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the university responds

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■ Jenny Pettenger

Although few students were satisfied with the protest march against campus safety and security that took place on the 18th of August, several Rhodents decided to take things a step further, providing the administration with a lingering reminder that we, as students, are still waiting for answers. A sit-in was organised whereby students gathered on the lawns in front of the administration buildings. Students were encouraged, via the Rhodes University forums and advertisements around campus, to join this group of protesters during free periods.

"The groups were usually fairly small," one such student said, "but I think it was enough to remind admin that we're here, we're upset, and we're not going away."

At the march, Vice-Principal, Dr Johnson explained that a task team had been appointed to deal with the students' safety concerns, and stated that the team needed 14 days to respond to the SRC document provided to them.

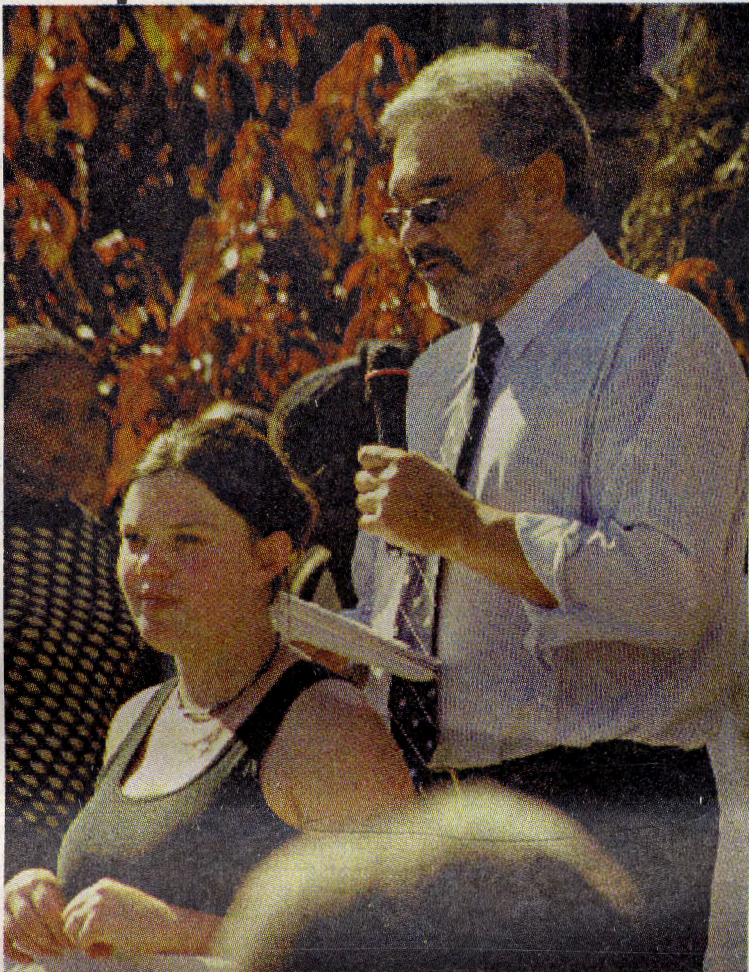
"What are those 14 days for? To find a problem? They know what the issues are, they're the same issues we've been talking about for months," says a 2nd-year student, Siyabonga Mthembu. He goes on to suggest that a possible solution to the apparent communication gap between students and the administration would be to create a new position on the House Committee in student residences. "We need an SRC rep on every House Comm," he says, so that students will have more accessible methods to make their voices heard to the SRC.

At a Campus Safety Forum held on the 30th of August, Vice-Chancellor David Woods addressed issues of campus security and answered questions raised by those in attendance. He assured students that all the lights on campus had been fixed, and revealed that the administration plans to install floodlighting in the vicinity of the St. Peter's campus. He stated that there is "no doubt that the presence of Hi-Tec has reduced crime on campus", and insisted that statistics of reported crime on campus remained low.

When questioned about the quality of protection on campus, Woods said that there are 12 guards on duty at any one time. He admitted that Hi-Tec does not train their guards, stating that many of the men are "hired, put into uniforms and sent out to work", but said that the mere presence of Hi-Tec on campus acts as a deterrent for potential acts of crime. He also said they are looking into reports of guards who have been sleeping on the job or refusing to leave their posts to walk students home.

At one point during the evening, Dr Woods asked the question, "should CPU be wasting their time escorting drunken students?" This caused a stir among the assembly, prompting the Vice-Chancellor to firmly state that students should be taking responsibility for their own actions, instead of looking to the administration to solve all problems.

Solutions suggested at the forum include university-provided workshops in self-defense, particularly for female students; a system of reporting incompetent guards and making CPU more accessible for students to report crime, broken lights, and other security issues. Another suggestion was the establishment of a toll-free phone number for CPU. A system of shuttle busses



Dr Johnson promised that the security problems would be addressed within the 14 days after the march

between campus and popular nightspots on Wednesday and Friday nights was also proposed, but the idea was quickly dismissed by Dr Woods, who said he would prefer students to walk. "Maybe students will get clever and not use alcohol", he added.

The task team released their official report on the 31st of August. A panel has been appointed "to evaluate and review the Campus Protection Unit (CPU) and the Hi-Tec involvement on campus" and steps have been taken to improve the visibility of CPU guards on campus, including the introduction of luminous jackets, which have already been ordered. The floodlighting project has been expanded to include main access routes to Kimberly and Mandela Halls, as well as the car parks at the Library, Law, Eden Grove and Red Square. Dr Woods guaranteed students that their safety was a top priority of his and invited further suggestions on safety issues.



Can you pass the torture test? Amnesty International's hard-hitting campaign poses a tough question
■ Nic Haralambous

Stop the torture

■ Jenny Pettenger

At the foot of the Rhodes library steps, a girl sits on a bench. She has been gagged and blindfolded. Her hands and feet are bound. A noose hangs around her neck, tied to the tree behind her. Taped to her shirt is a sign reading "Can you pass the torture test?"

This dramatic display signals the finale of Human Rights Awareness Week, organised by Amnesty International. On the 25th of August, two girls took turns as the torture victim, each for three hours. "There is just something gripping about seeing someone strung up like this," says James Ansell, secretary of Amnesty International. The society hopes to inspire people to sign a petition which will be sent to the South African Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma. Ansell explains that the petition calls

for closer monitoring of prisons and detention centres in South Africa. An international oversight body connected to the United Nations would run this system of checks. "The idea," Ansell says, "is that if there is a possibility that you are going to be visited by authorities, you are less likely to torture your inmates."

The United Nations convention against torture defines torture as any act intentionally inflicted by a public official or other person acting in an official capacity, causing severe physical or mental pain to the victim. These tactics might be used to obtain information or a confession, to punish the victim for an act they are suspected of having committed, or for purposes of intimidation. The definition also includes torture fuelled by reasons of discrimination against the victim, racially motivated or otherwise.

The issue of torture is a particularly sensitive one in light of the recent photographic evidence that was released, depicting American soldiers torturing prisoners in Guantanamo Bay. Closer to home, in recent years reports have come out of Zimbabwe of journalists being imprisoned and tortured. Many inmates in South African prisons are subjected to human rights violations at the hands of prison guards and fellow prisoners. According to Article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment," and this is not negated by a criminal conviction.

Amnesty International's website for the campaign against torture, www.stoptorture.org, contains more information about this global problem, and also has links to other petitions to stop torture.

Editorial

■ Lesley Odendal

Posters with people's faces and quirky promises are covering our campus again. It's enough to make any tree-hugging hippie vomit, but on the upside, this year's SRC elections have seen a record number of people running for the positions.

It appears that the troops have been mobilised. Suddenly everyone has jumped on the anti-apathy bandwagon. If it's not people tying themselves to trees, it's someone grilling Dr Woods at last week's march about financial aid. Students are starting to question life at Rhodes and how it is structured. However, the world is not built on intentions and I hope that every SRC candidate and every student who wants to make a difference to this campus remembers this: by making sure that they stay true to their convictions and make things happen on this campus.

The best T-shirt I've seen, asked, 'RU getting an education?' It was a DIY job jotted on with a black permanent marker. It's a question I ask myself just about every Saturday morning when that hangover headache kicks in or when I'm staring at a computer screen mid-essay at 4am knowing that I didn't really do the course I'm writing the essay for.

RU getting an education? Good question, but what is an education? Where do those life lessons that you learn along the way kick in? These are the lessons you learn when you engage in something outside of your degree's parameters. It's about learning; learning about what life is really about.

While many Rhodents are thinking about how they are going to spend the rest of their days at Rhodes, many, whose degrees are near completion, are starting to wonder: 'Where to now?' Sometimes we forget that we are here to get a qualification that will take us somewhere in the world, and that, like all good things, our carefree student days will come to an end (unless you are one of those perpetual students who need two hands to count the amount of degrees you have).

Moving on from a familiar place is an unsettling thing to do. No matter how much you hate a place, the routine and familiarity eventually finds a place in your soul.

The end of my days as Activate editor has arrived. When perusing my past editorials, the underlying message seems to be my attempt to get students to do something about whatever structure restricts them, be it admin bureaucracy or discrimination by other students. Life is all about foundations and building blocks. Activate has come a long way since its revival almost nine years ago, but much still needs to be done.

I wish Carly Ritz, the incoming editor and her deputy, Nic Haralambous, all the best as they strive to better the paper in your interest. I hope that the building blocks that I have added to the foundation given to me will help them in producing a student newspaper that is useful and constructive.

T.S. Elliot wrote, "What we call the beginning is often the end. To make an end, is to make a beginning. The end is where we start from."

Here's to new endings and old beginnings.

New anti-harassment officer operates on "open-door policy"

■ Serena Chaudhry

Following the recent resignation of Dr L'Ange as Anti-Harassment officer, Samantha Wilhelmi has been appointed until the end of this year. Wilhelmi was approached by the Vice-Chancellor, and decided to take up the challenge, as she welcomes the opportunity to help students.

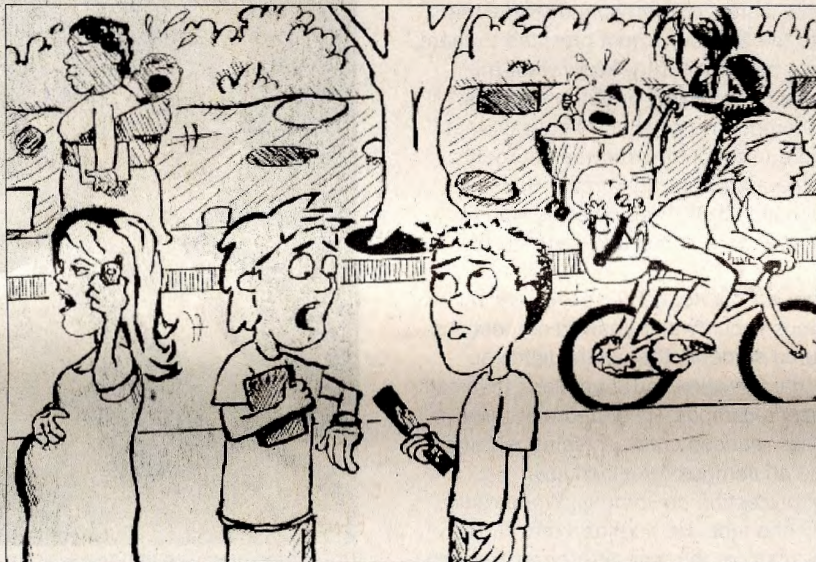
Although Dr L'Ange's resignation came shortly after the alleged gang rape of a Rhodes University student over the Tri-Varsity weekend, he says his primary reason for stepping down was due to time constraints. As he is also the Assistant Dean of Students and Hall Warden for Nelson Mandela Hall, Dr L'Ange suggests there should be a permanent post to deal with harassment and equality, as it needs somebody full time to fill the position.

Dr L'Ange took over the role of Anti-Harassment Officer in 2000 when the Anti-Harassment Board at Rhodes collapsed. "I managed the portfolio given

my understanding of the role", said Dr L'Ange, adding that he does not have the resources to meet what the students are now demanding of the post. "I was not compensated for this job", he also stated.

Despite being appointed as recently as the 26th of August, Wilhelmi says that she has already "dealt with [some] matters" relating to students. "[I am] always available in emergencies, and I encourage students to make use of the Anti-Harassment Officer", she says. Although she prefers to see students between 11-1pm, Wilhelmi says that she can be contacted anytime on any of the numbers. She can be reached on 046 603 8019 or 082 330 0234, and operates from the Botha House Warden's flat.

"I wish Sam everything of the best for her new role, and encourage students to develop relationships with her", added Dr L'Ange. The position of Anti-Harassment Officer for 2005 is currently under review by the Task Team.



Gosh, Can you believe it? "O"-week was nine months ago!?

■ Cartoon by Matthew Ackermann

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Letters to the Editor

■ Leigh Rademan

I believe in equal opportunities for everyone and it was with this in mind that I attended the protest march held on the 1st of September. As I understood it, we

were objecting to the government's decision to cut funding for subsidies at universities nationwide. Many people, it seems, were fighting against Rhodes for not yet having met its quota of the government's proposed 40% black students.

However, by disagreeing with the cutting of funding to any students, I did not feel that I was siding with Rhodes for not having met this quota. What should have been a march for fairness was turned into a screaming match between races - between Zimbabweans and South Africans and between non-SRC and SRC. People were so caught up in their pride and their preconceptions about other groups that they forgot to listen. I don't claim to understand all of the dynamics that were present in this situation, but I felt like we were falling into an all too familiar web of ignorance. Our past mistakes as a country should teach us that it is not by stereotyping and name-calling and waging war against these constructed ideas that battles are won. But rather, it is by stripping ourselves and others of labels, and standing face-to-face in our vulnerability, that we are able to see each other for what we are: individuals who all unknowingly share the desire for justice and equality. Let us once again as a

The Suite ruled by complacency!

■ Olerato Moreosele and Tshagofatso Tiholeo

We are livid and disappointed at the treatment received by some of The Suite's loyal 'VIP' members last Friday. The Heineken Party seemed to be one of the greatest gigs this year and being weekly patriots of The Suite, we are quite familiar with a gig of note. Our beloved club managed to send us SMSes stating that the first 120 members would get free admittance to the club. What they 'forgot' to mention in the SMS - or perhaps there was no space for fine print - is that we would have to be held hostage for a good two hours before being allowed to leave or even do something as simple as getting some fresh air as the outside area was barricaded for questionable VIPs. You'd think that after having shown The Suite so much dedication from the day it opened, we'd at least be appreciated in some way. We couldn't care less for lavish VIP parties, what we don't appreciate is sitting around, looking

like idiots, at the mercy of the club's management and their sponsors. We also think it was disgraceful that The Suite allowed Heineken to manage them and us! What does that say about the next sponsored gig? Should any of us even bother going back to The Suite knowing that given the chance, they are willing to forget those that butter their bread? Every businessman knows that your customer comes first; a good one knows that you value your loyal customers even more. We were treated like begging dogs on Friday - ask any of the members who were there, all of whom were questioning the promise made to us by Electrosoc and The Suite when we signed up for membership: get in for free or pay R10 depending on the type of gig. Nothing was ever mentioned about either paying the full cover charge like non-members or risking voluntary imprisonment for two hours, looking like desperate party starved dawdlers!!



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Sasco upstages SRC

■ Victoria John

On Wednesday the 1st of September approximately 200 Rhodes University students gathered together bearing banners that read, "No funding, No future!", in protest against a reduction in financial aid. However, they were met by an uncompromising group of Grahamstown citizens and students from local schools who marched into the vicinity.

The march was a protest against decisions made by the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS). NSFAS is reducing financial aid because Rhodes does not fulfill the criteria set by the Department of Education that requires 40% of students to be black South Africans. It is estimated that Rhodes funding will be cut by R6 million.

Protest marches were organised by SRCs at universities all over the country. They were well-supported, gathering crowds as big as 3000 people at the University of Cape Town and WITS.

Rhodes SRC is campaigning for better funding, interest-free loans and better pay-back methods from NSFAS. Contrary to popular belief, the SRC was not campaigning against the quota for black students set by the

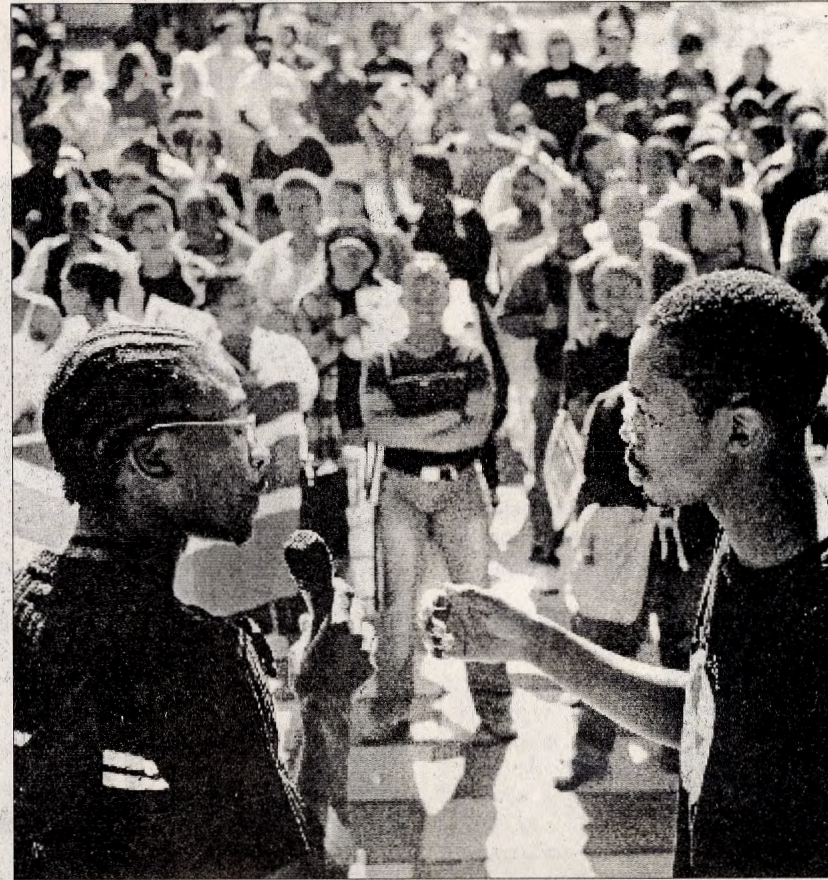
Department of Education. Tham Moyo, SRC president, stated that "we are not fighting the quota. We also want more black students than 40%; make it 50 or 60%!" Dominic White, vice-president of the SRC, stated that when this policy comes into effect more than 40% of Rhodes students will not be able to finish their degrees for lack of financial aid needed to pay their fees.

The bulk of the non-Rhodes marchers were supporters of the South African Students Congress (SASCO). Moyo described them as "marching onto campus with rent-a-crowd school kids and hijacked our peaceful march. This was supposed to be a day of national unity".

SASCO marched onto campus in protest of Rhodes not sticking to their quota for black students. The crowd refused to listen to the government spokesperson, only listening to their own speakers. Another group that made up the crowd was Project Phambili. This group took a similar stance to that of SASCO. Ongama Mtimka, a 3rd year Politics and Journalism student and spokesperson for Project Phambili said that it is "Rhodes' social responsibility to meet the criteria that 40% of its students are black South Africans." He

further commented that black youth deserve as much opportunity to a university degree as white youth do and that it would be "affirmative action" if Rhodes stuck to the set criteria. Furthermore, he said, "as long as our economy is still racialised there can be no proper reconciliation in South Africa, therefore, we should balance the economy between blacks and whites to ensure democratic consolidation".

A common question is how exactly does NSFAS expect a university like Rhodes to increase its student quota to 40% blacks? As Moyo said, "it would be fairly easy, but evidently wrong to go to places like Johannesburg and recruit rich black kids to come to Rhodes when there are so many needy black kids in the Eastern Cape". Project Phambili and SASCO claimed that a solution to this problem is the introduction of developmental programmes in townships, which would contribute to a higher acceptance rate of underprivileged black youth into universities. This leads us back to the problem that these people, without financial aid, would not be able to pay university fees.



"No funding, No future!" heated protestors gather on the Rhodes campus against the reduction in financial aid
■ Nic Haralambous

Rethinking student enrolment at Rhodes

■ Kate Tissington

Imagine for a moment (if you can) that you are an enthusiastic, bright student at one of the many impoverished schools in South Africa. Everyday you walk two hours to school where you are faced with the battle for properly trained teachers, suitable textbooks, desks, stationery, running water and electricity.

Nevertheless, you are still eager to learn and show considerable promise in the classroom, even though your matric results will never compare with others around the country. What hope do you have of attending a quality university like Rhodes and developing your potential? It is this scenario that prompted an ongoing transformation in the way students are admitted to this university.

Alternative Admissions tests were held on the 21st of August 2004 at testing centres in Grahamstown, Umtata, East London and Port Elizabeth for those people who thought they may not have enough Swedish points to get offered a place at Rhodes. About 420 students attended the tests after guidance and head teachers in the Eastern Cape

received letters about the testing. Advertisements were also placed in local newspapers.

Professor Chrissie Boughey, director of the Academic Development Centre (ADC) at Rhodes, explains that "one overwhelming finding of the tests was that students from all faculties are weak in synthesising information." She added that "basically the tests give us much more information about what students can and can't do than matric. It is really fascinating to see the sort of information they provide."

Students who perform well in the tests could be offered a place at Rhodes even if they do not have the required Swedish points. The rationale behind these tests is to ensure that the potential of a bright student from a disadvantaged school is not simply ignored and that more effective testing methods are used to assess students' suitability to the academic learning environment. As Boughey explains, "being able to learn in the 'school way' does not mean that a student can learn academically." This complex situation is one that the university is trying to address.

Another reason why these tests have

been implemented is that by 2008, the Senior Certificate Examination will be replaced by a school leaving/work readiness certificate called the Further Education and Training Certificate (FETC). Other measures will need to be in place by then to admit students to the university. Rhodes has chosen to use Standardised Assessment Tests (SATs), which were developed by academics from various universities. The SATs can also identify students who have been 'groomed' by the school, but who don't have what Boughey terms the "big abilities" to succeed at university.

The tests run in August were also written by all first year students entering Rhodes in February this year. These results were used for research purposes to benchmark performance on the SATs and establish a comparison for those who write the tests in future. The SATs comprise of three different tests. The first is a mathematics comprehension test, which uses simple maths to see whether students can solve one problem and then use that learning in another context. A more formal mathematics achievement test assesses the performance

of the student on the standard grade (Grade 11) syllabus, not so much to test the content knowledge of the student, but rather to gauge the student's school background by viewing the results against the performance on the other academic tests.

There is also a preliminary test of 'English for educational purposes', which tests their ability to use language in acquiring and processing new knowledge. This test is also taken by prospective students. The aim is to determine if students have simply been 'spoon-fed' at school and lack the skills required for higher education learning.

Previously, students who did not qualify on the Swedish points system were chosen after personal interviews with the deans. They were placed in four year 'foundation' degree courses, which have now been changed to 'extended' programmes. These programmes will still run over four years and students will get extra teaching to fill any gaps they may have.

The programmes are designed to develop the potential of bright students and Boughey explains that the tests "are a completely different way

of thinking about meeting the needs of students who present slightly lower scores on the tests." The university needs to have 50 students in each extended programme by 2006, and is aiming at 40 in each for next year.

Rhodes has been criticised for its small number of black South African students and the effect this has on how much state subsidy the university receives. The throughput of South African black students (as opposed to Zimbabwean students who generally experience better preparation at secondary school) needs attention as the intake at present is relatively low compared to other universities and the drop-out rate is fairly high. At present, black South African students comprise only about 20% of the university.

Boughey acknowledges that "Rhodes would like to admit more black South African students, particularly students from the Eastern Cape. There is adjustment to the funding formula if an institution has below 40% black South Africans though this will not affect us unduly. We do think we have a commitment to the Eastern Cape, and to black South Africans though."

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What you said:

■ Hayley Axford

"Do you know your status and do you think it is important to know?"



Anwuli Okecha, L.LB (3rd Year)

No, I've never been tested, but I think it's very important for everyone to know their status and to be tested, especially if they're in relationships.



Zaheer Bhayat, B.Pharm (2nd Year)

Unfortunately I don't know my HIV status, I guess that it's really important to check it, since nowadays AIDS is transmitted not only sexually, but via needles etc.



Eira Brown, B.A (2nd Year)

Yes I do. I think it's important to know because if you are infected, you don't want to pass it on to anyone that you love.



Stantin Siebritz, B.A (2nd Year)

Yes I know my status. Of course it's important, you might be jeopardising someone else's life.



Yoshika Naidoo, BSocSci (2nd Year)

No I don't know my HIV status, but I'm not infected. Of course it is important to know because you can't stop the spread of HIV if you don't know your status.



Lindelwa Mtongana, BJourn (3rd Year)

Yes and Yes! Very important!!



Lorne Golden, BA (2nd Year)

Yes I do, it is important to know yourself and to not infect others.



Tamara Jooste, BEcon (1st Year)

No. I do feel that it is important though as it is an epidemic all over the world and I happen to like my life, thank you!

Queuing for counselling

Five thousand students. Four counsellors. That means 1 250 Rhodents are queuing to warm up the couch of one counsellor.



Depressed and nowhere to go: Rhodes only has four counsellors to deal with the entire student body's emotional problems

■ Gregor Rohrig

■ Andrea Buchanan

Career and Counselling Centre head, Mervyn Wetmore, admits that they are "extremely busy" and "working at full capacity."

The situation becomes starker when you compare it with other Eastern Cape tertiary institutions. The University of Port Elizabeth (UPE) has ten counsellors. Since UPE currently has about 6500 students, that's 650 students to each staff member. Port Elizabeth Technikon has 7107 students, and eight counsellors: 888 to one.

Wetmore says though, that such comparisons are irresponsible. "You must compare oranges with oranges. Previously there was only one counsellor doing absolutely everything. The staff has now increased to four."

Wetmore says that they hope to increase the number of counsellors, but that "it's all a matter of costs. Rome wasn't built in a day, and when we went from one to four, that was a huge jump. One is always fighting for resources with other parts of the university."

Rhodes is different to other universities, Wetmore says, because it has historically relied on its residence system to meet the personal needs of students.

Students are, however, queuing up to be sardine-squashed into the appointment book. Dianne Tipping-Woods, a third year BJourn student, has been struggling for weeks to make a career counselling appointment. "The only time you can go to book an appointment for a career development interview is on Wednesdays from 1:30 to 2:30," she says. "It's really booked up and there's only one person for career guidance."

Tipping-Woods also finds the preparation required for a career development interview "intimidating" and overly prescriptive. Before going to the interview, a student must complete a lengthy questionnaire and attend several seminars. "I just need advice on one particular area of worry," she says. "I find it all frustrating and unnecessary."

Wetmore says Rhodes students are not used to following a career development process. "Quite a few students can't understand the depth that is required for good career development and counselling," he says. "We can't just come in and talk about one thing without seeing it as a broader issue. For example, you can't not go to a seminar, and then come in with an untutored CV. Our students are not used to planning ahead."

Wetmore has spearheaded major developments at the Centre. The career development seminars are

extensive and regular, as are the personal development seminars held by Dr Schlodder. Wetmore says that the workshops and counselling are "not mutually exclusive, but by attending the workshops, you're getting information that you can then use to make the most benefit of the counselling."

Although it might be difficult to get an appointment in the first place, students who go through counselling give glowing reports. Tracy*, a third-year student, was counselled by SRC counsellor Lisl Foss last year. "I was walking past her office, and I was having a very bad day during my depression. I said, 'you know what, I've had enough of being the way I am,'" she explains. Tracy says that if she had not gone for counselling, she would have probably committed suicide. She made an appointment with

“ There is no co-ordination between these places, and counselling is not readily available ”

Foss that day, and changed her life.

She had seen psychologists in her hometown, but nothing had seemed to ease her depression. "My parents were even threatening to put me on Prozac," she says, "but after counselling with Lisl, my friends could see a noticeable difference in me." After six weeks of counselling, Tracy was ready to tackle her problems. "She just lets you talk. She's not overbearing, and she gives you practical solutions," she says.

She recommends that anyone who is "at the end of their tether" should see someone. "And it shouldn't be someone who tells you how to live your life. It's an objective ear."

Linda*, also a third-year, suffered the loss of her father and brother in the same week last year. A concerned lecturer referred her to the Psychology Clinic, but she was unable to get an appointment for two weeks. Soon, distraught and ill, she ended up at the sanatorium, where staff fast-tracked an appointment for her at the clinic. Linda received "helpful" long-term counselling at the clinic. Smiling and relaxed, she says that she would not be able to talk about her problem so easily now were it not for the counselling process she underwent.

Although both Tracy and Linda had positive experiences of counselling at Rhodes, both women's stories point to the lack of awareness surrounding campus counselling services. "I'd never heard about the Career and Counselling Centre," admits Tracy. "I just went to Lisl because I was often in the Union building, and I saw her around; she looked friendly." Linda, when battling to get an appointment at the Psychology Clinic, was not referred to the Career and Counselling Centre, and did not think of going there herself. "There is no co-ordination between these places, and counselling is not readily available," she says.

Wetmore says that efforts are being made to publicise the services on offer. He holds up the Career and Counselling Centre Bulletin (available in residences and other campus venues) as evidence. "We're trying to disseminate information and to get students to think about things," he says. "The important thing is to take advantage of the various facilities as early in your time at Rhodes as possible. We see our job here as contributing to student development, all-round, whether it's career or personal."

*Names changed to protect their identities

The details on Rhodes counselling

■ **Career and Counselling Centre:**
Venue: On the lower floor of Eden Grove. Staff: Mervyn Wetmore - who deals with career development
Dr Michelle Schlodder, who focuses on personal counselling
Julia Mitchell, an intern psychologist
Lisl Foss, the SRC counsellor (in Room B22, Union building)

■ **Psychology Clinic:**
Venue: Rhodes Avenue (near the sanatorium) Staff: An intern psychologist, seven training clinical psychologists and three training psychologists.
3 Students pay discounted fees at the Psychology Clinic, whereas the Career and Counselling Centre services are free.

The flip Side

Activate Hate or Re-activation

Conversation between schizoid personalities about the relevance of Activate



■ Siyabonga Mthembu - words in bold

■ Pics by Gregor Rhörig

Journalistic integrity spurns an eager devils advocate freshly squeezed from three first year credits because the fourth one was boring. It's like single vodka and lime on a Saturday morning after a debaucherous Friday night where the only thing I remember is...

Re-activation as the manna from the brewery trickles down my spine and I fall prey to the best form of oppression; peer pressure. Well what does this have to do with student media, more importantly, Activate? Well nothing and everything at the same time. Clearly a post-modernist approach to the issue of Activate sucking, in the words of one of my schizoid personalities.

Activate is in the process of reconstruction, welcome to the new South Africa, a reconstruction with the mandate of being more representative, not only within staff, but also in the matter of faculty representation. Like most bodies of this university where leaders do whatever, the work that has been done has ignored what for me is a major constituency: the students.

Just in: 'a social pandemic has attacked a small rural town in the south of the Eastern Cape. It is believed to be contagious and passed on from carrier to victim via the packaging of cans, bottles and glasses. Scientists' research findings of this disease show that it isn't actually the packaging, but rather the contents of the package: a liquid that scientists have termed alcohol is the cause of the disease that has infested the rural streets of Grahamstown.

The World Health Organisation has termed the disease "Student Apathy", or the colloquial equivalent, "Lazy Rhodents". Apparently the liquid travels quickly via the bloodstream, once in the brain a victim finds themselves diving into bushes, barbarically jumping to the same up-tempo music and participating in a bizarre phenomenon that seems to occur as commonly as blinking one's eyes, called napovers.

"We teach them everyday to question their standing as not absolute and that everything they know is based on the social constructions of old white men's divides and conquers. But this liquid keeps them where they are, it allows them to accept the injustices of the world and at the same time have the audacity to complain about nobody doing nothing about anything," commented a highly strung and whiskey breathed Rhodes University official.'

The segment above was sourced from a reliable Rhodes campus student newspaper, Activate, from an article written by a "budding" journalism student. Activate gives young and "budding" seeds of South African journalism the fertile Grahamstown soil to blossom.

It's blatantly obvious that you are a victim of the upside down triangle indoctrination system of the who? what? when? where? how? and the magic, so what? of the Rhodes Journalism Department. Ready to sell your soul through sensationalism that reconstructs the "facts" by contacting only two reliable sources, their credibility rests on the point that there are "two sides to a story". That statement ignores the re-iteration of relativity by your Humanities faculty, a humanities publication that denies the experiences of the same humanities students. Therefore, this publication is as useful to the student body as the harassment policy during Orientation Week.

So one wonders why you or any other members of the student body haven't bothered to submit your thoughts or ideas to Activate in order for your grievances to be heard. While you are too concerned with market price value or deconstructing Locke and Hobbes theories, someone has to inform you about what's going on in and out of Grahamstown.

It is the dreaded cycle of any typical Rhodent; you enjoy O-week; witness the sudden and mysterious disappearance of the SRC; learn the fact that policy and

practise are galaxies apart; enjoy the pleasures of interacting with bureaucracy; run for SRC and plan to be a revolutionary when by the end of your term you're so tired you've forgotten why the SRC even exists; you stay an extra year and take up the "life changing" History 102 course, then graduate; and in between drink yourself into a stupor through four tri-arsity events and an average of 4.16 Wednesdays and Saturdays of pointless debaucherous nights.

But since Rhodents are so used to being in the kind of environment where they are hauled from their respective places of leisure – the rat-infested suite of the friar-tucking Cecil John spots – I suggest you submit a policy for them to restructure themselves and "go out there and get students writing!" By the way it's as useful to the student body as they make it.

An inventive race where the young melanin types are arts and culture editors, tokenism masked as white liberalist transformation. While mediocre pigment lacking types secure editorship through attending meetings about nothing and calling it experience.

Oh no! Did I just write about race in Activate? It is not spoken about unless it relates to black South Africans and their Zimbabwean counterparts. Speaking of Zim, the African coverage of newsworthy issues around the continent denies the existence of Mugabe's Zimbabwe, all this while students argue over Bob being voted the third greatest African. While rumour spreads about Rhodes Admin erecting a statue of baba Mandela with centenary funds, yet funds aren't readily available for efficient security.

Let me not be a Rhodes journalism student and explain that all this is speculation and rumour, except the part about bra Bob. I tell you about these rumours just to show that there is so much happening at Rhodes, who needs to re-tell a story about a young rich white girl being kidnapped (as if the rest of the journalism world did not already make the Leigh Matthews story redundant). And, oh yes, Aids doesn't cast a shadow on someone's life – refer to caption page 4 of August 25th 2004 edition. One would hope you'd learn this from that Journalism Department style guide you are given in J1.

You seem to attack the institutions we share as being useless and lily white. You pseudo revolutionary Biko and Che wannabe who sits on his ass and like the Eastern Cape government, identify problems and go home and simply hate the man. Do something about it; policies are in place so we can get more representation. Activate writers, designers, photographers and editors spend their time doing this for nothing only to be told by fellow journal students how useless their publication is. Well if you can do it better, please do! While they spend their holidays gaining media experience so they can be more useful to you, you go home and once again complain about Africa and its injustices. We are doing something about it in our African section for example; we make students aware of their continent. So get off your black middle class ass and start a real revolution, a personal one. Activate is continuously becoming versatile while maintaining journalistic integrity.

Yes, I have dealt with it. So has the rest of campus by making sure that when toilet paper runs out, we use Activate's newly designed colour front page for "other" purposes. Deal with that while you write stories, which have nothing to do with student needs, but are able to toe the Rhodes admin line (refer to front page of August 25th 2004 edition). So I'm going to roll a joint while I complain about being black. Thanks for the paper, I ran out of rizia.

This is Macdonald Carrie and these are the days of our Rhodent lives.

This article has complied with Activate standards and received Rhodes Admin and SAB[S] stamp of approval.



If you have an argument/debate/dissagreement/flip-side that you and a friend would like to submit, please send your "flip-side" columns to g03r1189@campus.ru.ac.za



Today's question

■ Tom Mapham

Blinking in the blackness, you see the same thing whether your eyes are open or closed. That's me now, lying in bed listening to the sounds of a house full of sleeping bodies.

I'm sitting in a kief backpackers in Robertson the night before the Breede Canoe Marathon. I'm trying not to think about supper, where we're going to shoot Waterfall rapid and Sunday's fines meeting, because I've got to write some tomfoolery. I'm going back to junior school basics: What I Did Today.

That snooze button is evil, it lures you in with sugar-coated words of persuasion, "there's plenty of time", "just five more minutes". Then "Flip Sakes Man!" Five minutes 'till I'm supposed to be at the gates. Five minutes 'till the time when I promised everyone that if they weren't there they could find their own way.

We hit the road. Pick up 1x Rhodes combi and then start looking for the 12x Rhodents to go in it. Those who weren't at the Rat last night are all present and correct.

All we're missing are the Mordor/G7 gimps and the drunken heathen dykes. The dykes rock up with Moses in his car. And the banter begins in a barrage – a one-way flurry of ammo all aimed at Moses (who likes to refer to himself as "THE SPERMINATOR"). Poor bugger doesn't have a chance (Shit, halfway through my column and we haven't even left yet.)

So, jump 10 minutes out of Grahamstown and we're at 1x snapped paddle later. Might as well be back in digs. All I hear is the engine and snoring.

PE looms in on the horizon, the sulphur elicits the usual accusations, beyond the frothing breakers a whale launches himself out of the water for a look.

The kief kombi is making the same noises as an SRC candidate, sucking up fuel at a rapid rate. Just past Humansdorp it becomes clear that we're not going to make it far. And at this delicate moment my passengers all rub their eyes and ask how far we are. We're driving backwards to petrol and my fate at the fines meeting is sealed.

After George, a multi-coloured mass of men on bikes sweep down the highway carving a path through the trucks, cars and kombis. Back home the lone ranger, a multi coloured "mini Cawood" was carving a path on his own through the traffic on his fucking skateboard carrying his suit case: for Pete's sake, someone hit him.

In the late stages of a long journey kano-ists like to philosophise. Today's question: Would you take half an hour with the Corrs' gay brother in exchange for a week with all the sisters at the same time? Raj is keen, Hobbit says if he did it once he'd let the Corrs' brother do him all day, Woody says he'd do Raj and Morph just wasn't prepared to sacrifice his long-lost love at Drostdy Estate Agents. Jess reckons if she was a lesbian she would definitely do them all.

A day on the road with the Kool Kano Klub and this is what I've got to show for it.

McReality

It doesn't take a genius to realise that we live in a consumer society, yet how many of us acknowledge the real and damaging effects of this culture, particularly the fast-food industry?

■ Lauren Clifford – Holmes ■ Graphic: Gregor Rohrig

Grahamstown does not have a McDonalds, but if it did, it would fast become a popular place to go for an inexpensive 'quick bite'. After all, the rest of the world has caught the fast-food bug, why would be different? While you are all probably thinking that there is nothing wrong with fast-food chains, this article may just change your mind or, at the very least, get you thinking about the process involved in bringing you that cheap, predictable hamburger.

Simply, things are not as they seem. Behind the sterile, plastic façade of neon signs are corporate giants with a frightening amount of power. Not only do these corporations have the ability to persuade us to eat unhealthy and unnatural food time and time again, they also have the power to convince us that it is the right and only thing to do. McDonalds alone currently serves 46 million customers daily with 2000 new restaurants opening every year. While these corporations determinedly target consumers, sacrifices have been and continue to be made. The sacrifice is not borne by the corporations themselves, but by other expendable factors: the environment, the animals, the workers and our health. Professor Julian Cobbing of the History Department at Rhodes, says, "We need to ask ourselves about who runs the planet – a collective of corporations or a collective of people?" These corporations pose a threat to our democracy – our freedom of choice and access to truth. Steadily, we find ourselves drawn to that fast-food counter more often, perhaps not just because we want to, but because we are slowly being left with no other alternative.

If we're honest, ignorance is bliss. However, the truth should be faced. Mass production aims to manufacture maximum product in minimum time and at the lowest price. This has led to cattle being kept in crowded feedlots where they are fed a rich grain diet, anti-biotics, growth hormones and in some cases, ground-up chicken and pork meat. This diet forces them to grow and age quicker. Lack of exercise and the unsanitary environment leads to weak animals that are susceptible to disease, bloating, acidosis, liver abscesses, gas and other effects of a rich diet. The food-borne pathogen, *Escherichia Coli* O157:H7, is a toxic strain of bacterium, which is often present in these weak animals and poses a threat of potentially fatal disease in humans. The possibility for meat contamination increases during the hasty food production process, where the faeces of the cattle, containing the pathogen, are often spilt onto the meat. Furthermore, one beef patty can contain the meat from several different cows, which increases the health risk of contaminated meat.

Similarly, chickens endure short and painful lives. Day-old chicks destined for laying eggs are sexed, with the males being thrown into large bins where they are ground up (often while they are still alive) for use as fertiliser or animal feed. The females are then put on an assembly line and painfully de-beaked with hot blades. Spending the rest of their miserable lives crammed into battery cages amongst 90 000 other chickens, the hens are forced to lay an unnatural amount of eggs owing to genetic manipulation, growth-promoting drugs, artificial around-the-clock lighting and, previously, starvation. They sit in cages dripping with faeces, barely able to move and soon become incredibly nervous and prone to disease and heart attacks. Chickens raised for their meat lead similar lives in cramped barns, whilst being pumped full of the same kinds of chemicals. Often they gain weight so quickly that they cannot stand up or their legs break under the pressure of their disproportionate bodies.

Clearly, meat produced under such pressured and unwholesome conditions is hardly going to be healthy and of good quality. In fact, animals raised in feedlots accumulate Omega 6 fatty acids, which are the bad fats linked to cancer, diabetes, obesity, heart disease and immune disorders. In contrast, grass-fed meat contains Omega 3 fatty acids, like those found in fatty fish, which help to lower cholesterol. The way these animals are raised and fed threatens our health and that of our environment as belching, flatulent livestock emit 16% of the world's annual production of methane – a powerful greenhouse gas. Strange, but true. There are many other environmental issues, such as deforestation and the large amount of waste produced by over-fed livestock, which becomes toxic waste and a threat to local water supplies.

While this sounds distressing, meat is not only produced in this manner. Free-range farming and organic meat is starting to grow in popularity and the benefits are slowly being made known to the public. Farmers that have chosen

to breed free-range meat are proving that humane farming can be profitable. Although it takes longer for each animal to mature, the farmer incurs fewer costs through not paying for antibiotics, pricey feed and maintaining large sheds. Chickens, for instance, can roam around and exercise and contain about 5% fat compared to the grain-fed chickens, which have 35% body fat. It is healthier and kinder on the chickens and better for our health. Ultimately, this is an industry of supply and demand. If we, the consumers, change our demands and insist on buying free-range eggs and meat,



the supply will have to change. There is no logical reason why battery farms and feedlots should continue to exist.

We do, however, have some reasons to feel positive. For example, in 2002 McDonalds submitted to pressure from animal rights and public health groups, announcing they would stop buying battery-farmed chickens and eggs. They have also taken steps to become more eco-friendly by spending more than \$3 billion on recycled-content purchases between 1990 and 1999. In 2001, they adopted compostable food packaging and installed energy-efficient lighting in their restaurants.

This proves, that while only on a small scale, changes are being made. Keri Francis, head of Rhodents for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (RETA), emphasises that "students need to think about the alternatives" and "be aware that there are options available". We can make choices, even in Grahamstown, about the meat and eggs we buy and whether to support local produce and cafes instead of rushing to one of the many franchises. Importantly, we need to consider what we, as a university and student body, are doing about these bigger, global issues. There are signs that students are keen to learn about the state of the world. The History 102 course on World crisis, lectured by Professor Cobbing, has become famous on campus and draws a full class year after year. We have a student newspaper, a student radio station, a Student Representative Council (SRC), but are we really using these outlets effectively?

This article only has space to address some of the issues we need to consider. One could go on down the deep rabbit hole of secrecy looking at the issues of exploited, underpaid young workers or the well-hidden chemical plants that produce the flavours and aromas of the fast-food and junk food we consume. One could evaluate the power these corporations have over the individual and how little room we have to voice our opinions against them. In fact, it is imperative that we do ask these questions before the state of our world declines further.

Recommended reading:

■ *State of the World*

The World Watch Institute

■ *Fast Food Nation*

Eric Schlosser

■ *McLibel*

John Videl

Contact: Keri Francis to join RETA

03f0939@campus.ru.ac.za

Dictators and democrats: Undercover affairs

■ Aretha Phiri

Since March this year, Equatorial Guinea and mercenaries have been a thorn in South Africa's side. South African mercenaries have been accused of plotting the overthrow of Equatorial Guinea's long-standing president, Obiang Ngema.

South Africa's Foreign Military Assistance Act of 1998, currently under review in light of this situation, defines mercenary activity as: "direct participation as a combatant in armed conflict for private gain". Since its promotion in South Africa during the apartheid regime, mercenary activity has become a lucrative business, with 'firms' offering armed security for large sums of money.

Because of its direct link with the apartheid administration, the South African government has frowned upon such activity, which has "bedevilled" Africa and its stance in this embarrassing situation, which has been nothing short of revealing. With the High Court ruling against extradition of the mercenaries to South Africa, appeals to the Constitutional Court have been similarly unrewarding. South Africa has instead taken pains to ensure that its citizens are assured a fair and just trial, albeit on foreign territory.

Just as South Africa had got comfort-

able in the seat of 'quiet diplomacy', the plot thickened and the net got wider. The Scorpions, South Africa's 'no nonsense' task force, always eager to show initiative, now allege that, apart from the prominent Simon Mann, Sir Mark Thatcher is another British citizen to be implicated in the attempted coup. Thatcher, the son of former prime minister and "iron lady" of Britain, Margaret Thatcher, with his vast fortune, is a likely accomplice. Ex-jailbird Jeffrey Archer, is the latest suspect in this growing ring of private school boys. His recent visit to Her Majesty's Service may not have been as 'informing' as he hoped.

These recent events cannot have come at a worse time for South Africa. The UK, its largest foreign investor, has recently strengthened its ties with the country in a host of trade and investment agreements and more recently, concluded a defence agreement, which will see South Africa receive military advice and assistance in a bid to further its peace-keeping efforts in war-torn Africa.

Despite efforts by Equatorial Guinea to have Thatcher extradited to the country, where he is likely to become victim to the despot's alleged torturous and murderous tendencies, South Africa have refused, but have assured the international community that Thatcher will not be dealt with

lightly. His R2 million bail and subsequent house arrest prove that there is indeed "a serious case to answer".

International powers, however, have been quiet. The UK has assured its cooperation with SA, 'whatever the outcome', whilst the US, despite the alleged death of an accused mercenary by torture, has not ventured an opinion.

With the increasing threat of global oil shortages, consequent high fuel prices and slowing economic growth, the US cannot afford to jeopardise its relations with Africa's third largest producer of oil and contributor of an estimated 10 % of the world oil reserves. With Equatorial Guinea having proved itself as a 'legitimate' democracy, albeit a forced one, the US has chosen to turn a blind eye (its extra-sensory vision probably blinded by all the



Items found abroad the aircraft containing 70 men detained in Zimbabwe. Due to the charges of plotting a coup in Equatorial Guinea
■ Courtesy of europe.cnn.com

oil) and committed itself to multi-lateral relations and liberal democracy by 'investing' in and profiting from at least ¾ of the country's reserves whilst allowing Obiang off-shore family investments in its country.

The fate of the mercenaries in Zimbabwe will be sealed on the 10th of September, whilst the other mercenaries are still on trial in Equatorial Guinea. Until then, the world will continue to watch with baited breath to see who else gets roped into the net.

welcome even her own president has not been privy to in a while. Traditional dancers, ululating and red carpets at Harare International Airport prepared her for her "state visit" with President Robert Mugabe. The opportunity for Zimbabwe to stick up its defiant middle finger to the West could not be missed.

Ignoring her noticeably paler complexion and the fact that she now resides in the country of the "enemy", Mugabe showed his appreciation for her ability to put the country in good light. He reached deep into his pocket, avoided some of the holes and managed to locate some change – all US \$50 000 of it. The American-accented "ambassador" was also awarded with a diplomatic passport-life will now be so much easier.

No doubt her fellow Olympic delegates would be green with envy. Not only does she have the pleasure of training in a more advanced sporting society, whilst they have to make do with lack of financial and structural support from theirs, she also gets "pocket money" that would take them years to earn and the ability to travel freely whilst they have to contend with harassment from immigration officers who view green passports with extreme suspicion and wariness.

Sport in Zimbabwe, if it continues to be this well rewarded, should see itself climbing out of the doldrums.

Women in science

■ Aretha Phiri

The age of the sciences has dawned upon us and women in Africa are taking the reigns. Professor Pat Scott and Doctors Lee-Anne McKinnell, Ane Oosthuizen and Susanne Vetter of Rhodes University have all received international recognition for their outstanding achievements in and contributions to the sciences.

At the beginning of August, International Women's Month, Professor Tebello Nyokong of the Chemistry Department, started the ball rolling as recipient of the Shoprite Checkers/SABC 2 Women of the Year Award in the Science and Technology category.

Having ironically started out in the arts, she was attracted to the sciences because it is practical. "What you have to write in 10 000 words in the arts, you can write in one page in the sciences", she says. She also loved experimenting, particularly with light and colours, which informed her research for an alternative treatment to chemotherapy in cancer. By using a

red laser light and dye such as the dye that which is used in denims and activated with exposure to natural light, Photodynamic Therapy aims to avoid common reactions to chemotherapy in which healthy cells are destroyed. This results in hair loss and sickness for cancer patients.

Despite her passion for and commitment to her chosen profession, Nyokong acknowledges that academic life is "lonely, particularly so for women". Most decisions are made in "informal, social circles" of which women are often excluded. She has faced and still faces challenges to her ambition to excel - challenges that are perpetuated by her gender. Her tough "male-like" upbringing in an all-girls family, however, has contributed to her strength and perseverance. "I can be very loud and rough when I want to be", she says.

Prudence Tau, one of Nyokong's students, says of her supervisor; "She gives the word 'super' in supervisor new meaning. She offers academic, moral and financial support, but, most of all, she lets me think outside of the box."



The last Patriot Games

Thank you for my people

■ Justine Cottrell

Some dude that writes for Britain's *Daily Mail* has got the same idea as me. Frederick Forsyth, who lays claim to much travel experience and "extended residential periods in half-a-dozen lands", writes an opinion piece about British problems and perks. I have just waded through his 500+ word piece dated the 3rd of June 2004, notably a healthy summer day according to my parents, who now live in Buckinghamshire and find comparing the weather an entertaining telephone conversation topic. I actually find it quite entertaining too; it makes me revel in my gloriously advantageous climactic position.

So perhaps this rare, sunny occasion went to Mr Forsyth's head when he bashed out this piece. Mr Forsyth spends a page patronising the reader with his superior experience and knowledge of living in exotic places, dropping little nuggets like: "My wife and I thought it would be nice to kayak through the icebergs." All the while he explains how greatly superior life in Britain is by admitting to its pet peeves and then explaining that there is at least one other country in the world that has it worse. That's clumsy - let me give you a few examples: "Yes we have useless bureaucracy, but try getting planning permission in Italy." "We are always presented with devastating news of floods, volcanoes, earthquakes and fires around the globe, well at least that sort of thing doesn't happen here!" And my personal favourite: "The best part of my holiday is always the sight of the most beautiful hunk of metal in the world. The plane home."

Of course I can conjure a degree of sympathy. It's understandable when you feel the occasional splash of sun in the UK, but honestly, that kind of defeatist, the-glass-is-half-empty attitude is itself the saddest thing about Britain.

I can't imagine trying to compare the intoxicating beauty of South Africa with phrases like, "At least it rains less than in Seattle!" or "I know we suffer from droughts every now and then, but I mean, it's not a baking desert like the outback!" How incredibly sad and depressing it sounds to only appreciate things in the negative, in hindsight. Why, when there is so much this country and its people are blessed with (and this is something I hope would be clear after I have enjoyed your attention for a year), would you belittle it with such half-hearted and smirking descriptions.

In the end, and for my column this is sadly the end, the most valuable facet of this diamond we inhabit is the people we share it with. The reason that Rhodes is a great university and South Africa is an awesome place is the same, the people that surround you. I don't often trace the kind of pessimism Mr Forsyth is guilty of in the average South African and therein lies the beauty. The positive, care-free, fun-loving, hard-working attitude of South Africans of all kinds make for not only a half-full glass, but an overflowing one. Thank you.

Zim – Going for gold

■ Aretha Phiri

George Bush and Robert Mugabe have one more thing in common apart from their insatiable claims to sovereignty and sermons on national pride. Twenty-year old Kirsty Coventry, born and bred in Zimbabwe, but now resident of the United States, managed to put Zimbabwe back in the international spotlight, not for internal corruption or for human rights abuses, but for sport.

In spite of EU sanctions against the country, which consequently saw its Sports Minister, Aeneas Chigwedere, denied entry to the Olympic Games in Athens, Zimbabwe went on to clinch three medals, albeit only in one category: swimming.

Coventry has stunned not only the world, but her own country, which has not had an Olympic medal in 10 years, let alone offered any challenging sporting competition since Henry Olonga (a cricket guru) fled the country.

It is not surprising then that Coventry was apparently forced to do a detour to Zimbabwe en route back to the US, which has been her home for the last three years. Hailed as Zimbabwe's "Golden Child" and "Heroine", she returned to a



Women sweeping up awards and making their mark in the field of science ■ Aretha Phiri

Africa In Focus

■ Compiled by Aretha Phiri

■ Sir Mark Thatcher, son of former British Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, is implicated in the alleged coup attempt on Equatorial Guinea's President, Obiang Ngema.

■ Zimbabwean swimming sensation, Kirsty Coventry secures three medals at the Olympics and is rewarded with US \$50 000 and a diplomatic passport by President Robert Mugabe.

■ Sudan's government does not meet its 30 day deadline to disarm rebel militia. It is estimated that 1.2 million black Africans have been driven from their homes.

■ South Africa to increase its peace-keeping efforts and involvement in the "global war on terror" by signing a bilateral defence agreement with the UK.

■ Rhodes University students condemn the alleged rape of a first-year student by staging a peaceful demonstration.



Who got rid of the pageant?

■ Moagisi Letlhaku and Palesa Mopeli

Following a vote by the SRC, there will be no Mr and Miss Rhodes pageant this year as it was decided that the pageant objectifies women. SRC president, Tham Moyo, says that the decision was taken after certain individuals on the SRC raised the concern that "the pageant gave Rhodes males the wrong image of women". Moyo, who was part of the 2003 SRC, also says, "the issue was raised last year, but it did not carry much weight as the SRC was mostly male. This year, however, there is more diversity and, therefore, the concern was really looked into."

Contrary to the SRC's claim, it seems that many of the students were not adequately consulted about this matter. This lack of effective consultation raises the issue of whether the SRC truly represents the student body or not.

Mpho Masango, a second year BJourn student, together with a friend started a petition to get the SRC to rethink their decision. She stated that the SRC is taking the capacity for women to decide what they want to do away from them. In addition, other questions have been raised, namely: What about the men? Does it not also objectify men? If it objectifies only women, why not change the format?

Surprisingly, the SRC was willing to allow outside organisations, like Masakhane and Black Gold (CJ's), to take over the event and even went as far as offering an interest-free loan to assist such organisations. These establishments declined to host the Mr and Miss Rhodes pageant because it is a non-profitable event. The fact that the SRC was willing to support outside organisations financially, gives the impression that they were trying to shift the blame of hosting an event that they say objectifies women onto someone else. Either



Mr and Miss Rhodes pageant may become a thing of the past

way, the SRC would still play a role; whether it is in the forefront or behind the scenes.

The debate around this issue is an ongoing one between the SRC and the students. Perhaps the greater issue that comes out is that the SRC seems to think that it has the authority to make decisions at its own discretion, without consulting with the students.

In what may be seen as an attempt to appease the student outcry, the SRC will be using the funds allocated to the now defunct pageant for another event next term.

Well, here's to the infinite reign of the current Mr and Miss Rhodes!

Grahamstown 101

■ Bianca Camminga

Rhodonts often forget that they are a part of a greater community; the Grahamstown community. Here are some interesting facts about G'town

■ The Albany Museum is the second oldest museum in South Africa.

■ The Oldest Official Letterbox in South Africa resides at the corner of St. Andrew's College. Any letter posted from it receives a special stamp to signify its journey. It also ranks among the top 20 of the "old red post-box" survivors in the world.

■ The record for the fastest 1000 miles was broken by a group of South African runners in 2002. Grahamstown was part of their Guinness record route.

■ Most towns in England have a High Street, but Grahamstown's is the only traditional High street in South Africa.

■ Poison murderer Daisy de Melcker was born just outside of Grahamstown

■ Grahamstown has well-known energy ley lines that run underground and join most of the churches of the town in one straight line. It is believed to be a strong spiritual point and attracts many sects and alternative religions.

■ There are more forts in this area than in the rest of the country.

■ South African author André Brink penned four of his best-selling novels in the library of the Cock House.

■ There are over 40 churches in Grahamstown.

■ The Cathedral of St Michael & St George belfry houses the heaviest and first full ring of eight bells on the African continent. It also has the tallest spire in South Africa.

■ Next to the Edinburgh festival, The National Arts Festival is the second largest arts festival in the world.

■ Rumour has it that this town can also make the prestigious claim to owning the longest long drop in the world.

Powerzone to rock Port Alfred

■ Bianca Camminga

Missing the festivals? Is Oppikoppi just too expensive and Woodstock too far? Relief is on its way for all those festival addicts feeling the need for a fix. The place to be from the 16th to the 18th of September is our very own backyard.

Powerzone is giving birth to the Powerzone Music festival in Port Alfred. Last year it was a one-day

show that managed to draw a 1000 strong crowd – without any advertising! This year, due to mass demand, Powerzone has decided to turn the event into a two-day music festival. Over 20 bands are set to play, including Marlowe, Prime Circle, The Parlotones and Arno Carstens. One local Grahamstown band will also be included on the weekend bill. Your host for the weekend will be 5fm's Barney Simon. The weekend is set to open with a series of unplugged

acoustic rock sessions followed by a second day of hard plugged-in rock.

Day tickets cost R40 and weekend tickets cost R100. There are a limited number of VIP tickets, which include breakfast and accommodation at the Halyard Hotel, for R1000.

So whip out the sunscreen, bikinis, camping gear and guarantee yourself a fantastic weekend of music and boat races to boot!



Silent Utterances

■ Olerato Moreosele

Mail & Guardian critic Mike van Graan recently lambasted the National Arts Council for not affording legendary storyteller Gcina Mhlophe the recognition she so well deserves. Mhlophe, a recipient of several awards, with a string of titles behind her name, has just succeeded in convincing the artistic powers that be to have the International Book Board for Young Audiences conference held in Africa for the very first time. While it is bad enough that Mhlophe is not likely to be wined and dined by the powers that be (think Arts and Culture minister, Pallo Jordan), it is even worse that her works alone seem not to render her an artist worthy of tribute. This is the case with many artists in South Africa, including those in Grahamstown.

This town is probably one of the richest in the world with regard to art, creativity and a unique culture of living. Creators, more commonly known as artists, roam our streets, sit next to us in lectures and dance with us at Friar's, The Rat and The Suite. Yet, few of us hardly acknowledge their work – or even know about it. Admittedly many of us are not natives of Grahamstown, some of us haven't even read a novel since our last English exams in matric and most of us have never attended a single art exhibition or theatre production in this little town that we now call home. The thing is there is so much more to arts and culture than we often care to note – especially when we are inhabitants of a town famed for its artistic nature. Think about it, when you are at home – whether it

be in Port Elizabeth, Johannesburg, Pietermaritzburg, Bloemfontein or Kimberley, should you let anyone know that you are studying in Grahamstown, one of their comments has something to do with the arts and culture of this town. While we are not all artists, it should still invoke some degree of pride to be a citizen in a town so unique, historically luminous and famed.

My point is that, problems cannot be fixed at the very top of bureaucracy if the average Joe and Jane, that is, you and I, do not put the plans in motion down here where it matters most. This year's National Arts Festival has been said to have been a resounding success. Hell, Pallo Jordan himself graced it with his presence and the Eastern Cape department of sport, recreation, arts and culture donated R3.5 million! That all looks good and I'm sure guarantees us a few more years of support. However, in a year of about 52 weeks, it is sad that us Grahamstonians only dedicate two of them to our creatives.

With that, I hope 'Silent Utterances' has in some way or another increased the volume from the muted speaker that some of the featured artists spoke from. Perhaps we need to pull our heads out of the beer glasses and fill our lungs with the charming scents of incense and paint vapours instead of weed. I think it would do us much good to put away the hubbles and bongs every now and then, and get high on some artistic matter – let art itself inspire us to think deeper and create, instead of a few dried leaves.



Only in Grahamstown...



Hot...

- Activate
- The weather
- Body Lotion (use it)
- Red cafe
- Green



Not...

- Love-handles
- The word "dude"
- Dry feet
- Weave or wig
- Guys wearing leather sandals

JSK CD reviews

Selected DVDs on special for R129,95. R. Kelly, Westlife and Matchbox 20 are all available.



R Kelly - U Saved Me/ Happy People

The whole idea behind producing a double CD is to show variation. This, however is, not the case with R. Kelly, whose new album becomes annoyingly monotonous after the third or fourth song. The songs are divided into two types: gospel, church style music on the first CD like *U Saved Me*, and a bad imitation of Michael Jackson's upbeat intro's followed by a succession of 'Yeah Yeah Yeah' on *Happy People*. The songs are way too preachy and make you want to "believe you can fly away". A bit of a let down for R. Kelly. - **Vanessa Berger @ out of 5**



Lloyd Banks - The Hunger for More

Blame it on Dre! He created Eminem, Eminem created 50 Cent and 50 Cent has gone forth and multiplied. Give me a name and I'll sing you a song - it won't matter which one because they're all carbon copies. Same style, same lyrics, same cover design, same obsession with dollars, drugs, hoes and popping caps. Just another big wank on behalf of corporate hip-hop, as Lloyd Banks offers us, "I get high, I'm so fly, If you so gangsta..." Well, it doesn't take much to imagine the rest. It just goes to show that you don't have to be shot nine times to be crap. - **Jacqueline Nurse @ out of 5**



The Who - The Ultimate Collection

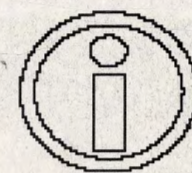
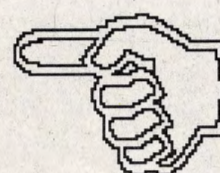
Don't bother reading this just get the CD. On the path to the Beatles somewhere behind the Stones, The Who appeared. This album revels in what The Who once were. Seriously, any band that the Sex Pistols bothered covering, is fantastic. The clincher is when they release an ultimate hits collection as a double CD and it sounds like brand new material. Hear the original of *Behind Blue Eyes*, not the morose whining of some "hard-core" rocker. You may not be a fan of the 1960s mod-rock scene, but this is a good place to start. - **Bianca Camminga @ out of 5**



Prime Circle - Hello Crazy World

Prime Circle's 'emo' sound is very similar, if not identical, to that of commercial pop-rock bands such as The Calling and Creed, which makes the band rather uninteresting. This album consists of two CDs, the first of which contains 14 mediocre tracks, which are riddled with clichés and a pseudo-American sound throughout. The second CD includes acoustic mixes of four songs, which are also on the first CD. If you've listened to Creed or The Calling, you'll realise that you've heard it all before and that Prime Circle does not, in any way whatsoever, cover new territory from a musical perspective. - **Bryce McNamara @ out of 5**

JSK ENTERTAINMENT JUST SAY KNOW



Online and offline

■ Conrad Feris

Online role-playing games: This seems to be the new phrase on every opportunistic capitalist's lips. Not surprising, considering it is an estimated five billion dollar industry. It all started in 1997 with the release of *Ultima Online*. This was the first game to offer an ongoing online world where you could chat to people from around the globe and kill some monsters with their aid. For some, the game even proved to be a source of income - selling "property" and "items" on eBay - some bids even going as high as \$1000. However, it is not easy to make money out of these games. They all require massive amounts of time poured into your online persona before you can explore the entire online world and find these items. And in the world of online gaming, time is money. The current crop of online role-playing games charge a monthly fee of about ten dollars in addition to the initial price of the game.

It seems, however, that this lucrative market has fast become saturated. Due to the very nature of these games and the amount of time they require, one simply cannot play more than two concurrently. Between this saturated market and companies that are still eager for a piece of the action there seems to be only one way to break into this market - bring in the franchises. George Lucas has joined the fray with *Star Wars Galaxies* and Warner Bros will be releasing *The Matrix: Online* in November this year. Easily the most successful console series, *Final Fantasy* has, in its eleventh incarnation, made

its debut online by coming out on the PC before the console. But it seems that even an established brand cannot promise profits. *Star Wars Galaxies* has been out for about a year now and has failed to live up to the hype. This does not bode well for the upcoming *The Matrix: Online*. While it may seem fitting to play as a hacker breaking into a virtual world, can this game really survive the stigma placed on it by its predecessor's console outing? It seems that the only forthcoming game that has any real chance of being successful is *World of Warcraft*, which is set in the world of the highly successful strategy game series. *WarCraft* already has a loyal online following in the strategy genre.

Unfortunately, these massive multiplayer online role-playing games will not become a viable option as a form of entertainment for South Africans any time soon, as we tend to be in the bandwidth toilet of the world. At the moment the cost of a high-speed internet connection makes spending thousands of hours online an unlikely event. Even if the prices did come down, the experience would still not be enjoyable as there are no local servers, resulting in the games running slowly - a problem even overseas gamers struggle with.

That does not mean that multiplayer gaming cannot be realised in South Africa. In fact, multiplayer games such as *Unreal Tournament 2004* and *WarCraft 3: The Frozen Throne* have gained a great deal of popularity. Both Telkom and M-Web run national servers allowing for decent speeds of online play while Cape Town has recently established a permanent venue for network gaming. There are regular events held throughout the coun-

try that are sponsored by big name publications such as PC Format and New Age Gaming, and even computer distributors are getting involved. Events like the World Cyber Games have shown that if you're good enough, you might even be able to travel the world. With all these events and developments, the future of multiplayer gaming in South Africa looks promising.



JSKGAMES review

■ Michael Kaeflein

Heaven's got a hitman- and it just happens to be you! As Daniel Garner, you must step into Purgatory in an attempt to thwart an imminent attack on Heaven, and doing so requires you to annihilate scores of demons and monsters. There are four levels of difficulty, the fourth only unlocked on your successful completion of the last level of normal play. This gives an interesting option to aficionados if they are intent on finishing the game; this is the only way in which it can be done.

Many of the scenes are shadowy, hellish visions of graveyards and labyrinths. You can't help but sense an intense air of suspense and danger as you work your way through countless claustrophobic tunnels and ominous

PAINKILLER

ruins. The depiction of violence is masterfully graphic, from the clouds of gunpowder that burst from your gun as it goes off to the blood that splatters from dying demons as they get staked to a wall. The sound effects are also commendable, which range from the realistic bang of your gun to the chilling screams of an unseen monster.

Painkiller is definitely a fine accomplishment, yet it brings relatively little innovation to an already clichéd genre.

Microsoft Windows 2000,98,XP
256MB of memory
1.2 GB of disk space
Athlon or Pentium 3 processor
1 GHz processor speed
@ out of 5

JSKGIG GUIDE music

■ Margot Knight and Palesa Mopeli

Friday 16 to Sunday 18 September

■ The Powerzone music festival is going down at the Halyards Hotel in Port Alfred. There will be loads of awesome bands, so get down there.

Tuesday, 21 September

■ The funky 340ml are finally coming to play at Die Taphjuis.

Thursday, 23 September

■ There will be a house party at The Suite for Craig De Souza's CD launch. Members get in free. Pre-sold tickets are R20 and R30 at the door for non-members.

Friday, 24 September

■ Local band Mystique will be playing at Die Taphjuis

Friday, 1 October

■ Mystique will be back for another

performance at Die Taphjuis.

■ Fletcher and Sibot will be playing at The Suite for the African Dope weekend. Members get in free, non-members pay R20 for pre-sold tickets or R30 at the door.

Saturday, 2 October

■ Don't miss Breach performing at Die Taphjuis

■ The African Dope weekend continues at The Suite with a DJ workshop and DJ lecture. To be confirmed.

Friday, 8 October

■ Die Taphjuis is the place to be with bands like Shinobi, Hog Hoggidy Hog, Captain Kidd's Adventure Galley and Undone performing. It's R10 for Live Music Society members and non-members pay R20.

All information was correct at the time of going to the press.

JSK MOVIE review

■ Peter Barlow

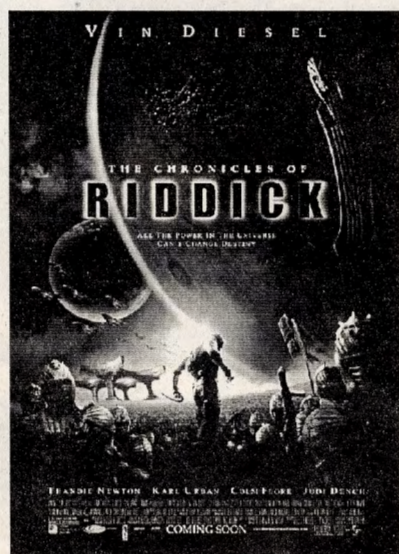
Vin Diesel returns to once again play the super-dangerous and enigmatic anti-hero, Richard B. Riddick, in the sequel to *Pitch Black*. In this movie, Riddick's past catches up with him when he travels to New Mecca, a peaceful planet that is just about to be invaded by the army of the Necromongers, a religious sect lead by the Lord Marshal (Colm Feore). Riddick is caught in the ensuing battle and finds himself propelled into a journey that culminates in a

power struggle and the fulfilment of a prophecy.

The Chronicles of Riddick is directed by David Twohy who is best known for his writing work on films such as *G.I. Jane* and *Waterworld*. Twohy's obvious love for using panoramic scenes in his films is realised in *The Chronicles of Riddick*, with the viewer being treated to expertly rendered CGI scenes, ranging from battles on the surface of New Mecca to the scorched surface of a prison planet Riddick finds himself on. Needless to say, the film plays out in a universe

that is almost totally computer generated, so much so, that this aspect is by far the film's strongest quality. The acting is generally pedestrian with a surprisingly above-average performance from Diesel. It is definitely a sad day when Diesel outshines the likes of Judi Dench.

The Chronicles of Riddick is a must see for those who enjoy a movie with plenty of action and a good helping of adventure served up in a classic sci-fi form.



The Chronicles of Riddick

Scenes you may recognise from a typical night out on the town



Expanding Horizons: G'town isn't exactly known for its vibrant nightlife. Going to the same five drinking holes can get a bit much. Activate staff went looking for an alternative and found that Simunye isn't just good for buying quarts on a Sunday afternoon, but great for a party too.

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The Spoornet Great Train Race took place on Saturday 28 August with 476 teams of 10 athletes each competing against the Apple Express Steam train in one of South Africa's biggest athletics events. The event has been running for 25 years and this year saw the athletes being beaten by the train.

The Alan Webb Adventure

The Allen Webb Adventure, or AWA, took place for the first time last year and was a resounding success. The survivor type challenge takes place on Saturday 25 September at Grey dam where the top-secret events will be revealed. This year's line-up promises to rival last years', with more teams, improved events, fantastic prizes and sponsorship by Men's Health, MICA and Rhodes University. Mixed teams of five will be both mentally and physically challenged, compet-

ing against each other, as well as the clock. Spectators not only have a perfect view to watch the participants get down and dirty, but also have the opportunity of taking part in the fun-filled side events, which can be registered for on the day. Proceeds from the AWA will be donated to the Amasango School, which caters for disadvantaged learners in the Grahamstown area. Five events, 16 teams, one adventure... Can you take it?

Top Rhodes biathlete competes in Germany

■ Jenna Viljoen

Alexia Loizou, a 2nd year Human Kinetics and Ergonomics student at Rhodes, and also a Grahamstown local, left on the 31st of to compete in the World Biathle Championships in Marktoberdorf, Southwest of Munich, in Germany.

The competition takes place from September 1-8 and Loizou's event - in the Junior Ladies category - will be raced on the 4th. The biathle event consists of a 1500 metre run, followed by a 200 metre swim and then another 1500 metre run. "There is usually a big field of competitors from all over the world and I particularly enjoy the strong competition that these athletes provide", Loizou said.

The selection for the World Championships was held in Johannesburg on July 3 at which Loizou was the first junior lady (U/21) to finish and she also came an impressive fourth in the Senior Ladies Section (U/28). Earlier this year she competed in the South African Biathlon Championships in Upington, where she achieved fourth place in the Senior Women's section and broke the provincial record. As this is the fourth time that Loizou will be attending the Biathle World Championships, she hopes it will mean the achievement of her Protea Colours. Depending on her placing in this competition, she will be able to gauge whether the qualification criteria have been met

or not.

The team will stop in Athens for two days and hope to take in some of the Paralympics, which will be taking place during their stay. "It is always exciting to experience new places and to have the opportunity of meeting people from previous competitions. Being able to race at this level is really an honour", she says.

Loizou is extremely grateful to Rhodes' Sports Administration for the assistance and support they have offered her, as it is extremely difficult to find sponsorship in sport. Loizou is dedicated in her sporting field. "When you are doing something you enjoy, finding a balance does not prove to be a problem", she says. Her positive attitude and commitment has made her one of South Africa's sports women to watch out for in the future.



Former Border Bear and Rhodes alumnus shares cricket talent

■ Dustin Emslie

Wayne Wiblin has plans afoot to start a cricket academy in Grahamstown.

Having started his professional cricket career at 26, Wiblin played for the Border Bears for seven seasons and coached them for another two.

He now feels he can help local cricketers with an academy. This is his long term goal and he is currently giving private coaching sessions. Wiblin made numerous appearances against international sides during his time with the Border Bears and did fairly well against them. He managed to score 50s against England, Pakistan, New Zealand and a great century against the West Indies.

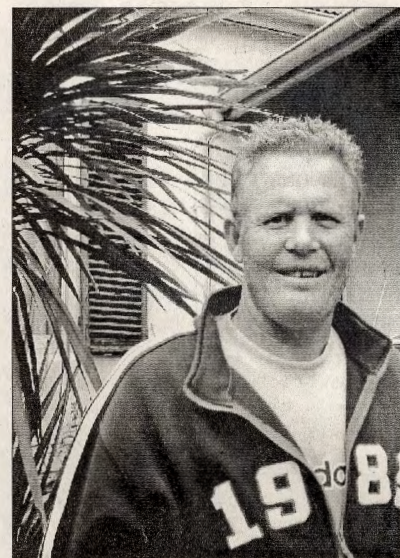
One of his proudest cricketing moments occurred in his second season against Western Province. He managed to score 177 not out in the first innings and 119 in the second innings of a four day SuperSport series game. Sadly, Wiblin's playing career was ended after being struck a massive blow on the hand by speedster Mornantau Hayward. This left him out of the game for four and a half months and after that layoff he decided to play overseas. While overseas he

received a phone call from Border Bears' management, who expressed interest in him coaching them for a while. Wiblin knew that he was up for the challenge and coached the side for the 2002/03 and 2003/04 seasons. He said that it was a stressful job, but he was widely respected by the players and had a good relationship with them as he had previously played with them. Wiblin believes that the current rot of South African cricket will come to an end and that all will be resolved. He believes that the South African national side is struggling for bowlers with real pace - a bowler like Shoaib Akhtar. It is indeed true that the South Africans need to find some raw pace-men to blow the batsmen away. On the batting side he rates a number of young players who deserve a chance on national level. He regards the likes of van Jaarsveld, Duminy and Puttick as enormous talents in South African cricket and believes those are players of the future (van Jaarsveld is already in the national side). He also stated that Claude Henderson is, in his eyes, one of the best spinners in the country and was not given a fair try at national level. Consequently, he has moved overseas to play.

Wiblin studied Commerce at Rhodes

while playing in the local farmers' league and later decided to play for the Rhodes team in the 1994/95 season. Wiblin advises that "aspiring cricket players should never give up and if people do not rate you, you can achieve anything if you set your mind to it."

Hopefully we will see the former Border player running a successful academy in Grahamstown and creating better cricket players in the near future.





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Between The Lines

■ Michael Salzwedel

Thousands of dreams have been painfully shattered in the last month. But then again, hundreds have been gloriously realised. The Athens Olympics brought with them the usual tears of disappointment and shouts of joy that all Olympic Games do. For two weeks, the world's top sportspeople engaged in long-anticipated battle, eager to clinch the extra advantage to edge them into the lead. But are our country's sportsmen and women performing as well as they should be at Olympic level? South Africa brought home a grand total of six medals, placing an unattractive 43rd on the medals table. This is bordering on dismal, especially for a country that enjoys relatively extensive sporting resources. Countries like Ethiopia, Kazakhstan, Kenya and Jamaica concluded the Games with more medals than us. Where's the logic in that? I've got nothing against those countries, but it's pretty safe to say that they have far fewer resources than we do, and far smaller groups of sportspeople to choose from. Perhaps the coaches of our teams and individuals have a slight resemblance to Coach Joe from the television commercials? Perhaps our athletes believe that success at Olympic level merely means being chosen to represent one's country at that level? Proudly South African and all the rest of it. But being selected to attend the Olympics is just the beginning - actually performing at one's absolute peak at the Olympics is what it's all about and that's where the focus should lie. I sincerely believe that South Africa has the potential to finish in the top twenty on the medals list. We just need more foresight, commitment, tact and 'big match temperament'. Granted, though, that is easier said than done.

Another area of concern is South African cricket. The Proteas performed dreadfully on their tour of Sri Lanka recently. Luckily for them, the media had their attention on the Olympics, so cricket took a quiet back seat. It seems we always struggle to perform as well overseas as we do at home. Put our boys at Newlands in Cape Town and they are an ominous force to be reckoned with, but say the word 'sub-continent' and everything crumbles. When a team performs poorly, the captain and the coach are the first men to take the criticism. Graeme Smith's captaincy has indeed been cast into a contentious limelight, with fans not particularly satisfied with coach Eric Simons either. But arrogance and self-confidence are easily confusable, and I think Graeme tends towards the latter rather than the former. He sets incredibly high standards for himself and the team, and hence can become quickly frustrated when those standards aren't met. Give the man a few years and he'll be one of the best captains in the game. As for Eric Simons, well, all I can say is that I miss the days of Bob Woolmer!

This is my last edition as sports editor. Taking over from myself is Jenna Viljoen, who, being female, is automatically more than capable! If you've got any questions about or suggestions for the sports pages, you can drop her an email on g03v1295@campus.ru.ac.za. Adios, it's been good!

Divers raise funds at underwater marathon

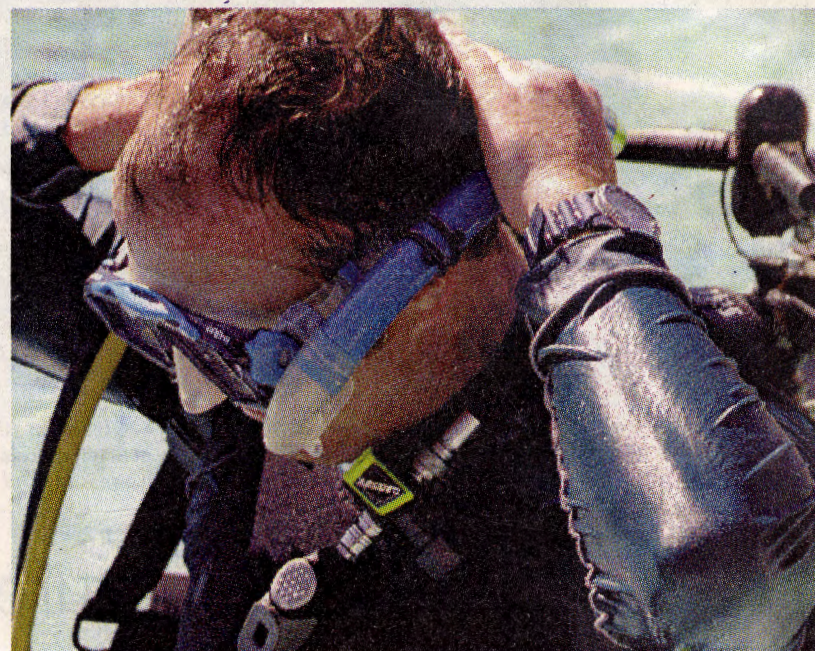
■ Jenna Viljoen

The fourth annual dive marathon in support of HIV/AIDS Awareness Week took place on the weekend of the 21st and 22nd of August at the Rhodes University pool and ran between 9am on Saturday until 4pm the next day. At least two divers were in the water at any given time and a full 32 hours underwater were logged. The event was well supported with 30 people participating. The event was run by Nial Vine, a qualified instructor, which allowed those who are inexperienced at diving to get involved and created the opportunity for participants to experience a new sport. The water was a relatively warm 19 degrees. However, as night fell, so did the water temperature. An interesting attempt was made to listen to music underwater. A R30 speaker was placed in a dustbin and

lowered underwater. It worked for a short period of time before beginning to leak.

The marathon was sponsored by various businesses such as Steers, Mr. Burger, Rett Butlers Pharmacy and FotoFirst who all donated items that will be raffled off at a fundraiser scheduled to take place next term.

All of the proceeds obtained will go towards the Grahamstown Health and Development Forum. This organisation visits the homes of those affected by HIV/Aids and helps make their lives a little brighter by providing food and any other donations. The participation for this needy cause must be commended and those who took part in any way should feel proud that they have contributed to combating this disease, which is prevalent in our country.



Underwater marathon with a cause: 32 hours were spent under water, raising funds for HIV/Aids ■ Sovita Wagner

This means war! Paintball comes to G-town

■ Rob Boffard

I'm pinned down in a donga with bullets flying over my head. I can't see if my friends are covering me, so I don't know if I can risk loosening a volley into the house my squad is storming.



■ Gregor Rohrig

Throwing caution to the winds, I jump out the top, firing wildly. Success! I catch Charlie off guard, and he goes down as I rush to the house. But I've got to be careful...my ammo is low, and the enemy's chopper backups will be arriving any moment...

Well, actually, not quite. While I really was rushing the house under heavy fire, I wasn't exactly in fear for my life (I lied about the choppers too, in case you were wondering.) My gun was actually loaded with paintballs, and the battlefield was a deserted quarry behind Cullen Bowles. My heroic charge for victory came courtesy of Chris Collier, Francois Van Der Merwe and Bradley Mardon, who collectively decided that Grahamstown needed some alternative entertainment. Although none of them have, by Chris' own admission, any serious experience in the field, this didn't stop them from purchasing twelve markers (guns to the uninitiated) and, a little over a month ago, opening Grahamstown's first paintball games. "Sports admin and the university gave us full permission to use the area," says Chris. "We've grown through word of mouth, mostly, but we are planning some serious advertising soon."

The games that the trio offer are numerous. Suited up in overalls and mask and with your marker in hand, you can play speedball - a capture-the-flag-style open battlefield game - or storm a house against heavy odds. For the seriously hardcore (like one full-time soldier I was playing against, who brought his own gun and about 5000 balls) there are games like Predator, which involves one person who is 'on', but can be shot repeatedly without being knocked out of the game. Anyone shot by the predator joins his or her team, until eventually it's one hapless player being hunted by pretty much everyone else.



■ Gregor Rohrig

The markers used aren't exactly bazookas, but they're not capguns either. The Icon Z, which retails from about R1500, is a semi-automatic that shoots paintballs about 300 feet per second which, as this writer discovered first hand, can leave a rather nasty bruise. Liquid CO2 fires the balls out the guns, which, yes, do come with a safety catch. The team hopes to upgrade to thirty markers in December.

Incidentally, I didn't manage to take the house. Some bastard shot me several times at point blank range as I came through the door. But that's OK. I'll be back. And this time, I'm bringing a tank.

R50 will get you a basic game, but you can buy extra balls. You can book at Great Escape in Peppergrove, or contact Chris on 073 232 3365.

Calling all netballers

■ Staff Reporter

The Rhodes Netball Club is in the process of initiating an internal league, scheduled to begin in October and will be open to all netball enthusiasts. The league will take the form of a round robin tournament, played on one or two nights of the week, depending on how many teams enter. Teams can be either all-girl, all-boy or mixed, but must consist of a minimum of seven play-

ers. Entries close on 24 September and the cost per team is R10, which can be paid at the first match. There are great prizes to be won so those interested should pick up an entry form soon from the Rhodes Library, Sports Administration, Video Spot or Pick 'n Pay. The focus of the league will be on having fun, so novices are encouraged to enter. For more information on the league, contact Tarryn on jessicagoble@hotmail.com or 072 403 8620.

-SPECIAL-

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Last Words From Tham

The last time we met for a meeting on Tuesday night was rather an emotional one for many people. It was the last time we would meet together to discuss issues that were pertinent and relevant to the students. It has been a very busy time, rushing around and juggling meetings and work but now that it is over there is feeling of nostalgia. With all this time available hopefully we will still be able to remain on top of our work and still be able to manage our time effectively. The many ideas and hopes we had when starting out were not all realised but the few that were really made it worth while and it also set in place the foundations for the new SRC to take up and improve. There are many improvements that could be made and hopefully the new SRC will have the vision, the drive

and the energy to take these up and more. What could be improved upon to start with is the communication between the SRC and the students. There appears to be a misconception that the SRC believe they are above the rest of the students and are not actually representing their needs but as one candidates's campaign poster said "R U a leader? Then let me serve you." It was particularly pertinent as that's what the SRC should be doing, as any real leader will know. You may have the authority and the clout but you are useless as a leader if you do not actually have the respect of those you should serve. This experience was one that will set me in good stead as I have seen how apathetic people can be and I have also seen how suddenly passionate people can become. I hope that in the long run of the SRC that I left my mark as a president who was willing and able to serve.

Thamsanqa Moyo

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The SRC oppi bus

The bus leaves the main library weekdays at 8:30pm and again at 10:30pm. An SRC initiative, the bus takes you right to your doorstep, should you need it.

It is estimated that as many as

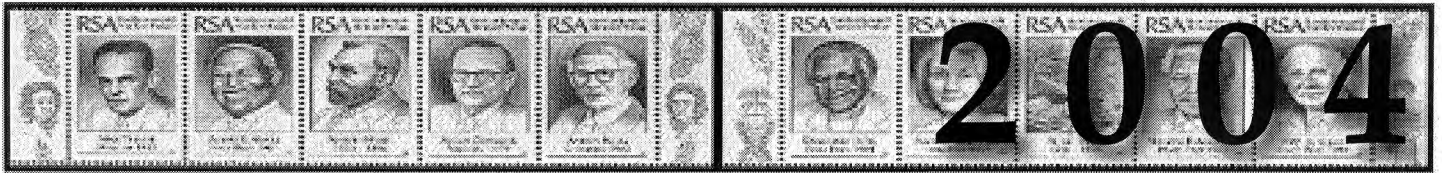
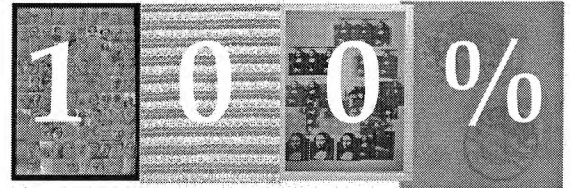
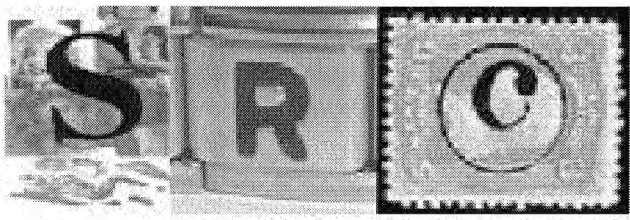


South Africans are HIV positive.

How many are reading this page?

HIV and AIDS affects all of us, even if we are not infected.
Treat everyone as if they are HIV positive,
treat everyone with respect.





Independent Official Newsletter of the SRC



The time has come

■ Charmaine Jelbert

Congratulations to all those candidates who ran for the SRC 2005! There were some truly interesting campaigns to say the very least. A big well done to those 16 whose campaigns were successful and I hope that you guys will make waves this and next year. I emphasise the 'you guys' because being on the SRC is about teamwork and to sum up my experience of the SRC it is: coming together is the start; keeping together is the progress and finishing together is the success. I cannot highlight the importance enough of being able to function effectively within a group. It is very much like a body, each with their own function but working together.

And to quote the one of the oldest books in the world, the Bible, which says in 1 Corinthians 12:21 "the eye cannot say to the hand "I have no need of you" nor the head to the feet "I have no need of you." It may seem rather obvious and silly but honestly being on the SRC is about being in a body. It is a lot harder to implement though than you may initially think. The SRC 2004 would like to wish the SRC 2005 all the best for the term and one last thought on the success bit is that failure is not defeat unless you stop trying. So remember to keep trying even when the glory has past, even when you have forgotten why you ran, even when it seems the workload is unbearable because a lot of the work you do will not be recognised or appreciated but at least you have the other 15 members to support and sustain you.