

# activate

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Independent Student Newspaper

October  
1995

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Growth

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# RMR Community Link

Maria McCloy

**RHODES** Music Radio's governing body has created a new position - that of Community Liaison. The position is geared towards improving links between RMR and the Rhodes community. The station seeks to do this by implementing strategies such as a suggestion box where the public can write in with information, and to raise local issues. The public can also contact Community Liaison, Craig Atherfold, with complaints about the station, which he then forwards to the IBA (Independent Broadcasting Authority).

But a major facet of this programme is its involvement in the Community Radio Forum, which has been broadcasting from RMR's studio for the last three Saturdays, between 10 and 11 am. The members of the Forum have been trained in broadcasting skills by the IAJ (Institute for the Advancement of Journalism), and have been promised R5000 a month by the Independent Media Diversity Trust (IMDT), if they get experience in radio broadcasting.

According to Atherfold, the Forum approached RMR, needing equipment and a foothold in broadcasting, as they have no infrastructure apart from a

computer.

IBA stipulations state a community station such as RMR should help the community, and although this doesn't have to be adhered to "RMR feel we want to do it," he said.

The show provides the experience of putting broadcast skills to use on air in terms of the skills involved in being a talk-show host, researching and scheduling. Atherfold says the show broadcasts events that are to happen in the community, "basically a voice for Rhini...representing Rhini's attitudes, values, beliefs across the air."

Radio Grahamstown has to have a 50% Xhosa/ English language

policy, which Atherfold says Makhaya Mzongwana, head of Grahamstown Community Radio Forum, agreed to because listeners want to learn English. Most community announcements are in English, as are letters of acknowledgement and support, while talk-shows are in Xhosa. Rod Amner, from the Development News Agency, who works with Atherfold on the initiative,

says "Radio Grahamstown is piggybacking on RMR till they get a licence," the idea being Radio Grahamstown (which is being officially launched on October 28) get their own transmitter and studio next year using funds from the IMDT and international

organisations.

Amner believes universities are concentrated with skills and resources that should be transferred, saying "RMR has played a critical role in galvanising the efforts of the radio group in Grahamstown," and that people are happy Radio Grahamstown is finally on air after three years of planning.

Atherfold is pleased with progress so far, "comparing the first show to the latest show, it is a huge transformation." Students who had a problem with the language quota and 'their' station not focusing only on their needs, now say "Congrats, because its off the ground and going."

## R.I.P. BISTRO

Maria McCloy

**THE** Bistro is closing as a party venue, but the previous managers are in the process of trying to organize a new venue by the beginning of next year.

Shafeek Sha who used to run the Bistro with Vijay Sonne (whose father is the landlord) says the Bistro was opened this year because "The Vic doesn't cater for African, Coloured and Indian students...they play a song everyone identifies with and then everyone rushes outside...we thought we should provide them with a venue of their own."

**good atmosphere, good music**

Sha believes they were successful in providing this venue because he thinks there was a good atmosphere, good music, the cheapest liquor in town and food like curries, chip and polony rolls as well as Halaal food which he believes ended the monotony of pizzas.

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The Bistro accommodated around 300 people and the in-house DJ's were Noey, Ketan (known as Heavy K and the Funky Boola) Gary and Lee.

The reason the Bistro only either opened on Friday or Saturday night and sometimes both was that

**definitely closed**

Shafeek is an Economics II student and Vijay works full-time. Furthermore, as Shafeek says "You need reliable people at the door...people who let friends come in free, loose a lot of money."

Shafeek says "We'd make a profit, not a huge profit." Money was definitely made on July 29 when 384 people walked through the door to a Bow Wow party.

Despite the fact that business was booming with societies like Bow Wow and Zicusa hiring the place out and others showing interest "It's definitely closed...the landlord is planning to open a restaurant" and if they were to stay on at the Bistro venue they couldn't afford the rent.

There were plans to open up a new venue at the beginning of this term but they have not been able to

secure a lease. Not having a definite venue also makes it impossible to get a liquor license. They won't say where the new venue is, but say it is bigger than the Bistro and will offer all that made the Bistro popular.

Shafeek says there is no doubt that next year the new place will be operating and even if they can't get the lease "we'll book the venue up the entire year".



President Mandela's legal advisor, Professor Nicholas 'Fink' Haysom (right) shares a laugh with Rhodes Law Professor, Rob Midgely. Haysom was a guest speaker at the annual Rhodes Law Dinner held last Friday at the Monument restaurant. Earlier on Friday, Haysom delivered a lecture at the Law Department entitled "Divining the spirit and purpose of the new constitution" in which he discussed the stipulations, limitations and user-friendliness of South Africa's constitution.

pic: Michelle Lentin

## Changeover 95/96

**ACTIVATE** members recently spent a day revising policy and electing the '95/'96 collective.

"Voice of the students", "open to change", "overworked", "constantly insulted", "admin watchdog" and "forum for expression" were some descriptions of Activate that came out of the intensive brainstorming sessions.

The vision for 1996 - Encouraging Empowerment, Development and Growth - is based on the Activate principles of democracy, non-racialism, non-sexism and non-

homophobia.

The battle against student apathy has always been at the foreground and in the upcoming year Activate aims to get their readers thinking, reacting and involved.

The need for an editor was debated and it was decided that this post would be reinstated with editors and sub-committees instead of the previous system of beats which ran into difficulties due to the system being implemented without it being clearly defined

Editor: Karuna Gopal; Sub-editor: Swapna Prabhakaran; Culture editor: Claire Smith; Feature editor: Joanne Levitan; News editor: Maria McCloy; Photography and Picture editor: Indressa Naidoo; Projects and Campaigns editor: Zandile Nkatha; Sasnews editor: Mboneni Mulaudi; Sports editor: Ilja Graulich; Public Relations: Katie King; Finance and Administration: Brigid Martin.

# Election Results Thrown Out

Indressa Naidoo &  
Karuna Gopal

LAST term's SRC elections were declared null and void by an SRC-appointed Review Board in response to a complaint by an SRC candidate that they were unconstitutional.

The candidate, Patrick Mahlangu, called for the nullification of the elections, alleging that it was not in accordance with certain provisions of the SRC Constitution.

Election Officer, Thuli Skosana, said the constitutional flaw arose from the conduct of a roving poll during the last elections after the SRC failed to reach its voting target of 40%. An additional 90 votes were necessary before a poll could be declared.

"According to the Constitution, if the required poll of 40% is not achieved, the whole campus is supposed to be notified and elections would then have to be re-opened," Skosana said, adding that the SRC did not foresee problems with the use of a roving poll since it had been done in the past.

Mahlangu called for a decision by the Board on the following submissions:

1. The election of candidates did not

commence on the same day.

2. Some stations were not open for the minimum periods stipulated by the Constitution.

3. Polling stations were not open at venues stipulated in the Constitution.

4. The publication of results was conducted in contravention of particular clauses of the Constitution.

5. Senior students were not properly instructed in how to conduct polling at halls of residence.

6. A roving poll was conducted instead of the election being extended to the following day.

After examining the facts, the Board accepted "that not all departures from the strict letter of the provisions of the Constitution will render the election" null and void, and as a result only agreed with Mahlangu on points two and six of his submission.

The Board eventually decided that although, "nothing in the Constitution either authorises or prohibits roving

polls", it was the majority view that

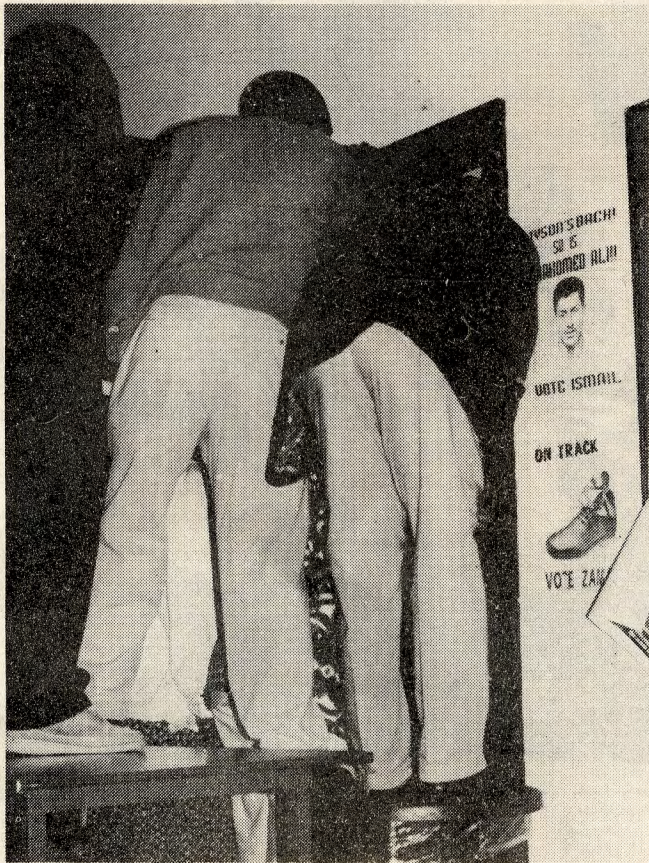
"roving polls could be abused by using it selectively" and its use was, therefore, unconstitutional.

Mahlangu commented that the decision was a sign that "justice has been done".

The Board's decision meant that students were called upon to vote once again earlier this week.

Skosana was unwilling to comment on the reception of students to a second election, saying only that if the election was rejected "it will mean starting all over again". She added that should the prospective SRC fail to be voted into office it will be replaced by an "interim structure".

"This will have to come from the student body and will be similar to the SRC so that if any issues come up they will be taken up. It's primary task will be to redraft the Constitution," she said.



That was then...enthusiastic crowds struggled to get a view at the SRC Grazzle last term. Will they be as eager this time? pic:Karl Delport

## Booking A Place In Government

Tucked away in a cramped, relatively out-of-the-way Rhodes Library office, the ANC's Ward 12 candidate for the local government elections, Sandy Rowoldt is busy mapping out a better future for Grahamstown. Lukanyo Mnyanda & Matthew Buckland grilled the budding councillor.

WALKING into Rowoldt's office, we were met by a portrait of a smiling Madiba, which immediately confirmed that we had come to the right place.

Rowoldt is quick to acknowledge the diversity of her ward which ranges from the Rhodes campus, to the upper middle West Hill and Hill 60, and also covers Grahamstown's prison community.

But she's optimistic that she can come up with a right campaign to satisfy the needs of the different communities. Rowoldt also has "a strong conviction of Grahamstown being one city".

Although this is her first attempt at running for political office, she has a long history of political involvement dating back to when she was a 12-year-old protesting against racism in the then Rhodesian schools.

She came to Grahamstown in 1972 and immediately "fell in love with Cory Library" and has been working there ever since.

An active Black Sash member for

more than 10 years and a former secretary for the Institute of Race Relations, she has been a fervent opponent of Apartheid.

Asked why people should vote for the ANC, Rowoldt said: "Only a strong ANC-led local government will have sufficient influence with the regional and national governments which are also led by the ANC."

In short, she says, her party will be able to secure the "ear of the ANC" hierarchy and "the chain of communication will be much surer and stronger."

"We also need to break the mental (often racist) divide that says the ANC belongs 'out there'", she added.

Keeping the Supreme Court in Grahamstown is a major priority for Rowoldt who believes that losing it would be disastrous for a poor town like Grahamstown.

"I know other parties will also take up the issue", she says, "but only a strong ANC-led local government will have a realistic chance of ensuring that the court stays here". Describing Settlers Hospital as a "health hazard", Rowoldt has vowed to take up issues of health once elected into office. However, she is quick to acknowledge the huge task that faces an elected local government.

"This (health) is a major issue all over the country. We have inherited inequities from the past and an ANC government is now bearing the brunt of the costs."

She also promised to address the inadequate lighting in public roads and around the Rhodes Campus.

Her plans also include taking up the long-standing issue of street children whom she described as "a symptom of a very damaged society."

Students, she believes, must grab their "first chance to get involved in local government and become part of the changes that will take place". When asked to comment about her opponents, Rowoldt refused to be drawn into a 'mud-slinging' match saying: "I would rather concentrate on my positive aspects than on their negative sides."

She promised to keep in touch with her constituency if elected.

"I will be approachable, have an open door, an open ear, an open mind and will be prepared to tackle any problem".

## VC Candidates

Activate Reporter

THE final two candidates for Rhodes Vice-Chancellor, Professors David Woods and Ian Bunting delivered speeches to about 300 members of the university community recently.

UCT deputy Vice-chancellor, Woods said "excellence in teaching and research...should remain the cornerstone of the institution" but stressed that this should be done in the context of the new South Africa.

In his speech, Bunting, who is Dean of Social Sciences and Humanities also at UCT, said the biggest challenge facing South African universities was the part they had to play in "national reconstruction and development in the immediate post-apartheid future".

On admission policies, Woods said, despite 40 years of apartheid education, he still believed aspiring students had to be passed through a national selection system which would assess their potential to succeed at university.

Rejecting the old system which threw students in the "deep end",

Woods said the university had to be dedicated to ensuring that black students enjoyed a wide number of support networks.

Bunting, on the other hand, emphasised universities' role in addressing apartheid imbalances, saying Rhodes should increase its student enrolment. He stressed that financial aid would also become increasingly "urgent" as more African students were admitted.

Bunting said Rhodes had to design policies which "make student and staff bodies more representative of the race and gender composition of the wider South African society while maintaining academic standards and enhancing the quality of academic endeavours".

Woods also said gender and race imbalances had to be addressed by a "pro-active, equal opportunity employment policy".

Bunting conceded that university subsidies would be eroded by demands made by housing, welfare and basic education but said

"achieving more with less" could be achieved with improved efficiency.

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# SRC Car Crash

Karuna Gopal

"THE general consensus among us is that there is a God," said SRC-elect member, Vasco Ndebele, after he and three others SRC candidates escaped virtually unscathed from a car crash three weeks ago.

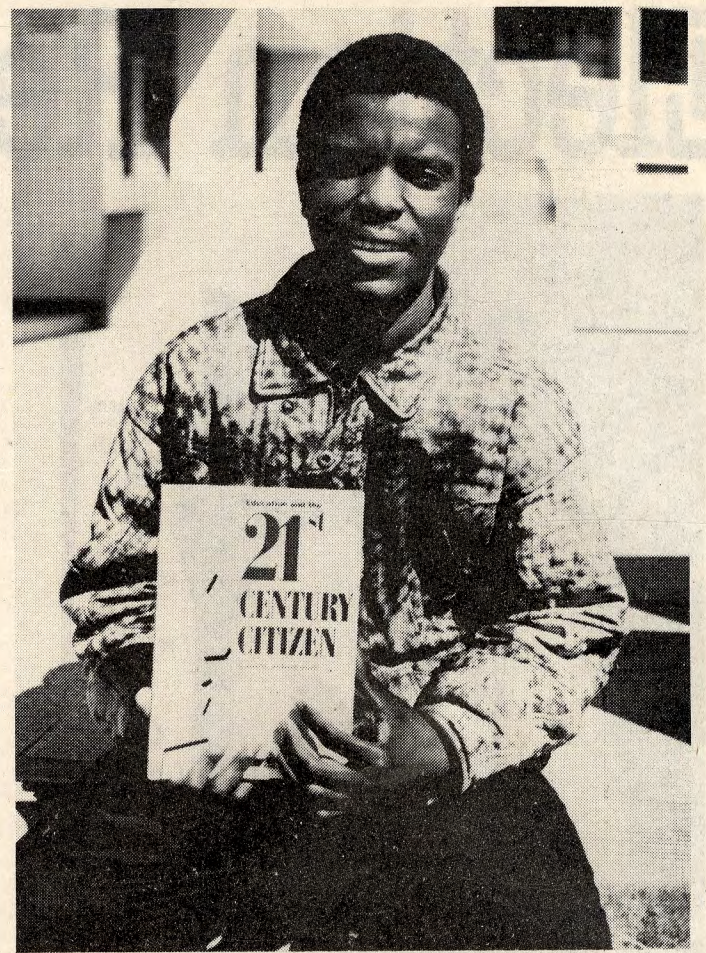
Ndebele, Peter Van-t Hoogerhuys, Ismail Mohammed Ali and Linda Pledger were on their way to a national SRC conference in Pietermaritzburg when a tyre on their vehicle burst. The accident,

which occurred 60kms outside Umtata, caused the driver to temporarily lose control over the car. "Fortunately Ismail swerved to the left and the car was stopped by a rock," said Ndebele.

The four were assisted by passing motorists who drove them to the Umtata General Hospital where they were treated for injuries. Apart from Ndebele, who suffered a hip injury from the impact of the crash, the occupants escaped the accident with only minor bruises.

Rhodes student and 1995 AISEC Rhodes chairperson, Henry Sebata, was elected 1996 national president of AISEC South Africa last term. His first official engagement will be the International President Meeting in Malta, this month.

pic: Michelle Lentin



## Cricketing Changes

Ilja Graulich

THE biggest news to hit the cricket world in recent weeks is the announcement of Benson&Hedges termination of its sponsorship of limited overs cricket and the subsequent takeover by Standard Bank.

In an interview with the previous Standard Bank chairperson Henry de

Villiers, I was told that "negotiations had been going on for over a year." Standard Bank was looking to get back into the sporting arena after the completion of their contract with Tennis South Africa.

The sponsorship, in excess of R50 million, will come into play only next season, as Benson&Hedges still have the rights to the up coming series, locally and internationally against

England and Zimbabwe.

Bad news for Grahamstonians is that M-Net have acquired the rights for all cricket competitions with immediate effect. The games will be broadcast mainly on the spare channel, CSN, which cannot be received in Grahamstown by a normal decoder.

Maybe the Sports Union is willing to invest in a satellite dish?

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## Environmental Law

Deborah Roberts

THE Rhodes Street Law team, coordinated by Leanne Simpson (final year LLB student), held the 1995 Environmental Law weekend at Thomas Baines Nature Reserve from the 18 to the 20 of August.

41 Std. 9 and Matric pupils from Grahamstown schools participated in the weekend, which was funded by the National Street Law Programme.

The purpose of the venture was to advocate and encourage environmental awareness as a prerequisite for the development of a conservation ethic. The ultimate objective was to increase active involvement by the youth of Grahamstown in protecting and improving their environment.

On the agenda were nature walks, an astronomy evening, the environmental "green revolution game" and various discussion workshops. Topics included defining "environment", environmental law

and the new constitution, as well as the RDP, economic development and our environment.

The participants drew up their own set of rules to follow for the weekend. Emphasis was placed on the importance of participation and communication.

An important issue was the tension that exists between the short-term demands on our environment and the long-term sustainability. Awareness of the conflicting needs of different groups was encouraged. Participants explored the best ways to satisfy these conflicting needs, while at the same time safeguarding our environment.

The weekend was extremely rewarding to all those involved. It is hoped that the Street Law initiative will result in the Grahamstown youth putting into practice this balanced, practical outlook in all spheres. Eventually this should help to minimise conflict within our environment, while at the same time work to protect and improve our natural heritage.

vote for  
Local Government  
November 1 1995

# How do we rate?

*Rhodes students have always prided themselves on their partying and drinking abilities and academics has been lower on the list of priorities. Is this an international student phenomenon or is it a South African affliction?* Joanne Levitan and Brigid Martin spoke to a number of foreign lecturers at Rhodes who gave their views on students, university life and what they can offer us.

**PROFESSOR** Bob Dowse, an Australian Politics lecturer, is shocked by students' focus on their social lives. "Students spend most of their time jolling. I've never seen anything like it - it's disgraceful!" Another Politics lecturer, William Latimer from the USA, is astounded by the hard drinking by both

students and lecturers. Most of the foreign lecturers are used to more diligent students who produce a relatively higher standard of work. They feel that Apartheid has left a legacy of authoritarian education where the lecturers know the "truth" which is rarely questioned or challenged by the students. With structured tutorials, students are not encouraged to take their own initiative and would rather rely on "spoon-feeding". This is noticeable even at a post-grad level. Dr Rok Ajulu, a Kenyan International Relations lecturer, said that students have been "robbed of initiative to do things for themselves and ultimately to think for themselves." Most students do not seem to appreciate the educational opportunity they have been given at Rhodes. "Education is the way to improve yourself," says Canadian HMS lecturer Scott MacKinnon, and many students are not taking advantage of this. Lecture attendance is usually low

and often students are satisfied with just passing a subject, he said. Students' lack of initiative can also be attributed to the educational system right from school level. Dr Ajulu feels that teaching methods here do not allow for student creativity. Foreigners find it difficult to implement different teaching methods in such a regimental system. Dr Janet Gunn, an American Fulbright scholar, was frustrated at limiting her courses to those planned by the English department. Not all foreign lecturers see students as lazy, drunken degenerates. Canadian journalist, Keith Watt, finds his students "hungry for new ideas". Students might wonder why there are so many foreign lecturers at Rhodes when there are highly qualified South Africans who have a better understanding of our culture, and are looking for jobs. But foreign lecturers can be seen as vital to our education after the country's long

period of isolation. Foreigners can expose students to new ideas, perspectives, information and expand world understanding. As British history lecturer, Frederick Bright points out: not only are the lecturers challenging South African's stereotypes of the rest of the world, but the lecturers are changing their own pre-conceived ideas of Africa. Professor Guy Berger, Head of the Journalism Department, sees foreign lecturers as an asset to Rhodes. "Not every student can go overseas. The lecturers provide good contact with the international world." True democracy is a new concept for South Africa, therefore input from people like Keith Watt, an experienced Canadian radio broadcaster, is invaluable. While foreign lecturers can introduce us to other educational dimensions, it is up to us to take advantage of this opportunity.

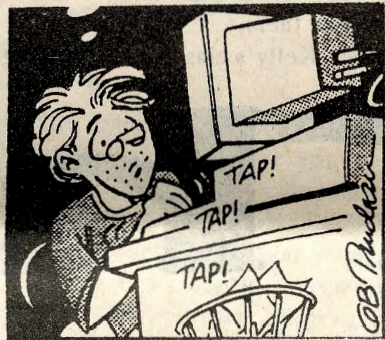
## PalloNet

Michelle Lentin

**RHODES** students recently had the opportunity to 'talk' with Minister of Posts and Telecommunications, Pallo Jordan. A question and answer session on the ministry's green paper on telecommunications policy took place on the Internet via the Internet Relay Chat (IRC) on Tuesday August 15. The Green Paper is available to the general public over the World Wide Web (WWW) at: <http://wn.apc.org/technology/telecoms/greenpaper.html>. It is also available in Afrikaans, Southern Sotho and Zulu from the ministry. The channel buzzed with excitement and people joined in continuously. Greetings to old IRC buddies and comments on the upcoming discussion filled the screen, varying widely in the run up to the talk from "where's Pallo?" and "Pallo release yourself" to a very loud "TELKOM SUCKS" (Capital letters indicate shouting).

### "Pallo, release yourself."

It was open to anyone with access to the Internet and IRC, which was admittedly restricting. Two of the main sites used to connect to the Internet on campus are the Braae lab in the Struben Building and the Journalism LAN. Over 200 people joined the channel, making direct personal questions impossible, due to the sheer volume. Chairing the discussion - "from a technical viewpoint" at the request of "MR V" was Rhodes University second year Computer Science student "BeamJack" (BJ). He requested everyone to "keep some sort of decorum" for the duration of the chat. Instead of posting their queries directly to the channel, participants sent them to BJ, who then asked questions on their behalf. The chat began with BJ welcoming the



Minister to IRC. Using the name MinZPallo, he answered the questions briefly, for example, "be serious, Pitsonderwater needs telecoms as much as Jo'burg" to a question from "bugsy" about Telkom diginet subscribers paying for the new electronic exchange. IRC is very popular with much of the Rhodes Net Community, who can be seen chatting to several friends at a time at various times of the day and night. This has resulted in RUCUS, (Rhodes University Computer Users Society) running extra IRC courses to keep up with demand. The Rhodes Net Community responded strongly to an article about the talk in the *Mail & Guardian* weekly newspaper. The *Mail's* Internet reporter Bruce Cohen wrongly described BJ as a student who has failed first year three times. He is in fact a third year student who changed degrees after his first year and is now studying second year subjects. Cohen also falsely claimed BJ had appointed himself mediator of the channel. A major objector to Cohen's article was local IRC guru "IrcMadon", who flamed (to flame someone is to send them rude, angry electronic mail) the *Mail & Guardian* and the Rhodes Journalism department, who were involved in the organisation of the talk. Many other members of the local Net Community also sent flames which resulted in a rather weak acknowledgment by Cohen in his next column. This could not have made the local Net Community : ) (Smile).

## Lifeblood

Sara Davies

WE are all out to save the world, but what about saving lives? Just think of how many car accidents occur every week, and those do not even make up half of the people who need blood transfusions. Every term, Rhodes students are given the opportunity to give blood. However, it seems that people do not realise just how important this is. At the last "Big Bleed", approximately 160 students out of the whole university gave blood! To be a donor, you must be over 17 years old and weigh more than 50 kgs, so most people qualify. Tests are done before you donate to establish whether or not you are anemic, if you are, you are advised not to give blood. Don't be put off by the questionnaire that you have to fill in every time you give blood. You can be assured that everything you write down will be kept in absolute confidence. Sister Read, of the Blood Transfusion Centre in Grahamstown (a branch of the Eastern Cape headquarters in PE), says that there is 'no way anyone else knows.' If there are any irregularities, you will be made aware of the fact. This is an issue entirely between you and the sisters at the Centre. As Sister Read says, 'it is all kept very confidential.' The fear of catching AIDS is unwarranted because the procedure is completely safe. The needles are brand new and once used cannot be used again (even if you tried). The used needles are taken to Settlers Hospital to be incinerated. Sometimes it is difficult to find a vein so it may be necessary to try the other arm. If this bothers you, you can ask to be injected only once. 470 mls of blood is drawn at a single donation and your body will replace this by the following day. Although you seem to lose a lot of blood, you are not without it for very long. There are various reasons why we

should give blood. Both whole blood and blood products are needed to treat a variety of conditions. Blood donations save many lives by making transfusions possible. During childbirth, women often haemorrhage either before or just after the birth and a quick blood transfusion often saves a life (if not two). Blood products include fresh frozen plasma which can be used to boost the blood volume in children suffering from severe dehydration caused by acute diarrhoea. Blood products are also used in the treatment of haemophilia (those lacking the clotting factor in blood). The sisters at the Blood Transfusion Centre (corner Cross and Bartholomew Streets) would be more than willing to answer any further questions. And if you missed the last session at Rhodes, visit them there and help to save someone's life. As they say at the Centre 'Feel Great, Donate.'

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# Disillusioned Teachers of Tomorrow

Brigid Martin

THE new South Africa blah blah, transparency blah blah, the Rainbow Nation blah blah: corny catch phrases much in use after our first multi party elections. It has become politically correct to talk about the plight of the poor and the horrors of apartheid, but we are mostly removed from the situation and it is easy to ignore. Not so for student teachers whose course requires them to do teaching pracs in under privileged schools. A morning spent at St. Mary's Roman Catholic School with student teacher Kelly Hilton-Green, highlighted many of the problems that educators face in trying to teach the new generation.

By law, children are required to go to school, but says Kelly, schools are little more than "day care centres." Pupils come and go as they please with nothing to force them into the classroom. Whatever happened to the shining, expectant faces of children thirsting for knowledge ... or is that Enid Blyton?

The standard three class at St. Mary's are bright and precocious, with the attention span of a gold fish. They pop up and down like jack-in-the-box, running riot over the teacher who is powerless to stop them. Violence, or the

threat of it, seems to be the only method of discipline they understand, which is not an atmosphere conducive to learning. Fights break out in the classroom and kids are openly defiant - testing the teachers to see how far they can be pushed.

Many of the pupils come from families where the parents are unemployed, drunken and abusive. Out of a class of thirty-two, only three pupils' parents attended a PTA meeting the night before, and their lack of interest in their children's education gives the pupils no incentive to learn.

This is very disheartening for student teachers who are keen to implement the methods they have been taught. To have an "idealist Robin Williams type of approach" would be great says Kelly, "and the kids would love it, but it's almost impossible to teach like that because the kids are so disruptive."

With a wide academic range in the class, those less eager to learn make it difficult for others to concentrate. The kids are attention- and reaction-seeking, which is both draining and exhausting for student teachers. Colleen Foggarty finds it particularly difficult to work in such a male dominated environment as the pupils give women teachers far more trouble. "The first week I came home and cried," she said, and is so

despondent that she wants to give up teaching and become an estate agent like her mother. ( One of those arbitrary thoughts that seem like a good idea at the time.)

The whole education system is partly to blame for the situation. Many teachers have been trained in colleges and are taught a certain method of teaching, rather than theories which can be adapted for each class. Regular visits by school inspectors ensure that the correct syllabus is being taught and most teachers do not deviate from this. (The relevance of Sir Francis Drake to 20th century ten-year-olds is highly questionable.) Students are not taught to think for themselves, and are only expected to regurgitate answers they have been given. Independence and creativity are non-existent.

Unfortunately much of this comes right back to the problem of discipline, which is why many student teachers find their jobs so frustrating. They have been taught new teaching methods that incorporate group work and more student-teacher interaction. These methods work perfectly in schools where the teacher is entirely in control of the class and the pupils know what is expected of them.

However, Kelly's class at St. Mary's go

"berserk" if they are allowed to deviate from the normal pattern and the lesson ends in chaos. Kelly feels like he's been "framed by someone, because no-one except the other students understand how the school works / doesn't work." The Rhodes Education Department gave him no preparation for the situation and don't seem able to comprehend the difficulties of working in a school where even the teachers interrupt the class. As Kelly says, it is easier to accept the old teaching methods, because to change a class's learning pattern for five weeks (the length of a prac) can be very disruptive for the children. On the other

hand, not to use the new techniques can result in a bad report on the student teachers themselves.

This system is extremely detrimental to children which is evident in their narrow view of the world, and lack of pride in their school work. Kelly believes the kids "have no say in who they are - the society they live in is all they know." The challenge lies in trying to change that, but if up- and-coming teachers are already disillusioned with the education system, what chances do these children have in this technologically advanced information age?

# Dig This!

Carlien Vavruch

EVERY year at this time, millions of res students descend on digs across the country, Oppie directory in hand, knocking on doors and dreaming of leases, waiting lists and that fantasy digs where happy dogs gambol in fashionably unkept garden and a stream of guests entertain 4 perfectly suited, witty and extremely interesting digs mates.

If you are wondering how to face another year of intervisiting rules, rubber steak and fake milk, the prospect of getting out of res and into digs may seem like

heaven. The only thing holding you back is having to embark on that infamous "digs hunt".

The experienced veterans of Oppiedom and those in-the-know say the best way to find a digs is by word-of-mouth - swallow your pride and tell everyone you meet that you are desperately looking for digs and if they don't have anything they probably know someone who does.

Other ways - check Grocotts, HomeNet, the Oppie Directory and get the list of available digs from Joy Allcock, the Oppie secretary, regularly. She is very helpful and if she knows what you're looking for, she can keep an eye open for you.

Also check notice boards in the library and Kaif, or put up your own - its the cliched case of the more you put in, the more you'll get out.

But be careful who you move in with. As one anonymous oppie said, these are the best years of life, but don't let them be spoiled by a tense living environment. Living with good friends often becomes a problem because it is much harder to chase your best friend for rent or get mad when they've puked in the sink. If you move in with acquaintances you can establish firm rules from the start and its easier to be honest when things go wrong. If you are sensitive to smoke or sensitive to anti-smokers don't move in with the opposite unless you have a good agreement - your digsmates won't change for you. And don't move in with your lover, get your lover to move in with you.

Money and the division of labour is usually the biggest issue among



digsmates. One suggestion is to share financial responsibility by having each person looking after one aspect of the money - one person to pay rent, another to organise water and lights and so on. This way, one person isn't stuck with the burden of making sure everything is paid on time.

Ultimately, devise the system that works best for you and learn to compromise in order to keep everybody as happy as possible.

What should you be looking for? There are the obvious things like distance from campus, especially if you don't have transport, and how much the rent is. Also find out what extras you will have to pay, like M-Net, a domestic servant and alarm system. If the digs is not already furnished consider how much money you have to spend - appliances like fridges and stoves are expensive.

Getting hold of the basic bedroom furniture is much easier though. Speak to the present occupants about buying their stuff. Second hand shops can often ask ridiculous prices, so shop around. Now you've found the perfect place, furnished, close to campus and with the right people - what else do you need to know?

Ask how many break-ins they had in the past year and who has to pay for breakages and damages. Check the lease for clauses that might be problematic later in the year, and get all agreements in writing. For instance: are you allowed to stay in the digs during festival and are you allowed to rent it out? Are you allowed to keep pets? Some leases say you may not burn candles and you may not stick anything on the wall - make sure you know what you are signing before you do it. Individual leases are better than having one resident sign for everyone.

Speak to the landlord before you sign and establish who is responsible for repairs. If there are things that need to be fixed before you even move in, tell the landlord immediately.

Basically, read everything carefully and go to Legal Aid (in New Street, 2 to 5pm) if you have any queries.

The Oppie office (ground floor of Student Union building) is also open for queries, weekdays from 8:30 to 12:15.

Now you can enjoy your freedom, eat breakfast at 11:30 and chuckle knowingly at your friends still living in res. You have arrived!

## MIKES MOTORS

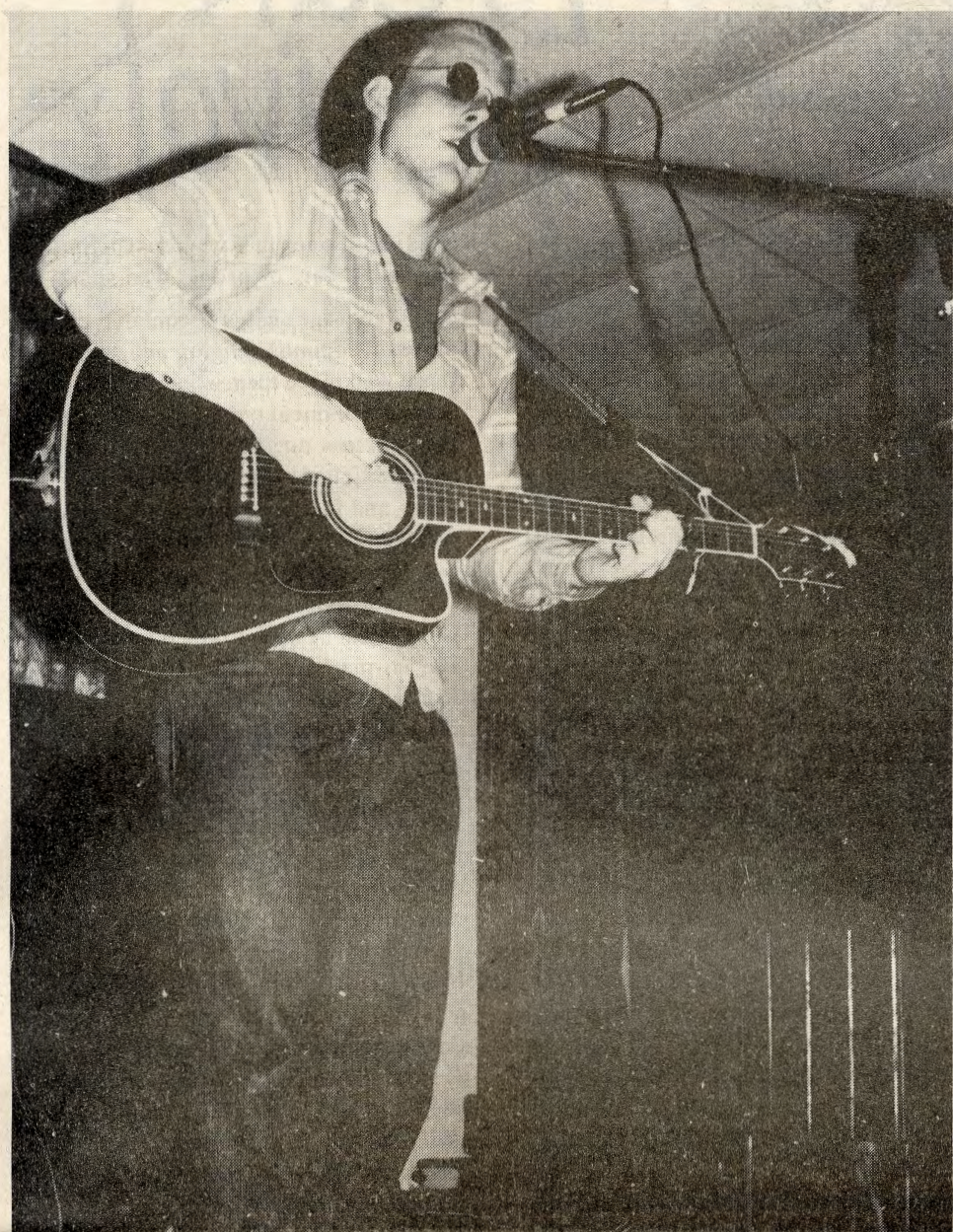
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## "Walk All Over Me"



Local musician Matthew van der Want performing at the Union. He was in Gramstown at the beginning of term to launch Rose-istence - "Newzine for the Eastern esCape" and played at a number of local venues

pic: Karl Delpont

## Lecturers take note

Pauline Herbst

HOW often have you dragged yourself to a dawnie with sleep-encrusted eyes, yet full of determination to focus on your lecturer, only to find that all the focus in the world is not going to help you understand his or her half-whispered mumbles?

More and more students are experiencing this problem, not due to their sometimes halfhearted efforts, but because their lecturer is unintelligible! The reasons are varied, but the most common complaints are lecturers not enunciating words or reading directly from the overhead projector in a flat, monotonous tone of voice.

Quotes from students such as "a lot of them put up overheads, then read them to you - no further explanation or lecturing" (Lee, BA I) and "repeats himself, I can't understand his accent and as a result, don't know what's going on" (Rowan, BSc I) highlight these problems and they are not restricted to "ignorant" first years. A fourth year stated "one lecturer even read from the textbook the whole time".

Why is this happening - surely these people who are paid to lecture us should be capable of doing so? Communication seems to be the problem. Obviously the lecturers have the knowledge necessary, it is only when addressing large audiences that some fail dismally.

Thankfully not every lecturer is this bad. Comments were also made about

lecturers who "talk sense in clear language and are very interesting" (Tara

and Emma, BFA I & BJourn I). A CompSci lecturer was also mentioned - he was given a standing ovation due to his witty and different outlook on the topic.

What training do lecturers undergo that makes some fantastic and others frustrating? Mrs Tisani, from the ADP, said there is a staff development section, but they were "concerned about general teaching methods, not focusing on lectures as such but the whole curriculum design". That is all very well, but not if we cannot hear what the curriculum actually entails.

The only instruction junior lecturers and new staff receive is an orientation program on their arrival, which includes voluntary workshops on lecturing. A positive factor was that there is apparently "more and more emphasis on teaching" with a Vice-Chancellor's award offered for good teaching.

Junior lecturers I spoke to also expressed dissatisfaction at the "lack of formal training" but also said that they have tried to use their own experiences as students with bad lecturers to try to improve their own lecturing skills. In this respect the ADP Staff Development section does give some help in that they sit in on lectures and give constructive criticism as to what the lecturer is doing wrong.

Hopefully more lecturers will attend these voluntary workshops and listen to criticism, changing the frequently heard cries of "he speaks in a monotone and mumbles" (Caroline, BA III) to more of the positive and less-heard "she makes you want to take down notes" (Kim, BJourn II), but until then we're stuck!

Activate wants vibrant, dynamic, nutty, fun or just plain nice people to write for it! Send all submissions to the SRC Offices in the Student Union Building, or e-mail us at: [activate@rucus.ru.ac.za](mailto:activate@rucus.ru.ac.za)

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# RDMR

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Saturday October 14 The Vic

DON'T LET THERE BE A SPLIT DECISION

# Editorial

"Death to student apathy"

Activate - the independent newspaper of Rhodes University

WE are already in the midst of fourth term and Rhodes is still without an SRC. This time, however, it cannot be blamed solely on the lack of student participation since the elections were nullified because of a constitutional flaw (see pg3). Activate finds it interesting that SRC members, themselves, were ignorant of the stipulations of their own constitution. Surely they ought to have been referring to the constitution regularly during their election preparations? In retrospect it has become increasingly difficult to pin-point any successes of the 94-95 SRC. In our last edition, Kim Jurgensen had much advice to offer the future SRC - we thought wisdom came from experience and hard work...Apart from advice, many excuses have been offered by this SRC for their blatant lack of initiative. Why didn't the SRC attempt to rectify problems that hindered their plans (like problems with the Constitution; disciplinary matters). Instead, the SRC took the easy way out and blamed their inefficiency on an apathetic student body. Activate, probably more than most other campus organisations, are only too aware of the swelling force of student apathy at Rhodes (we have been fighting it for years); however, we are also aware of the fact that students have enough of a youth culture in common that can be positively manipulated by societies, clubs and SRCs towards more UNapathetic ends.

Like the SRC, Admin has its own saga. The speeches of the two VC candidates, Woods and Bunting, shed little light on the interests of Rhodes' student. We have heard similar rhetoric about transformation and transparency from Admin but have yet to witness some action towards effecting this. It is clear that leadership will not come from Admin, so students must band together and call upon societies and clubs to assist them in a bid to realise the goal of a transformed and transparent Rhodes University. The time has come to embrace the essence of "Masekhane" - helping each other to help ourselves.

Activate's recent Collective Changeover has put itself in a unique position to play a leadership and developmental role under its new vision for 1996: "Encouraging empowerment, development and growth" among those it serves. What South Africa needs right now are more avenues to facilitate widespread development, which will eventually spawn a growing nation of empowered individuals. What better route is there than media in its various national and community forms, and especially student media. Communities are tired of the old conservative journalism; they're wanting something fresher, innovative, provocative and inspiring. What better use can be put to the idealism embodied among students than to channel it towards stimulating development and improvement?

Talk Radio seems to be pondering similar ideas at present. Activate would like to take this opportunity to say keep up the good work. However, there is still room for improvement and hopefully they will succeed in, along with getting people talking, in making them think as well. And with thinking, perhaps action would soon follow.

Finally, it seems that exams are upon us once more. We wish you the best of everything. The last term of the year often sees people in a flurry with overdue essays, DP warnings and administrative mumbo-jumbo but a cool head and calm mind is usually the best bet (some exercise may also be a plan) And, since this is the last Activate edition for 1995 - goodluck to all going off to face the real world and to those staying behind; we'll see you bright-eyed and bushy-tailed in 1996.

## Creditorial

Tess: "I think my life is too boring, I need a man to liven things up and so I can beat him." Roy: "I was disturbed...I go to Fort England once a week." R.Kelly - the pick up artist, David Newton: "Have you seen my picture?", Carlien: "How does it do it?", Michelle Lentin: "It looks like a doughnut on steroids", Swapna: "I like this new collective, they like my ideas." Taryn-hope you enjoy Ireland, Karuna: "Imagine a member of RMR crawling around trying to make you happy.", Maria: "He's mine, I'll buy him for 20 bucks.", Luke - Run over in the line of duty. Matthew - Undercover Design King, Bryan, Rory: "Relax everyone's going to get it." Ilja: "I can't even spell my name.", Claire: "I think, I really think.", Zandi: "I don't want to think, I just want to do things.", Pam: "The coolest res is P.A!", Joanne: "I am so pissed off." Brigid: "Me, me, me! I want to be in it!(I want to be a camel woman), Mboneni: "Next thing they'll be telling us to call Mandela Persondela.", OJ and the rest of the Simpsons, baked beans, juice, hunger-pangs, bicycles, Kaif and pagemaker, and hey we *still* didn't finish on time.



# Dear Activate

### Where is the country going?

TO be honest I do not know exactly where the country is going but I certainly know where it is not going. This country is not in any way going or even attempting to move towards prosperity and not even move near to what those in the government of National Unity (or Disunity?) promised before last year's elections. Disunity does not only exist among different political parties but even within members of the former liberation movement.

The question which one asks is, if leaders spend time quarrelling when will they ever have time to build houses and provide jobs. The answer that we normally get is that "things take time." One's fear is that "things" will continue taking time up until there is no more time left to provide houses and jobs. Talking about jobs, it is rather surprising to note how quick it is for the employers to retrench and dismiss workers such that at one stage one thought, those job opportunities that were promised are to be created by dismissing other fellow workers.

After some of our people voted for what they thought to be liberation last year, one noted among other things, that our people did not really choose what is good and best for them rather a few, set down and decided what people should choose parties of their "choice" for Mational and Regional Governments, (which is not in anyway different to what the administration does in this institution when students are required to "have a say about holidays," if one looks at it closely it will be clear that there is no choice in the true sense of the word choice.

In the April 27 elections, our people were expected to vote for the national government and for the regional government which happened. One's question is, did our people at any stage make a demand that they want a regional government? Did our people die so that in this country there can be nine provinces with comrade Raymond Mhlaba as one of the premiers? What I certainly know is that our people fought for (among other things) a right to vote and fought against Bantustan system, that balkanized the country of our forefathers - our people fought for a unitary state. But with the so-called New South Africa one saw a system that is even worse than the "old South African" one - nine sub-countries, which are nicely called provinces.

Mr L Mabasa (Sowetan Monday October 2) had a good way of looking at this a he says that "... an assault on black people was started by previous regime, which enforced division on our people on the ethnic and tribal lines". One finds a situation where each region has a predominance of an ethnic or a tribal group. This has among other things led to competition and "inter and intra-regional conflicts."

One is forced to doubt the intelligence of those who came up with such demarcations for it does not seem as if such was done on the grounds of economic viability and efficient management. One feels that this country does not in anyway need so many regions. Mr Mabasa further points out that these regions only lead to instability and divisions "while exploiters take advantage of the divisions, " and that "much publi-

cised civil wars in Rwanda and Burundi were civil wars of people who spoke the same language, shared a common culture, shared a common religion and so on. But those who made themselves experts of the African continent were quick to comment that whereas one tribe was tall and light complexioned, the other was dark and short- and therefore there were major differences." Then the question is was that the reason for war?

The truth about the regions in this country is that most of them have no infrastructure and no industries. This truly makes one wonder if these were not created as rewards for political leaders who come from those areas.

Mr Mabasa's conclusion seem to hold water where he says "we should not concede to divisions on ethnic, tribal, religious of cultural grounds. It is time to close our ranks and build one unitary state, with one people forming one nation."

If this we do not do, what is likely to happen is to see some people in the Western Cape demanding the eleventh province, just as some people in the former Transkei are alleged to have demanded a tenth province under the then Major General Bantubonke Holomisa. Brothers and sisters this is not suppose to come as a surprise especially if one followed the "transition" in this country. We should say no to any types of balkanization and divisions of our people, no matter who proposes that - but we should be united. One has to also look at whose interest division has been in, in this country, and to one, even the present arrangement still serve the interests of the capitalist, for it is when we are divided that it will be possible to be effectively exploited with out any resistance. LET US UNITE - NO TO BALKANIZATION.

Mbulelo Manona

### Run aground or underground?

I was just wondering, when exactly did Gender Forum disappear off the face of the planet? Not that it peturbs me excessively because I don't exactly recall them ever doing anything constructive.

I distinctly remember their enthusiasm and input during societies evening and their willingness to answer questions. The ideas they had were also very good, especially their AIDS awareness campaign. Unfortunately till this day I have still not heard anything about this. Sure, I got a pair of condoms packed in a Standard Bank money bag but that pathetic excuse of an information leaflet did not contribute in any way to furthering my knowledge on AIDS.

They furthermore had this great idea on educating people rape in conjunction with the Psycho Department. Was this the proposed Rape Awareness Campaign? Well, I presume that this also fell flat on its face. They came around but no one was in our res and I never saw them again.

Last, but not least, does our so called SRC know that they exist and what have they done with their allocated money. Condoms and money bags are obtainable free of charge.

Distinct or Exctinct?

### To be or not to be

WHY did the SRC not inform us about the details of the elections held last term being declared null and void? Surely we have a right to know especially with all their hypocritical ranting and raving about transparency and open-door policies. Now we have to vote again and what happens if they do not obtain the required 40% poll?

I believe that we really need to think about what an SRC should be and how we can go about correcting old wrongs and moving forward with concrete aims and fool-proof methods of student representation. And I mean THINK, not ponder about Utopian ideals and respond with political rhetoric!

Perhaps I need to lower my expectations a great deal because, with their history of half-hearted attempts at improving policies

that affect our lives and wasting our money, they further their own underhanded interests and ride rough-shod over ours.

### Students Requiring Correction

#### Death to Apathy

READING RU Chat on Trumpet News has made me realize that there are people on our campus who still don't want to accept reality, they are trapped in the past. They seem to be arguing that Rhodes should be divorced from the entire South African community, I guess this is because they want to maintain the status quo for ever. One wonders if our country can afford to keep these people in our institutions of higher learning. It is time our country begins to seriously address the legacy of apartheid. The ravages of apartheid are so big that they cannot be addressed by merely reforming the system, but by radically transforming it, and Rhodes is no

exception.

My argument is that Rhodes should begin to appreciate that it is only with its contribution that the lives of the majority of South Africans can be improved. One would expect that Rhodes, well positioned as it is in terms of human and material resources, should begin to implement Affirmative Action in its admission and employment policies, if it hopes to be truly reflective of the South African population in few years' time. I should say though it is not a pleasurable thing to do because it means some of the most well deserved students will be prejudiced because of their colour. It would be a nice if we did not have to talk in terms of 'Black and White', but it is a reality that we have to face now and will still have to face decades to come. Lastly, I feel, as students we can begin to bridge that gap now for the good of generations still to come. We should avoid

being divided by minor issues which are magnified by some forces' darkness. I Hope Apathy Dies in '96. If it doesn't, it will be Killed.

Hazzwell.

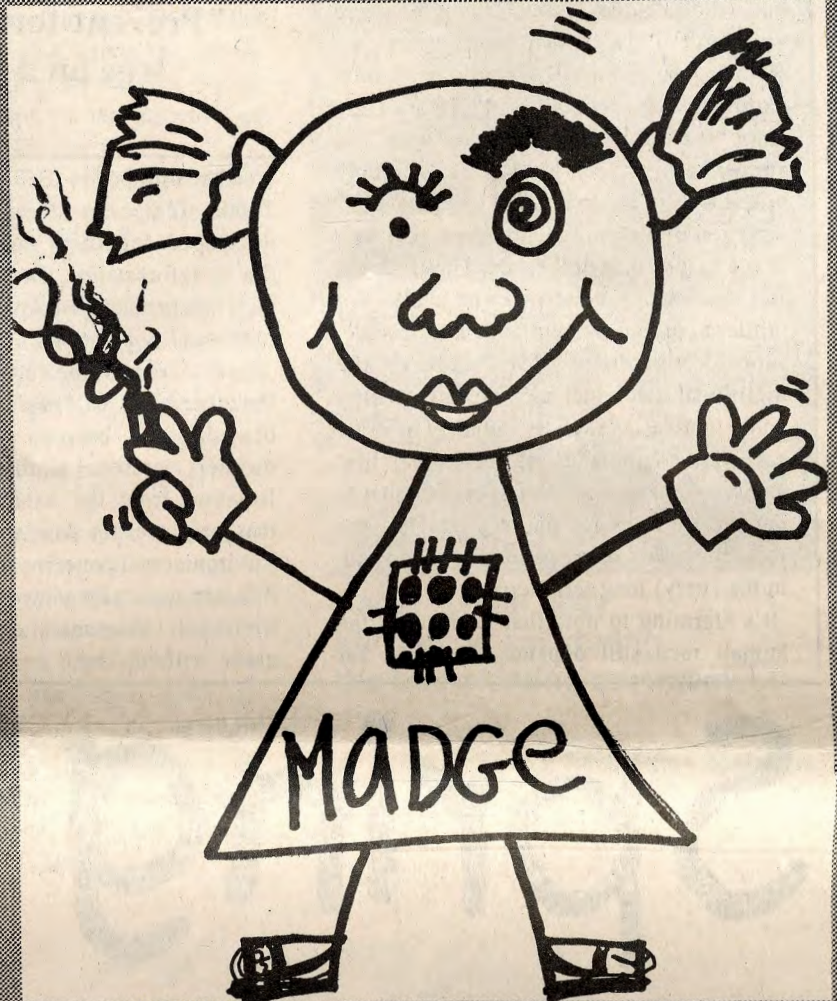
### Affirm What?

WE are tired of hearing all these wise comments about who should be doing what to transform this country without actually saying what needs to be done. Many people use words like affirmative action quite loosely. Why don't they come up with more concrete suggestions as to how Rhodes should go about implementing the affirmative action?

Journ I student

The views expressed on this page do not necessarily represent those of ACTIVATE

Hey dudes, I'm Bungi Madge  
I've been there, done that and  
got the sandals. So, I know. Life  
can be bad and it can be rad  
but I'll make it even better.  
Yes, fully!



### Sealed with a kiss

I walked into the library the other day and this guy kissed me just outside the door. I was quite taken aback because I had no idea who he was and I don't generally kiss strangers. Has the library adopted a new open-door-kiss policy or was someone trying to promote the KISS party?

### Floral fantasy

Dear Floral Fantasy  
It was the first day of spring, you ignorant fool! Didn't you see the posters about the Spring Kiss in? However, I would also be very suspicious of strangers kissing me, and it is not something I'd like to do often. Anyway, I guess if the kisser was a librarian, he or she would only have done it by the book!

### Hand in Glove

I heard that one of the Simpsons is free. I didn't even know that Bart had been arrested! Will the Simpsons still be on TV or will there be legal difficulties?

### Oscar Jay Walked

Dear O. Jay

It's OJ that is free you ignorant fool! As for the TV - scrap that thought, sweetie a cinema near you.

### Green Fishing

I heard that Gray Dam has become green. I was always under the impression that the water was already green and that lots of other green things are done there. It was also in the news the other day. Is something fishy going on?

### Out of My Tree

Dear OMT

Oh, dear, haven't you ever heard of the term 'green-friendly'? The minister for water affairs and forestry was there to declare a National Arberetum for peace and reconciliation on National Arbor Day. Is was no big secret and as for something fishy - you are right - they have introduced mullets to the dam. ...Hmm...I wonder what I've done with my fishing tackle...

### Thorny Issue

I...err...saw this magazine some Guy was reading the other day. It was called "Rose-istence". I thought that journalists were not supposed to print spelling errors unless of course Rose-istence is some gardening magazine about plants that withstand the harshest of weathers.

### The name of the rose

Dear Rose

Hmm...this is a tough one. What is one to make of an underground magazine written by Karringgat, Bishop Kenya, Laika, Quasimodo and Billy Bred etc.? Could it be that they all have complexes about their true identities or do they realise that some guys might see them as a thorn in the flesh?

### Crime Pays

I'm really concerned about the amount of thefts that are going on on campus. Is there really nothing that can be done about this?

### Un-signed Bandit

Dear Un-signed

Yes, theft has become a mega-problemo on campus. Situated across from the SRC offices I could not help but note that the sign for "SRC President" & "Vice President" had been stolen off their doors. Perhaps that's the reason that the SRC is never in - they can't locate them!

### Bombed-out

I was sleeping at a lecture the other day when everyone suddenly started running out of the building screaming like banshees. I know that a lot of lectures are just hot air but isn't this blowing things a little out of proportion?

### Boom, shake the room!

Dear Boom

I think I heard that the little commotion was about a bomb scare and some dude wanting R250 000 from Rhodes Admin. You know, that is not a lot of money compared to what the SRC spends. Anyway, dear, you've got nothing to worry about - you're dynamite!

# Green Arbordillo

TREES do not feature very prominently in the life of the armadillo. They are useful if she has an itchy spot on her back that she can't reach (or if it's raining) but she prefers nice sandy ant-hills any day. "Trees," she says, "are just sort-of THERE." Most people feel the same way - they're fond of trees but they wouldn't stand between them and a swinging axe, a charging bulldozer or an RDP housing project. Which is why 12 million hectares of forest disappear every year.

"Of course," continues the armadillo, "if they weren't THERE I wouldn't be HERE - they make oxygen you know." We know but we don't give it much thought. There are some statistics that indicate that we should: It is estimated that all the world's nature reserves contain only 10% of the amount of foliage needed to keep the atmospheric oxygen level at 21%. Simply put, if we cut down enough trees, we die.

Oxygen production is, however, only one of the many roles of the tree. They prevent soil erosion; provide food and shelter for millions of animals, plants and people; supply ingredients for modern and traditional medicine; increase soil fertility and stabilise the water table. They are essential components of the global life-cycle. We have also, as a species, come to depend on trees for many products - the most important being paper, fuelwood and, in the (very) long term, coal.

It's alarming to note that nearly half the human race still depends on wood for

warmth, light and cooking. More than 90% of energy use in countries such as Tanzania and Ethiopia comes from firewood, with many rural families spending half of each day gathering firewood. Since the trees harvested are not replaced this situation has created a downward spiral of environmental destruction in many countries. Deforestation is followed by erosion and desertification.

In 1950, 30% of the world's land was covered in forest, half of which was tropical forest. By 1975 the tropical forest

## "Prevent forest fires, wee on a tree"

area had dropped to 12% and will be 7% by 2000. Temperate forests (in northern developed countries) remain fairly stable due to reforestation. Deforestation is thus largely a problem for developing countries with rural populations.

South Africa is one such country but, on the other hand, half of our population will be urbanised by the year 2000. City dwellers present a different problem. Isolation from the natural world means that trees are not seen as integral to life. Environmental concerns such as deforestation are generally viewed as remote and irrelevant. Consumer choices are thus made without these concerns in mind -

job. Everyone would have a tan. In 20 years we'd be knee-deep in mangos, litchis and pawpaws. We would solve all our country's

health, unemployment, food and skin-tone problems. By all working together, participating in grassroots projects and pooling our collective resources we could turn South Africa into a winning forest (oops, I meant nation). We could rally around slogans like "Arbor Day is Every Day" and "Prevent Forest Fires - Wee on a Tree". I can see it now - The Reconstruction and Afforestation Project (RAP). We'd show the world that it can be done.

Until this glorious vision manifests itself there is one word that says it all: RECYCLE. Buy recycled paper, toilet rolls and kitchen towels. Keep a separate paper bin and empty it at your nearest recycling depot. If there is a Paper Pick-Up service in your area then subscribe to it's free service. And above all, encourage your children to do the same. They're the ones who will be left holding what's left of the environmental baby.

Kearn Bamber



Prof Mokate from Tukkies, M Mhlaba, Grahamstown Mayor Moshoeshe stand to attend Anthem at the opening of the

# Spring Kisses

Robin Kelly

WHEN I first saw the poster advertising "Kiss-in, 11am, September 1, Library steps," I asked Tamara if she didn't perhaps think the poster a little vague? "Time. Space. What's vague?" she replied almost too quickly for such concentrated wit.

And come to think of it, there was nothing vague about it at all. Since the usual squirt of annual SRC posters have gone up, with all those formulaic mug shots and serious faces with bullshit slogans beneath, students seem to have gotten used to those kind of posters as the norm, the standard, the way to win, and do things! A poster without an event we all recognise - "RAVE" "VOTE" "RUGBY" "BEER" - must be a little challenging for some, or too arb for many.

Either way, about 150 people gathered beneath the library steps, at 11am, on Spring day. About 100 of those people sat in a large square around the event. The rest, in the open center of the quad and clear blue sky above, embraced, and kissed. Mozart filled the air, flowers were passed around, petals adorned the paving, packets of sweets were shared, and small hand-written messages were pinned onto everyone: "Don't be shy" "Hi, my name is...and I would like to kiss you..." "I Like you all". I make it sound a little kitch, don't I?

But that is just the point. We're far too hip in the nineties to be hippies any more, in fact we're far too in the nineties full stop. The event wasn't so much about free love and sex as it was about a small celebration of liberty, "a release of energy following the oppressive heaviness of Apartheid" says Mike Williams, one of the three organisers.

What the organisers wanted, and at this point I am afraid of intellectualising the event into an unwanted sterility, was to show the potential we have for freedom of expression. Ordinarily, when you hear about the "Freedom Of Expression", somebody has just told you about that essay you have to type in a thousand words and hand in before 12pm. We kind of lose the essence of what it means, and sometimes it simply means being able to kiss anybody, of any race, or sex, unashamedly, in public. Or, as Tamara suggested, creating a space where menthol smokers can ask for their rights to be heard.

At first I was touched by the fun of kissing and being kissed by so many people. That kind of physical contact, without any sexual ambiguity or platonic awkwardity, is refreshing.



Mike Williams (centre) and Tamara Guhrs (second from the left) co-ordinate the Spring Kiss-in held outside the library  
pic: Indressa Naidoo

# Arboretum for Peace

Indressa Naidoo

ARBOR Day 1995, commemorated on September 1, was an historic moment for Grahamstown, with the inauguration of the National Arboretum for Peace and Reconciliation at Grey Dam by Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry, Professor Kader Asmal.

Dedicating the Arboretum to the 50th birthday of the United Nations, Asmal spoke about the importance of "celebrating" trees and sees them as being "rooted not only in the soil but deeply in our human spirit".

He said trees "feature as powerful symbols" and represent values such as "growth, knowledge, security, shelter, hope, striving and peace," and for this reason, sees it "fitting to celebrate our transition to democracy" by establishing the Arboretum.

"What we plant we will reap", he continues. "Trees remind us of our capacity to build, to pursue our Reconstruction and Development Programme and to back it with Masakhane."

He believes that "in rebuilding we shall work as one, we shall pay our way and we shall overcome".

He said the Arboretum should be seen as "a focal point for environmental conservation in the Eastern Province", especially significant here, with our varied and distinctive flora.

It also has great significance for education and the community. "It will provide an opportunity for education and social forestry" and will "serve as an outdoor lecture room because of its many tree species".

Indressa Naidoo

NATIONAL Arbor day stems from efforts of the Green Heritage Campaign held in South Africa in 1973, however, it only became a national celebration in 1982 when the Department of Forestry obtained permission for its inception from Cabinet. At this time, though, it had already been an institution in Natal.

Since 1994, National Arbor Day is held in the first Friday in September due to the favourable climatic and planting conditions at this time. Arbor day has a variety of aims. These are outlined below.

- \* To promote better knowledge of trees and their value, indigenous trees in particular.
- \* To promote knowledge about endangered plants and their cultivation.
- \* To stress the necessity of everybody planting trees to ensure a greener future.
- \* To highlight the fact that trees are a necessary component of our natural environment.
- \* To plant the maximum number of trees possible every year.
- \* To encourage the youth to participate in tree-planting action.

Arbor day may not be a public holiday therefore, all schools, corporations and educational institutions are encouraged to participate in tree planting to commemorate this day.

People need to understand that conservation of our natural environment is imperative in order to insure our survival and that of planet earth.

However, this Arboretum has another role to play, said Asmal, "that of the conservation of a small fish, the Eastern Cape Rocky (*sandelia bainesii*)", commonly known as the Mullet.

Grey Dam is now the new location of the Eastern Cape Rocky Fish Reserve. Rockies are almost extinct due to changes that have been made to the Kowie River system over the past 20 years and it is hoped that introducing them to Grey Dam will increase the species' chances of survival.

"A number of schools have been involved in the Save the Eastern Cape Rocky project," he said, "In the future the Arboretum could also serve the newly instituted President's Award for Social Forestry, established on the initiative of Water Affairs and Forestry."

"In addition to caring for the fish, children could learn the principles of social forestry and carry it through to their own social forestry projects."

The Arboretum was brought about by co-operation between central government, the Grahamstown Transitional Local Council and the private sector. Asmal said this is "fitting because a national Arboretum is a national asset. It is money well spent."

However, he voiced the hope that many sponsors will come forward to create a "centre of national scientific, educational, aesthetic and cultural importance in one of our poorer provinces".

Asmal expressed the hope that this Arboretum represent a national commitment to growth, hope and the kinship of humankind in the true spirit of the United Nations and the newly-democratic South Africa.

Minister Kader Asmal, Premier Ray Mhlaba, Mzukisi Mphahlele and Joan Mankunku for the singing of the National Anthem at the Arboretum

pic: Karl Delpont



When I realised how many people were not taking part I wondered perhaps if all of this wasn't a little optimistic, a little queer for those sitting around the celebrations in a large square?

"We're not trying to control this, we've had enough boring structures, we're trying to get people to express themselves, to be brave," said Mike, who had a few minutes earlier, pinned a badge that read "Kiss a queer for kicks" onto me.

To a large extent it is about being brave. Bruce Battaliou, one of the trio, spoke to me of breaking barriers, and having fun. It's not about resistance, it's about imagination, expression, and something real beneath the facade of political Rhetoric, dull conversation, morbid elections and the like. But also about being considerate and cheerful.

Where to next?

Mike took the initiative here..."Show me your dick week!"

And finally, for those that are wondering, peppermints and parsley were distributed beforehand.



Kader Asmal busy shovelling soil during the tree planting ceremony

pic: Indressa Naidoo



Eastern Cape Premier, Ray Mhlaba and Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry, Kader Asmal unveil the plaque dedicating the arboretum to peace and reconciliation pic: Indressa Naidoo

# Interactive Theatre

Claire Smith

**THE TIE** (Theatre-in-Education) students from Rhodes University Drama Department took the sensitive issue of domestic violence from behind closed doors and into the busy Checkers parking lot on a Saturday morning.

Making use of many theatrical devices: music, song, dance, drums, costumes and puppets, they managed to bring entertainment and information to those that would not usually have access to the theatre.

By making theatre more accessible, they are combining two key elements, education and fun. Through theatre, serious issues like those of domestic violence can be more easily understood, often laughter makes a greater impact than serious facts.

Pamphlets were handed out by the students in between performances with information about domestic violence and help organisations. It is exciting to see the Grahamstown community benefiting and interacting with the Drama department which is far too often seen as overly "experimental" by discerning critical students.



Rhodes University Drama Students performing for Saturday morning shoppers in the Checkers parking lot. pic: Claire Smith

Swapna Prabhakaran

**THE** tide is turning in South African teaching methods, and Nana Mngoma and Vukile Handula are riding the crest. These enthusiastic people from the Young People's Theatre Educational Trust have a revolutionary way of teaching school children, and they're starting by teaching the adults. "We believe that Drama is a method to teach meaningfully, and we are trying to teach teachers about it," says Handula.

As part of their tour of Eastern Cape schools, the Cape Town based duo stopped off in Grahamstown to deliver a couple of workshops. The workshops, held in the Rhodes Drama Department, were attended by educators from various local schools. Also present were many

people actively involved in Ilitha Arts Education Conference held in April.

Breaking down the traditional roles of teacher and pupil, Mngoma and Handula have devised a programme of education that is fun and rewarding. They see the teacher as a tool, an interactive actor, and the pupils as active learners.

The classroom became a theatrical space in the blink of an eye as Mngoma and Handula stepped into action. Using a group of Std. 4 pupils from a local primary school, they demonstrated their methods of educational drama.

"You are educated people working in a robot-manufacturing plant," began Handula. "And now you have to teach the robots how to be like real children." The group of silent twelve-year-olds were transformed. They were laughing and actively participating, and it was

inspiring to watch.

"They didn't even know they were learning verbs until it was the end of the lesson and they suddenly realised they's been taught the whole way through," said Sarah Till, an Educational Drama and Theatre major, who attended the workshop.

"We believe that children learn better through participation," says Mngoma. "The old methods made children passive." In this way, the children learn more than just their curriculum.

Mngoma earnestly continues: "By encouraging them to speak in class and use their imaginations extensively, we are making them confident people. How often did you get to say whatever you wanted in your primary school class?"

The Young People's Theatre Educational Trust publishes textbooks as a

back-up to their teaching methods. They are keeping up with foreign trends in Educational Drama, while giving their own lessons a uniquely South African flavour.

"We believe the context to drama is vital," says Handula. "Children must recognise the context in order for them to feel comfortable enough to participate."

The results were obvious during the workshop. Apart from verbs, the children were learning to communicate and co-operate with each other, and they were having fun all the time.

"Teachers shouldn't be afraid of drama," says Mngoma. "The children won't lose respect for them if they act in class. In fact, they'll all be learning together."

## EXPRESSIVE EXHIBITS

*Museums are places you explore with your packed lunches and sticky fingers as a primary school child, but after those years of exploration no-one is interested anymore. Claire Smith ventured behind the doors of the Albany Cultural History Museum.*

**AT** the moment there are three interesting exhibits on display there - Ezakwantu, a display of Beadwork from the Eastern Cape, the Journey of Clay and Intaglio Marks.

**EZAKWANTU** is a Xhosa word meaning traditional things or literally, things

from the house of the people. The display explores the power of expression intrinsic in beads. Not only do they communicate political messages and ideas, they also define position in society. For thousands of years beads have been used for artistic expression and personal decoration. In 1962, on the day of his sentencing, Nelson Mandela wore his traditional dress and beads to show his rejection of the white, apartheid court system. In those days of apartheid homeland leaders encouraged their people to wear traditional attire to symbolise their pride in their heritage. At President Mandela's inauguration his Imbongi or Praise singers wore their traditional dress and beadwork to

honour of the man and his achievements. An Indian Digger Proverb tells the myth of the creation of clay: "In the beginning God gave to every person a cup of clay, and from this clay they drank their life. The *JOURNEY OF CLAY* is a teaching exhibition on the history, artistic value and modern day uses of ceramics. Clay is made up of three life-giving forces, earth, fire and water. In Eastern Cape history it has many practical as well as symbolic functions. It is used in many rituals, such as the Ukwalusa, the circumcision rite when a boy becomes a man. The young Xhosa boys cover their bodies in white clay, which is a symbol of their spiritual state, and enter into the wilderness to learn to defend themselves

against the elements. Clay vessels are also seen to represent womanhood, they are symbolic of the womb and the birth of children. Designs on clay are essential for communication with the spirit world and to provide information on gender relations, status, power and ethnicity.

**INTAGLIO MARKS**, is a contemporary exhibition of graphic art. The prints on display are from the permanent collection of the South African National Gallery and feature works of artists from the 1950's to the present. The display concentrates on artists who have explored the characteristics peculiar to Intaglio prints. The works are dynamic and highly worth seeing.

## HONOURS PRODUCTIONS – 1995

## M. BUTTERFLY

Claire Smith

AN inspired interpretation of David Hwang's masterpiece, *M. Butterfly* was recently presented by Honours Directing student, Stacy Hardy. As an audience, we were transported into an illusion of intrigue and enchantment placed beyond the constraints of time, space and reality.

Deon van Niekerk was Gallimard, a lonely man representing France in China. We are invited into Gallimard's inner consciousness as he desperately tries to understand and explain his rather "unconventional" past. Luke Buckland's portrayal of Butterfly, the object of Gallimard's passions was masterful. His understanding of the sensitivity and intuitiveness of a woman's body and mind was enlightening. At times one forgot that he was actually a man playing a man playing a woman. He was merely Butterfly, a mysterious, passionate Chinese woman. Rob van Vuuren played Marc, Gallimard's devilish conscience prompting desires and demands that Gallimard could never confront due to his inhibitions and attempts at rationality. Brilliantly cast, Rob was hilarious yet never damaged the magic of the illusion.

*M. Butterfly* was an experience rather than a drama production, it impacted on your own consciousness, although you can never be certain what effect it had. You entered with trepidation and even after the encores and final bows, you weren't sure whether you had left.

## Ghostdance



*Ghostdance in the Streets: Katie King forms part of the Ghostdance street procession during the Arts Festival*

pic: Indressa Naidoo

Claire Smith

WRITTEN and directed by Nan Hamilton, *Ghostdance* was a piece of theatre that could never be repeated, possibly never completely understood and definitely never described. Drama students and volunteers of the township worked together to create this ritualistic, tribal and spiritual piece.

The audience accompanies a woman and her spirit guide through many stages of her life, past-lives and sub-conscious experiences. Along the journey she encounters a recurring figure with whom she interacts on multi-dimensional levels.

The piece "happened" in the Old Gaol

with different courtyards symbolising various experiences and situations throughout her history. We move from the prologue set in a mythical tone, through the present time and into Hell. The production was very challenging, the audiences were absorbed and even forced to interact with the performers.

The intention was to impact the spectators at all levels of sensory experience. At one point a character fed melon to the onlookers, "spiders" breathed fire from the roof of Hell while songs and various musical instruments accompanied the spectacle.

A thought-provoking experience that will never be forgotten.

## ROLLING ZONE

\* EDUCATION is the cornerstone of a successful society. Without it, the world runs amok, dressed in the of ignorance bomber jackets with violent hoods. This country's unique formula of fucking up ensured that the majority of the country remained uneducated, unmotivated, and lost like a fly stuck in an exhaust pipe.

So educate the people, let us learn, let us grow, let us advance towards peace and prosperity for all! Not likely.

If education is so vital, how come teachers and lecturers are so underpaid? These are the people whose job it is to inspire, to teach, to show us the way forward. Yet they are rewarded with little but personal satisfaction, and thus understandably have minimal incentive. The result is that their jobs fall into a routine boredom, the same curriculum, another year.

In a society that rests so heavily on education, why are dawns greeted with the enthusiasm of stepping in fresh, soggy mutt crap? Why do we leave essays and exams till the last moment? Where is the drive to learn, to succeed, to prosper? Is Smithers from *The Simpsons* really homosexual?

Unfortunately, education means a piece of paper, stating that you're qualified to do nothing, and you're lacking experience. Zoners ask, "Why don't lecturers get an awesome salary, making the job both lucrative and desirable. Lecture training courses are essential, and competition would be fierce. All lecturers must be able to obtain high grades in the following criteria:

providing entertaining, informative lectures; clear mode of thought and delivery; Modern, up-to-date information that will be practical in our chosen paths (i.e. not theories written by our ancestors, before they discovered fire) and, naturally, the required educational qualifications."

Imagine a system in which we want to learn, and they want to teach. We've all had our favourite teachers at school, those few and far between that inspired us to be more than average, more than the 63% that we're worth. Where are they, and why don't we deserve to have them pump our heads with crud? Education isn't cheap, so why don't the powers that be channel some buckaroos into our better education instead of into the SRC so that Baldwin can sneak off for a little holiday somewhere? In a perfect world, with a money-back guarantee.

\* The Computer Science Department is plagued by a poltergeist, the ghoul that bytes, the lucifer stuck in the laser. How else can you explain: The printer jamming whenever you really need it; The laser draining your bucks while it prints someone else's spreadsheet that seems permanently lodged in its memory; The design of your copy taking on the form of e.e. cummings. When something finally works, your essay is printed in the middle of the pages, cutting a sentence in half better than the Port Elizabeth Supreme Court. PC Support are under equipped to deal with the magnitude of the creature, and the infamous Ghostbusters are still tied up with those monsters at That Pizza Place. The Horror, the horror. Wake up admin! Instead of all those pretty pot plants, send some of our dosh to Struben, so that a full time assistant can make our lives just that little more rosier. Perhaps our work will finally blossom, in all its good spirits.

Zone out.

Robin Kalmek

Dear Editor:

I think you are some kind of Communist. Where do you get off saying sexism,



racism, oppression and homophobia are bad things?

Eat, sleep  
read, learn  
talk, dance,  
learn, run,  
walk, paint,  
e-mail, date  
write  
Activate

uuRgh,  
uMmmh,  
aaRgh..

On May 17 this year Rhodes Music Radio (RMR) took to the air. The atmosphere was celebratory... Three months down the line, the celebrations are over and what we would like to know is: does anyone really listen to RMR? Are students enjoying their very own radio station, or is a proportion of the Rhodes campus oblivious to the activity on 89.7FM frequency?

ACTIVATE reporters Helaine Redpath and Sjanie Hugo investigate.

CASUAL interviews with students revealed mixed responses and feeling towards the radio station. We found that whether the comments were good or bad, everyone was willing to talk, and talk, and talk...

Most of the complaints about RMR concern the music and the disc jockeys: "There is too much R and B and soul and stuff like that..."

"They never play any R and B and stuff like that..."

"There is too much talking, they should just play music..."

"There is too little talking, I may as well play a tape!" "I hate so and so."

"I love so and so."

This led us to wonder if there was, after all, truth in the saying about pleasing all of the people all of the time and some of the people the rest of the time. However, we did gather that there is a sense of frustration among listeners who enjoy Soul music, now that the number of DJs who

play such music has been reduced.

"The station does not represent the entire student body. It favours certain kinds of music" was a common complaint.

Many lecturers feel the same way saying that they would listen to RMR if it played music that they could enjoy. Another common grievance was the "lack of professionalism"

people reported being unable to listen to most of the shows because it "stresses them out" too much! They find themselves holding their breath and their thumbs waiting for the next deathly silence, stuck record or hiccupping CD, or some other technical mishap. "It is so hard to relax, you spend so much time feeling embarrassed for them (the DJ's)" said one particularly empathetic student.

When asked whether DJ's should talk more or less the general response was that it would be preferable if they could say more than "and the next track is.... and that track was..... and the time is...." But if this means them launching into stumbling, confusing babble climaxing

manifests itself from time to time (Alone+Easy Target), but never dominates enough to call this Nirvana's fifth album. Grohl has produced a superb debut, with great riffs and power sound. Amidst a spawn of imitators, it seems grunge is alive and practising kung-foo. \*Trivial Trite: Foo Fighters was the name given to unidentified flying fire balls that were spotted by pilots at the end of WW2.

MAD SEASON: ABOVE - While on the subject, the Seattle supergroups have recorded a "project" album under the name Mad Season. Fronted by Alice in Chains' Layne Staley, the band also has some PEARL JAM (Mike McCready) with a dash of SCREAMING TREES (drummer Barret Martin). Staley, when he's not spiking himself, produces some fine vocals; dreamy, poignant, and sometimes raucous too. Mad Season maintain a low-key bluesy sound, sliding down like PEARL JAM's Indifference and Release. Lanley's voice slants

occasionally in one of those "little horror numbers" - "you're listening to: Rhodes Musssicc Raaaydio" - then they'd rather the DJs say nothing at all.

A large number of people admit to only listening to RMR when there is nothing to listen to on other stations, or when the voices on other stations have packed up for the night and put themselves to sleep. However, there is some positive comment on RMR. To its credit it is a 24 hour station. It is during the wee hours in the morning that people (especially in res) turn to their local 89.7 for comfort. Many seem to have developed a special kind of relationship with the voices on the airwaves at these times. "It is so good to know that someone else is awake, it is great to have someone chatting away in the background, and playing soothing music to you especially during an all-nighter", said one first year student.

Although RMR was found to be to be more popular with students in residence than in digs, oppies who do tune in say

like spaghetti that needs a few more minutes, at times hypnotising you into a mid-noon nap. Then it explodes with all the wrath of grunge, the anguish of the misunderstood. Those who think that modern rock is noise should listen to the last track, All Alone, and lose themselves in the flow of melodies and trance guitar. Magic stuff, this. As Staley's the man with the mike, songs often sound like Alice in Chains off cuts. Rumours were abundant that AIC were going to get rid of Staley and his inconvenient habit of overdosing, but when he can produce the goods, bands like OFFSPRING and GREEN DAY might as well play in the sandpit. ABOVE received mixed reactions from critics overseas, but this local sod gives it a definite howl at the moon.

\*More Trivial Trite: Mad Season is an English term for the time of the year when magic mushrooms are in bloom.

UGLY KID JOE: MENACE TO SOBRIETY - Those guys that hate everything

it is a good way to keep in touch with what is happening on campus. They find the station informative, "but not quite informative as it could be." However, some oppies complain that the signal they receive is very unclear.

Students were eager to offer suggestions for improvements on the station. One proposal was that a programme be made available informing listeners of who the DJ's are, what slots they're in and what kind of music they play. Many listeners would like to tune in to their favourite DJs, but have no way of knowing exactly when their shows are. Another was a request for more dedication or request times, so that listeners become more involved in choosing the music that is played.

Yet despite the criticisms, students do appreciate having their own radio station. According to one listener, it is great to see how many students are "willing to stick their necks out" to try and make the radio station work.

on the beach are back, and it's not something to really celebrate. They hit back harder and heavier in their second album, sometimes crawling in METALLICA-land, usually passing out before anything decent surfaces. Reciting memories of glam-rock in their delivery (aaaaaaaaah, baby, oooooohh!), the 14 track CD contains no obvious singles, with some weak ballads trying to fit in like Perrier in a crate of beer. With lyrics like: "Moses used to sniff the lines/ Noah used to rock the boat sometimes/ Mary used to get undone/ And Jesus rode a Harley Davidson" it's obvious sobriety hasn't really been an issue in the last few years. To see what true insobriety looks like, check out the wasted schmuck on the back of the CD cover. It's like I always say, "If it yanks your yo-yo..."

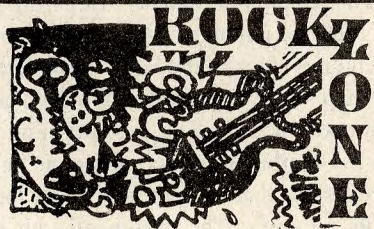
\*Final Trivial Trite: Frying milk is always unsuccessful.

Robin Kalmek



Ceridwen Morris as Goody about to slit the throat of Natalie Gmur who plays Alice and Glen Vaughn as Packer pulling out her hair in the play Vinegar Tom which played at the Rhodes Theatre last term. It dealt with the exploitation of women that resulted from the witch hunting and witch trials of the 16th century. Vinegar Tom was an interesting and enlightening play that catered for the more chauvinistic amongst us who are not akin to Feminist issues

pic: Dror Eyal



FOO FIGHTERS - So NIRVANA's drummer Dave Grohl can play guitar and sing. But can he write decent songs, and can he deliver decent music? THE FOO FIGHTERS are not a new NIRVANA, nor do they claim to be. What is apparent is that Grohl is far more than just a drummer for a band whose lead singer, suffering from the angst of fame, decided to decorate his garage with his brain matter. His songs are less intense than Cobains' (whose aren't?) but more pleasant to the senses. The grunge sound is complimented by Grohl's lozenged-free vocals, and he rarely breaks down into desperate screaming. The pace is fast, but the music remains suitable for any time. The NIRVANA sound that so revolutionised rock still

# LOOK WHO'S TALKING

Karuna Gopal

ON a wall in Sirion Robertson's office hangs a framed certificate from the HMS Department that reads: "(For) Trying in all seriousness to persuade the third years that his joke repertoire far exceeds Eddie Murphy's".

I ask him if he plans to use this sense of humour in his latest undertaking. He is doubtful...

Robertson is part of the new breed of hosts on RMR's talk radio slot (RTR). Answering my question he says: "Well, I've been told that as a host I will have to hold back myself in order to draw out my guests".

Robertson was approached by former head of RTR, David Newton, with a proposal to audition as a talk show host. He accepted because he sees it as a means to "learn about student attitudes." "I am in contact with students daily but that's on an academic level. This is an opportunity to gain a different perspective

on student attitudes at Rhodes."

He has had no problem settling down to work in what is essentially a student-run organisation.

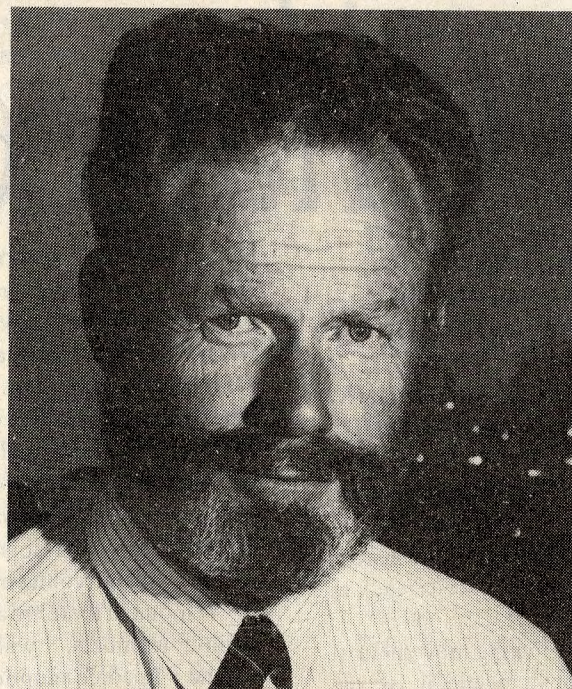
"It's fun. Young people have a lot of energy and enthusiasm. As you get older it becomes useful to have contact with these sources of energy."

He emphasises that people need "to look for variation in life". Judging from his anecdotes and personal details his own

life has been anything but mundane.

He was once the warden of Graham House, as well as the chairperson of the Rhodes Underwater Club for 10 years, which meant constant interaction with the student body. This contact has diminished somewhat now that he and his family live in Stoneshill (outside Grahamstown). Nevertheless, living on a smallholding, as he does, ensures that he still has his hands full taking care of his dogs and some very feisty geese...

Working at RTR gives him a chance to reestablish a social link with Rhodes' students.



Although he has no goals other than "to do each show competently", he has taken on his new activity with an air of confidence ("I wasn't nervous at the

audition!").

So, if all goes well will he audition for a DJ post next?

"No, I don't think so..." he smiles.

## developMENTal block

Katie King takes a look at relationships at Rhodes from a woman's perspective.

IT'S late on a Friday night at the Union. People mill about, standing in groups and chatting near the bar or filtering through from the dance floor into the Oppie den. An uproarious laugh occasionally interrupts the lyrics of James' "Laid". What marks people's behaviour is the way everyone's looking, scanning the crowd for an unfamiliar face, to meet someone's gaze for a fraction of a second half-way across the room and notice, almost imperceptibly, the quick flash of a smile.

An integral part of any student's life is spent in search of a significant other, a missing piece of the puzzle, who will somehow render your life complete. And while a veteran student may contend that this is a fallacy, the primeval urge to stalk members of the opposite sex is undeniable. It is at the root of our procreational drive, a truly basic instinct. No wonder that the recent September 1 Spring Kiss-In was so well supported.

What then of the wise truism that a woman needs a man like a fish needs a bicycle? Nicky\*, a first year BJourn student, is quick to assert: "All men are pigs" but also admits to the fact that hasn't stopped her from engaging in the odd male-related indulgence. "Essentially, the only reason we're on the earth is to find our mate."

Failed attempts in the realms of the dating world contribute to their own fair share of problems. One second year Drama student confided: "I can't go out these days without feeling that I'm being watched all the time. All the affairs you've had in the past come back to haunt you, and you spend most of the evening avoiding embarrassing encounters with your ex-boyfriends. Sometimes it feels like Grahamstown is

like an extended incestuous family - everybody knows everyone else, everybody's done it with everyone else."

Then comes the relationship debate: at what stage does your casual association with someone become formalised? When is the best time to broach the dreaded subject of "Are We Having A Relationship Yet?" This is indeed a tricky question. If you do decide to ask the question and it's too soon into the "relationship", you might very well scare him off. You are also indicating to him that you have grown somewhat fond of him, thereby giving him the upper hand. If you neglect to ask the question, it could happen that your "relationship" degenerates, wandering into the territory of "We're Just Fooling Around". Both situations are potentially undesirable.

If you somehow do manage to get it together, you become a couple, which could limit your social horizons, always having to hang around his/her friends when he's got a few moments to spare for you. When eventually you do break up, it's more than likely you'll come to the realisation that the whole affair was merely a question of convenience and move along in search of the next possibility. In this way, your life is accordingly demarcated into segments: the Pre-Paul Phase, the Perving-Paul Phase, the Going-Out-With-Paul Phase, the Getting-Over-Paul Phase, until finally you arrive with a clean slate to enter the Definitely-Post-Paul Phase. The whole situation is reminiscent of a scene from "Reality Bites" in which the actress playing Winona Ryder's best friend asks her over a cup of coffee whether she's a lesbian or not. When Winona replies in the negative, she sighs and says: "Neither am I. It's a pity, though, because sometimes I think it would make things a lot easier if I were." Which reminds one of the maxim most women live by: Men - can't live with them, can't live without them."

## Overjoyed?

*OJ Simpson's murder case has to be the most talked about case in the world and his not-guilty verdict got people talking even more.*

**Indressa Naidoo, Mboneni Mulaudzi and Zandile Nkutha asked Rhodes students what they thought of the verdict and these are some of the responses they got.**

"I am so happy. I felt sorry for his children and his family."

Thuli Mkatshwa (BJourn III)

"I wonder whether he gets his glove back from the evidence department"

Julius von dem Bussche (SRC Candidate)

"Oh, yes, money can buy justice."

Shafeek Sha (Ecos II)

"He may have just been acquitted because he was black"

Shane (BAI)

"I lost interest a long time ago."

Brendan Peacock (BAII)

"Brilliant! He's not guilty. He didn't do it. There is no evidence."

Buntu Mati (BALaw)

"I don't give a shit. I'm sick of hype."

Lukanyo Mnyanda (BA III)

"It was inevitable considering the legal system, but was a travesty of justice."

Nick Grubb (BJourn IV)

"Bollocks, it's regressive, stagnant...the only similarity between OJ and Aids is that they are both Free and Deadly"

Anonymous PVT Limited

"Fair and just, I don't think he was guilty.

The case was set up. The case must be judged by the facts and there was not enough evidence"

Monna Monnakgotla (Masters-International Relations)

"He is not guilty since he could not have physically done it himself"

Zukiswa (BJourn I)

"Not a just case. It basically proves what a crock the Americans are with the plasticness of turning somebody's life into a soap opera in the same way that they cater for plastic tourist attractions like Disney Land. Wait two months then there will be little OJ figures. One good thing about the case is that the jury can make some money by selling off their story."

Bevan Cullinan (Drama II)

"He is bloody guilty, but the whole race thing worked."

Maiddah (post-graduate)

"Hunch.....guilty. Couldn't imagine any other person who could have done it."

Allistair Mokoena (First team soccer player)

"Guilty as hell, but glad for him that he got away with it", said Lungi Magoso an RMR DJ.

"Who's OJ Simpson? It was a race thing period. They had to readjust the balance because Mike Tyson was found guilty. OJ is a hero, no jury would put Dr Khumalo in jail."

Charles (young eligible bachelor)

"I don't care", Vibha a Pharmacy I student.

"Without having heard all the evidence and arguments, I don't see how people can pass their own comments"

Mr M.J. Oelschig (Senior Lecturer-Law Department)

"My view is simple. The American constitution provides that one is innocent until proven guilty. The prosecution failed to prove beyond reasonable doubt that he was guilty and the jury stuck to the rules when passing the judgement"

Vuyo Kahla (LLB student)

# Giving Peace A Chance

Pamela Wright

"THE darkest hour of the day is the hour before dawn".

That's how Qurban Rouhani explains why he thinks the world is in so much conflict today. Qurban, who is one of only three members of the Baha'i faith in Grahamstown, uses the comparison to illustrate his belief that we are the darkest part of future history because the light of world peace is ready to dawn.

The Baha'i faith is a growing movement of spiritual enlightenment, where it is the responsibility of the individual to find his or her own truth.

It developed in the mid 1800's in the Islamic nation of Iran. It advocated the equality of all races, cultures and religions, and was ahead of its time in that it advocated

gender equality - it was uncommon in 19th century conservative Iran to suggest that girls be educated above boys because as women they would educate an entire family. Neither were the views of foreigners and other religions tolerated or respected.

By seeing all humankind as equal, the Baha'is are able to appreciate the similarities we share as humans. Because of this, Qurban doesn't feel isolated in belonging to such a small and young religion.

At the moment there are approximately five million members, which works out to around 91 people adopting the Baha'i faith daily - good progress for a 150 years of existence.

Despite its birth in a Muslim country, the Baha'i is not a sect of Islam. Baha'i is a religion by itself, like Christianity is even though it was derived from Judaism.

Qurban says the principles of Baha'i are progressive. Baha'i acknowledges the religious and spiritual evolution of humankind. As a religion it hopes to progress and grow with its members and the changing conditions of the modern world.

Being such a young religion is, according to Qurban, an advantage because a modern religion is more likely to deal with modern issues and situations. He points out that religious laws are made in a certain context so people can feel alienated from a religion if it seems to apply to issues of 2000 years ago and not contemporary lifestyles.

When a child is born to a Baha'i family, it is taught the principles of the major religions of the world. At 15, it may choose to follow any of these faiths. The individual's spiritual journey and "independent investigation of truth" is emphasised.

Qurban argues that it is against the very nature of religion to put down someone else's beliefs, because of the mutual respect that we should all have for each other.

Like the major world religions the Baha'i faith prohibits pre-marital sex and any non-medicinal drug-taking. Baha'i's uniqueness lies in the fact that it has some definite (and ambitious) plans for the world. The social section of the religious guidelines aims for world peace and cooperation. Sound familiar? Well, they have some definite and practical ideas on how to achieve this.

World-wide education and literacy is an aim

and they call for the teaching of a universal language so people of the world can communicate and understand each other. The Baha'i actively become involved in social action and reform to help improve the conditions of the world.

Members of the Baha'i faith are not allowed to get involved in any sort of politics, except when social action tied up to a political cause focuses on education and improvement in the interest of world peace.

This young religion fits in the New South Africa that we dream of. It's inclusive rather than exclusive. The members follow laws of respect for all other people. They believe in cooperation and communication, and even peace. The Baha'i will support, help and obey any government that they are under, in the interests of their religious ideals. They seem to provide a valuable moral and practical resource for any government undergoing change. But most of all it is a religion that is progressive and not afraid to change and cope with the times as time rolls on.

The Baha'is believe it is the responsibility of every individual to investigate further into anything, (like a new religion), which may offer better spiritual well-being. If you're interested then you can contact Qurban at the Ichthyology department, or read up on the Baha'i in the library. But if you can't do without your non-medicinal drugs or pre-marital sex perhaps we need a different type of modern day religion.

# A Return To Mecca

Bryan Porter & Sara Dismore

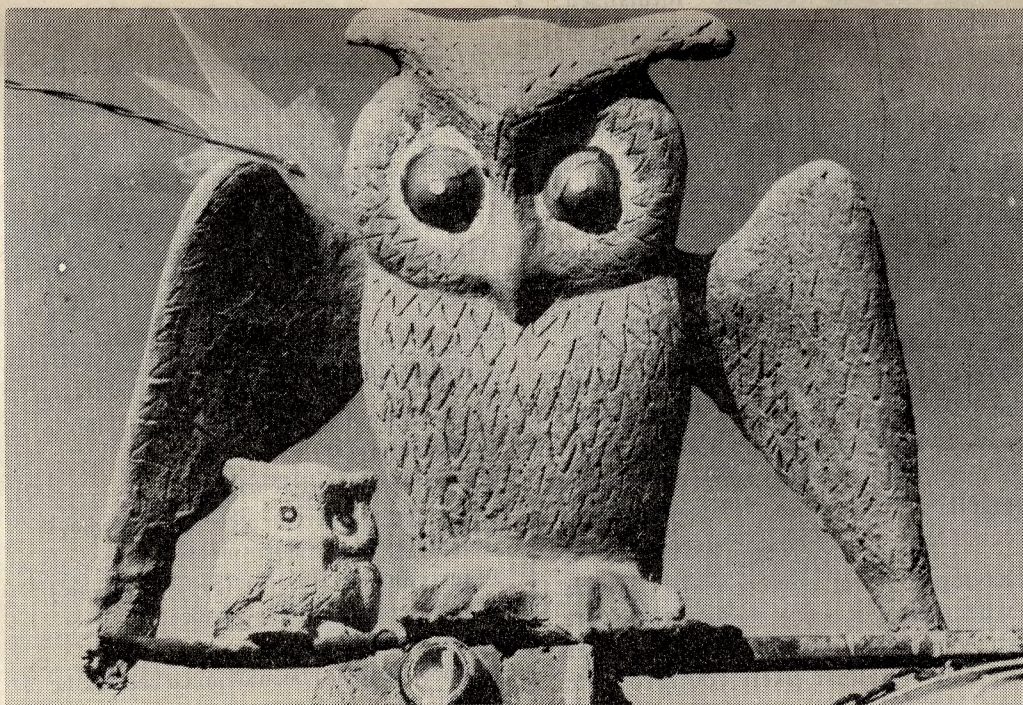
SUNS, camels, owls, mermaids and wisemen. This is Mecca, the enchanting garden-world of Helen Martins. An oasis of a recluse, situated in the Karoo Town of Nieu-Bethesda. According to the old Testament, Bethesda is a pool of healing. Miss Helen's home has a mystical power over all its visitors, which stems from the mysterious beauty of this one woman's life's creation.

As we climbed up the steps towards the Owl House, all the impressions implanted by Athol Fugard's play "The Road to Mecca" were thrust aside as enticing textures, vibrant colours and a miasma of reflections drew us into the house, revealing to us the creations of the real Helen Martins.

We walked through the house were rendered speechless as we stood among the reflections, singing off the coloured walls that were plastered with crushed glass. The walls were strewn with mirrors, prints of the Mona Lisa, Biblical scenes and nude dancers. A shelf filled with what seemed like thousands of lanterns showed that Miss Helen's life was filled with light. We could only imagine sitting in that room at night with candles and lanterns burning all over the house, the light bouncing off the glass-covered walls and mirrors. One of the images that sticks in

mind was a sun, painted on the window opposite her bed. In the mornings as she woke up, Miss Helen would be confronted by a large yellow sun, shining down at her.

In the pantry there were jars filled with



One of the many sculptures to be found at Helen Martins Owl House in Nieu Bethesda

crushed glass, which was one of the media Helen used in her sculptures. Before making our way through the house, we detoured through the bathroom which contained a concrete bath, on top of which a miniature mermaid was sitting. From the bath she could look through the windows into the garden which she fondly called the 'Camel Yard.' On walking outside, we were amazed at how small the garden was, however, it was so densely populated by the cement sculptures that no-one knew where to look first.

There has been much debate over whether or not Helen Martins work

could be called art, my opinion is that it doesn't matter - she created the

sculptures for herself, they were her means of self-expression. Very few people find a way to channel their creativity, but Helen Martins did, and by doing so, created her own extremely unique and beautiful world.

Many sculptures in the Camel Yard have religious themes wrought into them: there is a procession of wise men following a star to the east, to Mecca. The materials used in the sculptures are very crude - beer bottles, broken glass, car headlights, wire mesh and cement - yet the creatures in the garden have their

own distinctive appeal and beauty. Through our experience alone it was evident that Nieu-Bethesda is an extremely conservative town. Athol Fugard (who is now an occasional resident of Nieu-Bethesda) suggested in "The Road to Mecca" that 'Miss Helen' was actually ostracised by the town for her work and beliefs, however the opinion we formed from speaking to some of the residents was that her reclusiveness was her own choice, to quote one farmer, "Athol Fugard is far more eccentric than she ever tried to be." He continued to tell us about the tennis club meetings on Saturday afternoons which are a big social event in Nieu-Bethesda, because the players have to be over fourteen, the younger children would go and help Miss Helen with her "crazy sculptures."

Walking amongst the inhabitants of the camel yard, we overheard someone say that, "She must have been a devil-worshipper." At first we laughed this off but then started to realise that everyone's opinion of this woman weren't the same as ours, and started to wonder what people must have thought of her, for a large part their close-mindedness stemmed from the fact that Helen Martins didn't go to church and their inability to understand the fact that she had found solace in her own personal beliefs, and not from the fact that they perceived her sculptures as demonic.

Helen Martins committed suicide by swallowing caustic soda, perhaps the darkness became too much for her, but her spirit is very much alive in the Camel Yard, where her ashes have been scattered. Above all we hope that she has finally found the "Mecca" that she tried so hard to create.

# Campus Voice

**Campus Voice** is *ACTIVATE's* new column. Are you feeling pissed off or stressed out? Does no one listen to you? This is where you can tell the whole of Rhodes your opinions on anything from politics to sex. The views expressed in this column are not the views of *ACTIVATE*.

**WHERE** are the days when we knew without being told that we are brothers and sisters, when we cared for each other, when we loved and accepted each other and when we were each other's keepers? The simple truth is that they are no more, especially in this institution.

I would like to talk about black people since it is the group I understand and am concerned about. It is high time that we talk about ourselves, for in the past we have been talked about a lot, (mostly incorrectly).

Often many people correctly or incorrectly blame white people for dividing us by sophisticated means and physical force, resulting in us black people hating each other. However, we should stop blaming "others" for the situation we find ourselves in. Rather, we should be working out strategies to bring us together as a people, with only one aim - to ensure that our peoplehood (ubuntu) is regained.

Today, especially in this institution, some of our brothers and sisters are ashamed to

be called Africans or Blacks. To them this is an insult. The truth is that being black in this country has not always been a good experience. In institutions such as this, we are made to forget that we are indeed black and it becomes very painful when one is reminded.

**"The fact of the matter is that not every black person is black."**

Brothers and sisters, it is high time that we look at things through our own eyes, and not how the "system" wants us to see them. For this to happen, we will need a lot of courage to think independently and to do away with our fear. Those who refuse to identify with black people do so simply because they are afraid. Today even the

student organisations that used to be active are governed by fear. We have to start by accepting the reality that we as people have a lot to give this country and this institution, which others are just incapable of doing. But this will not happen if we continue to reject who we are. Whenever we reject ourselves, it is things like academic, financial exclusions and eurocentric social functions that will constantly remind one that they do not belong here.

My dear brothers and sisters, there is nothing we should be ashamed of. If we feel inferior, we should have more of a reason to come together and talk about the situation. If we don't, "others" will do it on our behalf. We must think and act without being influenced by "white intellectualism", for we are the ones that know what is best for us. To do otherwise is to undermine the wisdom of the One who created us black. To love each other, we need to love ourselves as dark and beautiful and black as we are.

These words might disturb, encourage, or anger some people but the fact of the matter is that not every black person is black. Those who refuse to identify themselves with and as black people certainly are not black. The likelihood is that there are in this institution "white souls trapped in

black skins".

Lastly, we cannot expect this institution and "others" to empower us. This university is the brain child of white racism, and the "others" are beneficiaries of the status quo and will only tolerate the interests of black students if the former's interests are not threatened.

**"white souls trapped in black skins"**

This manifested itself at the SRC Grand Grazzle. One has to wonder, since we constitute a minute number of the student population, how come we were the majority in attendance. Yes, it is mostly black students who want to transform this institution, whilst "others" do not even bother.

In this country, we have problems that are peculiar to us as a people. Things are still to happen nationally and in this university which is more of a reason for us black students to unite and celebrate our ubuntu (peoplehood).

**Mbulelo Manona**

*This column has been edited for space*

# Stool Talk

A few days before the beginning of the fourth term, a period which most would refer to as the vac, I had a conversation with a colleague while painting a dirty wall. His hands were covered in paint, as were mine, which presented certain limitations for what we could do with our fingers. This point was the start of the discussion, and as absurd as it was, as philosophically skewed, at base it raised a number of important issues for me, including, once again, why I actually write this column.

Why do we pick our noses? More importantly for my colleague, why do we enjoy it so much, so much so that the experience is often rewarding? It is something few of us would admit, myself, surprisingly, included, but there are few experiences more gratifying, especially considering that it is something one can do often, in fact hourly. Its also that very anti-social naughty feeling that one gets when in moments of privacy one can shove one's index to the depths where slight, dried-up irritations find homes on nasal hairs, cling-on, and remove them. Its also that sublime satisfaction one can get pondering the sight of things that look like insects that have had the essence sucked and sleazed out of them. The kind of things you can only look at when you're totally sure that no-one is looking at you, for some reason. Well, either that, or you quickly unclip it from your nail by rubbing it against the underside of the nearest piece of furniture, which, aside from being disgusting, offers profound logical conclusions for the fate of furniture in doctors waiting rooms and

movie theatres.

But, back to the *for some reason* bit about five lines above, there is surely a whole lot more involved than the mere sight of a greenish-grey, oyster-looking crinkle of crisp snot to shock a society so. What is it about a booger, or a public piss, or an ass scratcher, or even worse, picker? I'm phased by the sight of someone doing these things, on the sly or no, but sardonically and perhaps secretly, you know, I dig it! The only shocking thing is that you do to, but don't admit it. You can laugh out aloud at the sound of your own anus, stick cotton buds up your facial orifices, floss your teeth, puke in toilets, all these and your digestive system knows what more, but, *for some reason*, in public, you clench your buttocks, smile widely, swallow phlegm, with the acquired social ease of a Spur waitress. And, what's more, you act offensively towards shit, snot and spit! You must really hate yourself, as a human. How the hell are you going to deal with the *beauty* of childbirth, as it comes complete with afterbirth, or all the poofy and wee-wee?

A lecturer, whom I greatly admire for saying shit when he means shit, and for actually meaning the brown stuff, told a small class of students about how his two year-old son refused to flush the toilet after crapping. The problem being that his son saw it as an essential expression of himself, as something belonging to him (as opposed to sewer rats and sharks), and felt a mortal blow at the sound of clean gushing water carrying his shit to places he will never see but probably swim in at some stage. His



son had even smeared the bathroom wall with lumps of crap after he had found it floating in the bath with him!

The argument I think is that it's offensive. It stinks, it's socially unacceptable, and therefore, it's flushable, along with soft white paper (or newspaper) and waaaaater. Now, far from advocate that we all do the do in the streets, I question your definition of offensive. You cannot dismiss something on the hollow grounds that it is offensive - I find the sterility of your narrow, shitless mind offensive. Behind everything you say in front of me, behind everything you do in front of me, you too think thoughts a little out of line, a little absurd, sometimes unexpressably horrifying, other times purely satanic in their

sexual explicitness. Oh my god, how could I think that? Well, you did, and you reel inside to classify it as abnormal, as disgusting, vile, offensive to the upheld constitution of your perfectly moral character! It is at this point that you become unreal in my eyes, some plastic mannequin directing the little heart you have towards guarding the inkling of innocence that sparkles like a diamond in the sky. Yet, when you were really innocent, you shat in your pants, stared at retards, flicked your boogers, farted at assembly...and laughed, smug in the cotton wool of infancy.

And now, you're all growed up, and fucked no less.

**Robin Kelly**

## SPORTS EDITORIAL

ANOTHER 5 weeks and the year is over, the last chance for all the sporty Rhodians to get in that last bit of training.

Looking back at the past year, Rhodes can be proud of its sporting achievements.

The rowers have proven once again and against all odds that they are the best VIII in the country. After initial scepticism at the beginning of the year due to the departures of Jeremy Ashton and Grant Hartley, Rhodes won the annual Boatrace for the sevenths year in a row (no pun intended), beating Wits in the final by over 5 lengths. The women were not to be outdone, beating UCT by an even greater margin.

Matthew Hallows and co went to the All Africa games in Harare to form part of the medal winning South African side.

Others went a bit further, of to Japan for the World Student Games.

The Intervarsity was a great success, especially considering the integration of Fort Hare, although it took place on two different days.

Soccer is slowly starting to regain its former status. Vincent Basson has arrived as our new Sports

Officer and has also taken over the training of the team.

Res sport was exciting, as ever, with Oppies taking the mens trophy and Beit taking the womens race.

Internationally we have seen as many highs as lows. The Rugby World Cup was a triumph as much on the field as of the field. Who will forget President Mandela wearing the Springbok Number 6 on the day of the final. Unfortunately, the decision over the retention of the emblem is still not resolved. Our Springboks are also legal professionals now after the "Old Farts" over in Paris decided to scrap the amateur clause.

Lets hope the soccer team can achieve the same in January when the African Nations Cup takes place in South Africa.

Linford Christie gave South Africans a display of his talent when he ran the first sub 10 second 100 metres in the country at the opening of the new (overpriced) Athletics Stadium in Johannesburg. It is currently being considered as a possible venue for the Mobil Grand Prix tour. Sceptics say the money should have been used for different

RDP type purposes. Danie Malan had different ideas.

And drugs are making headlines again. First it was Karen Botha who tested positive for an illegal substance, then an Egyptian handball player had to have a sex test!

Come on Summer, yes it is cricket season again. Firstly, cricket in South Africa has been saved by a R50 Million sponsorship by Standard Bank, replacing the Benson & Hedges limited overs series. The Pommies are coming. Hansie and the team have already won the Hong Kong sixes, with the Sports Editors personal favourite and old war horse Adrian Kuiper showing that he is still up there at the top. Having recently visited him on his farm in Elgin, I was positively surprised at how fit he still looks. He assured me that all his injuries are a thing of the past. Lets hope that he can do the same to this English side as he did to Mike Gatting's rebels.

Last but not least, GOOD LUCK to all participants at the various SASSU events during the December vac, hopefully I can report on excellent achievements in next years issue of ACTIVATE, your Sportiest Student Newspaper.

## CONTROVERSY AT FIRST INTERVARSITY

Ilja Graulich

2-2 seemed to be the order of the day at the recent Soccer Intervarsity matches between Rhodes and Fort Hare.

In the main game between the first teams of both Universities, Rhodes squandered a 2-0 lead to draw through a last minute goal by Fort Hare. Rhodes should have been 3-1 in the lead by the 65 minute after a brilliant first goal by Bradley "Links" and a penalty.

Fort Hare, however, threatened to leave the field as they felt the ball had not crossed the line for Rhodes' third "Wembley" goal. After long deliberation, Prince, Rhodes' captain, agreed to overlook the goal in order for the game to continue in the spirit it was attended to be played at.

In a game dominated by Rhodes

throughout, the state of Rhodes soccer was clearly noticeable. Instead of constructive buildup during halftime, six "coaches" appeared, all giving their version of what should be done. No proper coach was visible, and Rhodes had to once again be content with the idea that this sport is not meant to make the headlines.

Soccer certainly does not lack support at Rhodes as is clearly visible when watching internal league matches. It is about time for the administrators of sport at Rhodes to take a closer look at this team. With a little bit more physical training and a lot more bureaucratic help, Rhodes could once again be on its way top flight soccer in the Eastern Cape.

For the record, the second team also drew 2-2 after leading 2-0.

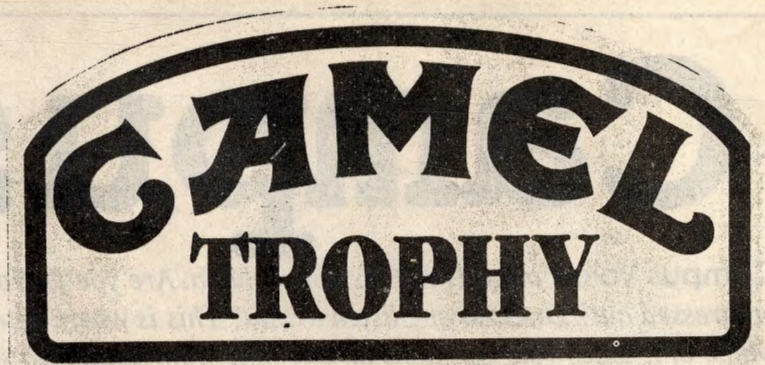
## more Camel Trophy

Brigid Martin and Joanne Levitan

ARE you aware that there are potential Camel men and women among us? In the recent Camel Trophy trials, a number of Rhodes students amazed spectators with their agility, strength and skill, with one team breaking a national record.

There is a lot more to the competition than physical strength and fitness. Grant Benyon, a Camel instructor and selector, said that personality traits and the ability to work as a team are just as important. "The chaps from the Eastern Cape had by far and away the best personalities in the contest." He especially commended the women taking part, saying that "they often have more dedication than men!"

A number of Rhodes students are being considered for the National finals. Benyon was particularly impressed with the Rat and Parrot and College teams, and also individuals from slower teams who showed promising Camel characteristics. He said "these guys are winners even if they only get through to the first round." John Bursey and Lee Lisk, from one of the successful teams said that the courses were "addictive...you just get hooked." and they would jump at the chance of making the South African team.



John Bursey strains with effort as fellow Camel Adventurers pull him onto the bridge-pier

pic: Indressa Naidoo

### Activate Reporter

THE South African leg of the annual Camel Trophy "Call for Entries" road show made a stop at Rhodes at the end of last term.

With the erection of canvas tents and makeshift wooden structures Kaif Lawns was transformed into a testing ground for eager student contenders for the trophy. Among the competitors were teams from various Rhodes residences and clubs, including an ambitious team of RMR disc jockeys!

The two-day programme required the physical participation of potential candidates in a mini Camel Trophy selection process involving obstacle courses, raft building, the famous bridge pier task, a technical task involving immobilised Camel Trophy Land Rovers, changing wheels against the clock, winching exercises and a medical exercise with Medical Rescue International.

Each five-person team competed against the clock in one or a combination of tasks, under the guidance of Camel Trophy instructors, Grant Benyon and Marc Pincete. Candidates were individually scored and prizes were awarded for top scorers.

"The new concept for this year's countrywide "Call for Entries" goes one step further in our South African team selection programme" said a Camel Trophy spokesperson.

"This also enables us to pre-test a large group of potential candidates and assists in meeting entrants face-to-face and adds to the excitement of Camel Trophy in general giving them a taste of what's to come."

The road show also featured Camel Trophy Land Rovers in full trim and videos of the Camel Trophy SA Team at the International Selections, the Final Event and the local selections.

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# New Sports Officer

Karuna Gopal

**RHODES'** new sports officer has an infinite love for an infinite number of sports.

Vincent Basson arrived at Rhodes in July to take up the post at Sports Administration, a post that he didn't quite expect to get. "When I arrived in Grahamstown for the interview it was raining, typical (miserable) Grahamstown weather, and I thought it might be a sign of how the interview would go so I had to come in with an open mind!" he jokes.

Now, three months later, it is evident that he has made his mark and set his own rules at Sports Admin. He is in charge of 12 codes of sport, ranging from soccer and rugby to athletics, Kung Fu and underwater. Although he admits having to learn a bit about some of the sports ("like sailing"), it is difficult to imagine that he would have trouble offering advice and fitting in with the various codes simply because of his life-long history of sporting achievements. He played rugby, soccer, tennis and athletics at provincial level - "but I was gripped by athletics," he

enthuses. He studied physiotherapy for a year at the University of Durban-Westville before moving on to becoming a teacher, and also coached athletics in the Transvaal and rugby in Natal, both at provincial level. It was while he was teaching in Uitenhage that he applied for the job at Rhodes. "I thought it would be a good change. It was something I was looking for in terms of furthering my sporting life. If I couldn't be involved at playing level then at least I could be involved at an administrative level."

Vincent has already thrown himself into bettering Rhodes' sport; it's evident from the moment one enters his office - apart from the huge Liverpool Football Club poster that hangs behind his desk (he's quick to point out that he isn't a fan and that the poster belongs to his sister!) The other walls are adorned with sports lists and plans. "Rhodes sport has a fairly good standard but there are improvements that can be done. Definitely in rugby and soccer. I'm hoping to get the soccer team

involved in a league. Although the Internal League is strong, Rhodes soccer has not had a professional coach and you can see the difference between teams that are coached by the players themselves and teams that have a professional coach."

Despite wanting to give his best at an administrative level, he can't seem to help becoming more personally involved in his job: "My job doesn't end at five because there are meetings after hours and club training". The fact that he neither drinks nor smokes is also bound to have an impact on the Rhodes clubs. "You've got to be tough," he insists, "You need to have an all round healthy outlook if you want to excel".

Apart from improving Rhodes soccer and getting the rugby onto a winning streak, he would like nothing more than to make sport a more viable option for Rhodes students because he finds the other option of "getting sloshed not easy to accept". Thinking I have all the information I need, I'm about to leave when I



Raring to go: Vincent Basson in his office

pic: Michelle Lentin

ask if there's anything else he'd like to achieve in terms of sports at Rhodes.

"Well," he confesses, smiling

broadly, "I'd like to introduce bungee jumping - I've done it twice before and got a fantastic thrill!"

## PLAYING GAMES IN AFRICA

Nicci Grant

**RHODES'** star basketball player, Martha Banda, has returned from the All Africa Games. Activate tracked her down to get a participants' point of view on the controversial Games held in Zim.

I asked her if she had experienced any organisation hassles. "There were some teething problems in the beginning...the basketball courts hadn't been swept when we wanted to practise and problems with accreditation regarding track events, which led to delays but things were soon sorted out."

"I was expecting chaos," she said, "but

the vibe amongst the athletes was great."

"People were very keen to get to know one another and we got on really well with the Nigerians" Martha said, in her casual enthusiasm. Something was organised every night and they had a sports bar in the complex where the athletes stayed. "The social scene was amazing," she laughs. "Nigerian, Egyptian and Mauritian guys are WOW!"

"It is amazing and rather comforting to see how many athletes actually smoke and drink," she told me, "it's nice that people were relaxed and weren't always focused on winning and psyching themselves up."

The standard of sport played was extremely high, with numerous

basketball players based internationally. Nigeria for example, has some players based in the States and France, "it brought so much into the games."

Martha smiled as she recalled her meeting with President Robert Mugabe. "The coverage of the Games was great." Reporters and cameras were everywhere, especially at the opening ceremony. "That was when I realised, I'm playing for my country. As the Zim Athletes walked into the stadium, there was great applause. It was an amazing feeling."

I asked her if South Africa was treated as a major threat in the competitive events. "Oh yes," she said, "Egypt were especially nervous because they had previously won most of the events and South Africa came in and it was always Egypt and South Africa dominating things, especially swimming and hockey. It became routine that either one of them would win, South Africa even dominated in the gymnastic events."

"The thing about the bigger countries like South Africa is that there is so much competition and that is what makes their standard of sport so high. It's like - where there's more people, there's better competitors. Nigeria had 600 athletes and that's saying a lot, there's greater chance of getting medals."

The greatest highlight for Martha was the match against Senegal. "Even though we got our butts kicked, I felt that I made a difference. I had to

defend a woman who was two inches taller than me and she's basically known as the epitome of women's basketball in Africa. We lost by 54 points but it was an achievement for me because I prevented her from scoring on numerous occasions and I forced her to foul me, in which case she was sent to the bench."

Zimbabwe came in the bottom half of the log and Martha's disappointment was not due to the results but was unhappy with the coach.

"He didn't understand the team, he had no definite strategy at our matches and always had his favourites. The coach always used the first 5 girls in the team and so the team couldn't function as a unit, division in the team was actually caused due to this. In many respects he expected far too much of some girls and didn't even use the other girls. If you did get onto the court you always had to be aware of mistakes and if you made a mistake, you were taken off immediately where as the first five girls remained on the court regardless of their faults."

Even though Martha achieved personal success at the All Africa Games, she still feels she has a lot to learn. "I haven't reached the pinnacle of my basketball career and I think I can still go further." Her incredible dedication and love for the sport will indeed push her to greater heights. We have not heard the last of this vibrant young athlete. Way to go, Martha!

## Golf

Ilja Graulich

"GOLF is flourishing". That is the view expressed by Rhodes' golf captain Dean Maguire.

With a membership of close to 90, and promising plans for the future, he is right on target.

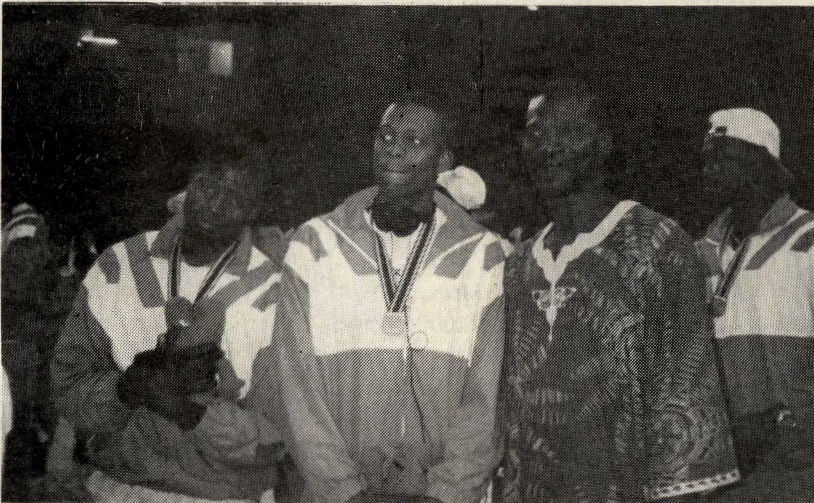
The club recently held its annual Stroke Play Championships. Over 60 entries were received, with Barry Panting the eventual winner. Four weeks ago the Rhodes Open, a tournament based on the stableford format, was played. More than 100 golfers from wider Grahamstown participated. With inter res finals last weekend, the tournament calendar seems very full.

Next term a visiting university from England will be out to match their skills against our local players. Dundee University will be sending eight players to participate in the (in)famous Night Golf and a four ball match play.

Rhodes has once again qualified for the SAU tournament at the end of the year, held at Stellenbosch University. The club is still on the lookout for more sponsors but Dean is confident that they will be sufficiently endorsed. Rhodes finished runner up in their section last year, and will go flat out for the elusive victory.

If you are a seasoned professional, a hacker or prefer the 19th, this club is the one for you.

Editorial note: Dundee was here and beat Rhodes.



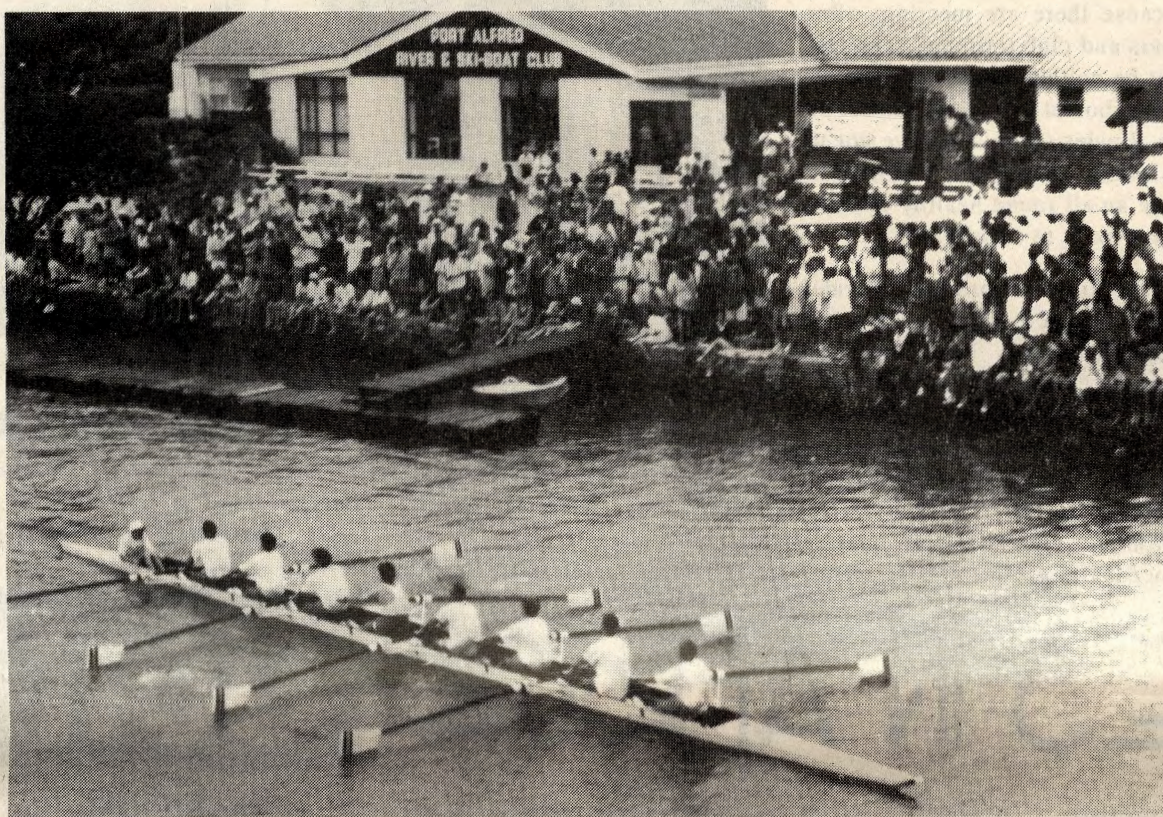
They won the Day: Triumphant Nigerians at the All Africa Games

Pic: Martha Banda

# SPORT

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

## ROWED(S) AGAIN!



Wits VIII on the way to the start of the mens A race

Stephen Wardle

pic: Colin Mileman

THE South African University's Boatraces were recently held in Port Alfred, on the weekend of the 23rd-24th September. The event, which celebrated its 15th anniversary was a tremendous success. The men's final was between Wits and Rhodes with Maritzburg being eliminated by 1.45 seconds. Rhodes showed their dominance at the start of the race. After the first corner, there was a blade clash between the two boats,

resulting in the race having to be restarted. Rhodes maintained their upper hand though to take the victory.

The ladies A VIII final was contested between UCT and Rhodes. Rhodes were the hands down favourites on entering the race but established a lead at the start and kept it to win the race. The Rhodes ladies are looking to have a very successful sprint race season next year.

The men's B VIII did not manage to come home victorious. The final was between Rhodes and

Rhodes East London (Leander). In a race marred by a clash and a restart, the Leander crew took the advantage and the race in the last quarter of the course.

The crew and audience participation is making the Eastern Cape a growing centre on the South African Rowing calendar with Rhodes setting the standard; for both the oarsman and spectators in making this event successful.

The rowing club invites you to join them at the Inter-Res Rowing competitions on Saturday the 14th October.

## Wine Society loses Intervarsity

Ilja Graulich

RHODES University's Wine Cultural Society competed fruitlessly against UPE in their annual Intervarsity Wine Tasting competition three weekends ago. It was the first loss in the seven year rivalry between the universities.

However, the competition was not without its controversies. Rhodes was informed of the date for the finals only 10 days prior to the

competition; training packs from Nederburg arrived six days later. Due to this late notice, Rhodes was not able to field its strongest side, with seasoned tasters having other commitments.

Despite six of the team being first-timers, Rhodes showed its strength, losing by only one point. As compensation Rhodes did win the compulsory boat races afterwards. The competition, sponsored by Nederburg, is an important event on the wine calendar, with the best

taster of each University in the country being flown to Cape Town for a final showdown.

Rhodes' Wine Cultural Society's members do not simply sit around and drink. They are educated in the wine making process from planting the grapes in the right soil, to determining the vintage and cultivar of a wine. Examinations up to wine maker, which are run in conjunction with the Cape Wine Academy, may be taken through the society.

## Internal League Investigation

Karuna Gopal

AN inquiry into the lack of financial transparency and accountability of the Rhodes Internal Soccer League has been requested by some of its members.

In letters to Sports Admin, the SRC and The Dean of Students, League winners, Zimsoc Warriors, complained about the poor management of the League this year.

"We are asking for financial transparency and accountability because of the sudden changes in the way things were run this year," said the manager of Zimsoc warriors and chairperson of Zimsoc, Kennedy Nyenya.

Nyenya explained that registration fees for the League rose by R90 this year but the money was not used for prizes as was initially indicated. "The winners received a bottle of champagne worth R10,99. Members also had to pay for the Cheese and Wine

this year, which was free in the past. I fail to understand it, personally."

Nyenya added that the Dean of Students was first to respond to the letter and agreed to send an auditor from Rhodes' Administration to investigate the League's books.

Zimsoc Warriors are hoping that the outcome of the audit will resolve the problem. "Problems like this will destroy soccer at Rhodes unnecessarily," Nyenya said.

The letter has received support from other teams in the League.

"We are highly suspicious of the way the Internal League has been run. We paid a very large registration fee and haven't seen any of the money back in terms of prize money," said captain of the Graham Gunners, Marc Strydom.

At the time of going to press League secretary, Brian Booysen, could not be reached for comment. Treasurer, Sylvester Manana, was unwilling to speak in Booysen's absence.

## Mile re-Winched

Brigid Martin

SATURDAY September 29 saw many oddly dressed people tottering up and down High Street. It wasn't a Drama Department outing or a pyjama party, but the Winch Mile organised (funnily enough) by Winchester House, to raise funds for charity.

The race was won by Nombulelo High School pupil, Sitntembile Gqebe, who broke his record of four years ago with a time of 4mins 32secs. Nomfundo Ncanywa won the woman's race in a time of 6mins 33secs. With sponsored prizes worth R1000, there were serious events for the more dedicated runners and fun races for those with a penchant for dressing up. Everyone joined in the fun, with the youngest runner being just six years old. Rhodes' Vice-Principal, Michael Smout, participated and Grahamstown mayor, Msukiswe Mpahlwa, would have run but for a prior engagement.

However, he did hand out the prizes and commended participants and organisers for their contribution to charity. "Next time I'll run with my chain" he promised.

Originally a RAG event held every three years, the Winch Mile was organised independently this year after a four year break. It is the first time that the race has been open to the greater Grahamstown community. Contestants included scholars, Rhodes students and Grahamstown residents. The event is officially registered with the Eastern Cape Athletics Union "which gives greater credibility to the race", said an organiser of the Mile. The money raised from the event (about R750) will go to the Assumption Children's Feeding Centre in Rhini. The organisers had hoped to make over R1000, but the event was not well attended despite a wide-scale advertising campaign that covered campus, town and schools in Grahamstown.