VOL 35 NO 2 APRIL 1981

RHODEO

RHODES STUDENT NEWSPAPER



HEY YOU!

RHODEO

EDITORIAL STANDPOINT

We all know how the anti Nusas people didn't form a committee for the referendum, that the SRC acted fairly, democratically, and fully within their constitution when they affiliated to the National Union. In fact, the SRC Report Back to campus (not a protest meeting as the Antis implied) did not have to be held - the SRC had the legal right to enforce the decision to affiliate. They gave the antis their fourth chance.

Paternalism seems to "motivate" first years. They have to be told they don't agree with a first-term referendum. It took some telling too - they were well informed of a mass meeting to discuss the "issue." Eighteen turned up.

Once again emotive events are created by a few when it comes to Nusas affiliation. Events and emotions blur the issues at stake. So, students for a democratic future are now again forced to take a back seat in the national student community. The result is another year of stagnation.

.....

After taking legal advice we have decided to withhold the spy story till the arrival of a document from London. We hope you will be able to read it soon.

Dear Sirs,

At the SRC reportback - come mass-meeting, a first year student told the hall he agreed that first years shouldn't vote in SRC elections yet, because they didn't really know the issues. But, he said, he knew about **NUSAS** because he had done his National Service.

It is an understandable reaction on the part of those more aware of the great injustices in this country, to angrily dismiss him as one of the effectively brainwashed white South Africans; who sees an organisation sincerely looking for solutions to our country's problems as part of the "Communist menace." But this should not be our reaction. It should encourage us to redouble our efforts to give these people an opportunity to see an alternative view of South Africa, not the one they have had drummed into them at school and the army.

And a message to the speaker: There are many of us who have also done National Service, and who are now working for organisations like NUSAS. We hope you will also use your time at university to broaden your own knowledge, and then make a decision as to what you see as right or wrong. Don't just blindly accept what this government wants you to believe. And don't talk about time-consuming degrees: if the minds of young whites remain closed, there won't be any use for your qualifications in a country wracked by civil war.

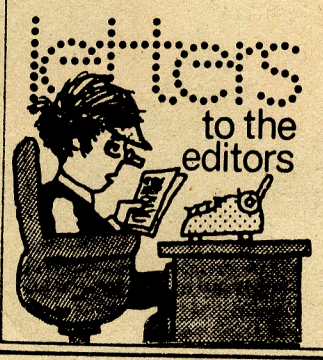
Yours faithfully
A student for a democratic future.

Dear Sir,

The Mass Meeting

I consider myself a moderate and a liberal person. To me, this means I must always put principle above expediency in everyday life, and in politics. So it was sad for me to see people who profess to think along my lines, blatantly using the right wing to gain little political victories for themselves. This hasn't altered my own belief in principles at all, but it has made me much more wary of those who publically profess to represent my view. I hope that they can justify their actions to their own consciences. In fact, I'm somewhat doubtful that they have such things.

Yours sincerely,
Disillusioned "average student".



Dear Sir,

I'm new here, and someone told me this story. They said a bag of wind had tried to puff itself up importantly, but that it got popped. They told me to watch out, because it was busy patching up the holes, and trying to get repumped. Is there any significance to this story, or is it just a fable?

Yours in the campus interest
A. Furstyur.

We have noticed it has been rather windy lately - eds

Dear Chaps,

Mo-mo Hindersome is a kreepy-krauly. Nothing personal.

Love,
Frank.



BUMBLE BEE wishes to sting the following subjects:

* The Rag folks who dropped R100 in the swimming pool and only collected R20 from selling tickets!
* The organizers of a male auction on the campus who auctioned their inkeys in their speedos!
* The Big Walk managers who had so many cooldrinks left over that they could have filled up the swimming pool, but instead they conveniently disappeared!
* A rival Rag Queen who was so smashed that she couldn't pull her finger off the Rhodes VIP flats' door bell!
* The Rhodes traffic people who didn't organize enough hearses for the pickled cadavers on float-building night!
* A Rhodes action society which couldn't coax enough people to their meeting in order to satisfy the press photographer!
* The Rhodes boozers who drank so much beer, that put together, the tins would rival the Alaskan pipe line in length and the broken glass from the beer bottles ground up would provide enough sand to cover the beaches from Durban to Kowie!

STING YOU NEXT, B.B.

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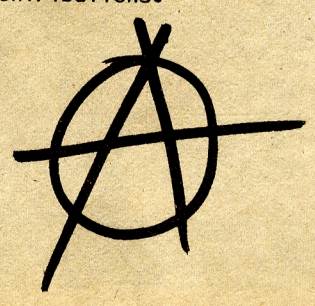
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RHODEO is the official student newspaper of Rhodes University. The editors are under contract to the SRC, but are given full autonomy. It is published by the SRC, and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the editors or the SRC.

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National Council get their heads together



by Ingrid Obery

GOOD IDEAS, a few laughs,and lots of intercampus communication marked the first Nusas National Council of the year, held at Rhodes over the weekend.

Four member from NUSAS Head Office, SRC members from Rhodes, Durban, Wits, and UCT, and a member of the Pietermaritzburg local comm, met to discuss activities on the various campuses. National Council is open to all students and many Rhodes students dropped in to listen to the proceedings.

Nusas Head Office gave a detailed report on their current activities and projects for the year. "It's important for Head Office to know what kind of media and information NUSAS can provide for each campus," said Nusas Secretary General, Franz Kruger. "Without this kind of information Nusás can't be of any benefit to students."

Projects comm reported on a focus they had organised. UCT, Durban, and Wits have all had successful meetings to introduce the Nusas theme "Students for a Democratic Future".

UCT had a "focus on torture" which looked at the plight of agricultural workers on white farms in South Africa. They have also organised a seminar programme covering areas of political and topical interest.

Wits has had a number of focuses on Academic freedom, Namibia, and an exciting mass meeting where National Party Minister Piet Koornhof came to speak.

Durban has had focuses on Resistence, the church, freedom of the press and the housing problem in Natal.

National Council discussed orientation weeks and talked about ways of improving them, and providing more activities of interest to new students. The main aim of National Council however was planning and generating ideas.

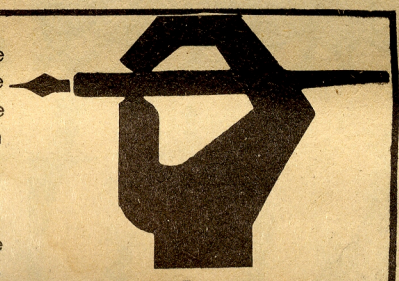
The programme and activities for the annual "Katberg" introductory seminar were finalised. This seminar is aimed at first year students and other students interested in learning about Nusas and the issues which Project comm's will be looking at during the year. Rhodes local comm will be assisting with practical organisation and will also present one of the papers at this seminar.

Each campus will present a paper on a different topic. "This gets students participating actively in the seminar, at the same time learning about the serious issues which are discussed," said Alison Hill, Rhodes SRC Projects Councillor.

There was some lively debate about the Nusas "July Conference." Delegates felt that while this event had to be educational, it also had to be accessible and "fun." It was decided that bands, movies, displays and other audio-visual material would form a substantial part of the conference.

Nusas President, Andrew Boraine, said;
"For SRC's and Project comms to organise intersting, exciting and educational projects on their campuses, they need new ideas. Discussion and debate at National Council helps to generate these ideas. National Council could perhaps be seen as a pooling of resources and innovation. Nusas tries to coordinate things like good speakers, posters and publications, as much as possible so that all affiliated campuses have the opportunity of hearing alternative views and to understand the problems which exist in South Africa."

Don't sign away press freedom



by SHIGS TRAUTMAN

JOURNALISM II students will soon be asked to sign an undertaking stating that reporting assignments given by the Department are "training excercises" and the material gathered for these is the property of the Department.

The students must also agree not to pass this material on for publication without the permission of the Department. This move came after lengthy discussions with the VC and the Journalism staff, said Prof Les Switzer, Head of Journalism Department. It is simply "a form of protection for the Department, for the students and for the university," he said. Without this protection the Department is vulnerable to defamation, libel and possibly the security laws.

"It's a compromise - to keep peace between the Journalism Department and the rest of the university," said the other Head of Department, Prof Gavin Stewart.

The measure will be introduced because of several instances of unbalanced and inaccurate reports which were published, or at least in circulation, last year. The sensitivity of 1980's Inquiry (still to be published) further stressed the need for this undertaking, said Prof Switzer.

"The members of the Department of Journalism are at first members of the University, and not of an independent news agency," prof Stewart said.

Although he acknowledged that the move gave the Journalism Department the means to censor, Journalism lecturer Mr John Grogan, said it was a "cautionary check" to see that students met "professional standards" before they had anything published. "These are training exercises to see that the students produce fair, balanced and professional products," he said.

A sobering thought

by MARK OSBORN

A FEW DAYS after Rag-day a number of notices condemning the Rag celebrations were distributed in Kaif. The pamphlets were printed by the "SAAA" (Students Against Alchohol abuse").

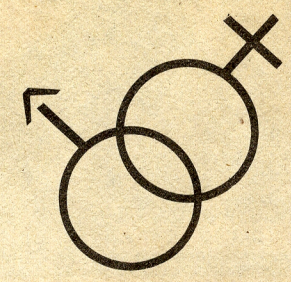
The organisers of SAAA do not wish to have their names revealed. Mr A, one of the organisers, said the pamphlet was published to express the feelings of the few sober people at Rag. he said:"People used Rag as a medium through which they could act distastefully - an excuse to get drunk."

When asked about the general feeling of the Rag day, Mr A said it had appalled him, and yet he thought nothing could be done about it as there was no officially recognised society of Students Against Alchohol Abuse, and it was unlikely there ever would be.

Conversly, another organiser, Mr B, felt there **was** a future in the SAAA campaign and he was interested in continuing it. "I'd like to form a society and will continue to publish more pamphlets, for as long as necessary!"

The only reason Mr A hasn't formed a society yet is because he thought there was one already.

MEN & WOMEN GROUP



by SEAN RANKIN

THREE RHODES men, Pat McCartan, James Wright and Roland White, have pioneered relations between the sexes on campus by forming a Mens Group.

The Group, for decided Feminists, is a non SRC-affiliated body still in its embryo stage of development. Initially the group will be exclusive so it can get off the ground successfully as well as giving serious attention to problems of sexist discrimination.

It aims to hold discussion with the Womens Group and seeks solutions to sexism on campus. "The problem is that Rhodes is a very sexist campus," chairperson Pat McCartan told me. He added that "It is no joke - the thing is people are not clued up on sexist discrimination which we want to solve".

The Womens Group indicated a willingness to discuss mutual problems. A Womens Group spokesperson said,"It's a very good idea. A lot of men theoretically understand the Feminist cause but then do otherwise and this is the chance to solve that. You must understand that Feminism is essentially political and that needs to be understood."

Rhodes' reaction is, as usual, varied, unfortunate, and traditional. Many male students saw it as a chance to "get back at those libbers," but finding it was not a chauvanistic body, scoffed at the idea. One reserved comment was,"It's an excellent idea, although I don't support women's liberation, but I support discussion which solves more than going into opposing camps."

Unfortunately not many women students are aware of the Womens Group and its ideals. Two Feminists I spoke to welcomed the idea and one said impatiently,"It's about time this thing got off the ground."

A comment from Kaif seems to be quite general of campus opinion; "Sexism is getting stale, you are trying to make an issue out of a non-issue."

The most poignant comment came from Mike Loewe, a signed member of the roup. "Women's Liberation should not only be seen to be confined to women, men suffer but to a lesser degree. The Mens Group,if it comes about, should be seen as a compliment to the awareness of sexism amongst all people in our society, which is inherently restrictive and degrading at times."



THE LATEST IN GRAHAMSTOWN PARTY FASHION

HELP THE POLICE Have a Gasssssssssss

by MARC LE CHAT

PEOPLE STOOD on the pavement, some talked, a few danced.

All were enjoying themselves at a party that began earlier at 3 New Street on Saturday, 8 March, and had moved outside because of the heat in the house.

The gaiety though was not to last. At 11.30pm the police arrived; two in a police van and two others in what appeared to be a red 'Audi'. They ordered people to go inside and said the music must be turned down. It was at this stage, as the revellers began to move indoors, that teargas from an aerosol can was was sprayed indiscriminantly around the pavement. People fled -inside the house, across the road to the Victoria Hotel, and generally in a direction away from the scene.

In less than five minutes, the scene had changed from gaiety to teary-eyed nauseating panic.

The police left, but returned an hour later, complaining that the music was still too loud. After the music had been turned down, the younger of the two policemen turned on a Rhodes student and ordered him to accompany them to the police-station. When the student refused, the older policemen urged the younger one on with, "Kry hom, kry hom."

The younger policeman sprayed tear-gas at the student at close range, the full force hitting him in the face. At this stage, a few students tried to reason with the policemen, but in vain.

Shortly afterwards, the party broken and with many eyes still streaming, the police left.

In the Grahamstown police-station charge office, a Captain Phillipson said the police had acted on a complaint about the noise the party was creating. The tear gas was used because some people had apparantly refused to leave the pavement. Captain Phillipson implied that the next time students were found making a noise on the pavements the police would act in a harsher fashion.

Harsher?

TEARGAS STINKS!

-Eds

Now Bob's your Uncle

by TRACY CLAYTON

RHOSOC has been a well-known campus society for many years - a society strongly represented by students who were proud to be Rhodesians.

With a new Zimbabwe, friction arose as many students came to terms with their new and very different reality. The term Zimsoc was coined with negative connotations for many students who still thought of themselves as Rhodesians.

This year the society reached a general consensus and Rhosoc officially became Zimsoc. The result of the vote was very much in favour of this change. Any contention felt has not interfered with the society's general decision to accept the name Zimbabwe and all its implications.

Zimsoc committee members dispelled any speculation the change may have caused trouble within the society. While there have been incidents of friction between 'Rhodesian' students and other factions on campus, this has been on a personal level.

The function of the society is purely social and its activities are organised with the idea of bringing people together for pleasure. Members say Zimsoc does not align itself politically at all

PAMPHLETEERING PIRATES....

THERE HAS BEEN a lot of pamphleteering on campus lately. Warring ideological factions are using this medium of airing (or creating) debate. Two lots come immediately to mind:

Firstly, the SRC issued a pamphlet urging students to remember Sharpeville. In retaliation, an unknown source issued a pamphlet with photos of black soldiers captioned "They remember the Viscount. Do you?" A later addition was "Let's have Sharpeville II".

Zimsoc Chair Jackie Morris said "I think it is in bad taste. That issue is a particularly sensitive one for Rhodesians and there is no point in brandishing a banner for a personal grievance. Change has come and we must admit that in terms of their cause, both sides see they have a point to what they're doing whether it be Sharpeville or kthe Rhodesian war."

Other comments from Zimbabwean students were:

"Ithink the idea is okay, but the Viscount is a bad example to use. Feelings are still running too high."

"Sharpeville II. Tremendous idea."

'QUOTES'

"It's really shocking. These people have obviously suffered severe personal losses or they wouldn't have put out such a thoughtless pamphlet. Many blacks also suffered great losses."

"Sharpeville belongs in the dustbin."

"Both issues are better off forgotten."

The other debate is between SRC and Vegsoc. Vegsoc opposed the SRC's decision to have a Nusas referendum in the first term when first years were not allowed to vote. The SRC retaliated with a pamphlet entitled Vegsoc Distortion.

SRC President, John Campbell said "Vegsoc's pamphlet was not contributing in any meaningful way. It's difficult to see where their interest lies in all this."

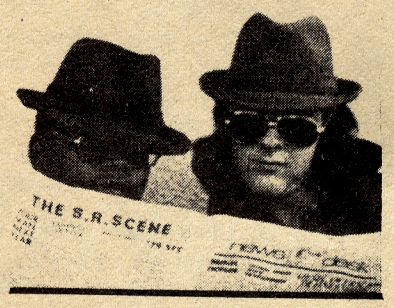
Acting Chair of Vegsoc, Tony Coleman, said"The issue is of interest to us as students even though our Constitution states were are a non-political organisation."

It is felt by some Vegsoc members that the SRC have too much unopposed autonomy and that there is a need for debate to be created on issues concerning student affairs. Tony Coleman said Vegsoc funds had been frozen after the issue of their pamphlet for no given reason. The situation was rectified after the SRC was notified that Vegsoc funds had not been used to print the pamphlet.

Another Vegsoc member said he did not want to force the issue on students and out of 400 pamphlets printed, only 80 had been distributed.

by DIANA GAMES

Why not ?



Who reads them?

SRC Nooz

...WOOLFORD OUT
...CRAGG IN
...VICE PRES HEADS FOOD COMM
...ROUX FOR RES REFORM

THE 1981 SRC took office in September last year, not giving them much time to get going in 1980. This year, apart from a few minor setbacks, they appear to be getting things together.

Honorary Treasurer, Guy Woolford, resigned and in the by-election to fill the vacancy, Carol Cragg, a 1980 SRC member, won with an overwhelming majority.

Amidst large-scale dissatisfaction about res food the SRC has established a Food Committee to investigate complaints and to work out a plan for action. SRC Vice-President, Jeremy Price, is heading the committee and liasing closely with Head Students.

Jannie Roux, SRC Deputy President, is investigating res-reform possibilities and is engaged in drawing up a comprehensive questionaire with helping suggestions from women Head Students. The aim of the survey is to gauge attitudes to res-reform.

The question of university involvement in Republic Day festivities came up at the 1980 Nusas Congress. Durban University withdrew from the celebrations. The Rhodes SRC also discussed the matter with our Vice-Chancellor who has decided on non-participation.

A Projects Committee, to help the three SRC projects officers, Alison Hill, Steve Appel and Mike Kenyon, is envisaged for the near future. It will consist of interested students and concentrate on things like vac employment kschemes, focuses, debates and student benefits.

by Christene Parkinson

We're Not Coming Out

by Melissa de Villiers

A CAMPUS ISSUE which managed to rouse even the most apathetic into familiar Grahamstown tactics like strikes, boycotts and petitions, has finally emerged. Only this time the context is slightly different - res students and their meals.

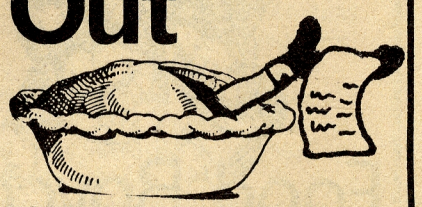
Widespread dissatisfaction over the quality and quantity of res food has led to an SRC decision to establish a Food Committee with representatives from each Hall. The need for such a committee arose when res food reps found their ability to establish any positive change in what they felt was a sub-standard system, was limited.

Besides drawing up petitions in Smuts and Kimberley Halls, students were prepared to stage a major boycott of meals should improvements not be forthcoming. Most agreed the main complaints were the poor quality of food, frequent repetition of meals which supposedly rotate on a 28-day cycle, and lack of any variety in the vegetarian diets.

Res's operating on a sit-down meal system were felt to be superior to those running on the cafeteria system, and attendance at these was also higher.

Catering manager Ms J Dalton was unavailable for comment on the allegations.

So, besides sending home for huge tuck-boxes to ward off boils and scurvy, malnourished students should perhaps consider reclassifying the Administration area as a vegetable patch.



ENDS.

BERGER AND PILLAY AT THE 'MERCY' OF THE COURT

DEVAN PILLAY (21) and Guy Berger (24) have been sentenced to two and four years respectfully after being convicted of being members and furthering the aims of the banned African National Congress (ANC). They were fined R400 each on two counts under the Publications Act.

The trial, which lasted six weeks, came after Devan and Guy had been in detention for seven months. Three other Rhodes students, Chris Watters, Alan Zinn and Mike Kenyon, had been detained as witnesses for the same time. At least thirteen others were subpoenaed to give evidence. The state closed its case before these people were called on to testify.

Professor Stoffels van der Merwe of the Randse Afrikaanse Universiteit giving evidence for the state, said that SACTU, while it had never been banned, accepted the ANC as the leader in the liberation struggle. This evidence related to a charge that Guy had obtained information on trade unions which could have been of use to the ANC, and had passed it on to two people in Botswana who are assumed to be senior ANC members. Both are ex-Rhodes students.

Captain Craig Williamson, an ex-Wits SRC member who recently blew his cover as a Security Policeman, told the court of his involvement in the ANC while as a student at Wits. Another state witness, Mr A, who works for NIS (National Intelligence Service, previously known as BOSS and DONS), told the court how he worked for the ANC as a courier while at university.

During cross-examination Mr A appeared ill. The magistrate, Mr J B Robinson adjourned the court and Mr A collapsed into a chair, sweating profusely.

When the defense contested the admissability of a confession made as court evidence by Guy while in detention, he told the court how he was deprived of sleep for 48 hours immediately after being taken in. Guy described an all-night interrogation session where he was ordered to take off some of his clothes and a Security policeman stalked round him bransdishing a cane.

When he became ill due to overtiredness, he was refused a visit by a doctor. Guy also told the court how Captain Oosthuizen, Head of Grahamstown Security police, said to another policeman, "Ek dink ons moet die equipment gaan haal," because he was not speaking. He had also been told his girlfriend would be detained unless he told everything. "Capt Oosthuizen told me I was a bloody coward because I was going to let her be detained," he told the court.

The admissability of the confession was settled out of court and both the accused changed their pleas to guilty, after initially pleading not guilty. Their not guilty plea to the charge of furthering the aims of the South African Communist Party (SACP) remained unchanged, but this charge was dropped. Certain admissions were then made by the accused.

Giving evidence in mitigations of sentence, Professor Terence Beard of the Rhodes Politics Department, said he knew Guy both as a student and socially. He counted him as amongst his six best students, and described him as "warm-hearted, generous and compassionate almost to a fault." Ms Nancy Charton, a senior lecturer in the Politics Department, described him as "loyal, intelligent and conscientious."

Ms Pillay, Devan's mother, gave mitigatory evidence for her son. She described him as helpful and "an average teenager." Ms Valerie Viljoen described Devan as she knew him as a collegue at the Institute of Race Relations in East London.

When passing sentence, the magistrate said he had given the matter a great deal of "serious and at times agonised thought." He said the court tried to show mercy, but he also considered the offences too serious for a completely suspended sentence.

Three years of Guy's sentence and two years of Devan's were suspended.

Rhodes has lost Guy and Devan - South Africa has lost freedom of thought...

-Eds.

Someone's gone wrong gone wrong

by BERT VAN OORTMERSSEN

A MALFUNCTION in the Rhodes University computer is causing major disruptions among both academia and administration.

The computer, an ICL 1904S, is fairly large for the Eastern Cape area. The computer handles not only student work, but also research projects, university fees, staff wages, etc.

"Research work being done on the campus is badly affected and so is much of administration's work," said Mr M Lawrie, Director of the Computer Centre. "What we have done is that we have standard back-up arrangements and run payrolls off at the University of Fort Hare. We've got insurence against breakdown and this can pay to send students to another computing centre to work there."

Mr Lawrie said the undergraduate Computer Science course was totally disrupted, affecting about 120 students. Second and third years were not as badly affected.

"Since the end of last year there have been intermittent troubles with disc drives," said Mr Lawrie. "Generally servicing clears the problems but if it doesn't them we close it down and fix it."

Mr Lawrie explained that breaks had become more severe.

He said the reason why the engineers were taking a long time to clear the fault was that frequency of failure was somewhere between one every three hours or one per twenty hours. "The engineers have to wait up to twenty hours before the fault reoccurs," explained Mr Lawrie.

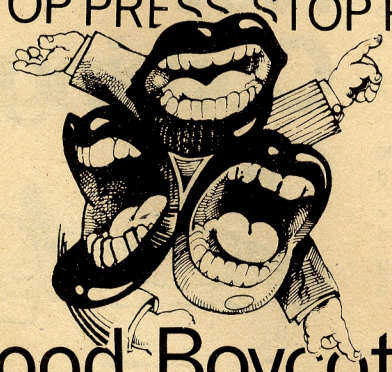
To find the fault seems to be difficult. Asked about the nature of the breakdown Mr Lawrie replied; "The symptoms are such that the computer is reporting an error where there is no error. Error detection logic is reporting incorrect errors." The computer's fault detection circuit itself appeared to be faulty.

On Monday a "top ranking" ICL engineer flew in specially from the UK to work on the computer.

"On Thursday, 19 March, at 8.20, we decided to close it down and let ICL clear it. We've agreed that the machine must run for 24 hours without any trouble on simulated work load before accepting it back. This is standard proceedure."

ICL engineers are working virtually round the clock to clear the fault. "The type of service that can be offered with the machine giving this type of fault is so disruptive that it's not worth having," said Mr Lawrie.

STOP PRESS STOP PR



Food Boycott

FOLLOWING a meeting in the Graham House Common Room, students of Drosdty Hall voted unanimously in favour to boycott lunch and supper on Monday 30th and Tuesday 31st of March.

The students were boycotting because of the unhygienic way food was brought down from St Mary's kitches, where the food is prepared, and because of the lack of good, balanced and sizeable meals.

80% of the students boycotted Monday's lunch, after which it was decided to call the boycott off as the desired result had been achieved.

The catering staff decided to look into the matter after piles of Spaghetti Bolognaise were returned to the kintchens.

Bert van Oortmerssen looks at tobacco ripoffs in the Third World

TOBACCO WAR!



SMOKING AND YOUR HEALTH IS NOT THE ONLY ISSUE INVOLVING THE TOBACCO INDUSTRY. RHODEO'S APPROACH TO THE TOBACCO CONTROVERSY MAY BE DIFFERENT TO WHAT YOU'VE HEARD BEFORE. SO RELAX, LIGHT UP A CIGARETTE IF YOU LIKE, AND READ ON.....

Has it ever occurred to you that every year a hungry world is devoting some 10 million acres of valuable land and some 1 000 person days to growing the tobacco crop?

Then there is still the production and marketing of cigarettes on a global scale. Advertising cigarettes costs millions. People who smoke stand the chance of catching cancer - the amount spent researching cures is proportionally far more than what is spent by the rich world to combat malnutrition.

Yes, it's true that cigarette consumption in the developed world is far higher than anywhere else and that malnutrition remains the number one problem in the Third World. But there is a slow decline in cigarette sales in the West because the public has been shocked into realising that cancer is the biggest preventable disease there, and it is likely to remain so too.

In the Third World though, infection and malnutrition are the prime cause of death and misery, but smoking is fast threatening to become a new epidemic.

Most Third World countries don't have any advertising restrictions for cigarettes or the health warnings that appear in Europe and the USA.

It is often claimed that high tar tobacco is marketed in the Third World because it is not possible to get rid of this tobacco among the nicotine-conscious Westerners.

The dangers of smoking are not widely known in the poorer countries. Ads give the impression that smoking is the symbol of success, and this success is associated with Western lifestyles.

The technologies used to make low tar cigarettes threaten the future of Third World tobacco exporters. They also make the Third World dependent on the multinational tobacco companies if countries wish to encourage "safer" smoking. New mechanical farming techniques also threaten Third World tobacco farmers.

A 1979 **WHO** (World Health Organisation) report says; "The basic concern should be to prevent the social plague of smoking from spreading rather than to try and eradicate the habit when it has become deeply ingrained in society and has begun to produce disease."

What are the solutions then? Obviously Third World countries have the greatest scope for preventative action. War on Want suggests that "diversification into new crops should be encouraged" and that "alternative crops should be investigated."

So why do Third World governments allow the burden of smoking to be peddled to their people? A **War on Want** report on tobacco and the Third World answers this way;

"Bribed by big tax revenues, governments are conned into believing that tobacco is good for them. A good cash crop for the farmers, a product which the people want, a commodity which the country can export.

Naturally, the economic interests of developing countries should be considered and cooperation provided to achieve the development of substitute crops. The consequences of this can only be good in a world where two thirds of the people are hungry.

In 1971 the British Medical Journal said; "There is a real danger of this deadly habit being exported to the younger countries of Africa and Asia, and the Western world has a responsibility to see that this is not done. We have already produced millions of slaves to cigarettes in our own land. To export this slavery to the developing countries would be very wrong."

In fact, cultivator and country are getting a uniquely raw deal. The farmers, hooked by the help and advice which the tobacco companies lavish on them, end up by growing a crop which takes more labour than any other - for diminishing returns."

Because tobacco consumption in the UK and the USA has failed, tobacco multinationals are intensifying the promotion of cigarettes and the growth of tobacco in the Third World, claims a 1980 British Medical Journal. Much of the profits of these companies come from their African or Asian subsidiaries.

Look a little closer at the whole issue and some shocking facts appear. Firstly, War on Want says some cigarettes sold in the Third World yield twice the cancer causing tar **as the same brands** sold in the rich world.

Already, in Zimbabwe, food crops are beginning to substitute tobacco crops, but this was because of the low prices on the open market.

So, if you're into smoking, well, that's entirely your trip. But the message to the tobacco multinationals is:don't force it on other people or encourage it in any way.

To create a new epidemic in the countries who least need it would be nothing short of criminal.

DYING FOR DEMOCRACY

TWENTY ONE YEARS AGO, on 21 March to the day, the word Sharpeville became a byword in South African history.

It not only became a byword, flashed accross the international media - it became a symbol in the minds of those who have committed themselves to a future democracy. Sharpeville is symbolic of many features of South African society.

Sharpeville is symbolic of white intransigence, symbolic of a ruthless determination to maintain privilege and property. But Sharpeville is also a symbol of an epoch in our history when black resistence to racial control was passive, but courageous and massive.

In December 1959 the African National Congress (ANC) held its congress in Durban. In the presence of 500 delegates and 5 000 observers the ANC called for a mass anti-pass day to be held on March 31.

A week later the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) took up the same theme and called a broad campaign for civil disobedience against the unpopular pass laws. This was to commence on the 21st of March.

The pass laws have been, and still are, a source of intense resentment and resistance. Pass laws have always been a major grievance of blacks in South Africa who interpreted them as a direct assault on the right to live in their country. Pass laws have been used to control black labour, and maintain political disorganisation.

Successive white regimes had consistently refused to repeal the laws and they refused to discuss the issue with leaders of popular mass-based nationalist movements, such as the ANC.

The anti-pass campaign was to be conducted on the basis of earlier campaigns. People were encouraged to leave their passes at home and report in large numbers to the nearest police station and demand to be arrested. Strict instructions were given that the protest be non-violent.

At Evaton for example, 20 000 people presented themselves to the police station commander asking to be arrested, but the police refused. Similar protests occurred at Vanderbijlpark, where two people were shot while police were dispersing the crowd. The same happened at Cape Town.

In Sharpeville, just outside Vereeniging, several thousand gathered and marched to the Municipal offices. They were dispersed with gas and batons.

Soon afterwards about 10 000 protesters gathered outside the police station and asked to be arrested.

Journalists at the scene described the crowd as "perfectly amiable." Shortly after 1.30pm, for no apparent reason, police began to fire into the crowd with automatic pistols.

In less than a minute 69 protesters lay dead and 180 lay injured - most of them shot in the back. It is reported that a few hours later a thunderstorm washed away the blood.

Later in 1954, a mass campaign was initiated against Bantu Education, an education system expressly designed to stunt the spread of equal education and designed to teach blacks, as Verwoerd put it, to be labourers.

For most whites the major disaster was the collapse of the Stock Exchange as investors' confidence in South Africa crumbled. But for blacks the aftermath of Sharpeville was a continuation and intensification of political repression as a state of emergency was declared.

Over 18 000 people were detained across the country as workers stayed away in sympathy. The popular nationalist movements were banned and outlawed leaving no alternatives but to go underground.

It is clear that those who were victims at Sharpeville have always been and will always be regarded as African martyrs who died while seeking redress to certain grievances.

But tragically they were not the first or the last to die for this cause. On June 16-19 some 109 alone were added to this list. Sharpeville was not an event isolated from the currents of South African history.

Firstly, Sharpeville was situated in a period of mass resistence. To understand the legitimate demands made by those who protested we have to re-examine events preceding it. The period from 1935 to 1964 is blurred by history books, largely forgotten by white South Africa.

In 1952 a defiance campaign was launched against pass laws, a campaign that drew mass support. Hereafter the state prohibited protests against a law.

In 1957 the mass of black urban workers took up the SACTU campaign for a living wage, for the democratic rights to belong to a trade union. This at a time when the economy was growing and real wages were little short of starvation wages.

When the pass laws were extended to include black women, women joined in the resistance against this control. They joined with a determination and courage that startled their men. 20 000 marched to Pretoria to present a petition to Prime Minister Strydom chanting "Strydom, you have tampered against the women - you have struck rock."

In 1955 at the Congress of the People, delegates from all parts of the country drew up a charter of demands to represent a democratic path for society. We should take note of these demands:

* the people shall govern, have the vote and be entitled to sit on all legislating bodies.
* national groups shall have equal rights.
* land is to be shared amongst those who work it.
* wealth to be shared by all.
* equality before the law.
* equal human rights.
* there shall be homes, comfort, and work for all.
* the doors of culture and learning shall be open to all.
* there shall be peace and friendship.

The regime's response was clear; "We will not have white supremacy challenged," stated Erasmus, Minister of Justice. This was no new response in South African history.

It was the profoundly undemocratic social system that developed it. It was no use asking for better education facilities when these resulted in jobs to go to, no money at home, no housing for parents and relatives.

With this realisation they drew the limits between a fight against an unequal education and the struggle for a democratic society. Learning from 76 that students are nothing on their own, that their duty was to respond to



SHARPEVILLE till now... still crying for change

the issues affecting all, to take their cause from the majority, and especially the workers.

Last year 80 000 workers went on strike. Their demands were for living wages, recognition of their democratically chosen representatives, recognition of their unions.

Fundamentally South African society rests on the control and exploitation of its black workers. The lush white lifestyle derives from the difference between the value of the labour and the wages paid. It is taxes from these profits that finance the universities.

And in this sense we at university must take issue, must empathise with the workers who demand greater control over their working lives; and the profits they produce.

1980 saw the meat strike, the municipal workers strike, the Ford strikes, and many others. And these struggles at the workplace will not disappear in 1981.

Resistance to national oppression did not start or end with the Sharpeville. It is a story of continual resistance, first to imperial conquest and dispossession, then to racial and class domination.

From Magwana banished to Robben Island, to Hintsa whose people were robbed and betrayed. From the murder of Johannes Nkosi to the state repression of the mine workers strike.

From Sharpeville to the strikes of 1973, from student rebellion in June 76 to the strikes and boycotts of 1980. From 1652 to 1981.

We must review the current beliefs that the youth on their own will bring about a democratic society, that their parents have failed and they are the first group to challenge the structures of Apartheid. The current educational struggles are merely a new but vital development of a history that stretches beyond 1976.

Where resistance occurs because of a dehumanising structure, we must take sides. There are no agitators in the absolute sense. There is only the fundamental issue that people must have control over their lives.

Let us see how society has adapted since Sharpeville:

In 1980 thousands upon thousands of students boycotted their schools - resisting the very education system that blacks have opposed since 1952. But the issues have become clearer for the students of 1980. No longer is it educational facilities of one standard for white and one standard for the others that students opposed.

1980 saw the communities take issue against rent increases, transport price hikes. Communities frequently had little direct say in the municipal bodies that made the decisions affecting them. Why, they asked, should we, the poorest, continually have to subsidise the white areas by out taxes, our labour and also the costs in keeping ourselves alive?

The issues of 1980 are the same issues of 1960, arising in different form. And again the common thread is their rejection of a profoundly undemocratic society - the link between them is the struggle. For a democratic society - a goal which means at the least a non-racial universal franchise.

How has the state's response altered?

* More organisations have been added to the list of outlaws.
* Tighter media and ideological control.
* Ban on all protest gatherings.
* Homelands have assumed the task of rural repression with vigour and dedication

* There has been talk of more sophisticated solutions to satisfy the aspirations of blacks, the much vaunted Total Strategy.
* The abortive Koornhof proposals to juggle pass laws.
* The Rieckert and Wiehahn proposals to entrench an urban relatively privileged black population.
* The President's Council.

These go nowhere to providing a solution, in fact, to date they have failed badly in their own terms. The current regime has indicated that the solutions will be white solutions, on the regimes' terms. Namibian discussions are an example.

We have to realise that these struggles always call for a response. There is no such things as being neutral. Being indifferent is being partisan with those who favour the status quo. We must choose to support the thrust for democracy or choose to keep and sophisticate control

Bear in mind that there should be no doubt as to who should win - progress and democracy, or control and privilege. Those whites who will not look at Zimbabwe should be told that it is so much better to actively create the society of the future than to be dragged by history by the scruff or the neck, screaming.

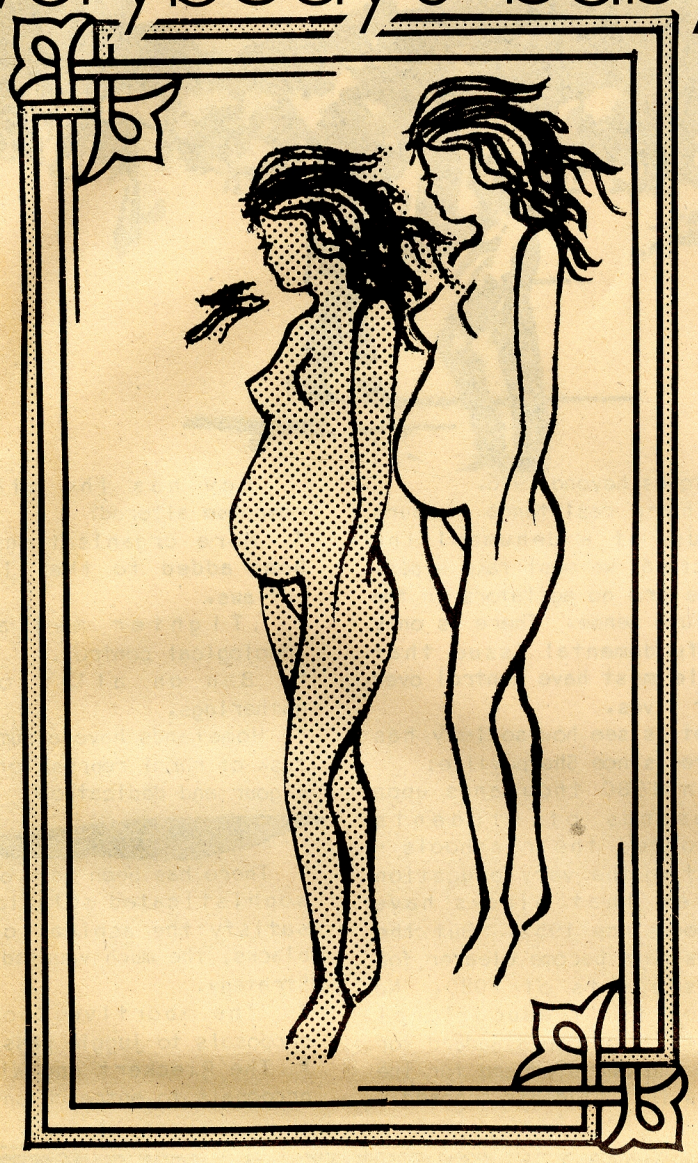
But we have a selfish interest in democracy: it is only in a democratic society, where all participate in all areas of life, and the wealth will be shared by all, that you and our children can live peacefully, and creatively, neither suffocated by prejudice nor by fear.

Contraception

everybody's baby

by Melanie Cullum

This article is intended for reference and discussion by both men and women. The responsibility of contraception, and the consequences in the event of failure, is NOT the prerogative of women.



METHODS

Oral Contraceptives:
THE PILL

Said to be the most effective form of contraception available. "The Pill" consists of the hormones oestrogen and progestogen in varying ratios and strengths.

Advantages:

* 99 percent successful in the prevention of pregnancy
* convenient.

Disadvantages

* headaches, migraine, depression and altered sex drive
* increased likelihood of circulatory diseases and raised blood pressure
* weight gain, increased body hair, skin problems
* after discontinued use, suppression of the menstrual cycle for varying lengths of time from 3 months - 18 months (these side effects differ in degrees with different women)

CONDOMS (Sheath)

The only contraceptive currently available to men. It is simply a thin rubber sack to be rolled onto the erect penis - usually with a small teat at the end to hold the fluid on ejaculation.

Advantages

* carry no risks (to women) of cancer, heart disease, sterility, etc.
* compact to carry, widely and easily available.

Disadvantages

* only 85 - 90 percent safe
* some people find them unromantic and clinical.
* messy (what isn't)

THE CAP OR DIAPHRAGM

Two types available, both should be used with spermicidal creams. They should not be removed for 8 hours after sex, but can be left in place for a few days at a time.

Advantages

* does not involve any interference with your hormonal balance
* need not be in permanent use, as it is only inserted before sex

Disadvantages

* inconvenient
* 90 percent effective in prevention of pregnancy, not deemed very reliable

RHYTHM

This involves not having sex when you're fertile. This can be effective if you have regular periods, and are not prone to anxiety, as this often supresses or delays ovulation. About 75 percent effective.

INTRA UTERINE DEVICES (IUDs)

Old types - coils and loops work on the principle that, for some unknown reason, a woman won't conceive with an object inside her womb. New types - copper 7's and copper T's work on the same principle as the others, and copper has some kind of contraceptive property which makes it safer. Both old and new types can be kept in for 2 years, but must be checked regularly by a doctor and be inserted by a doctor.

Advantages

* relatively safe (98 percent for new types, slightly lower for others)
* does not introduce chemicals into the body, with the exception of small doses of dissolved copper in the use of the copper 7 or the copper T.

Disadvantages

* can cause heavy menstrual flow and increased menstrual cramps
* can be expelled, usually with your period
* can cause infection and laceration of the womb tissues

INJECTION - DEPO PROVERA

This contraceptive is administered by injecting a massive dose of hormones into the body every three months. In Britain and the United States, extensive research has been done into its side effects and its extensive use in the Third World, South Africa included.

In this country it is administered to a large proportion of working class black women by the state-run Family Planning Clinics but is seldom, if ever, recommended for use by white women.

The side effects associated with this drug include:

* dizziness, tiredness, aches and pains
* increased risk of cancer of the cervix
* it has been shown to cause breast cancer in dogs
* irregular periods, heavy periods, or none at all
* malformation of the foetus in women who are pregnant when given the drug
* long term (and possibly permanent infertility or sterility)
* weight gain, change in skin pigmentation, raised blood sugar level, hair loss, acne, depression, possible loss of orgasm and sex drive
* it has been found to have been passed on in breast milk at more or less the same concentration as found in the mother's bloodstream.

As this injection is given every three months, there is little one can do about the side-effects until that period is over.

This stuff is produced by an American company, but is not used in America for the above reasons. Instead, it is shipped overseas to underdeveloped countries and dumped there.

All state controlled Family Planning Clinics will do pregnancy tests on demand. The Health Clinic at 96 High Street provides free contraceptive devices.

Adapted from an article in The South African Student Handbook (Nusas).



NO.

ON THE QUESTION OF NUCLEAR POWER, SOUTH AFRICA REVEALS ITSELF ONCE AGAIN AS A VERY STRANGE SOCIETY.

WHILE THE NUCLEAR ENERGY DEBATE RAGES THROUGHOUT THE REST OF THE WORLD, THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE KOEBERG NUCLEAR STATION 28KM NORTH OF CAPE TOWN PROCEEDS WITHOUT A PUBLIC WHIMPER.

by MELANIE CULLUM

Some horrifying facts are:

* Progress by French workers on the reactor domes was stopped when 6mm wide cracks appeared in the structures. Thousands of radioactive particles can escape through a gap this big.
* Reinforcing walls had to be repaired even before the station was built because of irregularities in their concrete surfaces.
* When the station comes "on steam" in 1982 the water around Koeberg beach will be warmed to 24 degrees Centigrade, 8 degrees above normal.
* A prominent Cape Town radiologist said there is no "safe dose" of radiation and that he would leave the Cape Peninsula when the R3 billion plant becomes operational.

These facts seem to indicate that:

* Koeberg is already threatened with disaster but the power needs of big industry dictate the plant will go ahead regardless of the consequences.
* If the meltdown occurs uncovering the nuclear core, exposing the radioactive metals, the crippled plant would collapse into the sea. When the melting Uranium hits ground water, and with Koeberg being a beach, heavy Plutonium clouds would form and millions of lives would be threatened by subsequent radioactive rain.

Three Mile Island showed that a major reactor accident can easily happen and threaten millions of lives and cause billions in property damage.

Even during "normal" operations, nuclear reactors emit radiation which causes cancer and birth defects. Scientific studies have consistently shown radiation to be more dangerous than previously believed.

It takes just one radioactive atom, one mutated cell, to cause a cancer fatality.

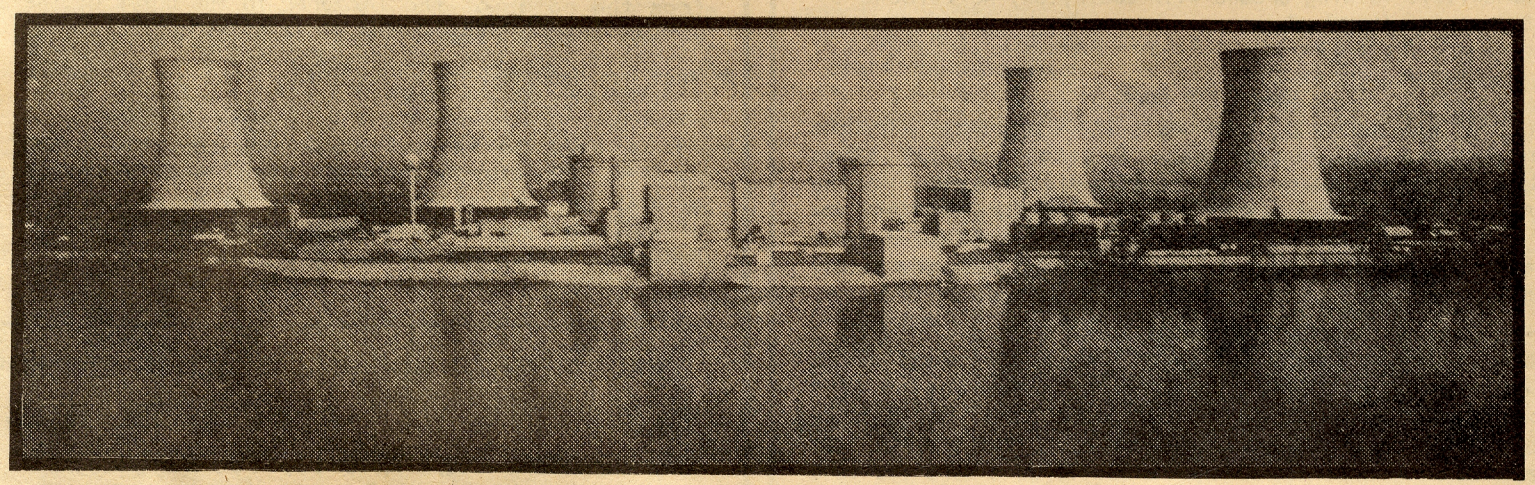
All nuclear reactors produce enormous quantities of toxic radioactive waste. Plutonium, the deadliest of these, remains dangerously radioactive for 240 000 years. It must be stored to perfection forever.

Large quantities have already leaked into the environment, thousands of pounds being created every day, and no safe disposal system exists.

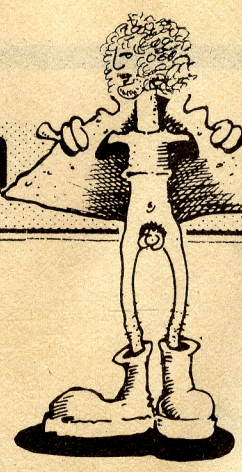
The nuclear power industry grew hand-in-hand with the nuclear weapons industry. The first reactors were not built for electricity, but to provide Plutonium for the bombs that destroyed Nagasaki and Hiroshima. In 1974 India demonstrated that an explosive nuclear "device" could be built from commercial reactor wastes. Nuclear power and nuclear weaponry are malignant twins dangerous to life on earth.

Atomic energy is not only dangerous, it's unnecessary. In the near future we could get all our power needs from the sun, and cheaply too.

The key to the solar transition is to cut back on waste. Nuclear power provides just 4% of America's energy, and they throw away half the energy they use - twelve times what they get from the nukes. The world's nukes have used more energy in their construction than they have thus far supplied themselves.



STOOP TALK



LEAVING, LEAVING LEFT

IS IT COINCIDENTAL that while some more rad academics are being denied renewed contracts others are just "leaving"? And all the time the Administration monster grows vis a vis academia at Rhodes.

BOLLOCKS

SO INSTEAD OF getting rid of the Rag cattle shows, we now have a lot of balls and bull to match! I suppose it is logical to rather degrade males as well as females than to cock the whole lot. The winner of the new meat competition is a 21-year-old hetereosexual boy.



FOR DONS AND OTHER SPIES

As I was walking down the stair,
I met a man who wasn't there.
He wasn't there again today,
I wish, I wish he'd go away.

HERALD

SMUTTY ISAAC

HOPEFULLY ALL YOU whiteys (non-blacks) realise just how relevant the forthcoming General Elections are in our democratic country. But even within the frame-work of white polllitics the picture hazes with the knowledge that fervent and long-standing anti-Nusaser, Isaac "Sakkie" Smuts, is standing for the PFP in this constituency. Jeez, and all the time I thought the PFP opposed the government as a relative alternative. I guess the PFP and Sakkie are as relevant as P.W.'s forthcoming attraction at the end of April.

FAIR'S UNFAIR

THANK GOD our country is so just and fair. Where else would one man, Peter Mundell, get one month per every two stab wounds with which he kills a person and another, Ian Mgijima, gets 6 months for every one "banned" pamphlet he distributes.

RENEWED RES

THERE IS A NEW res on campus this year. Stanley Kidd or something. Y'see, it's also for whiteys now and so old dilapidated Hospital House suddenly was removed from the condemned list and fully fully jacked up.

ROIDS OF ASTER/MAN OF PUC

WELL DONE, Carol Cragg - your resounding victory in the SRC by-elections was well deserved. Let's see those computer games a.s.a.p!

PHILOSOPHY AND/OR PROPHECY

GRAHAMSTOWN IS A MICROCOSM of South Africa. In the morning the sun shines on the whitey's side of town but in the afternoon....

A FOLKING GOOD THING

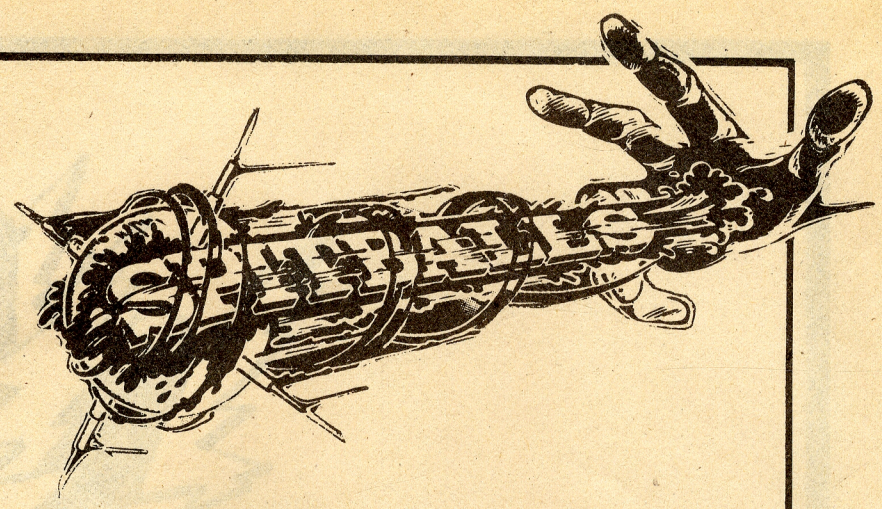
A PAT ON the back for whoseoever rejuvinated Folk Club. The night I attended the crowd was large and seemed to appreciate all the artists folking around with Bob Dylan, Neil young et al. So support them, youse.

RMR'S ZIP CODE

A NEW NASTY has appeared at Rhodes. It is a Greecey Zip code named Byron. He exclusively ensures that RMR stays polittically neutral (sic) and objective (sicker). Having squandered R1 500 on a glorified hi-fi set the "station" now aspires to "expanding" all the way down the corridor to the Oppies Common Room! My God, the Rhodes Union is the limit! Wot an ego wank-off.

FIST FIGHT

IN THE WAKE of the Skankers/Pistols football feud, which included the post-final-sign-up-meeting-defection of 3 Pistols to the Skankers, hostilities broke into the open as RHODEO Editor, Dave Greybe, socked the Editor of OPPIDAN, Pat MacCartan, in a practice match. Pat suffered a sore jaw (and neck a bit too, whiplash and that, y'know) and Dave suffered a temporary guilt complex and a sense of deep personal loss.



THE LOSER SEES HIS RING

GOLLUM BAGGINS is a slimy character indeed. Way back in 1979 he caused a stir by gathering liberal support and beating out two better qualified journalists as editors of RHODEO. This he did with promises of an issue every 2 weeks! Not only were these goods not delivered but neither was anything resembling the good journalistic traditions of the hallowed journal. It was all Gollum from beginning to end;pathetic letters to poor letraset and from bad to worse, progressively.

Then Gollum Baggins (yes, the same!) ran for SRC Presidency! Now we all know the SRC is a circus but we don't need a clown to run it. He lost and, getting used to the feeling, he again acted in bad faith by taking on the Rag Mag editorship and then not doing a thing (hence dof Rag Mag due to two day rush). Now the mighty megomaniac has resorted to the less ambitious seizing of Vegsoc and at once set out fulfilling the role of every good vegetarian - wasting society money on political pamphlets smearing Nusas. Well do it bru - maybe your losing streak will rub off!

NEWSFLASH

WHILE OOZING around the SRC office Gollum detected an unopened ballot box bearing the legend "Piet Retief." Immediately sniffing out a fox or something he reported the matter to the SRC that night. Hereby he removed newly elected Carol "Computer Games" Cragg from the august body. Although the 70 uncounted votes could not change the result of the by-election it is good to see this protector of democracy (hoho), due process (haha), individual rights and over achievement (hee hee) still vegsoccing!

INTERESTING THOUGHTS



- Last week we witnessed the grand opening of the newly proposed R2 million quad (part II). Think on these things:
  * Why didn't Rhodes rather buy the 32 houses in the frozen zone for R50 000? It would have helped the housing crisis and cost less than two million bucks to make fully liveable.
  * Why didn't Rhodes invest R80 000 by buying St Aden's College? It would have helped preserve historic Grahamstown instead of building an imitation of history to fulfill an expression of archetectural fantasy merely for aesthetics.
- Just because you're paranoid, it doesn't mean they're not out to get you.
- Definition of a lecture: a means of transferring information from the notes of the lecturer to the notes of the student without passing through the minds of either.
- What has happened to Uri Geller?
- Jesus said to them, 'Who do you say that I am?' They replied, 'You are the exchatological manifestation of the ground of our being, the kerygma of which we find the ultimate meaning in our interpersonal relationships.' And Jesus said, 'What?'

CONRIBUTIONS TO THIS PAGE SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO STOOP TALK, AND SLIPPED UNDER THE RHODEO OFFICE DOOR. GET INTO IT, YOU BITCHES!

LOOK OUT for RHODEO Apologies Vol 1 No 1

perforation is a rip-off

NET BLANKES WHITES ONLY

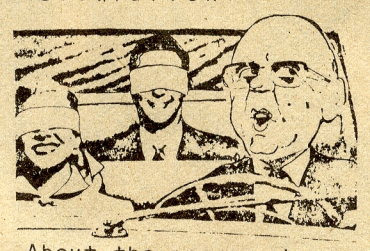
ON APRIL 29, LESS THAN A MONTH FROM NOW, WHITE SOUTH AFRICANS GO TO THE POLLS TO DECIDE WHICH POLITICAL PARTY WILL REPRESENT THEM FOR THE NEXT CRUCIAL FIVE YEARS. THE FOLLOWING IS INTENDED AS A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF THE FOUR MAJOR PARTIES AND THEIR POLICIES;

NATIONAL PARTY

The basis of NP policy is the Twelve Point Plan of Prime Minister, Mr PW Botha. Basically this enshrines "self determination" for all racial groups and rejects a unitary state based on universal sufferage as one in which a "black dictatorship" must emerge.

In reply to increasingly vocal objections from the black population, Mr Botha has suggested the "constellation of states" which includes "independent" homelands and other "states" who wish to join. At the non-black level a "division of power among whites, coloureds and Indians within a system of consultations and joint responsibility" is suggested - the President's Council is seen as a first step in this direction.

The "Constellation" has been totally rejected by South Africa's black neighbours, who have formed a counter-constellation.



About the proposed non-black alliance, it is obvious that if there is only to be consultation between the groups, there is no real division of power. The President's Council is still only an advisory committee with no power.

Botha also advocates "the removal of unnecessary, hurtful forms of discrimination"(Point 6). So far Mr Botha, with eyes right, has promised far more than he has delivered. While this may change after the election, much will depend on the showing of the HNP and Botha's own restive and influential right wing.

THE HESTIGTE NATIONALE PARTY

The HNP stand for the retention of Apartheid in its purest and most rigid form. They state that the whites are the kingpin of the economic and political wellbeing of the country and that any racial intermingling will lead to the disappearance of the "white Christian civilization" that whites have built in South Africa.



Yet, apart from stating what they believe, the HNP election literature does not really state what they intend to do if they achieve power.

For example, they state the present government could reduce the inflation rate but don't do it so they can redistribute wealth into the pockets of those who do not earn it.

The white man owes the black man nothing, they say, yet black wages increase quicker than white wages - how can that be? The HNP urges whites to "fight for what they are are and for what they have."

It is difficult to criticise a policy which does not present a programme. Obviously blacks can never accept any tenet of HNP policy, and HNP response to that is to say they have no choice.

The only option would be an ever-increasing scale of confrontation and violence between black and white. The 'pure' apartheid policy of the HNP would not seem to recognise the growing economic power and political awareness of blacks. It longs for the good old days of cheap money, compliant servants and accepted white leadership. But the times, they are a changing.

THE PROGRESSIVE FEDERAL PARTY

The PFP stands for what it terms 'consensus government' in a unitary state with universal sufferage. Consensus in this case means the agreement of over 85% of any representative body before any proposed legislation could be enacted.

The exact formula this consensus government would take would be worked out at a National Convention to be called of "all the recognised leaders in the country", with the proviso that they reject violence as a means of change.

This convention would produce a constitution embodying the concepts of non-domination of one group by another, non-discrimination, and one man, one vote.
But supposing the convention arrives at a constitution, what is to stop any government with the necessary power from rejecting or emasculating it at some future date? In reply to this, the PFP sees black radicalisation purely as the result of white domination -remove the cause and there will be no effect.

Given the utter failure of a National Convention, the PFP would be faced with the prospect of continuing with no moral foundation whatsoever to continue ruling the majority.

What would be the response to a united black front formed at the Convention, merely demanding that an election be fought on universal suff rage, and refusing to accept any preconditions imposed by a white minority party? According to the principles upon which PFP policy is built, they would have no moral right to refuse such a demand.

THE NEW REPUBLIC PARTY

Describing itself as "based on the old United Party", the NRP proposes a Federal/Confederal system of government. This means that within South Africa there will be a Federation of parliamentary bodies representing the whites, coloureds and Indians, and urban blacks. A higher Confederal system would join the above four groups with the "independent" homeland governments.

POLITICAL COMMENT BY KEN VERNON, 18 YORK STREET, GTN.



THE CAMPUS

ON MONDAY NIGHT, MARCH 30, WHAT HAS BEEN CALLED THE BIGGEST MASS MEETING AT RHODES UNIVERSITY FOR MORE THAN A DECADE, TOOK PLACE IN THE GREAT HALL. OBSERVERS ESTIMATE THAT THE CROWD, SPILLING OUT OF SIDE DOORS AND CRAMMED INTO THE FOYER, NUMBERED MORE THAN ONE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED. THE ISSUE THAT COULD DRAW MORE PEOPLE THAN THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, OR THE FREE MANDELA CAMPAIGN, AS WELL AS BRING THE HILL RESIDENCES LITERALLY MARCHING DOWN? OF COURSE .... NUSAS.

The majority of Rhodes students are unlike elephants -they don't have long memories. They are also distinctly unlike Italian movie stars - it takes a lot to get them excited and motivated. But there is an issue - one issue -which invariably serves as the exception to the rule; and that is the issue of affiliation to the National Union of South African students.

1981 had all the makings of a normal year in the life of Rhodes student politics. The past campus referendums to guage student opinion on reaffiliation to Nusas had been lost by the pros with progressively smaller margins, and a significant growth in the Nusas Local Committee meant that the time had come to test that feeling again. So far so good. A referendum was called, and the SRC decision was the first in the complicated chain of events which culminated in a tense, packed Great Hall at 7.30 on the night of the 30th. The aftermath, the post mortems and the sequels will be clearer although probably still controversial - as you read this. Its aim is not to supply up-to-the-minute facts and developments, but to put on record impressions of what was undoubtedly one of the most important student meetings in Rhodes' history.

THE BACKGROUND



Calling a referendum in 1981 brought its own unique problems: The SRC argued that the third term is always ruled out as it is SRC election time; the fourth term is taken up with exams, and therefore the second term is the usual choice. This year, the General Election made this impossible. Also, SRC members from the year before spoke of the "divisive effect" of a referendum in the second term. The alternative was the first term, meaning that the first year students were not eligible to vote due to an age-old University senate ruling. Here the trouble began ... and the SRC heard of unhappiness among first years who were not going to be allowed to vote. Their response was to call a mass meeting to sound out first years on the issue, and to see how widespread the dissatisfaction was. It is now history that some 16 first year students attended that "mass" meeting.

Meanwhile, the SRC had called for the formation of pro and anti affiliation committees to fight the upcoming referendum. More than forty people arrived to form the pros, while none came to the meeting of the antis. The pro-affiliation campaign went ahead ... and the SRC then decided to give those against Nusas a second chance, and issued a pamphlet warning that it would have to "seriously consider" a proposal to affiliate if there was no organised opposition in the referendum.

Twenty-six students then did come forward - but refused to form a committee on the grounds that first years could not vote. The SRC President, John Campbell, had meanwhile been mandated by the first year meeting to approach Senate to allow first years to vote in the referendum. The meeting had also endorsed the fact that the SRC had no option but to call the referendum in the first term. Among the first years to endorse this was someone soon to emerge as a leading light in the group refusing to form a committee.

Campbell approached the Vice Chancellor on the issue, and was told it was "highly unlikely" that Senate would accede to the SRC request, and the VC added that Senate would be likely to be "aggrieved" if it was tabled.

The SRC then met again, informed the anti group of the VC's answer, and gave them a third opportunity to form into a committee, claim their funds from SRC, and get on with the referendum. The group again refused to form. The SRC debated this issue until nearly midnight, and adjourned until lunchtime the next day.

At that now historic meeting, the SRC voted to take the decision into its own hands, believing that a referendum with only one side contesting would be a farce and a waste of student time and money. They also felt they had no basis for believing there was a strong anti feeling. After this was passed, the Council voted unanimously to affiliate to Nusas.

The campus came alive. At meetings in residences that night, speakers came out against the decision, and opposition finally began to emerge. On ascertaining this, the mass meeting was called to report back to the student body about the buildup to the decision, and to see whether the majority was in favour of the affiliation being ratified. SRC pamphlets were widely distributed, and another group put out publicity claiming the meeting as a "mass protest". Monday night approached... with conflict in the air.

THE BUILD-UP



7 o'clock ... half an hour to go till the meeting officially starts, and the hall is filling up. A constant stream leaves the residences, parking space a thing of the past, and the light jazz from the public address system is a mite incongruous. Every one of eight hundred and forty seats has a special edition of Oppidan on it, listing campus figures supporting the SRC decision. Young intellectuals show great prowess at making them into paper aeroplanes - it's like the Battle of Britain in front - while others are busy reading the content, and arguing among themselves.

Someone slow claps. Ominous buildup, until the air is so hostile that it is a slightly ashen SRC executive which takes the stage. Hall eruption number one, as love-him-or-hate-him President Campbell walks up to the mike, and starts talking. No-one hears - he hasn't switched it on. A sign of the (tense) times.

Campbell explains that the meeting is called as an SRC reportback, and those are the rules that apply, and introduces Mr Mervyn Frost from the Politics Department as the chair. Derision - Politics not a popular department it seems - Campbell warns the vocal group that the alternative to Frost is himself. Point taken.

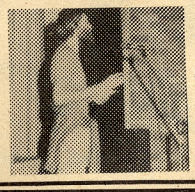


WORDS: THE HONEST EYE
PIX: HARTMAN & VERNON

AMPUS THAT LOST ITS HEAD

e Massive eeting– pressions

Procedural pussyfooting is the main reason for everyone being there, some seem to think. Confusion on the left and right as someone from the floor goes into detail about marginal headings in clause three hundred and whatever. But he seems vaguely anti-SRC. Thunderous applause. Then follows seemingly endless wranglings about tabling motions, voting procedure, who's paid their amenities fees, who's there in the guise of a Rhodes student, who's allowed to speak, what a point of information really is... paper planes again go up on the popularity polls. The Chair eventually rules that first years can vote - an issue we've all heard something of before - and the meeting blunders on.



THE MOTION

Former SRC President Ashley La Grange takes the stage He's going to speak to this motion:

That this student body, noting the events that led up to the SRC's decision to affiliate to the National Union of South African students, and believing that the SRC acted in what it saw as the best interests of Rhodes students, resolves to endorse the SRC's decision.

La Grange tells us that when we elected the SRC last August, they were given a mandate to represent us, and to act in terms of the constitution, drawn up by past Rhodes students and SRC's.

It was their responsibility this year to organise a referendum in which all interested students got a fair hearing. This they did by adopting the rules which applied to past referenda. Pro and anti committees were vital for a clean, open and fair campaign, he argues... and had been found to work well as such in the past.

He goes through the buildup to the decision again. The SRC can't be faulted for not being responsive to student feeling, he says, it wasn't their fault that no antis bothered to turn up, or that only 18 first years felt strongly enough about the issue to attend their meeting. First years indignantly interject - it was suppertime. Priorities, priorities. Ends off by saying the SRC and Sports Union encourage student participation, but can't do the participating for them - there has to be a response, an interest from students themselves.

La Grange condemns the antis action..."**If you want something at university, and you believe that there are students who agree with you, and who want the selfsame thing, it's up to you to get off your backsides and do it.**"

He's loudly interrupted: "**That's why we're here.**"

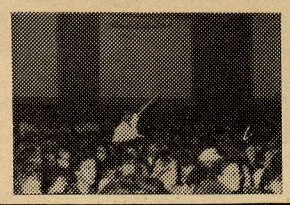
La Grange: "**Well then, may I ask you who called this meeting? The SRC called this meeting!**" Major hall reuption number two. Extended applause.

He concludes: "**This attempt by the group of people who refuse to form a committee is not an attempt to fight for democracy on this campus, it is an attempt to obstruct it. It is an attempt to hijack (repeated interruption)...it is an attempt to hijack the SRC constitution, the system of student government here, and the ethic of getting up and working for yourselves. If the anti-affiliationists felt they had something to say, they should have got up and said it, and not left it to other people to say it for them.**"

Rhodes Rugby captain All Weakley takes the stage to second the motion. His message is concise: "**The procedure set up by the SRC for establishing committees is no more, no less than to have an effective and democratically run referendum. I cannot see what is so terribly difficult in setting up a committee to fight for something which you feel very strongly for. I cannot see that the anti-affiliationsts felt so very strongly about it; that through their own inaction, they abrogated their democratic right. That's all I have to say.**"

And so the motion is put to the floor. A heated floor...which repeats itself a lot, contradicts, elightens, insults and generally gets excited. Some highlights:

THE PETITION



SRC member Michael Bagraim notes the lack of an anti-affiliation committee in the 1977 referendum. "**In an election, an unopposed candidate is automatically elected. However, in this case there are by definition two choices - a yes and a no choice. It is not necessary that these two choices are manifested by a candidate or a committee. I hope Mr La Grange understands this point.**" Protracted applause.

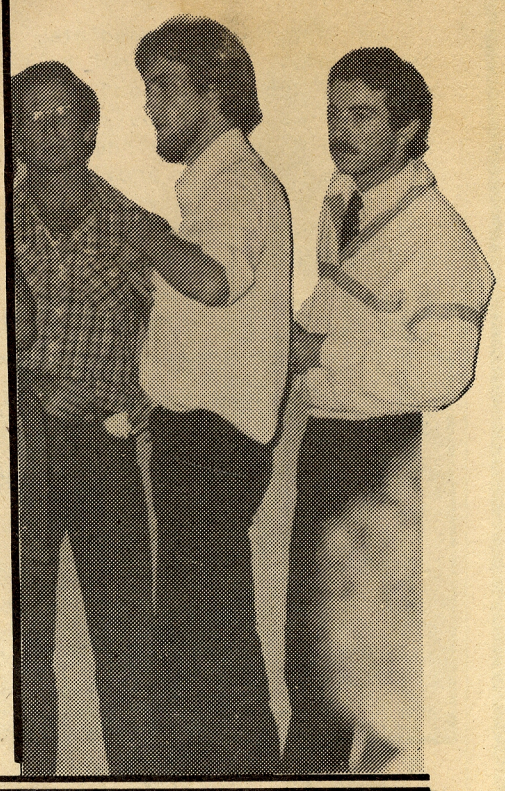
"**I understand and I believe that the SRC called this meeting in good faith. I do however question that this meeting should be called now, instead of beforehand.**" Bagraim then presents two petitions. The first: "**We the undersigned call on all Rhodes students to be given the right to decide democratically for themselves whether Rhodes affiliates to Nusas.**" He announces 1 077 signatures...nearly a quarter of the campus.

The second petition: "**We the undersigned call on John Campbell, SRC President, to resign for failing to honour (interrupted by cheering) an election promise that the SRC would not affiliate to Nusas without first securing campus support in a referendum.**" 900 signatories are announced. Wild cheering. Black students oppose it..."**Bags will never see Azania.**" Feelings are running (very) high. The petition, like the procedural issues before it, becomes an issue.

A student questions possible personal motives behind the petition, and is ruled out of order. It's the iceberg's tip, as more question the petition's validity. The first challenge from a student: "**I regret that I signed the petition against the SRC's affiliation to Nusas. John Campbell has made the right move...I demand that my signature be removed.**"

The meeting continues on page 22

WEAKLEY, ROUX AND CAMPBELL - SENSING A RESTLESSNESS.



MIKE LOEWE
RHODEO
NEWS EDITOR
CHECKS IT OUT

RAG

RAG is over - and for many it is seen as an end to a benevolent drunken binge. Yet Rag and its charitable ideal is a controversial issue, and has been so for years.

Various schools of thought see Rag differently with many people and groups highly critical of its broader social context. Delta spokesperson, Kirk Hellike said:

"Rag as we know it at Rhodes University is essentially a conservative force with regard to change in South Africca. It takes the existing social structure here as given. It therefore makes no attempt whatsoever to challenge the legitimacy of that structure. By doing so, it diverts student awareness from the real issues.

In essence, Rag is part of the problem not part of the solution. If Rag functioned by increasing the political awareness of students, I would have fewer problems with it. In that way it would at least no longer function as an end in itself."

Conversely, in defence of Rag, Rag Chair Royden du Ploy stated:

"Rag is the only organization on campus where students are directed into helping others, not themselves. Rag is one of the organizations most above criticism from an ideological point of view."

Self-help can be seen as preferable to charitable hand-outs. It provides commodities to poverty-stricken areas so they can reproduce initial resources for their own consumption. The way this is done is decided on by that community.

Charity satisfies immediate needs only. Food cannot be regrown, immediate medical care does not provide a solution to poverty-induced diseases. Charity provides relief to a society which ultimately requires drastic restructuring.

Du Ploy on the one hand realises the handicap he faces running a charitable organization and indicated that Rag was aware of the "dependency problem" but this year attempts were being made to feed Rag funds into self-help projects "of a capital nature".

But he adamantly insists on the "apolitical" Rag stance. "Rag," he said,"was aware of the problems but would not become involved in political debates."

"If Rag did maintain a political stance, it would alienate its very life-blood - the people who donate money, who are mostly white." Rag critics argue it is impossible to be apolitical and Rag, by its very nature, tends to maintain the status quo in South Africa.

Du Ploy's answer to criticism is: "Rag is constantly criticised for an apolitical stance but the student population is unwilling to:

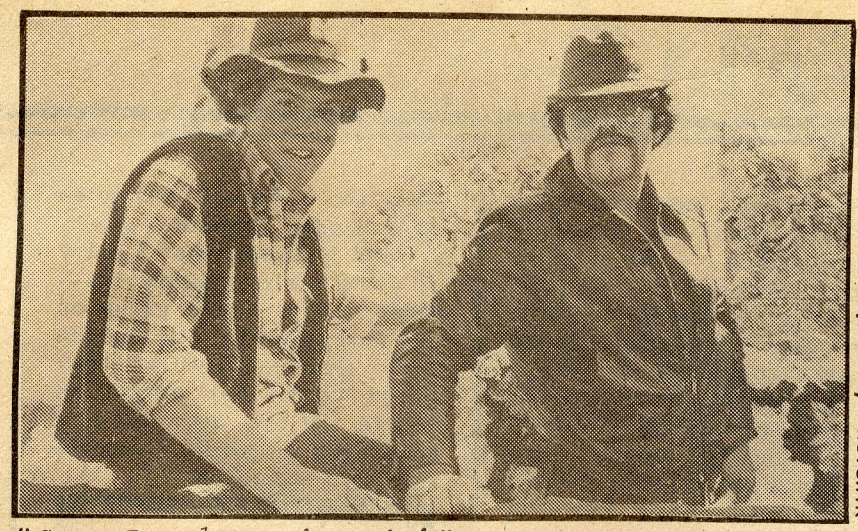
* suggest alternatives
* become involved in the good points Rag has
* and work from within.

Asked about sexism and drunken behaviour of students during Rag, Du Ploy said sexism existed "in small amounts only" and that "any embarrassment was voluntarily undertaken and only by a small number of girls." However, the publication 'Rag News' had statements like "Being a drummie is not only being a glamour girl."

He felt students were free to drink anytime they liked and most students, as adults, could decide if and when they wanted to drink. "If drunkenness is a problem, it's not Rag's fault," he said.

Charity and dependence exist and immediate interruption of this will be detrimental to those who have come to rely on it.

Most students don't seem to be fully aware of the controversy surrounding Rag. Genuine concern may follow awareness.



pics by Photonik

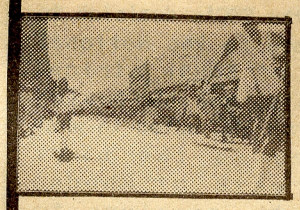
"Gee Pardy, aint it exiting?"

"Aw, I've seen it ALL before."

KAMPUS KOMMENT

Mark Masterton - Second year B Comm student

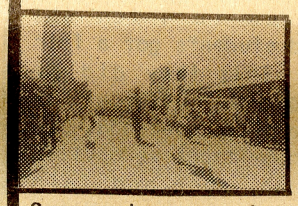
"It's (Rag) getting worse - people are losing interest - people are becoming apathetic. At this year's functions I was expecting to see far more people."



WOW!

Secretary of the Rhodes University Black Workers' Association (RUBWA) - Michael Nondlwana

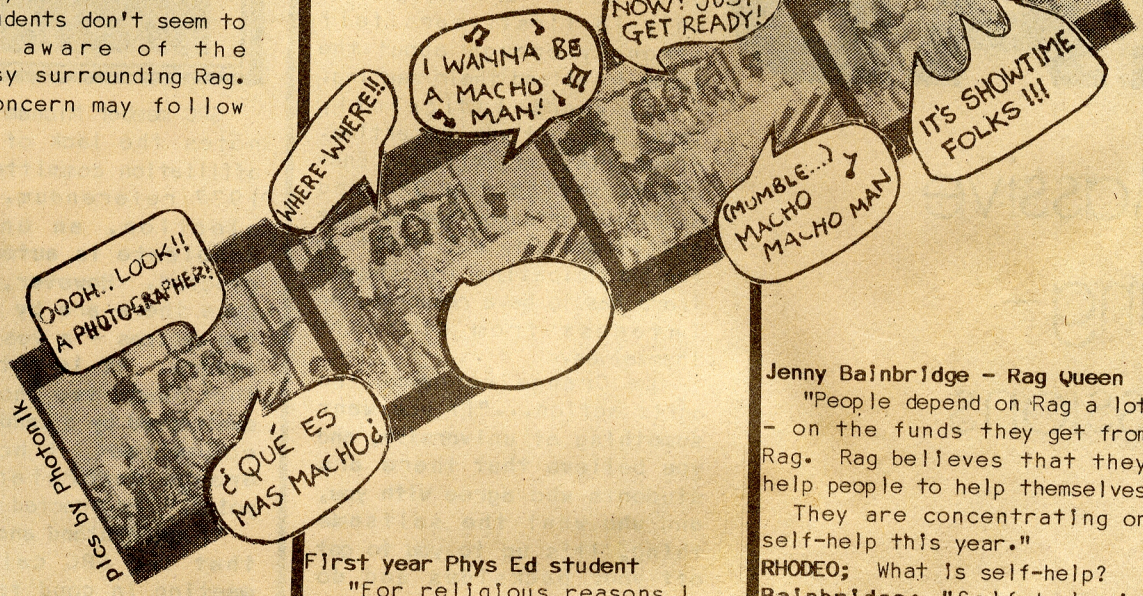
"Rag is essential in that it supplies funds to various societies which are in dire need. However, Rag does not contribute to wider social reform - charity is insufficient on such a wide scale."



Look at me

Second year Journalism student

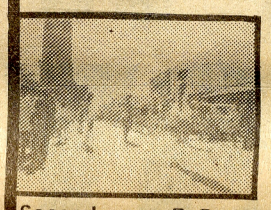
"It's a balls-up that it usually is. Disorganisation is rife. It's a big ego-trip to be a Rag rep... and I'm a Rag rep. They get all the wine and just sit at the meetings and get pissed."



pics by photonik

First year Phys Ed student

"For religious reasons I don't like the way the girls are treated - it's too smutty."



NOW!

Second year B.Sc student

"Rag is quite nice. I'm enjoying it. There's lots of functions to go to. There's no moral aspect, just a good time to be had by all - and that's what I enjoy."

Jenny Bainbridge - Rag Queen

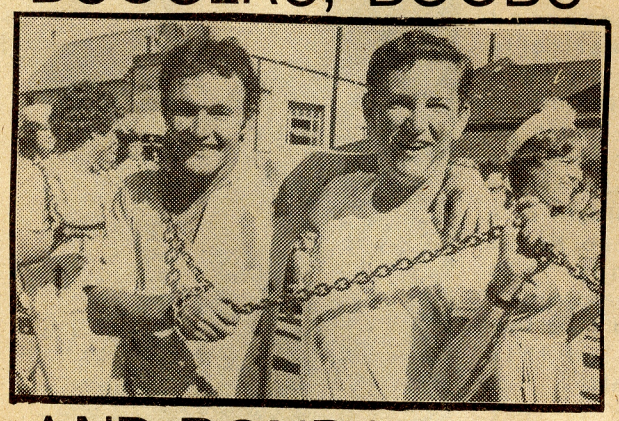
"People depend on Rag a lot - on the funds they get from Rag. Rag believes that they help people to help themselves

They are concentrating on self-help this year."

RHODEO; What is self-help?

Bainbridge; "Self-help is giving someone the opportunity to do something which without they would not be able to do."

BUGGERS, BOOBS



AND BONDAGE !!!!



pics by Photonik

Rag: hairy monsters eat orange maids.

KONTD.

John Campbell - SRC President

"A greater effort should be made on the educational value of Rag. It is disturbing to see the level of ignorence displayed by supposedly enlightened students."

Second year Journ student

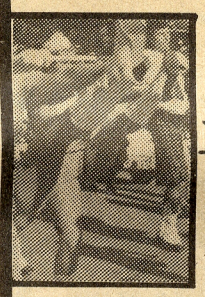
"Rag has become a big piss-up and a jorl. Charity and self-help have become over-shadowed by selfish student activity."

Royden du Ploy - Rag Chair

"Rag is one of the organisations the most above criticism."

A group of eight black students

"We don't think of Rag...it's a paternalistic drunken binge - it's an attempt by white students to ease their consciences till the end of the year."



A Birds Thigh View!

Second year B Comm student

"Rag comm is another example of bureaucracy...it's f...disorganised."

Budgie Byron - Second year B Comm student

"I wasn't here for last year's Rag and I probably won't be here for this years'. Rag is so controlled - it's lost its meaning compared to other varsities."

Roland White, second year Journ student

"Rag must be seen on two levels;

Firstly - as a charity organisation it can only satisfy an immediate need - it cannot change anything. It is fundamentally supportive of the status quo.

Secondly - the Rag ethos itself is disgusting. Sexism and indulgence are encouraged in the name of helping others. It is self-contradiction, hypocrytical and innefectual."

MORE RAG

GIVING FINGO A HAND (OUT)?

by Mike Loewe

RAG CHAIR, Royden du Ploy, has drawn up a community "self help" project in an effort to initiate a building enterprise in Fingo Village, ultimately to be controlled by students.

Du Ploy stressed the project is only a proposal subject to approval by the Rag Disposal Committee, the Government controlled East Cape Administration Board (ECAB) and is dependent on record Rag takings.

The proposal involves securing land in Fingo Village for the establishment of a home building industry centre where black home builders will be able to receive building material, low interest long term loans and expert advice. Also vaguely planned is a creche, a school, a library etc.

Student involvement in charity schemes has drawn criticism from various sectors and individuals. In 1979 a sub-committee of students, academics and administration representatives investigated the possibility of a permanent charity co-ordinating body called RUSCO. The idea was shelved. Criticisms offered to RHODEO at the time were:

"One of the major limitations with RUSCO is the total naivety and ignorance about the black community and its essential problems among a group who were setting themselves up to move in with 'solutions'." - **Mercia Wilsworth, Anthropologist.**

"If RUSCO were to deprive local charitable institutions of funds, local initiatives would dry up. Students tend to be temporary and it is difficult for them to supply coherent leadership over the years. In order to overcome that difficulty a bureaucracy is envisaged." **-Mrs Nancy Charton, Senior Politics Lecturer.**

"There might be a bureaucratic part of RUSCO which would take action out of the hands of students. A bureaucracy may entrench itself. If it is controlled by the university people and elite blacks then I don't think that money will be used for proper self-help programmes. On the other hand, perhaps students are too immature to run a social action sufficiently." - **Founder Member of Rhodes' self-help group, Delta.**

Opposition to these sorts of self-help projects generally seemed to be:

* Permanent administration staff are expensive
* Students are too temporary for continuity's sake
* Overlapping of welfare organisations in a small area like Grahamstown would be detrimental
* Misunderstanding of community needs and desires.

These are but a few of the complexities facing Du Ploy's proposal. But before these problems could be encountered, said Du Ploy, the project must deal with immediate problems.

Primary to the initiation of proposals is finance. Du Ploy hinted the project would be called off if rag's profits income did not drastically exceed last year's profits. He also said it was unlikely that organisations would no longer receive rag funds.

Nevertheless, he added, the Rag Disposal Committee, which decides allocations, had the mandate to give money to whom it wanted and this would be exercised as it saw fit.

The initial outlay of Rag funds in the proposal itself, which Du Ploy asked not to be published, have been criticised by Prof. Whisson, Head of the Anthropology Department. He said: "It seems that a lot rests on pure hope."

Prof. Whisson pointed out that it was inevitable that any project in the townships would come under considerable control by ECAB. South Africa had a socialist system where the government controls the land and there is no choice but to work in the system if one is to do anything at all.

In his experience at UCT, Prof. Whisson said students had proved to be inconsistent in self-help schemes. Out of 8 000 students at UCT, only six had stayed with self-help projects with which he was involved. He felt that organisations such as the Grahamstown Distress Relief Organisation (GADRA) and the Black Sash in Grahamstown were doing a consistently excellent job with what must be the highest benefit to cost ratio.

Du Ploy stated that the Rag proposal would result in something concrete with which Grahamstown people could identify. However, some people felt a basic element of self-help was not primarily the solving of the conscience of "Grahamstown people". Royden Du Ploy himself seems confident the proposal, which he admits is ambitious, will be accepted. "It's the first of its kind undertaken by any other Rag Comm in the country and could be used as a blue print". He also said the proposal could be a solution to the black housing problem in the country.

THE POST PUNK BLUES!

by JEREMY THOMAS

Punks on the streets - populist outrage at boredom, poverty, obese supergroups and their "nice music". Its been talked about, lots. But superfast! - four chord wonders and safety pins become carefully marketed in cut out letters - captive money! This is it - punk was street swagger and gob and the Sex Pistols were the epitomy. There - marketable youth rebellion. So even if punk twisted a rethought about suchlike as media hyping of the "big rock star" (naughty pisscat Jim Morrison and gasp bisexual David Bowie) and the far awayness of the stadium conceptualists - it got thrown slap back in its face. Sid Vicious was a sad national hero/whipping boy, the Clash trucked over to America and the punk "ethic" got sucked back five years. Excitement?

Post punk has either chased itself into media-packaged trendism or else is too busy plagiarising the past to go anywhere new. Its easy to learn how to label the press-speak "bleak industrialism" the "noisy end of conceptual art" or call American boring old fart early seventies hangover pomp rock "new wave". I don't know if his labelling can be helped (or ought to be) - who can resist the lovely pleasure of all the faddish gadgetry attached to what is essentially (and should be) an "art form". The niceness of two tone - glorious fashion pokes a tongue at fascism and ska makes it cool for all the honkies also to be rude boys. Cultural oneness and unity! Oh yes, and booshwah suburbia revels in punk's crassness and Paris makes a summer collection.

But remember!....the art form before it gently nudged off towards a more chewable populism.

1976 spat it out while we fidgeted dumbly and got disco's very precise commercial dazzle. But when glitter and tights bored - something new! - acid rock turned base and all the gimmicky clutter and nonsense of the early seventies megaposed nonsense out out out.

It was more street poetry than Springsteen's cloth cap chic. But long before punk got institutionalised. The Sex Pistols didn't even sing nicely! People were cross and it was the image of Rotten, Matlock (then Vicious), Cook and Jones who made Anarchy in the UK sell a lot and charted so the nation was in outrage and punk was an EVENT, labelable.

When punk became a thing it wasn't Johnny Rotten's punk rock any more. He outed from the Pistols and someone smart changed his name to John Lydon. A new image. He formed a band called Public Image Limited and moaned how sick he was of what he had unwillingly, unwittingly created. Lydon, Keith Levene (long ago guitarist for the Clash), bass player Jah Wobble, drummer Martin Atkins (now Brian Brain) and projectionist (projectionist?) Jeanette Lee made PiL into an alternative quasi corporation - a big raspberry to the music business - or was it? Signed to Virgin Records weren't they just another stitch in corporate rock's "rich tapestry"? Does it really matter? PiL's rave is directed at the music business (ever since EMI Lydon's been at it) but its still a marketable sound - even if they did try to redefine rock in a sort of anti-rock downer-plod wail. What do Virgin care as long as it sells.

That was the one alternative - another came with the massive growth of garage bands in the wake of punk's do-it-yourself rebelliousness. Sprouting small recording and distribution outlets through which new sounds could reach the same stranded bored agains. The indies attracted avant-garde experimental, sometimes minimalist, sometimes synthesised, always "underground" people/sounds.

Now there was a new side to the music as an art form - a sort of expressionist street theatre. But the countercultural feel of the "new modernists" wasn't the drugs, psychedelia, the bomb, or the back to nature retreatist resistance of the sixties - it was (in the critically respected groups' cases) now a doomy expression of life in bleak industriolist over-mechanised Britain.

Joy Division are perhaps the best of the independents. The lyrics were written by Ian Curtis who committed suicide last year as (who knows?) the last desperate expression of his alienation. Angst-filled - they are an intensely personal vision of one individual's particular social milieu. Swells of Gothic-like intensity surround his voice - a remarkably original and feeling sound (but you can dance to it!) recognised as excellent, everywhere.

Joy Division, Echo and the Bunnymen, the Monochrome Set and more emerged last year and the year before as art school graduates/dropouts into wearing raincoats and long fringes. But now - social realism. Social realists in that they composed music environmentally perfect - it WAS their (sometimes quite awful) physical surroundings.

Note: the music press's unhappiness with the latest Clash album - Strummer's lot tried to be convincing left wing radicals, but the album veered towards pretty vacant sloganeering (from the vanguard!) Critics said the Clash had lost musical direction - but also suggested that "politics" (critical realism if you like) in music wasn't fashionable any more.

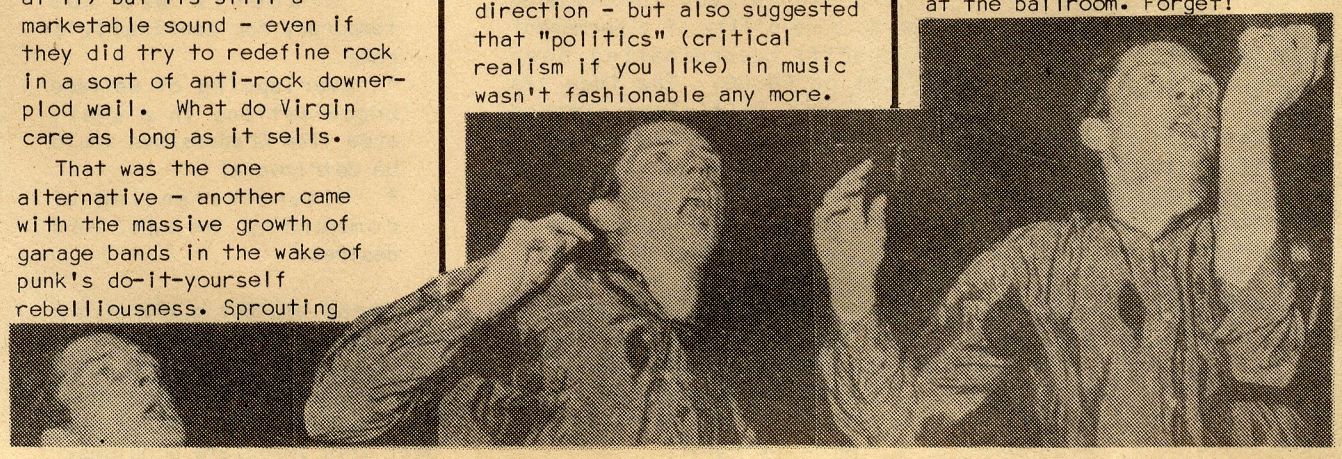
The quiet aside of someone I read somewhere: "personal politics are much more important" - is maybe indicative of the direction the British "new wave" is heading. Someone else in the music press called the heavily "political" Pop Group indulgent, pretentious idealists in distress. Resistance politics are out, it seems.

But the other alternative was the trend, the fad, the harkback, the finely constructed, immediately "popular" medium - when punk got too secular and boring, ha! NEW WAVE. True, it did try to toss out the muchness of its predecessors - music became an exercise in creating quick, fast catchy pop songs, usually with a quirkiness which was identifiably "new wave". So - Blondie, the Cars, the Motels, XTC, Devo, Ramones and lots more. And of course the Police. Suddenly it was all exciting again with groups producing challenging music by exploiting the past to create a new late seventies sound. Though not really new.

But the sharper entrepeneurs, niftier showpeople and just plain exhibitionists had other ideas. New wave's thin tie pointy shoes short hair and badges were plain, ordinary. Change!

Yes, now its Red Indian chic, p(i)rat(e)s and the new dandyism. Adam Ant spent four years as a boring old punk doing nothing exciting then popped up all made up with some new people as the Most Exciting New (new?) Act of 1980. And Best Dressed. He found a catchy drumbeat, glamorous trousers, eyeliner - now he's a pinup - a new star! Bugger social realism or any bloody realism -let's dress up, forget doomy dejected angst - have a ball, the concert's nearly over.

Malcolm McLaren creates BowWowWow - an image more than a group - around the perfect pop riff, popularised illegal home taping (press flurry) and funny pirate hats and cutlasses. Richard Strange and Spandau Ballet are the new fops - dandy coming out night at the ballroom. Forget!



Then there were (and still are) the old institutions who were good enough to avoid being caught up in the new valueism - Bowie, Iggy Pop, Ry Cooder, and Springsteen. (And etcetera of course). Unique because they could still produce unboring music without having to pillage the(ir) past too much or be too self-consciously "new". So if Bowie drew on the post modernist fringe for Scary Monsters - good - he didn't exploit the mood, the feel, the tension of Liverpool and Manchester, 1979/80. So too the rest - no patent painted lookalikes.

Two tone, ska and an awfully belated reggae-consciousness.....the Selecter arguably hopped and skipped ska better than their sixties predecessors. The Specials made it lots of fun to be black and white and popularly political at the same time. Madness created a new beerdrinking bop around it. Nutty skinheads.

UB40 made reggae a studio perfect, clinically "popular", every riff in place, nice clean sound, immensely catchy album and people wondered why they didn't like reggae all the time before. So:::::::::: plunder the past and forget the future.

The crass face of Americo-pseud punk -the Dead Kennedys: "Nice middle class American kids form stereotype punk band, desecrate patriarchical family name to garner cheap but very extensive publicity and attack their own sheltered lifestyle in anticipation of becoming rich enough to enjoy an even cosier existence." (Review of DK single).

Demystify sex? - a la sixties free love? - Wendy O Williams of the Plasmatics pretends she's screwing a sledgehammer on stage and waggles her boobs all stuck with black insulation tape. Pshew - demystify? Nooit. Where to now?

There's still a market for heavy metal - so what more natural than a heavily promoted "new wave of heavy metal"? Judas Priest, Def Leppard, Saxon, Samson, Angelwitch etc. Posed macho wankers heaving their axes around and shaking their woolly heads. Someone once called them "flash berks with nothing to say and ten thousand watts to say it with". Enough. But insight - another person says HM kids have no other outlet, just headbanging, no job - pissed on the ground waiting for something, anything offering more hope. Fascism's ready army. HM has no pretensions to rock against racism/thatcher/nukes, nothing. It attracts fascists - turn right?

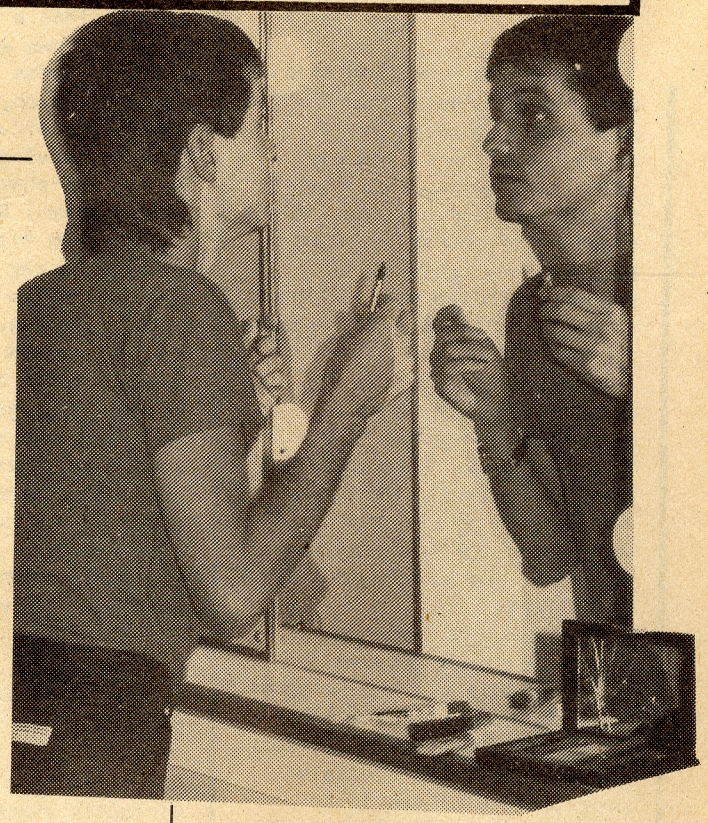
But.....the Jam became Britain's most popular band in 1980 - the NME readers' poll listed them as top or in the top fifteen of virtually every category. Paul Weller nearly won best haircut. Why the Jam? I suppose poetic angry verse placing social criticism in a believable context (people can relate to it) - and consistence in the insistent, clearly "Jam sound". What else but the perfect pop group? And the Beat, the best redefined pop/ska/whatever - good. New hope for the eighties? Look left!



above and left: IAN CURTIS of Joy Division

CAT — CONCEITED ARROGANT & TRITE

.....SO WHERE AT WERE THESE CATS, WHERE AT MAN? - AND WHAT WERE THEY DOING IN GRAHAMSTOWN ANYWAY? I IMAGINED A LEAR JET LANDING ON THE MONUMENT ROOF OR MAYBE THEM PARACHUTING OUT OF A HELICOPTER A LA HOLLYWOOD GLITTER AND GLAM, BUT THIS WAS NOT TO BE, THEY WERE DOWN AT BAGS' POSSIE MEDITATING. BIT OF A COMEDOWN FOR THE "HOTTEST BAND TO COME OUT OF THE 'STATES' THIS DE-KADE."



JOHN

The opening night had been cancelled, only 80 people turned up "It wasnt enough people to really play for."

"Where are they ?... Please Mr Radio Rat can't we just see them, just for a little while..at least."
"Well!..OK..IF you promise to nice."

"GEE thankssomuch zip!"

Eventually we get backstage but only after multiple encounters with a backstage controller yelling "I KID YOU NOT!" do we wind our way through a maze of passages.. and..into THE HaLL.of FaMe. We pass the drummer Bruce Young warming up in the dance room,...flex one two bound three four... gazing at himself longingly in the mirrored walls. He certainly looks Clean and Athletic.

ONTO the change room to meet these other cats.... **BURST™** frenzied activity. They weren't the type to sit around tuning guitars or practice voice harmonies. No Not these cats, RIPPing off clothes much to the delight of their solitary female admirer, "Oooh I say, a Rock Stars winkie!!"

Crista, the Keyboards player, is getting into his hair. Standing in Greenstockingtights, hair brushed straight back from his head...been brushing it back for about ten minutes, John Huff, bass, touching up his cheek bones -"Aaa Glam Rock."
R*"Why call yourselves **CAT**?"
John* "Partly because its true and partly as a joke."
R*"So you'd see yourselves as opposite to the Dead Kennedys and the Plasmatics?"
J*"Yeah, those are real punks man, were WIERD.. but we like to have fun. "Steve joins in "Plasmatics are a little closer, not really musically, but theyre just WIERD!!"
R*"Why come to SA ?"
J*"Were WIERD... and its far out and far away..no one comes here."
S*"We just play rock and roll for the sake of it, we're having a good time. This tour of SA was financially a catastrophe but we wanted to go somewhere totally WIEERDD.Our manager used to live here and he suggested we come to SA, so we just went for it you know. We didnt know if we'd make money, we didn't know nothing, We F..K'n played as Hard as we could... the only place we had sort of wierd times...."
John* "I got beat up."
Enter Bruce* "Hi..It's disgusting."



STEVE

Sometime during all this Steve Leach, Guitar & vocals, had given himself the BIG SLASH, that is all the others were putting on make up, but Steve, being the stUd, swept up the cole pencil and brandishing it in true Errol Flynn style glared at his balding cranium with utter contempt..THENSLASHEDATIT WILDly, leaving two rather ragged thick black lines. After stepping back to eye this new facial addition he lunged at it with renewed frenzy and it seemed he must rub the skin from his head. This sudden display of rampant animalism over he turned round to Miss **G** and mouthed MACHOly "I want you to do my lips OK"
R*"Whats you standing in the States?"
S*"Were not famous there, but weve all played for famous bands.."
R*"Like?"
S*"The Beach Boys" Well,why didnt you say so! I MEAN THE BEACH BOYza!
S*"Whether we're good or bad, one thing we do do is Rock and Roll."
R*"How did you all meet?"
S*"Bruce is from Santa Babara actually. Me and John were playing together. Bruce was in another band in town called SPY and we always kept trying to kidnap him without trying to be rude and so we um um...what happened?"
Bruce picks up"I moved down to LA with My band for the summer and after that we broke up. I came back to Santa Babara, DEStitute, PROStitute and blown out."
S*"Bruce was ready for another band"
B*"In other words yes"
R*"So you're not actually from Hollywood?"
Stv*"I mean we live there, we live in Santa Babara and Hollywood, its like the next town you know, SB is like half an hour away..driving."
R*"They're one and the same place?"
S*"WE'RE NOT IN THE SAME PLACE?" R*"They're 1 and the SAME."
S*"Yeah, I mean we're down there 3 or 4 times a week, recording or it depends whats going on."
R*"So you see your CAT image as more of a joke than being serious?"
S*"JOKE?no,no not really. Not a joke so much. We don't take drugs(John is rapidly finishing a bottle of some strange imported liquer)..we don't smoke, that kind of scene, you know, we do all this exercising and that kind of shit. So I mean in a sense its serious you know. We're not trying to get a whole bunch of kids into thinking its hip to pack your nose. To set no example at all is better than setting a bad example..ARE THOSE GUYS PLAYING THAT F..KING SONG!!"
R*"Are you going to play it as well?"
S*"SHUT UP YOUR FACE?"



After that insult, we thought we'd go chat to Crista as he was all dressed up with nowhere to go, Yet. He'd coaxed his hair into a pony tail at the back,.."but he's got such a widows peak! ... I hasten to guess that he's patterned it there deliberately,..mmm..twin arm bracelets, He's the keyboards player...His BoLLLs are sticking out ...you can see his BOLZ!!!..ask him what his name is"

R*"Crista, sorry Crista, What is your surname?"

Crista*"Crista"

R*"Have you got a surname?"

C*"Thats it, thats the whole thing, its my surname, my middle name, my first name."

R*"Why havn't you got a surname?"

C*"It is my surname."

R*"WHAT is your surname, why do you keep it a secret?"



C*"It is my surname, I used to have other names that's my last name,so I don't use my middle name, my first name or any of my other names. That is my surname,I just don't have a first name."

BRUCE

R*"How do you like SA?"

C*"It's all right."

R*"Why did you come here?"

C*"Everybody in LA was going on vacation..so we decided to go somewhere and thought this would be a good place to come, rather than Germany or the UK 'cos everybody goes there."

R*"How have your concerts been?"

C*"Really good, people really liked us."

R*"And last night when only 80 people turned up?"

C*"It wasn't enough people to really play for."

R*"Were you dissapointed?"

C*"It's like really a small town you know, our manager thought it would be good to play here for two nights but obviously it wasn't....these people (thats you students) are really slow to catch on to these things you know. I ran into this guy in the hardware store..HE didn't BE-lieve the poster...he didn't think we were from America?!"

R*"What kind of audience are you hoping to capture in America?"

C*"Young kids from 11 to 15."

R*"What kind of music would you say you play?"

C*"Sort of half way between like a POP Rock and Roll. Sort of New Wave Underground."

Meanwhile things R hotting up as the performers psych themselves for the concert. The crowd's being treated to Taxi (PE's top group?). Steve yells "Turn that awful sound off." His own portable tape blares out AC/DC..."Its one of the influences..yes..it's heavy metal leather rock, such as that may be, involves wearing a lot of makeup, posing in front of mirrors, wearing pointed JAM? shoes.

The one small chap with the silver bracelet is wearing David Byrne's haircut...GOOD GRIEF! we have a SAXON Drummer!!, A SAXON DRUMMER, wearing high pointed..." a scream.."HHIIIIIWAYYY TO HELLLL" breaks this impromptu commentary, but not for long"...and he thinks he's AC/DC's lead guitarist. Posing in front of the mirror, posing as half teenybop rockers."



"Steve Leach is fighting with his Chair, he's pretending he's a lion keeper...posing...clicking his fingers to AC/DC." Much wild primal screaming and demented laughter. During all this Crista has been expounding his theory of how to promote a band in South Africa, Am I hip to this am I hip to that 'orridly boring.

What to say about the concert? They did a lot of lying down, removed quite a bit of their clothing and certainly got the G-town populus vibing in parts. Broke their word a number of times too. "We gonna bOOgie now, OK, I want everybody to dance on the stage."

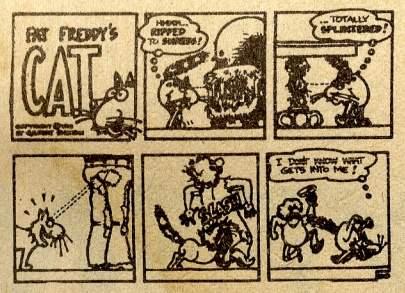
This was about the most exciting part. Mike Sis, RHODEO SPORTS EDITOR!!!leapt from the third row onto the stage and really showed them what K-lean, ATHletic and taLENted is all about. Steve proceeded to sit (this and lying down were his **BIG** things) while ZIP zippedharassed trying to entice Mike from the stage with an RMR sticker "Der station uber alles." Later it was "all those girls we didn't meet and anyone else we're going to have a big party on the stage and we want you all to come."

All I saw was the iron curtain and people walking up the stairs going "aw gee". If they're so WEIRD why don't they call themselves WEIRD - come an watch the geek. I saw post punk phil and asked him what he thought of CAT.

"Cok Rok..I mean R3 a 'head' is far too expensive. There must be a million bands like them on the West coast. It's all bin done before. He's a boring old fart. They say direct from Hollywood but they've been in Jo'burg two months..didn't make it there either I might add. Toward the end of the concert you should be getting climatic, THEY start piano solos...there was somethin lacking the whole time."

Originality?

"They just sounded like everyone else." Not even like everyone else but trying to sound like everyone else. "But they didn't sound like anyone else they should have sounded like."



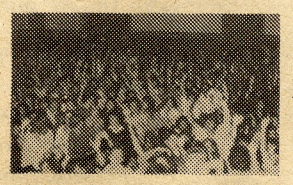


The epic continues... more mass meeting memories

from centrespread.

Some similar points: **"I signed the petition and I have since heard, as a lot of people who signed Mr Bagraim's petition petition didn't know, the other side of the story before signing the petition. (cheers). The other side of the story is that the anti-affiliationists were offered the chance to form a committee. The SRC did tell campus that they were going to affiliate. Everybody knew that. If you didn't form an anti-affiliation committee, the SRC would affiliate. The SRC must assume from that there's no opposition."**

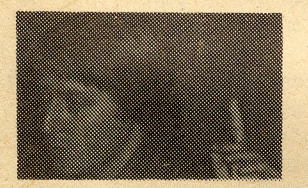
THE MOTION, SCENE TWO



The petition is forgotten, and debate careers forward. A first year tells the meeting that he didn't get involved in anti-campaigning because his degree is too time-consuming. He's supported by others from the floor. Of course...as with everything else in the meeting, there's someone who takes the directly opposite line. Par for this particular course.

Interesting theories emerge: **"As to whether the first years can vote, I can entirely understand that when it comes to members standing for the SRC - like Mr Campbell - we don't really know what their policies are, so I can understand that we don't vote. But when it comes to Nusas, some of us here have done a bit of national service, we know what out views are."** (jeers). He's told he doesn't know his arse from his elbow, and offers to show the interjector that he does. Lightish relief. Many speakers say a referendum is the only way to gauge student opinion. SRC members agree and say they tried every way to have one. Both parties arn't listening to each other, and repetition doesn't help. The point remains pointless.

WHAT THE BUTLER SAID



Guest star time...and last year's SRC President gets permission to speak. Chris Butler, who's travelled from Cape Town for the meeting, gets the compliment of s subdued hall. People seem pleased to see the local boy back home - and curious at what he'll have to say. He's quick to remind everyone that he was a key speaker against affiliation less than a year ago. But, he says, he's changed because Nusas have changed. **"I ended off a speech last year on a similar platform, that if Nusas expressed more tolerance I would join them. I believe that time is now.**

"The question of first years voting is basically a filibuster...it happens at universities all over the world."

He reminds some of those leading the opposition to the SRC decision that they, as first years, were not allowed to vote in the 1977 referendum; and they didn't complain. Some of them went on to become SRC members, and actually organised election in which first years could not vote.

He endoreses the Nusas theme - students for a democratic future - saying that the organisation is interested first and foremost in human rights and democracy. **"I am a liberal, and a member of the PFP Federal Executive. I think there is a fundamental plank that any liberal must build his platform on...and that is democracy, and civil rights."** This is changing the plane of debate...many don't like it.

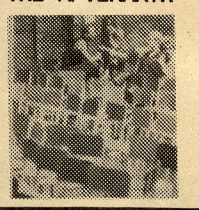
THE MOTION...FINAL SCENE



The chairman accepts a last point...and in the retrospective cold light of morning, it's one that challenges the very fundamental moral basis of those against affiliation. **"As an anti-affiliationist, I'd like to say that before the referendum, I approached a member of last year's anti-affiliation committee, and asked why they had let the side down. The answer I was given was, 'The best thing we can do is not form an anti-affiliation committee, because the SRC will be forced into affiliation, and there will be great throwback!'"**

There was a loud applause, but the implications don't seem to be drawn out. The debate is saturated at this late stage. La Grange sums up...then more procefural controversy over voting. It's resolved, and queues form to cast ballots by candlelight on the Great Hall balcony. The tension subsides, and many start leaving. Hall senior students and others begin counting. It's getting late.

THE AFTERMATH



About one hundred diehards stick out the long wait for the result. Nusas supporters begin to clear up the enormous amount of rubbish in the hall. It's getting later. Then, just before midnight, and just after the news that Ronald Reagan has been shot, the result. 476 students reject the SRC action, and with it affiliation. 359 support it, and there are 64 spoilt papers. Groans from the assembled crowd. Somebody said it had reminded them of a Nazi rally. A chilling thought.

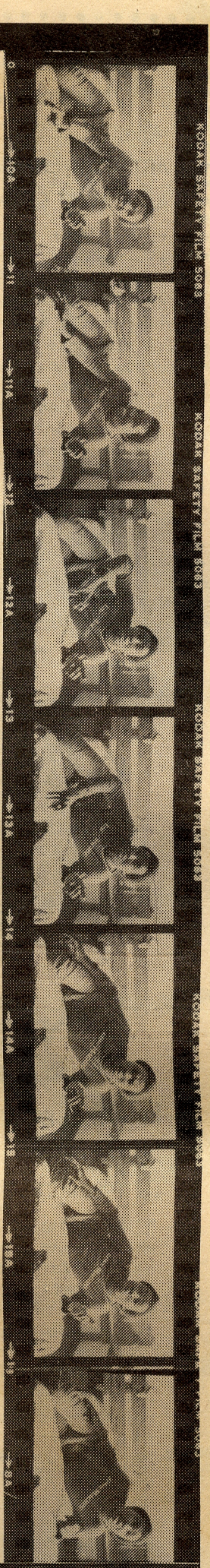
Hall empties.

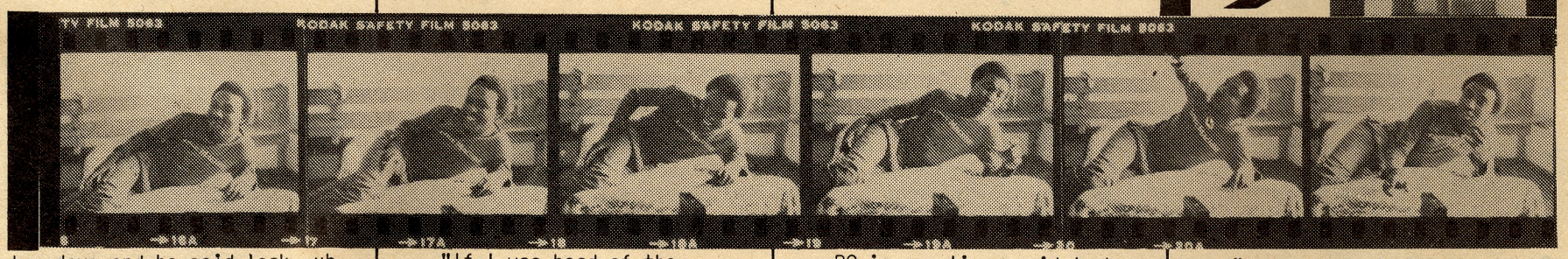
YESNOYESNOYESNO

Ballots on the balcony – and.....the no-no's have it



TABALALA IS SPRAWLED ON





Treasure Tshabalala is sprawled on the bed with a Rothmans - fully doffed out and the clutch of bottles outside his door say why. He's had a rough weekend and various RMR types smilingly say he likes to take a drop. I'm not really sure if he very much wanted to speak to us, but we were there on Sunday anyway - perched on the edge of the two other beds in his bleak yellow motel room. He's gangly and big mellow smiling puff puff cough voice a sort of drawly Amerikanese but warm.

Sooooo...he was born in Soweto, Orlando actually, and grew up there for a while before going to school in Swaziland. As founder member of a group called Exodus he says he took music as a hobby - a "scholastic fantasy," half breathed, half spoken. Since it became your job, tell us how it happened.

"After school I went to Johannesburg where I started working for a living - I had no choice really. Then for some reason or other I lost my job - I was desperate, I really needed a job.

"Then quite by chance I came across and article on Radio SR which mentioned that auditions were still going on. So I thought why don't I try this and see how it goes. I went to Swazi Radio and got auditioned. I then went off - I hadn't been home for two days (I never tell anybody where I'm going - I just disappear) - and when I got back I got told some guy came looking for me desperately and he left this card - Oh! Radio SR - this guy said please make sure that you come to SR as soon as possible.

"Then it clicked in my mind that I went for an audition two days ago. So I went there and saw a guy who told me: Hey man - I like your voice and I feel that you can make it. He told me to go practice - go like a madman. Whether on a bus or a taxi or the bathroom look at the things on the walls and read them loud and that'll give you a lot of practice and then come and see me in two days time. I said alright.

"I went back to him after two days and he said look, uh, I think I can offer you two hours a week. I said well, that's alright, I'll give it a try. I did that two hours from four to six in the morning. After a while I got an additional two hours a week. About forty bucks a week.

"Then one guy left the company and he was doing three hours on Saturday which I got to do. So seven hours a week, still on temperary basis. I stayed like that for about a year just doing part time.

"By then I had improved a lot so I was taken on permanently. But just then, Capital was coming on. Then a friend of mine put me through to the guy in charge of the whole thing. So I got in touch with Capital and I said listen, I'm interested. We made a lunch date and we arranged that I'd be flown down (to Port St Johns) for an audition. It was cool so I came back, rounded up my things and resigned from Swazi and I came down to PSJ."

Have you changed at all, stuck away in Port St Johns?

"I don't think I've changed really, because I hardly ever stay in that place - weekends I'm either in East London, Durban or some other place you know. Or I occasionally go up to Johannesburg - maybe once a month at my expense."

Tell us the story behind Allan Pearce. Why was he fired?

"I wouldn't say he was fired...as far as I know Allan Pearce resigned - he had differences with management."

What kind?

"Personal differences which I wouldn't know about."

What about his warnings?

"Look, I've had warnings myself - it happens to everybody. Our places are on the other side of the river and the pont breaks down half the time. So often it's impossible to get to work on time."

But that's not why he got fired!

"Oh, come on."

There's a story here for sure.

"What's the story?"

The last days of Allan Pearce in Port St Johns.

"I don't know. I don't talk about Allan Pearce, as I say he's a buddy of mine."

Has Capital got fewer listeners now?

"Ja, he was very popular and some people might just stop listening."

Will he be allowed to come back?

"If I was head of the station, I tell you I'd take him back."

What does manana (AP's nickname) mean?

"The King of the Road."

Will Capital stay at PSJ?

"I don't think it'll move, the whole Capital atmosphere is PSJ - the Wild Coast."

How important is government pressure against certain statements made over the air by certain deejays on Capital?

"Which government?"

Matanzima's. Do they complain or give warnings about political statements made?

"No not at all. Actually the Transkei government has nothing to do with the running of the station."

How does your show work?

"I got to take care of almost a cross section of the population in order to keep up the numbers, which is what the business is all about. So I've got to play commercial music. But I'm basically pushing a message. Whether it's about love, about pain, joy, whether it be political or you know. Whatever, it's a message. My target is everybody - white, black, Indian, coloured - across the board."

How do you choose your music?

"I wouldn't choose a disc because of its political inclination only. I look at the music content, the lyrics, the instrumental richness. To me, Rasta music is good, but instrumentally its lacking. Also punk - there's more emphasis on the words, the instruments are secondary. I like a balance."

Is music reflecting violence in society or is it just commercial?

"It could be both."

What do you think of two tone?

"I appreciate them but I don't know if that type of music can catch up with say the black man in South Africa. You never know."

Can reggae play a significant part in South Africa?

"Yeah...especially if the lyrics are relevent to the situation."

Reggae's rasta ideology seems to tie in with Black Consciousness. Do you support BC?

"Ummmmm...look, as a black man, here in this country it's inevitable that I should support Black Consciousness. I wouldn't say that I support it in a radical manner."

BC is sometimes said to be reactionary, sort of reverse racism...

"I dunno."

Are you happy at Capital?

"Ja, I'm still happy. I wouldn't say I'd stay with Capital for ever, but at the moment it's still gas. But if I get anything better, I'll go."

fotosprawl by DAVE

Will you ever leave Africa?

"No, for patriotic reasons I'd like to speak to my own people, because I feel there's lots and lots to gain from me and they need me more than anybody else."

— JEREMY THOMAS, CHUCK SCOTT & DAVE GREYBE

SPIDER WEBB, OF NEW YORK CITY, AND ONE OF THE WORLD'S BEST TATTOO ARTISTS, ON TATTOOING AS A FORM OF ART:

"I felt that there was still the need for a significant breakthrough which would shatter all the conditional limitations of tattooing. And in response to that need I produced the work 'X-1000'.

"To do it I asked each friend, client and colleague, as I encountered them in the normal course of living, if they would let me tattoo a small X somewhere on the body, in a spot of their choosing.

"The tattoo was conceived of not as any individual X but as a thousand bodies spread out in time and space. Eventually, some would be dead while others were still alive and, finally, there would come a day when the entire piece would be dead, distributed into the earth and seas and air.

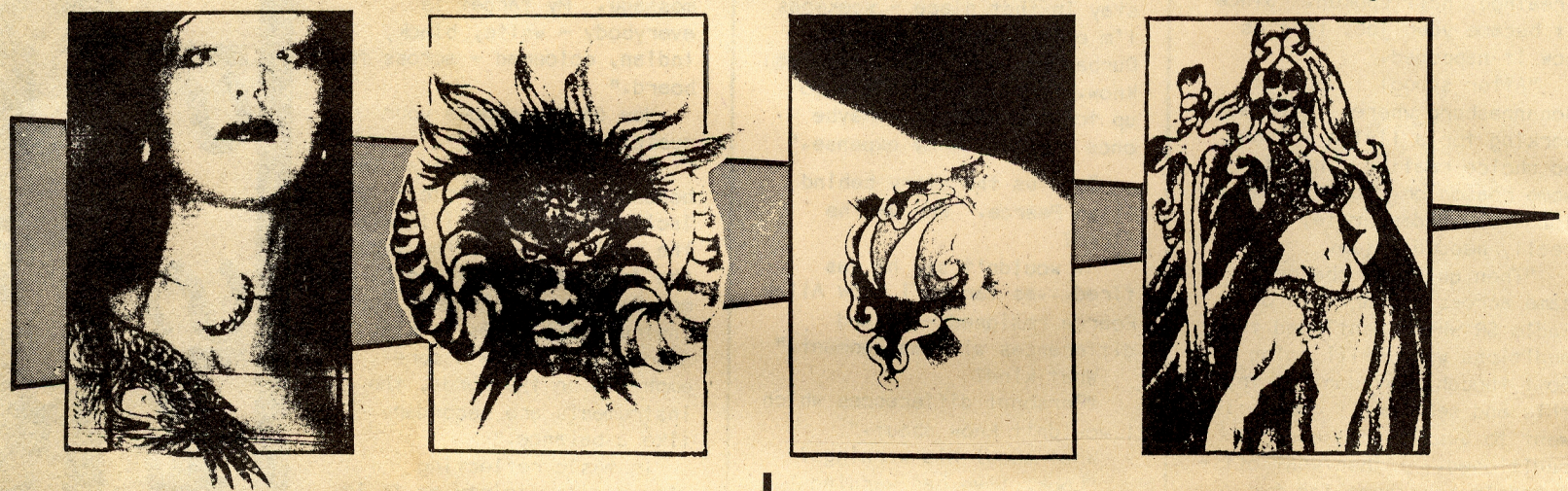
"I did 999 X's and for the thousandth prepared a special event. I asked a friend if he would take the thousandth X, which would be a large X containing as its filler 999 small X's. He agreed and said he wanted the tattoo placed on his calf.

"The tattooing itself was attended by a number of people and treated also as a performance. A photographer and writer recorded the event and the result was a book called X-1000, which was subsequently distributed at the gallery opening where the piece was presented.

"As I stood there watching the hundreds of Soho artists and audience drinking champagne, I with newspaper reporters and television crews moving in and out of the crowd, which included a number of people with extraordinary tattoos, I couldn't help but hold it up against that moment twenty years earlier when, as a fourteen year old boy, I stood in front of the "Brooklyn Baron's" tattoo studio in the back alleys of Coney Island. And I knew that I had witnessed the miracle of the transformation of art form in my own time.

"From this moment on, tattooing is free of the burden of the past while it still incorporates the best which is the gift of tradition. This awakening was perfectly symbolised one sunny Sunday afternoon in New York City. Lord Balkin, whose face and bald head is tattooed, was strolling through Central Park when, all of a sudden, coming from the opposite direction there appeared Salvador Dali, also out for a walk. Dali, who had never met Balkin before, broke out into a huge smile, rushed over, went down on both knees and kissed Balkin's hand. It was his mute and eloquent gesture of appreciation for the tattoo art which Balkin embodied.

"Tattooing, rising from its ashes like the legendary phoenix, is now ready to take its place as both a fully recognised fine art and as the most universal folk art of the global village."



tattoos are there to stay

IT HAS BEEN ARGUED THAT NOT ONLY IS TATTOOING A FORM OF ART, BUT IT IS THE OLDEST ART.

It belongs in a spectrum of body arts which ranges from such extreme practices as the deformation of infants through scarification, circumcision, piercing, teeth filing, cosmetics and - travelling full circle - plastic surgery.

It seems that when humanity had dealt in at least a rudimentary fashion with the problems of survival - food, shelter and defence - we began to make art. And when the aesthetic impulse manifested, decoration of the body was almost certainly its first expression, along with music and dance. Even today we observe children smearing their bodies in play, and adults drawing on plaster casts on broken bones. By analogy, the species, in its infancy, must have taken to covering itself with colour and design.

Evidence for the early existence of tattooing is understandably scarce. Skin does not preserve as well as rock or bone. There are, however, in caves and rock strata in many parts of the world, including France, Portugal and Scandinavia, bowls which date back to 8,000 BC that show traces of black and red pigments together with sharp-pointed flints and "needles" made from bone, splinters, as well as statues showing marks which indicate tattoos.

But, however and wherever it did begin, tattooing came to appear everywhere on earth, in every culture and among every people. Marco Polo reported that even in the heart of China at the height of its power a profusion of tattoos was considered a mark of handsomeness among both men and women.

The dark ages of tattooing began in Europe in the 7th century when the Catholic Church began taking a dim view of what it considered Pagan practice. Up until then tattooing had been practiced by Christians, who wore various symbols on their bodies including the cross, the fish and the eye inside a triangle.

In 787, tattooing was banned and by the Middle Ages it had been forced into the underground, turned into an esoteric and criminal activity.

But when the Europeans began their period of exploration, they rediscovered tattooing, which was still flourishing among many peoples and had reached the status of a high art in Japan.

Ironically, in one of the grand reversals of history, the same art of tattooing which had been effectively abolished in Europe, now returned in the form of fantastic reports and "specimens" brought back as exotic trophies in the same way that lions and giraffes were captured for zoos. This began a tradition of tattooed types which included "The Great Omi", the most famous of the English circus exhibits, whose entire body, including face and head was covered with black and white zebra stripes.

The culmination of this resurgence of interest in tattooing came in 1862 when the Prince of Wales, who later became King Edward VII, had a small Maltese cross tattooed on his arm to commemorate is visit to Jerusalem. When the news got out, tattooing became the rage among the trendy set. Jenny Jerome, Winston Churchill's mother, had a slim braclet placed on her wrist, and Prince George of Greece chose a flying dragon with five colours to be put on his chest.

The tattoo fad in Europe coincided with the invention of the electric tattoo machine by Samuel O'Reilly in New York around 1890. This instrument saved the tattoo artist as much time as the electric sewing machine saved the seamstress. But, as indigenous people were drawn and forced into the tempo and texture of the industrial societies, tattooing as a folk art all but disappeared. And for a while it seemed that it might disappear altogether, relegated to museum status as a quaint antiquity.

But in the 1960's, when a generally revolutionary spirit moved throughout the world, tattooing took new life. The whole field underwent a radical upheaval, which is still continuing and producing a whole new breed of tattoo artists and a fresh approach to tattooing itself. For the first time, numbers of people who are trained in art history and the fine arts are becoming tattoolsts. Tattooing is now influenced by the same ideas which feed other areas of creative expression and thus joins the mainstream of culture.

From its primordial beginnings as one of the central austhetic expressions of humanity, through its development as a folk art mixed with magic, religion and healings, after a millennium of suppression and almost extinction, tattooing is emerging in its full richness and splendour to take its place as a major artistic manifestation in the world.

waiting for the BARBARIANS

Neil Sonnekus still reporting from the Fruit Basket

BEFORE discussing J.M. Coetzee's latest novel, Waiting for the Barbarians, (Ravan Press, 1981) I'd like the reader to keep three quotations in mind, one of them a poem by C.P. Cavafy, from which the title is derived:

"Why have our two consuls gone out, both of them, and the Praetors,/...Why are they wearing bracelets, and all those amethysts too,/And all those rings on their fingers with splended flashing emeralds?/...Because the Barbarians will arrive today./ Things of that sort dazzle the Barbarians."

"In our time the destiny of man presents its meaning in political terms".Thomas Mann.

"Our society appears to be both staid and violent; in any event: frigid" Roland Barthes - The Pleasures of the Text.

Coetzee's novel is more than just disturbing.

At first it is difficult to locate the time and place in which the action is set until one realises that it is in our consciousness. The locale is made up of fragments from the beginning of time up to the present. This includes our dreams, desires, nightmares, movies, pulp and wastelands, among others. Everything, in short, which assaults our senses and perceptions in day to day living.

The present is acutely symbolised by the dark glasses of Colonel Joll, an Empire man, whose task it is to capture, torture and thus tame the Barbarians.

The action takes place on some frontier, a settlement, set in a landscape of extreme heat and cold. It is the dividing line between civilization and barbarism. The author describes this landscape, which does not exist per se, not in this country at any rate, very vividly; literally making the symbolic real instead of the converse.

The land is so overwhelming in our reality and literature but few if any have made it such an active and integral function of the novel. Consider then, if we were crammed into Holland, whether our seperations would be the same. Or likewise, if a man were to wake up one bright, sunny morning and find himself with an extra nose. That he could smell better would not exactly make up for his social embarrassment.

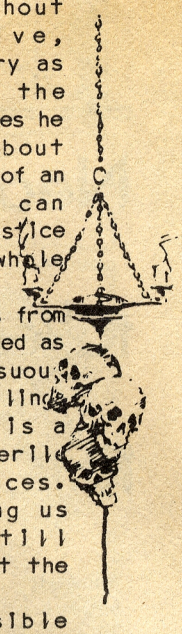
Anyway, on this frontier lives an elderly Magistrate, significantly nameless, (even if he is the narrator, significantly speaking in the present tense)who dabbles in amateur antiquarianism, ie. the past, and women. Then he starts a perversely erotic affair with one of Joll's victims. But "is it she I want or the traces of history her body bears?" Our consciousness may be questionable but a body is absolute. It is definitely there and it definitely communicates (sex) and it definitely rots away and becomes one with the physical earth. Abstract absolutes, as in politics, may take a little longer to rot, but when they do they only leave a bad smell for a short while.

After his affair the Magistrate is outraged by Joll's treatment of the captives. It leads him to say and act the feared word, No, which only leads to physical torture, pushing him way past the frontiers he thought he'd be able to endure, and then to social ostracism; just as the land came before the social beings who inhabit it; just as one sees a person first before you know what (s)he is.

The black irony is that he knows how to escape from his own prison but the only safe place where he can hide is in his old room under his own bed where an ex-concubine proceeds to copulate with a soldier while he snivels centimetres below. Then he is set "free" by simply being ignored to become something similar in status to a settlement dog. To crown it all, then, he returns to office in circumstances which probably reflect our "present political climate", as the editorials would say. That is, a vague, bureaucratic and unchanging present balancing precariously between prospects and rumours of extreme violence, if not complete atomic annihilation.

Coetzee is saying we haven't progressed a millimentre since barbaric times. The Magistrate and his woman only have normal sex, communication outside the settlement in a catastrophic storm, a wry commentary that there only seems to be contact when all the chips are down.

But "to the last we will have learned nothing. In all of us, deep down, there seems to be something granite and unteachable". We are "a swimmer swimming with even, untiring strokes through the medium of time, a medium more inert than water, without ripples, pervasive, colourless, odourless, dry as paper". Only when the Magistrate is tortured does he learn "a great deal about humanity...in the space of an hour (in) a body which can entertain notions of justice only as long as it is whole and well."



All that seperates us from barbarism, a life described as an ever flowing and sensuous present of hunting, killing, copulating and dying, is a sophisticated and sterile coating of these essences. Jolling isn't getting us anywhere. We are still literally beating about the bush.

Knowledge is a possible salvation and suffering the only consolation. Every man, layman and lawyer has to work out his own salvation these days,and by doing so he isn't necessarily going to change anything,but it could be a beginning. Also, we might as well do it beautifully.

This novel is extremely well written. That is quite a change in itself.



Neal Collins takes a whiff at RHODES SOCCER '81



OUT then go Arde and Berneiri as the soccer club warm up their cardboard socks for another gut wrenching season of EP Premier league football.

In though, come a host of talented young initiates and here to stay - despite rumours of a move to Liverpool - are several of last year's fairly competent bunch of bed wetters.

Malcolm "Dancing Doughnut" Barr comes down from the Transvaal - a man slightly heavier, but still as talented as the Malcolm Barr that skippered the SA Schools side in 1976. Barr, who is also a Nuffeld cricketer, comes into the side to complete a trio of players from the top soccer playing high school in the Transvaal - Lyttleton Manor (he joins messrs Junken and Collins).

An unusual ethnic defender from Namibia that is of Scots descent and tags itself Gerrit MacWiggert looks a good bet for a first team challenge too.

Then on to a man who would look far better with a surfboard under his arm than with a football up his nostril -Marshall J Howard (J for Jimmy). Marshall tells us he played for three years for the great lamented Northern Free State combination - we are inclined to accept this heritage as valid.

Gary Isaacson, the man who has sat so long in the spindly shadow of "Spaghetti Locks" Berneiri will use his ape-like talents to protect a premier league net this season -unless this steady keeper is ousted by one of the fairly talented new lads. Arde describes Isaacson as "a fine man, a good keeper - very steady chap," though we are unable to tell why Gary is then not playing in Port Elizabeth this season.

And what of the old brigade?

Sid Isaacson has returned - though whether he is still worth his weight in gold is a disputable point -inflationary times these...

Ray de Allende challenges Sid and Malcolm as the top dog in the soccer club's "grossest goal grabber" award - he looks confident and bald following the off season break. He will not, he assures me, play for West Germany if he is selected, though he would consider taking up a berth in the Rhodes first rugger side - "cause they get good crowds."

And so on to "Denter" Venter, the Rhodesian who is stricken with the very un-Smithsonian habit of slicing the ball to the left. Then Mike Domann who can walk on water as long as he's got a football at his feet and the little band of goose stepping German's from the hill and the occasional hysterical outburst from the rest of the raving bunch.

And coach Butch Nunn? "I don't care what happens as long as the blokes give a hundred percent and refrain from smoking their bibles at half time."

SPORT SHORTS

Summer Intervarsity Results

CRICKET: Playing for the Benson and Hedges trophy, UPE defeated Rhodes by four wickets. Rhodes batted first and got off to a slow start. Jameson and Millar (again) made an invaluable stand for the fourth wicket, Jameson eventually being dismissed for 69 and Millar for 41. UPE were left to score 186 runs in 60 overs and achieved this with four wickets in hand.

SWIMMING: Rhodes narrowly won the swimming with women tipping the scales in Rhodes' favour. S Beakman swam well for Rhodes.

ATHLETICS: The women were resoundingly defeated by 66 points to 9. The men fared much better with people like Nic Lanham and Mark Horn featuring.

WATER POLO: Rhodes won both games with the 1st Team winning 5-3. In a closely contested affair, the new Rhodes goalkeeper produced a fine performance with a string of immaculate saves.

SQUASH:
The women's side, captained by Carolyn Mills, will be playing in the EP League for the first time this year. A new player with great potential is Kim Soutter.

The men's section features a number of up-and-coming new players. Alan Eyre and Johan Maree are challenging for places in the side and with players like Robinson, Cunningham, Painter and Martens, the side can only go from strength to strength.



pics by Photonik

UNISEX HOCKEY LEAGUE

This year both men and women will play in the E.P. League with both sides remaining similar to last year.

For the men, players like Hornby, Collins, Cooper and Tavesham are still around. Only Hersh and Bechet are missing from last year's side. Sandy Fisher-Hill is a new acquisition from UPE and will undoubtedly add more all-round stability to the side. With more punch up front, Rhodes must surely be amongst the leaders again this year.

RHODEO spoke to Bev Dickson of the women's side who commented that the overall standard must improve with a return to the stronger E.P. League, and also said travel costs would be decreased. The old faces like Zeller, Hammond, Dickson, the Buchanans and 'Skrik' Roodt will ensure Rhodes makes a good start. The first league match will be against the feared (not by Rhodes standards) UPE side on 8th April.



FORMER UPE hottie, Daryl van der Vywer, won a Rhodes surfing competition held off Kowie East Pier recently.

Border junior, Colin Hall, introduced himself with second place in, for a change, 4 to 6 foot sizzlers. Sandy Sarantos proved that accidents happen in competitive surfing. He had to have 13 stitches in his calf after van der Vywer's skeg ploughed into him.

Last year Rhodes managed a dignified third place at SAU with Mike Loewe and Bryce Webster doing well.

It is rumoured that another contest will be held to complement the selection for this year's Cape St. Francis trippers and the UPE Intervarsity

'It's effing ridiculous!'

BY NEAL COLLINS

THE RHODES soccer side faces the daunting prospect of another gruelling season in the Eastern Province premier division this year - and they will do so without the services of Springbok skipper Louis Arde and South African Universities goalkeeper Angelo Berneiri.

Both Arde and Berneiri, stalwarts in the purple and white for the past two seasons, have decided to make a move to Port Elizabeth club, Hume Park. The reaction from footballing fans on campus is decidedly negative.

"It's f...ing ridiculous," said one irate student. "Why can't they settle their differences with the club and make a go of it?" - a point of view shared by many who have heard of the move.

Arde justifies his decision to let Rhodes do battle without him quite simply. "I am in my late twenties and I just feel a move to a decently run club would be beneficial as far as my footballing career goes. I've always taken my football seriously and at this stage I am not prepared to play social football!!!!"

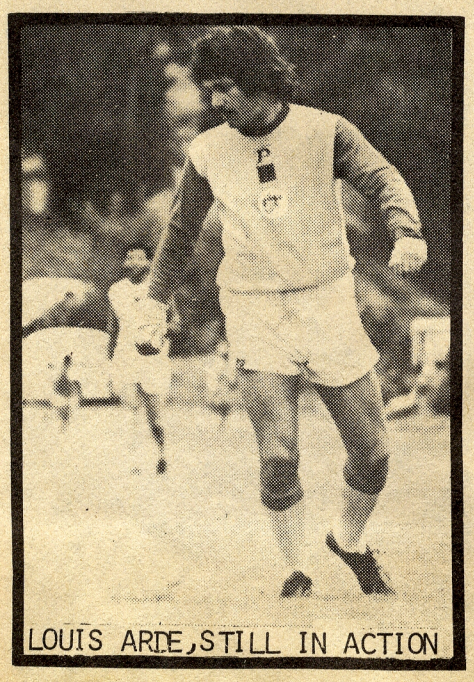
Angelo, the lanky reflex keeper better known on campus as the "Italian Stallion", has similar feelings. "I feel I can go further sticking with Louis as I have done in the past. At least I'll be going to a club that plays football (ha, ha)" - yet Rhodes defeated Hume Park 5-0 and 4-2 last season and finished above them on the premier league table.

The other side of the story is that both players wish to go to the South African Universities tournament in Bloemfontein in July. The SAU select side are to go on an overseas tour in 1982, and both players would like to regain their places having represented SAU last year.

At the end of last season Arde was not awarded soccer colours by the Rhodes Soccer Club committee as they felt he had missed too many matches - though he did play in 22 out of the 26 games last season, well above the required 75%. Arde was obviously disgruntled by the decision and pointed out that his academic responsibilities (he is married and obviously cannot afford to drop a year) and his duties as a house Warden required certain sacrifices.

"I maintain that I put in 100% last season" said Arde at the time. As things turned out, the experienced centreback was eventually offered his colours by the Sports Union after a series of meetings where both the soccer club and Arde were given a chance to air their views.

Though Arde refused his colours, the university went on to award him the Rhodes Sportsman of the Year award for the second year running after he was selected captain of the Springbok squad at last year's Currie Cup tournament in East London for the fourth consecutive year. Arde was also awarded the State President's award for soccer in 1979.



LOUIS ARDE, STILL IN ACTION

Meanwhile Bernieri will join his mentor at Hume Park this season. Bernieri faces a problem next year because Arde and his little maroon Volkswagen will trundle off back to Durban to do Phys Ed honours. Bernieri will either have to find alternative transport for his weekly trips to PE or swallow his resolve and return to the Rhodes camp.

At present both players are training with Protea United, Grahamstown Football Association side and will travel to PE for matches only - relying on their GFA Sunday matches for training.
So the matter stands until the Rhodes/Hume Park encounters this season. Two interesting clashes these should prove...

RHODES 0, GFA 1

BY NEAL COLLINS.

THE POURING rain proved to be the downfall of the Rhodes soccer team as they crashed to a suprising 1-0 defeat at the hands (feet?) of a Grahamstown Select XI on King Field on Monday night.

In this season"opening friendly encounter the Rhodes side were pitched against a strong local combination that was led by ex-Rhodes skipper Louis Arde and included SAU keeper Angelo Berneiri, provincial striker Paul Wepener and a host of players who have made strong their reputation on the uneven sward of Fiddlers Green.

It took just an isolated slip by Gerrit MacWiggert, the Scots Namibian, making his debut in the right back slot, to put Wepener away in the drizzle. Wepener, resident in Grahamstown while on the books of a company in town, made no mistake from the edge of the area to leave keeper Gary Isaacson stranded in the mud.

Shortly afterwards Rhodes scrambled a strong effort off the line and it looked like another Dunkirk as Arde Wepener and Accounts lecturer Rob Jackson lambasted the students' goalmouth.

The welcome half time break came and went to find "Super" Sid Isaacson getting it together with the new members of the Varsity forward line for the first time in the match. The vain chase for the equaliser went on for much of the second half, but probably the best strike of the second half came from the ever effective Arde, who cracked a rocket from thirty yards that slid past the post.

The only blot on this tough but straight forward encounter came when Arde turned to take a swing at the retreating ankles of student winger Marshall Howard - alledgedly in retaliation for an earlier incident. This in spite of the fact that Arde had been the one to call for a "clean game lads" before the match.

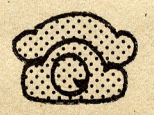
So a demoralising defeat by a side that can make no real claim to Eastern Province Premier league status. Coach Butch Nunn said after the game he was "reasonabley pleased" with the way things went, though "refugee" Berneiri had this to say: "You boytjies had better do something about your side before the season starts," - perhaps adding still more spice to the forthcoming Rhodes/Hume Park clashes this season.

And so is this...

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RHODES RULE ..out to retain the cup

RUGBY RAMPAGE 44 - 0, 15 - 10

THE OPENING OF THE new season saw the Border Challenge Cup holders, Rhodes in pure winning form.

In a friendly against Albany last Tuesday, the home side gave a brilliant display of running Rugby. The backs looked particularly impressive and made the two new caps, Ernie Alexander (wing) and Mike Renahan (centre) seem as though they had been there all their lives. However, take nothing away from the forwards. From the kick-off they set Albany back on their own try line with a fine forward surge, led by veteran lock Derek Barter. From then onwards it was all Rhodes: Albany never settled down and even when they began to look dangerous, bad handling by their centres let them down.

Rhodes suffered a substantial crisis in the second-half when Mark Simmonds left the field with concussion but they coped adequately and eventually overwhelmed the opposition by 44 - 0.

The Collegians (Rhodes II) were beaten on the same day by 11 - 4, while the Rhodes III beat a Res invitation side by 3 - 0.

With the Albany match behind them, Rhodes went into their final league game full of deserved confidence. The match however turned out to be much closer than perhaps they were expecting. When Simmonds went over for the first try after only seven minutes it seemed as though there would be a repeat of the Albany match. It was not to be. Mansell missed the conversion and a few minutes later the scores were level. Old Boys were back in the game anc Rhodes had a fight on their hands. Rhodes went ahead for a second time through a try by Dale Townsend.

Mansell tailed to convert, and almost immediately Old Boysstruck back with a penalty by Thomson. Half-time score was Rhodes 8, Old Boys 7.

Chris Fisher put Rhodes further ahead in the second half (12 - 7) but Thomson closed the gap with a penalty (12 - 10). Eventually Mansell kicked a penalty to stretch the score to 15 - 10. At this point the tide turned and in the dying minutes Rhodes absorbed immense pressure from Old Boys but managed to hold on until the final whistle.

BORDER NEWS: Chris Fisher (the former Rhodesian U/20) who makes khis debut fro Border against SA Police on Saturday. Derek Barker however will not be available for Provincial Rugby this year.

A close look at Cambridge at the weekend reveals that they are in dangerous form and should present a few problems for Rhodes when they next meet.



pics by Photonik

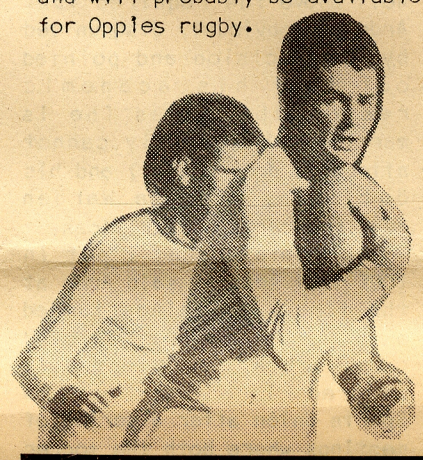
Simmonds - first try of the season. Weakley, Barter and Appel in support.

CHARL'S OUT

CHARL HATTINGH, Grahamstown rugby hero, has announced that he will not be playing rugby for Rhodes this year. Hattingh who has featured so prominently for Rhodes both at centre and 8th man was certainly one of the most exciting and tenacious players ever to represent Rhodes and Border.

The reasons for his decision were purely academic. "Career comes first," said Charl, who found that training three or four nights a week as well as travelling to East London every Saturday, left very little time for study. Earlier last year, he turned down an offer to move to Pietermaritzburg University to take up the "Sports Officer" job.

The good news is that the former Border vice-captain is thinking seriously about making a come-back next year and will probably be available for Oppies rugby.



UNDERWATER MIS...GULP

RHODES Underwater Club has recently been mistakenly criticised in some quarters after the near-drowning of Mike Immelman at the Rhodes pool.

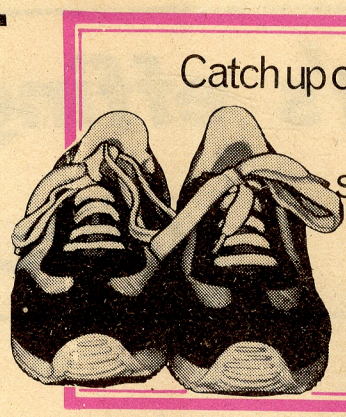
RHODEO spoke to Club member Lex Hollmann about misconceptions arising from the incident.

Underwater Club trainers were at the pool but only one was conducting tests. Immelman was not performing tests for the club at the time but was attempting two lengths underwater. He passed out from lack of oxygen.

Lex, Roy Langley and two other students were there to help Immelman. Mouth to mouth respiration was applied before Immelman was taken to hospital.

"What would have happened if the Underwater Club had not been there?" asked Hollman.

The Underwater Club deserves praise for averting a tragedy. Thanks to them, Mike Immelman is alive today.



THE LEAGUE Championship was temporarily forgotten last week with the League Cup and FA Cup coming to prominence.

In the League Cup Final, Liverpool and West Ham fought out an entertaining 1-1 draw, a fair reflection of play. Ray Clemence's brilliance wasn't enough to stop the Hammers scoring with the last kick of the match.

West Ham are still striding relentlessly towards the 1st division and no one can deny them their rightful place.

The FA Cup quarter finals produced some thrillers. Fans were left shellshocked at the scorching 3-3 draw from the Forest vs Ipswich match. Ipswich won the replay and join Manchester City Spurs and Wolves in the semis.

Ipswich are still heavily engaged in the League Championship and UEFA Cup and may find the going too tough. Under Keith Burkinshaw, Spurs have developed into a side capable of playing successful, but entertaining soccer.

Ardiles, Archibald, Crookes and Hoddle would be a credit to any side, as well as Wembley. No discredit to Wolves and Ipswich, but a Spurs vs City final would set Wembley alight. Manchester City are buzzing again and deserve a crack at the Cup.

Ipswich and Villa are still battling it out for the League title while in the 2nd division things are also hot at the top. West Ham are certainties for the top division but the other two places are very undecided. Notts County, Blackburn, Chelsea, Grimsby and Derby are all up there. Grimsby have quietly moved up the table and no one will begrudge them a top position if they make it.

Liverpool has joined Bayern Munich and Inter Milan in the semi-finals of the European Cup after defeating St Etienne in the last round. Whether Bob Paisley's team have the all round ability to bring the Cup back to England remains to be seen.

Craig Johnson of Middlesborough will be playing for the Reds next season and should provide added flair to a side which has been described as defensive.

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