

activate

Independent student newspaper at Rhodes University
Edition 10, September 2006

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SOUTH AFRICAN



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challenge

The new Dean of Students

By **Ciro De Siena**

Professor Vivian de Klerk has been appointed to the position of Dean of Students at Rhodes University. Currently the head of the department of English Language and Linguistics, De Klerk has assumed partial responsibilities as of September 1, with a full handover to occur on December 1.

Her appointment marks the first ever female deanship at the university. The post attracted 21 applications from across the country, which was then narrowed to six applicants.

The position itself has undergone extensive reconstruction: essentially it has been split in two. De Klerk will take on the dean of students position, while Dr Ian L'ange, who is currently the assistant dean of students, and has been acting dean of students since Dr Moosa Motara's retirement in June this year, will now fill the post of Director of Residential Operations.

"I really didn't like the way the position was structured. It placed more emphasis on the practical aspects of the student accommodation, without much focus on the students themselves," said De Klerk.

De Klerk is a Grahamstonian and old Rhodian of exceptional experience and quality. Born in Grahamstown, she attended Victoria School for Girls, and went on to study at

Rhodes, obtaining her BA, with Honours and then Masters in Linguistics. Additionally, her father served on the Rhodes council.

In 1974, the De Klerk family moved to Johannesburg, where they lived for ten years before returning to Grahamstown.

De Klerk also currently sits on the Board of Residences and the Wardens Appointment Committee, and has been a fellow of Oriel Hall for 10 years now.

She has an NRF rating for research, holding a doctorate in her area of research: sociolinguistics.

De Klerk is no stranger to student

life, having seen her three children through

their studies at Rhodes, with all three going through the residence system and then staying in digs.

She sees the relationship between the university and students as a partnership, both with their own responsibilities.

The new dean sees one of students' greatest challenges as coping with the stress of tertiary education.

"Young people are faced with so many choices, which can become risky if they make uninformed decisions," says De Klerk, who adds that the university doesn't have enough structures in place to help those who stumble.

De Klerk wants to develop and secure a "sense of community on campus", where all students know that they have a space of their own. She hopes that this will go a long way to helping students cope. "There should be something here for every student,

so that they get more than just a degree." She feels that in particular oppidan students are often forgotten, even though they

constitute nearly 55% of the student body. "It's just ineffective that the SRC only has one member representing oppie students who make up the majority of the student body," she said, adding that she would like to see that change.

Interestingly, De Klerk's office will no longer be in the old admin building. Currently eyeing out the Student Union building for office space, she hopes that her moving into the building will help reinvigorate the facility.

Last year, *Activate* reported on the university's plans for the Union building, which included an oppie dining hall. However, almost a year later, that has not materialised.

De Klerk insists that an oppie dining hall will be created, which staff will be encouraged to eat in as well.

De Klerk hopes to be a voice that admin will listen to; she acknowledges that sometimes the students' voice can be silenced by the university's administration. "I know how Rhodes works, and they know my voice," she says.

De Klerk aims to help students better represent themselves by helping them build their own confidence.

A confident personality, she describes herself as a fond mother, a keen tennis player, a lover of fiction and an avid wine taster. "I don't know everything about every wine, but I know what I like."



DAN CALDERWOOD

Highs and lows of the SRC elections

By **Stuart Buchanan and Lauren O'Brien**

Bryony Green is president of the Students' Representative Council for the second year running in one of the most successful elections of recent years; 47% of the student body participated.

Green took the post only after fellow candidate Evan Ford declined the position after he received the largest number of votes. Ford takes on the position of Treasurer.

Fatema Morbi, Thato Ramagaga and Katherine Furman fill the three remaining executive committee posts, vice-president, media councillor and academic councillor respectively.

However this year's elections poster campaigns proved controversial as allegations of foul play emerged days before the final election result was announced.

The SRC's elections officer, Carol Freeman, said she was aware of the rumours but confirmed that the elections were free and fair.

"A lot of candidates have complained about their posters coming down, but it's very difficult to act on that, given the current weather conditions," she said.

She added "The difference this year however is that posters have ended up in dustbins too," which prompts rumours of campaign sabotage.

President Green said now that the election process is over, it is time to start working together and stop questioning team players' ethics.

The success of this year's election is surprising, considering the low turnout at the main SRC grizzle held on August 24 to showcase the candidates' manifestos.

Vice Chancellor Dr Saleem Badat, who was present at the grizzle, said

he was disappointed with the level of student apathy.

"I believe students will always have issues that concern and affect them. This process is an opportunity to shape an agenda in the new SRC," he said. The new VC added that "it seems there is a lack of appreciation of the real powers the SRC has to influence decisions."

Ford, who replaces Mike Winn, said that next year's SRC plan is to "increase visibility amongst students" and "advertise more aggressively" to combat voter apathy.

"Although the SRC work very hard, few are informed about it," he said, adding that "if you want people to be interested and involved in university life, you have to show them that you (as the SRC) are involved and interested". The official handover to the new SRC took place in their first meeting last Saturday.



The new SRC is, from top left: Evan Ford (Treasurer), Katherine Furman (Academic Councillor). Front from left: Fatema Morbi (vice-President), Thato Ramagaga (media). Centre: Bryony Green (President) NIKKI RITCHIE

Editorial



By Xanthe Galanis

The summer of '85 must've been a wild one. By my calculations, nine months and 21 years later puts us right in the middle of this term. Which explains why there are always so many 21sts in August and September. Every weekend for the past two months there's been groups of ridiculously dressed and suitably inebriated pirates, Dutchmen and devils stumbling down New Street. And there's always some party of indiscernible theme that seems to be something along the lines of As Close To Naked As Possible.

Whatever the reason, this term is always a crazy one. If it's not 21sts, hall balls, Tri-Varsity or some other excuse for a wild weekend, then it's SRC elections, Aids Week, Founders' Challenge and every other society and sports club is trying to find a new comm. Which is why, after a year under the illustrious reign of Peter and his team, you've got me giving my two cents worth. To those of you who will no doubt accuse *Activate* of selecting yet another white, middle-class, Joburg poppie as editor, if a disabled, black, gay woman doesn't run then we can't have one. Besides, I'm from Benoni and I don't think anyone from the Far East Rand has ever been accused of being a poppie.

Every time there are elections for anything and new people taking over leadership positions, the same issues arise over who's being representative and who's not. I got all worked up in Anthro last week when someone said they don't have multi-racial friends because of a difference in culture. If anything grates my carrot it's people who try to use something abstract like 'culture' as an excuse for not getting to know someone. I suppose it's naïve to hope that people would stop seeing each other as black or white, gay or straight, male or female, rich or poor and start seeing them as human beings, but we can all dream.

I wonder what would happen if we, or any other society for that matter, found the perfectly politically correct individual. My guess is that we'd be accused of being PC for the sake of being PC and not for allocating positions on merit. You can't win can you?

Speaking of people who did win, Bryony Green is back in her old job as SRC president (page 1). Unlike last year, we proved that not all students are as apathetic as the academic staff would like to believe and managed to reach quorum in a free and fair election. Another woman taking the reigns is Professor Vivian de Klerk, Rhodes University's first gender representative dean of students (page 1), and since she's already promised to fix the leak in the *Activate* ceiling it looks like she'll do a great job.

As well as Aids Week (page 3), we've had the Rhodes Women of the Year Awards (page 3) and the Christians@Rhodes mission, where we managed to pin down Baby Jake Matlala for an interview (pages 3 & 6). Gary Kirsten was also in town this week (page 15) and last weekend was Founders' Challenge and the Sports Personality Gala Evening (page 15).

Have an awesome vac, short as it is. Even 10 days of home cooking is better than nothing!

See ya, Xanthe.

Letter to the editor

Response to Praeg's Centenary Lecture

The Editor, *Activate*

In his Centenary Lecture for the Rhodes Debating Society (August 17) Dr Praeg opened the space for a rational discussion of anti-Americanism. Regrettably, he also misconstrued Rhodes' approach to internationalisation.

Internationalisation is guided by the Internationalisation Policy (<http://www.ru.ac.za/intranet/policies/Internationalisation.doc>). We do not see internationalisation as an element of the ideology of globalisation. The policy makes special mention of the importance of links with other African universities.

Dr Praeg tried to expose a different hidden agenda. He offered two bits of evidence: a quote from the former VC, Dr David Woods; and the list of our exchange partners.

Dr Woods, some years ago, pointed out that Princeton University was excellent. Dr Praeg took this to mean that our academic ideal should be the US. He misunderstands the context. In those days – before the mergers – many powerful voices were claiming that Rhodes was too small, thus could not be excellent, and had to be merged. Dr Woods was arguing that since small size does not prevent Princeton from being world-class; exactly the same holds for Rhodes.

He was making a very different point – not the one attributed to him.

At present Rhodes has functioning student exchanges in the US (4), Canada (1), the UK (2), Australia (1), the Netherlands (1) and Sweden (1). The relatively tiny number of 16 Rhodes students and 15 incoming students are involved. We have no such exchanges with institutions in the rest of Africa. So, Dr Praeg infers, we must be anti-African. It just doesn't follow. Exchange agreements form only one facet of the complex process of internationalisation. Rhodes hosts 1 271 international students from the SADC and the rest of Africa – 89% of our international students are African.

Moreover, no South African university has a functioning student exchange agreement with another African institution as far as we know. Nico Jooste, Director of the Office of International Education at the NMMU, confirmed this in a presentation at a colloquium on August 24. The obstacles are practical, not ideological.

Let us encourage discussion and debate about the important process of internationalisation. Let us show interest in the facts and awareness of practical complexities. Let us avoid a priori cynicism.

Marius Vermaak
Dean: International Office



The expired medicine party at Olde 65



STACEY NEL

Pharmacy Week

By Jennifer Campbell

Pharmacy Week ran from September 1 to 7 and aimed to increase disease awareness on campus, with a focus on HIV/Aids in particular. The week formed part of a national competition run by the Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa to recognise the role pharmacists play in providing the community with information about medicines and diseases. Rhodes is competing with seven other pharmacy schools from across South Africa, with winners being announced early next term.

The week's line-up included an

expired medicine party at Olde 65, a fun day and a movie evening. A clinic day was held where students are invited to test their blood pressure and glucose levels. Professor Santy Daya addressed students about drugs which are used to treat brain disorders.

The Rhodes University Pharmacy Students Association, who play an active role in Pharmacy Week, is involved in several community initiatives, such as visiting a children's ward at Settler's Hospital, retirement homes in Grahamstown and two local primary schools where members help educate scholars about HIV/Aids.

RMR guns for world record

By Setumo-Thebe Mohlomi

Third-year journalism student and Rhodes Music Radio (RMR) breakfast DJ, Robin Vember, will attempt to break the Guinness world record for the longest live and uninterrupted radio show, to be broadcast on 89.7FM.

The record currently stands at 125 hours and is held by Italian radio host Stefano Venneri.

The South African record stands unofficially at 52 hours, set by Tuks FM using a team of DJs.

Vember's attempt at the record will begin at 7am on Monday, September 18, at the recently revamped RMR studios in the Student Union building.

Apart from an effort to secure the world record, the attempt is also a drive to raise funds for Ikhaya Losizo, the Grahamstown safe house project.

According to Guinness world record requirements, listeners should hear Vember introduce every song he plays either before or after the track has played. This means that he needs to speak approximately every six minutes.

The requirements also stipulate that anyone being interviewed cannot

speak "for more than one minute" continuously and that a "15 minute break must be taken every eight completed hours of activity." Vember says that after this, he will "definitely need to pee."

Vember's physical and mental health during the week-long radio show is of primary concern. The attempt requires a qualified, practising member of the medical profession to be present at all times.

Rhodes University's health suite has drawn up a document giving Vember dietary and health advice for the preparation, execution and recovery from the attempt. The Rhodes Psychology department has also agreed to assist Vember.

Vember said that the amount of time he aims to break the record by "depends on how I'll feel at the time".

The attempt coincides with RMR's 25th birthday this year.

Anyone interested in making a donation towards the drive, acting as a witness or participating as an official for Vember's world record attempt should contact Vember at:

breakfast@rmr.ru.ac.za.

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FOUNDERS' CHALLENGE 2006:

Rhodents don speedos and running shoes to swim, canoe, cycle, orienteer and run to raise money for charity.

Pics by: Matthew Middleton, Geoffrey Wakefield and Karolina Komendera




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<p>KNOW YOUR DIGS-MATES BY THEIR ECONOMIC TYPE:</p> <p>#1: "DADDY'S LIL INVESTOR" MOST OFTEN HEARD SAYING: "GIRLFRIEND! HA! IF I HAD ONE I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO PUT HALF MY MONTHLY ALLOWANCE INTO SAVINGS!"</p>  <p>MOST LIKELY TO: MAKE MILLIONS THROUGH HIS INTERNET PORN SITE. AS WELL AS BE ITS MOST VALUED CUSTOMER.</p>	<p>#2: "THE OVER-COMPENSATOR" MOST OFTEN HEARD SAYING [TO WAITERS AND CAR-GUARDS]: "MY DAD GIVES ME MORE MONEY IN A WEEK THAN YOU EARN IN A YEAR!!"</p>  <p>MOST LIKELY TO: SPEND HIS MONEY ON MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR FOOD-POISONING AND GETTING HIS SLASHED TYRES REPLACED.</p>	<p>#3: "MS THRIFTY" MOST OFTEN HEARD SAYING: "I'LL HAVE FUN WHEN I RETIRE."</p>  <p>MOST LIKELY TO: DIE OF A MASSIVE STRESS INDUCED HEART-ATTACK A MONTH BEFORE RETIREMENT.</p>	<p>#4: "THE BORROWER" MOST OFTEN HEARD SAYING: "CAN YOU SPOT ME 50 BUCKS? I SPENT ALL MY MONEY LAST NIGHT CELEBRATING THE 1ST OF THE MONTH."</p>  <p>MOST LIKELY TO: ONE DAY ASK YOU FOR A KIDNEY.</p> <p><i>DeKlerk 2008</i></p>
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MATTHEW ACKERMANN

Student self-help series, part 3:

When parents don't pay

By Ines Schumacher

Undoubtedly, the biggest banks in Grahamstown are First National Bank, Standard Bank and Absa. *Activate* conducted a survey of 100 students, which shows that 92% are happy with their banks. Is this because students utilise all available resources or because they don't know any better?

At this crucial stage in your life, it is important that you have made the right choice regarding your bank, because at this very moment you are building a relationship with that bank. "We prepare students for the future. Good conduct with us now will open doors for you later in life," says Estelle Speckman, a consultant at Standard Bank. Banks are businesses and they

are interested in making a profit. This means that if you have been with a specific bank since your student days and you have been a reliable client, your bank will make a favourable decision regarding loans. If you've jumped in off the street, banks are far less inclined to support your ambitions. "We have a Gold Graduate package that we offer to our students when they've graduated. It provides you with everything you need to get your career up and running," says Vuyo Nohamba, retail consultant at Absa. Let's face it: you're not going to be a student forever. "You're not always going to have someone to bail you out of situations you've gotten yourself into. Our bank helps students to mature and learn to appreciate the things in life that they might take for granted," says Cornel Goliath, relationship manager at First

National Bank. FNB also offers more tangible benefits to students. With the Life Start Student Bank Account, FNB offers free subscription to the internet, telephone and cellphone banking. Added perks are 20% discounts on Ster Kinekor movies, 15% off music and 10% off prepaid airtime. "The difference between any business is service and that's what we have to offer, better service," says Goliath. For all their talk about caring for students, FNB does not seem to trust them much. Student loans are not in your name, but in your legal guardian's or your surety's. Absa and Standard Bank are more forthcoming in their trust, although Standard Bank admits to keeping a scoring system on student accounts. "It's our way of encouraging good conduct," says Speckman. On the topic of loans, the institu-

tions do not differ significantly. They all require a utility bill as proof of residence, a South African ID book, proof of admission to a South African Qualification Authority-accredited tertiary education institution and three months worth of bank statements for your parents' account. Foreign students only have one option. Out of the three, FNB is the only bank that grants loans to non-South African citizens, but they do require the surety to be South African. Absa seems to be the least flexible in regard to rates. "Our interest rates are fixed. No exceptions are made," says Nohamba. As a student, being aware of your financial options is important. You must take advantage of the services banks offer, because knowing your finances are in order will have you worrying about one thing less in life.

The academic alternatives

By Rodain Joubert

Still scared of banks? No fear! Rhodes has its own alternatives for students requiring financial assistance, including scholarships, bursaries and loans.

For undergraduates, financial aid administrator Peta Bezuidenhout suggests the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) loan. This government-funded initiative is designed to help financially disadvantaged students afford their tertiary education, allowing the initial loan to be repaid once the student is employed.

Taking out an NSFAS loan has considerable advantages over a regular bank loan, such as a much lower interest rate. There's also a 40% bursary conversion if students pass their subjects. "That's almost half of the loan paid back already," Bezuidenhout explains. "It usually negates your interest incurred as well."

The NSFAS can only extend assistance to a limited number of undergraduate appli-

cants, meaning that disadvantaged and academically deserving students are usually granted the loan. Since this is a government scheme, NSFAS does not accept applications from foreign students.

John Gillam, who's responsible for postgraduate financial aid at Rhodes, indicates that there are a variety of flexible loans and funding sources available for postgraduates, such as the Mellon programme. Scholarships and bursaries are also available from the individual departments at Rhodes.

It's generally easier to receive postgraduate financial bonuses, regardless of your field. "That fact that you make it to postgraduate level often means that you've already proven yourself academically," Gillam says.

This is promising news for those who consider further advancing their education. Postgraduate funding is significantly more complex than a single NSFAS loan, however, and people nearing the end of their degree are encouraged to seek direct assistance from the department.

In addition to

the above options, both postgraduate and undergraduate students can also benefit from merit scholarships and bursaries based on their academic achievements. For those who achieve particularly good results, tuition fees can often be reduced and even those who achieve slightly less are urged to ask about bursaries and financial options.

"This year, the Rhodes financial department would like to stress the fact that they have an open-door policy towards students," Gillam says. There are always people available to advise uncertain students on their financial options, and Gillam believes that an early approach is always best.

There are a variety of ways in which students can find more information regarding finances at Rhodes. A quick visit to the Student Bureau at Eden Grove or the postgrad financial aid office in the admin building should point you in the right direction. For online assistance students can visit www.ru.ac.za/finead for undergraduate students or www.ru.ac.za/ngfunding for postgrads.

Where does the money go?

By Rodain Joubert

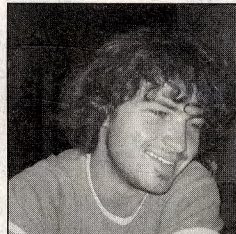
As well as a general survey, a focus group of four Rhodes students was established to provide information on student spending and financial involvement. At the end of each day, the students would report back on such things as the amount of money they had drawn from the ATM, as well as how much money they had spent during the day.

Interestingly enough, their primary spending was not on alcohol, even though small liquor purchases occurred frequently. Instead, the students investigated displayed a tendency to spend most of their money either on groceries or fast food. In spite of what one would expect, students who live in digs and need to purchase their own food seem to spend only slightly more per month than students living in residences do.

In second place in terms of expenditure were petrol costs for car owners, and aside from purchasing alcohol there were no other noticeable categories where students mainly spent their money. In the general student survey, 45% of those who answered said that they spent all the money they received each month. On average, students seem to receive between R500 and R1 000 per month.

That then adds up to thousands of rands spent each year on consumables over and above the costs involved in staying at university.

Ciro De Siena



on Labels

Meet Mike and Sarah. They're three years old, and are currently learning their ABCs. Soon Mike will get a very decent South African education. He'll learn much, but will never be required to challenge anything.

Sarah will do her schooling under an international system, studying things like philosophy. Sarah will always enquire into everything around her: it's in her nature now.

Speed up to 2006, and Mike and Sarah arrive at Rhodes. Mike registers for a BCom, Sarah for a BA. Mike's dad always told him that a business degree was the only way to get ahead.

For the next three years, Mike will cruise from day to day, possibly under the blur of an alcoholic haze. Hell, this is what varsity is all about!

Suddenly third year will arrive, and the big bad world will be too close to ignore. Wandering through Eden Grove one day, Mike will spot a poster from Large Accounting Firm Pty Ltd, informing him that "only forward thinkers need only apply". This is it, he'll think.

Mike will be employed, get married, have 2,4 children, drive an average-size Mercedes Benz and then he'll die.

Back to Sarah. She'll get stuck into 'airy-fairy' subjects like politics. She'll party hard, but all the while seeking answers. It will be tough, but she'll come through wise and worldly. However, she'll come through an agnostic, a liberal, a thinker.

Sarah will go on to write policy for the government. She might even advise the president one day.

My real issue with all of this is not with our education system. My concern is that Sarah, while at varsity, will be labelled a hippie.

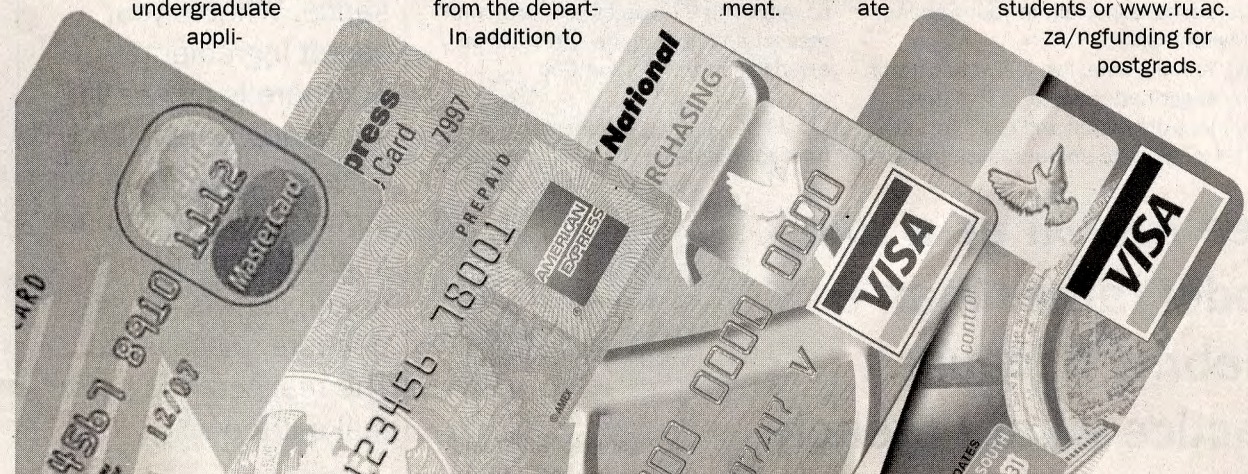
Whenever she tries to raise nagging issues with her friends and family, she will be shushed. Her family will inform her that when she's out of university she'll be normal again. That's what my family told me. This is undoubtedly one of society's greatest problems. If you challenge anything, you're weird. And people don't like weird people.

T see the western world as a capitalist, consumer-driven, Christian ideology-dominated society. I'm not attacking anyone, that's just my take on it. Most importantly, we're not meant to question anything. We're meant to splash out R1 000 on a pair of Nikes without thinking twice about who made it or where the money goes. Questioning is bad, but the worst thing is that when you do, you're declared a barefoot, dope-smoking, hemp-wearing, tree-hugging, placard-carrying liberal hippie-terrorist out to spoil the party. I'm none of those things but I try question everything. I debate with my dad over his blind Catholic faith, I don't buy Nike and I use herbal toothpaste. I know that when you've finished reading this, I'll be just another journo hippie. And that's just fine.

But if I may recommend just one thing, try avoid becoming another Mike. I'm not suggesting that everyone should drop out of their BCom and lose their shoes. I fully accept that there are narrow-sighted BA-ers just as there are open-minded BCom-ers.

All I recommend is that we challenge what's around us.

Sometimes, some things really are not what they seem.



To the point with...

Baby Jake Matlala, South African flyweight world boxing champion

By Shanaaz Prince and Renatae Abrahamse

Baby Jake Matlala was one of a number of South African celebrities that attended the Christians@Rhodes mission on campus from August 27 to September 2. As part of this mission, Matlala gave an address in which he shared a testimony of his life and spoke about his relationship with God.

Jacob Fundile "Baby Jake" Matlala was born on August 1, 1962 in Meadowlands, Johannesburg. At the age of 10 he started going to the gymnasium with his father, who was an aspiring boxer. This had a profound impact on his love for the sport, and Matlala became so passionate about boxing that he decided to turn professional in 1979, aged 17.

Matlala, at only 147cm, quickly went from being the shortest professional boxer in the world to being the shortest world champion. He officially began his boxing career on February 2, 1980. His first fight which he won, was against Fraser Plaatjie. After this victory, it took Matlala a mere four contests to become the South African junior flyweight champion. He secured his first world championship title with the World Boxing Organisation flyweight title in 1993. After this he gained another three world titles – the light flyweight title in 1995, the International Boxing Association junior flyweight title in 1997 when he defeated Michael Carbajal in Las Vegas, and the World Boxing Union flyweight title in 2001.

Matlala ended his 22-year boxing career at Carnival City, Brakpan on March 3, 2002. In this fight he defeated Colombian Juan Herrera, an opponent 11 years his junior, to earn the World Boxing Union junior flyweight title. In doing so, Matlala became the only South African boxer to have won four world titles. His career ended with a spectacular record of 27 stoppages, 54 wins, 12 losses and two draws.

Midway through his farewell fight, Nelson Mandela and Will Smith arrived at the ringside. This had such a great effect on Matlala that after the fight, he presented his belt to Mandela. Matlala currently resides in Johannesburg with his wife, Mapule, and their two children. Today, with a BCom degree from Unisa, he is a businessman and owns Baby Jake's Diner in Johannesburg, famed for its special chakalaka. Matlala is also a motivational speaker and often takes part in charity events to raise funds for disadvantaged South Africans and those living with HIV/Aids. After his retirement, Matlala promised to help unearth and nurture talent in the township, a promise which he has most certainly kept.

Q: What was the driving force behind your chosen career as a boxer?

A: Boxing became my passion and allowed me to become a better person. As a child I admired my father as a boxer and always dreamt of following in his footsteps. He is my driving force and encouraged me to focus on my boxing in order to reach my full potential.

Q: Does your height stand in your way of conquering certain obstacles in your life?



Baby Jake is proof that dynamite comes in small packages

SALLY KILN

A: No, not at all. If anything, it helps me a lot. Because of my height I am able to achieve certain things that I otherwise would not have been able to, both inside and out of the ring. I am currently promoting the new and smaller Shield deodorant. Without my height advantage, this promotion would not have been possible.

Q: How long have you considered yourself a Christian for?

A: I became saved in 1984, after meeting my wife, Mapule, who had encouraged me to draw nearer to God. She is a great woman of God who sparked my passion and love for God.

Q: How has God played a part in, and influenced, your career?

A: God has carried me through my thirty years of boxing, and helped me along both inside and outside the ring. Even though I have faced many hiccups within my career, He has carried me through, allowing me to grow in wisdom and power. He taught me that if I can believe, I can achieve.

Q: Are you put under a lot of pressure being regarded as both a Christian and a celebrity?

A: Not really. Christianity is my chosen route to follow and this is where my enjoyment lies. I believe in the values of life spoken of in Proverbs and live by them.

I do admit that change was hard to achieve at first but with God I was able to overcome all difficulties.

Q: What do you believe the Christians@Rhodes mission hopes to achieve, and how do you think your involvement influences this?

A: Hopefully this mission results in a spiritual growth amongst the students, one whereby they can learn to grow closer to God. My life is a testimony of the great things God is capable of and is proof that none of our goals can be successfully achieved without Christ in our lives. I see myself as a role model rather than a celebrity because I practice what I preach. I live my life according to the Bible and I hope students can learn from this.

Q: Do you feel that your faith in God influenced the way you handle certain situations, especially in your working environment?

A: Yes, big time. I've learnt to control my anger better and also find that I am less distracted and more focused. I no longer give up but realise that as

one door closes, another one opens. All you need to do is look back on your situation and reflect upon it.

Q: From a more general perspective, how has Christianity changed your life both in the way in which you think and interact with others?

A: I am no longer disorientated by my circumstance, but have learnt to overcome all obstacles in my way. Being a Christian has brought tremendous change in my life. I now have a passion for people and for doing good for the benefit of others.

Q: What is a common misconception made by many with regards to Christianity?

A: Many are misconceived by the idea of the pastor being a messenger of God and believe that Christians worship the pastor as God. This is not so. Although the pastor is treated with respect and honour, he serves as an extension of the word of God.

Q: What intended conquests do you have for the near future?

A: I would love to be able to conquer the fight against HIV/Aids, drugs and education in our beautiful country. Particularly education as it is the key to success.

Q: Do you have any words of inspiration and wisdom to share with our

readers?

A: We need to support, love and respect one another always. We are living in a crazy but beautiful world with great potential, but in order to reach it we all need to work together as a family, becoming united as one.

Off the point

Q: If you were an animal, what would you be and why?

A: A crocodile because I can be pretty vicious, but mostly because I enjoy spending time in the water.

Q: What is your favourite dessert?

A: Warm custard and malva pudding.

Q: If you could get any actor to play you in a movie, who would it be and why?

A: I would play myself because I don't believe anyone else could do a better job than I would.

Q: What is your favourite music genre?

A: I enjoy listening to R'n B and gospel, anything soothing to my ears, nothing violent and vulgar.

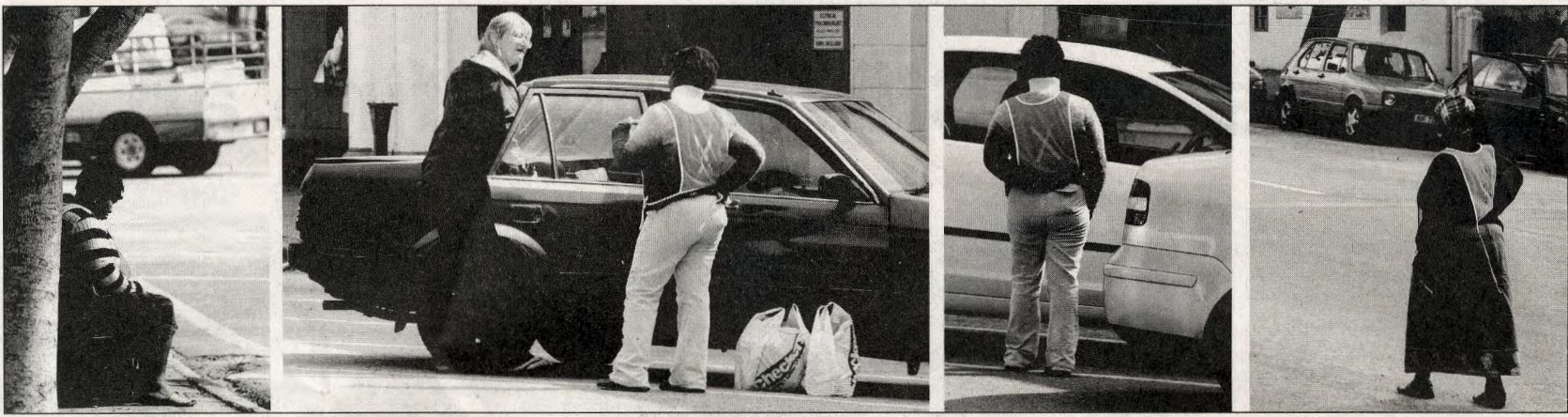
Q: With my last R50 I would...

A: Give it to a beggar or someone who needs it more than I do.

Q: We hear you have your very own chilli sauce. What is your secret ingredient?

A: There is no special secret ingredient. Baby Jake's Chakalaka is the same as any traditional chakalaka made with onion, carrots, green peppers, masala, etc. The real secret is not to make it too spicy.

“ I see myself as a role model rather than a celebrity because I practice what I preach ”



These orange bibbed-car guards are a familiar sight on Grahamstown's streets

DAN CALDERWOOD

Orange-bibbed sentinels

Kate Douglas and Michelle Solomon do just about everything – from shivering in the streets to sourcing weed – to bring you the truth about Grahamstown's car guards...

Imagine a typically cold Grahamstown night, and you are trembling in the entrance to Legit on High Street, trying to shelter yourself from the rain. Your clothes are as thin and worn as the government's Aids policy, and the rain has seeped through your shoes into your socks. You ask a passerby the time – it is almost midnight. You realise you have been standing here for about six hours. A young couple comes out of Spur and hurriedly walks to their car. You approach them. The man, glancing at your orange bib with annoyance, mumbles that he doesn't have any change.

You watch as the couple drives away in the car you have been guarding for the past two hours.

This is an example of a night spent by self-employed car guards *Noma, *Thabo and *Beauty.

Noma is 42, and a single mother of two boys, aged 15 and 16 years old. Every night, regardless of the weather, Noma works for at least eight hours. On an average night she makes R20, maybe R30, which she uses to buy food for her sons. On a cold, rainy night she can make as little as R5.

The situation only worsens when observing Beauty's home situation. She is 44 years old, and has five children ranging between the ages of five and 21. Also earning between R20 to R30 a night on High Street, Beauty usually starts work at 6pm and goes home at 3am or 4am. "I have to buy food for the children," she explains.

Fifty-nine year old Thabo can be seen guarding the area in front of Spur, and explains how hard it is to live off the standard R20 or R30 a car guard makes. "It's difficult. I have to give my children food and clothes, and it is very cold here at night."

These three car guards are not the day car guards you see holding those quaint contraptions with the red lights (also known as meters) and following you up and down High Street. The meter car guards work for the municipality and rent out parking spaces to

car owners. The orange-bibbed men and women without meters, those who always seem to miraculously appear next to your car, are usually self-employed. They promise to watch your car, but do they really?

René Johnston says that she has felt threatened by car guards on more than one occasion. "In first term, my friend and I parked outside the Rat for a quick drink. When I got out of

my car, a car guard came up really close to me and said that I mustn't worry because nothing will happen to me

as long as I pay him." Johnston says that the way he kept repeating "don't worry" made her feel very uneasy. "I was so shocked," she said, shaking her head. "The whole thing ruined my entire night."

Another student, Samantha Scott, explains how she and a friend had made a quick stop at Steers when a female car guard became violent one night. "She ran up close to my window looking really aggressive and I felt too uncomfortable to open it. I started to drive away and that is when I heard her hit the back of my car."

Although no physical damage was done, both Johnston and Scott say that the whole ordeal really alarmed them. "We don't have to pay them if we feel that they didn't do anything," says Johnston. "I've seen them sleeping and once, before getting into my car, I saw a man across the street suddenly put on a bib and run over to me saying that he watched my car. I never know if I am paying a real car guard or not."

"They just bug me," explains Geoffrey Wakefield. "They can't just rock up and expect me to pay them." Wakefield has also been the victim of car guard aggression, though admittedly much milder. "They stand and knock at my window until I pay them," and in other instances, "they stare at you or stand behind your car," he says. *Mark says that he often buys dagga from the car guards. "The orange bibs are just a cover to allow them to hang around the streets so that they can sell drugs. I think every car guard on New Street is really selling Swazi." We decided to test this theory one Thursday evening, and so found ourselves an 'expert' in this area and enquired as to the appropriate plan of action. After consolidating our strategies, we eventually went in search of the legendary car guard "Swazi".

The first group we asked was more than eager to oblige, and one would-be dealer asked, "Do you have a car?" After a short hesitation we decided to confirm that fact, only to be offered our own private viewing of some of the best weed "the location has to offer".

That thread of thought was ended with a definite "no." After standing there for a few seconds while trying to maintain a strained conversation with the three 'car guards', a street child of roughly 12 years appeared from behind the group. "I can get you some for R15," he offered.

Eventually he returned with a plastic sandwich bag, not even a quarter filled, of Swazi. Our 'expert' had warned us to smell the contents of the bag, as there had been rumours that the car guards/dealers had been tricking buyers into spending their money on a bag of tea leaves. The contents smelled nothing like tea, but it didn't smell like dagga either. The little packet gave off a scent that brought back childhood memories of silkworms, mulberry leaves, and horse dung.

"Who really believes that [the car guards] are there to watch cars?" asks Mark. However, not all car guards are criminals. Victor Mfecana, a well-respected member of the Grahamstown community, runs a programme for car guards. "I started this programme 12 years ago when I saw the poverty and crime in Grahamstown and knew that I had to do something about it."

At the moment, Mfecana's programme provides employment to 30 people, both men and women, who he says are legitimate car guards. "I make sure that all my car guards do their job. I have a supervisor who keeps watch over them at night." Mfecana's car guards work every night from 6pm until the following day and have received basic training to develop their people skills. An elderly resident of Grahamstown says that, at night, she always parks by a car guard. "They are always friendly and I feel safe when they are near."

Many students have questioned the degree of protection the car guards can offer. "I mean, what exactly is a car guard going to do if someone tries to steal your car?" asks Mark. "Suffocate them with a bib?" Nevertheless, Mfecana argues that there is less likely to be crime when his car guards are on duty. "You have to remember that there are car guards out there who are trying hard to make a legitimate living. They have families and car-watching is the only employment they can get."

*Names have been changed.

What you said:

By Simnikiwe Mzekadaba

What should happen to bad leaders?



Sheena Kidia – 2nd year BSc

"They should be given a second chance because for them to be selected in the first place means they had potential."



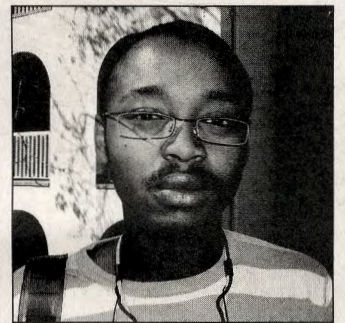
Kelly Ramputswa – 1st year BCom

"Fined or sentenced harshly to set an example, because the reason they were placed in leadership positions means that people trusted them."



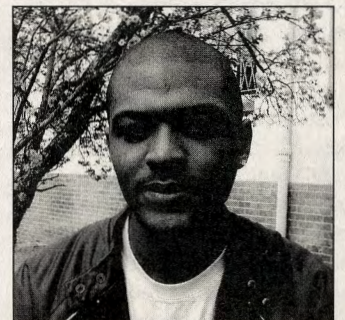
Melanie Hay – 3rd year BA

"They should be publicly made to account for their actions, and apologise to all those that they let down."



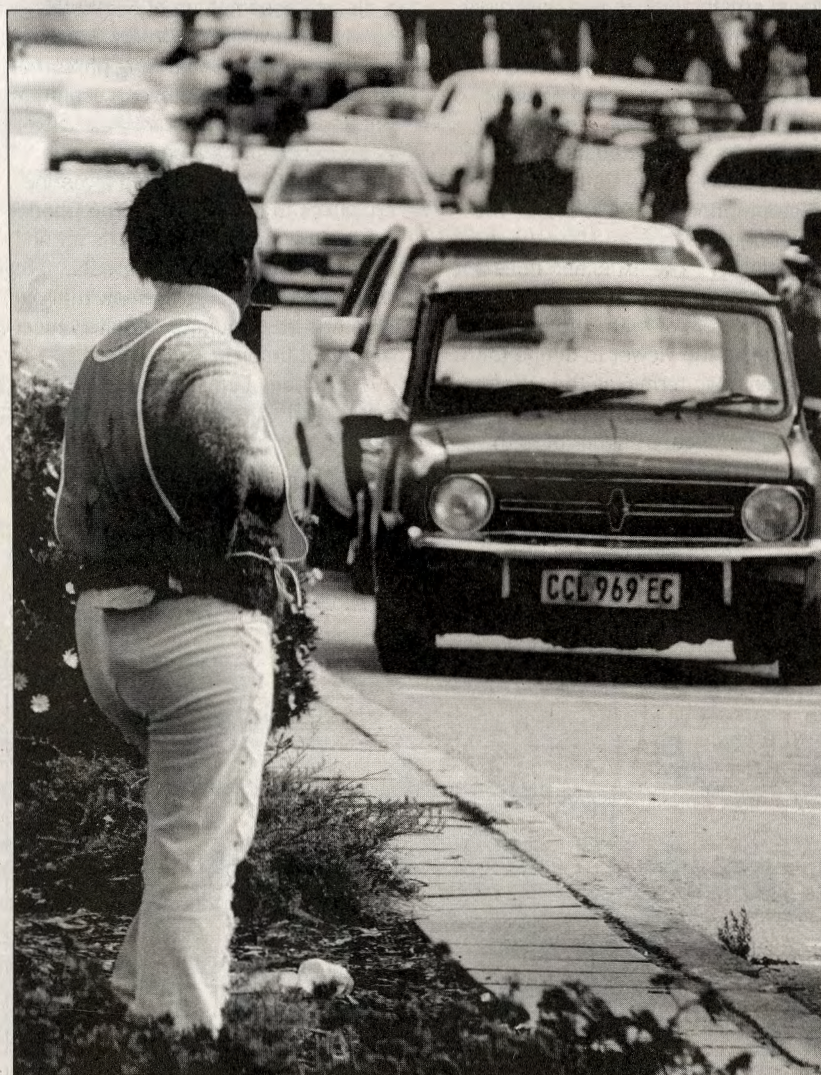
Marcelino Nkuna – 1st year BCom

"They should be removed from their position of power."



Curtis van Heerden – 2nd year BA

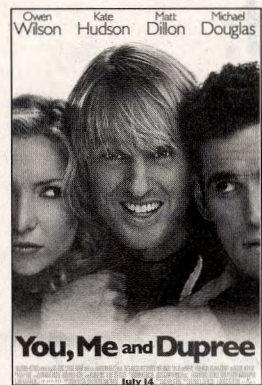
"They should be taken out of parliament, depending on how bad they were."



Car guards often make as little as R20 for a ten hour shift

DAN CALDERWOOD

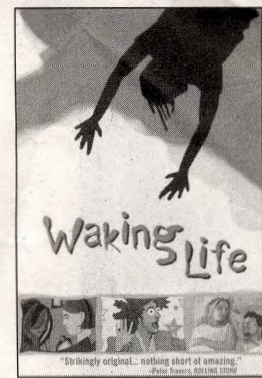
Reviews



Movie review: You, Me and Dupree

By David van der Walt

The stellar cast of the highly anticipated comedy-drama, *You, Me and Dupree*, including Owen Wilson, Kate Hudson, and Matt Dillon, makes the average movie-goer think that this will certainly be a film worth saving your pennies for. While the film centres on Dupree (Wilson) overstaying his welcome at his oldest and newlywed friend Carl's (Dillon) house, the film fails to live up to its hype. While you might chuckle a few times about the sock episode and Molly's (Hudson) dad's obsession with a vasectomy, it's nothing that we haven't seen before and sometimes the jokes seem rather stale. However, the cast still impresses and while the film is by no means brilliant, it's not all that bad either. However, it might be a good idea to rather save your money a bit longer and wait for the DVD. By then you might have saved enough to buy popcorn as well.



DVD review: Waking Life

By Tallulah Habib

If the bizarre animation style (real people coloured over by computer) of *Waking Life* doesn't freak you out, the endless talking probably will. This movie covers every possible philosophical and psychological debate and will change the way you look at yourself and your dreams.

The story starts with a boy getting hit by a car. From here on, the storyline revolves around the inner workings of dreams and consists primarily of various philosophical discussions that weave together issues like appearance and reality, free will, our relationships with others, and the meaning of life. Existentialism and posthumanism get thrown in along the way as well.

The DVD features a director's commentary, greatest hits and deleted scenes from the live action version, an animation software tutorial, some audition tapes, a featurette, a Sundance Channel special and two short films which are well worth seeing. Overall, it proves to be a thought-provoking and bearable watch.

Up close and personal

Walters and Clüver: very fine art

By Katlego Disemelo

“Trying to find your space is hard,” says Fran Clüver timidly. These words echo her softly spoken sentiments about the third year of her Fine Art degree, which she says is proving to be difficult but good.

Clüver is a wildly creative artist whose controversial masterpiece, *Do you know him from a bar of soap?* was recently exhibited in the Albany Museum.

Hers is showing alongside the work of another profoundly powerful third year Fine Art student, John Walters. John responds to my adulation of his work with the simple and humble statement: “It is good to see that image still has power.”

These two artists are among the best in their class who are exhibiting in the Albany Museum next to some of the SABC art collection. “It is a privilege to contribute to this exhibition,” says Walters.

Their work has received praises and diatribes from all spheres of the art world. Walters was approached by an East London gallery after his exhibition during the National Arts Festival.

Clüver's work delves into the commodification of religion. She weaves the concepts of soap and Jesus to illustrate “how people are desensitised from the matter of religion”. “Some people say that I've dehumanised what Jesus stood for,” she says.



John Walters and Fran Clüver talk about the inspiration behind their art

JONI ELS

The piece she is exhibiting has been described as “playfully profane”, but it is difficult to see how she would purposefully blaspheme against a figure she believes in, since she is a Christian. “My work is open for personal interpretation. I do not want to dictate to people what they should be taking away from it,” she says.

“Religion plays a lot in my work and is meant to permeate through it,” says Walters. He had to fit religion into the highly academic relationship between subject and object. He used self-portraits (one with closed eyes and the other with open eyes) to represent the concepts of resurrection, living and dreams.

There was much controversy around Walters' portraits of Brett Kebble. This

three-panelled art piece showed a distorted figure of Kebble. “The patron of the arts became the art itself in my work,” says Walters in defence of the negative reviews he received for his second exhibition piece.

Clüver's forthcoming work includes moulds of various religious deities made of chocolate and silicon. “I wanted to speak about more than just my religion,” she says. She used different materials and different figures to broaden her expression about the commodification of religion. Her work will include confessional booths, chocolate Buddhas and silicon Shivas.

On the other hand, Walters draws inspiration from the biblical story of Abraham and Isaac to represent the relationship that he has with his father

in his next four-panelled piece. “Father and son relationships are always complicated,” he says, and this is why he chose to express them artistically. He uses the lighting techniques of artists such as Caravaggio and Rembrandt to intensify the work, which might be titled *Abraham/Isaac*

Clüver and Walters' love for their work is obvious to those who are in their presence. They both display humility and ease about their art.

Judging from their captivating work they are evidently destined for greatness and copious amounts of fame.

This idea is responded to by Walters saying laughingly, “The only time you can truly be famous is when you're not alive to enjoy it.”

Rhodes Chamber Choir serenades the nation

By Lula Hlatshwayo

The Rhodes University chamber choir is due to tour nationally these holidays. They leave on September 8 for Queenstown, Bloemfontein, Benoni, Johannesburg, Kimberley and Cradock. The collection of altos, sopranos, bases and tenors are more concerned with the quality of their singing, rather than their numbers.

Robert Haxton, a tenor one singer and public relations officer, says that the choir pride themselves in being more of a social family than participants in a choir. Dominic Gooepe, the assistant choir conductor seconds this. “Thula umamele” or “be quiet and listen” is one of the lines from a piece that the choir sings and one cannot help but do exactly that. They will get you clicking along and you will find yourself swaying to the gentle sound. Haxton says that there are plans pending to try and accompany African originals. In the meantime, you

can expect to hear songs from Frank Sinatra and Norah Jones to mention a few. They incorporate a playful, theatrical performance and the multi-talented members play the piano, flute and saxophone.

The only disappointment when one attends a performance by the choir is the poor attendance. Rhodes needs to hear the voice that represents it musically. Friends of the Choir, has befriended schools in the townships and Rhodes halls. The choir performs whenever possible and can be seen in events throughout the year. It holds non-beneficial fundraising concerts for different organisations.

Their performances cost between R5 and R10. The choir hopes to make the sound of Rhodes one that is recognised and respected. They will be performing with choirs from the universities of the Witwatersrand and Cape Town. The Rhodes Chamber Choir will perform on September 7 at the Rhodes Chapel.

Exhibition of death, soap, revelation and salvation

By Deva Lee

The Albany History Museum recently held some provocative art exhibits. The ever controversial theme of religion was explored by national and local artists, through two exhibitions.

Since the National Arts Festival in July, the Standard Bank Gallery has held an exhibition called *Figuring Faith: Images of Belief in Africa*. The works are divided into themes of “Confession and Catharsis”, “Redemption and Salvation”, “The Missionary Gaze”, and “Death and Revelation”. The exhibition does not preach at you but invites you to consider matters of faith. The artworks challenge the viewer to define faith on their own terms, as the curators present an image of religious practice in South Africa, a “figure of faith” if you will. Works by Steven Cohen, Sam Nhlengethwa and Penny Siopis were among those that presented a new

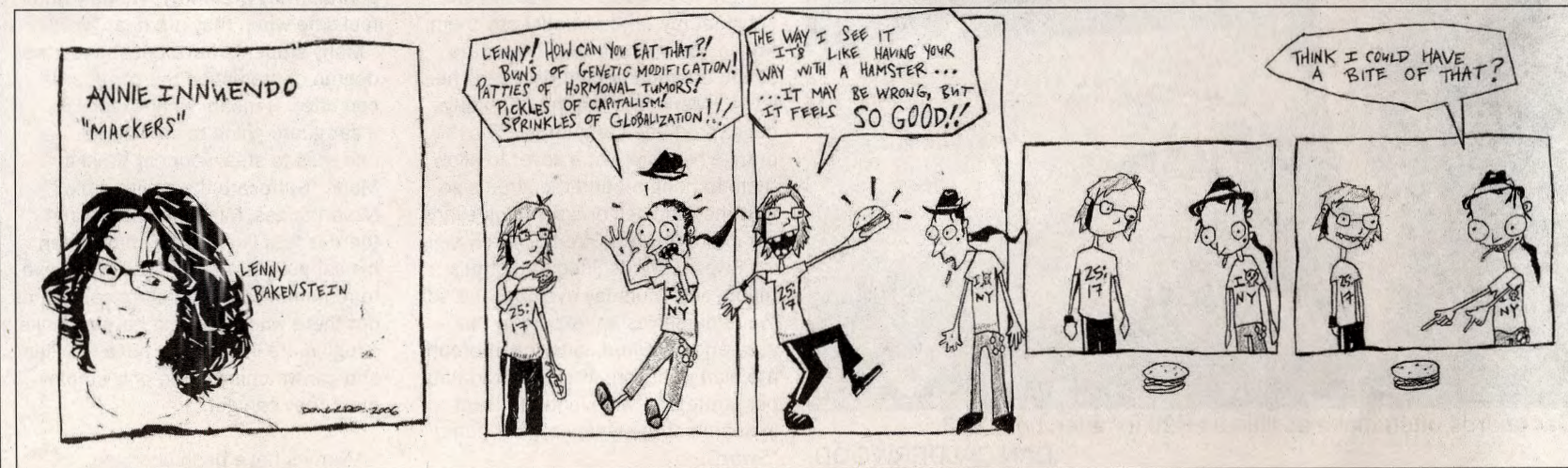
angle on spirituality.

Selected pieces were chosen from Rhodes Fine Arts students to be exhibited at the Rhodes University Alumni Gallery. The artists, ranging from first-years to Masters students, presented a diverse assemblage of aesthetic candy. John Walters' *Object/Subject* paintings present a striking photorealism, whilst Frances Clüver's sculpture entitled *Do you know him from a bar of soap?* presents a series of soap dishes containing moulded glycerine crucifixes to confront you. The Rhodes exhibition definitely stands its ground in contrast to the African greats, and the exhibition serves to show that our Fine Arts students are definitely meeting the standard.

The Rhodes Fine Art students' work was exhibited alongside masterpieces from the colossal SABC art collection. Their work, however, does not recede into oblivion, but stands out as conspicuously thought-provoking.

Annie Innuendo

DAVID QUERIDO





Honours plays *A Day in the Death of Joe Egg*, *Fucking A*, *Decadence* and *Fastest Clock in the Universe*

PAUL GREENWAY

Honours plays take centre stage

By Nqobile Shoba
and Katlego Disemelo

Four drama Honours plays were held at the Rhodes University theatre. These plays, directed by Honours students, were thought-provoking pieces chosen by the directors and explored complex themes ranging from family, relationships, sexuality and abortion to prison life.

Fastest Clock in the Universe directed by Awelani Moyo, focuses on the life of a gay man who struggles to

accept his fading youth. His resolution is to prey on young boys. The main character, Cougar, dressed in nothing but cowboy boots and tight clenching underpants, struts around the stage. The play is shocking and it is intriguing to see such risk-taking and delicate handling of controversial subject matter. *Fastest Clock in the Universe* is exceptional although at times its energy is stripped by its content.

Wesley Deintje's *Fucking A* explores the effect of prison on the relationship between mother and son. The

show presented an interesting mix of rap music and dialogue coupled with projections reflecting very daring messages. *Fucking A* asks its audience to re-examine clichéd questions surrounding issues such as prison, abortion and violence. The mother/son relationship, which is at the centre of the play, is touching and shows the audience what lengths a mother will go to for her son.

Zanne Solomon's *A Day in the Death of Joe Egg* looks at a married couple and their terminally ill daughter. The

play flows from the couple's dying relationship to their failing attempt to keep their daughter happy. It is a well-acted piece, with dry comedy that subtly hypnotises the viewer.

Decadence, which is directed by Amelie Gelle, is an exploration of the habits of two opposing classes. "I was filled with nausea and disgust when I read the play," says Gelle. Yet she was moved to stage the piece, because of its central theme of the seven deadly sins, including gluttony, cruelty, drunkenness and snobbery.

Battle of the Bands wows again

By Stuart Thomas

Week three of the Battle of the Bands started with a spark. Or at least that's what their name means. Iskra are named after the newspaper Vladimir Lenin edited while in exile in Switzerland. Their sound is a bluesy jazz/metal fusion that combines skilful guitar sounds with the unexpectedly refined voice of the lead singer in a way that cannot help being infectious.

Nigel's Luck, using four guitars, play a brand of acoustic pop/rock. They rely heavily on lyrics about women and heartbreak and being fun-loving, clean-cut guys.

Their Counting Crows cover was strained at times but pulled off decently. The most interesting thing they brought to the show was a pizza box on which one of the songs had been written.

Orang-utang Bitch have the potential to be even more eclectic than Freshlyground. The eight- or nine-

piece band (depending on the song) undoubtedly caught the imagination of the crowd, with a sound that remains original despite being influence-based. Some work on lyrical content should be considered if they are to go further.

Generic three-piece rock is the best way to describe The Pheromones. They seem to have adopted a back-to-basics ideal with a plugged-in acoustic, and a bass and drums. Perhaps they could work more on their stage presence.

The fourth week of six-string knights and microphone warriors kicked off with The Super Agents, whose brass-tinged rock had a crowd drawn to the stage while most were still arrived. Their energetic cover of The Stroke's "Last Night" showed how comfortable they have become as a part of the local gig scene.

Soma provided the crowd with two established acts in a row. "Steel" is probably one word they identify themselves with. They play hard and fast



Sparring on the musical battleground

MATTHEW MIDDLETON

while clearly enjoying every minute they spend on stage. Covering AC/DC's "TNT/Dynamite", they got the purest audience reaction possible, when they become a vital part of the song.

Once again, the crowd seemed drawn to the most eclectic band of the night. Marsplastic are polar opposites to Soma, playing a kind of acoustic hippie groove, including a cellist and African drums. Their songs include

stories of love triangles and commentary on those who look down on the masses from castles. Half of the latter song is sung in French.

Buccaneer Jack's Wooden Wagon all wear slippers and comprise of mostly familiar faces from the local scene. Their comic image is rooted deep in the unrestrained ska they play. Mostly instrumental, one soon forgets about the absence of lyrics as manic energy sweeps through the crowd.

Tidbits – your guide to happenings in and around G-town

By Paula Gilbert
and Katlego Disemelo

Jay Z and Rihanna in Mzansi

Rap superstar Jay Z and Caribbean pop princess Rihanna hit South Africa this October in three amazing concerts.

They will first be performing in Cape Town on October 11 at the Bellville Velodrome, in Durban on October 13 at ABSA Stadium and finally in Johannesburg on October 14 at the Coca-Cola Dome.

This is part of Jay Z's seven week world tour to spread awareness about the world's water crisis. The tour, which begins September 9 in Krakow,

Poland, will be taped for an MTV documentary, *Diary of Jay Z*. Jay Z's recent performance at Radio City Music Hall sold out in less than two minutes and his worldwide album sales are in excess of 33 million at present.

Rihanna has made a name for herself with her fresh R'nB soul sound. She has been signed to Jay Z's record label, Roc-A-Fella Records, at the age of 16 and has had great success worldwide, including topping South African charts with songs like "SOS" and "Unfaithful" from her new platinum album.

Don't miss out on world-class entertainment, tickets are available at Computicket.

Music Festival hits Port Alfred

The Powerzone Music Festival gets its wheels rolling on September 15 and 16. The festival will bring bands like Prime Circle, the Parlotones, Wonderboom and Scarlet Box to Port Alfred. The festival might prove to be worthwhile to those who will be in or around G-town.

Ticket sale details available on: www.powerzone.co.za.

Arts Alive in Jozi

The City of Johannesburg hosts the Arts Alive Festival from September 3 to 29.

The festival encompasses all sectors of the arts and is bound to keep the

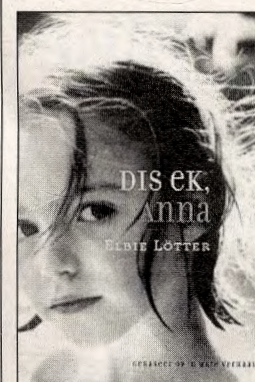
Joburg masses entertained as it has for the past three years.

The festival includes the legendary Jazz on the Lake festival at Zoo Lake in Saxonwold. Performances by BLK Sonshine and Vusi Mahlasela can be seen at the Bassline. The Bassline will host the Whak Jobs comedy show.

Crowds will flock to Mary Fitzgerald Square, where acts from Afro-Cuba All Stars and Mettafix from the UK will be performing. The Speak Your Mind poetry festival brings forth poets from Zimbabwe, Malawi, Mozambique and Mzansi. The wordsmith's contortions will keep the crowds enchanted with their wordplay.

Don't miss it if you're in Jozi.

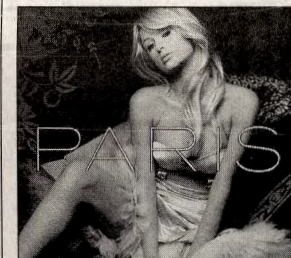
Reviews



Book review: Elbie Lötter – It's me, Anna

By Ilana Koegelenberg

This disturbing book is a real-life account of sexual abuse through the eyes of the victim. It is translated from Afrikaans and won the Book seller's Choice Award last year. It is definitely not for the faint-hearted and is written with honesty. Flashbacks are used to alternate between horrific events in the past and the present, where the main character is on her way to kill her abusive stepfather. *It's me, Anna* is filled with shocking events and provokes anger in the reader that turns into rage by the end of the book. The most unsettling part of the novel, however, is the author's note at the back, where she links the story to her personal experience. Following that is an informative afterword, with a take on child abuse by Sharon Lewis, author of *An Adult's Guide to Childhood Trauma*.



CD review:

Paris Hilton – Paris

By Katlego Disemelo

This weak joke of what is supposed to be a pop album ridicules the listener's hearing capacity with superficial junk and very little music.

This is Hilton's testament to the world that having too much money and too little talent can bring forth tragic results, such as a pointless CD. The tracks on *Paris* blur into one another, except for the mediocre beats that must have been taken from some low-budget kids' variety show. Jingles like "Don't Touch it", "Screwed", "Stars are Blind", which peaked at 18 on the Billboard Charts and "Caught up in the Rapture" are bound to lull listeners to sleep, even those with the silliest musical tastes.

Paris is polluted with painfully boring lyrics, cheap backstreet rappers and a few squeaks and screeches that are unsuccessful attempts at singing.

One can only hope that the musical phase in Hilton's idiocy will come to a halting screech after this pointless endeavour.

It is strangely disturbing that she knew that the world would be laughing at her while she moaned the lines on this insulting album.

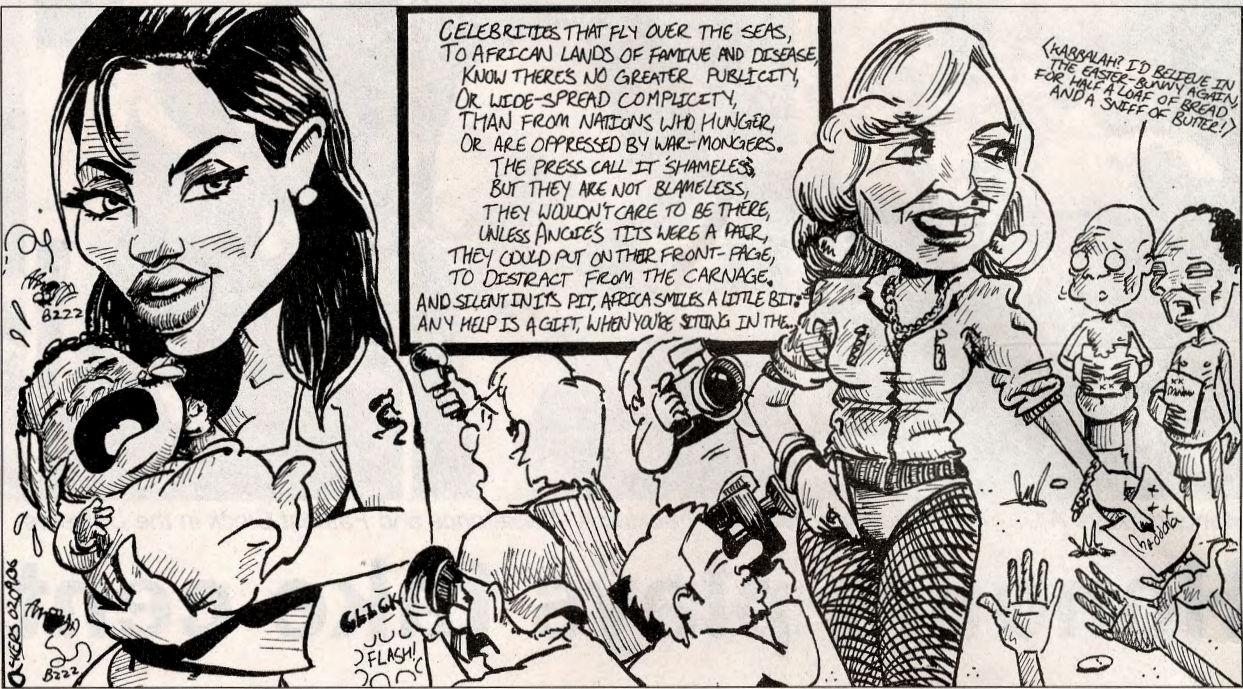
Could this be seen as just another attention-seeking trick on her part?

Celebrity Afro-charity boom

By Saint-Francis Tohlang

Yet another celebrity is set to grace the shores of Africa. Superstar Madonna will appear in Malawi in October in a plan to improve the situation of the country's orphans. She has committed to raising at least \$3 million to fund orphan programmes. It seems celebrity culture has adopted a habit of clutching the suffering world, especially Africa, to their Gucci-adorned bosoms. Or is this just keeping up with the trend? The likes of Bono and Angelina Jolie have created a Hollywood following. Others such as Lindsay Lohan are queuing up to make their appearances in Africa. Cynics have touted this afro-charity boom as a ploy by fame-bewildered celebrities to enhance downtrodden careers and boost their public profiles. It goes without saying that the amount of awareness towards situations in Africa that these celebrities create is invaluable. Perhaps without Madonna's scheduled visit to Malawi and the hype it is attracting, many people are unaware that out of Malawi's population of 12 million, approximately a million are orphans. Angelina Jolie has also cast some of her limelight onto horrific situations in

Africa, through her work as a goodwill ambassador for the United Nations. Madonna will be initiating an orphan care centre, which aims to feed and educate as many as 1 000 children a day. She has also formed a partnership with developing world economist Jeffrey Sachs, on programmes to improve the health, agriculture and economy of a nearby village. Are these efforts all mere pseudo-philanthropic efforts in the name of fame? Madonna's 'Raising Malawi' project deserves acclaim for its initiative to create awareness, but there is a catch. Madonna's religious affiliation to Kabbalah (the study of Jewish mysticism) takes centre stage. The orphan centre will offer programmes based on the Kabbalah children's programme. Religious motives appear to be dominant rather than the cause of feeding the children of Malawi. The motivation for celebrity involvement in charity work may be questioned. Whether or not they want to make a difference is immaterial. It is the way they go about their involvement that can be detrimental to Africa's economic growth; the projects must be sustainable and not merely pay lip service to the dire issues on the ground. However, Sachs says, "In



MATTHEW ACKERMANN

the very noisy and complicated world that we have, people that reach large audiences, like Madonna does, have an extraordinary role to play." The way celebrities fulfil this role is the core issue at hand. Irrespective of the motives, celebrity

aid should be measured not by the hype it generates but by what it delivers in terms of sustainable poverty relief. It seems demeaning that such problems could be used as sounding boards for one's own fame, capitalising on the gullibility of the masses

who have never thought about the issues at all. Such aid must be judged for its practical value to ensure that when the cameras stop rolling and the vogue smiles fade, the benefits of such projects are not as illusory as fame.

Currency change a chaos catalyst

By Leila Dougan and Nora-Lee Wales

Zimbabwe is issuing a new currency by slashing three zeros off its dollar in an effort to salvage the floundering economy, causing national panic. These changes are an attempt to counteract the effects of runaway inflation, which is currently at just below 1 000% per annum. Zimbabwe remains the most indebted country in the world with \$5,5 billion in arrears and 80% of the population living below the poverty threshold. The Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe

made the move on July 31 and proceeded to set a 21-day deadline for all old notes to be exchanged for the new currency. This date had to be extended because masses struggled to exchange their money at banks before the midnight deadline on August 21. The critical question at hand is; what effect will this have? Even though the change will relieve citizens of carrying around large quantities of money to buy simple groceries, the modification of the Zimbabwean dollar has caused turmoil in the state. There is a shortage of the new currency, especially the

lower denominations, preventing retailers from giving the right amount of change to customers. Communication between government and citizens was also woefully ineffective as those in rural areas were not informed of the currency change and therefore were unable to meet the exchange deadline. Many have lost their life savings, because there is no way of changing old currency for new after the deadline. As the deadline rushed closer many retailers refused to accept the old money, forcing people to return to the townships, at great expense, where traders were

still accepting the old currency. Less than a week before the changeover was complete, reports of circulating counterfeit old notes reached Harare. Counterfeiters appeared to be targeting street vendors and traders on the informal markets. If this wasn't enough, exchanging more than Z\$100 million per week was forbidden, and those attempting to do so risked being accused of fraud. Economists say that even though the change in currency is improving the situation in Zimbabwe at the moment, it will have to be repeated in two to three years as inflation continues to rise. Nominally

altering the currency does not address the underlying causes of inflation, and these structural issues have still not been addressed. The effects are not only local, as the continuing collapse of Zimbabwe's economy is stripping South Africa of 2% of its annual growth. This is significant for South Africa, because growth rates of at least 8% a year are required to reduce unemployment. It is a pitiful situation as Zimbabwe used to be South Africa's largest trading partner on the continent, and it is doubtful that measures such as this currency devaluation will have any positive effects.

Making a hash of things in Morocco

By Paula Gilbert and Laura Durham

Cannabis is king in Morocco but authorities are clamping down on its production. Although foreign governments praise their decision, this choice may end up costing their economy and their people greatly. These concerns are sparking debate over legalisation. Morocco's northern mountain region, known as the Rif, is one of the world's foremost producers of hashish, or 'kif' as the locals call it, although growing the plant is illegal in the country. According to the United Nations the region exports 1 000 tonnes of 'kif' a year, providing 80% of Europe's, and nearly one-third of the world's, marijuana. Morocco's cannabis fields border the Mediterranean, whose busy waters offer a safe route to Europe. Control at the ports is minimal and efforts to stop the trade have been reduced due to the global shift towards fighting terrorism instead. It is estimated that 1,5 million people live off the production of hash in Morocco and with authorities' plan to

stop its production, farmers are afraid of losing their livelihoods. Hashish is unofficially Morocco's biggest foreign currency earner and by banning it, lucrative income will be lost in the poor districts of the country. Under pressure from the European Union and the United States, the Moroccan government launched a half-hearted war on drugs in 2004, banning hash cultivation. Police burnt cannabis fields and new roads are being built in an attempt to make cultivation more inconspicuous, but all that this is doing is pushing cultivation out of sight. The government of the North African kingdom plan to eradicate cannabis production by 2008, but closing down a cannabis industry worth \$12 billion is not going to be easy. Farmers produce cannabis instead of crops like wheat because cannabis is far more lucrative. People living in the Rif are some of the poorest in the world and banning cannabis farming, with no real alternative offered, could be catastrophic for this already poverty-stricken area. Some anti-poverty programmes are encouraging farmers to

plant olive or almond trees instead, but these crops take years to bear fruit and bring in less cash. Banning cannabis farming is simply not economically viable for Morocco. There has been much lobbying to legalise the drug in Morocco. A Moroccan liberal weekly newspaper, *Tel Quel*, calculated from official figures that Moroccans smoke around 1,1 million joints a year. That's about 60 joints a year per adult. Legalising cannabis would fill state coffers, bring tourism to the neglected region and reduce corruption, the newspaper stated. Some South Africans argue similarly in efforts to legalise cannabis in our own country. A recent article in the *Daily Dispatch* asked whether marijuana should be legalised in SA and have its production and marketing regulated. In this way cannabis could be taxed just like liquor, tobacco and cigarettes to provide revenue, and it could be regulated more carefully. A Rhodes third year BCom student, who asked not to be named said of legalisation in SA, "It's a good idea, and then it would be cheaper, so I would smoke more."



Marijuana makes it on the Moroccan map JONI ELS

The poverty-ridden people of the Eastern Cape could benefit greatly from marijuana legalisation since the area is a large producer of cannabis in the South African market. In fact, South Africa is one of the largest producers of cannabis worldwide but most of it is consumed in our domestic market, unlike Morocco which exports a great deal of theirs.

Measures to stop cannabis production may not be viable, and this forces consideration of other options, both in Morocco and SA. For Moroccan farmers themselves however, cannabis puts food on the table, and if it is going to be eradicated, a sustainable alternative must be provided, otherwise Morocco's economic future may just go up in a puff of smoke.

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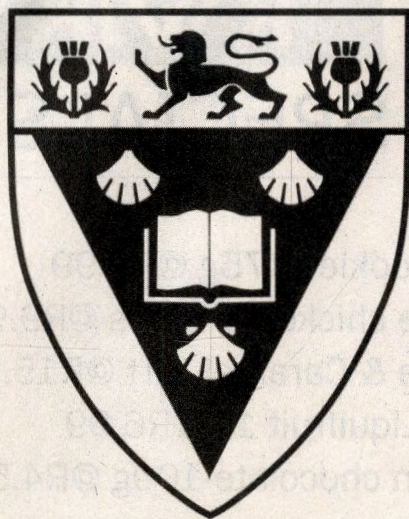
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UKZN Vice Chancellor and university sued

By Michelle Atagana (NUX)

The UKZN vice chancellor has recently been sued for R200 000. The charge is defamation of character and Professor Robert Morrell is not only suing vice chancellor Makgoba but the university as well. Alleged racist remarks made by Makgoba to Morrell led to the summons that was served to the vice chancellor. Morrell's activities in his department were referred to as "underhanded, unethical and unprofessional," according to an article in The Witness. "The claim says Morrell's reputation has been damaged as a result of Makgoba labelling him a racist who is against transformation because of the privileges he has acquired by virtue of his race" says the article in The Witness

on July 27.

It all began with an email that was sent to staff members on June 16; in the email, the vice chancellor expressed his disapproval at the way in which certain members of staff were handling issues concerning the progress of the merger that produced UKZN. The email says, "It has become clear to myself that despite the many achievements of the merger and processes we have all set up within the university, there remains pockets of resistance to transformation and equity within the university led by self-styled leaders who live in the past."

Based on the content of Makgoba's email, it is clear he believes that this 'group' is refusing to sway with the winds of change that is blowing through the university.

"Some of them have never run or presided over an organization but

have been party to the failure to transformation and equity over years. Their right and authority are conferred by their colour or the history of previous privilege," the email said.

The email then goes further to name Robert Morrell as one of the leaders of the abovementioned group. The email also refers to the meetings held by Morrell and the members of this group.

It says, "The leaders of these pockets of resistance are so desperate that they have gone to the extent or resorted to rallying their troops to mountain hotel hide outs where they can discuss ways of undermining the success of the merger and the re-organisation the University is undergoing."

They use the language of change but do not practise change; they cite the freedom charter in order

to appear like sheep in a wolf skin". The email concluded that the approach employed by this group was "unethical, stealth, pernicious and despicable". "I am suing Professor Makgoba, because I asked for a retraction and an apology (in writing and verbally) and Professor Makgoba declined, [and] because what he publicly said about me is untrue, hurtful and damaging," says Morrell. Morrell also says that it is a matter of principle, "I think it is important to develop university cultures that are open, tolerant and contribute to the values of social justice..."

I want to be part of a university that engages with this global world. In order to do so, academics must be encouraged to exchange views, must be valued and supported. By the same token, students need to be helped to enter this global (and continental)

world by receiving the best education they can get. Because I believe that the actions he has taken against me and the things he has said about me are part of a growing university culture that discourages debate, divides staff from one another, damages collegiality and detracts from a productive and friendly work environment. I should add that these developments are not confined to UKZN."

Nux contacted the vice chancellor many times to get him to comment on the various issues that concern the students regarding these allegations, but he refused to comment on the above allegations or the steps being taken about the case. The student body is concerned about what is going on.

Some of the students are concerned about who is to pay the R200 000 if the university loses the case.

TUT students march about unsafe crossing

By Lukhanyo Ceza (Taxi)

The Heights Residence, in co-operation with the SRC, embarked on a march on Friday, August 4. The march was a demonstration of the fact that students are tired of not being listened to. "We are sick and tired of being taken for granted. It's about time they (Tshwane University of Technology management) listened to the students. We are therefore act-

ing on our dissatisfaction about the way management has been handling our grievances," said Kekana Lethabo of the Public Relations office at The Heights Residence.

The students of The Heights demand that the notorious so-called "N1 route" from The Heights to the Pretoria Campus be declared legal, constructed and secured, and that their residence be maintained and secured, like all the other residences.

The Heights students use the route to get to campus - mainly on Saturdays, to access library servers and the Electronic Resources Centre.

The Heights has one bus per hour only, even though it is the biggest residence at the Pretoria Campus, accommodating at least 886 students. Students feel that the Transport Division is not doing enough to ensure that they get to classes on time. "They have small radio transmitters. If one

bus is full, they can send another bus over," Lethabo said.

"We have been lodging complains since 2003 about the N1 route. The road was to be constructed in February this year. Since then, nothing has been done. We are forced every day to use the route through the graveyard, since the N1 route was closed down. By doing that, we are actually trespassing on private property," he added.

"We spoke to management about the issue and they agreed that the route would be opened and constructed, but until now our request has not been met. Students are being raped on that N1 route. They are not taking the needs of the students seriously. Must someone die before management acts? The SRC can do only so much, and management has to deliver on their promises," said Claude Moet, student support service officer.

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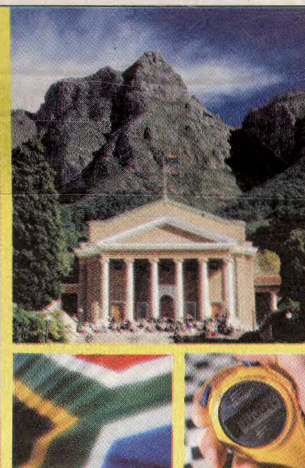
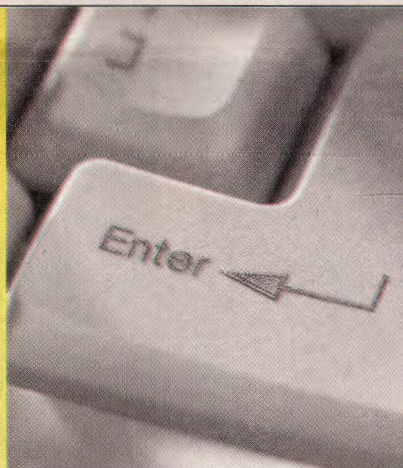


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UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

The challenge that's stood the test of time

By Joy Niemack

Darryn Lapham came in at a remarkable 2 hrs 23 min to win first position in this year's Founders' Challenge. Lapham was the only competitor to brave the challenge alone. The Beaver Creek Canoe Club was the first elite men's team to finish, while the Dykes R Us team, consisting of Sabrina Chesterman and Julie Langois, won in the elite women's section.

Twelve elite men's teams and three elite women's teams competed in this year's event. Two returning Rhodents, Tom Mapham and Justin Gray, who were the initiators of the first Founders' Challenge five years ago, came back this year to compete. Their team, the Incredibles Team, finished in second position. The third position went to the Founders' A team. In the women's section, second place went to Team Total Power and third place

to The Bronx.

The challenge included a 600m swim at Jameson Dam, canoeing for 5km and cycling for 20km from Jameson Dam towards the Union lawns. Thereafter came a 5km orienteering route and a 10km run to the finish line. Lethu Mashinini. The race director, said, "It was a success. The weather was great and the sponsorships were better this year. The whole of Grahamstown got involved."

Competitors agreed with Lapham that the cycle route was difficult, as they had to cycle up the hill from the dam. "It was a cool course, although the hill was very bad," said Lapham, who was still very excited about his achievement. Lapham led from start to finish. He participated in the same event last year as an individual competitor.

Shaun Walton, who was a part of the organising committee and also

participated in the challenge, said "I am pretty exhausted as it was a tough challenge." Ian Coulson expected it to be a tight finish for the second and third teams, which it was, with only about three minutes separating them.

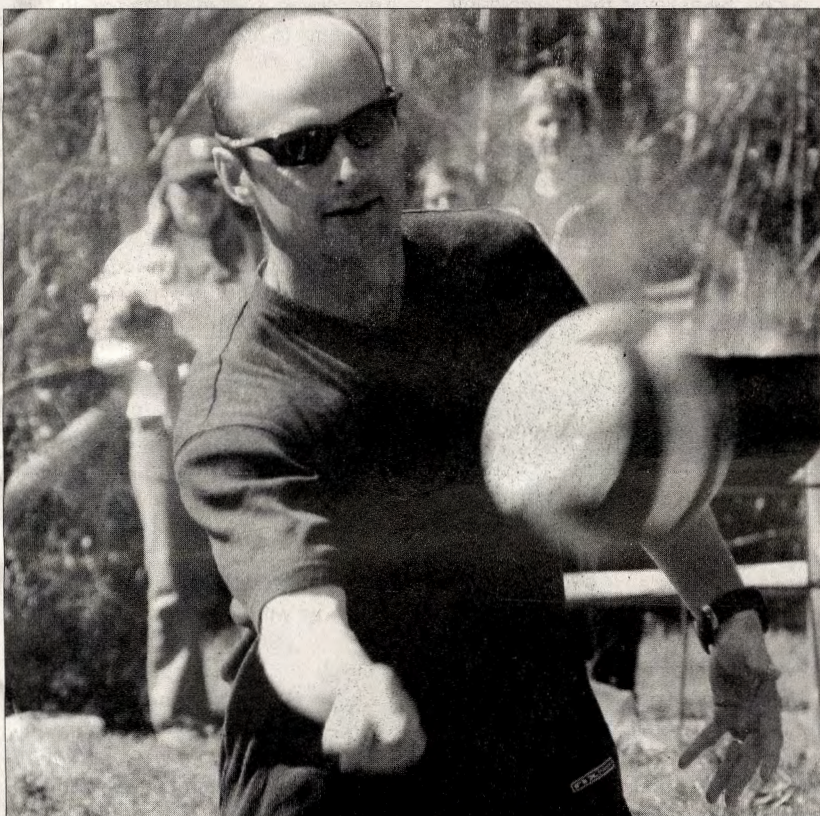
The day was filled with events and entertainment, with the MC Simone Shelley keeping the crowd entertained and informed the whole day. The competitive atmosphere drew supporters and throughout the day spot prizes were given to the crowd. Other events included a fun run in support of Give 5 to raise funds, with Dave Orpen finishing first.

Numerous sponsors around Grahamstown assisted in making this event possible. There may have been fewer teams participating this year but the competition and the challenge was as tough as ever. "The challenge is here: come face it," Mashinini said to next year's competitors.



Speeding out of the water at Jameson Dam MATTHEW MIDDLETON

Gazza's still on the ball



Gary Kirsten was one of the guest speakers for the Christians@Rhodes mission last week. In his testimony Kirsten revealed how his faith helped him during his illustrious career. As the first South African to play 100 test matches, Kirsten is a role model for all aspiring cricketers both on and off the field. A captivated audience listened to some of the highs and lows of his time in the middle. Afterwards there was a social sports day, where students could put his hand-eye coordination to the test with a game of volleyball. DAN CALDERWOOD

Rhodes Internal Soccer League heads slowly into stoppage time

By David Muller and Oliver Field

After seeing a recent high standard of performance from the Rhodes first team, the teams and players in the Rhodes Internal Soccer League have a lot to live up to. Despite the good manner that the games have been played in, this year's league has not gone without its problems.

Bad weather and a series of miscommunications have caused a massive backlog in fixtures, resulting in a heavy schedule for many teams as crucial final matches approach.

In addition, King Field has been waterlogged for a considerable amount of time this season, also resulting in matches being postponed.

Mean Machines, a newcomer to the league, is one of the sides that haven't even played half their fixtures yet. Sameer Cassiram, who is a regular squad member, says that he has been unimpressed by the management of the league as well as the professionalism of the league's web page.

"The Mean Machines hasn't been told when our missed games are going to be replayed yet, which is why we have so many games in hand,"

Cassiram explained.

There has also been confusion caused on the forums on the league's web page, where teams have organised their own fixtures despite having another match commitment on that day.

In spite of these setbacks the league is in full swing, and the standings at the top of the table have reached a climax.

League juggernauts Black Gold, who have dominated the league for the last two seasons, have fallen from the top of the table. They suffered two successive defeats to MSA and ZimSoc respectively. The 3-2 loss to MSA was their first defeat in two and a half seasons.

Dinganga, who currently occupy the top spot, are looking the most likely to clinch this year's silverware as they are still unbeaten.

They are ahead by one point with three games in hand over nearest rivals Black Gold.

As a result of the fixtures that need to be replayed, the end of the season promises to be frantic for the teams. The cup will be played next term with the top eight from the league competing.

Internal soccer league table

Team	Played	Points
Dinganga	10	30
Black Gold	13	29
Cory/Matthews	12	27
G05	13	26
Stanley Kidd	8	22
MSA	10	21
Centenary/Guy Butler	9	18
Team Oppie	11	15
Zimsoc	8	13
Renegades	10	11
Allan Webb	12	10
Cullen Bowles	7	9
De Beers	11	8
Jan Smuts	12	7
Mean Machines	6	6
Goldreef	9	6
Graham	11	4
Oakdene	10	3

Table as of September 2
Saturday's results:
G05 beat De Beers 2-1
MSA beat Oakdene 10-5
Team Oppie beat Jan Smuts 8-1

Whoever said that there were no prizes for personality?

By Tim Hancox

The 2006 Sports Personality Gala Evening was held at the OMP Lounge on August 25. This year's event was as colourful as ever, and was held in an elegant venue despite an almost non-existent budget.

Rhodes' sports stars put away their vests, takkies and boots, and donned an array of sophisticated evening wear.

The enjoyable nature of the night was evident as the well known Damian 'Moses' Bailey arrived wearing his trademark kilt. The robust rugby man is a former Mr Sports Personality, an award he won in 2004.

Presenting the awards for the night were last year's winners Gareth Young and Sanel Sobahle.

All sporting codes were represented on the night with a short slide show exhibiting some events each sport has

been involved in during the year.

Nominations for the awards had been submitted previously, with the judging having taken place at an earlier date. The judges were members of Sports Admin, along with some representatives of the sponsors for the evening. The night was about the atmosphere created by representatives from all sports and the announcements of this year's Mr and Miss Sports Personality.

The anticipation built throughout the night, and finally it was time for the presentation.

Michael Marcovina from the surf club won Mr Sports Personality 2006, and the netball club's Janis Pretzer claimed the title for Miss Sports Personality. This is the third year in a row that the netball club has produced the winner in the women's section.

For the men, second and third places went to Myles Denton and Ernst

Thompson respectfully. Sarah Skelton was second for the women, with third going to Gillian Wells.

After receiving his award Marcovina said, "It's all about your peers and they nominate you. The award means a lot because I was chosen by my teammates."

When asked why she thought she won the award, Pretzer said "I was just myself. I busted my moves on the dance floor and was myself."

The personality awards mean a lot to all those nominated, as it shows the high regard that their peers and fellow competitors hold for them. By being the embodiment of fair play and sportsmanship, the nominees have shown themselves to be an inspiration on and off the sports field.

The chairperson of the event, Heather Surridge, organised the fabulous evening with an almost non-existent budget. This is one of the year's

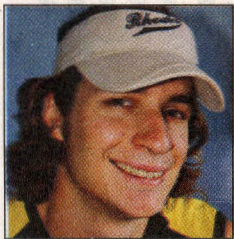


The winners, Michael Marcovina and Janis Pretzer, with Aziz Madatt JONI ELS

formal sport functions, with the Sports Council awards dinner coming up next term. The personality gala evening was yet another successful event on

the sports calendar. We wait to see what is next on the exciting Rhodes sport scene, as the personalities of the game take to the field.

From left field



By Tim Hancox

Politics and sport may have a relationship about as practical as having an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting at SAB. They go together like the millions of screaming fans of the Backstreet Boys. We don't understand it, but we shake our heads and accept it. With spring in the air, South African cricket is waking up with an usual amount of off the field-hot-air.

The Champions Trophy approaches and will be held in India. Herschelle Gibbs and Nicky Boje agree to go, even though there is a chance they will be jailbirds at the start of the tour with Indian police still wanting to question them about the Hansie Cronje match fixing-saga. Gibbs may need to be supervised when talking to the media, after saying Indian police were "being hard-arses". That is another MasterCard moment from our weed-smoking bad boy.

The bail may be more problematic for the pair, with the cancellation of the five million dollar 20/20 game. The match with a winner-take-all purse was set up by billionaire Allen Stanford. This was to be contested between South Africa and a team of West Indies superstars.

The match has been cancelled because of political disagreements in the West Indies. An agreement about selection from all the islands of the Caribbean is about as likely as Jason Gillespie ever scoring another double ton.

South Africa is still short of a match winner. The future looks bleak as Johan Botha failed a second test. It was found that his bowling action is still illegal. He is another all-rounder, while what the Proteas need is a genuinely attacking finger spinner capable of destroying a batting line-up.

The loudmouthed Kevin Pietersen has been short of runs lately, but this hasn't stopped his tongue from wagging. His recent book, *Crossing the Boundary: the Early Years in my Cricketing Life*, Pietersen blames affirmative action for his move to England. Graeme Smith has spoken out in outrage and is upset about Pietersen "slating my country". These are the cricketing days of our lives.



Richard Van Kerckhoven and Orrin Snelgar weave their way through campus, creating new paths that have no boundaries. This is free running which looks at obstacles as merely the next challenge. PHILLIPA EHLRICH

Campus is my playground!

It started in France and has now reached G-town

By Faith Bosworth

It has been described as a sport, an art form, and a lifestyle. You've seen it on the Nike advertisements and on Madonna's new music video, "Hung Up". On a Sunday morning as you drag yourself toward the call of that sunrise breakfast, you might just catch a glimpse of it right here in Grahamstown.

The movement might make you feel nauseous at first but it will certainly invigorate you more than some rubbery bacon and feverish looking eggs. What you will see are two like-minded students, Richard van Kerckhoven and Orrin Snelgar, converting campus into their very own playground. This is parkour.

Much like the origin of drinking might well be attributed to Grahamstown, this discipline also found its roots in a sleepy hollow. Racked by the small-town boredom of Lisses, France, two young boys, Sebastien Foucan and David Belle, developed their rough-and-tumble into something a little more unique than the average 10-year-old's jungle gym antics. They were guided and greatly influenced by Belle's father's military training and in particular, the concept of the obstacle course.

The discipline actually derives its name from the French word *parcours* which means "course". As the action

developed, so did the motivation behind it; because as Foucan says, "Without philosophy, action has no meaning."

Today, parkour is about freedom and fluidity of movement. It entails making a decision to free one's physical movements from the strictures of one's surroundings and social conditioning. In practice, it is about efficiency of movement; finding the quickest route from A to B. So what you do is find a run and then overcome any obstacles that might be in your way, either by jumping over, crawling under, or rolling across them. Van Kerckhoven emphasises the need for balance in these actions. "You need to know what your feet are doing at all times", he says.

Van Kerckhoven and Snelgar's motto before trying a new move is "For shits and giggles". You might have heard the same phrase issuing from the mouths of inebriated students, before launching themselves into the various hedges and shrubbery around campus.

However, parkour is not about who can do the craziest stunt or look the most flashy. Van Kerckhoven stresses the importance of knowing your own limitations. This is why, he believes, he has never injured himself seriously. For him the discipline is about overcoming obstacles and this goes beyond walls and benches. Like

Foucan, he believes that "Everything which can be considered an obstacle is part of my art." The discipline becomes a way of problem-solving in everyday life.

If you're starting to consider forsaking that breakfast next time, for some good old fashioned fun

(dancing on a table at the Rat doesn't count) why not join Van Kerckhoven? He's offering training for free, and for those of you who aren't cradled in a trust fund and have to make big decisions come Societies Evening, that should be quite a bonus. Anyone can do it, and protective gear is not necessary. You don't even have to own a Che Guevara t-shirt.

With a vast repertoire of martial arts and self-defence training and teaching behind him, as well as a considerable amount of research conducted on the origin and philosophy of parkour, Van

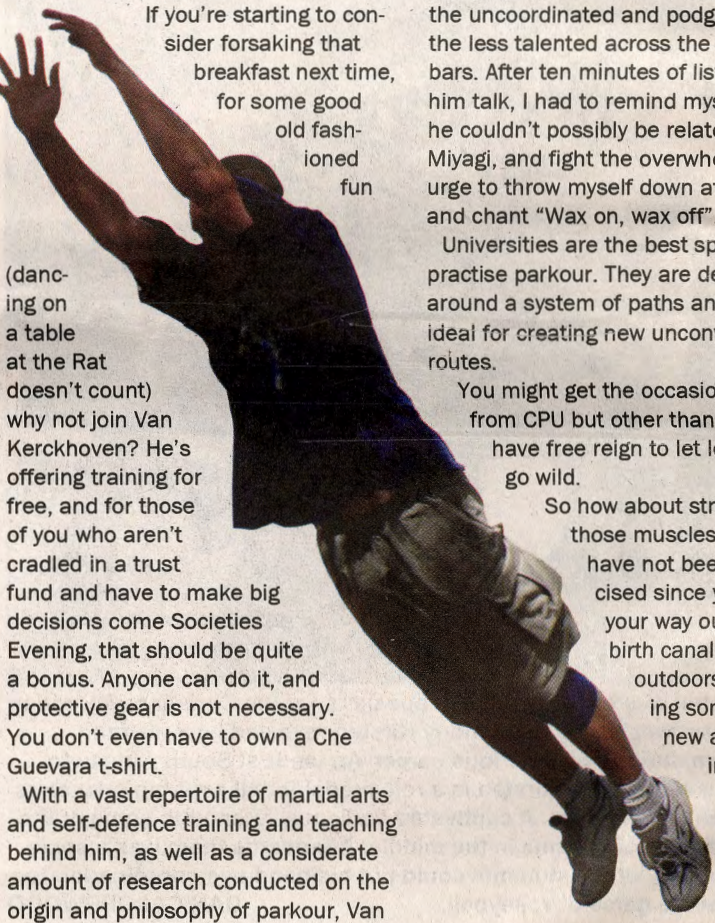
Kerckhoven is an ideal trainer. In fact he seems to have that natural ability to instruct.

He was definitely that child on the playground, who calmly negotiated the uncoordinated and podgy limbs of the less talented across the monkey bars. After ten minutes of listening to him talk, I had to remind myself that he couldn't possibly be related to Mr Miyagi, and fight the overwhelming urge to throw myself down at his feet and chant "Wax on, wax off".

Universities are the best spaces to practise parkour. They are designed around a system of paths and are ideal for creating new unconventional routes.

You might get the occasional glare from CPU but other than that, you have free reign to let loose and go wild.

So how about stretching those muscles which have not been exercised since you fought your way out of the birth canal, getting outdoors and trying something new and exciting?



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