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activate

INDEPENDENT

STUDENT NEWSPAPER

IGNORANCE

APATHY

PREJUDICE

may they

rest in peace

AIDS

AWARENESS WEEK

2000

Editorial



Humanity, especially when it comes to epidemics, has a nasty habit of becoming its own worst enemy.

Case study 101: several hundred years ago. The black plague ravages Europe, decimating the population and tainting everything with apocalyptic overtones. Across the continent cats are burnt in their thousands as "familiars of the devil." The sick, twisted irony emerges decades later - the plague was carried by rats all along. The cats were probably the one thing that was helping.

Case study 102: The late 20th century. The human race is forced to recognise a new and frightening disease that will force them to confront their sexual mores, their global economics and the moral implications of their political systems if they are to stop it destroying them.

Let me guess. You don't need AIDS awareness.. Whether it was because the prospect of being a parent at 20 terrified you, or because HIV wasn't just another acronym to you, you didn't evolve into sexual activity honestly believing it was going to be risk free. You know it's out there, you know you can't get it from sharing Cokes at kaif and, even if you choose to ignore it, HIV/AIDS isn't a myth to you.

But we find ourselves now in a far scarier place. Once upon a time, the nature of the beast was still a mystery. Once upon a time, the unknown lab-coat clad "they" on distant shores would find a cure within our lifetimes. Once upon a time, it was just another item on hell's own laundry list of our continent's crises. Once upon a time, this was something that happened to other people.

It seems like a lot of us out there are still very much shackled to once upon a time. The fact is we can't be.

Try to tap into the media crossfire surrounding AIDS these days.

There's an overload of medical jargon, acronyms and highbrow economics.. Most of it will sound as if doesn't mean much to you personally. But throw the figures around your head for a bit.

Consider that an economy where the elderly outnumber the young is a

blueprint for disaster.

That's where most of the sub-continent is headed within the decade. Consider that 20 years ago it was drug-addicts and prostitutes. Today it could well be the folks next door.

Everyone claims they know all this. So forgive me if I'm a touch confused as to why no-one acts like it.

I'm not for a moment entertaining visions of students heading out en-masse into the AIDS ravaged plains of Africa with backpacks stuffed with pamphlets and condoms, but as voters we should be paying real attention to the way our government responds to something that could wreck our entire social structure. Not to mention a presidential position on the link between HIV and AIDS that goes against 5000 of the worlds leading AIDS researchers gathered under UN auspices at the latest international AIDS conference. If we're so overloaded with awareness campaigns, explain to me why, when I was doing a vox-pop on sexual attitudes just 2 years ago, most people claimed pregnancy was a far more real fear for them than AIDS.

While I admit our generation is way more AIDS conscious than the generation that first came to know the disease, I remain heavily unconvinced we're dealing with the core issues and implications of the epidemic that just doesn't seem to make the biases and differentiations we do.

So, in the name of reaching somewhere beyond awareness we're coming at AIDS from all sides - the political, the pragmatic and the personal. I'll leave the rest to our features pages.

As a parting shot consider this. When Randy Shiltz, an HIV-positive journalist who stood out as one of the first to really publicise the disease, wrote his seminal work on AIDS back in the mid 80's he titled it "And the band played on". This was a reference to the indifference and denial that AIDS sufferers met with in the earliest days of the epidemic. This edition, and this week, is dedicated to the hope that that that breed of thinking is consigned to history.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rape and Rainier

Dear Editor

Where does one start when one reads appalling words from a man who is a not only a voice of the University, but who we (as students of this university) are supposed to approach for advice? In a country that has the highest incidence of RAPE, it is frightening to think that Mark Rainer truly believes that rape is NOT a big problem on this campus. To say that women are to blame for what happens to them in a situation which is already sensitive, is DISGUSTING to say the least.

To elevate issues like drinking and drugs above one of the BIGGEST crimes in South Africa, is to belittle the suffering of the 3 323 women who are raped a day! His vague attempt at apologising for his opinion ie "It's quite a sexist statement.." is clear evidence that he knows that his opinion is wrong, yet he continues to justify it by saying that "there are guys who speak about no meaning no".

Which men is he talking about? All men should be up in arms for being boxed in that type of discourse and way of thinking. This in itself is an inappropriate stance to defend because men need to be educated that if they are unsure about what a woman wants, they should walk away. Continuing with sexual intimacy when you are not sure where the woman stands, is WORSE than forcing her when she has said NO!

As far as we are concerned, we will NOT be going to our "Student Adviser" for any advice in future.

Extremely Perturbed!

Sikelelwa Mgabadelu and Vaughan Smuts(Outgoing Mr Rhodes)

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Cover Pic : Shirley de Villers

Reasonable Anarchy



Pollyanna-on-Speed

Revelations in a vacuum

About a year ago, during a period of great crisis and pressure in my life, a friend burst into tears and confided in me that a close friend of ours and his girlfriend had tested HIV positive.

I was devastated.

Having paid close attention to the HIV/AIDS statistics, I understood that the chances were that I knew someone who had been infected, yet, I had never actually had to face the reality that it would become an integral part of my social sphere. My anxiety surmounted, however, on the realisation that these two people had individually had sexual relationships with an array of other people within this same group. And thus the ripple began. It was no longer two but close to ten people that I specifically knew, and ultimately countless more.

It doesn't really matter that the girlfriend's test had been inconclusive and that she is actually negative. It makes no difference that each and every other individual who has since been tested received that same clearance. Ultimately, what is important is that these people are highly intelligent and educated; what mattered is that none of them ever considered that HIV could happen to them.

In as liberal and supposedly progressive an institution as we attend, I for one, would consider HIV/AIDS awareness to be the key issue admin and students organisations should be tackling. Instead we get a 'chat' with Sister Buchner in first year and

condoms surreptitiously hidden in the Library. And that's about it. The University administration seems too sensitive to even approach the topic for fear perhaps of it ruining our perfect reputation.

Let me explain that.

What is the quintessential Rhodes image? Liberal, artsy students who are actually a bunch of wholesome, harmless young ruffians. And except for that little drinking problem, which Admin have cleverly tried to combat with warnings, arresting and now reasoning with students - everything at Rhodes is just peachy-keen. Beep. Wrong answer.

What we have here is ultimately a public relations exercise. Rhodes students drink too much, outsiders know that, so we'll be 'seen' to be addressing this problem and chalk others such as HIV/AIDS, rape and homophobia up as confidential matters which we are unable to acquire statistics for. For crying in a bucket of worms, anti-smoking drives get more attention on this campus than any of these issues.

Perhaps the powers that be are concerned that our stats might have reached catastrophic proportions such as those of the University of Durban Westville with its 40% HIV positive revelation several years ago. Perhaps they worry that parents may feel that this secure and friendly campus is not all that it is advertised to be.

And then again, perhaps

FCUK the status quo.

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get a life the student site

gAL

getalife

To merge or not to merge?

By V. Rogers and P. Jones

Concerned with the status of the Higher Education System in South Africa, Minister of Education Professor Kadar Asmal asked the Council on Higher Education (CHE) to form a task group to investigate and make recommendations on the size and shape of Tertiary Education. The main reason for this action is that the SAPSE system of government funding is based on the size of the student population two years previously. A considerable number of institutions suffered a drop in student intake in 1998, which means that they now face serious financial constraints. Added to this the issues of transformation, administration and quality of output were also seriously considered in the report.

The task group concluded that at least six universities are struggling financially and so a series of forensic audits, assessments and administrative shake-ups have been implemented. In terms of quality of educational output, the report suggested five categories of institutions. Rhodes meets the criteria for a 'bedrock' institution (Undergrad, Masters by coursework, teaching, limited research and no PhDs) in every aspect but the total student population. The report suggests a figure of 8000 and Rhodes currently has a total Full Time Equivalent (FTE) of 5749 students. Speaking on behalf of the university, Dr Woods recognized the need for categorization, but suggested that they be more flexible, and totally refuted classification on the basis of FTEs especially in terms of quality. Having found some institutions not to be making the grade academically, the CHE report suggested merges of such institutions as a compromise to closure. The recommendation for the Eastern Cape was the possible merger of Rhodes with two other local institutions.

Rhodes' primary concerns with this suggestion were that it is unlikely that government would provide extra funding for the educational transformation proposed, making such a transformation process slow and that a reduction in research funding could adversely affect resources for lab equipment and technological advancement. In a statement, the VC pointed out that although the university's administration is efficient, it "does not have spare capacity". He said, "We don't believe merging is viable, but we are willing to look at the possibilities of collaboration". And it is interesting to note that neither of the other universities support the idea of a merger.

It is premature to consider the possible impact of the merger on Rhodes, as it is merely a recommendation at present. Dr Asmal still has to accept the proposal and present it to the cabinet for further review. Once a decision has been made at the end of September we will be better able to see the implications of these proposals, but the important thing to note is that the proposed merger is not cast in stone.

Rhodes in Responsible Drinking Drive

By Vivienne Hamby

Attempting to promote the responsible use of alcohol on Rhodes University's Grahamstown campus, Rhodes University staff and students, as well as members of the local traffic department gathered on the Kaif lawns Saturday morning to demonstrate the effects of alcohol on the body.

Among the participants was Rhodes University's Vice-Chancellor, Dr David Woods. Dressed in cargo pants and Nike sneakers, Woods addressed the crowd of some 300 people, saying he hoped the campaign would promote a responsible attitude to drinking and driving. "I want to encourage students to have a good time, but to do it responsibly," he said.

The 25 volunteer participants had to drink six beers or ciders in the course of the morning. After each set of two drinks, the participants waited 20 minutes, before undergoing a driving test or a round on a Sony Playstation.

"It's a bit strange to be drinking so early in the day, for free and in front of the Vice Chancellor," said Helene Dancer, a fourth year Journalism student and DJ on the campus radio station, Rhodes Music Radio. Later in the morning, Dancer concluded, "I've only had two and I'm a mess - no breakfast and a big night last night. And I've still got a long way to go".

Piet Retief Residence warden, Rob Benyon added: "I've done four beers and I'm toast. I know I can only drink about two."

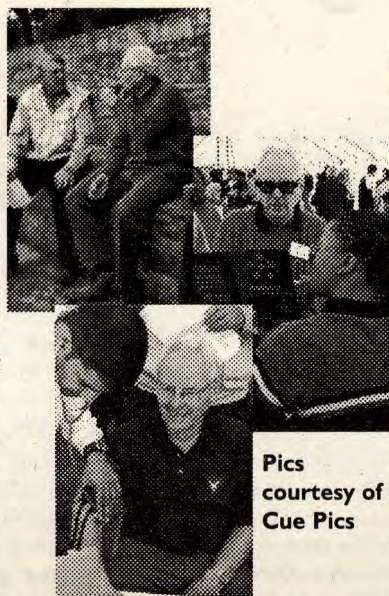
After the driving or playstation game, the subjects underwent a series of tests, conducted by optometrists and students from the Departments of Pharmacy and Human Kinetics and Ergonomics. The results of the tests, which included blood pressure, depth perception, co-ordination and balance, were passed onto the Department of Statistics, where they will be processed and analysed.

Running alongside the campaign was a drive to promote the buddy system, operated by the Students Representative Council (SRC). "The buddy system gets students on duty assist drunk students to get home safely. We not anti-drinking - we're promoting responsible drinking," said Israel Mqingwana, who had enlisted 41 students as buddy volunteers.

Accompanied by her student buddy, Milner Residence warden Phillipa Calaghan, said very merrily: "I'm on my third drink and I'm fine. Beer isn't really my tippie though".

Di Hornby of the Centre for Social and Economic Research (ISER), an outreach arm of the University, believes most students would get "10 out 10" if they wrote a test on the effects of drunk driving. "It's a similar situation to HIV/AIDS awareness," she said. "We have to make it appeal to the conscience though. For something like this to be relevant the topic needs to be translated into a more tangible form, like it has been this morning."

Grahamstown's Chief Traffic Officer, Coenraad Hanekom, said that in the past, the police have arrested 13 students for drunk driving in one night. "There is an abundance of it, if you look," he said. "We have to have it fixed, but I think the effects of something like this morning will only become clear over time. We're going to have to monitor this quite closely though," he said.



Pics courtesy of Cue Pics

Vice Chancellor, Dr David Woods demonstrating the effects of alcohol on motor skills, blood pressure related to how it can impair driving skills

Quote from the Vice Chancellor

"I view the widespread misuse of alcohol by students, both on and off campus, with increasing concern.

The consequences of the misuse of alcohol are deviant and anti-social behaviours, which infringe on the rights of others to live in a pleasant, ordered and dignified environment.

I want you to know that the University is now adopting a zero tolerance attitude to the misuse of alcohol..."

**The Vice Chancellor, Dr David Woods
May 2, 2000**

If you're not just a pretty face.

By Roxanne Prando.

3rd term. The beginning of the slow downhill role to the end of the year. For some, the last one of their degree. It is time to think about the future. Luckily, this is not so hard. You know that on Wednesday you'll be going to the Rat. Again on Friday. In between, you may attend a couple of lectures. If you managed to get tickets to the Inter Varsity ball, you're styling. The future's in the bag.

Even more so, because it's time for the 2000 Graduate Placement Program. If you, like most students, have trouble planning beyond next

week, this is an opportunity to begin getting it together. The program offers interviews with and presentations by many large and sometimes international organizations such as Barclays Capital, South African Breweries, and AAA School of Advertising.

Although the focus is on final year and post-grad students, anybody is welcome to the information on requirements, opportunities and contacts offered by the program. Brochures are widely available, and contain "Everything you wanted to know about looking for a job" (pg. 1), and tips on "How to get lucky" (pg. 68). In job hunting, that is. The Program can give you experience in preparing a CV, ace-ing interviews and marketing yourself and your abilities.

The 2000 Graduate Placement Program is set to be an eventful one - but only if you go. Getting yourself a job after university is not the responsibility of your mom, your Professor, Mr. Rainier, or the "head hunters" who descend on Rhodes once a year. It may not even have anything to do with your degree. What helps is loving what you do, doing it well, and showing some initiative.

Kimberley Hall maintains gender equality

By Tamara Kenny

Late last term, a De Beers student and his girlfriend were excluded for contravening the University intervisiting rule. This is the second incident in as many years of the exclusion of a male student from Kimberley Hall for this offence.

A recent notice released by Mr MJ Oelschig, Hall Warden of Kimberley Hall, clarified that intervisiting rules are and will be enforced in the male residences of Kimberly Hall. And according to letters received by Oelschig, "every hall warden on campus has confirmed that intervisiting rules are enforced in all residences".

Whilst traditionally men's residences have been seen less vigilant of University intervisiting rules, Rob Benyon, Piet Retief House Warden says that, "The intervisiting rules in men's residences are enforced yet the wardens and sub-wardens cannot be expected to be doing raids of rooms to find people of the opposite gender."

Oelschig's notice also noted the abolishment of the female "curfew" rule in Kimberley Hall. "I felt that it was unconstitutional and discriminatory towards women", says Oelschig.

"I encourage more students to be more responsible", says Benyon in response to both this abolishment of the rule, and the proposed implementation of dallas chip systems in male residences. This is to ensure security within the residences as "guys residences need to be more vigilant about strangers in residence," says Benyon.

Briefs

- A Western Cape Cabinet committee on Saturday, decided to close taxi and bus ranks in Cape town Townships. This decision is an effort to stop the violence in the transport industry, which has claimed several lives in past months.

- "Foreign" judges in Namibia face possible expulsion from the country after the Minister of Home Affairs recently announced that their work permits would be reviewed despite a court order to the contrary. This is apparently due to judgements made by them which are contrary to the wishes of the government.

- The Zimbabwean economy, already in dire straights, faces further problems. Farmers have threatened to halt production as a result of ongoing farm violence. The country's largest trade Union has also backed a general strike this week.

- The death toll after the recent Air France Concord Flight AF 4590 disaster has risen to 114 with the discovery of another body. The plane crashed into a Paris hotel, resulting in the temporarily grounding of all concords in France for inspection, a step also considered by other groups, including British Airlines.

- Official Correction

ACTIVATE must apologize for an incorrect detail included in a news story carried in our last edition, titled "Cellphone gives thief away".

In the article, the thief was identified as a member of the catering staff, when in fact he was a casual worker hired only to assist with the St Mary's hall ball. It was, in point of fact, a catering staff member's direct intervention that led to the thief's immediate apprehension. We apologise for this error.

SLASHING the

Pics: Stuart Stanbury

The low down on going down ... and everything else

By Tanya Farber

The time has come to cut to the chase, call a spade a spade, talk turkey, and all those other English phrases that describe the act of telling it like it is. If we walk around with blank spaces in our knowledge, we place ourselves at risk by lacking an understanding of how exactly the virus can be spread. Or, we suffer in silence, unaware of the fact that what we did with so-and-so could in no way lead us to danger.

Through this article, I hope to shed light on how we can and how we can't catch HIV/AIDS, by explaining which activities are 'high risk', which are 'low risk', and which are 'no risk'. I have also included some information on non-sexual activities based on frequently asked questions.

Vaginal sex: If you do not use a condom, this is a 'high risk' activity. There is an exchange of both semen and vaginal fluids. Vaginal sex with a condom is a low risk activity. The condom greatly reduces the chances of spreading the virus, but it is important to remember that condoms can also slip off or tear.

Anal sex: Without the use of a condom, anal sex is most definitely a 'high risk' activity. The passing of semen from one body to another is a major factor, but the nature of anal sex is also important. Because of the physiology of that area of the body, anal sex can be abrasive for both parties, and the resultant tearing of the skin tissue makes one more vulnerable. Anal sex with a condom carries a far lower risk than without one.

Oral sex: Performing oral sex (on a man or a woman) could be high or low risk activity for the simple reason that we may have abrasions in the mouth or throat of which we are not aware. The idea of oral sex with a man in a condom seems unappealing to most, but the fact that it so greatly reduces the risk of HIV is a big plus. Studies show that some people even put cling wrap over a woman's vagina as a safety precaution! I guess that's not everybody's cup of tea.

Manual sex: Whether you are performing manual sex on a man or a woman, it is a low risk activity. Seminal or vaginal fluids do not enter the body, but if we have cuts or abrasions in the skin, these fluids can gain access to our blood stream.

Massage, hugs and cuddles: There is no risk involved here, so go ahead! It is pointless to ostracise HIV positive people by denying them affection. This is merely prejudice based on ignorance and fear.

Dry kissing: This is a no risk activity. Obviously if you both have open wounds on your lips, and one person is bleeding, there is a risk, but the same goes for sitting next to someone on the bus if you both have open wounds on your arms!!

Wet (French) kissing: This is a grey area that probably causes the most confusion, but it is practically a no risk activity. You would both have to have abrasions in your mouth or throat, and the HIV positive person would have to bleed quite profusely! Buckets and buckets of saliva tainted by the contaminated blood would have to be transferred from the one person to the other in order for the virus to be 'caught'.

Sharing eating utensils: This carries no greater risk than any other non-sexual activity in our daily lives. It is perfectly safe to drink from the same cup, or eat off the same spoon or plate as an HIV positive person. To refuse to do so, again, is prejudice based on fear.

Sharing needles for drug taking: This is an extremely high-risk activity because of the syringe having access to more than one person's bloodstream. The fact that hollow needles are used for intravenous drugs also greatly increases the risk of spreading the virus.

Tattoos and body piercing: It depends on the circumstances. It is a no risk activity if done under the correct circumstances (i.e. if a fresh needle is used for each person). If done casually by non-professionals, both can be a high-risk activity because of the penetration of the skin and the remnants of blood on the needle. If it is a gun is used correctly for piercing, it is a no risk activity.

In brief, blood, semen, vaginal fluid, and breast milk are the only bodily fluids that can support the HIV virus. If they gain access to the blood stream in any way, you are putting yourself at risk. Male and female condoms, if used correctly, are just the ticket for prevention. Abstinence is also ... but not many of us go in for that!!

This information comes from PPASA (Cape Town) where Tanya Farber was the former manager of the HIV/AIDS AWARENESS PROGRAMME.

Death by Numbers

Words and illustration by Jak Koseff

It's still, to my mind, one of the most tragic covers Newsweek ever ran. It was a simple bottle of pills in rather harsh lighting. The text on the label said simply: "There are drugs that can stop AIDS...and this photograph is the closest many will ever get to them."

It sounds pretty horrifying to think that, on a continent that bears the burden of over 70% of the world's AIDS cases, the monthly cost of the three-drug cocktail that can reverse the effects of AIDS is over 10 times the average annual income of its citizens. The problem is, with the cost of drug testing and approval running into the hundreds of millions in US dollar terms, the big pharmaceutical companies feel they cannot survive if they commit themselves to acts of charity. Welcome to the bloodless economics of AIDS drugs.

Chances are, if you've even cast a sidelong glance at AIDS issue coverage, you've heard of AZT. Glaxo-Wellcome's wonder-drug generates a great deal of spin world-wide, specifically in terms of its implications for rape victims and pregnant mothers. The lab-rats and medical experience have proven it can knock out the virus if the victims get it within the earliest hours of infection. But with Africa's borderline apocalyptic AIDS stats, prevention is only one angle - you need to start talking cure if you don't want to lose half your population in a few decades time. That's where the famed "Cocktail" comes in. AZT is one third of the three main drugs that make up the HIV/AIDS-busting package given out to first world citizens with proper medical insurance. The medical logic is simple. What scared the hell out of medical researchers in the 80's is that HIV mutates in response to whatever you throw at it, rendering itself into a new strain immune to any further attack. Hit it from three sides at once, as the "cocktail" does, and the odds improve no end - the HIV count drops to below traceable levels, and in some cases full-blown AIDS is even reduced back to the HIV stage.

But you need all three. AZT alone doesn't cut it, and the pharmaceutical empires assert again and again that the cocktail strategy, if administered incorrectly or incompletely in advanced cases, can have nightmarish results - a strain that is resistant to any form of modern treatment. The fact is, Africa's health budgeting can't get anywhere near the levels needed to finance the broad spectrum anti-viral programmes that are proportionally "cheap" by western standards. The knee-jerk emotional reaction is to ask why on earth we're squabbling over account ledgers when the world sees in Africa a continent on which the elderly will outnumber the young in a decades time. But, tragically it's just not that simple.

The major issue is the huge bill the pharmacy giants have to foot to get these drugs researched and

approved. You don't just throw together some chemicals and pump them into human subjects. That'll get you arrested and get your medical licence revoked. There are a whole set of protocols to go through which can take 10-15 years. A drug has to be tested on animals, tested on people in advanced states of the disease and tested further on healthy subjects to make sure there aren't any horrible side-effects. The process requires years of labwork, hundreds upon millions of dollars, all under the extremely cautious eye of people like the US Food and Drug administration, and until the later stages you're not even

certain the drug actually works. Yes, say companies like Glaxo-Wellcome, we gave you AZT, but if you don't let us recoup some of the millions we lay out on drugs like this, we can't fund the research that could bring us closer to a better drug or an actual cure.

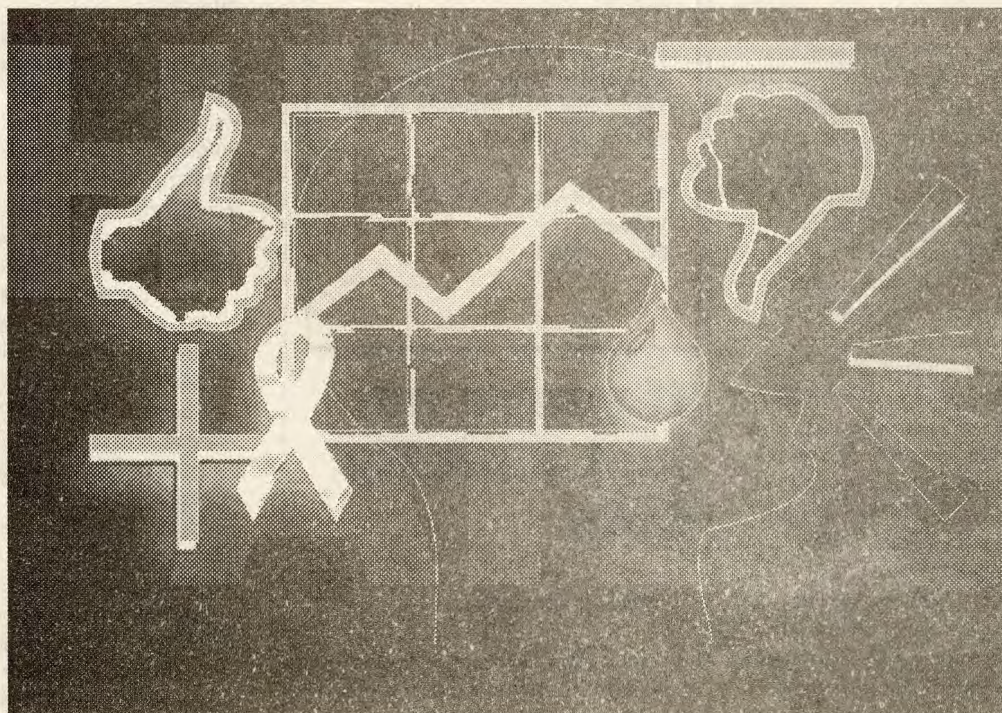
It's on this terrain that some of the grandest political battles AIDS has seen are waged. The big catch-phrase is "compulsory licensing" - legislation that allows Government's in developing countries to farm out the chemical patents on key AIDS drugs to local firms that can deliver cheaper generics.

In a recent TIME magazine feature on AIDS in Africa, the example of the drug Flucanazole comes up - costs the equivalent of \$18 in Kenya where it has to be imported and 30 c in Thailand where the local generic is produced. The idea is to let the pharmacy giants reap the profits they need on first world shores, where the drugs are affordable to the average citizens, and let the most downcast nations make them for themselves at far lower cost. Clinton actually came out last year favouring this policy as the US approach to the issue.

The problem is the barrage of threats and proposed embargoes from the pharmacy giants themselves, who obviously are not exactly swept away by the idea. The current screaming matches in WTO circles over intellectual property rights aren't helping the situation either.

There are several grand acts of charity on the part of the big pharmaceutical firms, particularly Pfizer and Boehringer-Ingelheim, but these have the dark taint of being both quick-fixes and still not putting realistic cross-continent AIDS treatments on the table, both in terms of cost and logistics.

What it comes down to is that this is but one key skirmish in the most politicized medical cross-fire ever seen. A number of agendas are doing the rounds at the moment, and the battles against the social stigmas and lack of practical AIDS education are equally hot-button issues at the moment. It would be a tragedy unequalled though if, despite humanity's grandest intentions, it's the numbers that kill us.



myths



Rhodes vs the Epidemic

By Nick Ferreira

"We imagine that Rhodes' AIDS infection rate would be the same as the national figure for our demographic," - Mark Rainier, Student Adviser.

The handling of AIDS at Rhodes mirrors the national situation in more ways than this. Like the South African government, the Rhodes Administration has been incredibly slow to react to the disease. Like the South African public, Rhodes students would rather pretend that the disease only affects other people. And like South African policy, we are big on good intentions and small on actually doing anything.

First of all, there is no ratified AIDS policy at this University. Not only is there no policy there is debate over whether there should be a policy at all. The alternative before the committee is that Rhodes opt for a "Statement of Intent" backed up by some form of "action and implementation". This has been the choice of the University of Pretoria, considered the leading South African University in this field. We do have a draft policy, drawn up by the HIV/AIDS Task Group in May 1999. They meet again in August 2000, to iron out problems in the draft. So why has it taken so long?

The main reason is that the problem has landed squarely on Mark Rainier's already crowded desk. He simply has not had the time to put any effective policy into action, what with counseling, career guidance and all the other duties that go with his portfolio. The recent restructuring of Admin also played a role, according to Dr Iain L'Ange, the Deputy Dean of Students. These factors alone are not enough to explain the official apathy though. So unless Admin have been criminally negligent, they simply do not believe that Rhodes is affected by the epidemic as seriously as other South African universities.

If that seems strange in light of the panic that is gripping the rest of the country, remember the official response to the question: "Does Rhodes have an AIDS problem?"

They just don't know. The statistics that we do have are useless - a very small proportion of students make use of the testing facilities, and those are the students most likely to be in the HIV positive bracket, making it a sample that does not accurately represent the entire population. The official line is that our infection rate should be between ten and fifteen percent, based purely on guesswork and the national figure for our demographics. Mark Rainier rules out the possibility of blanket testing because it is a "logistical and political nightmare." He also says that the negative publicity if Rhodes turned out

to have a high infection rate would be damaging to the University. So it would seem that AIDS is treated as a problem of public relations rather than human resources or economics at Rhodes. Nonetheless, it is hoped that some type of policy will be in place by the end of the year.

Rhodes policy will be based on the guidelines set up by the Association of Commonwealth Universities as well as the National Policy on HIV and AIDS for Universities and Technikons. It is likely to protect the rights of staff and students to confidentiality and prohibit unfair discrimination on the basis of HIV status. It will focus on education as the main tool of prevention and aim to provide care and support for those who have been infected.

While it is still in the draft stage, it does have significant differences from the national guidelines. It does not place the same emphasis on the fact that the disease is a gender issue. Women are more vulnerable to infection "through their anatomy as well as their social and economic position in society." This is a fact that is not recognized by the draft policy, and there is no member of the HIV/AIDS Task Group with the brief of representing gender issues.

Also conspicuous by its absence is the fact that Rhodes does not stress the need to "institutionalise" the disease. The idea is that AIDS must be a central consideration at all levels in the University, to avoid marginalising sufferers and to ensure that the challenge is met by the entire community. This is done by making it central to mission statements and strategy, including it in academic curricula of every faculty and supplying adequate testing and care facilities from both staff and students. While there has been some involvement by certain departments, we have not mainstreamed the disease in the way envisioned at a national level. Rainier says that the response to AIDS will take place "within the normal operations of departments and bodies already existing at Rhodes."

Other issues such as the level of personal responsibility, provision of anti-retroviral drugs after rape or assault and the actual nuts and bolts of providing walk-in counseling and testing facilities remain to be dealt with.

The question of HIV/AIDS at Rhodes is at least as complex as it is for the rest of the country. For the time being, we are not sure of the scale of the problem here, and as a result have been sluggish in responding. How much longer we will be able to deliberate over policy before the epidemic becomes crippling, remains to be seen.

The Bastard Diaries



I have to write something about Casey B. Dolan and fame. And Tupac, because these things fascinate me. There's also the blues, bitches and my Draft One For Overthrowing The People Who Make Petrol Expensive. But all that's later, let's start with Casey.

Casey B. Dolan is really good looking, she's also funny and wears pink cowboy boots and a Stetson while standing in front of a modern kitchen cupboard on the poster in Huisgenoot (um, You) two weeks ago. She also knows Darren Scott, thus presumably knowing the difference between an innings defeat and a stupid declaration. Which is the kind of thing men look out for. Her rise to being navel-baring centrepiece in Huisgenoot was nothing short of spectacular and largely thanks to the horny men of this country who voted her sexiest woman in South Africa in FHM. So she was in FHM, then backpage of Sunday Times, then front page of FHM, then You and now everywhere, even cover of Style. Which made me realise she's actually quite funny looking, but anyway.

The point is fame in South Africa - how to do it and why that means you will probably never be known beyond our borders. Unlike Tupac, whose name is spray-painted behind a road sign in Kasani, whose keyrings are sold in the Chobe Curio Shop and whose t-shirt is being worn by a dude lounging at the petrol station in Nata. These places are in Botswana and people there know Tupac. They can rap along, whatever, they know Tupac. America is in Botswana - Coca Cola, KFC and Tupac. And it's winning. Casey B. Dolan is too. But her battle is shorter, easier. Be on TV. It's step one, always, ask Candice (who's got bigger boobs

but is fatter, not that men care). Casey is a continuity presenter, which is a nice job where you tell blind viewers what the rest of the people have already read in the TV programme. She does it well too, she's witty and sharp. Same on the radio. Met a girl the other day who "hates" Casey's laugh. I love it. Tonic to my afternoon which is constantly soiled by Darren 'bru' Scott. But then Casey went further, she wanted to be cooler, she wanted more, she, like power-hungry people before her (who also liked crowds reaching up to them), crossed the Rubicon. She posed for a men's magazine. I dig that shit.

How long will we know and love Casey? When will we discard her like people discarded Elvis? When will Casey get wrinkles and extra cellulite? Will she host a cooking programme? Will she, like other disgraced TV personalities such as Paul Buckby, try to sell us mail-order fitness equipment, cheese graters and carwash liquids? I think she should write a book, record a kwaito album and have a snog with a minister's son while she's at it.

Do something of cultural, political or philosophical significance with your life. Please. Be like Tupac. Be, um, for real. Be an accountant for God, carve your initials into your girlfriend's forearm, give poor people discounts, present the weather on TV, score the winning try against the All Blacks, be a BITCH. But do it with style. Shot.

Toast Coetzer is alive and well, but his mind and libido has left for foreign shores. So leave him the fuck alone and buy him coffee. And Tas. And buy his book 'Love Songs For The Government', out now and only R2 and only 7 copies left.

Know thy DJ Roster



radio

Day	6-9am	9-11am	11-1pm	1-4pm	4-7pm	7-8pm	8-10pm	10-1am
Mon	Jo + Reel Time	Abby	Mike	Regan	Crimson	Chris	Pierre	Youth on track
Tues	Adele + Evacuate	Robyn	Ryan	Jo	Sorisha	Question mark	Freaks	Black urban youth culture
Wed	Jen + Aunty NJ	Spike	Mickey	Radio G.	Blizard	Up close & personal	Juu\$	Mark
Thurs	Marisa + Q-Rious	Daz	Janine	Johan	Zoey	Soultime	Helene	Suga & spice
Fri	Launch Pad + Bookworms	Robbie & Nick	Tate & So	Nevenka & Matthe	Resident President	Mickey	Shelly	Sakina
Sat	7-10am Radio G.	10-1am Mike	1-4pm Libz	4-7pm Top 30	7-8pm Fisherman	8-10pm RU Game Ward	10-1am Tate & So	
Sun	Jannie & Stelana	Robbie & Nick	Spike	Johan	The verdict		Toast	



Just say

Splitting Reels Gladiator

Reviewed by: Nigel Tompkins

The players: Russel Crowe, Jaquin Phoenix and Richard Harris
Director: Ridley Scott
Runtime: 150 minutes
Rating: 7/10

One of the biggies this year is Ridley (Alien, Blade Runner) Scott's Roman epic that doesn't fail to entertain for it's two and half hours of swashbuckling heroism and bravery. Russel Crowe plays a general in the Caesar's army, but when the ambitious son of the noble king assumes power, he orders the general's death to be carried out and it's up to our hero to save the empire. Crowe assumes his role well, exuberating a silent but powerful presence on the screen. Phoenix gives a sturdy performance as the immature and ruthless new Caesar but it's the glorious battle scenes that sell the film. Scott indulges in bloody mayhem colouring the coliseum and battlegrounds of Europe in red, with the clashing of swords providing some stunning watching. The film, however, does at times resort to typical Hollywood clichés but Scott manages to pull it off with some panache that helped make the film one of the highest money-makers this year.

The Patriot

Reviewed by: by Robert Odendaal

The Players: Mel Gibson, Heath Ledger, Jason Isaacs, Chris Cooper
Director: Roland Emmerich
Run. Time: 164 min.
Rating: 8/10

The epic has landed. Once again Hollywood indulges us in a big-budget, high-profile epic to the liking of Braveheart and more recently Gladiator. Director Roland Emmerich (Independence Day, Godzilla) once again lends his talents to a huge production, and the end product is something quite extraordinary. Mel Gibson (Braveheart, Ransom) stars as Colonel Benjamin "The Ghost" Martin, a legend of the past who is trying to raise a family and live a peaceful life. Yet the American War of Independence is raging throughout the country and soon he finds himself drawn to fight in it for the sake of protecting his family. This is where The Patriot's strongest element lies. The whole film is basically based on the lengths one will go to protect friends, family and ultimately - love. Gibson is supported by a good cast, all of whom give outstanding performances.

The Patriot is maybe a tad to long and a little too melodramatic, yet it is the kind of film everyone loves. The battle scenes are brilliantly realistic, the Hans Zimmer's soundtrack is glorious, and it leaves you with that good feeling in your stomach. This is one you have to see.

The Activate Guide to what, when, how, why
(You can figure it out)

Review this

Community Music
Asian Dub Foundation
London Records/ Warner

In days of rare causes and even rarer cultural spikes, the Asian Dub Foundation is a breath of strychnine-laced air. Anglo-Asian and not patriotic about it, they spit out a mixture of hard, untidy, rambling rap over synths, bass, beats and electric guitar from the cupboard marked 'fucking loud, bring ice cream'. But that's only the first quarter of the album - after that it gets better, subtler and more heroic. Tracks like 'Collective Mode', 'The Judgement', 'Truth Hides' and the magnificently aggressive 'Taa Deem' take you by the neck and shoulders and make everything bob. The vocals are raw, sometimes rushed, then licking the guitarline, then easing the bass, but always kicking. They're punk, they're triphop, they're (fucking) political, but most importantly, they don't blow whistles at cobras hiding under basket-lids. Or maybe they do. Which is good.

Possibly anti-monarchy: "It's my burning ambition to burn down your empire." With you.
Rating: 9/10

Binaural
Pearl Jam
Epic/ Sony

Ja, hey. What to make of it? I asked my digsmate who's as devout a Pearl Jam fan as you get, he said: "The loud songs are fucking shit." And it's true. Maybe it's because we're older, maybe it's because we're not in America, but some of this album sounds incredibly dated and ends up being a regression from 'Yield'. So skip the first three songs and start at 'Light Years'. It's not bad, not changing the world, but, well, nice. 'Nothing as it seems' is suitably broody, slow and semi-interesting - almost the extended version of grunge-blues, which is what they should stick to. And that marvellous, full folk-sound, which comes through in 'Thin Air', the rather sexy 'Of the Girl' and the tinkering 'Soon Forget'. Good, but they should recognise the fact that hardcore doesn't mean loud and loud doesn't mean 'good disguise for a shoddy song'.

Well said: "he'd wake up, wash and pour himself into uniform"
Rating: 6/10

Nixon
Lambchop
City Slang Records

Leadsinger Kurt Wagner doesn't as much sing as he gambles along, happy to be the voice and director for a group of musicians (all 14 of them) who seriously know their shit. In a way, this is the best elevator music you will ever hear and, maybe, the first strands of punk-elevator music. Subtle as twingly, beautiful as a clean wipe too - it trundles with trumpets and piano, bass and fuzz. Wagner's lyrics are to die for, one of the few true poets of stature in the music world. It's about being older than 30, about being stuck with something you don't want and about how beautiful the power of unleasment is. Take 'Nashville Parent', take 'Up With People' and 'The Book I Haven't Read' - it is for people with beards and women with big love. Say it again, Kurt: "and the neighbours have been drinking... pretty soon they'll start to fight."
Rating: 8/10

1

2

3

Mission: Munchies

stuff

Rat & Parrot

Imagine a thick chunk of ostrich meat, succulently fried in juicy flavourful sauce, presented on a fresh breadroll and surrounded by the crispiest, unoily chips in town. Imagine eating all of that, now. Well, stop dreaming, dufus and get your ass down to the Rat and Parrot.

Traditionally known as Rhodes' Rugger-bugger's favourite drinking establishment, the 'Rat' as it is so quaintly dubbed, offers quite a varied and thoroughly homegrown menu. For those staunch carnivore the choice is tender and puts res-food road-kill to shame for attempting to call itself meat.

The seafood is fresh from the coast with crisp and interesting sauces whilst the veggies on campus are catered for - this fare doesn't quite match up to the meatier delights.

The service is efficient and friendly, and with the typical pub-like atmosphere, the boere van die bundus are likely to feel right at home.

Piece of advice: The best times to frequent this local establishment are for pub lunches or an early evening meal. After 9pm eating is definitely not a priority on anyone's mind.

No of res meals worth unbooking: 8

Tri-varsity weekend

Sporting codes - Rhodes, UPE, Fort Hare and Vista
Envisage the spirit, the competition, the intensity, and the hectic parties!!!

Thursday 3 Aug 2000 @ PopArt café

7:30pm - RMR VIP members are invited to grace the start of the Tri-varsity by attending a cocktail party.

8:30pm - the doors open to the general populace.

Your hosts for the evening will acquit themselves on the decks to get you into The spirit of competition: Reggie (RMR), Luvs (CBfm), Fistaz (Jhb), Peter Abrahams (double happiness)

Free Castle lite on entry...Red Bull promo R12 @ the door!!!
Members free

Fri 4 Aug @ the kraal, UPE, Port Elizabeth

Now the Inter-varsity will start to go insane!!!

DJ lineup will include: Fistaz, Odwa, Peter A

Guest DJ's will play during the course of the evening.

Free Castle lite on entry...Red Bull promo

Presold tickets: R20 - @ Delbro's unlimited. @ The Bridge or Sublime, Grahamstown.

R30 @ the door!!!

SAB beer @ R4, Amstel & draughts @ R5, ciders @ R5

Red Bull @ R10

Sat 5 Aug: outside ABSA sports stadium

Beer - R4, Amstel & draughts - R5, ciders - R5, Red Bull R10

This is an officially sponsored event of the ABSA Tri-varsity weekend.

Other major sponsors are Castle lite, Red Bull and ABSA.

D TNY promotions, Empire Solutions.

y Know

NIXON 3

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

RU Fixtures

ABSA TRI-VARSITY PROGRAMME FRIDAY 4 AUGUST 2000

SPORT	TIME	VENUE	FIXTURE
Golf	07h30	Humewood Golf	UPE vs RU
Spearfishing	07h30	Noordhoek	UPE vs RU
Surfing	08h00	Meet at Light House	UPE vs RU
Under H20 Hockey	19h00	UPE Swimming Pool	UPE vs RU
Sailing	08h00		UPE vs RU
Tennis	12h00	UPE Tennis Courts	UPE vs RU
Rowing	15h00	Harbor	UPE vs RU
Badminton	15h00	Indoor Centre	UPE-UFH vs RU
Road Relay	16h00	Stadium	UPE-UFH vs RU
Squash	18h00	Indoor Centre	UPE vs RU
Volleyball	18h00	Indoor Centre	UPE vs RU
Basketball	19h00	Indoor Centre	UPE vs RU
Soccer (M) 3rd	17h00	Soccer B	UPE vs Vista
2nd	18h15	Soccer B	UPE vs RU
1st	19h45	Soccer A	RU vs UFH
Soccer (W) 1st	18h15	Soccer A	UPE vs RU

ABSA TRI-VARSITY PROGRAMME SATURDAY 5 AUGUST 2000

SPORT	TIME	VENUE	FIXTURE
Tennis	10h00	UPE Tennis Courts	UPE vs UFH

Volleyball	10h00	Indoor Centre	UPE vs UFH
Table Tennis	10h00	Indoor Centre	UPE - RU - UFH
Netball	10h00	UPE Netball Courts	UPE - RU - UFH
Karate	10h00	Mirror Hall UPE	UPE - RU - UFH
Chess	10h00	Indoor Centre	UPE - RU - UFH
Basketball	11h00	Indoor Centre	UPE vs UFH
Women's Hockey			
4th	10h30	D Field	RU vs UFH
3rd	08h00	A Field	UPE vs RU
2nd	09h15	B Field	UPE vs RU
1st	11h45	A Field	UPE vs RU
Men's Hockey			
4th	11h45	D Field	RU vs UFH
3rd	08h00	C Field	UPE vs RU
2nd	10h30	B Field	UPE vs RU
1st	13h00	A Field	UPE vs RU
Women's Touch Rugby			
1st	10h00	Stadium	UFH vs RU
Soccer (W)			
1st	10h00	Soccer A	UPE vs UFH
Soccer (M)			
2nd	11h30	Soccer A	UPE vs RUE.L
1st	13h15	Stadium	UPE vs Winner
Rugby			
3rd	10h00	C Field	RU vs UFH 2
3rd	10h00	B Field	UPE vs UFH 1
u/21	11h00	Stadium	UPE vs RU
2nd	1h30	Stadium	UPE vs Ru
1st	15h00	Stadium	UPE vs RU

G On The G Spot



How was G's holiday? G struggled to remember anything remarkable - over and above the glowing radiance of being out of Grahamstown.

Although, it was an easier question than having to comment on everyone's new clothes which were displayed to celebrate the beginning of the term - especially if they were the pseudo-hippie ponchos and beaded pants. Looked like commercialised Red Indians really - wouldn't Joseph Heller have something to say about that. The taboo is of course that everyone was forced to buy new clothes - larger clothes. And nothing like a teepee to hide those fatrolls.

With the huffs and puffs streaming out of your tortured lungs in the blistering cold air as you straddled that flight of stairs up to Eden Grove Blue, one could even let the teepee give off smoke. The solution to being unfit, in G's opinion, was to drink more and stroll New Street more. As when you start feeling faint from laughing in "Through Blue" because your stomach muscles were struggling to keep up.

Okay, perhaps that was an over exaggeration but G had discovered a unique way of accessing the play - imagine one is watching Pop Up Video. Rather like when G tuned zir radio at the beginning of the term to check if RMR was back on air and found the station through the frequency of swearwords lavished

into the radiowaves. What would the English Department say? Perhaps the same response they had to Dan Wylie finally publishing his book taking on Shaka - the non-warrior. G had to admit that it was kind of inspiring and could perhaps persuade zir to be more conscientious - as everyone is at the beginning of term and only once ze had remembered how to write and had settled the contentious political philosophical debate about the cold weather. Should people who wear scarves be noosed by their tags of cold for being so bourgeois? They certainly wouldn't fit in at Champs - "the people's bar" (Cue 2000). But perhaps Pop Art being compared with Milan in their promotional propaganda by an "objective" journalist would be more up their street? One wouldn't want to do it like mammals or anything. Of course G couldn't go back to Cj's until ze had found a new vagina and ze certainly was not going to succeed in zir slippers. But at the end of the day, all roaming leads to Rhodes.

Is the anti-drinking campaign absolute impertinence?

Will Kitty ever say bye?

How long will MI2 still be showing at Roxbury?

Will G get to hanky panky before spring?

How long can G's money last in third term?

Hoping for the negative

By The Girl Next Door
Pics: Stuart Stanbury

When my friend, Natasha, approached me and suggested we go for an HIV test, knowing that both of us on separate occasion had had unprotected sex with what we would call strangers, as we did not know their sexually history, I thought literally what the hell, it would probably be better knowing than living in ignorance and affecting the next person I jumped into bed with. I had never considered myself as high risk because it was not as if I was jumping into bed with every other person and even when I did, I was educated enough to use condom. OK, admittedly I had had unprotected sex twice, regrettably, but when in the heat of the moment there was only one thing that I wanted. The fact of the matter is that when my friend pulled me aside after a lecture and suggested when go make appointment to go and have the test, a realisation dawned on me, I was actually petrified. To make matters worst, me thinking we were going to the San, I was informed that the destination for the appointment was Mark Ranier's Office, the Student Adviser.

Natasha, being more serious about the matter than I was, had found out that having an HIV test as Rhodes was not as simple as popping into the San like you would for a common cold but rather making an appointment at the Student Advisers office in order to receive counselling, as stipulated by the South African Constitution. Arriving at the office and making the appointment with the excuse that I needed advice on my subjects, I was nervous but however not aware about the hell that I would go through in the following weeks. Natasha and I had decided that we would not tell any of our friends that we were having the test for the simple reason that if the test did turn out to be positive, the results would not only affect me, obviously, but could have repercussions for them to, i.e. living with someone who is HIV positive has biases attached to it.

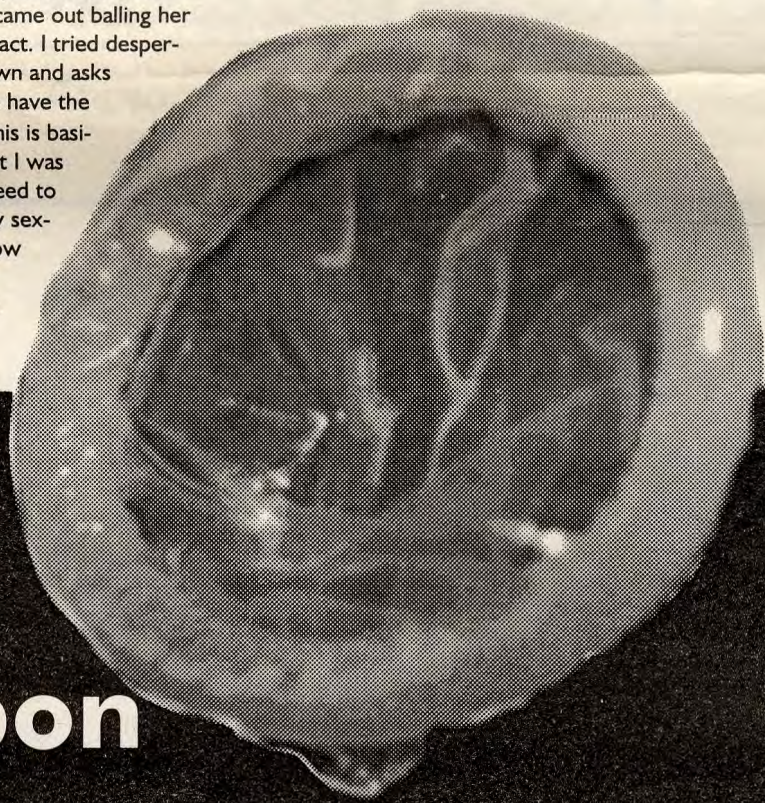
I had forgotten about the appointment and carried on with life as usual, even though my friends were finding me a bit moody and Natasha and I tended to be avoiding the subject, and when the D-day came I was not prepared for what I was about to happen. Natasha went in first and came out balling her eyes out, storming past me, avoiding all eye contact. I tried desperately to remain calm. In I went. Mark sits me down and asks what the problem is. Telling him that I wanted to have the HIV test was not the hardest part, as I thought this is basically all that I had to do. Never had I thought that I was about to tell Mark exactly why I thought that I need to have the test, meaning I had to tell him about my sexual experiences. The worst was yet to come. How on earth do you answer the question "What will you do if the test comes out positive?" Fuck. We

all plan what we want to do with our lives, but you never consider that because of one night of pure passion, a life threatening disease can control the rest of your life.

The appointment was over, in my hand I held the piece of paper that permitted me to have an HIV test at the San at the cost of R20 that would be debited to my student account as a San expense. I found Natasha at home still in tears, knowing that I could say nothing to console her even though I could truly say that I new exactly what she was going through, silence was the only consultation between us. No words could describe how we were feeling.

The drawing of the blood was so mediocre compared to the realisation that my life from this day on could never be the same again. If you could, on a simplistic level, compare it to anything it is like the day that you take your drivers licence test. If you pass, you know a freedom that can change the entire way you live your life. This was the same thing in the negative and far more serious - the freedom to live my life as I had chosen, the freedom I had known 'til now, hung in the balance.

I could not even try to explain what the week's wait for the results was like. Like I said before, one of those two little signs that used to haunt me in maths class could shatter my life dreams and ambitions, or assure me I still had the right to them. The only thing that kept on going through my mind was that it was just two nights - two nights that I had never thought that I would have to forever regret. Once again back in Mark's office, I was asked to state my full name and quote my student number, in his hands he held a piece of paper that contained the rest of my life. He handed it to me, I was not sure that I actually wanted to know what was printed on that piece of paper, but I can tell you when I did look I realised this was the most important piece of paper that I would ever own.



Red Ribbon

Anonymous

HIV. AIDS.

Scary words. I recently started thinking about exactly what it was that they meant to me.

Know what I came up with? Pie charts. Bar graphs. A solemn tone in a newsreader's voice, made-for-TV movies with high morals and low budgets. Angry people saying the word "Mbeki" a whole lot. Oh, and red ribbons of course. That's what I've felt about AIDS, that's the effect it's had on my life. I realise it's a problem, of course, don't get me wrong. There's plenty of that feeling that something terrible is going on, that this is a great human tragedy, in the same way I feel the tragedy of a hurricane in central America or a flood in China. One of those deforestation/ozone hole/children are starving in Eritrea kinda feelings, where you recognise the tragedy, but it's something happening very, very far away from your life. I am lucky enough to be one of those people who hasn't really been effected by AIDS, and, much as I feel bad, and sad, and worried about it, when I really think about what it means when I hear the word, all I come up with is statistics and percentages glimpsed over the shoulder of a newsreader in a red ribbon. It's just never been real for me, it's always been the disease on the other side of the TV screen. Which is why, when a friend of mine bought himself one of those little beadwork red ribbons, I asked if it was some new requirement of his dress code at work. And why I had no idea what to

say when he turned around and said: "Man, you know my sister? She's HIV positive." Bang - that's the sound of reality slamming into you. Except that I didn't get sound effects. I don't know what I got, aside from the feeling that some already-cliched movie plot had climbed through the screen and taken over the life of someone I knew. Because until that moment, I think there was a part of me that always believed that HIV was just another Hollywood plotline, just another urban legend. But I can't think that anymore. Know what AIDS means to me now?

It means that a few years from now, my friend will go to a funeral, and he'll watch his big sister go into the ground. It means that he'll know, and she'll know about that day, everyday, from now until it happens. It means that he will watch her get worse, watch her get weaker, everyday until that happens. And that is a hell of a lot more real than I would ever want it to be, especially for people I care about.

I don't know what difference my little realisation will make. I don't see how it will change a bar graph or a pie chart, I don't think it will have very much effect on all the angry Mbeki-ing. I don't see any way that it lets me do or undo anything about the problem. All I know is that AIDS is definitely real, and the people who get it aren't just faces on the other side of the screen. And that I'm seriously thinking about buying one of those little beadwork red ribbons.

Hate no more

By Emma Rudenberg

"It's a dry white season brother," said poet Mongane Serote to poet Don Mattera, in his poem "For Don M-Banned." Don Mattera is a literary genius, poet, and was a great activist during the apartheid regime. Recently while I was in Johannesburg on my vacation, I stumbled upon a book opening at Exclusive Books Hyde Park. Inexperienced in the field of book openings, I listened so as to hear what book was being promoted. As I walked closer to the stage, I saw a man talking of the atrocities of a past society and bringing new light to the acceptance of a new society. He talked of the unstable situations at present, and the need for new development. As I listened to this wise man I heard the story of a novel that would probe every South African mind, and dig

into the depths of racism and sexism. A novel not only about Apartheid but about the fundamental character of man himself. When the speeches were over, I was amazed to find that the speaker of this great book was Don Mattera himself, and he spoke of his colleague Arthur Maimane's book, "Hate No More". Maimane is a man who has written numerous stories in various European languages, as well as being a freelance media consultant. In this midst of this overpowering book opening, I came to believe that there is hope for our country and that with richness like this it is not possible to lose sight of the bigger picture, that we can improve this country. "It's a dry white season but seasons come to pass."

A Conspiracy of clowns

ACTIVATE Reporter

The clown is perhaps the most fascinating of modern icons. By turns the innocent, the iconoclast, the commentator and the charlatan, there remains something endlessly engaging about a figure possessed of equal capacity for mockery, misery and triviality. Stretching back to the early days of the Commedia dell'arte, the clown has impeccable credentials as a theatrical device. Thus it is rather apt to find that "Through Blue", the latest offering from the ranks of the Rhodes University drama students, finds itself driven by a "conspiracy of clowns."

In the cast's own words: "This is a tragicomic fairytale of high ambition and broken hearts, of addiction and survival, a fable of innocence lost and contemporary South African youth culture. Inspired by Master Misery, a short story by Truman Capote, this production blends together visual and physical theatre: a compelling mix of mime, commedia and clowning. "The piece tracks the fortunes of a young girl who quests after fame and the bright lights, only to have her hopes dashed and be given the strange opportunity to "sell" her dreams.

Flipping through the press-kit, one gets a sense of multiple abstracts at play, a sense of that quirky darkness student theatre has often built its reputation on. There remains a strong idealism to it all, though. The work is framed in the ongoing dynamic of collaboration, the outcome of a long time spent in workshoping and collective development of the material. This has been translated into the other side of the production's mandate - it has also been conceived as an education/theatre development piece. A series of workshops have been formalised, and will accompany

the production wherever it tours, taking participants to "the land of why-not", as well as giving them a rough guide to "madness and mayhem."

The production itself is fascinating and layered with various experimental ideas. The elements of clowning and mime style are thrown into the mix with cross-hatched use of language. The cast speak with their vocal expressions and their bodies. There are perhaps five lines in the entire script which are delivered in straight dialogue. Throughout the remainder of the production, the audience finds their traditional concepts of communication challenged as the cast play out an astonishing range of moods, scenes and ideas with a stunning interplay of motion, vocal sound and stage effects. The result is a piece from which each audience member draws something slightly different, even though the central themes of the play are conveyed with an eerie clarity. The scenes vary and cut from vaudeville-esque physical comedy to the dehumanising world of the city dweller, to the quite stillness of the city streets. Not to mention the bizarre waiting-room where the characters await the chance to "sell" their dreams."

The project "From the hip" have committed themselves to is a pertinent and powerful one - a quest for understanding the development of a dynamic and inclusive (i.e. multi-element) theatrical style as well as seeking to reposition theatre workers within a more pro-active social role, in terms of the workshop programme designed to connect with groups and regions that don't usually have contact with this kind of theatre. This piece represents a powerful creative force cleverly matched to a powerful social conscience.

Not Waving, but Drowning

The Forgotten Angle Theatre Collaborative - Noah's Drowning

By Fadge - but you can call me FUH!

If only Noah HAD drowned...

This physical theatre work, conceived and created by PJ. Sabbagha explored the 'constant motion of water', and the 'precarious position of young white men in contemporary South Africa', as we were told in the programme. I found it fascinating that the design elements played around the colours of the old South African flag, and that there was only one man in the piece. But anyway... Timothy Le Roux's was a good specimen of a male body, and his movements were as consistently fluid and transient as the 'water' that surrounded him. The score was perfect - beautiful, well balanced and enticing.

Declan Randall's lighting design was enticingly surreal, and the mercurial changing of the lights cast shadows on our perceptions of what we saw. Sometimes bodies were obscured in darkness, and space and time were blurred, as were the relationships between the bodies. Personally, as turned on as I was by the goldfish, and the echo of their movements in the human bodies, the work became as repetitive as the goldfish's swimming round the bowl. Over and over we saw the same phrases and relationships being set up and eroded, and sometimes the buckets and blue tiles just weren't enough to satisfy the eye.

The dancers themselves, most of them performing at last at their alma mater, were technically proficient. But, when it came down to it, the work was simply not readable. Audience members who were not entirely fluent in the analysis of physical theatre simply could not find enough meaning to latch on to, and all it came down to was watching the bodies in space and musing on the fate of those poor little fishes. The programme we were handed as we walked into the space did not offer a way in to the work, but obfuscated an already cloudy piece. As usual, the problem of a lack of linguistic understanding made Noah's Drowning just another physical theatre piece, and just as alienating to the common man as any other. This said, I have nothing but praise for the dancers - each of whom executed the movements with technique, strength and élan. By the end of this drowning, Fuh felt like a goldfish - swimming round and round - no end in sight and no change in emotional state. But the images floating past me were pretty nonetheless.

Innovations 2000

By Aylwyn Walsh

It is the lot of the intelligentsia and creative types to forge through life misunderstood. Most of us feel that others will never understand our 'pik', and yet, optimistic fools we are, we continue to ply the world (and our next door neighbours) with the stuff we call 'art'...

Well, whatever form it takes, there's often very little opportunity to showcase your work, or to compare talent. Some Drama students decided to open up a forum for their peer's works, and the result is the third annual staging of Innovations. It's called Innovations because all works are original and, well, innovative! This is basically a stage for any drama student interested in showing works that they have written, directed, choreographed or workshoped. So, for those not already involved, keep a look out for the posters, and get your asses down to the Rhodes University Theatre on 17th and 18th August to see some real work that just might blow your minds! No more pretentious poo - witness the hard work, the talent and the fun that goes into performance. This one will be awesome!

RU Theatre
17 & 18 August
19h30
only R5

Arts n' Culture

Counterculture



Kbwezi Magwaza -
Arts & Culture
Editor

Welcome to the party zone! Third term is here and that means it's time for all Rhodents to let their hair down and let it all hang out. The culture-munchers will be on the trail of all that is entertaining so keep the eyes glued on this spot. It is time yet again for the great trek to PE for Tri Varsity where we will don our purple attires and make complete idiots of ourselves in the name of scholastic honour. Last year was a blast so get there even if you have to take the dreaded SRC buses. Lets hope your sucking up to that girl across the corridor with the red Corsa pays off! SAB has finally caught on that students is where their bread is buttered and they are sponsoring this years main event and of course the infamous Empire Solutions is in the mix too. It promises to be a hectic weekend and PE should watch out cause Rhodents have a way of tak-

ing over and believe me no Pied Piper can control us. With all the driving happening I hope that all revellers will be safe we all know the drill, no one wants to come back in a coffin so get sloshed and leave the keys at home. And with alcohol comes increased hormone levels. Tri varsity is a great sporting weekend but some sports, especially horizontal aerobics though not a recognised competitive sport is the one sport that truly brings us closer... much closer. So do the SRC, the San and Admin proud and use all those free condoms they give out during Aids Awareness. Soprano has just discovered that G-town has a weigh-less so the Fat lady shall not be singing but it is over till next edition.

Smoochies

Soprano From Hell

Sublime

On presentation of
this
Voucher

Free coffee/tea
with cheesecake

Valid until 11/08/2000
Cnr. Somerset and New Street
Open 10:30 am - 10:30 pm



Inter-campus

World applauds penguin rescue

Source: Monday Paper on-line

The public has breathed a collective sigh of relief on hearing that Peter the Penguin has reached his home on Robben Island. Although journalists and conservationists have yet to spot the publicity-shy bird, satellite readings show he has definitely arrived.

At the time of going to press, Percy and Pamela were fast closing in on their homes on Dassen Island. However, the huge penguin rescue operation continues - and continues to draw the admiration of the world's conservation community and animal enthusiasts alike.

UCT's Avian Demography Unit has been fully committed to their ongoing penguin ringing operation at SANCCOB's Salt River cleaning centre. The information afforded by the tagged birds is invaluable to scientists and PhD students who examine things such as the survival rate of cleaned penguins and whether or not these birds reproduce.

The now-famous ADU

website has provided the world with a window on remarkable scenes from the largest mass rescue of seabirds ever.

Most "hits" on the ADU website have concentrated on the progress of the three plucky penguins: Peter, Pamela and Percy. But the web publicity has prompted some seabird conservationists to embark on long migrations of their own.

One of the groups that arrived in Cape Town last week includes a foursome of bird ringers from the United States. They are in the city at their own expense and are putting their bird ringing skills to work with the ADU team and SANCCOB.

A knitting circle in Pennsylvania, who call themselves "Senior Puris", has offered to send jumpers for the penguins. The women have already knitted jumpers for Fairy Penguins to prevent them from ingesting oil while preening and plan to ship about 70 of the garments to their African cousins.

Death to the Bugs

Source: Monday Paper on-line

Sleeping sickness has reawakened in central Africa, leaving a trail of death in its wake.

Existing drugs are either no longer available, too expensive, or no longer effective. New drugs are not being developed because of cost versus low demand. For pharmaceutical companies, profits lie in drugs for first world diseases like heart disease, arthritis, allergies and hypertension.

UCT chemist, Dr Kelly Chibale and American biochemist, Professor George Hill, have joined forces to target parasitic illnesses in developing countries, especially those where urgent chemotherapy is needed.

They are studying and targeting a key enzyme present in the bloodstream form of the causative agent for human sleeping sickness and nagana in cattle, as well as those responsible for malaria.

The idea is to find a broad-spectrum drug molecule for treating all of these diseases," said Dr Chibale. This would be highly economical, if and when it became a reality, Chibale said.

"We're also targeting other enzymes in Mycobacterium tuberculosis in the search for new drugs against TB - this project is in collaboration with Glaxo Wellcome."

Other areas of Dr Chibale's research include modulating multi-drug resistance in cancer and reversing chloroquine resistance in malaria.

Sleeping sickness was nearly destroyed 50 years ago but has re-emerged in Africa, particularly in southern Sudan, northern Uganda and the Congo. The major reason cited is war. "When there is war in a region, the health system is the first thing to go," said Prof Hill during a recent visit to UCT.

To treat the latter stages of sleeping sickness in Uganda, health workers are using a controversial, corrosive drug that erodes the inside of the vein into which it is injected.

"It kills 5% to 10% of those treated with it," explained Prof Hill. "But this is the only drug available here to treat advanced cases of the disease."

The Times described the disease as "perhaps the most vivid example of the disconnection between the world's pharmaceutical giants and the fatal or debilitating diseases of the third world's poor".

The illness is spread via the notorious tsetse fly. Initial symptoms are low fever, itchy joints, pain and lethargy. Weeks later the parasite enters the brain and patients begin hallucinating or acting wildly.

The skin becomes so sensitive that even a touch is painful. Only at the end do they become so lethargic that they can't look after themselves. Coma and death follow.

The need for new, more economical, broad-based drugs to treat parasitic diseases such as sleeping sickness is vital. This highlights the importance of the duo's collaborative research.

AIDS essay wins medal

Source: Monday Paper on-line

An LLB student has become the first recipient of a memorial award established last year in the Centre for Contemporary Islam (CCI) for his essay on the effects of AIDS in the Muslim community.

Mr Abdul Kayum Ahmed won the Imam Abdullah Haron Memorial Medal and Award for his essay, The Impact of HIV/AIDS on the Muslim Community in the Western Cape.

Student falls to his death

Source: Die Matie

A 19-year-old student from Elsenburg Agricultural College, Arnold du Toit, died of multiple wounds after he fell out of a tree behind a

popular nightspot. Du Toit is said to have been trying to gain access into the pub, ahead of a large crowd, by climbing over the roof.

P.E.

YOU'LL HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE

the smell

YOU'LL HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE

the people

YOU DON'T HAVE TO DEAL WITH


the cold

SLEEPING BAGS FROM R175

InterVarsity

weekend

BE PREPARED



Adventure Gear & Clothing

Peppergrove Mall

HORROR Scopes

Aquarius (21 Jan - 19 Feb)

This week you will be enraptured by a senior lecturer's decision to wear open toed sandals. Much to your surprise you will find him/her to be in possession of perfectly formed big toes. You do your social-acceptability stats absolutely no good, however, by rushing to the front of the Red Lecture theatre and sucking loudly on the foresaid tootsies.

Pisces (20 Feb - 20 March)

You will accidentally take out your lover's eye with a riding crop. You'll rush them to hospital where you will be shocked and stunned at the number of sexual deviants who experience bad lays. Thus you will embark on a public safety campaign for sexual deviants. You will acquire international fame and notoriety! Larry Flynt calls you personally!

Aries (21 March - 20 Apr)

Your gimp will escape and wreak havoc with the G-town sherry and port circuit. It'll eat their cheese and poo in their spittoons. You will be traced because it'll scream your name at the top of its lungs through its unzipped mouth. Thus behold your imminent social demise. You will be branded a pervert and deviant.

Taurus (21 Apr - 21 May)

Dealing with the embarrassment of having friends who suck senior lecturer's toes leads you to the realization that the only thing you can truly be is yourself. You let it all hang out. Unfortunately you do so in front of a group of giggling schoolgirls. You resist arrest and are eaten by an Alsatian.

Gemini (22 May - 22 June)

Because of a penchant for body piercing, a friend who has embarked on an international campaign for deviant sex safety ropes you into her operation with promises of a jet-set lifestyle. Unfortunately it all comes to nothing when the airport security won't let you through because the metal detector keeps going "bleep".

Cancer (23 June - 22 July)

You dirty little coprophiliac you! This week, after a poorly disciplined gimp leaves little presents in countless spittoons, you find yourself craving induction to the port and sherry circuit because your excrementally obsessed little mind can't let you sleep if there's dung to be had. Did you know that you die quicker of a lack of sleep than you do of starvation.

Leo (24 July - 23 Aug)

You will have to go and identify the body of a friend who was eaten by a police Alsatian. You find the black body-bags a tremendous turn-on. You spend all your money on a new latex get-up and will have to resort to alternative forms of employment to get by. You resist arrest and are eaten by an Alsatian.

Virgo (24 Aug - 23 Sept)

As an LLB student you have to study the recent case of someone suing the airport for unnecessary cavity searches arising out of an incident with an errant metal detector. You find, much to your surprise, that all that talk of heavy machinery turns you on. You lose your heart to a circular saw...literally.

Bong-Bong was once a pretty straight-laced clairvoyant. The fact that he was raised by a band of gypsies in exile didn't really leave him with as open a mind as you'd expect. But over the July vac he found himself exploring the more deviant side of the Cape-Town club scene. There he discovered a demon's realm of leather-clad nymphomaniacs addicted to the most marginalised sins of the flesh. It's fetish city, baby...

Libra (24 Sept - 23 Oct)

Your digsmate dies of sleep deprivation, of course you worry about where the rent's going to come from, but more than that, you find yourself liking the presence of a dead body. You keep the deaths a secret and place the cadaver in the bath where you visit it between lectures. It begins to stink and neighbourhood strays frequent your house.

Scorpio (24 Oct - 23 Nov)

You are gripped by a sudden fear of dogs because of two incidents involving three close friends of yours. You decide that Karma dictates that it would be best to join the SPCA. You discover that your friends were either publicly indecent or latex-clad prostitutes. In order to safe-guard your wavering morality you become a puritanical Calvinist. You cease to have fun of any description whatsoever.

Sagittarius (23 Nov - 21 Dec)

You are the most disgusting human being on the face of the earth. I can't even begin to describe your depravity. Gerbils nogal! Sies!

Capricorn (22 Dec - 20 Jan)

Your friend's house is plagued by a sudden influx of mongrels. Without understanding why you find yourself curiously drawn to their yapping. Having led a particularly repressed childhood, and having never read "everything a boy/girl needs to know", you find yourself part of a strange orgiastic ritual. You wake up in hospital with multiple bite-marks.

Results

RESULTS 6TH JUNE - 10TH JULY 2000

SQUASH

3-7/7/ SASSU NATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL TOURNAMENT AT CAPE TECHNIKON IN CAPE TOWN.

RHODES MEN:

VS	POTCH UNIVERSITY	WON	15-9
VS	CAPE TECHNIKON	LOST	0-20
VS	WITS TECHNIKON	LOST	5-18
VS	PRETORIA TECHNIKON	WON	16-6
VS	MEDUNSA	WON	20-0
VS	FREE STATE UNIVERSITY	WON	20-0
VS	PRETORIA UNIVERSITY	WON	16-9

RHODES LADIES:

VS	UCT	LOST	3-20
VS	PMB	WON	17-3
VS	MEDUNSA	WON	20-0
VS	UPE	LOST	0-20
VS	BORDER TECH	WON	20-0
VS	POTCH UNIVERSITY	LOST	3-19
VS	STELLENBOSCH	LOST	7-14
VS	PRETORIA TECHNIKON	WON	17-5

HOCKEY

3-7/7/ SASSU NATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL TOURNAMENT AT RHODES UNIVERSITY.

RHODES MEN:

VS	UPE	WON	1-0
VS	PRETORIA TECHNIKON	WON	2-0
VS	UCT	LOST	1-2
VS	STELLENBOSCH (SEMI-FINALS)	LOST	1-3
VS	UCT (3RD/4TH PLAYOFF)	WON	2-1

RHODES LADIES:

VS	STELLENBOSCH	LOST	1-8
VS	WITS	LOST	1-8
VS	FREE STATE UNIVERSITY	LOST	3-4
VS	NATAL TECHNIKON	LOST	0-8
VS	PRETORIA TECHNIKON	LOST	1-2

10-14/7/ SA COUNTRY DISTRICTS TOURNAMENT:

1ST	KWAZULU NATAL
2ND	SOUTHERN GAUTENG A
3RD	EASTERN PROVINCE

VOLLEYBALL

17/6/ GOODYEAR TOURNAMENT:

RHODES LADIES

VS	E.L. REBELS	LOST	0-2
VS	E.L. DCSA	WON	2-0
VS	E.L. KNIGHTS	WON	2-1
VS	UITENHAGE	LOST	1-2

1-6/7/ SASSU WINTER GAMES HELD IN DURBAN:

MEN

FINAL STANDINGS:

1ST	GAUTENG
2ND	KWAZULU NATAL
3RD	WESTERN CAPE
4TH	EASTERN CAPE

LADIES

FINAL STANDINGS:

1ST	WESTERN CAPE
2ND	KWAZULU NATAL
3RD	GAUTENG
4TH	NORTH WEST

SOCCER

1-6/7/ SASSU WINTER GAMES HELD IN DURBAN:

MEN

FINAL POSITIONS:

1ST	EASTERN CAPE
2ND	KWAZULU NATAL
3RD	GAUTENG
4TH	FREE STATE

LADIES

FINAL POSITIONS:

1ST	KWAZULU NATAL
2ND	WESTERN PROVINCE
3RD	GAUTENG
4TH	EASTERN CAPE

TABLE TENNIS

1-6/7/ SASSU WINTER GAMES HELD IN DURBAN:

LADIES

FINAL POSITIONS:

1ST	GAUTENG
2ND	EASTERN CAPE
3RD	FREE STATE

RHODES WAS REPRESENTED BY JENNY KALI IN THE EASTERN CAPE LADIES TEAM.

BASKETBALL

1-6/7/ SASSU WINTER GAMES HELD IN DURBAN:

MEN:

FINAL POSITIONS:

1ST	GAUTENG
2ND	KWAZULU NATAL A
3RD	WESTERN PROVINCE
4TH	KWAZULU NATAL B

SURFING

1-6/7/ SASSU NATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL TOURNAMENT HELD AT CAPE ST FRANCIS

1ST	UCT
5TH	RHODES UNIVERSITY



Club Feature:

Chenille, Hackle and Woolly Buggers

By Taralyn Bro

What do the words chenille and hackle have in common? Perhaps the fact that their definitions would include such varying descriptions as 1) any soft-stemmed feather with non-adhering barbules (typically used to refer to hen or rooster chicken feathers); and 2) a yarn-like material for wrapping bodies which is in the form of a pipe cleaner and is a critical component of the Woolly Worm and Woolly Buggers patterns might lead you to the correct assumption that these are terms fundamental to the sport of Flyfishing.

In 1994 several Rhodents fluent in the above vocabulary started the Rhodes University Flyfishing Society (RUFFS). The name has since been changed to Rhodes University Flyfishing Club because members enjoy access to better facilities from the University as a sports club but the enthusiasm that began the movement has not altered. At the moment approximately seventy-five students are registered with a committed core of roughly twenty-five. Fees include the cost for stocking dams, especially Jameson Dam which is 10kms outside of Grahamstown, casting clinics, fly-tying evenings,

transport, as well as the ever-popular Cheese and Wines.

Because Flyfishing is essentially a deeply personal pursuit competitions are not priority. However, there is an Inter-Res competition looming sometime in the third term. Teams of three can enter and prizes are offered in varying categories such as size and species of fish.

This club, probably due to its nature of being one with nature, supports the conservation of vanishing resources of this and other countries and does not advocate the uneducated introduction of exotic or non-endemics to a pristine wetland or water system. They enjoy fresh or salt-water fishing, but tend to concentrate on fresh as they are trout (and bass) enthusiasts.

Flyfishermen in general display a remarkable passion for the art that is fly-fishing. Indeed, Irving was not alone when he commented, "There is something about angling that produced a gentleness of spirit and a certain quietness of mind." It would seem fair to conclude that these guys are as hooked on their sport as the Rainbow Trout on their Woolly Bugger.

BRIEFS

SQUASH - SASSU - The Rhodes men's team won the B section, beating their Pretoria counterparts in the final and thus qualifying to enter the A Section next year.

HOCKEY - SASSU - The Rhodes Men's side beat UCT in the playoff for 3rd and 4th position, finishing 3rd overall. Stellenbosch won both the men's and the ladies trophies. The Rhodes ladies team ended off 8th out of 8 institutions.

SOCCER - SASSU Winter Games - The Eastern Cape mens side were the eventual winners due to Kwazulu Natal being disqualified as they played 2 non student players in their team. Gareth 'the wall' Cowden played a major role in helping the Eastern Cape team to victo-

ry due to his very impressive performance as goal keeper.

RUGBY - World Cup winning coach Rod Macqueen plans to quit at the end of 2001 to allow the new Wallaby coach to have enough time to prepare a team for the defence of Australia's world crown in 2003.

RUGBY - De Wet Barry and Australian flanker David Wilson could be in hot water after being cited by David Grey, the independent citing commissioner, for behaviour in the Saturday's Tri-Nations test match. South Africa lost the match 26-6.

CRICKET - India, the results of the nationwide raids against cricketers, bookies and officials of the game are soon to be unveiled in Parliament.

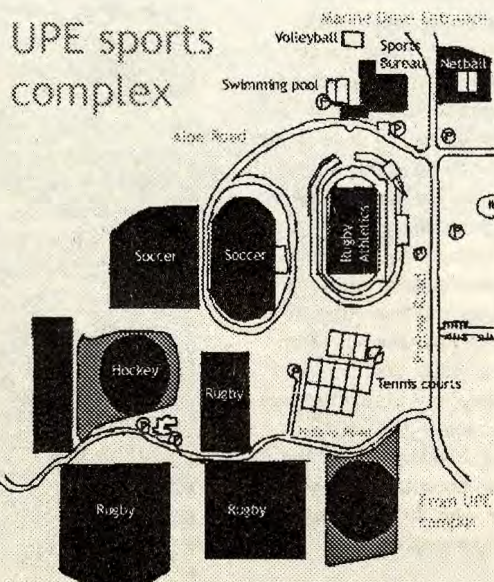
Tri-Varsity 2000

By Mel Ridgway

Yes, its that time of the year again. It's third term and its Triversity, the highlight of the year for Rhodes sportspersons and drinkers alike. This year it is the turn of the University of Port Elizabeth to host the event.

The "Friendly City" will be welcoming Rhodents with open arms on the 4th and 5th of August. However the festivities kick off with the Triversity ball on Wednesday the 2nd, where the prestigious sports personality of the year prize will be awarded.

With the events being held on enemy turf, Rhodes sportspersons and women are going to need plenty of support defending titles and trying to secure new ones. In recent years, UPE and Rhodes have been joined by Fort Hare University. Unfortunately UFH have been unable to participate this year but Vista University in



PE is sending a couple of teams to participate, so it will be interesting to see how they do.

Opposite is a map to help you find your way to all the different sports events. Now getting lost is no longer an option. Be there or be...

The last time the Rhodes 1st XV won in fact was back in 1993 when they defeated UPE 20-15. Here is a brief history of the clashes between the two sides.

Year	Winner	Venue:
1993	RU 20-15	RU
1994	UPE 20-18	UPE
1995	UPE 29-15	RU
1996	UPE 41-14	UPE
1997	UPE 12-5	RU
1998	UPE 37-10	UPE
1999	UPE 19-6	RU
2000	(RU ?)	UPE

AIDS

AWARENESS WEEK 2000

The purpose of the campaign is to raise awareness and possible action to fight against the spread of AIDS.

Because of the rate at which it is spreading, very few of us will be untouched by AIDS. We hope to encourage appropriate responses to those who are HIV positive and protect them from prejudice, isolation and other forms of discrimination.

'Prejudice thrives on fear and ignorance'. The most effective way to reduce it, is for students to become informed and to gain an understanding of the medical facts about HIV/AIDS is everyone's problem. The tragedy is that many die from it, when it can be prevented. The campaign will put across these four campaigns:

- Abstain
- Be faithful
- Condomise
- Die

It's your choice!

Everybody has a right to live the way they want to. Nonetheless, whatever you do, especially engaging in sex, play it safe! As President Thabo Mbeki said, 'Nothing can prevent infection except our own behaviour'. We hope that Rhodents will be careful in their sexual affairs.

The construction of an AIDS mural is also still underway. Students who want to put their mark on it, thus pledging their support against HIV/AIDS, can sign up with their SRC reps. There is no escaping the reality that HIV/AIDS has hit our community in a big way. It is up to us to prevent this epidemic from taking away our friends, colleagues and family members.

We hope that students will support the various activities organised by the societies.

Remember that HIV testing and counselling can be obtained from the san and student adviser.

The SRC hopes that students will be responsible for their own actions - 'you have only one life to live, so play it safe!'

Mpumi Zungu
'Gender officer'

Programme of events

Daily events

Street Debates : 11:00 - 11:30 Rhodes Library Steps

Rhodes Debating will be running a series of free-form debates on the library steps. These will take the form of speaker-led topics with public participation. The debates are structured to be as controversial as possible in order to inspire the widest degree of consciousness and awareness of the issues surrounding HIV/AIDS.

The "Face of AIDS" spokesperson

At the time of going to print, the spokespersons were yet to be finalised.

The concept behind the "Face of AIDS" is to present students with a young person who is living with HIV and willing to stand as an example of how it is possible to still lead an effective lifestyle in spite of it. The idea is to force people to think beyond cold statistics when conceptualising HIV sufferers and to get the student body to accept that this is a disease that strikes at everyday people - not at some distant and dissassociated group. The "Face of AIDS" spokesperson will be interrupting lectures, visiting residences and mingling with the campus population, serving to remind students of both the presence of AIDS and the human capacity to deal with it.

The AIDS Wall - Afternoons (weather permitting)

All students are invited to contribute to the AIDS awareness wall. This is an outline mural which volunteers will help paint to full display quality. The wall will remain after AIDS awareness week as a permanent feature on Rhodes campus. The wall is intended as a graphic monument to the constant presence and threat of AIDS, and the emphasis on student participation guarantees it will emanate from the very group it aims to represent. The wall to be used is located in the Rhodes Library parking lot and the painting of the mural will be a daily collaborative effort.

Scheduled Events - Wed 2 Aug onwards

Spring Day: Wed 2 Aug - Kaif Lawns - 12:30 onwards

Drinks and food are provided as the campus Rotaract society holds a social gathering in the name of furthering discussion around AIDS. The atmosphere is casual and upbeat, with DJ's laid on. AIDS ribbons will be sold with the proceeds going to an AIDS focussed charity. The aim of the gathering is to promote AIDS awareness in a less oppressive atmosphere and allow students a more freeform outlet for contemplating their notions of the disease.

AIDS commemoration march: Wed 2 Aug - Assemble at Kaif Lawns 17:30

Marchers will gather in unity with AIDS sufferers and in recognition of AIDS as a social issue. The march will be led by the Hindu Student Society and will include representatives from the various campus religious organisations. The march will lead to the cathedral where a multi-denominational AIDS commemoration service will be held. The march will also honour the memory of the millions of victims AIDS has claimed in the last 2 decades.

Keynote Event

AIDS and the South African Government - Panel Discussion: Thursday 3 August - 4 Pm Eden grove Red Lecture Theatre (see overleaf for details)

Rhodes Debating has gathered a panel of three leading AIDS researchers/activists who will put the government AIDS policy into the critical spotlight. The debate will be run in the format of a forum discussion, but will include opening statements by each of the speakers and a 15 minute audience question session. This is scheduled as the main event of AIDS awareness week and the featured speakers are all highly respected voices in the debate over HIV/AIDS at a national level.



Dr Costa Gazi

My name is Costa Gazi. My parents were Greek and I was born in Krugersdorp. I grew up in a tearoom they ran and then went to Wits to study medicine.

I eventually qualified in 1962 but not before I became conscious of the enormous inequalities imposed by the apartheid system. The humiliations facing the black students and patients were painful to me and I began to act against the established order. Sharpeville 21 March, 1960, was the turning point for me and many others because it became clear that only force would dislodge the apartheid system and I joined the illegal Communist Party of South Africa.

I was soon in trouble and got dismissed from two hospitals for 'political' reasons. In July, 1964, I was jailed and spent the next two years in jail, followed by a 5-year banning order. I left on an exit permit and spent 22 years in exile in Britain. During that time I became a public health specialist and concentrated on communicable diseases and environmental health.

I returned in 1993 to stand in the elections and then to teach community health at UNITRA's Medical School. I was transferred to East London in 1996 to become the Head of the Public Health Department at Cecilia Makiwane Hospital.

By then HIV/AIDS was rearing its ugly head and by 1997 I was being critical of the government for not providing AZT to HIV positive pregnant mothers to protect their babies. Reports were plentiful that showed a very significant reduction in the number of babies protected - anything up to 80% with certain drug regimes.

Since then, the Government has used every excuse in the book to deny that there was a serious epidemic and to keep all antiretroviral drugs - especially AZT and nevirapine - out of the public health service. I came to realise that the essential reason was to serve the macro-economic policy of the government and to stealthily privatise the public health services.

That campaign will continue until the government relents its obfuscation and delay, admits that it was wrong to deny effective treatments to serve the 80% of people who rely on the public health sector and offers the affordable treatments that our rich country can easily provide.



RHODES UNIVERSITY DEBATING SOCIETY

**HIV/AIDS and the South
African Government
Panel Discussion**

Thursday 3 August

4 pm

**Eden Grove Red Lecture
theatre**

Kevin Kelly

Kevin Kelly has been involved in the AIDS field for over 10 years, since attending the Maputo Conference in 1990, which was a meeting with the ANC in exile, about health development in South Africa. AIDS was a key theme at this conference. Following this conference he initiated the Grahamstown AIDS Forum, launched in 1990 under the banner of the National Primary Progressive Health Care Network AIDS Programme. He has been involved as a counsellor, community worker and researcher in the field since then. Latterly he has been working as a research consultant for the Department of Health "Beyond Awareness" Campaign. In this capacity he has done research on media campaigns conducted by Beyond Awareness and on the Youth Leadership Programme which Beyond Awareness has initiated in tertiary institutions to mobilise against AIDS. He has recently completed a study of youth response to AIDS in six sites spread across South Africa, the results of which were presented at the recent World AIDS Conference in Durban. Kevin is involved in a number of ongoing AIDS research projects and is a founder member of a new national NGO called CADRE (Centre for Aids Development, Research and Evaluation), a branch of which will open in Grahamstown in January 2001, under the auspices of the Institute for Social and Economic Research.

Dr Robert Shell

Dr Robert Shell is the director of the Population Research Unit and senior lecturer in the department of History at Rhodes University's East London Campus. He has been heavily involved in the study of the demographic impact of HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa. He has presented papers on HIV/AIDS to the United States House Select Committee on International Relations and the Committee on African affairs, as well as addresses at conferences in South Africa.

Among other papers, Dr Shell has made a presentation to the Demographic Association of South Africa (DEMSA) annual conference on the transmission vectors of HIV/AIDS in Region A of the Eastern Cape. Dr Shell highlighted the "Trojan Horse" element at military bases in Sub-Saharan Africa at the South African military academy in 1999. He also presented papers and conducted workshops on the epidemic at the prestigious American universities of Princeton and Vermont.