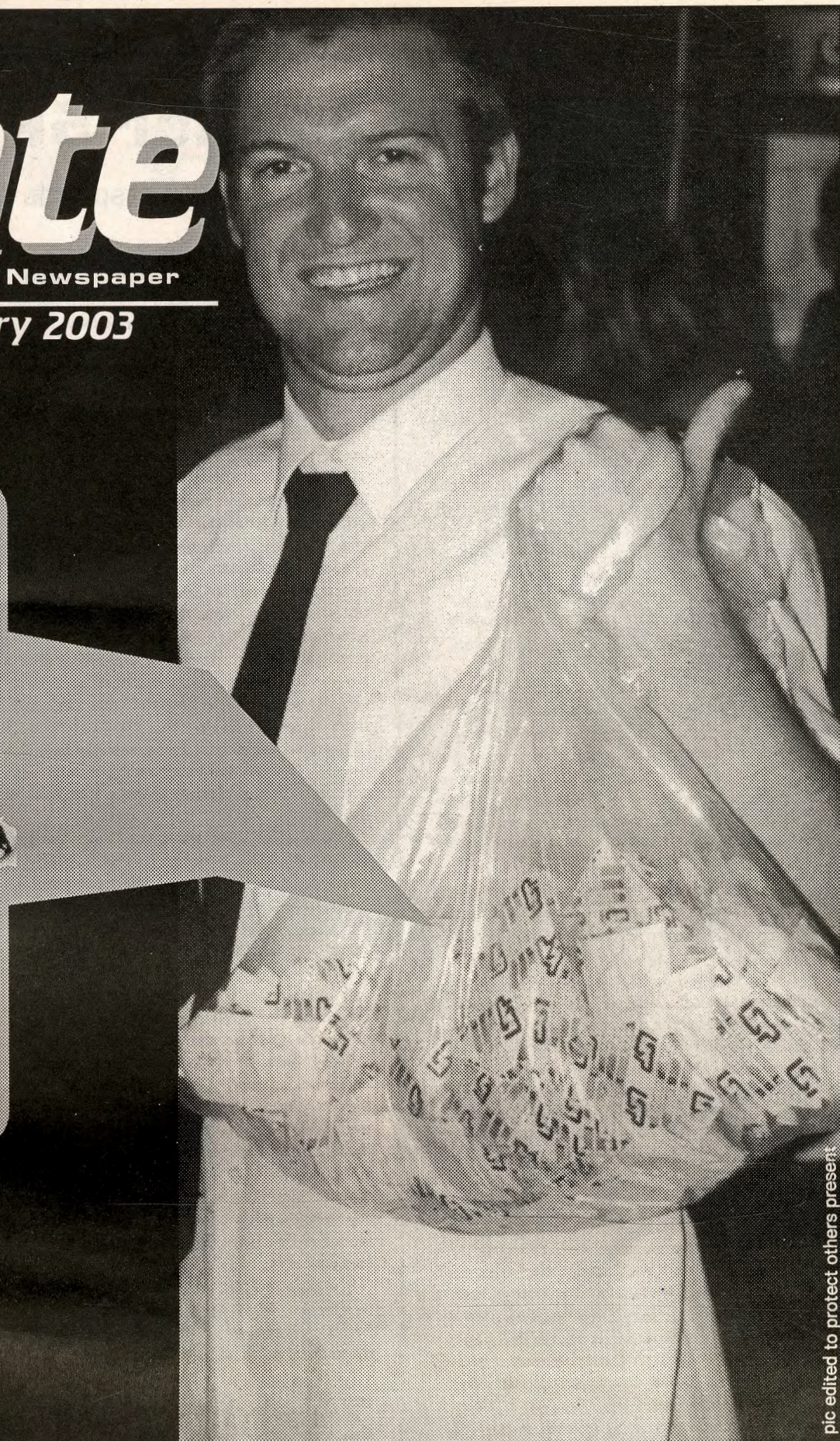
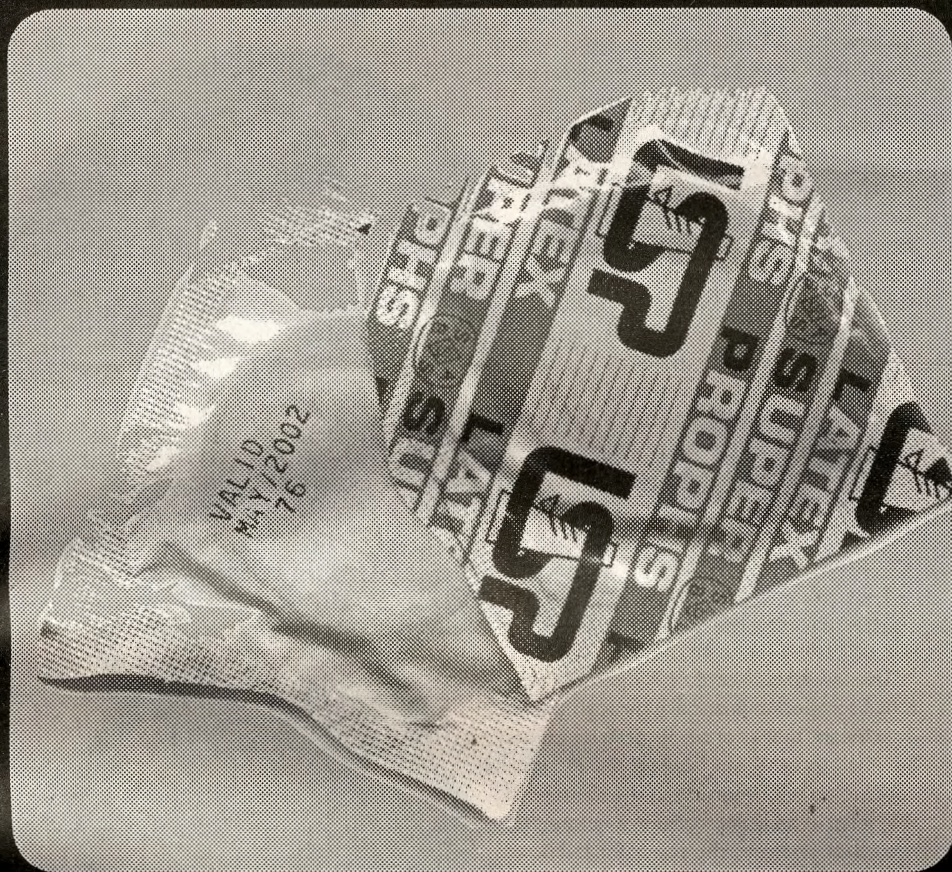


activate

Independent Student Newspaper

Edition 1 – 26 February 2003



ONLY TRYING TO HELP: Third year student, James Drewar, with the bag of expired condoms. One of the expired condoms appears in the inset. The remaining condoms have been destroyed.

pic edited to protect others present

Sexual catastrophe?

Expired condoms handed out at SRC Street Party during Orientation week – who is to blame?

by Lesley Odendal

Expired condoms were distributed by an unknown source at the SRC Street Party on 14 February. The Latex Super Prophs condoms, which are wrapped in white, grey and blue packaging, were valid until May 2002. Approximately 250 of these condoms were handed out to promote 'safe' sex. Most of the first year students, as well as many returning students gathered on Prince Alfred Street for the main event of O-week 2003.

A photograph anonymously left at the Activate offices showed James Drewar, a third year journalism student, holding a bag of these condoms. Drewar said that an unknown person gave him the bag as he walked down Prince Alfred Street.

Drewar said, "I only realised that the condoms had expired the next morning when I had a look at them. I thought I was doing my bit to promote safe sex."

Unfortunately, SHARC (Student HIV/Aids Resistance Campaign), who were also distributing condoms at the party, have been accused of handing out the expired condoms by students.

Rebecca Hodes of SHARC and the Sanatorium staff have confirmed that the condoms distributed by SHARC were all obtained from the San and only expire in 2005/6 and are of a different brand. These condoms had the Aids Helpline printed on them, as well as lollipops and sherbet attached to them by members of SHARC.

"The message we were aiming at was that if you cannot abstain, you must love each other safely and wear a condom. We were trying a more subtle approach to promoting safe sex," Hodes stated.

Counsellors of the Aids Helpline confirmed that using expired condoms places users at great risk of contracting HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). Condoms are made of latex, which deteriorates over long periods of time, necessitating manufacturers to state the date of expiration. Invalid condoms are often broken and

torn, thus causing leakages.

Sr. Buchner of the Rhodes Sanatorium urges everyone to check the dates on all condoms before use as well as the quality of the condoms. "HIV is in the hands of the individual. People should be in a sober and right state of mind when having sex so that they can be careful and look after themselves and their partners, especially in the world we live in today."

One student who wishes to remain anonymous said, "The problem is that students who were given the expired condoms probably didn't check the date in their drunken state. Had people not been given anything, they would possibly have made an effort to find a condom instead of using the one in their pockets, which so happened to have expired."

• At the time of going to print, it was not yet known who brought the condoms to the party.

NEWS

Dome controversy continues.



pg 2

FEATURE

Aids and my children.



pg 6

JUST SAY KNOW

Arno Carstens is back in 2003.



pg 7

PICTURES

Rebellion band evening rocks.



pg 10

Former SRC president responds

Grant Heslop responds to allegations made in the last edition of *Activate*.

We hope the front page story got your attention. More importantly, we hope it sparked a reaction from you. We should all be outraged. How dare someone play with our lives like that? Eight-month-old condoms handed out at the SRC street party during O-week! How many students left the party and used those condoms? How many could be pregnant right now - how many could be infected? How many students, many of whom had been drinking, bothered to check the expiry date?

The touching story on page 6 of the woman with Aids should make us all think about our lives and how best to protect ourselves. Simply using a condom is not enough anymore. Taking time out to check the expiry date on the packet could save your life. Read it - it is not your usual Aids story.

The 'temporary' closure of the safe house on page 3 is shocking news. It was a haven for sexually and physically abused children for some time.

That house provided shelter for many traumatised children, one of them an 11-year-old girl who was raped a few months ago by a family member. Social workers removed her from her guardians and placed her at the safe house for 'protection'.

Thanks to constant counselling, she is getting better and moving on with her life. She found the love she desperately needed at the haven. What is going to happen to other children who need help? Where will they be kept until police investigations are concluded?

What is more disturbing however are the allegations made against the house parents. If these allegations are true, then what is the world coming to? Where has society gone wrong? Children are no longer safe in institutions set up to keep them safe.

It is a terrible shame, especially since it has taken officials so long to expose the matter to a public who has the right to know. (At the time of going to print, a sketchy paragraph had appeared in *Grocott's Mail*, but no concrete explanation was given for the closure).

Many students have had dealings with that house. We donated food and clothing and anything else that may have been needed. If those in the know feel it is better to keep the public in the dark until they feel it is the right time to expose the issue, then there is nothing we can really do about that. We have no choice but to trust their judgment. If anyone has indeed stepped out of line, we hope they will be dealt with accordingly. Until then, the next time you go shopping, buy an extra packet of mealie meal or rice and drop it at the *Activate* office or the Centre for Social Development. Better still, take it to Annerie Wolmarans, the sheriff of the magistrate's court, whose offices are in Beaufort Street. It will go a long way in making someone's life a little bit better.

Some students volunteer at the soup kitchens in the City Hall. We give the less fortunate a cup of soup and three slices of bread. For some, it is all they get to eat that day. It is not much, but it has opened our eyes. That is why *Activate* decided to start the food drive we mentioned in the last edition. We will be working with local churches and hope to rope in local supermarkets as well. At the moment we are just collecting food and clothes. The next *Activate* will let you know what you can do to help.

Until then, start sorting out your old clothes and shoes and more importantly, check the expiration date on those condoms!



Editorial 04
Haru Mutasa - Editor

I want to make it absolutely clear that my SRC did not shut down *Dome* newspaper, but the operation was merely put on hold. I, for one, never spoke to Prativa Govender who quoted me, and I think that someone who makes up fictitious statements like that should have his or her head examined.

In 1999, the SRC was made aware that *Dome* did not have a constitution and that its collective was appointed in an ad hoc way. Many students were dissatisfied after they had offered to get involved in the newspaper, but were turned down by a 'friends club' that placed itself in charge without clearly defined procedures used to make appointments. Whereas the precedent procedure (as defined in a 1978 SRC constitution) required the SRC to be involved in the appointment of an editorial collective - comprising five students (including one SRC member) - somewhere down the line, different procedures were used without the knowledge of the SRC. It became clear that the outgoing *Dome* collective did not follow the stipulations in the SRC Constitution that standing committees and constitutional changes must be approved by the SRC.

The 2000 SRC decided to cut *Dome's* budget as a penalty for its failure to correct its problems. This brought about a conflict between *Dome* and the SRC that lasted three years. The only loser was *Dome* because its sole funding source was the SRC. In 2001, when I made friends with members of the *Dome* collective, I wrote a series of articles that were published in the newspaper. Soon afterwards, I was elected into office, and I became SRC president.

Two months later, the SRC finance committee undertook an audit of clubs, societies and standing committees. We discovered that there was evidence of financial mismanagement in *Dome* dating back several years. Whereas *Dome* had advertised for companies like Nike, Ster-Kinekor, Nu Metro etc. it had not brought in any revenue. After contacting these companies, we found that there might have been fraud involved.

In addition to this, we discovered that *Dome* newspaper had a monthly telephone bill of R3 000, which showed that collective members made more personal calls than business calls

and mostly at night. Also, we found thousands of copies that were not distributed and were kept in sealed boxes, proving the students only read several hundred copies. Whilst we were investigating *Dome*, the Dean of Student Development notified us of irregularities concerning advertising in the orientation edition released in February last year. The edition was meant to contain information about the university and all its divisions, but the staff of *Dome* decided to substitute university advertising with an advert of a Drakensberg lodge. Five staff members had visited the lodge in January for their annual team building exercise.

Another full page, which should have been used for more legitimate university advertising, was given to the Campus Foods Company that operated the cafeteria and the coffee shop. No income was obtained for this advertising because Campus Foods offered to give the *Dome* collective free food for the rest of the year. They took the deal.

When the SRC learned about this, it asked the treasurer to meet the *Dome* editor. She refused to meet with the treasurer saying "the SRC was playing with fire by involving itself in the business of the independent newspaper". The SRC froze *Dome's* account in March and asked it to co-operate with the finance officer and the SRC finance committee, which was to undertake an investigation.

The newspaper could still operate, however it had to operate financially through the SRC. This meant that in order to print an edition, the SRC had to carry out financial transactions but could in no way interfere in the content of the paper. The *Dome* collective ignored this resolution and sent the paper for publication of 3 000 copies more than its usual printing. That was when we shut down the operation.

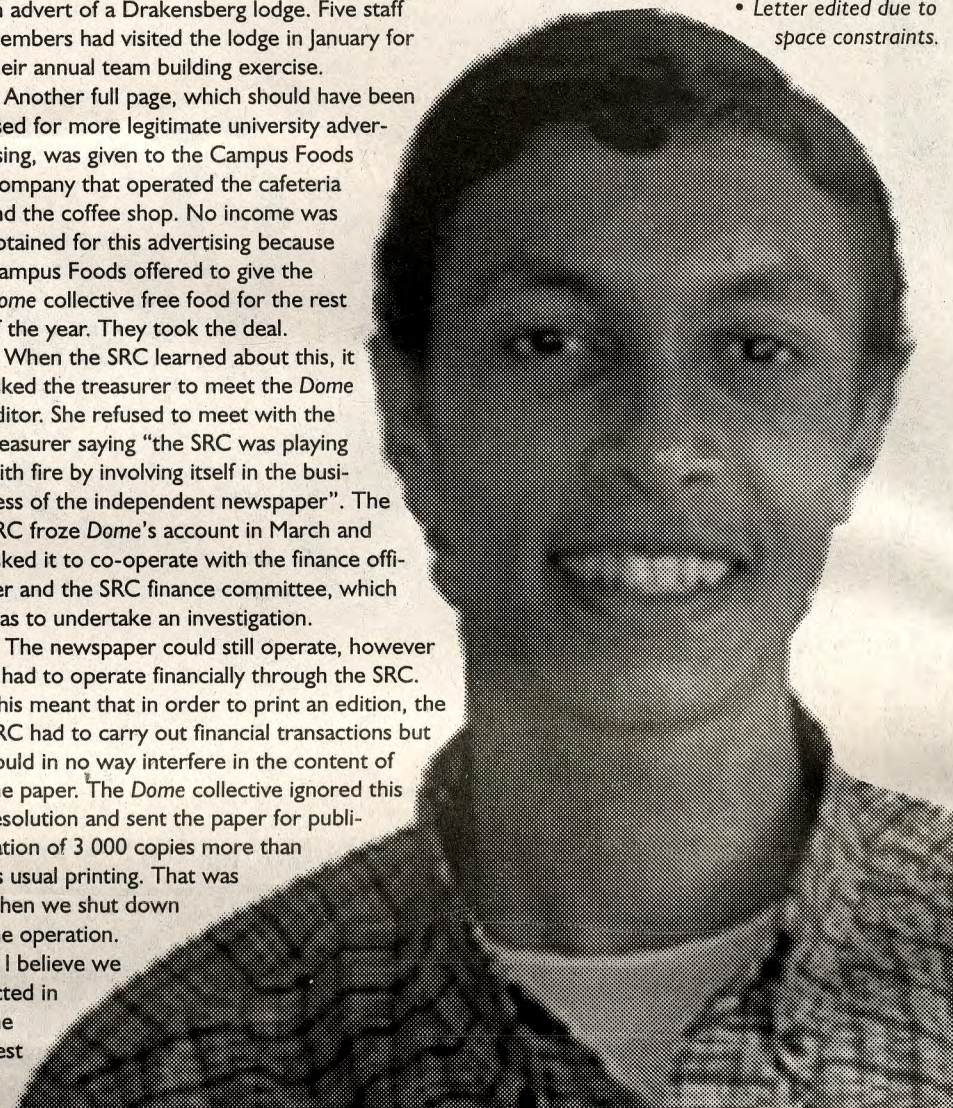
I believe we acted in the best

interests of students. They struggle to fund their education because the University expects them to contribute money for everything (including a wasteful operation by the previous *Dome* collective).

God save the future of South Africa from its comrades and self-appointed struggle heroes. The information above is a true reflection of what transpired in the matter concerned.

Thank you, and God bless you.
Grant Heslop

• Letter edited due to space constraints.



Zimbabwean students make round trip

by Verna Rainers

At least four first year Zimbabwean students were denied the chance to attend Rhodes University this year.

The students returned home after they were told by the University that their high school

academic results did not meet basic university admission requirements.

The students in question had paid the minimum initial payment to secure a place at Rhodes, but had failed to receive a matric exemption on their A-level results.

According to Desiree Wicks,

Admissions Officer at the Student Bureau, Zimbabwean students are given a provisional acceptance on condition that they achieve a matric exemption.

This is clearly stated in their letters of provisional acceptance.

However, since they only receive their results after the start of the

university term, some students travel to Rhodes without confirmation from the university.

"This happens almost every year," said James Chipunza, president of the SRC. He further stated that "the university does reimburse them, and arranges their travel back to Zimbabwe."



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Managing Editor & African Affairs Editor: Christopher Scott
Content Editor: Lauren Oshrey
Marketing Manager: Alice Morrow
Staff Co-ordinator: Tom Mapham
Chief Sub-editor: Olerato Moreosele

Assistant Sub-editor: Tshogefaso Tiholoe
Advertising Manager: Pippa Tasker
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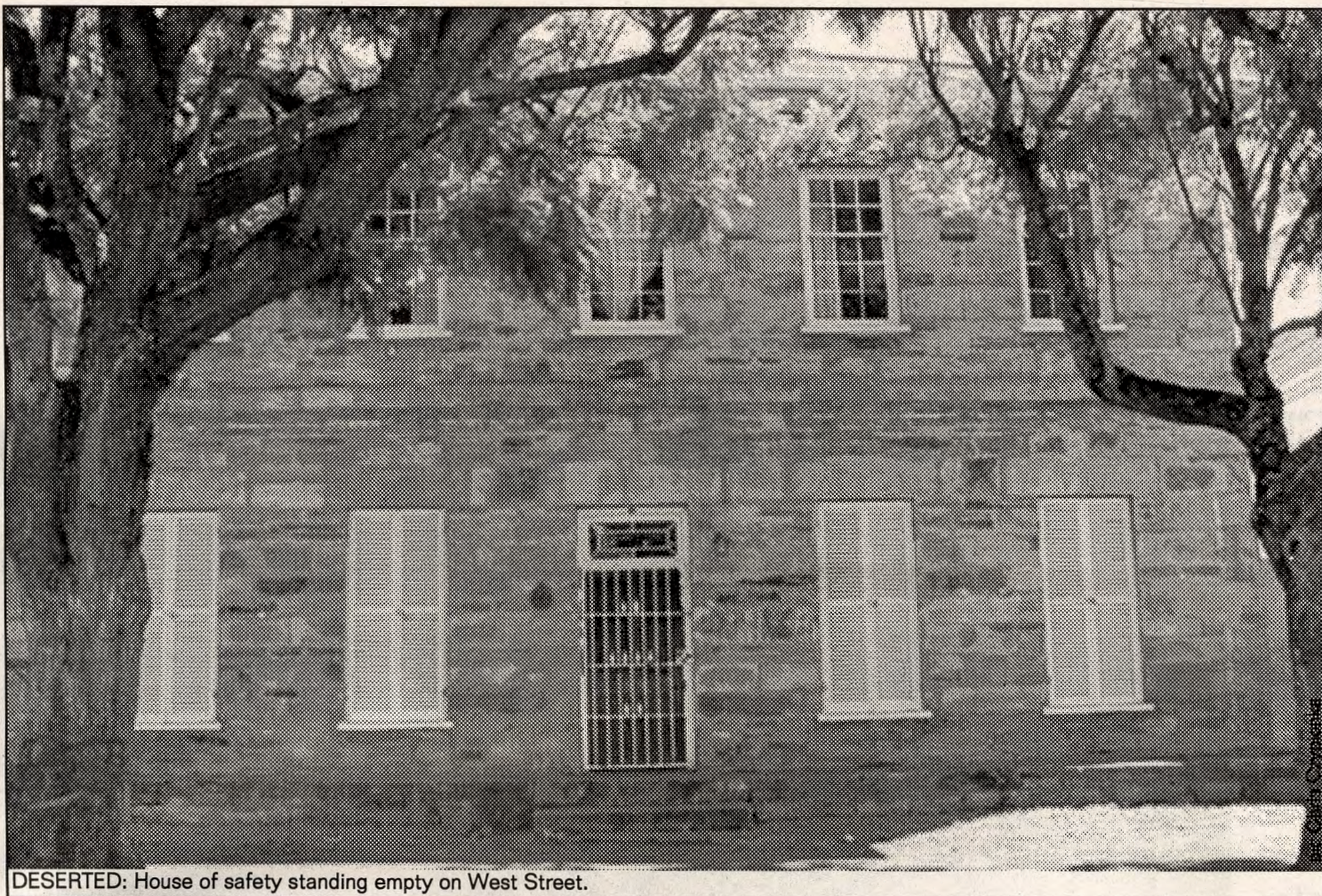
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Contact Details
Activate, c/o Student Representative Council, P.O. Box 94, Rhodes University, Grahamstown, 6140, Republic of South Africa
Telephone: +27 (46) 622 7171
Fax: +27 (46) 622 4162
Email: g01m0259@campus.ru.ac.za
Physical address: Upstairs in the Student Union Building - along the corridor from the Union (pub), RMR and the SRC offices. Office hours: 13:00-14:00, Monday to Friday.



DESERTED: House of safety standing empty on West Street.

Safe House shut down

Social worker accuses house parents of physically abusing children.

by Haru Mutasa

Annerie's Children's Haven in West Street opposite Shoprite shopping centre, has been 'temporarily' closed down amidst allegations of physical abuse by the house parents.

A concerned social worker at the Grahamstown Child and Family Welfare Society in Coles Lane said she submitted a report to the haven's board members and police after speaking to some of the children. The report accused the house parents of alleged physical abuse of some of the children.

She said five of the children lived in the house. The house also provided shelter for several overnight emergency cases. All the children have been removed from the house and placed with foster families in the community. It is not yet clear when the

house will re-open.

Officials at the Child and Family Welfare Society have been instructed by board members not to reveal any information to the public. All questions have been referred to Susan Rue, the district manager of the Department of Social Development. She was expected to release a press statement explaining the reasons behind the closure.

At the time of going to print, Rue had not yet released the press statement.

Activate spoke to one of the house masters about the allegations and he said, "I really do not feel it is appropriate for me at this time to say anything about the matter. All I can say is the police have not yet contacted me at all."

By law he can not be named until he has appeared in court. Grahamstown police are still investigating the matter.

Safe House facts

- The Grahamstown Safe House Project accepted its first child in May 2001.
- The safe house was set up to house Port Alfred and Grahamstown's abused children and other children who need short-term care.
- The Safe House can accommodate up to 14 children if necessary and up to 18 for short crisis periods. Traumatized children, from very young infants, to adolescents up to the age of 18 are looked after until a decision has been made about their future by a Children's Court.
- Previously, children who were removed from abusive situations were taken to Port Elizabeth, making it difficult for local social workers to visit and maintain contact with them, as well as arrange for necessary psychological assistance, counselling and therapy sessions.

Source: Daily Dispatch, Wednesday July 25, 2001

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Abrightly-dressed little girl and her brother crouch on the road, blowing through rolled up pamphlets. The girl, squinting in the bright morning sunlight, looks up at her mother and asks her mother cheerfully, "How much longer?"

"It's almost time," her mother replies.

The little girl and her brother, completely surrounded by thousands of people waiting to embark on an anti-war march, are almost invisible to the outside world. The mass of people is an immensely diverse group. Now and then a Muslim prayer wafts over the crowd, and those who know the words, join in. A group of students, a little hung over and still clutching their Amstels, hold their "Bush Jou Naai" posters, handing out a few extras to amused fellow marchers. One of them is dressed in a bright orange dressing gown and sports a pair of underpants over his head.

Eventually the crowd starts moving down Darling Street towards Adderley Street, the very eye of the city of Cape Town. Many parents carry their children on their shoulders. The sheer number of people, not to mention the knowledge that millions of others in 600 cities around the world are also raising their banners in protest against the invasion of Iraq, would give even the most hardened cynic goosebumps.

Does marching actually achieve anything? Do the powers that be even bat an eyelid or hear the pleas of "the little people?" I'd like to argue that it does. Not only does the marcher feel that he or she is actively standing up for something he or she believes in, but the march is also a visual message to those in positions of power.

Then, many have asked whether marching together is wise, as pacifists and fired up, bloodthirsty extremists find themselves carrying conflicting banners while standing beside one another. The point is – as much as these individuals may differ in creed and beliefs, they do agree on one thing – that a war should be avoided at all costs.

During the organisation of the march, it became clear how complex the issue is. Divisions soon emerged, with the Democratic Alliance and Inkatha Freedom Party refusing to participate. The Anti-War Coalition believes that the UN is a puppet of the US, while certain groups would support a UN-led war. There are also groups that do not support Iraq, even though they disagree with Bush. And so the already convoluted plot thickens.

Pamphlets handed out at the march in Cape Town by an extreme group supporting the Iraqi camp served an unconventional purpose that day. A cunning boy folded his pamphlet into a hat to protect his head from sunburn, and many followed suit. A candy-floss vendor slid an anti-war poster into his big, transparent plastic bag, to either push up sales, or show solidarity with the people.

Straight after the march, I slipped into a supermarket. Splashed over the cover of the weekend newspaper was a photograph of a mass of people moving down Adderley Street. "Wow, the media's quick nowadays!" I thought. Two seconds later I remembered that the Aids march was only the day before and that's where the photo came from.

Still, it's impressive that so many people are making visible statements about what they believe in.



Anti-Apathetica

Jane Cruywagen

Spending the night behind bars —

With House Wardens not obligated to bail out students who may find themselves in jail after a night out —

by Sarah Duffett

Get out!" the sergeant shouts, waving a finger before my eyes. "Please, I just want to know what time I can pick him up," I implore. Three large sergeants quickly come around to the front of the desk and begin pushing my friends and I out of the room.

"Throw them all in jail," encourages one female officer, lounging against the desk.

"How much money do we have to bring?" I ask.

"Get out, out, out!" roars another sergeant before shoving one of my companions through the door with such force that he is nearly knocked to the ground. We leave with little information, suspicious assurances of the safety of our friend and a heightened dislike for these people, who are meant to be our greatest protectors.

After all this, I was shocked at how far police officers believe they are capable of stretching, if not completely ignoring, the law. Are people simply being melodramatic about such incidents, or can you also identify with the apparent hypocrisy within the policing system? Consider the story told by Iain Coughtree, now a second year B.A. student.

During the final term of 2002, Iain stood smoking quietly with a friend beneath the doorway of Champs bar. Having had only two drinks, they never imagined that the evening could possibly end in police charges, frustration, fear and what his friends perceived to be police harassment.

Within minutes of going outside, a police vehicle pulled up in front of them. Two policemen got out and demanded that Iain pour out his drink. When instead he put it on the ground, they "kicked it over," Iain explained, "and then they threw me into the back of the van and took me to jail". As to their conduct at this point, Iain said that it "seemed as if they were having fun". He was not given a 'breathalyser' test, or any other test to determine the state of his intoxication. "I think they put down that I was drunk in public when I was drinking in public," he said.

Activate was informed that after a student is arrested they are taken to the police station, all items in their pockets, as well as their shoes, are removed, and the student is given a form, named an SAPS 22, which is to do with the confiscated property. Sergeant Coto of the Grahamstown police department also said that they are given a form to sign which deals with the student's constitutional rights. According to Sergeant Coto, these rights are explained to students so that they understand what is going on, and so that they know that it is their constitutional right to telephone their lawyer and parents.

However, Iain's experience paints a different picture of what really happens. "They put some forms in front of me and said sign, so I signed," Iain said. Nothing was explained to him and he was not informed of his right to a telephone call.

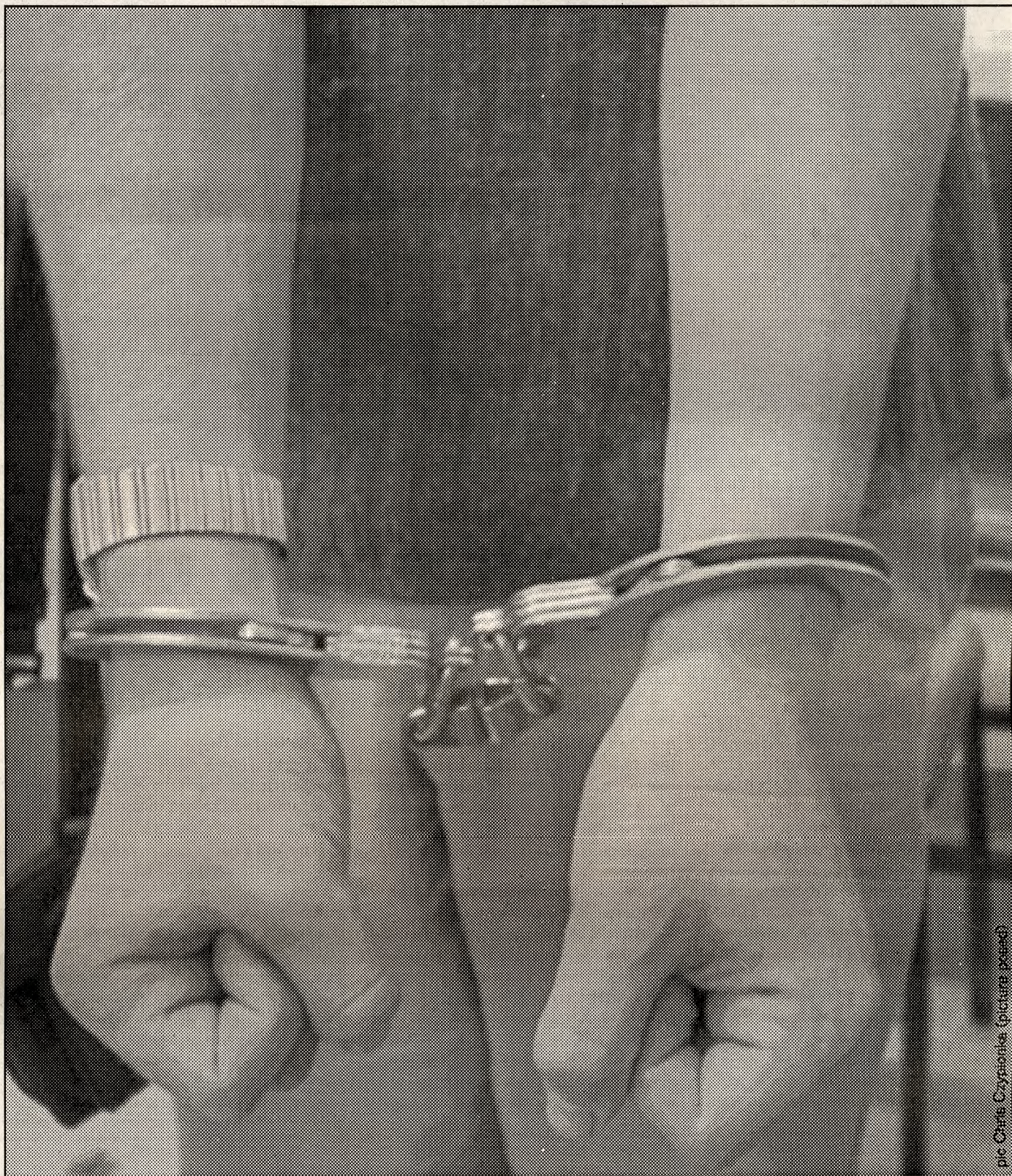
Neither was he placed in a separate holding cell, as Coto says is meant to happen. "Drunk people we put in separate cells. Rape people, house robbers, they are also in separate cells," he assured.

But Iain was put into a cell with about 10 other people who had committed various crimes. "One continually asked me to sleep with him, while another continually cried on my shoulder and told me about how he was going to kill himself and his girlfriend."

As Iain sat on the cement floor that would have served as a bed had he not stayed awake from fear of assault or rape, his friends implored the police to have someone keep an eye on him for his safety. But the police did no such thing. As Iain said, "someone came through once but he was just bringing more prisoners".

At six o' clock the following morning, Iain was released into the

"One continually asked me to sleep with him, while another continually cried on my shoulder and told me about how he was going to kill himself and his girlfriend"



CAUGHT: A student gets to know how unpleasant handcuffs can be.

street. No fine was extracted, but he was told to go to a court hearing the next day. He failed to attend and said "that's where it ended". No further action was taken by the police.

Mixed feelings abound from Rhodes University students about Grahamstown's policing. One student, who asked not to be named, feels that "they don't really do anything".

"I had friends of mine that were pulled over for drunken driving by the cops, and they were told to be on their way. They get nailed for not wearing seatbelts during the day, but drunken driving at night is ok," he commented.

At the same time, some do commend the department for parts of the work that it does. Julia Schoeman, a third year B.A. student said: "If it [police presence] helps detract from one car accident or one

person ending up paralysed at our age, then its achieved something".

Perhaps we don't allow ourselves to appreciate the pressures experienced by the police in dealing with the many serious crimes that occur in and around Grahamstown on a daily basis. In light of this, it could be understood that trivialities such as drunken students must be more than a little annoying for these officers.

However, as officers of the law and protectors of the people, Grahamstown's police department cannot be allowed the right to harass students and even go as far as to deny them their constitutional rights. We are no longer meant to be living in an oppressive society. We need to reserve the right to be treated as equals, with full knowledge of the laws that send us off to sober up in a cement room alongside murderers and rapists.

Talking Heads 02

by Chris Czipionka
pics Chris Czipionka

Activate surveyed Rhodes students from all walks of life and found out their feelings about wardens and sub-wardens no longer being obligated to bail students out of jail, should they get arrested.

Edition 1 2003



"Serves them (the students) right"

(Andri, 3rd year B.A.)

“ 1



"I think its fine, life's life. Wait, I must give you the SRC response: wardens should not be obligated but it would be nice if they did."

(James, 3rd year B.A.)

“ 2

what are our rights?

we must fend for ourselves.

Police give their official view

by Toni Ackermann

It's a Friday night and Friar's is packed. Sweaty bodies are everywhere, and unable to withstand the throngs any longer, you make your way outside. You've had a good few drinks, so picking your way through the crowd is not easy. Once outside, you round the corner and stand on the pavement – swaying from side to side. In the blink of a bloodshot eye a police van pulls up, you are hauled into the back and the door is shut behind you. The van pulls away and only then do you realise exactly where you're headed.

The charge office at the Grahamstown police station is a large but very bare area, with three desks partitioned by brick walls. People are waiting around to make statements or file claims and joining the queue makes it easy to get frustrated. Milanda Coetzer, a communications official for the station, explains the charge procedure and what rights arrested students have.

Before being picked up by the police, the student should be given what is known as the 'test of five'. It involves the student being checked for bloodshot eyes, slurred speech, the stench of liquor and unsteadiness on their feet. If all four are present, the student will be taken into custody. However, if the student is considered a danger to his/herself or to others (this being the fifth test), he/she is taken into immediate custody. The student may not necessarily be detained but may be lucky enough to walk away with only a fine.

Coetzer says that detained persons have almost the same rights as those listed in the constitution. The students are brought to the station and their property and valuables are taken away and kept in a 'property safe'. Then they are requested to sign two forms. One is known as a SAPS 14A and deals with the constitutional rights of the detainees. The second, a SAPS 22, relates to and confirms what property

was taken for safekeeping. Copies of both are issued to the student. "If a person is unable to read the forms for his/herself, the forms are explained to them. This is a standard and definite procedure and should be followed every time a charge is filed," explains Coetzer.

Students do have the right to a phone call, but this is curtailed if the student is too drunk. They are also allowed to call their wardens to come and fetch them, but in some instances the wardens are not interested, and the students are kept in custody, according to Coetzer. Students remain in custody for four hours, unless they are still intoxicated – in which case they are kept longer. However, a student will not be released if it is dark, as their safety may be compromised. "If you are arrested after dark you will remain in custody all night, until it is light," Coetzer says.

Detainees are given two blankets and a cell mat. One roll of toilet paper is placed in each cell for the use of all detainees and a bar of soap may be requested. Each cell has a metal toilet and water fountain, small exercise yard and cold-water shower. Needless to say, the cells are unpleasant. Stinking horribly of urine and sweat, these empty cement chambers are less than inviting. Coetzer says that students will be put in a cell with people of the same offences. "As far as possible, we will also separate students from the general public, but because we have about 150 alcohol related arrests on a Friday or Saturday night, only about 10 of these being students, it is not always feasible".

Coetzer says that the police are not targeting students in specific but are merely "policing according to complaint and statistical incidence". This means that if statistics show that on a Friday and Saturday night New Street is in chaos, the vans will be sent there on patrol.

It's the next morning and you're let out onto the street. It's a long walk back to your res but you brave the cold, only too thankful that you're no longer in that small cement cell with your recently acquired friends.

OPINION

Bush, Chuck Norris and Neo-McCarthyism

by Andrew Shepherd (Guest writer)

Recently, I heard from a friend a piece of trivia that is just that – trivial – yet it is nonetheless significant given the nature of Bush-era politics. Apparently, President George W. Bush's favourite actor is Chuck Norris, popular television cowboy and peacekeeper. Perhaps it is not too far off the mark to equate the methods of Bush in the current crisis involving Iraq and Saddam Hussein with the Wild West techniques of what is likely to be one of his role models. It would be a dangerous thing to take notes from the methods of the out-dated Chuck Norris for dealing with the present.

The practise of diplomacy in our time is far more appropriate than the gun-slinging of a heroic sheriff who deals forcefully with the deviants of America. I hope for Bush's sake (as well as that of millions of innocent Iraqi citizens, not to mention the remaining sane world) that he does not compare notes with the pugilistic 'Walker, Texas Ranger'. Even if he does not do so, Bush still is evidently jumping the gun in international relations by omitting diplomacy in favour of what he has called 'pre-emptive' action. There is nothing pre-emptive about militarism in the 21st century.

During the brief conflict in Afghanistan of late 2001-2002, Bush included the country and its then ruling Taliban government under his infamous 'Axis of Evil'. He has now included Iraq under this nomenclature.

Such judgements smack profusely of the anti-communism of Senator Joe McCarthy in the 1950's, the similarity being the intrinsic xenophobia of McCarthyism and what I would term Bush's Neo-McCarthyism. 'Evil' is an extremely contentious accusation – Bush is simply demonising a religion that is different to his own. The xenophobia of America was and still is quite pronounced.

After the attacks of September 11, people of Muslim persuasion

were beaten up indiscriminately by obviously racist, paranoid Americans. People with an even remotely Middle-Eastern appearance were targeted.

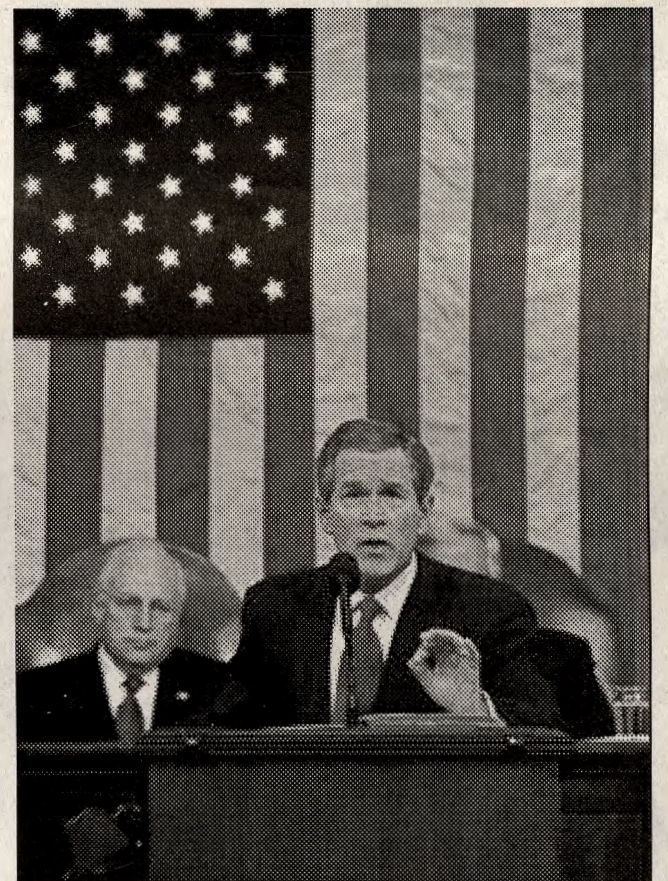
These isolated incidents are but a microcosm of the momentous and potentially catastrophic decisions that Bush has made and will still make. His possible deployment of troops in Iraq, so soon after Afghanistan, simply exacerbates Bush's policy of blanket revenge on the Middle-East for the crimes of September 11 – a crime that was motivated by the exploitative and militaristic actions of America against the Middle-East.

Bush, through some divine intervention or whatever one would prefer to call it, has experience opposition to his plans against Iraq. Senator Don Nickles responded to a presentation in favour of war by Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld by saying, "We want to be with you, but you're not giving us enough."

The salient point about the war debate is that Bush has little evidence that Saddam Hussein poses a serious threat to world peace or even to the security of America – a far more powerful nation than Iraq.

Much ambiguity over the issue of war has surfaced. Secretary of State Colin Powell said that, "It is time for the international community to speak back." Perhaps 'speak' is not the relevant verb – the way things in American politics are going points to a fight of titanic proportions and consequences. One of the latter could be the birth of a new section of Islamic and Middle-Eastern people who are anti-American and who could potentially continue to the cycle of revenge and retribution that has characterised world history since the Gulf War.

Let's just hold our thumbs and hope that Bush capitulates to reason and prevents a war that would be genocidal in proportion and that would tarnish the American image even more than present.



"Wardens are given parental responsibilities, so they should."

(Kondwani, 3rd year B.Com.)



"They shouldn't be obligated but it is the right thing to do."

(Lindsay, 3rd year B.A.)



"They (the students) are adults and should be responsible for their actions."

(Mike, RMR Station Manager)



I will not tell my kids they have HIV

by Haru Mutasa

Her name has been changed to protect her identity. She has only agreed to have her picture taken on condition that Activate promises to make her unrecognizable.

She is not taking any chances. Should the newspaper wind up in the wrong hands, her life would be turned upside down. She curls up on the sofa and begins her story:

"My six-year-old daughter does not know she has Aids and I do not want her to know," says 31-year-old Nandipa, "Health-wise she is okay and to me she is just as normal as any other child out there. I will wait until I feel it is the right time to tell her – if I ever do. Last year one of the ladies at the centre lost her child to Aids. She was the same age as mine. But my daughter is still alive and well and I can only hope she lives as long as she can."

Nandipa has not publicly revealed her HIV status. She is worried about how it will affect her children if they knew. "My first-born worries. She is the only one who does not have Aids. She will worry about her sisters and I and take on a lot of strain. I will not do that to her. She is only seven and that is not the right age to tell her."

"I do not think about the youngest two dying. We are all going to die aren't we? I do not see coffins or think of death when I look at them. To me they are no different from other children," she says confidently, but it is as if she is trying to convince herself more than anyone else.

Nandipa has three children, all with different fathers. She is a single mother and lives with her parents in the Grahamstown township area. "I got the virus from the father of my first child. His girlfriend died in 1998 from Aids. I discovered I was HIV positive in 1999 and by that time it was too late. I had given birth to my second child. I did not know I wasn't supposed to breast-feed her," she says remorsefully, "Doctors said I was in the window period when I was carrying my first born and that is why she did not get it. When I was tested I came up negative. So when I met the father of my second daughter, I had no idea I was infected."

Nandipa never used condoms. "I never thought it would happen to me," she says, "I thought I was invincible." Nandipa is now an Aids councillor at the St Raphael Counselling Centre in Donkin Street. This is where she met the father of her third child. He too is infected. "We both knew we had the virus when we got together and I fell pregnant. I wanted to have another baby," she says; "Just because I am HIV positive does not mean I can't do things other people do. I am not saying women should be corrupt and irresponsible mothers. It is just that peoples' immune systems are different. Some are weak and some are strong. Who is to say my baby has contracted the virus?"

When her baby girl was born at Settler's Hospital over a month ago, doctors immediately gave her the anti-retroviral drug Nevirapine. Nandipa was also given the drug when her labour pains started. Studies have shown that Nevirapine crosses the placenta and remains in the blood of the newborn child for up to one week after birth. "All I have heard on TV and radio is people arguing. No one ever said Nevirapine does not work. My baby has been given the drug, and I'll wait and see what happens. She will be fine, I know she will and I know better not to breast-feed her now," she says emphatically.

About 30% of babies contract the virus through breast-feeding. The baby might be at greater risk from breast-feeding if the mother is infected with HIV late in her pregnancy or in the months following birth. Mother-to-child transmission can, however, occur at any time during breast-feeding. What increases the risk even more is the fact that between 80% and 90% of women in rural and remote areas of Africa breast-feed their children for as long as two years. Breast-feeding has been known to increase the risk of infection by between 12% and 43%.

Mother-to-child transmission of HIV is one of the major causes of HIV infection in children. Unless preventative measures are taken, up to 40% of children born to HIV positive women are infected. HIV can be transmitted from an infected mother to her baby either via the placenta during pregnancy, through blood contamination during childbirth or through breast-feeding.

More than 60% of HIV infections in pregnancy occur during labour and delivery. A woman is more likely to transmit the virus to her foetus if she becomes infected just before pregnancy, if she has an HIV-related illness or if she has full-blown Aids (the last phase of the infection).

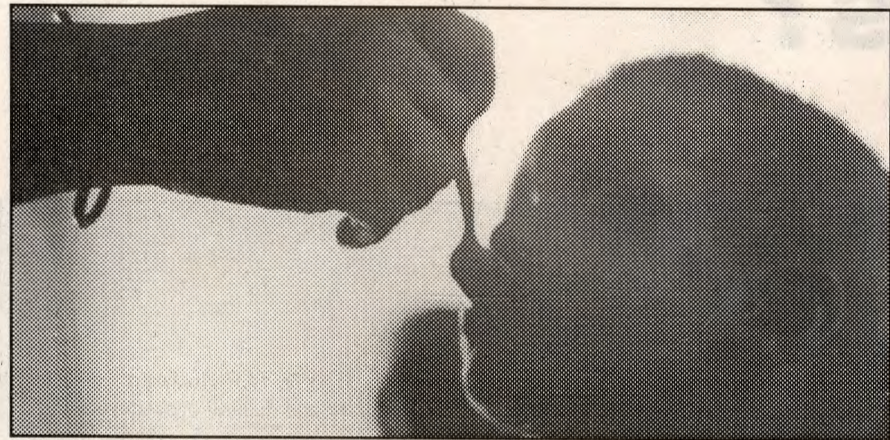
Nandipa's six-year-old girl is in grade one at a local primary school. Not only does she not know she has HIV, her teachers and classmates do not know either. But Nandipa says she is not worried. "She will not infect the other children. She knows how to be careful. I told her never to touch anyone's blood or let anyone else touch hers. If she is hurt she is to go and get an adult straight away."

Nandipa says she keeps a close eye on her daughter's health and makes sure she finishes everything on her plate at meal times. "I give her multi-vitamins and Moducare, an immune booster, from the pharmacy. She takes one tablet three times a day before meals. If you look after your HIV infected child well she might live longer."

Nandipa is praying and hoping her last born will live a long and healthy life.

She knows there is nothing she can do for her six-year-old except make sure she is well-fed and taking her medication.

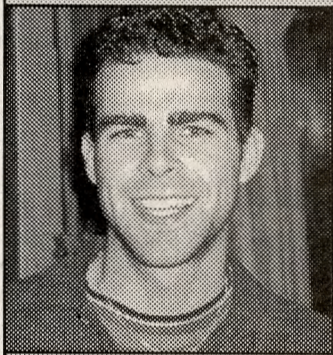
"Things happen for a reason," she says softly, "It will all work out for me and my girls."



pics Chris Czipionka

HOPEFUL: An optimistic Nandipa believes her child won't contract the virus.

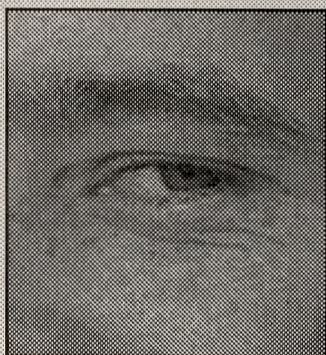
Continued from pg 5>



"It's the student's responsibility if they get arrested."

(Miguel, 1S (Hons))

6



"It's a bloody good idea, cause we had to do it a lot last year."

(Paul, 3rd year B.A.)

7



"Students should be responsible for themselves."

(Peter, 2nd year Bjour)

8

ARNO CARSTENS RETURNS WITH NEW PORN

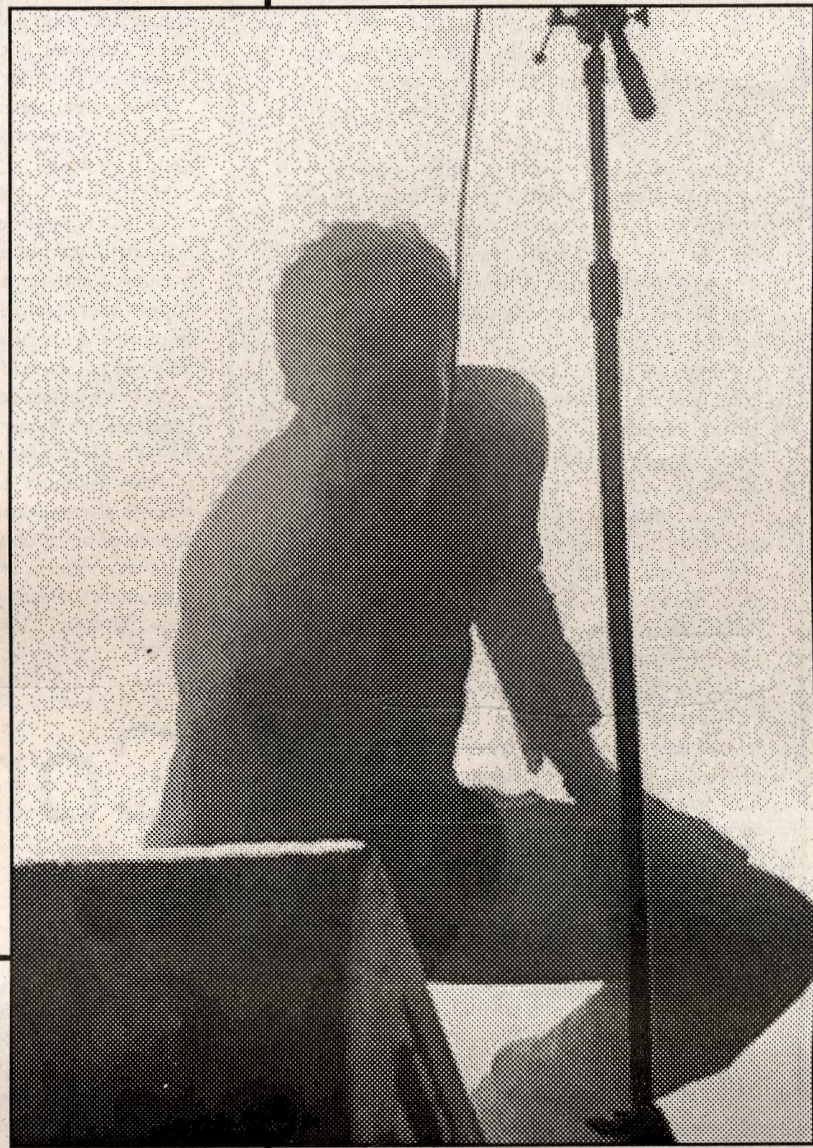
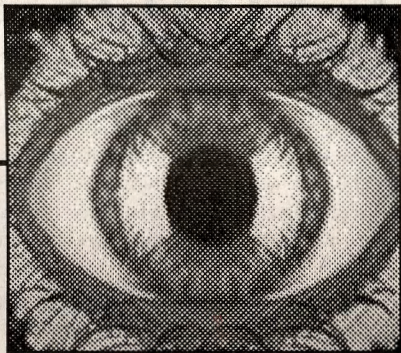
After the break-up in October 2001 of the multi-award winning South African rock band, The Springbok Nude Girls, lead singer Arno Carstens has taken a year off to put pen to paper; and has emerged with an emotionally charged collection of new material.

During his year off in 2002, Arno worked on the music, lyrics, performance and production of a number of television commercials. One of his highlights of his year was a performance with the legendary Breyten Breytenbach (a leading Afrikaans poet).

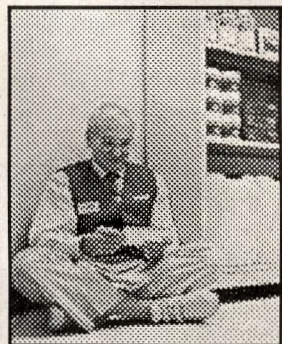
This year holds a number of exciting projects for Arno.

His focus will be on launching a career as a solo artist. His most recent dramatic musical performances in Cape Town have been with the all-girl group Muse String Quartet and Albert Frost on guitar (Frosted Orange and Blues Broers).

Arno's passion for alternative rock remains, and as such he has developed a new band called 'New Porn', which has its roots in the alternative rock genre. They have already performed to sell-out audiences in Cape Town and are planning a national tour for the second half of this year. An album is expected later in 2003.



10 STAR MOVIE GUIDE



ONE HOUR PHOTO

The casual shopper stocking up at the local Savmart may not pay much attention to the man at the photo counter. They may, in fact, not even see him. He is a fixture. Nina Yorkin notices though. She greets him with a smile and leaves him with – trusts him with – the precious moments of her family's life. Sy has seen the loving embraces Nina shares with her husband Will. He has witnessed every family holiday and vacation. He has watched their son Jakob, aka Jake, grow from infancy into a nine-year-old boy. Photo development is a responsibility Sy Parrish takes very seriously. He does not just mechanically thread negatives into a slot and print pictures. He does his job carefully, meticulously, taking care to see that each frame properly represents a moment in time.

HOW MANY STARS?

One Hour Photo

Two Weeks Notice

Ghost Ship



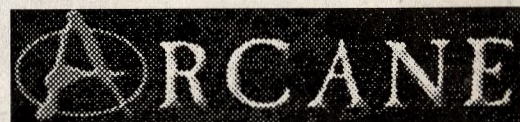
MOVIE: I-SPY

SINGLE: Avril Lavigne - I'm With You

CD SINGLE: I'm Alive (Celine Dion)

CD ALBUM: Hot Summer Mix 2003 (Various)

(sources: Powerzone, Ster-Kinekor, RMR Top 30, Musica.co.za, imdb.com)



ARCANE – LIVE IN ACTION
Arcane - 2 March 2003 @ Pop-Art
Also 7 March 2003 @ Grahamstown
Skydiving Club
• Hear Arcane on the RMR Top 30,
Saturdays between 4-7pm.

As you are reading this, I am still recovering from a seriously crazy O-week. For me, O-week was an adventure, often clouded by alcohol but always interesting...

Considering that I spent last O-week chained to some boy, this year I was in full support of seal-clubbing and the like. Now I know why the Rhodes boys appear not to care, they were obviously also attacked by second year girls who in turn had been attacked the previous year. It is obviously a vicious cycle that binds each Rhodes year to the next. O-week was also a time to discover how low my alcohol tolerance had dropped since that long vac. At least I know that my first term will be a cheap one.

I have never felt more lost than I did when I saw the number of first years for the first time. They are so young! It took me all the way back to high school, where every year looks younger than the rest. They also seem more intelligent than the rest of varsity, possibly because their brain cells are not yet alcohol-saturated and because the hormones haven't yet taken on a life of their own.

There are some things I definitely learned in my first year. Friends can be found everywhere, not only in your residence; some people are weird and others will think you are even weirder; and finally, Rhodes guys can be monsters on the outside but angels on the inside.

First year girls: some guy once told me that it is the Grahamstown water that brings on the dreaded first year spread, but being the bright university chick that I am, I knew he was just flirting with my alcohol-induced mind. So girls, if you are worried at all, then take on Natalie's guide to avoiding the spread. Firstly, don't be afraid of the gym despite the amount of 'biggererexic' guys. Secondly, make sure to hide from the tuck-shop and challenge the vending machines to a duel, because they are evil I tell you!

There are always a few issues to be faced in the beginning of the year. Registration is always a large hurdle, especially when the power goes off in Grahamstown's own mini-cyclone. Registration is always a bit of a bore due to the lengthy queues, but it does create excitement, especially when one is easily persuaded to make quick subject changes (to have less tuts and dawnies). After registration, there is the matter of facing UPB queues – always fun, especially when you discover how much your poor parents are forking out for your education. Then you have lectures where a single person speaks to a more than often well-behaved audience (if only school was like this!). Lectures should always be attended if you are to know what is going on – whether it happens to be your subject matter or to observe the amount of freshly bitten necks.

Good luck to all Rhodents for 2003! I am positive that this year will be a year to treasure. We will all laugh and cry together as the Rhodes University culture. First years feeling alone right now, just remember that this is a home away from home and like me, in a few months you might even forget where you were truly born.



**Off
Centre**

Natalie Oram – Arts & Culture Editor

For f*#k's sake – Uys gets serious

by Natalie Oram

I must admit, another Aids talk was not on my agenda. They are often boring due to the repetitive speeches. This though, was what could be called 'Aids entertainment' – as Pieter-Dirk Uys kept his audience glued to their seats laughing, crying and cheering at the idea that we live in a democracy where we are all given a choice.

Uys is a comedian famed for his satirical compositions on politics, as well as occasionally dressing in drag as the wonderful 'Evita Bezuidenhout'.

He has been performing for the past 30 years and claims that his job is to "irritate people to death".

He compared Aids with the 'virus' of Apartheid. The only difference is that Apartheid was visible. We all have a fear of the unknown – thus the fear is made to appear a lot stronger than it is. By making the fear known, however, we are better equipped to deal with it.

As I've mentioned before, other Aids speeches are monotonous and unrealistic. As Pieter-Dirk Uys pointed out, we as humans will most likely not abstain, and there is always (especially in the youth) the chance of being unfaithful. Thus, he considers that condoms are the most important instruments in Aids prevention as they still allow for 'love'. Condoms can also be par-

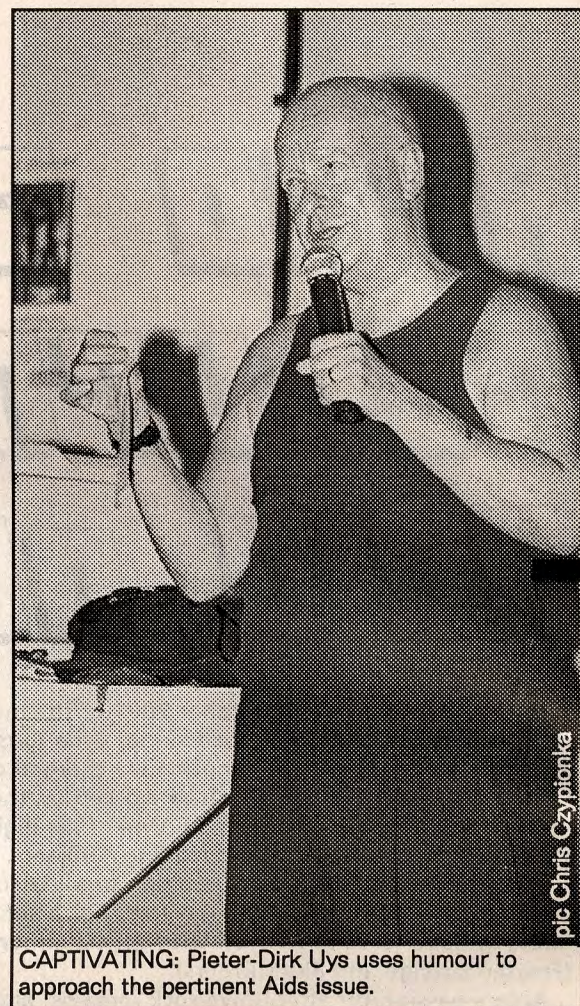
ticularly useful in the horrible high-risk chance of one (both male and female) being raped, giving us a second chance to live.

Aids is not a polite disease and can attack at any time – especially when the mind is alcohol-saturated. Thus, a condom should always be carried, but be aware of free condoms, because they might possess holes or be the incorrect size.

Uys brought me to tears when he mentioned a visit 'Evita Bezuidenhout' made to an Aids orphanage. He described a little boy as looking like E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial – with an outer, frail body, but a strong, happy heart.

Thus the quality of death is how those who are dying are treated in their last moments. Because we all live with Aids around us, this is a time when great love is needed. Uys said that if South Africans could survive the visible Apartheid virus, then we could survive the invisible Aids virus. He added that although our president might not agree with the fact that HIV causes Aids, two guardian angels named Desmond Tutu and Nelson Mandela do. The show ended with a brilliant impersonation of Nelson Mandela. In this guise, he helped to summarize the message that there is hope for the future.

We hope that other local celebrities will also make an effort to entertain and bring a message like this performer did.



CAPTIVATING: Pieter-Dirk Uys uses humour to approach the pertinent Aids issue.

Comedians under fire

by Tom Mapham

If O-week is all about getting intimate with complete strangers, then the Prof Pickles Comedy evening was a wild success even before anyone braved the stage. Never had so many squatted in communal discomfort to be entertained by so few. Nothing could have prepared me for the full glory of that crowd; a wall-to-wall carpet of students sitting cross-legged; gormless grins slapped across their mugs.

The funny men and women from G-town and Cape Town outdid themselves and had everyone holding their sides for more than three hours before the true Union spirit of holding each other's sides, fronts, tops and bottoms took over.

Comedians are a funny bunch. I mean funny (odd) and not funny 'ha ha'. I have heard they are called obnoxious pricks who can't take any-

thing seriously. After watching them compete with each other to see who the funniest was at the pre-show interview, I was in full agreement. I kept looking for the mini-accountants hidden behind the couch – tallying all the punch lines to see who would get to ride shotgun on the way home.

I changed my mind after catching a glimpse of the buggers backstage while the audience roared, cheered, whistled, jeered, laughed and didn't laugh at Chris la Rose on stage. That shut them up. Wherever they were in the room, the comics were all bolt upright, noses in the air like a tribe of meerkats sniffing for predators – deadly serious.

It was strange really, because in front of that very audience, these people became shameless predators themselves. The best means of defence maybe? Sounds like war. And though George 'Bunsch' might pretend otherwise, war means innocent victims. Our callous Capetonian

comics – desperate for fresh, local meat – picked a no less defenceless stereotype than that of the wide-eyed Smuts boy.

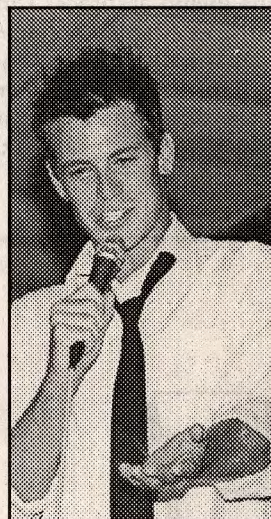
They might have taken the time to target other groups in the audience, but as with so many companies, this was just a pretence of equal representation.

As far as the victims were concerned, there was no diversity in this workplace, and as the one-way traffic of insults and slurs grew, they wracked their brains for an intelligent comeback.

What ensued was similar to how I imagine the fighting between club-wielding Afghans and smart bombs to have been. Not pretty, no matter whom you are cheering for.

Cut down like invaders on Mountain Drive, the lads slunk back to their corner to lick their wounds.

The rest of this story lies in a docket on some overworked detective's desk.



Smuts Apology

To all the SRC Members

I would like to apologise on behalf of Jan Smuts for our behaviour during the evening of the comedy show. We will not be allowing anything like it to occur during the rest of O-week and hopefully the year.

Please believe us that we are all very grateful for the hard work that you have put into orientation week – it is a pity that we started off in the way that we did. I can only offer my sincere apology and promise that nothing of the sort will happen at any other functions organized by you.

Yours truly,
Charles Copley
(Jan Smuts Senior Student)



First Physical Theatre Company's Tenth Anniversary Celebrations in 2003! The company will be performing in Grahamstown on 7 and 8 March. The matinee on 8 March is in aid of the Raphael Centre for HIV/AIDS.

Zimbabwe neglects its children

by Christopher Scott

The number of child-headed families in Zimbabwe's farm worker communities are increasing steadily due to the proliferation of HIV among adults.

Statistics from a report carried out by the Farm Orphan Support Trust of Zimbabwe (FOST) show that children under the age of 18 and as young as 12 are becoming heads of sometimes extensive families. As a result, the orphaned families are socially neglected and face problems such as food insecurity, poor access to health care, abuse, exploitation and psycho-social traumatising.

The scenario is greatly aggravated by the lack of usual community 'safety nets' that have been disrupted or destroyed by the governments fast track land reform program.

Relatives are often too poor to accommodate the orphaned children leaving them to fend for themselves.

The situation is aggravated by the lack of formal employment available. Of the families interviewed, only 13% were employed in casual labour and only 36% were attending school. Families survive on scraps of food handed down by the community and donor charities working in respective areas. All families interviewed were food insecure.

The more unfortunate families go without food for as long as a few days and survive on roots and berries. 65% of families are living in one room shelters, where a lack of basic necessities such as soap and clothes have lead to dangerously unhealthy conditions.

Distances as far as 10,5 kilometers to the nearest hospital and the high cost of medicines mean families are continuously unhealthy.

According to FOST no government or community mitigation plans have been put into operation. The report also suggests that a more integrated community care effort coupled with the provision of basic amenities and psychological counseling will advert the drastic nature of child headed families.

Ebola outbreak in the Congo

courtesy Associated Press

U.N. health officials last week confirmed the disease killing scores of people in the Republic of Congo was Ebola and warned that the highly lethal hemorrhagic fever could still be spreading.

"We're not suggesting that this is over or even contained. We're treating it as an active outbreak," said Iain Simpson, a World Health Organization (WHO) spokesman in Geneva.

So far, 73 people have been infected, of whom 59 have died, according to WHO investigators. Government health officials in the tiny Central African nation report 80 cases with 67 deaths.

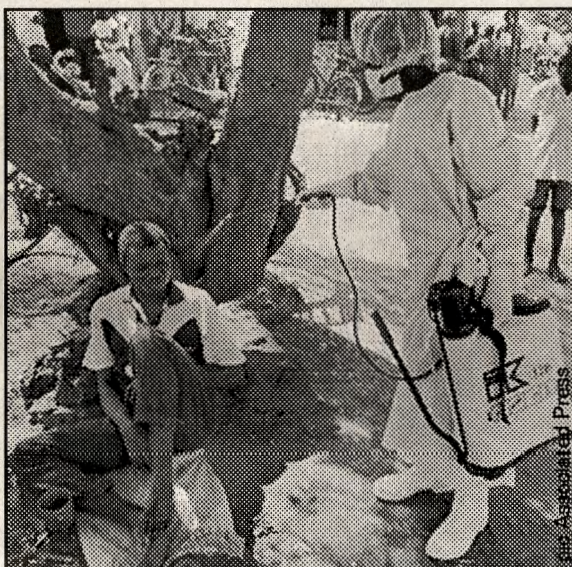
The Cuvette West region, where the deaths have occurred, has been quarantined by the government. Blood samples drawn from victims in the region tested

positive for the Ebola virus. Ebola, one of the world's deadliest diseases, causes massive blood loss in up to 90 percent of those infected. Ebola spreads through bodily fluids. Primates, hunted by many central Africans for food, can also carry the infection.

Ebola's two- to 21-day incubation period makes it difficult to gauge how quickly the outbreak may still be moving. The forested Cuvette West region has 30 000 inhabitants spread among provincial towns and small villages. The disease has centered in the villages of Kelle and Mbomo.

Efforts to investigate the outbreak are being stymied.

Ebola killed 43 people in Republic of Congo and 53 others in Gabon between October 2001 and February 2002. WHO says more than 1 000 people have died of Ebola since the virus was first identified.



SPRAYING: Health worker trying to contain the virus.

Last week on SABC 2, in response to the 14 February march on parliament by the Treatment Action Campaign (TAC) to compel the Government to sign an HIV/Aids treatment agreement, President Mbeki claimed "There is no such agreement...I don't know where the idea comes from that there is. It is false". I find this distinctly odd and perturbing as I have a copy of such an agreement in front of me.

Perhaps I am suffering from severe delusions. Perhaps I am having flashbacks from the time I hallucinated from eating too much sugar when I was three. Perhaps my mind is being warped by some malicious demon commissioned by Telkom because I haven't paid my phone bill for three months.

The document is entitled the "Nedlac Framework Agreement on a National Prevention and Treatment Plan for Combating HIV/Aids". It was drafted in November last year at Nedlac - a platform for government, business, labour and communities to meet and discuss issues of national importance. Present at those Nedlac meetings were members of government who helped draft the 'agreement'. A key facet of the document is the introduction of a pilot phase for the provision of anti-retroviral drugs. The document also explicitly states that "Nedlac constituencies...agree that...they will enter into this Framework Agreement".

Now, obviously the agreement (or non-existent agreement?) would require cabinet approval before being signed and implemented. But what precisely does Mr Mbeki mean by "there is no agreement that the government is not signing"? Is he simply denying the physical existence of this document? In which case, either all South Africans should be particularly concerned about the state of his mental well-being and his intentions, or my mother should be particularly concerned about mine. Is he saying that it cannot be considered an agreement because of the fact that it has not yet been signed? If this is the case, the statement is meaningless and can be read as an attempt to befuddle the already confused.

This is indicative of the increasing use in South African politics of misleading rhetoric to skirt over meaningful issues. The ANC leadership's criticism of the 'ultra-left' is another particularly good example of this. The 'ultra left' basically stands for what the ANC used to stand for before they were in power. Labelling them extremists is a useful way of justifying a major ideological shift while still hanging on to the symbolic value of the days of struggle. South African politics has become a compost heap of ideological nonsense. But the ANC is certainly not the only party to blame, it is just the most obvious because the most powerful. With floor crossing, unstable alliances between previous political enemies and the number of political scandals increasing by the day, principles in South African politics are dying a slow and sordid death in a wasteland of clichés and hidden agendas.

A quote by Salman Rushdie comes to mind. He writes: "Writers and politicians are natural rivals. Both groups try to make the world in their own images; they fight for the same territory." Perhaps President Mbeki, with all his love for Yeats and Shakespeare, thinks he can solve this dilemma by being both a writer and a politician.

Also, it seems his chosen genre is fantasy.

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The organiser of Prof Pickles responds to the apology offered by Jan Smuts House

I want to make one thing clear: this isn't "Pickles Versus Smuts". This is about a group of very annoyed entertainers reacting to the totally disgraceful antics of a group of absolute idiots. I don't want to hear that those guys were drunk, or that they're sorry. They shouldn't have set out to screw it up for everyone else. Grow some balls, I say, and accept that you can't always be the centre of attention.

Your behaviour has jeopardised our chances of ever having professional comedians on the Rhodes stage again. Although Colin, Dave and Paul had a good time and understand that

twenty of you can't represent the whole university, they will tell other comedians to watch out for Rhodes audiences. If you've driven away some of the most exciting, challenging talent in this country, you're particularly foolish.

Comedy is a very valid form of expression, and it gives people a chance to laugh at the world around them. That sort of release is very important in this country, at this time.

Some of my best friends on the night were a group of six or seven Jan Smuts first years. They know who they are - as do the rest of you, since I spent a big chunk of the evening

teasing them - and they know how much we all appreciated their input. These guys came up to me afterwards and thanked me; they sought out other comedians and congratulated them; they even apologised for their resmates' behaviour. Thanks, guys. You're always welcome in the front row.

There'll be more comedy. We should never stop laughing.

Tash Joseph

• Letter edited for space



Dystopian Diaries

Matt Wilhelm-Solomon

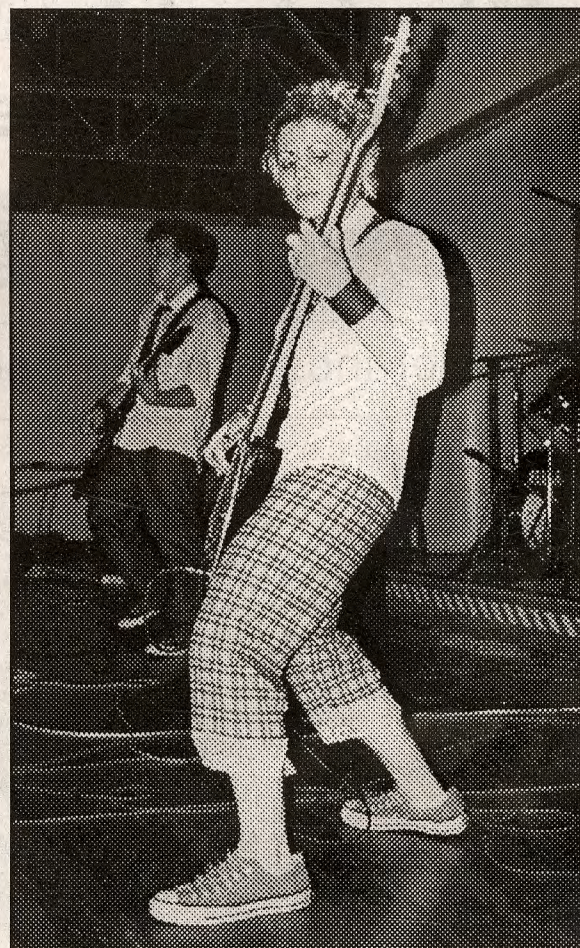
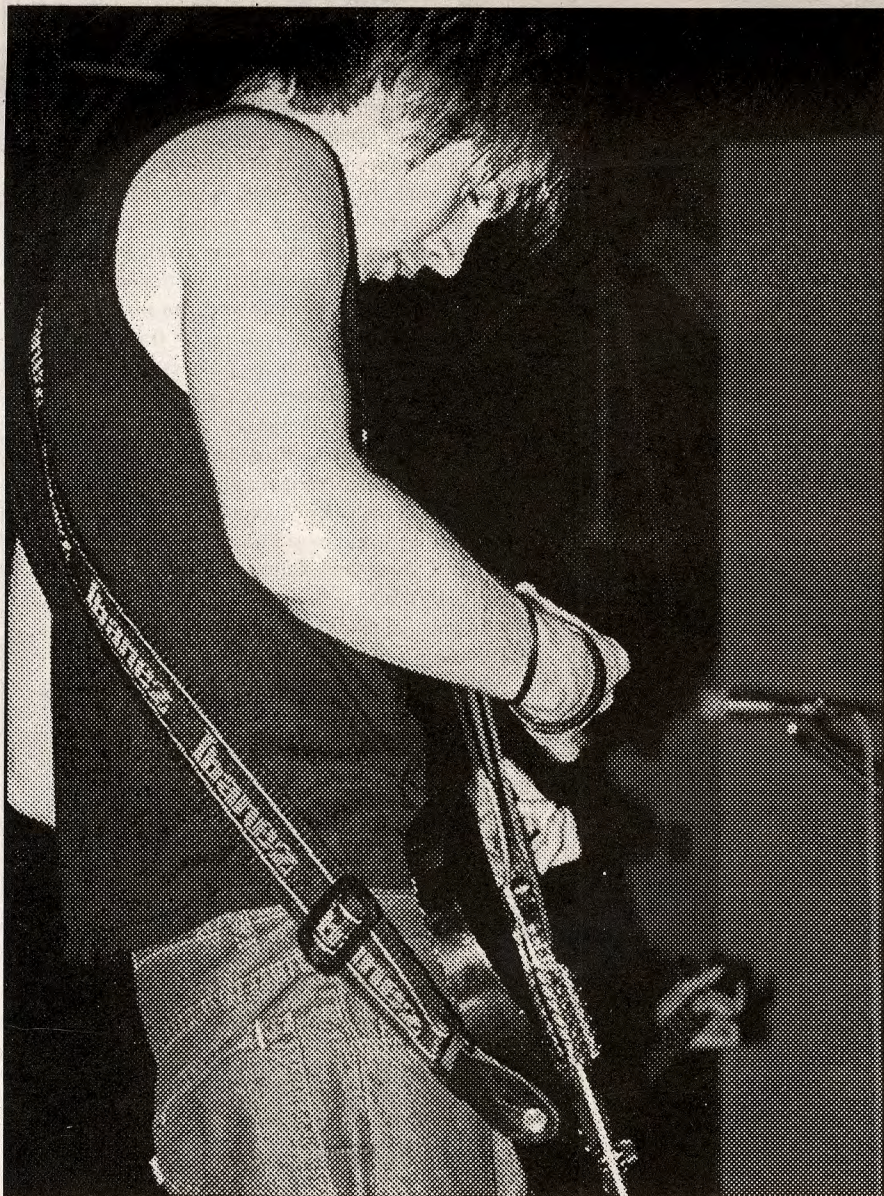
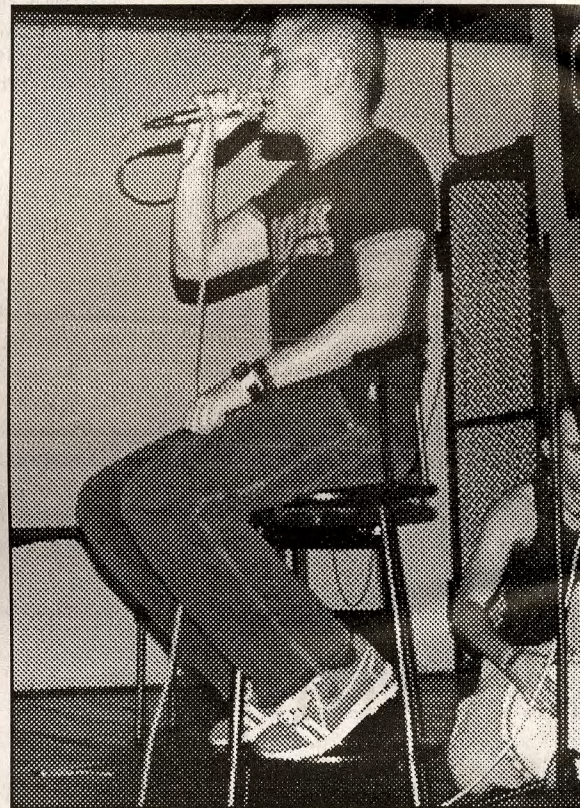
'Rebellion' rocks G-town



Rhodes Music Radio, in association with the SRC, hosted a hugely successful live bands evening during Orientation week. Four bands played at the event: Arcane (PE), Nemesis (Durban), Cypher (Grahamstown), and Eve'n Me (Grahamstown).

Pictures (clockwise, from below): Cypher lead singer Daniel Buckland, Nemesis, Cypher, and Cypher's spectacular pyrotechnics in action.

All pics Linda Schonknecht



Going for the Bull's-eye

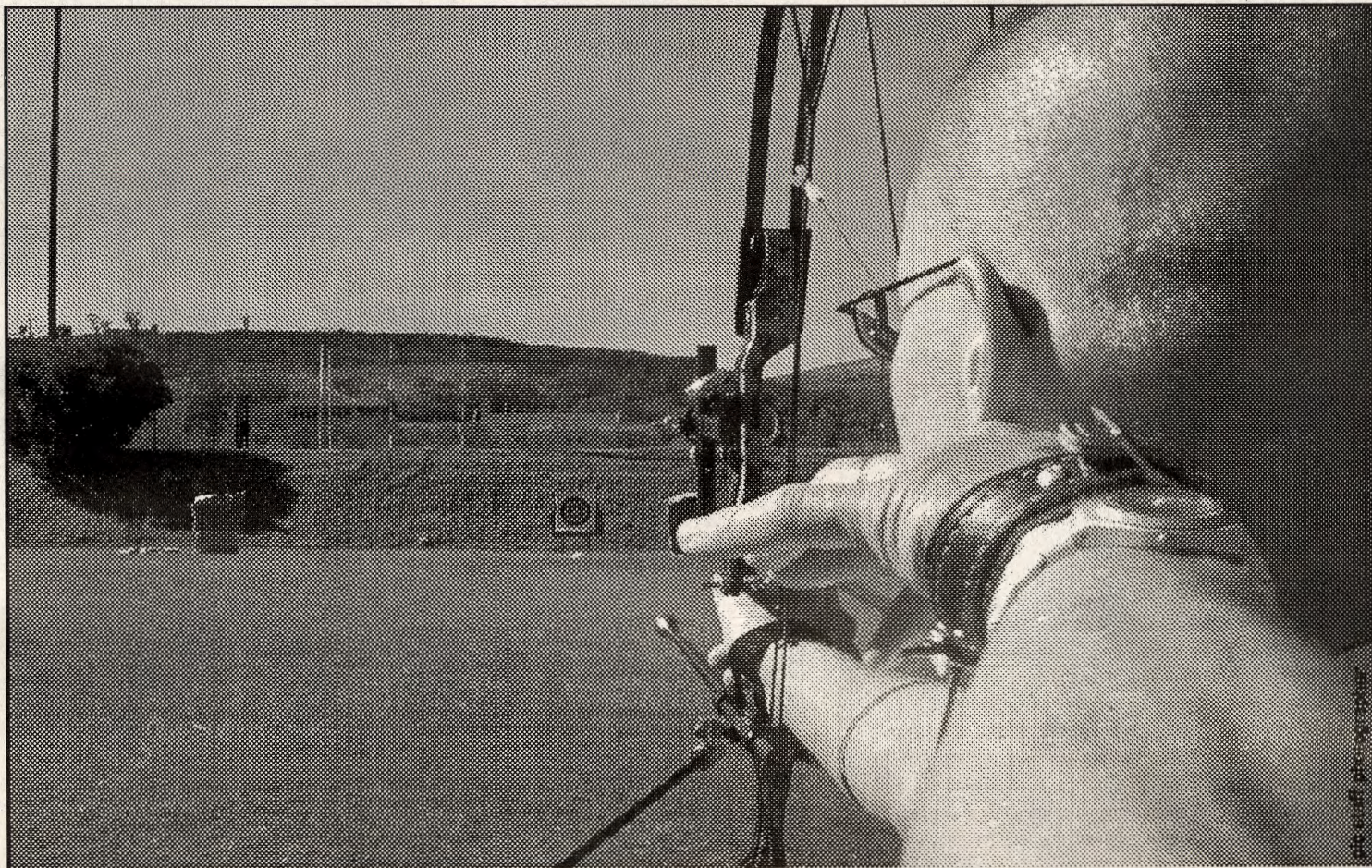
by Peter van der Woude

So long as the new moon returns in Heaven, a bent, beautiful bow, so long will the fascination of archery keep hold of the hearts of men" – Will Thompson

Rhodes Archery is heading into its third year as an official sports club at the University and the dedicated training of archers is apparent when reviewing their past successes. Two short years of competition have earned the club an impressive nine individual Provincial and University Colours, as well as total domination of the annual Tri-Varsity and E.P. championships. The Rhodes Archery Club remains the largest of its kind in the country and will host the South African National Archery Championships in April 2003, a first for Grahamstown.

The club encourages everybody to try their hand at what is one of the oldest disciplines in the world. A sport in which age, gender and physical size are largely insignificant; archery allows all participants equal opportunity to excel. A variety of styles including Standard Bow and Olympic Recurve, Compound and even Instinctive shooting are practised by the Rhodes archers. The club does not restrict membership to competitive archers only, and welcomes interested beginners and social participation.

The basics of archery are relatively quick and easy to learn and regular practice will rapidly transform target-missing, arrow-breaking beginners into provincial standard archers. The Rhodes club provides all the necessary equipment, offering a range of bows and personal training. Practice times run from 18:00–20:00 on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Rhodes shooting range above the Jan Smuts Dining Hall and 14:00–17:00 on Sundays on Lower Barrat Field.



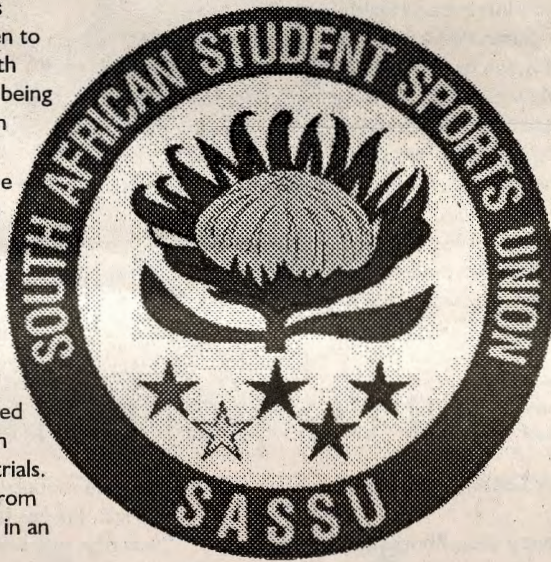
AIMING: Pete van der Woude directs his shot at the target on the Lower Barrat Field shooting range.

Rhodes represent at SASSU Nationals

by Rowan Watt-Pringle

SASSU national student sports took place around the country in December 2002, with sports ranging from underwater hockey to chess being represented. Several individual sportsmen and women from Rhodes excelled in their respective disciplines – with the most notable being Dom Parry, who was selected for the SASSU waterpolo team and named Player of the Tournament in East London. Craig Rance and Jason Penton also were selected for the SASSU squad. In tennis, Joanna Carlson was selected for the South African students side, while underwater hockey player Calley Beamish was short listed for the Ladies Elite Section. Unathi Gama, the Rhodes First XI soccer goalkeeper, was one of two nominees for Player of the Tournament – unfortunately losing out to Mzikayise Mtinginya from Fort Hare.

In other sports, Catherine Walker, Chris Felgate and Greg Pienaar have been chosen to represent the Eastern Province at the South African Senior Triathlon Champs, which is being held in Bloemfontein on the 1 and 2 March 2003. Each year, it seems that more and more students at Rhodes are coming to the fore not only on the local or even national stage, but in the international arena as well, and Thato Ngcobo (Sportswoman of the Year finalist 2002) is continuing this trend. The rower has been sent to the FISA International Women's Development Camp in Seville from the 9-25 February 2003. The Women's Commission nominated Thato, as well as Cath Shaw from RAU, on the basis of her performance in the 2002 trials. As well as receiving lectures and training from international coaches, Thato will also race in an international regatta.



Sports personalities

> Continued from page 12

Rhodesites like Paul and Cally epitomise Rhodes sport and reflect what our sportsmen and women are capable of on the fields. They are the products of the intense training and dedication that is promoted by our sports clubs. According to Paul, Rhodes is possibly one of the best universities in the country when it comes to sports training facilities. He feels that the University offers ample opportunity for students to participate in sports, especially alternative ones such as mountain climbing.

Both of them agree that the University does its best to make sport possible and cost effective for all students. Cally feels that the rowing facilities for beginners and development rowers are impressive.

Students are encouraged to try out new sports and learn new skills. Sports Administration is also very supportive with sponsorships, bursaries and subsidisation. This should be incentive enough for any aspiring sportsman coming to Rhodes. As Paul says, "I don't think I would have been able to go to Lecco if it wasn't for the sponsorship I received from Rhodes."

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Ah, O-week is finally over, and I can hear sighs of relief all over campus as we all settle into the routine of another year in Grahamstown. For my first editorial of the year I thought I should let everyone know what I am hoping to do to improve the sports page, and incorporate as many sports as possible. It has long been true that some of the smaller clubs at Rhodes have not had the kind of exposure they need to establish themselves in the University. For this reason, I tried to establish contacts with some of the more obscure sporting codes on campus and thereby create a more diverse range of stories. The archery club has benefited from exposure, and their list of recruits, who miraculously turn into Robin Hoods overnight, continues to grow. This year, I would like to focus on some of the newer clubs around – in particular the martial arts clubs, as well as specialist sports like underwater hockey.

Here in Grahamstown it is easy to forget that students are not the only people playing sport, something that I must admit I have also been guilty of. The multitude of development sports, coaching and training that goes on in townships like Joza is incredible, especially when you take into account that hardly anyone knows anything about them on campus. There are exciting things happening in township sport, and I urge anyone who has the time to investigate to get out and either do some coaching, lend your support or do anything you can. Grassroots sport needs all the assistance it can get. I would like to create a column for township sport news, which will probably run every second edition.

All in all, you can look forward to a very exciting sporting year ahead, with the obvious highlights (as always) being the return of inter-varsity to Grahamstown and the annual boat race. Both will be welcomed with open arms and gullets, and the tide of purple that engulfs the student body during these events will be a welcome respite from the trials and tribulations of trying to fit a degree around the hectic social calendar.

The year is only two months old, and already scandals are appearing all over the world of sport – from Shane Warne's cheeky attempt to get rid of all that excess flab to the well aimed boot of Sir Alex Ferguson flying into the face of David Beckham (someone had to knock him down to size!). Finally, I'd like to congratulate the Namibian cricket team for their superb display against a woeeful English side. The stars of the performance were opening batsman Jan-Berry Burger, who scored a fluent 85 at almost a run a ball, and Rudie van Vuuren, who picked up 5/43. Van Vuuren is quite the all-rounder, and Namibians can look forward to seeing the stocky opening bowler in the Rugby World Cup later this year as well. Until next time, play hard!

• Remaining World Cup pool fixtures:
February 27: South Africa vs Canada – East London; Australia vs Namibia – Potchefstroom
February 28: Sri Lanka vs West Indies – Cape Town; Zimbabwe vs Holland – Bulawayo
March 1: Kenya vs Bangladesh – Johannesburg; Pakistan vs India – Centurion
March 2: Australia vs England – Port Elizabeth
March 3: New Zealand vs Canada – Benoni; South Africa vs Sri Lanka – Durban; Namibia vs Holland – Bloemfontein
March 4: West Indies vs Kenya – Kimberley; Zimbabwe vs Pakistan – Bulawayo



Rowan's Rambles

Rowan Watt-Pringle – Sports Editor



WELL-TONED: SRC president flexes his muscles at the Rhodes Health Suite.

Health Suite now on campus

courtesy Rhodos (RU staff newsletter)

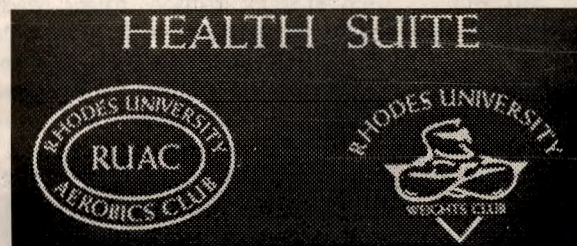
The recent semi-closure of the only health club in Grahamstown has prompted Rhodes University to combine the Aerobics and Weights Club into one fully integrated Health Suite.

Susan Powers, Rhodes sports officer said, "In addition to this, we have expanded the position of Health Suite Manager to a full time position. Income generated by this facility will be pooled with the intention of ultimately having the necessary resources to expand the facility and increase its capacity to handle the predicted increase in membership."

Rhodes has recognized a growing need for people to acquire access to a facility such as a Rhodes Health Suite. Over the last couple of years the Rhodes University Weights Club has seen some major changes. These include

moving to the new large and airy Gymnasium Hall, the purchasing of over R100 000 worth of equipment, the appointment of a Health Suite Manager and most recently, the introduction of spinning classes to its weekly timetable.

The Grahamstown community can also join the Early Bird Cardio Programme, which will give them access to specific aerobics and spinning classes during the week.



Sports personalities of 2002

by Lesley Potgieter

Every year, Rhodes sportsmen and sportswomen are awarded for their outstanding achievements at the Sports Council Awards Dinner.

The highlight of this very prestigious evening is the announcement of the Sportsman and Sportswoman of the Year. Last year, the two talented individuals who outshone extremely tough competition were Paul Brouard and Caroline Marsay.

Paul is presently ranked the num-

ber one mountain climber in South Africa. He has been climbing since he was nine years old and reached his highest international ranking of 32 in the world last year.

In June, he participated in the World Cup Bouldering Event in Lecco, Italy and was placed twenty-second overall. He also competed in an invitational climbing competition on Reunion Island in October and won the Dyno Event as well as coming second in the Bouldering Event.

Cally Marsay participates in both

rowing and hockey, excelling in both sports.

She is the stroke in the Rhodes Ladies 'A' crew and made the SAU national rowing side last year.

She played first team hockey for three years and captained the Eastern Province U/21 hockey team last year. Cally also joined the ladies water polo team towards the end of 2002 and played at the SAU tournament in December.

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Briefs

Italians stick with winning formula

Italy's coach John Kirwan named the same starting line-up that beat Wales almost two weeks ago to face Ireland in the Six Nations Championship at Rome's Stadio Flaminio. "I liked how the team played and so I've decided to reward it as a unit," Kirwan said. "The important thing will be to play as Italians. That means imposing our own game, putting our adversaries under pressure and playing with heart." Italy beat Wales 30-22, only their second success since gaining Six Nations status in 2000. It is a major boost for the competition, as there have been those who have doubted whether the Italians deserve their place ever since the tournament was expanded from its Five Nations format.

www.skysports.com

Gardner calls it quits

Australian motor racing legend and world champion Wayne Gardner has announced his retirement from professional motorsport after a quarter of a century racing motorcycles and cars. The 43-year-old switched to four wheels in 1993 when he retired from motorcycle racing, after a glittering career – becoming Australia's first world 500cc champion in 1987 and winning 19 Grand Prix races including the first two Australian GPs at Phillip Island in 1989 and 1990. Now he has decided to end his four-wheeled racing career as well: "I've been racing since I was 14, and doing it professionally for 23 years. That's a long time, and it has been very good for me, but I think it's time for a change. Now that I have two young children, my priorities in life have changed. I want to spend more time with my family".

www.supersportzone.co.za



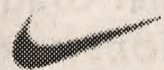
Start is an art association run predominantly by art students but aimed at anyone with any visual or creative interest or impediment.

Start aims to promote student art to the general Grahamstown community through poster campaigns and monthly exhibitions held at their independent gallery space at the Union, which will be open to the public shortly.



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