Edition 3 4 - 25 April 2001

E STUDENT NEWSPAP

Pruning the money tree: Exploring Rhodes' budget



Recently I witnessed a conversation between two friends, both in fairly authoritative posistions, regarding the implications of discrimination. One claimed that any discrimination was unacceptable regardless of its context or purpose. The other contended that in a political forum, discrimination is merely a form of expression of one's political views. I kept quiet.

For the past decade or more, politicians and the like have been throwing around the terms transfromation and transparency: change and honesty. And whilst many of us scoff at the idea of any organisation actually managing to achieve either of these concepts in a functioning form, I doubt that we have considered the viability of incorporating them into our own lives.

We have all become sickeningly politically correct in what we say and how we relate to others. We tiptoe around topics such as racism, homophobia and sexism, fearful that we may be labelled close-minded or even bigotted. We will attack an institution, such as Rhodes, for their lack of transparency in terms of how they spend given funds, or their policies regarding their employees, but we allow them the freedom to ignore issues such as rape statistics and HIV/Aids.

According to research, and their own claims, Rhodes is one of the most financially transparent uniersities in South Africa. and students even have voting rights, via the SRC President, as to how their funds will and will not be spent. Democracy is rampant in our little institution of learning, and we are all given ample opportunity to voice our opinions and question those of the administration without fear of disciplinary action. Without this security, I could never write my editorials, or be confident in the fact that this newspaper will continue unhindered by beaurocratic constraints.

And ultimately, as long as all the mommies and daddies paying for our education are happy with the manner in which it is being supplied, why else should we expect more?

I don't accept that. I commend the university on its financial transparency but critisise its inability to take action against the practical and social evils that plague our campus. I have bitched about this more times than I can rememebr, and am noticing that no one seems to be paying attention. We have committees which look into discrimination, I am told, and I congratulate those in power for admitting that such problems actually exist, however, this passive approach is by no means adquate when there are students suffering due to their race, sexual orientation or even nationality.

In this edition, we take a rather colourful look at how campus reacts to the rising independence, both socially and physically, of women. This is another area that the varsity has managed to avoid for too many years. Some of the residence rules have been changed or have even been elimnated, but women are still locked in their reses (for their own safety) and expected to treat their male guests like escaped convicts or caged animals. Are we so pitiful a sex that this courtesy has no validation in the male residences?

Transparency aside - how about a little honesty. Yes, this institution is run by one of the most elite Old (White) Boys' associations in the country, and it is going to take someone spe cial or an act of God to actually penetrate and change this: before a woman can be considered one of the Big Five without being a nice piece of ass; or before a black head of department can operate without the word tokenism springing to mind.

This is where transformation comes in. It's about time that we all stop having fantastically inept conversations and writing wordy editorials about how disleased we are with the situation, and change it. As the old adage goes, "Change is like a holiday," so could someone hand me a towel, I need to catch a

Letters to the Editor

Prove to us that this is not the town of the Living Dead...
All letters to Activate are welcome. But please note the Editor reserves the right to edit, amend or alter material in any way deemed necessary.

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irtual Rizla

By the Jabberwock

The Jabberwock has issues.

It all has to do with a deranged Siamese cat and a spider's nest. There I was, calmly stumbling around my kitchen in very sexy boxer shorts and contemplating a vital cup of coffee when it hit me: they're all out to get me. We've had this spider's nest for a while, and all previously worried digsmates have accepted Fluffy and her babies as part of our happy home. She pays her rent on time, always washes the bath and enjoys cooking dinner when we're too tired to walk. The problem is that one of her babies has gone bad. This new dysfunction became apparent when I discovered "the message". Scratched on our formerly pristine window pane - in suspiciously spidery writing - are the letters "IM".

It makes a Jabberwocky worry. "IM" - what? - "I..aM out to get you"?

"I..aM your father"?
Or maybe it's a John
Lennon spider, and one
day that little etching
will read "IMAGINE". I
shudder to think what
happens when Ringo,
George and Paul arrive
to join in the fun.

Whatever the case may be, it was enough to drive me screaming from the kitchen. I hid under my duvet for a few hours, but Fluffy's little demon spawn would not leave me be. My left ankie has become spider din-dins, and I'm currently sporting a very fetching infection that could result in a nasty but necessary amputation.

"Dear Mom and Dad Lost foot; not sure if I'll ever find it again. Send money, and possibly spider repellant."

When I finally hobbled out from under the covers, Fluffy had put her diminutive psychopaths to bed. I rejoiced. I drank coffee. I cursed arachnids. I got attacked by a cat named Chairman Miaow. As is typical of the feline species, young Ms Miaow (whose gender has caused many politicallycorrect debates about calling the poor pussy "Chairperson") will only muster up affection for the human race if they're a) male or b) allergic. It's difficult to look threatening and yell something that approxi-mates to "Fugoff you stupidbloodysodding animal!" when you're sneezing all over the source of your woes. I did what any selfrespecting mythical creature of towering proportions would do: I blew my nose and went straight back to my

The point, my furry little friends, is that everyone is out to get me. The Americans can tell the colour of my eyes from a satellite. When I sleep at night, a webcam is secretly recording my nocturnal twitchings (take that as you will) and broadcasting them throughout the known Universe. So this little Jabberwocky is taking advantage of the ten-day vacation to chill the fuck out and remove all the bugs that have been planted under my bed and just outside my kitchen window.

room.

Look after yourselves, get where you're going in no more than one piece, and I'll catch you somewhere on the cutting-edge of this Virtual Rizla next term.

DRIVING SCHOOL beginners to advanced Mrs G 072 149 4166 Mike 082 430 9855 24 hrs





Expectations

"I expected to see my friends and meet new people." - Desiree

"I thought we were going to be touring Grahamstown, sleeping the whole day and playing golf." - Dida

"I expected to feel the thrill of journalism." - Ntsikelelo

"I thought we were going to be shopping, going to the beach - I thought it was a holiday!" - Faith

Motivations

"I like Steve Biko's philosophy that's why I entered." - Dida

"I've always been interested in journalism - it's challenging, you get to inform, educate and entertain society." - Ntsikelelo

"It was break time at school and I was bored." - Faith

Rhodes Journalism?

"I'm definitely coming back!" -

"Sure, I'll study journalism at Rhodes. It's a top institution recognised worldwide." - Ntsikelelo

Comments

"We have to do a 1000 things at the same time." - Desiree

"It's been a great exposure but they should change the selection process because some people me here having not written the essays themselves." - Ntsikelelo

Comments from the 2 white people

Q: Are you upset with the affirmative action policy in the selection agreed that the music promotes the process?

A: Alex: "Not in the least. I like the people I'm with and I feel lucky to have been chosen."

A: Tommy: "They shouldn't only encourage black journalism but journalism for all."

Steve Biko

Week

By Constance Mokhoantle

On Monday, 26 March 2001 matric students from the Eastern Cape, Orange Free State and the Northern Province arrived in Grahamstown for the Steve Biko Media week.

These students had to submit an article in which they compared the media of today to the media in Biko's time. The idea behind the Biko week is to give students an opportunity to get a feel for University life and to see what journalism is all about, whilst at the same time to recruit black students to Rhodes University.

The Steve Biko Bursary is usually offered to some of these winners if they decide to come back to Rhodes to study. Asha Speckman was awarded this bursary after she participated in last year's media week.

"I meant to come to Rhodes University so in a way the sneak preview prepared me for the atmosphere" said Asha. Her brother, Jerome, won the competition this year.

The program is sponsored by Johnnic, Anglo Gold, French Embassy, Eastern Cape Herald, Institute of the Advancement of Journalism, Daily Dispatch, Sowetan, Mail and Guardian, ** Natal Echo, City Press and YFM.

A Different Kind of Party

By Asha Speckman (A Steve Biko Student)

Don't fumble for the ideal party spot when Pop Art and the Rat lose their glamour. Cathcart Arms hotel-turnedpub, off Beaufort Street, offers a mellow alternative.

The regular patrons are an ensemble of off-duty policemen, township residents and a few Rhodes students. ** According to Nomalanga Mkhize, a Rhodes student, "There's a totally different crowd, no one cares what you wear, there's no influence from

Entertainment comes in the form of Geoffrey Tracey and his band "Uhambo" and from an experienced

"It's not what I would call today music,"commented Ms Mkhize but she laid back atmosphere.

Although the pub may not be posh, "It looks like something out of a bad "It looks like something movie," say Ms Mkhize, and unlike other pubs moral standards are maintained. "There are no funny things happening in dark corners" assures Ms

Grahamstown Chocolatel taxi violence

By Heather Knott

A press conference was held at the Graham Protea Hotel on the 23rd March by the Uncendo Chairperson, Mr. Mjoli.

There is recurring conflict between two local taxi associations that operate from behind the Checkers building in town, Uncendo U.S.T.A and Bata Borderline Association. According to Mr. Mjoli, the problem seems to be that Bata Borderline Association does not want to work with Uncendo Taxis in developing the taxi industry to become more efficient and better monitored.

Mr. Mjoli stressed that they are providing a service predominantly for the black population in Grahamstown and made it clear that Bata Borderline Association was unwilling to co - operate in negotiations for a coalition between the two ranks.

"Uncendo Taxis are willing to work together with Bata if it ensures the smooth running of taxis, we cannot have passengers waiting an hour or more to get to their destinations," claimed Mr. Mjoli.

He went on to say "it is because of Uncendo trying to improve the lot of the people that animosity has broken out between the two ranks". Mr. Mjoli stated that Bata Borderline are opposed to change and did not agree with the 'first come first serve' policy, irrespective of taxi affiliation.

Mr. Mjoli admitted that outbreaks of violence did occur between the two ranks, but was quick to stress that

"Uncendo abhors violence, it is taboo."

Furthermore he said that the police seem to take on the side of Bata borderline. According to him, police do visit other taxi ranks but always seem to issue Uncendo with massive tickets. Mr. Mjoli went on to state that when violence occurs, "police assault, beat and kick men from Uncendo".

Mr. Milelile Nkolongo, a diabetic, was forced to spend a night in jail despite his medical condition. He has a scar in the middle on his forehead from being hit with the butt of a handgun. Mr. Mjoli refused to give names of policemen involved, stating that the court and his lawyers were dealing with the matter. Replying to this comment Captain Zeelie of the police department said that "Policemen went over to keep the peace, whilst trying to break up the fight a policeman was ass Now, the taxi rank want to press charges against us, so we will wait and see the outcome of this."

By Nicola Kane

As part of the exhibitions run throughout Grahamstown for SciFest 2001, a Chocolate Factory was set up at the Albany History Museum, sponsored by Nestlé.

Andrew Stevens of the Rhodes Education Department ran the workshop and it gave delighted children the chance to design and manufacture their own chocolate bars. Stevens gave a brief history on the beginnings of chocolate as we know it and then guided the children through the steps of making a chocolate bar. Each child was able to make their own PVC mould into which they poured melted chocolate and their choice of fillings, in some cases more chocolate landed on sticky fingers than in the moulds.

While the bars were being set in a refrigerator the participants got creative and designed their own wrappers and names for their creations. After a brief session in which the chocolates were presented to the class and judged, free goodies were handed out. It can be concluded that all who attended the workshops had a yummy" time.

Graphics and design

By Harugumi Mutasa

Bruce Cadle, Head of the Graphics Design and Photography Department at P.E. Technikon, invites all students to come and see his exhibition at the Albany History Museum in the Standard Bank Gallery.

The aim of the exhibition is to make people aware of the importance of technology.

"It is part of our everyday lives." says Bruce, "Being creative does not mean being out of touch with reality. The fun is in finding out just how amazing a technological world can be.'

Highlights of the exhibition include a promotional video produced and directed by students using digitalised graphic layouts and inventive design techniques. One will also be introduced 🖁 to Blinky, a fictitious animation character who is guaranteed to get you laugh-

This exhibition is a preview of The Young Designers Achievers Award to be held during the festival.

Designers from all over the will give a personal account of their successes and the difficulties they face in South Africa's fashion and design

On Campus

There are three new Residences to be built at Rhodes, which will cost a grand total of R24 million. Hopefully, the successful contract will be awarded on the 6th of April 2001.

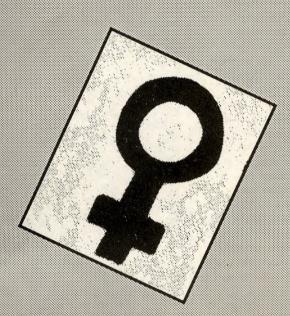
 There is a serial thief on campus who allegedly steals cell phones and wallets. In a campaign to apprehend this thief, the Campus Protection Unit will be issuing photographs of the suspect. Senior Campus Protection Official, Dave Brown, has suggested that all students and staff wear visible identification cards to minimise the escalating levels of

The SRC has set up a Digs Bureau, which has been assigned to assist students in finding feasible and safe lodgings off campus. The bureau is grading digs and will offer free legal advice and assistance to help students find digs



Spice

Deautes.



I am never getting drunk again. I say this not because of any fears of long-lasting liver damage or out of any deep religious guilt. I say this because in my inebriated state last Friday I challenged the Duke with a topic that leaves both men and women, um, gagging. Oral Sex.

Cunnilingus. Fellatio. Roll these words around in your mouth. Feel the way your tongue slides against... your palate. These are rather impressive words for deeds that few will ever admit to having done but most will happily admit to having been on the receiving end of. These are words that will either bring back fond memories of the weekend or cause your throat to constrict (with memories of the weekend). These are words that get almost more magazine space than sex itself. So what exactly are we dealing with here?

Well, if you are a woman (or gay) you will be dealing with a strong gag reflex; an even stronger desire to bite down; and the words, "I promise I'll tell you when I'm going to...oh shit, sorry". The biggest issue for women seems not to be so much whether to perform this rather dubious display of affection, but rather whether to spit or to swallow.

This is obviously a personal choice but for those of you who choose the latter, I offer but one word: Ick. It's not that one should be prissy about such matters but let's be honest, bodily fluids have their place and it's certainly not in your mouth (we're not even going to get into the whole manky diseases thing). Most men seem to see this as a key part of the experience, but these are also the mem-

bers of our race who just KNOW that they could tell if a girl was faking the Big O and will tell you with ABSOLUTE certainty that no girl has ever done so with them.

As for the whole deepthroating fallacy. Boys, it's not that girls aren't capable, it's just that in most cases no amount of effort will stretch something that small far enough to actually reach the back of the throat.

When it comes to returning the favour, there are even more issues that need to be addressed. It's not that girls are completely dead from the neck down. But different plumbing requires a different approach.

This is not the local VW service station, so please don't make us feel as though we're being given a quick once-over before quitting time. Take your time, look as though you're having fun (though we really don't care if you aren't) and remember that teeth are just as unwelcome in this situation as they are when the roles are reversed.

A very important point to remember for any cunning linguist is the need for communication. Chicks like to talk (and share and whine, etc.) and while you should be doing your job well enough for her to be rendered incapable of speech, a few well-placed questions as to your performance will earn you many a brownie point. Who knows? You may well learn something.

Most of all, try to enjoy the experience, be you man, woman or goat (this is Grahamstown after all). If it's going to be done badly, you might as well just buy yourself a caramel Magnum and go home.

Cigarette anyone?

bite me For degree

By Lauren Oshry and Christopher Scott



GROWING ON TREES: it's never that easy, especailly on a campus of 5000 PIC: Marli Burger

Money can't buy me love. But it can buy me a decent university education. You'd think so, wouldn't you?

Money, to the average Rhodes student, is an invaluable commodity. As many of us will sheepishly admit, we are not as thrifty as we would like to be, and it all ends up in the coffers of The Rat and other such frivolous institutions. The university, however, cannot hide behind such convenient excuses when it comes to their budget. As we all go about our learning in blissful ignorance, the university has to ensure that every rand counts.

South Africa's downwardly spiralling economy and subsequent devaluation of the Rand is making budgeting more and more taxing at Rhodes. We spoke to Sandy Stephenson, Academic Planning Officer, about Rhodes' financial situation.

'The budget this year is one of the tightest it's ever been at Rhodes," she said. This is partially to do with the current government subsidy scheme. And, of course, what financial equation would be complete without the inflation factor? "The subsidy is the same, but in real terms the money is less," stresses Annette Orsmond, from Rhodes' recruit-

This situation is aggravated by the varying sizes of the faculties. Humanities is the biggest in the university, with over 35% of the students registered. This is considerably larger than its closest counterpart, Commerce, with 27%. The Humanities faculty makes up the bulk of the Human Sciences. The separate faculties of Law (1.6% of registered Rhodes students) and Education (14%). The faculties of Science (15.7%) and Pharmaceutical Studies (5.8%) represent the Natural Sciences at Rhodes. These numbers are based on the 1999 figures.

The government has recently released a new "National Plan for Higher Education". Point four of the executive summary reads: "The National Plan proposes to shift the balance in enrolments over the next five to ten years between the Humanities, Business and Commerce, Science, Engineering and Technology from the current ratio of 49%:26%:25% to 40:30:30 respectively." The Rhodes Grahamstown ratio in 1999 was 45:28:27 and there is discussion as to what extent this could change in the next few years.

In 1997, Rhodes University implemented a system of Academic Review, whereby each department is required to submit a report to a university-wide review committee. It outlines their plans for the following three to five years and commenting on their current position nationally and within the institution. An official Statistical Digest is available by request on loan from the Vice-Chancellor's office. The digest provides information used in decision-making at

The departments are asked to examine themselves prudently and economize wherever possible. The committee then assesses the departments' needs and recommends the distribution of very limited resources accordingly.

1999 statistics showed an even spread of departments that ran at a profit and at a loss. Profitable subjects included Economics, Biochemistry, Psychology and English Language & Linguistics, while departments in debt included Drama, Geography, Pharmaceutical Sciences, and Physics and Electronics. This is mostly due to high operating costs and/or low student numbers.

The second Review took place in 2000. The gist of both reports was that Rhodes would not neglect the Humanities, despite the lack of available funds. To this end, Rhodes has taken the decision to crosssubsidize between faculties to even out the costs of running them.

'The government puts across that the country needs more scientists and technologists," says Prof. Terry, Dean of Science. "So they subsidize more to those departments." For every RI the government subsidizes a Humanities student, a Science student receives R2,69 (1998 figures).

'They're trying to encourage more science students in universities," he explains. But schools are not producing enough competent students in higher grade Maths and Science. The university is not considering dropping its standards to compensate for this problem. "That is in nobody's interest," says

or money?

The process of cross-subsidizing effectively takes money away from the Science departments. When asked about this, Terry shrugged and said, "That's the university's business. I am sure every department could spend more than it's got, we just have to make do with what we have.

There's the old saying: "The bigger they are, the harder they fall." At this comment, Prof. Ian Macdonald, Dean of Humanities, laughs. "No, Humanities at Rhodes is very well. I think it's flourishing." Although the very nature of his position makes his answer biased, he is pleased to state: "Rhodes has made a conscious effort to maintain the integrity of the liberal arts disciplines."

Could we see an eventual deterioration of the typical Humanities student in the wake of the contemporary business world? "Humanities students are not confined to skills and restricted by their environment," says Prof. Webb, Dean of Commerce. "A Humanities background is as employable as a Commerce background. An employer should look for individual capabilities and not just training." Despite these encouraging remarks, the statistics differ

Six months ago, Activate ran a feature article on the fate of the modern Humanities graduate [Edition 9, 30 August - 8 September 2000]. Startling statistics showed students of the Humanities 26% behind those of Commerce in permanent employment in 1998.

The general consensus among Rhodes' leading Humanities authorities was that Human Science subjects teach people to think critically and laterally. These skills are apparently in high demand in the modern workplace, yet there seem to be few jobs available to

The feature explained this contradiction by quoting the results of the Graduate Placement

Programme (GPP), which was statistically unsuccessful in helping Humanities graduates find jobs.

Mark Rainier, Rhodes' Student Advisor and co-ordinator of the GPP, put this down to employers using the GPP to recruit large numbers of specifically trained people, hence the high success rate for Commerce students.

Rainier mused that smaller and more flexible businesses tend to recruit from where they are based and on a more personal level than large companies simply looking for trained article clerks. He explained that graduates of Humanities more frequently find employment through local circles and personal contacts.

The faculty of Commerce is Rhodes' most cost-effective faculty, with the departments of Accounting, Economics and Management all generating a relatively large profit for the university. These "chalk and talk" subjects cost the university little capital. While the department of Information Systems does cost a bit more, its income adequately covers its expenses.

With Commerce numbers on the rise, we asked Prof. Webb if he foresaw Commerce overtaking the growth of Humanities. "There are people who see the Commerce faculty as the 'cash cow' of the university. However, this is looking through the world in very specific

"The SA economy is in a downward swing. It is inevitable, because of higher levels of unemployment, that young people will become more career-oriented." But he adds, "Will this persist? I sincerely

He continues: "It is the university's policy not to let that happen. Iln a town where the student population is approximately 5000, we don't want 60 to 70% of them to be Commerce students. It would alter the Rhodes experience."

Surely students should have a say in the way in which the budget is managed? "We pay academic fees; we should have a say in where it's going," observes Tamara Kenny, Editor of Activate.

When approached on this matter, Matthew Charlesworth, President of the Student Representative Council (SRC), asserts that the students of Rhodes do have a say in how the budget is administered. The SRC has representatives with two independent votes on the Rhodes Budget Committee. Through this forum, students can

raise issues and influence the allocation of funds and resources.

Students also have representapopulation is approximately 5000, we tives on the university's most important decision-making body, the Academic Planning and Staffing Committee.

This is undoubtedly a pertinent issue for students of the university, but student opinion on the subject

seems to be lacking. "A lot of students aren't concerned [with the budget] - they just think that, magically, the departments run," Charlesworth notes.

The SRC president, Charlesworth receives very little input from the students regarding the financial workings of the university. He does not see this as a bad thing. "Rhodes students can rest assured that the financial management at RU is sound and that there are people taking an interest in the budget that have the students' and the university's best interests at heart.'

Being able to keep this up effectively, time and time again, is an accomplishment of which Rhodes University should be damn proud. This intricate organizational web could unravel at the pull of a single thread, with disastrous consequences. The strands work to support each other and create the intrinsic design that is Rhodes University.



"In a town where the student

don't want 60 to 70% of them to be

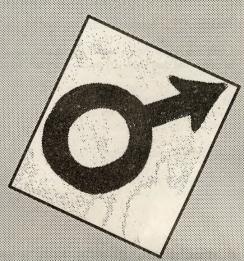
Commerce students. It would alter

the Rhodes experience."

HANDS OUT: careful budgeting is necessary to keep Rhodes' wheels turning.

PIC: Marli Burger

"filthy" Sanchez



When a woman calling herself "Bite Me Spice" comes up to you in a bar and asks for a conversation about oral sex. you've got to figure that things have gone your way. Either that or you agreed to write a column at the beginning of the year, discussing themes on which men and women disagree.

Not that I would have thought that oral sex was a debatable subject. As far as I'm concerned it boils down to a simple philosophy: blow-jobs rock. End of story. She muttered something about there being more than one kind of oral sex as I walked out of Champs, but I was too busy trying to make a Castle look inconspicuous in my crotch to listen. Those bouncers can get vicious, you know. Try to tell them that addiction isn't a choice and the bottle ends up as a permanent feature.

Ah, head. The first time I had the opportunity to buff a chick's gums was at my alma mater, Ogies Hoer. She wasn't really the type of girl that you'd take home to meet your folks. Sort of a combination of Bonnie Tyler and Patricia Lewis, only without the class, brains or sex appeal. She led me out to the bike shed, where the industrial arts workshop would drown out any noise, and introduced me to the forbidden fruit. I had never imagined it would be an exploding aubergine, but I guess life is full of surprises. The second time wasn't

quite as easy. The chick in question was a prefect you know the type. Marliese van Staden always won the English prize, did Bible readings in assembly and dated the first team flyhalf. I had to develop a cross between a half-nelson

and a sit-up to even get things going. And just when it looked like it was coming together the Geography teacher came back into class and I had to pretend to be giving her the Heimlich manoeuvre. By which time she almost needed

Not that Bobby Johnson is completely without problems. The biggest being that it is often accompanied by a hand-job. Any man will tell you that chicks have no idea of grip, pressure or rhythm. We've been practising this on ourselves since we were twelve - no matter how good you are, doll, we are just better. And most women can't even claim basic competence.

I experienced this firsthand on the beach at Margate. I'd smoothtalked this flossy into coming for a walk and then negotiated some of the good stuff, inevitably, instead of sticking to the all-too pleasant slurping, she decided to have a go with her hand.

Obviously confusing pressure with pleasure, she gripped my important part at the base, squeezing with all the might she could muster. Mistaking my gasp of agony for a moan of pleasure, she heaved upwards, unaware that she had in her grasp numerous scrotal hairs. resulting in the violent collision of eggs with undercarriage. Before I could shake myself free from the shock, she completed the circle of torture by dragging her stillclenched hand downwards, bringing the beach sand stuck to her hand into contact with the hel-

The screams and the tears of that night have never really left me; it was a few years before I could even order calamari without breaking down.

SUUTI

I'm counting down the days, overzealously I might add, till I can get on the Greyhound and (if I'm lucky) arrive in Cape Town fourteen hours later. Its not that I miss the mountain or the gorgeous Capetonian males, but Grahamstown just starts getting on ones nerves after a six week stint. In the spirit of enjoying it while it lasts I tried scrummaging around for social activities that could soften the blow of the last few days in Grahamstown. Unfortunately if you're not staying for Graduation weekend, to stalk long lost loves or graduating yourself there's not much else on offer.

ROCK-A-BYE FOR A SLEEPING MAN AND A BARKING DOG is this years grad production, brought to you by Gary Gordon and the First Physical Theatre at the Rhodes Theatre on 4th and 5th April at 19h30.

GRADUATION BALL 2001: Sorry this ones only for the graduates and their dates, of course. Tickets are R220 available at Eden Grove. So unless you're asked you aint going honey.

FOREPLAY?... A new club that's meant to open over Grad weekend and provide music with a R&B flava.

Lastly Go home, find a decent club/band/coffee shop/man/woman/ sheep and have a good time, keeping in mind that there are still three terms left and there's nothing quite like home.

Like Mamn

It's the end of term: essays are due, prac reports need to be done, projects have to in between all of this, where do you find the time to fulfil you basic need for decent the Pepper Grove Mall (next to the Green Bean), are here to make life a little easier

The Home Industries has a fridge dedicated to a variety of ready-made meals. The Pie to R22 for vegetarian lasagne) are perfect for a big digs, while the single 500g me for chilli carne carne) are great for those in res. And if this isn't your thing, how about Alternatively make your own with their fresh organic vegetables.

Whatever you do, don't forget dessert! Tarts, flans, cakes and other baked goodies souls. So try a big, delicious slice of cheesecake for R7.50. They also make cakes to c

The Home Industries also sells preservatives, such as pickles and jams, and a large are diluted 4:1, are great for those hot summer nights. And flavours like Prickly Pear price isn't bad either, ranging from R5.80 to R10.90.

If you celebrate Easter, they also have chocolate Easter eggs. For those who don't, Tempted yet?



(You can figure

19

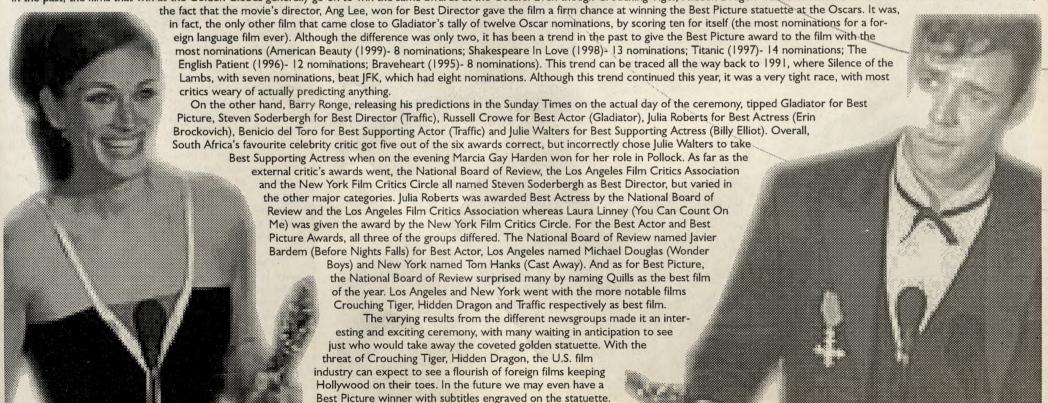
The Activate Guide to what, when, how, wi Splitting Reels 2001: Oscar's Odyssey

By Robert Odendaal and Nigel Tompkins

The tears have been shed for this year, and we'll have to wait another twelve months until the little gold statuette forces out more from the finest folk in world cinema. The 73rd Annual Academy Awards took place on Sunday the 25th March this year, with comedian Steve Martin hosting the ceremony. Courtesy of M-Net's broadcast the following day, South African audiences were able to fawn over their favourite film stars as they graced the red carpet to the Shrine Auditorium (the last time the famous arena will host the Oscars. As of next year the award ceremony will be held in the Kodak Theatre in Hollywood). Anticipation ran high among the film stars, critics and the public alike, as this was one of the most unpredictable years in recent history.

The Golden Globe ceremony, held on the 21st January earlier this year, is usually a good indication of what films will take Oscars, especially in the prominent Best Picture, Acting and Directing categories. This year, however, the Globes were so evenly distributed among four top films that it ensured there would be few surprises on Oscar night. Gladiator, Traffic, Almost Famous and Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon each won two major awards at the Golden Globes. The fact that Almost Famous (which won Best Picture Musical or Comedy and Best Supporting Actress at the Golden Globes) wasn't even nominated for Best Picture at the Oscars was already a big surprise to critics, especially as many critics had predicted it to take the Best Picture award. Even the Internet Movie Database (IMDB), the largest and most visited movie site on the Internet, had users predicting it to win the Best Picture Award on Oscar night. Gladiator, which won Best Picture Drama at the Golden Globes surprised many critics, who began contemplating the fact that the film could take top honours from the Academy.

In the past, the films that win at the Golden Globes generally go on to win the same awards at the Oscars. Even though Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon wasn't nominated for Best Picture at the Golden Globes,



Mission: Munchies

Makes It

s have to be finished and you still need a social life. But or decent food? The local Home Industries, situated in ttle easier during these hard times.

neals. The large meals (ranging from R29 for a Cottage e 500g meals (between RIO for cottage pie and RI5 how about a pie or quiche? Or maybe even a salad?

ed goodies are there to tempt even the healthiest of cakes to order in any size, provided the order is made

nd a large selection of cookies. The syrups, 750ml that rickly Pear and Lemon, are definitely worth a try. The

who don't, their Dragon eggs look just as good.









The Kaif is under new management, and after two weeks of major cleaning, it promises a clean and student- friendly environment. Now a family business, the Main Kaif is run by Billy Ranchod, while his nephew, Dharmesh Gallabh, is managing the Day Kaif.

Ranchod has introduced a variety of new meals to the menu, such as samoosas, curry and rice (a bargain for R7.50), and Roti. Also new is a Sunday waffle and ice-cream special.

As the Kaif tries to keep prices as low as possible, other student specials will be starting soon, such as burgers and cheap pizzas.

Ranchod aims to please the customers, and is trying to cater for all sections of the student market, so he welcomes input. A suggestion box will soon be set up for suggestions regarding the menu, or merely criticism and complaints about the food itself or the prices.

The Kaif will also see a change in entertainment facilities, with more pool tables, games, and even a TV.

While students complain about bad treatment in Grahamstown, the Kaif is both convenient and offers friendly service. Make good use of it, after all it is there for you, the students!

w, where, with whom, how many, how much... n figure out the rest)

Oh Brother, Where The players: George Clooney, John Turturro, John Goodman, Holly Hunter Art Thou?

Director: Joel Coen

Runtime: 110 minutes Rating: 8/10

Reviewed by: Nigel Tompkins

The Coen brothers (Fargo, The Big Lebowski, Barton Fink) do well again. They are, by far, the most consistently interesting filmmakers in cinema today. This time they chose to tackle Homer's Odyssey and update it to America's Deep South in the Depression of the 1930's. The story has three convicts on the run seeking a 'treasure' and encountering many misadventures along the way. Probably the most original adaptation of any classic literature, the brothers (Joel and Ethan) were nominated for an Oscar at this year's ceremony for Best Original Screenplay. Mainly for fans of the Coens or for anyone who has read The Odyssey, the filmmakers constantly delve into the bizarre and abstract, filling their

movies with profound metaphors that will make you feel intelligent for watching them. If you are unfamiliar with their films, give this one a try, it's well worth the price of admission.



Reviewed by: Nigel Tompkins The Players: Jason Biggs, Mena Suvari, Greg Kinnear, Dan Akroyd

Director: Amy Heckerling Runtime: 95 minutes Rating: 3/10

having paid to watch this crap.

You've never seen anything like this. Unless you've seen American Pie, She's All That or any other 'movie' that stars either Jason Biggs or Freddie Prinze jnr. Hollywood has been churning out teen-comedies like Rhodes churns out self-confessed alcoholics, but this one is different. It's just not funny, at all, ever. It's just a teen-movie that bores the audience into submission while they wait for a dance scene or a something involving pizza and a pubic hair. Biggs and Suvari play college students in New York who experience the tumultuous throes of life as a youth. Ah cute! The film achieves such high levels of mediocrity that it becomes annoying. The most remarkable achievement about Heckerling's direction is just how unremarkable the film ends up being. One feels after having watched the movie that the only 'loser' is you for

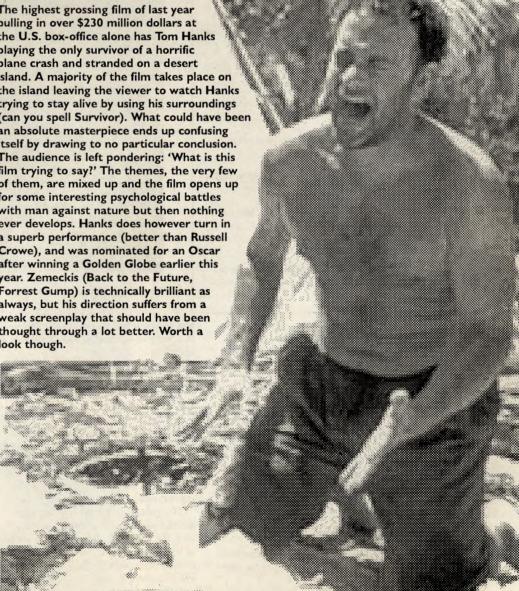


Rating: 6/10 The highest grossing film of last year pulling in over \$230 million dollars at the U.S. box-office alone has Tom Hanks playing the only survivor of a horrific plane crash and stranded on a desert island. A majority of the film takes place on the island leaving the viewer to watch Hanks trying to stay alive by using his surroundings (can you spell Survivor). What could have been an absolute masterpiece ends up confusing itself by drawing to no particular conclusion. The audience is left pondering: 'What is this film trying to say?' The themes, the very few of them, are mixed up and the film opens up for some interesting psychological battles with man against nature but then nothing ever develops. Hanks does however turn in a superb performance (better than Russell Crowe), and was nominated for an Oscar after winning a Golden Globe earlier this year. Zemeckis (Back to the Future, Forrest Gump) is technically brilliant always, but his direction suffers from a

The players: Tom Hanks, Helen Hunt

Director: Robert Zemeckis Runtime: 145 minutes

weak screenplay that should have been thought through a lot better. Worth a



El Presidenté President SRC president adal. There is

By Matt Charlesworth, SRC president

been finalized. The SRC has been able to approve the society grants, and I would like to invite chairpersons of our various societies to see Sheila Cook, our SRC Accounts Clerk, to access their grants. Societies are reminded that the SRC allocates grants based on budget requests received in the previous year. We also analyze the performance of the society, and would encourage all societies to hand in annual or quarterly reports to keep us informed of what they are doing.

The University has recently shortlisted three candidates for the Vice-Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award. This is a very prestigious award and relies largely on student input into the process. The three shortlisted candidates are: Professors Christo Doherty (Journalism), Nic Heideman (Mathematics) and Matthew Lester (Accounting). The award consists of R15 000,

and a medal. There is another similar award for research. However, as students are directly involved in attending lectures, we have a greater say in the teaching award. Unfortunately, nominations for the teaching award are closed for this year, but if you think your lecturer deserves the award, visit Patrick Phillips in the Human Resource Division (in the Old Admin Block) and nominate your lecturer for next year.

I would also like to ask anyone who is interested in helping to start the Buddy Campaign to contact Debbie Turkington (secretary@src.ru.ac.za) who is co-ordinating the programme. Its purpose is to further encourage responsible alcohol use.

The first term is coming to a close, and June is just round the corner. I'd like to wish you all a relaxing holiday, and trust that you return to Rhodes safely.

So there you are, nursing your drink and watching that femme atale at Pop Art kick the hell out of ape-man and his cronies. Whose side are you on?

HIM - Lyndal: I think domination is sexy in a man...[Hmm - obviously someone enjoys being tied down.]

HER - Tara: I'm full of shit and I need someone to control me. There's nothing like a slap to keep me real.

HER - Constance: I think you have to know how to defend yourself. t just makes sense. You could go out with a guy who might seriously hurt you, so you have to know how to kick his arse!

HER - Ayanda: Hell yeah! I'd love to have that kind of power over a guy!

HER - Doug: I'd date a strong woman. As long as she's not some kind of psycho or anything weird like that.

NEITHER - Gareth: Why would you want to beat anyone up? [Ah, a peace-loving, tree-hugging Rhodent!]

HIM - Martin: A guy needs to be superior. He's gotta protect his

HER - Lwazi: There's nothing wrong with strong women. I don't think being able or unable to defend yourself is an issue.

HER - Susan: I wouldn't date a wimpy guy. What if we're attacked? I have to defend the both of us?

HER - Terrence: I'd be with her as long as she didn't look like a sumo wrestler!

HER - Michael: As long as she's hot...

NEITHER - Yeukai: I'd never know whether he's agreeing with me because he wants to, or because he's scared of getting a blue eye or something.

Two people, both alike in strength, in fair Pop Art (where we lay our scene), from ancient grudge to new mutiny, where silk stockings make boxer shorts unclean...

Picture this: a girl at a party wearing a luminous micro-mini complemented by a skin-tight leather boob tube - the epitome of a femme fatale. Suddenly HE cuts through the crowd with all the cunning grace of a jungle cat. He sways into her arms and all is well - up to the point where a band of hulking apes surrounds him with death in their eyes. He is left helpless until - with a flash of leather and a toss of ebony locks - they are destroyed and she towers victorious-

It all begs the question: would you go out with him...or with her? Leticia Grimett is a diminutive, harmless-looking woman. She is also a self-defence teacher who believes that "all women should take part in some form of aggressive sport".

Grimett says: "Not enough women have acknowledged the very real anger that is living inside them."

Women living in South Africa should learn to defend themselves. With our high crime statistics, it's necessary for women to be alert and self-empowered.

Grimett calls martial arts "a way of pushing your limits, and of realizing that you have no limits". She was introduced to the martial

Icme of brawnz

By Rene Taljaard and Nomonde Mxhalisa



You know you want me: strong women at Rhodes don't miss out on adoring male attention. pic: Stewart Stanbury

are either ridiculously

all things gentlemanly go

straight down the drain. Many

are wary and feel attacked"

arts by her uncle when she was ten years old. So how do men react to a woman who could kick their arse all the way across a crowded

"Men feel threatened. They are either ridiculously subservient or chivalrous; or all things gentlemanly go straight down the drain. Many are wary and feel attacked."

In a country where women have traditionally been the weaker sex, Grimett stresses that "the time of helplessness and not knowing any better is long gone. Women must stop living in fear of being raped, attacked or mugged and start taking responsibility for their own lives."

This reference to old-fashioned South African values begs a further question: with the patriarchy that still lurks within the consciousness of too many people, would a girl still learn self-defence if it meant no male company for aeons to come? The answer - thankfully, for any bra-burning types on campus - was a rousing "Yes!"

Stories of strong women abound, even in this little town of ours. One of the most alarming was the tale of a "little domestic disagreement" that ended up with the annoyed wife losing her temper and throwing acid at her husband's face! When asked about his disfigured features, he would shrug and reply "Oh, you know - my wife,

Knees to the groin, frying pans, ham-"Men feel threatened. They mers, pizzas - Lorena Bobbit would be proud. Women are a resourceful species, and many a Rhodent female is subservient or chivalrous; or not afraid to put her high heels where her boyfriend's treasure lies...

Women in history have been equally discriminated against when it comes to self-defence. The Vikings did not allow their women to defend themselves, and any Viking woman who was caught with a weapon was beheaded. It seems

things haven't changed entirely, because a lot of guys are still reluctant to deal with physically strong women - women who could defend themselves in a sticky situation. To those guys who said "no" to women in self-defence, please make an effort to join the 21st century. The rational, empowered section of the female population would thoroughly appreciate it!

Fireside Facelift

Yes, there is a very valid reason for the huge turnout of an exceptionally enthusiastic audience at this year's season of Fireside Jam: it has simply been reborn. The Union was packed last Sunday night as some of the university's most promising talents played their very own, original, live music. Fireside has always been an event at which aspiring musicians have had the opportunity of making themselves heard. But thanks to the new society created this year, Live Music at Rhodes, it has been especially successful.

Mike Renwick, who devotedly sits at the new mixing desk this year, is largely responsible for the awesome change. Live Music at Rhodes is the all-new music society aimed at creating a greater opportunity for students at the university to expand their talents and, hopefully, to make a national statement with their music. Mike states enthusiastically that all he wants is "to see live music happening in this town", and with his dedication and that of Union Manager, Peter Boshoff, it seems that this is exactly what is going to happen.

Mike feels that a lot of bands that have been playing so far this year have shown a lot of potential, and are more than capable of following in the footsteps of some of South Africa's well known bands, such as One Large Banana, who were born at this very event. He hopes to implement a more structured approach to Fireside in the future, such as introducing a compulsory soundcheck for bands wanting to perform before the event takes place. Bands and other artists who feel they are not ready to compete at such high levels, and wish only to make an informal appearance, will appear towards the end of each event. He hopes this will promote a more professional performance, and therefore a greater chance that these bands will make it big beyond campus boundaries.

There have, however, been a few problems recently with the technical aspects of the event, such as a few blown speakers and other minor annoyances that interfere with the performances. This caused him to consider moving Fireside somewhere like Princess Alice Hall, near BP on African Street, where he would be the manager of the event. However, he would lose the perfect central location and spirit that the

Mike also stresses that he would like to introduce a more varied choice of music into the event such as kwaito and hiphop or R&B. The focus so far has mainly been on alternative and rock styles, and although this has worked very well, he feels a little diversity would do wonders.

Rhodes Union provides and is

therefore reluctant to move

The membership fee required to join this new society was introduced mainly to obtain funds for the improvement and maintenance of the necessary equipment, without which, Fireside Jam would be far less enjoyable. He also hoped to make the Fireside event an exclusive privilege for members of the new society, but this poses two problems. One is that this would defeat the whole object of Fireside, that a free and enthusiastic audience would not be able to enjoy Rhodes' vast array of talents. The second problem would be that he would have to start demanding a cover charge for non-members upon entry. This would also put a damper on the affair and would not do much for audience spirit and participation.

But, all problems aside, both Peter's and Mike's aspirations and expectations for this year's Fireside are high and hopefully it will carry on for the rest of the year with as much energy and talent with which it began. Mike even has hopes of getting the bands' music out at large to the world, through the use of the Internet and formal links to the well-known 'Fried Jam'. Imagine being able to download your favourite MP3s from Fireside directly onto your PC while you are on the other side of the



Rhodes students unplugged @ fireside jam

A Splash of Colour

by Lara Buxbaum



The Dakawa Arts and Crafts Community Centre in Grahamstown has been operating since 1992. Its main focus is to promote entrepreneurship, and in this end encompasses several spheres of creativity - ceramics, textile design, weaving, sewing, printing and beading.

The programs are aimed at empowering people from previously disadvantaged backgrounds, but are open to everyone. The courses are extremely rigorous, and taught by highly skilled artists, over a period of three years. The textile course for example involves dressmaking, art design, colour and technical training, as well as business development.

Denese Grewar, Dakawa's marketing manager, proudly said that this year they are hoping to move out a couple of groups, who will hopefully form their own franchises. It truly is remarkable what this project has achieved, under the very capable direction of its chairman, Mr Lubombo. Dakawa also has a youth development program with children from the township primary schools.

Given all the achievements of Dakawa, it was shocking to hear from Ms Grewar, that the Department of Arts and Culture's three year sponsorship recently ended, leaving Dakawa to run a huge fundraising campaign in order to continue their existence. Luckily they managed to raise enough money for this year, but are still looking for a permanent sponsor. It's highly upsetting to hear that the government's art sponsoring is so short sighted, and I wonder how many other wonderful programs have been left in the lurch.

I urge everyone to go and see some of the beautiful artworks at the Dakawa shop at 6 Froude Street, or even at 'In Touch', under the arch, and support this local initiative. For more information contact Dakawa at 622-9303.

Bad Vibes Over Jazz Band?

By Kate Pendlebury

We human creatures love a scandal. Take, for instance, recent rumours circulating about the closure of the old Rhodes jazz band and a subsequent establishment of a smaller one, with the apparent exclusion of non-music majors. Here follows an attempt to untangle the web...

First a bit of background: the Rhodes jazz band has been through several incarnations since its inception as a traditional big band twenty years ago. It returned to this state, which requires sixteen to twenty musicians, under the direction of Mike Skipper in 1996. The music department's only full-time jazz musician, Nishlyn Ramanna, took over direction of the band at the beginning of this year. He found that this number of artists (with the correct ratio of trumpets to trombones to saxes) was increasingly difficult to accumulate and entice to practise sessions, and the band was beginning to fall apart.

Whereas the old band consisted chiefly of non-music students intent on gigs and good times, the new one is aimed at improving the technique of potential future professional musicians. Thus, many former band members feel "shafted" in favour of (an increasing number of) jazz students. Indeed, some feel that Ramanna should not have accepted the position of director if he was unable to sustain the band in its original form. Although the new band does not explicitly exclude non-music students, auditions, increased practising time and a smaller membership do make it less accessible. Old band members I spoke to feel that they have been left in the lurch. Traditions that evolved over five years of the band seem to have been disregarded, and forums and funding for gigs abruptly withdrawn.

Thus we have not so much a scandal as a dilemma: that of satisfying the need for experience and development of music students and providing facilities for other musicians, many of which are highly talented. According to Richard Poole (a member of the old band), a new band is soon to be formed and directed by Merlyn Julie of St Andrews College. Perhaps the best test of the discretion of the change will be the success of the respective bands, and the support the university gives to each... Good luck to both!



Arts n' Culture

Clare Hazelton, Arts & Culture Editor

As the rest of the university gears up for graduation, I quietly run in circles around Grahamstown, like a chicken with its head cut off, in my own panicked organising. I, however, am not planning one weekend in a small South African town, but a three-month adventure across the world to The Netherlands.

One of the great opportunities of being in university is the chance to go on an exchange programme. A chance for a whole new range of experiences. Yet it is also a scary step to take. Will the experiences be all good? Will The Netherlands be a friendly place? And what about the people?

Getting ready to jet into a land unknown has given me a chance to contemplate these questions and between cultures. It has also made me realise how little I actually know about different cultures across the world (beside the stereotypical wrap-ups like "the French are romantic" and "all Australians are sheep-lovers") and how this ignorance could be the root of a serious problem in our world: xenophobia.

It fascinates me how someone can have a "morbid dislike of foreigners" when they don't even know a thing about the so-called foreigner. A classic example of the "fear of the unknown" - we are a fragile, threatened species who do not like our space "invaded". How true is this on campus?

Exchange students do not appear to have much of a problem. Houmi Ahamed – a French girl from a suburb fifteen minutes from Paris – has found she has not been discriminated against at all. "When I arrived everyone said 'Hello, hey, howzit'... and then one week [later] they no more said 'Hello, hey, howzit'..." she lauched.

laughed.

So Rhodes students are friendly, but even this friendliness is somewhat false; as Houmi noted, a week after arriving the greetings eased up. She found she has encountered more curiosity than an intense like or dislike of her. Similarly, the Dutch exchange students in my class have found their fellow students very friendly

and accommodating (although I'm not sure they can say the same for the university rules, as the majority of them are used to living in digs, and residence life has come as a bit of a shock!).

As another student, who used to study at UPE, pointed out, it is more those closer to home who tend to be disliked by South African Rhodes students. The Zimbabweans. There have been a few controversial issues on campus when it comes to Zimbabweans and xenophobia at Rhodes. A lovely example is the rather rude comment against one of them on a RMR talk show last year. Then there are the whispers in the corridors about Zimbabweans taking up spaces in the varsity that South Africans

should be getting. The ex-UPE student, Pihwo Soga, said she didn't think the majority of South African students have a real dislike of Zimbabweans: "At UPE there are like a handful, and then you come out here and it's like... woosh!" Her theory is that people are only surprised at the number of Zimbabwean students, and it creates a great deal of talk. It also generates a worthwhile subject matter for jokes - hence the seeming racist or xenophobic Zim jokes which roam around campus.

Students from France, Holland, or America on the other hand are in the minority, and have a culture substantially different from our own, which makes them far more interesting. Hence the friendliness and curiosity.

So it looks as though I'm sale, and I've heard Europeans love the South African accent - go figure! But I'll let you know.

Clare Hazelton is going on exchange to the Utrecht School of Journalism, twenty minutes from Amsterdam. She will return weighed down by good food and photographs in July. Christelle Du Toit will be Arts and Culture Editor in the interim. Clare thanks her profusely. Clare will still however be writing her column, and apologises in advance for any articles she may write in a stoned state!



The mystery of South Africa for our foreign students.

By Theresa Swinton

What is so intriguing about Africa for the exchange students who visit our universities? Are they curious to discover the cultural differences or is the myth of deepest, darkest Africa still alive in our European and Western counterparts? I spoke to two of my fellow students - who are on exchange - to find out exactly why they chose to study at Rhodes.

Although daunted by the prospect of having to interview a French student, who at times has trouble expressing herself in English, I found Elise Cardineau to be a welcoming person who exuded vibrance and vitality. Unlike most of us locals, who only study four subjects a year, Elise is studying six subjects and is focusing mainly on languages.

On my first impression of Toscha Stoner - an American student from Hood College in New Freedom Pennsylvania, I sense that she too is ready to try all that our little town has to offer. Although many of us may feel inhibited in this small place that we call home, Toscha does not find Grahamstown to be much different from her own home town, which she says: "Is so small that not many people know that it exists."

How is your education system different for the one that we have here at Rhodes?

E - At our university there is wide instruction in languages, Foreign Civilizations and linguistics. It is necessary for each student to study a number of languages and, in this sense you could say that our education system is much more diverse.

T - People were trying to explain the grading system at Rhodes to me, and it went completely over my head. The concept of one final exam is very difficult for me to grasp. At colleges in America we are graded according to our class performance and not much emphasis is placed on the exams at the end of each year. We need to earn twelve credits in order to study as a full time student and since I am in my last year, I have two final credits left.

Why did you choose to come to Rhodes?

E - This is the first year that our university has started an exchange programme to countries in Africa, so when I was given the opportunity I took it

T - I have always wanted to come to South

Africa. Our college is affiliated with Washington College and it is through their exchange programme that I am able to be here.

Does Rhodes have a different culture to your university?

E - Yes much different. The most shocking thing for us is the partying. We are more shy in France and there is much more drinking here than we are used to. The teaching methods are also very different. In France our classes are much more passive and students are not expected to participate in the class

T - Our college is all female and so at first it was very strange to go to lectures and see men in the classes with you. The drinking culture does not bother me though - I think that our students drink more at home.

Did you find if difficult to meet people when you first arrived here?

E - Yes, I think that people did not want to form a lasting relationship with me because of the difference in language. People would talk to me, but not for long.

T - I came across with two of my friends from College, so I mainly stayed with them for the first few days. Looking back on it though, I think that perhaps it would have been more beneficial for me to have come to Rhodes alone as I would have had to meet people quickly.

Have you traveled around South Africa much while you have been here?

E - So far we have only visited Port Alfred and Port Elizabeth, but we plan to go along the Garden Route and to Cape Town later in the semester, before we go back to France.

T - We have been down the Garden Route and are planning to go to Cape Town and the Karoo in May. Washington College is cooperating with Dr Nell in the Geology Department, and it is through them that our tours are being organized.

Although these are only the opinions of two exchange students, I am sure that many others feel the same as they do. For most students it is a once in a lifetime opportunity to visit Africa. Let us hope that these exchange programmes will continue, as it is a wonderful chance to meet diverse and interesting people. I was surprised by what I learnt when speaking to Toscha and Elise and, at the end of my interview, regretted that I had not made an effort to get to know them before writing this article.

Court decision calls race-based policy unfair

By Matthew Boedy Alligator Staff Writer, cour-

Alligator Staff Writer, cou tesy-alligator online

In another blow to affirmative action, a federal judge called the race-based admission policy at the University of Michigan law school unconstitutional Tuesday.

The case will be appealed by Michigan, pushing the date forward for a definitive decision from the U.S. Supreme Court about the most hotly debated higher education issue in the last decade.

In his decision, U.S. District Judge Bernard Friedman ordered the law school to stop using race in admissions because it was inherently unfair and has no state interest.

"This is a social and political matter which calls for social and political solutions," he wrote. "The solution is not for the law school or any other state institution to prefer some applicants over others because of race."

Friedman said past discrimination - however blatant it wasdoes not justify righting wrongs in today's college admissions with race-based remedies.

Michigan argued that to remove race as a factor would be detrimental to diversity. Friedman said "undesirable consequences" do not justify retaining unlawful practices such as affirmative action.

In a statement on Tuesday, University of Michigan President Lee Bollinger said the ruling would be overturned if it reaches the nation's high court on appeal

"Today's decision conflicts with settled Supreme Court law and the policies of virtually every selective university in the country for nearly 30 years," he said. "I remain confident today as I was in 1992 when our policy was adopted that pursuing

educational excellence through diversity is a compelling interest."

Ill-defined notions of diversity were attacked by anti-affirmative action groups, which hailed Friedman's decision as yet another victory in the journey to remove the policy that began in 1961.

The institute's head,
California Regent Ward
Connerly, first fought to end the
use of affirmative action there
and in Florida. Gov. Jeb Bush, in
an attempt to bypass
Connerly's ballot initiative,
implemented the One Florida
Initiative, which banned racebased admission policies, in
1999.

Bollinger defended his school's policy last week at UF, saying the "fatal flaw" in Florida's answer to affirmative action would create less diverse flagship universities. Such percentage-based answers to affirmative action will not work.

In response, the Talented 20 plan - which would guarantee admission to one of the state's 10 public universities to the top 20 percent of high school seniors -and other plans like it in Texas and California have been effective in maintaining diversity, according to Bush and state officials

Tuesday's verdict is clear - affirmative action is dying, Blum said.

"All in all, unless they want to put their university through long, costly and polarizing legal battles, states need to stop using race as an admission criteria," he said.

The law school case is one of two lawsuits facing Michigan. In December, a different federal judge upheld the school's racebased undergraduate admissions policy.

In Brief

Thrown Out

A King's college student in Cambridge, from an army and navy surplus store, after blasting the shop for its display of Nazi insignia. The student reportedly insulted shop staff, after being outraged by the apparent promotion of extreme right-wing memorabilia. Controversial items on sale in shop included Hitler tunics, Luftwaffe items and swastikas. College SRC president Chris Rudd said that the college was "looking to dis-courage" the controversial goods. Motions being looked at are an official boycott of the store, as well as informing student bodies and anti-racist campaigns. The shop has not yet indicated whether it will be keeping the memorabilia.

Getting naked

The University of East Anglian in England, after it announced it would be hosting The Nudist Swimming Championships. The event is expected to draw thou-sands of voyeurs and naturists to the quiet English hamlet. According to student newspaper Varsity, interest in nude sports in the country has swelled in recent weeks since the event was announced. Last year the university played host to the famous nude lawnmowing festival and is currently fighting to stage the nude origami competition in August 2002.

- Kevin Scott, Die Matie

Bong-Bong the Omisncient has had enough of cynical, dark clairvoyance. In his quest for sweetness and light he has decided to go Disney, featuring cameos by Mother Goose and the Brothers' Grimm. For what are the stars if not one vast, cosmic fairytale...

Aquarius (21 Ian - 19 Feb)

Your digsmates spend your food kitty on the last meal of the montha sack of beans from Fruit and Veg city is all you can afford. In a fit of rage and vengeance you plant the damn things. This results in a weed plant (weird, we realise) of gigantic proportions that stretches to the heavens. Atop the weed sits a gigantic mad rasta who will walk around screaming "FE Fi Fo Flash ... sum brudda stole me bleeding stash-maan"

Pisces (20 Feb - 20 March)

During your next bath you will discover that you have a tail and fins. Don't panic, this is pefectly normal for a mermaid. The problem is..you're NOT a mermaid (er, merperson?).Or at least you weren't. You have to check the res rules to see if you still have to wear shoes in the dining hall.

Aries (21 march - 20 April)

You will be riend a digs that, for financial reasons, have elected to live in a shoe. You discover just how gritty life can get after surviving

a few too many nights of wild parties in the heel section and wind up passing out in the toe.

Taurus (21 April - 21 May)

You discover a brilliant way of evading res intervisiting rules is to stand by the fire escape and let down your hair as a climbing rope for your adoring other. The problem is that your ceramide-intensive conditioner can't quite keep up with the havoc and split ends that a few nights hard climbing can wreak on your lovely locks. Your partner no

Gemini (22 May - 22 June)

longer finds you

You're having one of those self-esteem deficient weeks. You decide to take a cue from the classics and stare into your mirror asking "Whose the fairest one of all?". The mirror refuses to answer on the grounds that it might incriminate itself. Never buy old furniture off a law student.

Cancer (23 June - 22 July)

You will be invited to a glitzy ball in the near future. This begins to have adverse effects on you. For one thing you begin to feel fat and orange after midnight, and have a tendency to run out of large palaces leaving momentos in the form of expensive glass footwear. Thankfully, this being Grahamstown, most people put it down to either lovable eccentricity or a bad acid flashback.

Leo (24 July - 23 Aug)

Groups of short people numbering 7 are to be avoided. They'll try to council you on the pyschological dangers of evil stepmothers and convince you to join some kind of medieval mine workers' union. If this isn't enough, they wind up in a diplomatic face off with COSATU once it's discovered that the words "HI-HO" can't be translated into all eleven official languages.

Virgo (24 Aug - 23 Sept)

The nature of the Rhodes social scene dictates that there are always pricks to be avoided. In your case this means a poisoned needle wielded by some jealous menopausal wench out to ruin your life. You get jabbed, fall instantly asleep, miss lectures, skip tutorials, lose DP's.

Libra (24 Sept - 23 Oct)

Lately your voice has started seeming a little wooden. When the rest of you follows suit, it's probably cause for alarm. To add insult to injury, your nose extends everytime you're quizzed about your alcohol consumption or your sexual history. This makes one night stands particularly bizarre.

Scorpio (24 Oct - 23 Nov)

You will be drawn into the throes of a tragic romance involving (depending on your lifestyle preferences) a reclusive yuppie with an astonishing amount of body hair or a small-town girl with great looks and charm but no real future prospects. The villagers will form a mob, the castle will be stormed and the cutlery will start singing.

Saggitarius (23 Nov - 21 Dec)

After attending a couple of sci-fest seminars, you begin to question the mystical link between amphibian life forms and randy princesses. This all leaves you convinced that muddy ponds are perfect settings for scenes of romantic desperation, being dark and heavy on fairytale ambience. Thankfully the Rat just before closing does a pretty good impersonation of a swamp, but no matter how many slimy indviduals you snog, they still look bad in the morning.

Capricorn (22 Dec - 21 Jan)

There are no fairytales for you. Be thankful. While everyone else is contending with poisoned needles, glass slippers,, socialist dwarfs and oversized weed plants, you will have a perfectly normal couple of weeks. Or maybe you just avoid it all by ecaping into a fantasy realm where you and your buddies can fly and you date fairies with silly names whilst wearing lots of green. Nah - never.

Rifle club: Shooting it up!

By Mark Sainsbury:

Two Rhodes teams took part in an all day event, a major part of the first team's preparations for Nationals in April. All in all, the competition was useful to all who took part and even though most of the Rhodes competitors were disappointed with their performances, they all learnt a great deal.

Almost everyone struggled to find their form, but there were a few bright points. Hilton Sieberhagen shot extremely well and very consistently through the day to finish 2nd in the B-Class. His 570 and 573 were especially enjoyable given, the conditions in which everyone shot in the last two details of the day. A brief but drenching thunderstorm put many competitors off their stride, but Hilton, Chris Everitt and Tyra Markert and Matthew Hart (one

of the new Rhodes marksmen) all managed to improve on their morning's scores. Hilton was 4th in B-Class in the morning and his consistency enabled him to jump to 2nd place overall with a score that was only marginally better than his morning shoot.

Chris's improvement also deserves special mention as his experience and excellent temperament under pressure showed through. He scored, what for him is a dismal, 521 (86.83%) in the morning, as he was unable to settle into a stable shooting position. He was able to put this behind him and pick his afternoon score up to 551 (91.83%), much nearer his 2000-year average of 92.5%.

The day ended well with the prize-giving and a braai for all the marksmen and women involved

Top spinning to the top

By:Lee-Ann Davids

While most of us were still relaxing on the beach enjoying our summer holiday, the Rhodes University Men's tennis team (1st) were already well on their way to establishing themselves amongst the top teams participating in the Eastern Province Premier A League. The league started on the third of February and the team finished in an impressive forth position. After losing their first two out of three matches, the team's prospects didn't look good, but Rhodes put some meat on the phrase "losing is a stepping stone to winning". The team's number one, Chris Loock (E.P. number 2), won all his singles matches, whilst the first couple consisting of Loock and Chad Snelgar, dropped only one game throughout the league!

The team ended on a very

high note. They thrashed the visiting team, Despatch, 12-3. Kojo Simpson, who is recovering from an injury; won his match with little difficulty in just two sets. Both Loock and Snelgar won their singles matches. Loock overpowered his opponent beating him in strait sets and Snelgar won his in three sets. Byron Wahl and Graham Glover struggled with their singles matches throughout the league but the sparks were flying when they teamed up and destroyed their opponents in their doubles match.

The Tennis club also has a second team that participates in the local league and Rhodes is undoubtedly amongst the best teams in Grahams town. They have won all their matches thus far. The Rhodes Ladies team will participate in the Easter Province winter league later this year.

Splashing Rhodes Spirit

By Simone Scholtz

The annual inter-res swimming took place on Friday the 23rd of March in an evening event. Enthusiastic supporters gathered at the pool to cheer for their residences.

The atmosphere around the pool area grew with braais being lit and the crowds increasing by the minute. There were a few funny starts and belly flops, but all in all it was a chance for competitive swimmers to show all what they have got.

When asked what she thought, Linley Mc Donald commented, "where are these boys during the day?". Girls cheering to no end, wondering why it became unfashionable to wear Speedos on the beach.

The dominant swimmers, who were great contributors to

the end results, were Simone White and Brandon Mc Donald. There was no official judgment, but it was plain to see that these two Zimbabweans were the evenings starletts.

Points were awarded according to placing. A first place gets awarded 4 points, a second 3 and so on.

The end results for the men were: De Beers wining with 18 points; Smuts, a close second with 17; Piet Retief with 12 and Winchester in fourth position with 7 points. The over all results for women were: Thomas Pringle, with a great victory of 19 points, Oriel with 12, Beit came third with 10 points, although they were very well supported, and Athies came forth with 9 points.lt was a successful sporting and social event. Congratulations to all the organizers.

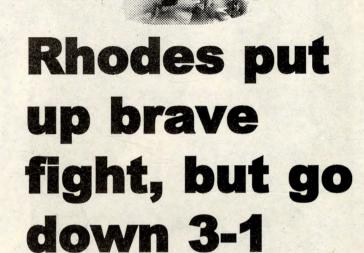
Ladies soccer vs UPE

When the Rhodes first ladies soccer team played UPE on the 21st of March, they exercised their human right to kick some ass by winning 2-0.

In a very exciting game on King field, our very new and inexperienced team made a promising start to their football careers. The team was completely different to the one that played Fort Hare and the ladies coach, Jeff Budaza, said that he wasn't looking to compare the games but only to give everyone a chance. "Results don't count", he said in a pre-game interview and said that the only thing that mattered was to build everyone's confidence. The UPE coach stated that his team was also very new and that some girls had only been playing for four weeks.

As far as the game went, it was a very interesting and entertaining spectacle. The first half was fairly even with Rhodes having a slight advantage at the start of the game. UPE were on the defense for most of the half, and most of the game, but we failed to capitalise on the many opportunities that came our way. We could have set up camp in the UPE ahlf but lady luck just wasn't visiting Rhodes in the first half. The lack of regular players was obvious as the control and and passing game only came right once they came on in the second half. Jeff said that the difference experience made was obvious but he emphasised how important developing potential is. UPE also had a few scoring chances but were even further off than the Rhodes team was! The defense, lead by Easther Chigamura, played excellently and their communication was faultless. The first half ended with scores level on zero.

The second half saw the substitution of some of the players for Elmarie Fisher, Teejay Jones and Khuthala Nandipha- the " old guard"! The difference was immediately obvious as the team's morale and energy level lifted perceptibely. There were five shots at goal in two minutes by the Rhodes strikers and Helen Fox finally scored the opening goal in the 50th minute. Controversy followed a few minutes later when a goal was scored by Khuthala but was disallowed. The linesman forgot his glasses at home and didn't see the ball crossing the line. He was " substituted" a few moments later. Unfazed, the girls carried on the attack which resulted in Elmarie Fisher scoring a brilliant indevidual goal in the 57th minute. Their defense had no clue! The game ended with the score on 2-0 which deligted the crowd and the coach immensely. The UPE coach said that he was very happy with his teams performance and that we should " watch out for a few surprises at Tri- Varsity."



Rhodes' mens first team played their first match of the season, all be it a friendly. They were pitted against tough opposition in the form of UPE, who had already played two friendly games before this clash. Both teams approached the match intent more on finding combinations that worked rather than a " win at all cost" attitude. This was evident in that there were positional changes on both sides.

UPE seemed to have the upper hand going into the contest as they had strengthened their team (especially defensively) with three players who have had Vodacom second division or MTN first division experience. The UPE coach, Ringo, felt very confident ahead of the clash.

The game started tightly with neither team offering an inch. It seemed, though, that it was a midfield battle as neither goalkeeper was tested. UPE took the lead in the 30th minute with a goal from their captain, Chippa. Rhodes' play was cohesive, but they were not clinical when it came to the final ball, with numerous chances being wasted. This is an area Les, the coach, feels will improve as the season progresses.

Rhodes returned from the

break in a more confident mood. They started to take the game to UPE and one felt it was only a matter of time before they equalised. Rhodes were unlucky to go further behind when UPE scored midway through the second half. Rhodes pulled one back almost immediately when Anton made it 2-1. UPE's superior match fitness shone through when they made certain of victory with a goal two minutes from time.

Both coaches seemed to be happy with the way their teams performed (under the circumstances) and were certainly looking forward to the season ahead. An area no-one was pleased about was in terms of the officials. A few of the decisions seemed to be influenced by crowd pressure.

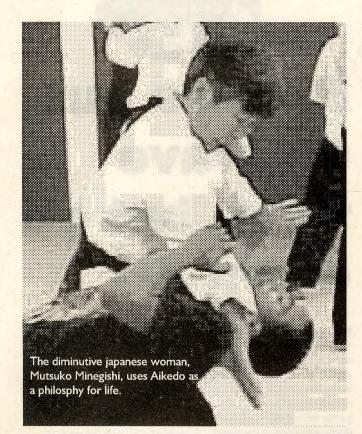
Second team news:

The seconds lost their opening match of the season 6-0 against a strong UPE side who seemed to have gelled quite well as a unit. It must be noted that five of those goals were scored in the first half. Rhodes certainly upped their performance in the second half. A lot of work needs to be done in terms of match fitness, but the potential seems to be there.



Above: Incomming support for Rhodes player as UPE back - tackles.

Pic: Leigh Hildyard



Water polo 1st team showdown

Inter-residence water polo was the main attraction of the day, with catastrophic victories that in turn resulted in humiliating defeats.

The first game got underway at 10:45am between Jan Smuts and College House. Smuts dominated the game for most of the game, and ended up thrashing College by 10 goals to 3. De Beers versus Cory followed, and, like Smuts, De Beers swept Cory aside by 7 goals to 2. In the following game, Smuts came up again against Graham. This game proved a little more challenging for the Smuts degenerates. Graham let a two-goal advantage slip away, with Smuts defeating them 5 goals to 2. College were meant play Gold Fields, but they pulled out, which meant that Gold Fields were awarded a walk-over into the semis. The other quarterfinal between De Beers and Smuts ended with Smuts losing 7 goals to 3.

The semi-finals were to be contested between Gold Fields and Smuts, and Botha versus De Beers. Gold Fields made easy

work of Smuts, while De Beers swept Botha aside with ease. This made for a very interesting final between the boys from up the hill

The final was worth waiting for, and one could see that there were first team players on both sides. The score was 6 - 6 at the end of the fourth chukker, and this forced a penalty shoot-out. At the end of the shoot-out, the scores were still level. Then there was a goal-keeper change, which would determine the winner. Two brothers ended up being the centre of attention. Doug Robinson from De Beers took his shot at goal, but was blocked.

This left all the pressure on brother Stoff from opposing Gold Fields. As he swam up, there was silence from the crowd. He took his shot and it flew past the keeper, which saw Gold Fields win by default in the narrowest of margins by 7 goals to 6.

The women's competition was contested between Athies and JK, with Athies taking the title in the end.

"Forefinger to his nostril"

By Emily Russell

"Aikido is like going to toilet," utters the petite figure of a Japanese woman in the centre of a circle of kneeling bodies. "You no say, hey whole family are you ready to watch me? No, aikido is done in privacy behind closed door." The Japanese woman, Mutsuko Minegishi, the highest ranked female in Aikido circles the world over, is shadowed by the picture of O'Sensei Morishei Ueshiba, the father of Aikido, as she describes the nature of Aikido as one completely devoid of any sense of competition. Mutsuko elaborates by saying that competition is a low level of achievement, which brings with it an irregular lifestyle of anxiety and satisfaction, and the fear of losing tossed in between.

As a way of life rather than an activity, the techniques of Aikido offer us a means of understanding something about life, its philosophy and psychology, free from our egos and desires, which rarely coincide with our needs. The ultimate personal goal of practising Aikido is to discover a harmonious balance between the mind, body and spirit.

Aikido is a moving Zen, and move it does! Like a little girl playing ring-a-ring-a-rosies, Mutsuko whirls her male opponents around her, and with a subtle flick of the wrist, makes one rediscover the floor. Wedging their twisted arm beneath her knee, Mutsuko talks of the non-violent role-playing games of Aikido, smiling all the time as the poor fellow hides his grimace of humiliation.

Denzil Beakes, the 6-foot Aikido instructor/pharmacy lecturer, had the privilege of playing guinea pig to the tact of the tiny terror. The precision with which Mutsuko centres and positions her energy (even while kneeling) left little chance for Denzil, still shaking from exertion, to retaliate. The little finger is of vital importance to this little lady, and it leads all upward sweeps. Second only to the little finger is the forefinger, which was continuously instructed to surge towards your opponent's nostril, as: "he no like it and will move!"

As this experience reveals, Denzil willingly admits that Mutsuko is, at 60, much fitter then he is. He adds that her phenomenal attitude is unique, and that size does not count when it comes to Aikido.

Mutsuko has been practising Aikido for 28 years, and although she is a senior instructor, she does not consider herself a teacher, but rather works with the "pupil" towards a mutual goal. "They teach me," she states. Whilst commuting between the two tropical Pacific islands of Saipan and Guam, where she teaches three classes in two Dojos, she still finds time to assist the community whenever possible

This inspirational women is currently on a self-funded tour of South Africa, on invitation by the SA Aikido Federation, and in little over a week, will have conducted courses of between three and five hours a day, in seven cities. Denzil tells of how dedicated she is, and how she had to be forced to "chill out" and visit the elephants. When asked what she likes most about SA, she replies that the gentle nature of the people and the absence of aggression in their relationships is mesmerising.

After witnessing the destruction of those obsessed with power in war-ravaged Japan at the time of World War Two, Mutsuko's ultimate goal is to spread world peace through her teachings of Aikido. When asked if anything would cause her to stop, she replies with a vehement "No, Aikido is with me."

Continues...

Teejay Sports Editor



Michael Jordan, the 6'6" no. 23 for the Chicago Bulls, is considered the greatest basketball player of all time, and his legacy lives on today in the current NBA league in the US. Michael Jordan's career really took off in 1985, when he was voted NBA rookie of the year. From then on, he was completely unstoppable, named NBA defensive player of the year in 1988, and chosen for the all-NBA Defensive team from 1988-1992, and then again in 1997 and 1998. It is not easy to be voted the NBA's most valued player, but somehow Jordan managed this five times, in 1988, 1991, 1992, 1996 and 1998. Married with three children, Jeffrey, Marcus, and Jasmine, Michael Jordan does not limit his sporting abilities to the court. He also plays baseball and golf and owns a

small percentage of NHL team, the Washington Capitals. He also has shares of an e-commerce business (MVP.com) that operates Sportsline.com's domes e-trading business, a restaurant management company "Jump Higher, LLC", who own Jordan's restaurant in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and has a Golf Centre, the Michael Jordan Golf Centre in Charlotte, North Carolina. In a memorable showdown at the 1998 NBA finals in Salt Lake City, Utah, between the Chicago Bulls and the Utah Jazz, Michael Jordan stole the show with a phenomenal, gamewinning shot that bolstered his status as the greatest player ever to play the

His legend lives on, as he is a living legend.

3725

by Dominique Espotia

Tiger within striking distance

Source: foxsports.com/golf

Tiger Woods is poised to claim his first Players Championship. Two memorable shots and an unbelievable putt on the notorious 17th hole helped him to within two shots of third-round leader Jerry Kelly and prepared the partisan crowd for what was to come. On the 16th, Woods made birdie from 22 feet, only to better that five minutes later, with an astonishing 50ft effort on the 17th.

Lewis fears over title bout

Source: skynews.co.uk/sports/boxing/html

Britain's world boxing heavyweight champion, Lennox Lewis, fears his much-anticipated fight with Mike Tyson will never materialise. Both boxers are desperate for the \$100 million bout to take place, but arguments over television rights have proven the main stumbling block thus far. Lewis holds a contract with Home Box Office, who have been in tough negotiations with rival pay-per-view network,

Showtime. Lewis told BBC's Onside: "I always think positive, but you could say I have a little nagging fear that it won't happen."

Beck punch drunk after strike

England skipper David Beckham admitted his match-winning goal at Anfield had been "a long time coming". Beckham gave a true captain's performance against Finland, initiating the move for Michael Owen's equaliser, and then firing home an unstoppable shot, ten minutes after returning from half-time.

Prinosil breezes past Brit in Miami

Source: BBC.co.uk/sports

The German Prinosil breezed past Britain's number two in emphatic fashion during the second round of the Ericsson Open tennis championship in Miami. Rusedski, ranked 43 in the world, having enjoyed a good start to 2001, failed to raise his game to anywhere near the standard required, as his serves misfired throughout the match. In contrast, Prinosil obliged and came up with an outstanding display of prowess and skill to defeat the Englishman.

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