitable riddle of death, which will eventually devour us, except perhaps the manner in which we choose to live our lives. Tigers have claws, snakes have poisonous fangs and human beings have highly developed brains. These have not only enabled us to survive as a species through our ability to make tools and form societies, but, through our 'divine' interpretation of our 'evolutionary' gift, we have also formed cultures, religions and histories, created science, art, music and poetry and can appreciate emotions like

love, friendship and sadness. These things give us purpose; our ability to perceive and take pleasure in beauty, to live for more than merely the sake of personal survival and the reproduction of our genetic information.

But what if we can't live for more than just the sake of living? We're all dead anyway. The biological process which keeps us alive is not infinite and it falters and eventually fails. We're born to die, yet we're dying to live – to hold onto this gift for as long as we possibly can. Should I reach a position where I would have to choose between death by euthanasia and a severely diminished quality of life, I would choose death. I pray I'll never reach that decision, and so should you, but my decision would remain resolute simply because I value the privileged life that I have been blessed with. I'm an able-bodied, healthy, sensitive and intelligent human being (or so I like to think). And I'm honest enough to admit that I could never fathom life with an agonising terminal disease or as a vegetable being kept 'alive' by machines or medication.

Death is universal: all of us will die, but not all of us will have truly lived by the time we die. The one thing we have over death is the ability to celebrate life, so – while you still can – live, love and be humbly grateful for the greatest gift you never earned: your life.



■ Nicholas Pansegrouw

Euthanasia is not an issue in my life. I'm too happy to consider not being alive. It is, however, an issue in the lives of people who can no longer take life with any form of optimism, for the pain they endure on the road to even considering euthanasia is enough for a host of lifetimes to come.

I have no religious affiliations, and have constructed a set of moral and ethical guidelines by which I live my own misguided life. Part of my life's understanding is orientated toward the philosophy of consciously immersing myself into each second of this blessing that is life – a gift whose meaning I will never understand. It is this reason that prompts me to take an anti-euthanasia stance.

Euthanasia, for all the pro's that it may hold in putting an end to indescribable agony, remains an act of suicide. I agree that the argument I pose is ambiguous. Smoking and drinking, two pastimes I enjoy as part of my self-imposed existential hell are constituents of a prolonged suicide on my behalf. Nevertheless, in viewing life as an epistemological wasteland devoid of understanding, it becomes my prerogative not to understand its meaning, but rather to enjoy the occasion that life presents itself as through my sensory capacities.

Smoking and drinking facilitate my life in this manner. They bring me good times. They are killing me, but then again, no one gets out of here alive. Any form of living is an act of

suicide – even breathing takes me closer to the world of Jimi Hendrix. So while I am making a prolonged effort to enjoy my time in this world, I will continue to indulge in vice – for play makes way to a better stay.

Euthanasia is different. It absolves life of the responsibility it owes you, namely, giving you the death you deserve. In choosing to directly end your own life, the delicate balance of joy and sorrow, love and hate – basically any binary that forms life's content – is left unresolved. Consistency is the key to a soul's transcendence. How can life be consistent in its uncertainty if you choose to make certain the manner in which you leave it behind?

Euthanasia certainly ends intense physical pain. However, if it became commonplace, what would the criteria be to justify it? Would a man who has just lost his wife of 50 years, heartbroken and with nothing to live for, not be as valid a case to end his suffering as a terminally-ill cancer patient? The ethical judgements made regarding who can and cannot put a 'dignified' end to their lives could not be ethical. Such is the ambiguous nature of what defines suffering.

In short, people live and people die. What matters is what you make of the trip in between. Never get caught at the crossroads with your pants on, because then you'd never know which way the wind is truly blowing. Life is cool, in spite of it being shit. Don't choose to die. Choose to dig.

Ps: Life is not a reality. Life is a word.





## Eye In The Sky

■ Andrew Whitfield

As we drift out of the surreal sabbatical of the first term where laughter was commonplace and good times could be found all around us, we are struck with the ultra-depressing reality of EXAM TERM. Snap back to reality, ladies and gents – playtime is over. Or is it? Rhodes students have an amazing ability to make playtime an immortal phenomenon.

We see an opportunity in even the most random and insanely boring situations to establish some kind of entertainment. Rhodents sniff out fun and social satisfaction in the strangest places. The end of this term will see a flood of students to the Mecca of procrastination and panic where even non-smokers light up, sit back and jam. The Library Steps – the most despised place on campus during other times of the year – become an institution. These steps call to us Rhodents like the tantalising tune of the Pied Piper, drawing us into a place where good conversation and those life-saving spots that will “definitely come up” occupy most of our time. Panic-stricken students hover around The Library like hungry vultures waiting and hoping for those at the top of the academic food chain to throw them a bone.

This pedestal of procrastination is more a place of social networking than it is a place of intellectual fulfilment. After all, it isn't what you know, but who you know... isn't it? In this time of scholarly strife, making friends is actually quite easy. I've never tried, but I am sure that if one wanted to one could quite easily even come right.

Ten minute breaks become hour coffee sessions at the conveniently situated Dulcès where further reassurance regarding one's studies is sought after, therefore prolonging that inevitable return to the desk of depression. When people refer to work as putting one's nose to the grindstone, it is an immediate turnoff. However, it appropriately depicts the pain involved in that world of work that remains as unexplored as the Library throughout the year. At Rhodes there will always remain those stalwarts of The Steps that engage in seemingly random and pointless conversation, but who actually constitute a social movement like none other. Hints of semi-intellectual banter are thrown around by the most unexpected people who are helping to build a locus for somewhat stimulating discussion. Networking is the ultimate benefit of attending these minute-by-minute visits to The Steps, where future connections can emerge out of what may appear at the time to be a random gathering of people. After all, life is all about politics – even if it is social politics.

This writer is a firm believer in The Steps as a social hub at a time when students need a reassuring friendly face that is in the same boat – albeit a sinking one.

A word of advice is to stay away from those who look like they know their stuff; they will only perpetuate the panic. Find someone worse off than you and your confidence will get a boost bigger than a Castle could ever give you. So enjoy the early days of the term and get psyched for the good times awaiting you all at the Library. See you on The Steps.

# Testing your nerve

It is difficult to imagine someone who has not thought about going for, or who has not actually gone through with an AIDS test. In a time of constant media publicity surrounding the pandemic, this is almost a given. But what many people do not realise, is that the test requires little more than just a decision to take it.

■ Anthony Andrews

We have all heard about it so relentlessly – at school, church, on TV, radio and billboards – that we dread yet another AIDS talk. I mean, what really remains to be learned? A new variety of cucumber? So, understandably we went into the workshops held by SHARC at the beginning of the year with made-up minds and arrogant, complacent attitudes.

Soon we commenced with the ‘usual drill’ – the causes of AIDS, the preventative measures and, of course, the social aspects of the pandemic. Silence reigned in the room because we all, despite knowing everything, seemed to display grave respect for the issue and those infected – those ‘other people’. Participation in these discussions was fervent, but I did not really pay much attention until one startling question punctuated the tedium. What was my status?

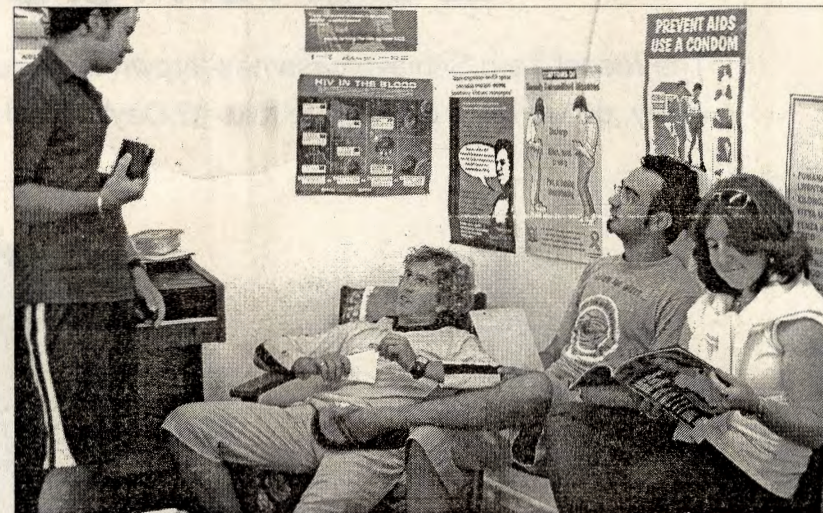
An informal survey (conducted by myself among my friends) later revealed that others had experienced the same sharp jab from some or other question posed in the talk. The actual question differed for each person, but the effect was the same for everyone – we suddenly took AIDS seriously. This talk differed from the many others that we had all been a part of. It managed to yank us out of those comfort zones and cause us to really internalise AIDS, not as an abstract concept, but as a tangible reality. So, with whip-lashed egos we all sat up and listened attentively to see if our worries would be confirmed or allayed, while contemplating the possibility that we could have been infected with AIDS. The foundations of our comfortable mindset seemed to crumble progressively. “How could I have missed that? Why did nobody tell me about that?”

“You can get a free AIDS test done at the San,” someone said. Now we had all been hit by the fist of reality. We had the option of trading in the agony of not knowing for the possible agony of knowing we were infected. I decided to opt for the latter. An AIDS test is the responsible thing to do, right?

I walked into the San on that blistering hot afternoon that was to change my life. I signed the book and sat in the waiting room, which was creatively adorned with literature on AIDS, diabetes and other illnesses. After a short wait I was ushered into the consultation room. The sister offered me a seat, asked for my particulars and then began the consultation. Like a schoolboy in maths class I whispered: “I am here for an AIDS test please.” Not batting an eyelid, she asked me to weigh myself on the scale adjacent to my chair; recorded the reading and asked if I had already been to the pre-counselling session. Although I was well aware of this session, I did not know I needed to have it done prior to the test. It needed to be done at the counselling centre on the other side of campus. This sent me back into the sun, still resolute about determining my status.

Much to my relief, the counsellor agreed to speak to me immediately. We began with the usual pleasantries after which we addressed the essential question. The one you don't want to answer, but know will have to be faced: “Why do you think you might have AIDS?” Fortunately for people with a shy demeanour like mine, a questionnaire is used to get this information from the patient. Other areas covered in this questionnaire include: depression, exam stress and alcohol. As this is a general form, these questions are needed to ascertain what kind of assistance you might require. An uncomfortable fog of silence enveloped the consultation room as I filled out the form as honestly and forthrightly as I could. We discussed my answers soberly. We addressed the issues around the incident that had led me to the San, from a psychological perspective and, more importantly, we discussed the effects the result might have on my life. Love, trust, abstinence and regret ping-ponged in my head for the duration of our discussion until, finally, I was deemed ‘officially counselled’ and fit for the test.

Back at the San, I handed in the mandatory consent form, signed by myself



Editor Carly Ritz, Deputy-Editor Nic Haralambous and two friends testing their nerves at the Raphael Centre while waiting for the results after their first HIV/AIDS test

■ Gregor Röhrig

and my counsellor, permitting me to take the test. Wipe. Prick. Wipe. Done. It took just three minutes.

“ I cannot deny my shuddering hands when she told me ”

With the test behind me I had my new friend, anxiety, accompanying me on my way home. We were destined to spend the entire night together because I had to wait until the following morning for the result. Contrary to the widely-held view that the test is quick therefore the result must come quickly, few people can get their result on the same day. This is due to the large number of patients, and so it is not logistically possible to get peace of mind quickly. As you can imagine, this meant an evening of excruciating worry.

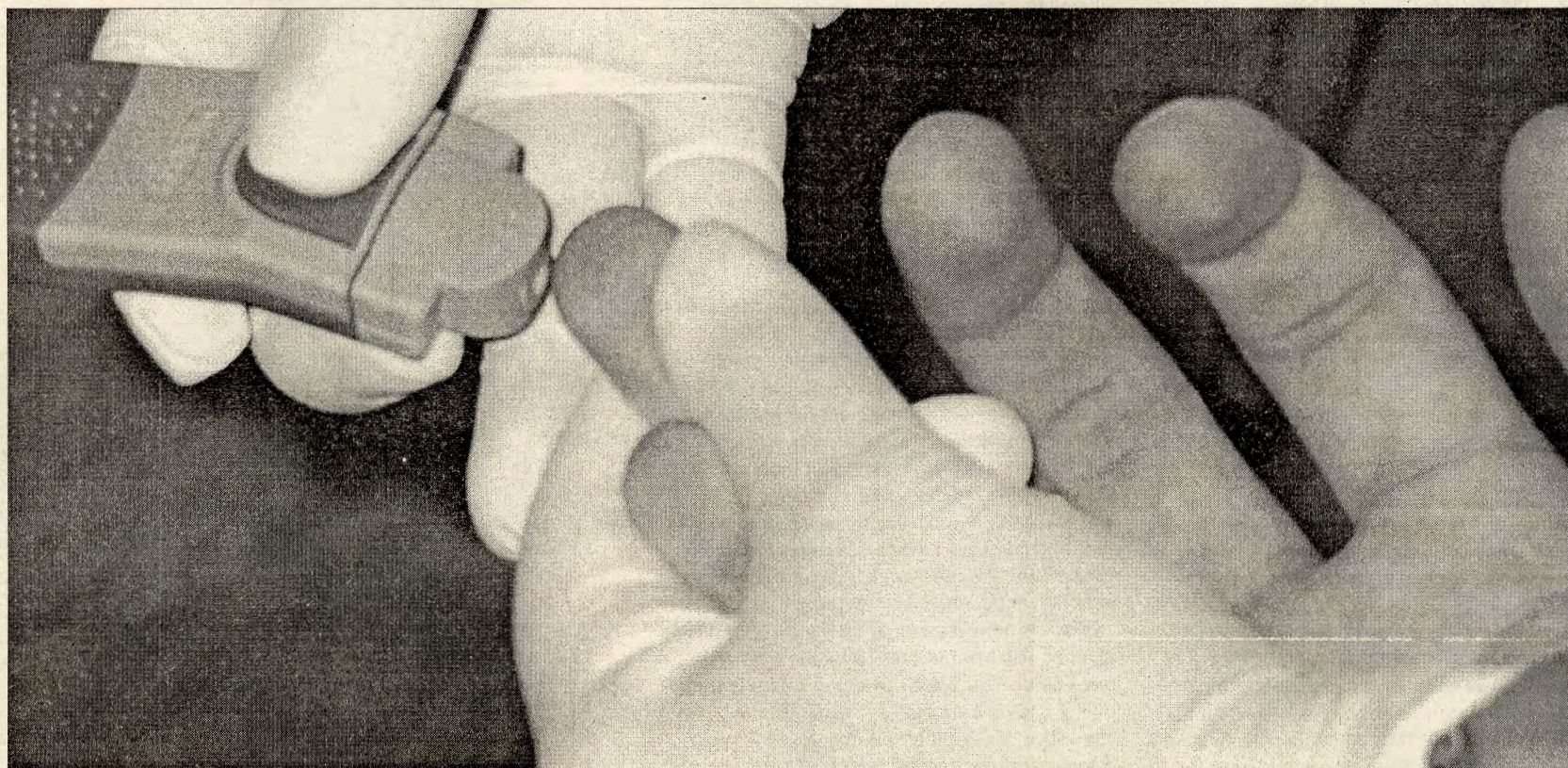
Tick...it's probably negative. Tock...what will I tell my friends and family if it's not. Tick...HIV-positive people can live productive lives. Tock...I have so much I still want to do. Tick. Tock. Tick. Tock. Peeeeeep. The alarm eventually bellowed and announced the end of my torment. I could go and fetch my results.

At the counselling centre, my results had already been faxed through from the San. My ever pleasant counsellor, who exhibited completely neutral behaviour, apologised for the wait and sat me down again. All my attempts to interpret her body language and actions failed dismally. She opened the envelope, as if she were about to award me with an Oscar, and read out the result; non reactive/negative.

No matter how much I try to convince myself that this was the only possible verdict, I cannot deny my shuddering hands when she told me.

I had already decided that either verdict would result in the same response from me. I was going to completely abstain from all activities that could lead me back into this lion's den, or at least be meticulously careful if such a situation were to arise. I would like to thank the staff members at the San and the counselling centre who guided me on this journey and have bestowed upon me a new sense of respect for those living with AIDS. I would also like to thank SHARC for making it clear how much we all need to make this journey, and more especially, for yanking me out of my arrogantly complacent comfort zone.

AIDS tests are readily available at the San or at the Raphael Centre. The procedure is free, although you will be required to take pre- and post-test counselling.



The procedure may be simple, but the wait is agonising

■ Caitlin Murphy



Tel 046 6227787

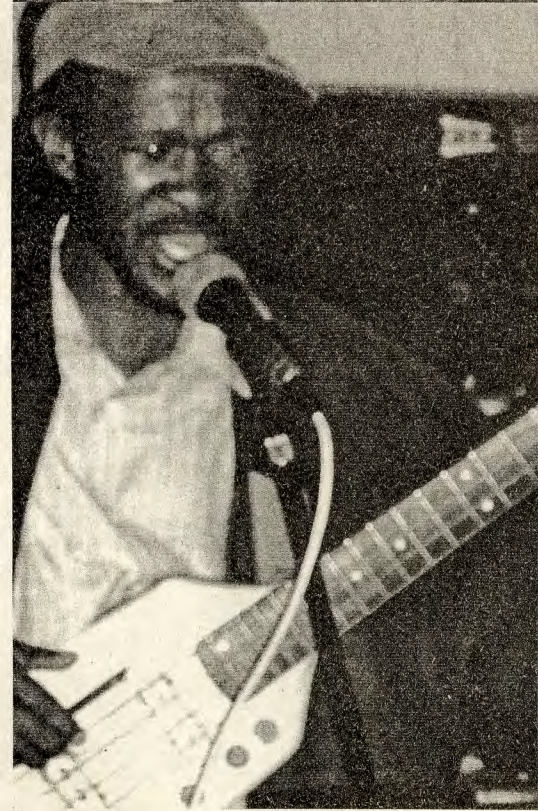
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# Reviews

## Book



### Madonna of Excelsior by Zakes Mda

■ Zanele Nyingwa

**Z**akes Mda is one of South Africa's most famous authors, renowned for *Ways of Dying* and *Heart of Redness*, which won him a number of accolades.

*Madonna of Excelsior* is yet another of his great literary achievements. The story reveals another of apartheid's many well-kept secrets: the story of a court case which revolved around black domestic workers who had been impregnated by their white 'masters'. In his book, Mda describes the life of Niki and her daughter Poppi, who was born out of these circumstances. Poignantly narrated history, told in the most intricate and delicate prose, makes this a worthwhile addition to any bookshelf.

## CD



### Soweto String Quartet - 'Our World'

■ Anya Van Wyk

**A**n authentic South African sound with strong classical tones has long been a trademark of the Soweto String Quartet. Their new album, *Our World*, continues this trend while at the same time benefiting from an infusion of jazz.

The album is a musical quilt, reflecting the versatility of these musicians. Songs that are inspiring are *Skokiaan* and *Summertime*, in which the musicians manipulate the strings to form distinctive jazz tunes. The song *Kgabo Mokgatlo Medley* soothes the ear with gentle raindrops acting as a prelude to this nostalgic piece. In beautifully crafted harmonies, African marimbas, drums and guitar blend with strings to create an original and mesmerising listening experience.

## Movie



### Million Dollar Baby

■ Tracey Daniel

**C**lint Eastwood's multiple-Oscar triumph centres around Maggie (Hilary Swank), a trailer park girl who aspires to be a successful boxer. Frankie (Eastwood) is a boxing trainer who is still haunted by his emotional past. Maggie and Frankie both try to overcome their own obstacles by finding salvation in each other, and in so doing, form a truly inspiring bond. However, tragedy strikes and memories of Frankie's past are dredged up in an emotional turn of events. Swank, Eastwood and co-star Morgan Freeman all give excellent performances, and the film is a must-see whether you are a boxing fan or not.

# Africa will rise through words

■ Gabrielle Gray

**I**t is not often that a third-year university student can credit a published book to their name, but then Sihlangule Mmiselo Siwisa is not your average student. Siwisa, a 27-year-old Rhodes commerce student, has written a book entitled *Afrika, Arise*, and the book is now being published by a US internet-based publishing company, Author House (formerly 1st Books Library).

In a recent article, Sihlangule mentions an idea that inspired the writing of this book: "Ours is a generation that has been cursed with many labels in the past: from Generation X, to the Lost Generation. In fact, a number of people have commented that the Young Lions of 1976 gave birth to an offspring of mall rats and gangsta-rap wannabe teenagers who know more about Tupac than they care to know about Steve Biko!" He did not, however, agree with this statement, and set out to explore what has since occurred among the youth of South Africa after the 1994 election.

*Afrika, Arise* took Sihlangule six years to write and publish, and was originally meant to be a personal letter. This letter gradually evolved into a 128-page story, through deep self-introspection, which, in turn, became a journey of self-discovery. This resulted in the autobiographical nature of

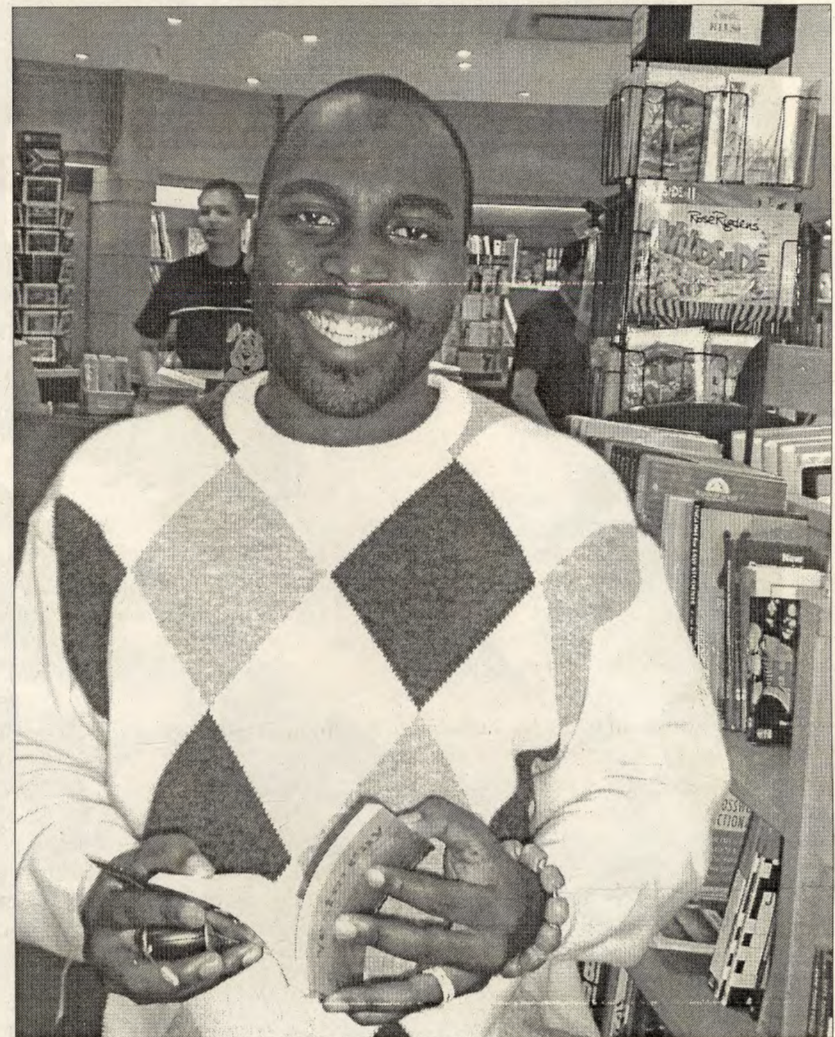
the first section of the book, which describes Sihlangule's discovery and acceptance of his identity as a black youth in post-apartheid South Africa.

What sets this book apart is its address to the youth from the perspective of one of its own. Sihlangule says: "Youth have the common attribute of supporting things that are anti-establishment. Therefore it is essential to send messages to them differently, at both individual and group levels." This is precisely what *Afrika, Arise* aims to do.

The book appeals to people from all age groups and elements of love, education and wisdom are skilfully woven together with wit and personal anecdotes from the author.

What advice does Sihlangule have for aspiring young authors? "Two things", he says. "Firstly, it's vital to develop your own voice and your ability to comment critically and authentically about your subject matter, in a manner that shows evidence of original thought. And secondly, you need to have an ego in order to conceive and develop a book, from start to finish."

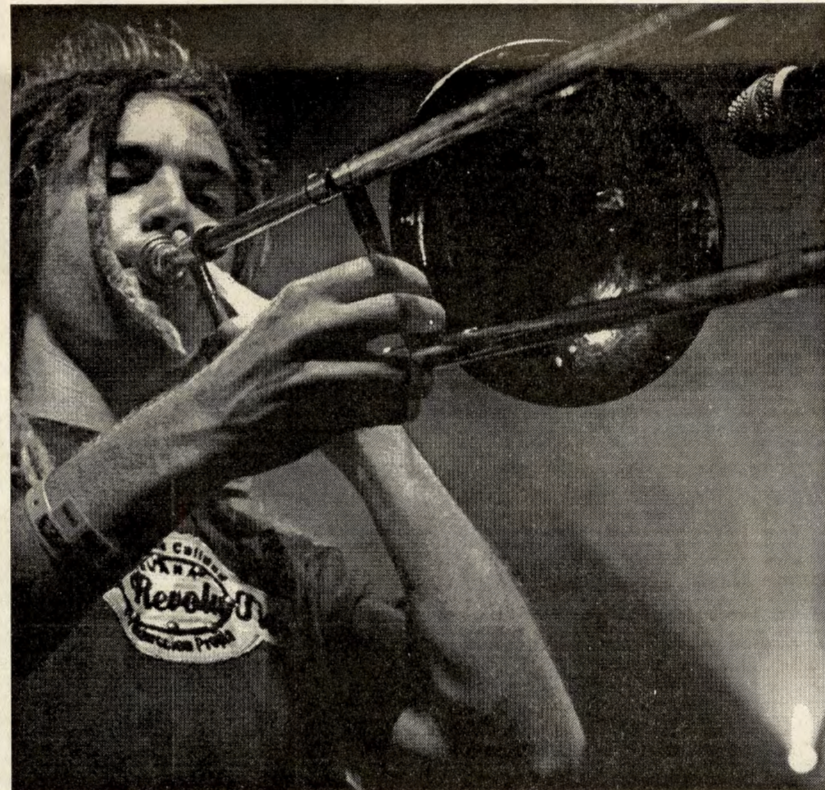
*Afrika, Arise* is available online from [www.authorhouse.com/bookstore](http://www.authorhouse.com/bookstore) under the name "Siwisa", and will also be available at the Rhodes Library from the end of April.



Sihlangule, a warm and engaging character, describes his book as a "thesis on the state of youth culture in South Africa today"

■ Gabrielle Gray

# Rhodents represent at Splashy Fen 2005



Ross McDonald from Hog Hoggidy Hog

■ Jacqui Toulson



Big-ups to Thus Far for being able to perform on the main stage this year

■ Toni Ackermann

■ Sarah Wilde

**I** know the point of a music review is to let you know who played, how well they played, who was there and why it's your duty as a Steve Hofmeyer-fearing South African to attend more live music gigs.

But there's a problem here, guys. When I think of Splashy Fen 2005, I don't immediately think of the music. I think about the treacherous Transkei roads, a campsite that was swamped with mud, a very large bottle of vodka (and then more of the same, with brandy for bad luck), and the sickening realisation that I've been left in the tent because I could no longer walk.

That's not to say I missed all the on-stage action, or that my judgement was too impaired to give you an honest report back. I'm just warning you in advance that I didn't get to see every band. So, if your favourite is left out, please forgive this humble music critic.

Grahamstown made a great showing at Splashy Fen both on and off stage this year. Thus Far and Undone both

played sets, the former on the Main Stage – a great achievement – and Undone on the Free Stage, where they were well-received. The next step for Thus Far is to move into a later slot. Hopefully Undone will take a leap onto the Main Stage next year and there will be more Grahamstown bands making an appearance on the Free Stage to let South Africa know what its missing.

Rhodes crowds are fantastic and very loyal. They were out in force for both local bands, which was great to see. It's a long and gruelling journey to Underberg and I know the bands appreciate the support enormously. It's great to see thousands of happy, laid-back people really loving live South African music, and the Rhodes turn-out is really worth boasting about again and again.

To quote, and then alter slightly, a t-shirt that was flung into the crowd on day two of the festival: 'Let there be rock! And hip hop! And kwaito! And pop!'



"Fiddler on the stage" - Courtenay Farquharson plays the electric violin for Thus Far

■ Toni Ackermann



# Give us a veto, give us a vote

■ Alex Dubb and Gretel Lopez Gomez

Foreign ministers from 15 different African countries convened in Swaziland recently to discuss the possibility of an African seat on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). This was in response to UN Secretary Kofi Annan's plan to augment the membership of the body, which holds specific privileges denied to ordinary member states. The summit has established hopes for two African countries to hold full permanent membership status with full veto rights. The speculated principal candidates for the position are South Africa, Nigeria and Egypt.

The UNSC has consisted of only five member states since its establishment in 1945: namely, the United States, United Kingdom, France, Russia and China. There were an additional six non-permanent members on the Council elected biannually, selected from specific regional divisions, which notably did not include Africa. However, in 1966, in light of the emergence of African states independent of colonial and Western rulers, available non-permanent seats underwent reform to increase the maximum members to 10, including three seats reserved for African nations.

The special powers allocated to the UNSC are varied. However, one of the most controversial aspects of the UNSC has always been the reservation of the right of permanent members to unilaterally veto any decision made by the General Assembly, regardless of how popular it is with the rest of the UN.

During the Cold War this was often used by the opposing Western and Communist blocs as a diplomatic weapon to nullify each other's proposals. Yet, even after the dissolution of the Soviet Union and subsequent end of the Cold War, the veto has been criticised as being continuously used for the advancement of the ambitions of powerful nation states, most notably the US, who

have used the veto on more occasions by far than any other UNSC member. Due to its apparent abuse, many Security Council critics have proposed that the veto be extended to other member states, or even abolished completely, but as the permanent members are the largest funding nations of the UN it is unlikely that any move to reduce or dilute permanent member state powers will come into effect from within.

Should Africa's bid be successful, it may have little effect. Professor Peter Vale of the Rhodes University Department of Politics noted: "The more vetoes you have, the less valuable they are, so the deeper question is whether all vetoes will be taken away." Additionally, the UN has been accused of holding no real power independent of its biggest financial contributors, making it powerless to enforce its principles or ensure multilateral conduct. The unilateral invasion of Iraq makes defense of such allegations difficult at best.

Despite these deeper institutional problems, and although a UNSC seat for Africa would not function as a cure-all to its ailments, permanent Security Council status could result in some advantages for Africa. Beyond the symbolic prestige of its attainment, the veto could be used as a bargaining tool to assure that African issues not only remain on the UN agenda, but are acted upon.

The UNSC is additionally known to engage in 'off-the-record' meetings independent of the General Assembly, despite the fact that they may concern unrepresented countries such as those in Africa. This is of particular relevance in an age when globalisation has appeared as a great threat to African interests. At a UN summit meeting in Havana in 2000, Algeria's foreign minister, Abdelaziz Belkhadem, aptly stated that: "Globalisation without solidarity would be tantamount to injustice and lead to greater



■ pic supplied

marginalisation or even total exclusion of developing countries from the world economy." The results of globalisation have been hard-felt by Africa in the past, and criticisms are not unfounded – many upholding that the UN itself has thus far proven powerless in stopping corporations from capitalising off Africa and consequently, a permanent seat on the UNSC would result in no gain in terms of real power.

If the final result of the UN decision is to expand permanent UNSC membership, it will not mean the end of Africa's problems. Nor will it include a reconciliation of the UN's functional problems and lack of real authority in the face of larger rouge states such as the US. Nonetheless, it is a significant step towards this.



Will Cardinal Francis Arinze be the next Pope?

■ pic supplied

## Make the Pope an African

■ Bianca Camminga

The election of Pope John Paul II, the first non-Italian, staunch anti-Communist pontiff, sent waves throughout the Catholic world, but many saw it as a time for change. With his death, the search for a new Pope has begun all over again. This time there is growing support for the pope to be an African. The assertion amongst scholars and the Catholic community is that an African pope could do for the religious world what Kofi Annan did for the UN.

The prime candidate for the position seems to be Cardinal Francis Arinze from Nigeria. Arinze currently holds the number four spot in the Vatican hierarchy as the head of church liturgy. Pope John Paul II was widely considered as his mentor. This is not Africa's only candidate. Another contender in the race for Pope is Nigerian Cardinal Anthony Okogie – one of the country's most out-spoken public figures. He has, however, often been accused of fuelling tensions between Muslims and Christians in Nigeria.

During the 1980s, in a feud wherein Muslims attempted to convert Christians to Islam, Okogie described their attempts to separate Nigerians as ridiculous, saying: "We just want to keep Nigeria going because of peace. But if anyone tries any nonsense this time ... I don't care, we will burn the nation."

The feeling among the conclave of clergy who will elect the next Pope is that an African is a possibility. Vatican Doctrinal Chief and possible decider amongst the conclave, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, believes that an African papacy would "only be to the church's benefit".

## Brain drain or brain gain?

■ Juliana Jangara

When you think of the relationship between the West and Africa, you cannot help but think of the African exodus due to the illustrious pull of the dollar and pound – the menace which has guzzled a good deal of African talent into the more developed nations. This negative view has often been associated with the emigration of Africans from the continent. There may, however, be another way of looking at the issue.

No one can deny that many African states face challenges in terms of development. As a result, scores of their citizens have felt the need to move to what they believe to be 'greener pastures'. This continual exodus of Africans has placed serious strain on many sectors of the state, especially the health division, which are vital to each country's survival. Health professionals trained in Africa tend to practise in Britain or America. This has left many African countries stricken by severe combatable disease and a lack of resources. These countries, which include Zambia, South Africa, Zimbabwe and Botswana, make a loss on all fronts as they invest in professionals who leave, and their need for aid increases.

The situation has reached such desperate proportions that a team of South Africans has begun what they have termed the 'Homecoming Revolution', aimed at encouraging expatriates to return home. It provides assistance to

emigrants with return trips, financial advice and funding for entrepreneurs. The team hopes to make it easier and more attractive for expatriates to come home. This is a non-profit campaign and has been running mainly as an internet-based venture since 2003. Although the campaign has been praised by some, Professor Geoff Antrobus of the Rhodes University Economics and Economic History Department expresses scepticism at the possibility of its success. He thinks this is simply an advertising gimmick, which in itself will not prompt South Africans to return home. He believes that people will return only once they know that the crime rate has dropped, fraud is being dealt with and basic services are adequately delivered.

Mervyn Wetmore, a Rhodes University career and guidance counsellor, believes that the emigration to foreign countries is not an exclusively bad pattern. He explains that Africans may gain essential skills, develop their careers and expand their view of the world by working overseas. Many African university graduates have benefited greatly from this, especially those who find jobs within their specialisation. As to whether those individuals are likely to return to Africa, Wetmore says he would be surprised to see many actually returning.

With both sides of the coin having their distinct advantages, it remains to be seen whether or not the Homecoming Revolution will be a noticeable success on a national level.

## Zim: Eye on the election

■ Adrian Nel

The Zimbabwean election, held on Thursday March 31, resulted in a resounding, but controversial victory for the ruling Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF), which won 69 seats of a possible 120. This, combined with the 30 seats directly appointed by the president, gives the ruling party a two-thirds majority in the 150-member parliament. Leading opposition party, the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), managed to obtain 32 seats, gaining, as expected, seats in Harare and Bulawayo.

The MDC was frank in denouncing the result. Morgan Tsvangirai, head of the MDC, said: "For people to even claim that this is a democratic process is simply not acceptable."

The MDC is not planning to challenge the results in court, although they did go on to call the judicial system biased in favour of the government, and declaring that the lengthy procedures would render any objection invalid. The MDC and its supporters appeared demoralised and disorganised after the announcement, and they had yet to determine any further plan of action. Tsvangirai did, however, allude to discrepancies in several constituencies between the number of voters and the results announced by the election commission, citing the district of Manyame near the capital Harare, where a 10 000-vote gap existed between the two.

With the ruling party now firmly established in the driving seat of Zimbabwe, it remains to be seen how Mugabe will utilise his two-thirds majority and his scope for constitutional amendments. He has since claimed that he will "retire when [he] is a century old," so he may have plenty of time to do it.

### Africa in Focus : Chad



Chad

■ Hlawulani Mkhabela

**Full name:** Republic of Chad

**Capital City:** N'Djamena

**Population:** 925 3493

**Languages:** French and Arabic

**Head of State:** President Idriss Deby

**Quirky Fact:** Chad has one television channel, which is owned and controlled by the state.



# Old 65

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# Athletics club on the run in Cape Town



From left to right: Kate Padelbury, Jeannie Fox, Matt Gibb, Mike Inrwin, Nathan Helming and Stephen Penny ■ Jeannie Fox

■ Jenna Viljoen

This year's Two Oceans Marathon took place on the weekend of March 25-27. While the majority of students were enjoying a relaxing vacation, a group of Athletics Club members travelled to Cape Town early on the Friday morning in order to take part in this event. The run began early on the Saturday morning and at approximately 3:45am the team were experiencing pre-race nerves and going through the preparation steps of applying Vaseline, plasters and, of course, the all important loo visit. Running conditions were ideal: cool, partly cloudy and mildly windy. Even so, the water points were eagerly utilised. On the last leg of the race there was, according to Rhodes runner Jeanne Fox, "a ridiculous Save the Water campaign by Vida e Cafe", that saw empty cups being handed out. Training for the marathon began, for the most part, over a month before the team was set to leave, but the distance still appeared daunting and some were caught second-guessing their decision to compete. The group that represented Rhodes University consisted of 10 athletes who ran the ultra marathon (56,6km), and seven who did the half marathon. The race commenced with the traditional blowing of a horn which was followed by the sounds of *Chariots of Fire*. Fox identified the highlights of the race as being "the violinist as we ascended Chapman's Peak, the music on the course and the good support - especially from old Rhodians".

Leading runners were able to complete the course in a time of less than four hours. The winner of the senior men's 56km distance, Marco Mambo (HAC) finished in a time of 3:05:39. The senior women's winner of the same distance, Elena Nurgalieva (Mr Price) clocked 3:38:14. It is said that one should compete in the Two Oceans at least once, as it is a beautiful route. The club represented the masses at Rhodes who were unable to participate in this popular run, and had a fantastic time doing so. The race evening included a fines meeting, which was attended by present as well as former Rhodes runners and supporters. Despite obvious fatigue, there was much laughter.

Rhodes' results:	<b>Ultra 56,6km:</b>
	Nathan Helming 4:44:17 Eric Mapara 4:49:05 Stephen Penney 5:04:24 Matt Gibb 5:21:27 Richard Barber 5:36:45 Greg Pienaar 5:42:15 Andrew Slaughter 5:48:31 Kate Pendlebury 5:56:54 Mike Irwin 5:59:52 Jeannie Fox 6:50:23 (Jeannie Fox (21) was the youngest woman from the Eastern Province to complete the route.)
	<b>Half Marathon 21,1km:</b>
	Mike Bailey 1:47:47 Zane Plescia 1:49:11 Garyn Rapson 1:53:22 Garreth Young 1:53:52 Duncan Alfors 2:01:05 Barbara Couperthwaite 2:06:31 Laura Alfors 2:19:32 Mary Weston 2:19:32

## Bafana Bafana struggles to defeat Uganda

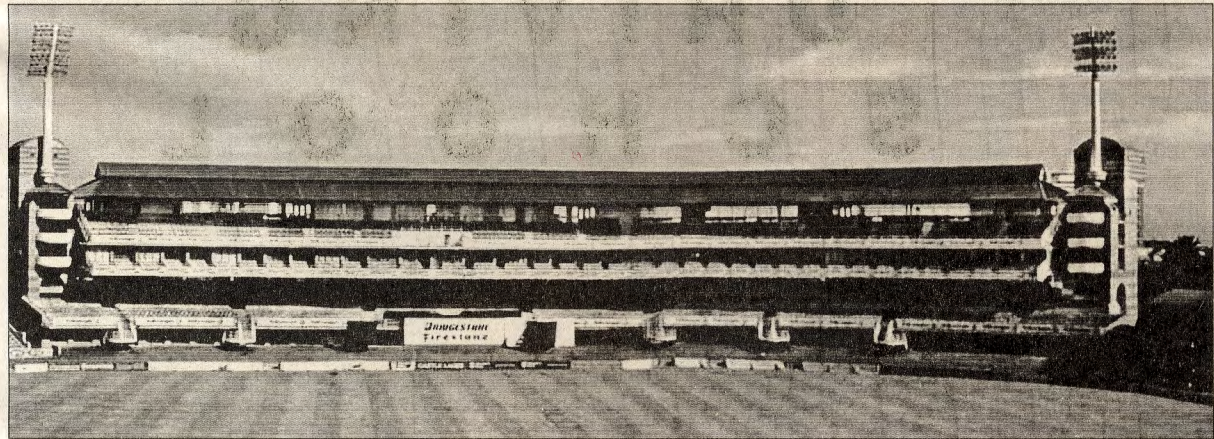
■ Mandla Masingi

Despite the fact that Bafana Bafana won both the World Cup and African Cup of Nations qualifier 2-1 against Uganda on Saturday March 27, their performance was disappointing. The side had, rightly, not expected to be troubled by the supposedly weak Ugandan team. The game lingered on without excitement, just like a Grahamstown vacation. The home team often lost possession and allowed the Ugandans to counterattack. Sibusiso Zuma and Shaun Bartlett did not communicate well upfront and their dedication levels were questionable. Coach Stuart Baxter expressed his disappointment in the team's performance: "I think our poor performance against Uganda was because we thought it would be an easy encounter against the country at the bottom of the log. There are no easy matches," he said. The match initiated doubts in many a South African soccer fanatic's mind as to whether Bafana Bafana will even qualify for the World Cup in Germany next year, despite the fact that they are at the top of the log in their group. Quinton Fortune was lucky to have converted the undeserved 19th minute penalty to give Bafana the lead going into halftime. The second half began with Uganda being

offered a penalty after frustrated defender Nassif Morris tripped Serukuma Geof inside the box, and Abou David sent Hans Vonk diving in the wrong direction to claim a goal. Bafana Bafana redeemed themselves later in the half with a goal scored by Steven Pienaar, after he had missed many previous chances. There is a very real chance that Bafana Bafana might fail to qualify for next year's World Cup, a failure that would be immensely embarrassing ahead of the 2010 World Cup in South Africa. The team faces Cape Verde Island on the June 5, before clashing with Ghana in July. A victory in the latter will be Bafana Bafana's ticket to next year's mega-tournament. The June match is also important and Baxter is demanding ample time to prepare his squad because Cape Verde could prove a threat to Bafana as they are two points behind South Africa and might overtake should Bafana relax. Baxter said in *The Sowetan* that Cape Verde is a dangerous team as it includes overseas-based players as well as South Africans. The leaders in each group will qualify for the World Cup in Germany while the top three will compete in the African Cup of Nations in Egypt.



Bafana goalkeeper Hans Vonk ■ Pic supplied



■ pic supplied

## Wimbledon in PE: Koeksisters and cream

■ Philippa Francis

Sahara Oval St George's, the main venue for cricket in Port Elizabeth, has undergone a slight change in appearance. Ten temporary tennis courts will be erected on the grass field from April 5-8 and the public have been invited to try their hand at lawn tennis. David Emslie, CEO of Eastern Province cricket and one of the brains behind the inventive idea, was upbeat ahead of the event. "This is an innovative way to encourage the public to become involved in the Sahara Oval St George's." The final aim is to promote the venue as a multi-purpose stadium where several sports and events can take place, and also to engage the


public in the project. A former Springbok tennis player with firsthand experience playing on grass, Yvonne Vermaak, has also contributed to the event. In 1983, Vermaak lost to tennis great Martina Navratilova in the semi-finals at Wimbledon. She is now coaching locally in Port Elizabeth and is involved in promoting tennis in South Africa. The courts will be for hire at R200 per court from Tuesday through Friday, in three 90-minute sessions beginning at 5pm. Bookings can be made at the Sahara Oval St George's reception. Part of the profits from this fundraiser will be put towards the Eastern Cape International Tennis

Federation Junior Tournament, which takes place in December this year. To add to the feeling of playing at real Wimbledon, ball boys and girls will be present on each court. They will have their chance to play on the grass throughout the day on Saturday and Sunday, with a parent-child tournament being held for those brave enough to play against the youngsters. Whether one plays tennis or not, this is a good way to spend a fun-filled evening with friends and family in the open air. So, get a foursome together, head to Sahara Oval St George's and get the closest to playing at Wimbledon you can, with a little South African flavour.

## Surf Club going places

■ Nicholas Haralambous

The Rhodes Surf Club has taken off this year with renewed inspiration. Regular beach trips have been a success with many 'groms' (young surfers) getting involved. With a dramatic increase in membership this year, in comparison to previous years, the club has realised that there is scope for development of untouched talent at Rhodes. A 'chicks learn to surf' outing with professional coaching recently saw many girls getting up on their boards for the first time and having a good time on the beach. A 'stoked' committee has resulted in major developments in the sport at Rhodes. With the impressive sign up at sports registration and left-over funds from last year, the club was able to purchase new boards and equipment, which have made the club more accessible to beginners. General enthusiasm from members has taken the club from strength to strength. The club's main goal for this year is to get as many people into the water as possible. "We want people to experience first hand how fulfilling and exciting this sport can be," said Surf Club committee member Stephen Wilsher. More experienced members in the club have shown that there are attainable goals to aspire towards. Alan Horsefield has consistently ranked highly in competitions and is moving up in the national bodyboarding rankings, while Julie Coetzee and Jean van Wyk feature strongly in the events in which they compete. The upcoming trip to the Transkei promises to be one to be remembered, so join in the surf and get yourselves a tan. The surf club is one to watch out for and shows consistent improvement in an attempt to match the quality of the waves they ride.



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# Getting caught in the wake of Slip Stream



■ Dan Calderwood and Melissa Parkin

## ■ Christopher Davies

During the vacation not too much goes on in Grahamstown. However, Rhodians returning from vacation may be interested to know that a new sports bar opened during the Easter break. Slip Stream Sports Bar, situated at 19 New Street, opened its doors for business on March 22.

Slip Stream has two floors, as

well as an undercover outside area. Although there is still a bit of work to be done before it is complete, the bar offers a relaxed and laidback atmosphere, with numerous easy chairs to get comfortable in. There are a total of 10 television screens positioned across the two floors: nine normal sized screens and one very big screen on the second floor. There are also

two decoders, so there will always be at least two sport alternatives on offer. As for the different kinds of sports you may encounter, Slip Stream generally operate on a request basis, but obviously only what the majority want will be shown – be sure to take a lot of your mates with you to guarantee you get to see your game.

If you are not a sports fanatic, don't

worry. In addition to the television screens, Slip Stream also has five pool tables to get your mind off the televised game and onto another. If watching your team gets you hungry, there is also a varied menu on offer which will satisfy the most demanding of appetites.

Although the new venue is impressive and definitely a welcome addi-

tion to Grahamstown's entertainment scene, the establishment itself has not undergone much constructional change as promised – there has merely been a paint job.

Slip Stream is open daily from 11am, with the bars closing at 2am. It remains to be seen whether the new venture will compete with the old favourites.

## More than just a game

### ■ Adrian Nel

The oldest rugby-playing school in the country, St Andrew's College, held their Jubilee 150 Rugby festival in Grahamstown over the Easter weekend to commemorate their 150th birthday. The festival enjoyed visits from Springbok coach Jake White and Old Andrean and former Springbok coach and player, Nick Mallet, who addressed players, coaches and members of the public at separate functions.

The high attendance level at the festival emphasised the importance of school rugby in South Africa. Many an old boy travelled far to witness the spectacle, and their efforts were rewarded with some scintillating rugby, the highlight being St Andrew's thrilling victory over highly-rated Bishops by 28 points to 10. The local team also drew to Hilton College 22-22 on Easter Monday after scoring a great last-minute try to relieve the pressure they had been under for most of the game. The conversion was missed and St Andrew's had to be content with the draw.

PE's Grey College was the other stand-out team at the tournament, demolishing traditionally strong Michaelhouse by 65 points to nil with some fluid running rugby which was a joy to watch, and then beating Bishops 52-10 comfortably on Monday.

Unfortunately the performance and dedication of our young teams was not reflected in our Super 12 efforts, with the South African teams emerging from week five with only one win from four matches. All of our sides are currently languishing at the lower end of the table.

The Cats were beaten solidly. The Stormers fared better, but



■ Pic supplied

it was no consolation that they were in contention for 76 minutes, only to lose the game in the last three minutes of play, a factor that has become an annoying re-occurrence for our teams in the tournament.

The Bulls went down to a polished Waratahs side 42-12, with the Waratahs really looking in form so far this season. Four games are always difficult, but had the Bulls won the Waratahs game, it would have stood them in good stead, having collected about half the points up for grabs on the away leg. All is not lost, though, with five home games coming up. Home games have traditionally proved to be a huge advantage, and the Bulls' win in week four over the Hurricanes (ending their three away match winning streak) will be a bonus. The Bulls are up against the Crusaders this weekend.

There was a breath of fresh air for the Sharks fans when two moments of magic from scrumhalf Ruan Pienaar boosted the home side to an exhilarating 36-24 to dethrone the mighty Brumbies, last year's tournament winners. The game would have given heart to many Sharks supporters who have had little to cheer about

thus far. This will also give a sense of revenge to South Africans for the narrow defeat suffered by the Stormers at the hands of the Brumbies earlier in the tournament. There were front-row worries from the games, as both Hanyani Shimange for the Stormers, and Captain John Smit for the Sharks, were injured. Smit's leadership will be sorely missed against the Chiefs this weekend.

The Blues, after an emphatic 17-0 win over the Brumbies, are up against the Cats this weekend. The latter side showed strong defence in their match against the Highlanders, enjoying 60% of the possession, but will need to improve on their so far one dimensional attack.

So it seems the Super 12 teams should take a leaf out of schoolboy rugby's book for inspiration. The St Andrew's rugby festival was a testament to the spirit and vibrancy of schoolboy rugby in South Africa, which is the springboard for older teams. This display of spirit and determination should be noted by teams at all levels, and serves to remind us why rugby in South Africa is viewed as more than just a game.

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