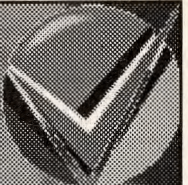


# Activate

Independent Student Newspaper  
Edition 3 – 26 March 2003

PROUDLY  
SOUTH AFRICAN



pic Toni Ackermann

## UPB responds

by staff reporter

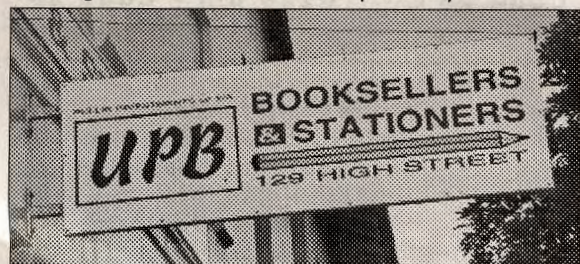
Following the publication of the last edition of *Activate* (12 March 2003), UPB faxed a letter to the *Activate* office addressed to the editor and the three writers of the respective articles which were entitled 'Ripped off', 'Reading between the Lines' and 'Students may have an alternative to UPB soon'.

The letter, sent from a reputable law firm in Grahamstown, was also faxed to Vice Chancellor Dr David Woods. The letter stated that UPB viewed the above-mentioned articles as defamatory and would take action against *Activate*, the editor, and the journalists who wrote them.

The letter was received at 14:47 on 13 March 2003. *Activate* was given until close of business that day to carry out UPB's requests. The requirement was to remove all copies of the edition from all points of distribution. *Activate* was also asked to issue an apology in the next edition withdrawing all 'defamatory statements' made against UPB.

*Activate* was later advised by representatives at the Rhodes University Legal Aid Clinic that UPB would only meet for discussions once their requests had been carried out. *Activate* refused to comply, yet still requested a meeting with UPB to see whether anything printed in the previous edition warranted an apology.

At the time of going to print (Sunday 23 March 2003), *Activate* had not yet met with UPB. The paper hopes to resolve the matter soon. If the issue is not resolved, UPB said in the letter, it would move for an urgent interdict in the High Court, Eastern Cape Division and an Order for Costs against *Activate* and its editor personally. ■



Dear Editor

Allow me to respond to the two articles published in your previous edition of *Activate*.

As publishers, we are acutely aware of the cost of books and the influence this has on the student's ability to buy them. When books become too expensive, the students, the booksellers and the publishers suffer. It is therefore in everyone's interests to keep the prices as low as possible.

Pearson, the world's leading educational publisher, owns respected imprints such as Prentice Hall, Longman, Addison Wesley, Allyn & Bacon and *Financial Times*, among many others.

Pearson determines the purchasing price, not the selling price. A price is determined in US\$ and the booksellers import it, add a mark-up and sell it at a price which they consider competitive. We do not interfere with market forces, and we are aware that booksellers charge a variety of prices for the same book. The selling price is influenced by many factors, such as the method of importation (which affects freight costs) and the speed at

which the book is required. Because of their relative weight, books are best imported by ship, but this takes up to two months. Air-freight adds a significant premium on to the selling price.

I would offer the following advice to students and academics. Inform your bookseller as early as possible of your choice of prescribed text. This will allow ample time to source the books and import them at reasonable rates. Secondly, students should shop around for the best deal. There are many booksellers who are eager to compete for your business.

We strictly maintain a non-partisan stance as publishers and do not recommend one bookseller over another. I could add that UPB does not, in fact, have a monopoly in Grahamstown because any Internet connection enables students to buy books from any of the three prominent South African e-tailers who specialise in tertiary books at special local prices. Again, it is a matter of comparing price, service and speed.

Regards, Steven Naudé (Pearson Books)  
\*letter edited for space

### NEWS

CJ's to be shutdown soon?

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Hip-hop comes back to Africa.

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### JUST SAY KNOW

Maximum Sentence is out.

pg 7

### PICTURES

Perez play their last gig in G-town.

pg 10



The war in Iraq has started. Most people are not surprised; they saw it coming. It was just a question of when and how. It is the same old story – a superpower using all the means it has at its disposal to get what it wants. Never mind the anti-war protests around the world. What the rest of the world thinks (i.e. the little people) is inconsequential.

The world is made up of big fish and little fish. The little fish do what the big fish say and God help them if they don't. Sometimes the little fish put up a fight, but they are almost always bulldozed into submission, as is the case with Activate and UPB.

What was Activate supposed to say? Should we have written that students love forking out hundreds of Rands to buy textbooks? The truth is, most students find prices of books in town expensive. How many students choose to photocopy specific chapters or entire books rather than buy a brand new one?

Now we have been 'asked' to apologise. We are not sure exactly what we should be apologising for, especially since UPB will only meet with us once we have retrieved every single copy of the previous edition.

We have gone to print as usual and have come out with another issue. Perhaps we could get fried alive for doing this (page 1), but like it or not, we have a paper to put out.

Put yourselves in our shoes for a minute. If someone ordered you to remove every copy of the last edition from all points of distribution, how would you respond? How are we supposed to retrieve copies that people already have? Even if we could, the stories, (if they are indeed defamatory) have been read inside out and upside down.

An Activate staff member said these fitting words, "For God's sake, we're not fucking toddlers running around the office with crayons!" – and he's right. Believe it or not, we are adults and do not like being bullied into submission.

UPB wants an apology. Maybe they deserve one. Clearly they know something we don't. Maybe they are not a monopoly in Grahamstown after all. (If anyone knows of another unused textbook store in town, please let us know).

Who are we to say what price is right? How can degreeless children 'running around the office with crayons' know anything about prices. Perhaps we should have printed 'UPB allegedly takes advantage of the fact that they are allegedly the only unused textbook sellers in Grahamstown and so allegedly charge exorbitant prices.'

Some people believe we do not have a chance in hell of getting out of this one and that UPB will find anything to get us on.

It seems to be a trend. Developers want to build a Pick 'n Pay where the bowling club is (page 3). Who will win, we ask ourselves? What about the hassle CJs is going through (page 2)? Certain individuals (the big fish) want to close down a popular student hang out (the little fish). The SRC is getting grief for its bus.

We do not have to tune into CNN to see big and small fish battle it out – we have our own issues at home to sort out. Good luck to all of you.

Contact Haru: g01m0259@campus.ru.ac.za



**Editorial 05**  
Haru Mutasa - Editor

## CJ's to shutdown? Another false alarm

by Olerato Moreosele

CJ's management, Black Gold, is baffled by reports of an unidentified man who claimed that city officials are closing the club down due to continuous fights within, as well as segregation.

The man was spotted questioning students at the popular club three weekends ago. "He asked me whether any white students ever come to CJ's," says BA student Lusanda Bashe. "I told him that there are usually a few, but there weren't any at that particular moment." The man then said, "There's no racial integration, and the club will have to be closed." The man, who claimed to work for the city council, also said that violence at the club was problematic.

"Nobody has ever been denied access to CJ's on the pretext that they are white," said Black Gold, "And the fights that take place are outside the club, there is nothing we can do because it's out of our jurisdiction."

Mynhardt van Dyk, owner of CJ's and The Rat and Parrot, was appalled at the segregation allegations, "Where else will my customers entertain themselves?" he asked.

Head of the Environmental Health Department Johan Esterhuizen dismissed all reports of any of the businesses in New Street closing down, "I'm quite happy with what goes on there." Esterhuizen said that he personally went to New Street on a Friday night following complaints from a resident. "The music from the clubs isn't loud when you're outside. The disruptions arise from students who are rowdy in the streets, and these are handled by the police who are constantly patrolling that area."

Van Dyk said that Mike Dacombe, resident of the B&B between CJ's and The Rat, instigated a collective residential complaint in the form of a lawyer's letter. Van Dyk and Esterhuizen met with police on 17 March to discuss this letter. "I am in the process of writing a letter to the lawyer so



we can arrange a meeting between him, the council and the town planning scheme. The club owners and a representative of the students will also be present so we can reach a consensus, because students must realise that residents need to sleep," said Esterhuizen.

To determine whether the businesses should be shutdown, the mayor will have to consider whether a complaint from 10 people is worth destroying businesses that are a good source of employment, according to Esterhuizen.

Regarding sympathising with the residents, van Dyk said, "I personally introduced myself to the few residents here, hoping that should any problems arise, we could work together towards a solution. They arranged a meeting and failed to let me know." ■

## Letters

Dear Editor,

Regarding the article entitled 'Pass cards for blacks again?' published in the 12 March 2003 edition of your newspaper; I have just one concern. Why is it that only black people are required to carry these 'passes' to Hurlingham Manor?

Whilst I fully support residents' of a community taking the initiative to secure their suburb, why is it that we have to view every social issue in this country along racial lines.

My suggestion: If the pass into Hurlingham is deemed necessary to prevent crime, for God's sake, issue white people with these cards too.

Thanks for the interesting reading.  
Steve Giles (3rd year BComm)

The Editor, Lesley Odendal and David Glazier,

Thank you for your articles on UPB. It's about time someone started pointing fingers at them about their exorbitant prices. Perhaps you could do a similar article on Fables bookshop while you're at it. I think you might find an interesting correlation between the two...

Ken (3rd year BSc)

Dear Haru

I was the editor of Rhodoo in 1977, when the country was in turmoil and we, as Rhodes students, along with millions of other South Africans, were fighting a repressive regime.

The paper was repeatedly banned by the university authorities as well as the Government, not just for political reasons but also because it challenged established conventions around 'acceptable' content, and published so-called provocative content which supposedly threatened the status quo.


I remember being called into the Vice-Chancellor's office on several occasions where I was requested, in the most diplomatic way, to adopt a less controversial editorial position. Of course, this never happened.

I still have most of my Rhodoo's from that time. Other students involved with Rhodoo were Gordon Cramb, now on the *Financial Times* in London, Brett Hilton-Barber, now a noted author, Bonny Schoonakker, now on the *Sunday Times*, Caroline Southey, now editor of the *Financial Mail*, Peter Bruce, now editor of *Business Day*, Phina Fenster, now editor of *Marie Claire*, and many more.

Your paper is clean, fresh and alive. I like it. It really gave me a charge.

Best wishes for Activate. Journalism in South Africa needs new energy, new talent and old-fashioned irreverence.

Martin Feinstein (Chief Executive, Proudly South African)

 **YOUR ASSISTANCE STILL NEEDED:** Help those less fortunate than you. Donate old clothes, non-perishable foods, blankets and/or cash. Leave your donations at the SRC Office.

**-SPECIAL-**


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 **Activate** is the Independent Student Newspaper of Rhodes University, Grahamstown. The paper is published every two weeks during term time.

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**It's about being up-to-date.**

**Interactivate**



# Rhodes joins Proudly South African

by Haru Mutasa

**R**hodes has just joined the Proudly South African campaign and is one of the first universities in the country to do so.

Martin Feinstein, Chief Executive of Proudly South African, said, "Becoming a member of Proudly South African is more than just a gesture of national pride for Rhodes. By building a 'buy South African' commitment and a preference for local companies into their procurement policy, Rhodes can become an agent of change – protecting South African jobs and creating employment."

Proudly South African is a campaign to promote South African companies, products and

services which help create jobs and economic growth in the country.

"Universities procure millions of Rands in goods and services every year, and they can use this buying power to stimulate the local economy," said Feinstein, "For every R1-million in goods that are produced locally and not imported, between eight and 22 permanent jobs are created."

Companies who meet the standards set by Proudly South African can use the logo to identify themselves, their products and services.

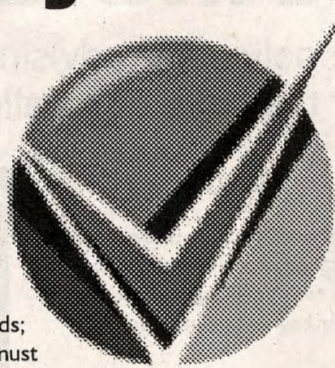
The criteria which must be met before the logo can be used are as follows: the company's products or services must incur at least 50% of its production costs including labour; the com-

pany and its products or services must meet high quality standards;

the company must be committed to fair labour and employment practices and finally the company must be committed to sound environmental standards.

"As an alumnus of Rhodes myself," said Feinstein, "I congratulate the University on its association with Proudly South African."

The Chairman of the Proudly South African campaign is well-known broadcaster, journalist and media personality Tim Modise. ■



## Students taking five police officers to court

by staff reporter

TWO students are planning to take five police officers to court after they were allegedly forced to spend the night in jail.

"They said they were taking us home when we got into the police car," said second year BA student Jesse Kew, "I would never have got into the van if I knew they were taking me to a jail cell to detain me."

Kew (20) and her boyfriend Fred Every (19) were arrested for being drunk on High Street on 12 March.

"They had no proof we were drunk. I wasn't drunk at all," said Every, a second year Fine Art student, "The police automatically assumed we were drunk. They put me in a cell with a strange man who kept talking to himself. He might have been drunk – I don't know. I was actually worried he would do something to me."

Kew was put in a separate cell and said they spent about four hours behind bars.

Every said, "The cell was small and dingy and orange. There was a big patch of water on the floor. We were allowed to take two thin blankets and a mattress. I did not dare fall asleep. How could I with a mad man with me?"

They were finally released at 05:00 the next day and were allegedly told by the police to make their own way to their digs.

"They said they arrested me for my own safety," said an angry Kew, "then why did they release us at 05:00 and tell us to walk home alone? The station is in the dodgy part of town, and it was still dark."

The two said they have been to legal aid to see if it is worth taking the matter further. Kew's family lawyer has also been contacted.

Grahamstown SAPS spokesperson Captain Nomazwi Nkombisa said the students' complaints had been taken down, and a docket had been opened up for investigation by detectives. ■

## Municipality tries to appropriate land for private shopping centre

by Mike Loewe (courtesy ECN)

THE 96-year-old Grahamstown Bowling Club is gearing itself to fend off a land expropriation bid by the Makana Municipality. The council intends to sell the land to national retail giant Pick 'n Pay and their developer, PCN Projects.

The club's attorney, Chris Stone of Dold and Stone said that, "While section 25 (2) of the SA Constitution only allows for property to be expropriated for a public purpose or in the public interest, the erection of a shopping centre on the club's land is for the benefit of PCN Projects, or Pick 'n Pay and any other business. This is definitely not for a public purpose, nor in the public interest."

PCN Project's CEO Solly Preller said that they had offered to build the club a "brand new" facility. "I love history but I am a realist. Things move on, things change."

Professor Dominic Thorburn, Chairman of the Grahamstown Residents Association, said they were deeply worried about the loss of the last remaining "greenbelt" area in the city.

A public notice of the council's intention will be published in the press. ■

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Inter@ctivate

**M**y predecessor Bite Me Spice's trademark male bashing has been kept out of the limelight until now.

Unfortunately, this sleeping bitch of a topic refuses to lie and demands attention once more. But this time 'round, a spot of female bashing is also called for.

Other than 'Where leaders lurk' and 'In vino veritas', one of RU's key marketing pitches is its reputation as 'a safe place to send your daughter.' While we all know otherwise, it is still not entirely clear why of all the residences in Kimberley Hall, Walker and Thomas Pringle (the only two female residences on the hill) will receive their Internet connection last. Not surprisingly, Goldfields was the first residence to be connected, followed by De Beers. As for Cullen Bowles (an electrician's worst nightmare), may the forces help the poor sods given the task of laying their cables.

Nevertheless, why are the two female residences being made to wait for their Internet connection when their safety is potentially in danger?

Walking up the hill from the Jac Labs at 02:00 can be a little frightening for even the toughest, butchest kung-fu-fighter of a woman.

Even I was once escorted up the hill by a CPU guard who reeked of booze and for some reason couldn't help himself from using the 'f-word' twice in each sentence. I half-expected him to answer: "Hill – which hill?" when I asked him. Admittedly, this is the exception to the rule, but one cannot help but feel like a spare wheel, especially after requesting an escort home for the 33rd consecutive night.

The path running up the hill past Walker and Pringle is overgrown and under paved, has less lighting than a cult gathering and, quite frankly, should be identified as one of the top 10 4x4 destinations in the southern hemisphere. Considering this, it is unsurprising that a female sub-warden from the hill is disgruntled about the R60 000 fountain currently being constructed outside the Nelson Mandela Dining Hall.

Although not wanting to cry 'wolf' at every corner, perhaps it's because there are less women in positions of power that these sorts of nuances are not picked up. If female residences had received their ResNet first, a safety hazard could have been eliminated.

But it's at this point where a spot of female bashing is appropriate. Rhodes University has had three consecutive male SRC presidents. OK, women are equally guilty as they also vote for men. Do they feel more secure with a male SRC president because he is less prone to emotional outbursts and premenstrual tension? Men have larger muscles and appear to be a safer bet – in some prehistoric, Neanderthal way.

It all becomes clear as mud when one hears somebody whispering: "By the way, luv, did you see the pecs on the SRC president?" That's one small sentence for woman, one gigantic leap backwards for womankind.

This is not really about male or female bashing. It's a simple wake-up call.

Says Bella Abzug, "We have done almost everything in pairs since Noah, except govern. And the world has suffered for it."



**Anti-Apathetica**  
Jane Cruywagen



# Don't become another statistic

With muggings on the rise, the police are advising that everyone be more cautious when they go out. Thieves can turn violent; all for the sake of a cellphone and an empty wallet.

by Amy Maas

It is late on a Saturday night and you are walking home alone. The streets are empty and dead quiet. Suddenly, someone jumps out from the shadows, shoves a knife in your direction and threatens to kill you unless you hand over your bag, cellphone, wallet or anything else of value. Terrified, you thrust out your bag and belongings. In a second, the thief is gone, and you are left alone.

Some people may decide that their cellphones are too precious to give up or that the last R10 they have (just enough to buy two glasses of wine at the Rat) is more important than their life, but the seriousness of being mugged cannot be overlooked. When you go out for a good night, you do not expect to be mugged. However, muggings are becoming a devastating reality for many students in Grahamstown, and as the crime rates increase on campus, it seems that female students are becoming more likely targets.

At around 18:30 on 5 March, Thandi\*, a second year student, was walking past Victoria Girls High School with a group of friends when a boy emerged from the gates. Thandi said that he appeared to be very young, only about 14 years old. Her friends ran away but amid the confusion, she stayed behind. The boy produced a knife and threatened Thandi, who in turn handed over her handbag. "I was scared when I saw him taking out the knife," she said. The thief managed to run away with her handbag, which held her wallet and cellphone among other things. Thandi was lucky enough not to be injured but was left in a state of shock. "I could have done something to hurt him, but I was too scared; my life is more important," she said.

Thandi is one of the few students who have reported the muggings to the police. Police statistics show that in the last week, nine muggings have taken place, seven of them targeting students. A second year BA student, who declined to be named, said that on 14 March she was approached while walking home with friends. "A group of raggedly dressed men approached us and told us to give them our stuff, but I screamed and my guy friend chased them off. It was near Victoria Girls High School," she said, "so I think there may be a syndicate or something going on."

Grahamstown Police Superintendent Kevin Seymour said that while students are not the only people being subjected to this type of crime, they are easier targets. "The students make themselves vulnerable when under the influence of alcohol and when walking alone at night," Seymour said. He suggests that students stay together and walk in groups of three or more. He also said that it is not possible for the police to distinguish which areas are more prone to muggings because when a crime is reported and patrolling is stepped up in that area, the thieves simply move on to a new location.

The police claim that thieves operate in groups of three or more and that a mugging could be disastrous if the victim is alone. Seymour advises that if you happen to find yourself in this situation, you should not resist, as lives are far more important than material belongings. He goes on to say that if you are attacked or robbed, you should try to describe the assailant(s), as this could help the police catch them. "We are stepping up on our patrols to ensure safety, but people in the community, including students, should be aware of their surroundings and think before they go out. They should take their own precautions and measures," he said.

David Charteris, head of the Rhodes University Campus Protection Unit (CPU), said that they [CPU] are not going to increase their patrols, because the muggings have all taken place off campus. "I am having a meeting tomorrow with the police to discuss these muggings and what the police are going to do about it," he said. Charteris said that although CPU is prepared to provide escorts for students, they would only do so on campus. As far as 'green routes' or safety routes are concerned, Charteris said there are two already: Prince Alfred Street and Drostdy Arch. However, students that live in Alan Webb Hall are left without safety routes, because they walk in a completely different direction.

The SRC, however, has instituted a plan of action that will hopefully cut down the likelihood of these muggings and put students' minds at ease. Aside from putting up posters all over campus, urging students to take care and be aware of what is going on, the SRC has also set into action what they call the 'Oppie Bus'. The 'Oppie Bus' takes you right to your front door, keeping you safely off the streets. It leaves daily at 20:30 and 22:30 from the front of the library and costs only R5 – a small price to pay for one's safety and peace of mind.

Although the police are hoping to come up with ways to keep the students and citizens of Grahamstown safe, they advise everyone to be more cautious wherever they go and at whatever time – muggings happen in daylight as well. To avoid being a victim and becoming another statistic, knock that Castle draught off the top of your priorities list and put caution and safety there instead. ■

\*Not her real name.

**"I could have done something to hurt him, but I was too scared; my life is more important."**

**– Thandi\* BA II**



PROBLEM:

## Grahamstown police to tighten security

by Caroline Robertson

AN intervention team has been established to reduce crime within the entire Grahamstown area. Chosen members from 26 police stations all over the Eastern Cape have formed this team.

Capt. Nkombisa of the Grahamstown police station says that team members will be arriving in Grahamstown soon but could not say when (as this information is confidential). The intervention team focuses on Eastern Cape towns most affected by an escalation in crime.

Capt. Nkombisa says that the team will terminate their task once crime has been eradicated. "We will stop when the crime stops," she says.

Nkombisa also stresses that if they are to execute their task effectively, the public must be willing to report crime to the police and turn over information on suspected members of the community. ■

## Talking Heads 04

by Chris Czipionka  
pics Chris Czipionka

Plans are afoot to build a Pick 'n Pay in Grahamstown. However, there are currently problems with securing a suitable site. Activate surveyed students to ask whether they would want to shop at a Grahamstown Pick 'n Pay.



"We'll have more variety at Pick 'n Pay."

(Veronica, 1st year BSS)



"No, not necessarily, I think that Spar is well engrained in Grahamstown and Checkers is an alternative for students."

(Lara, 3rd year BComm)





# UNCOVERED: The State of The Union



pics: Andrew Elliot

by Mike Smurthwaite

**T**he question, really, is where to begin. This once impressive piece of architecture is now a decaying, dysfunctional mass of mortar located on our picturesque campus. Once the focal point of student activity in the not-so-distant past, only the brave dare to venture through its doors in 2003. The building has little to offer students, and if it were not for the fact that three key student organizations are located within this building (namely the RMR studios, SRC and Activate), there would be no student traffic at all.

To enter this building is to enter a bio-hazard. From the walls to the toilets, the grime oozes relentlessly through the cracks. When last was this building cleaned? Renovated? Noticed? Will it only get looked at when the dirt is visible from Admin or the odour so bad that the authorities come to investigate? Since we are looking at this from a hygiene (and general sanitary) point of view, let us start with the most basic of services: sanitation. An overpowering stench of urine wafts throughout the building, becoming stronger with every step one takes towards the toilets. Should you be strong enough to reach the door, let alone make it to the urinal without spilling your last meal onto the already heavily stained floor, you have indeed been blessed with supernatural powers.

On closer inspection of these superb ablution facilities, it comes to one's attention that the remnants of many a user over the years has ended up coating the floor, walls, basins and toilets – only to be ground further into these surfaces as time goes by. If, after all this, you are still brave enough to utilise these facilities, you may be hard pressed to find a number of key items essential for completion of your relief. The toilet seat, if it is still there, is hidden beneath a layer of some unidentifiable substance. Perhaps you will even be fortunate enough to catch a glimpse of the amazing urinating light socket! If you ever decide to brave this hostile and wholly un-hygienic environment, I strongly recommend that you invest in some form of protective clothing.

With sanitation out of the way and given that you are still healthy, you now look to enjoy a little of your free time in the structure with the name "Student Union Building" proudly emblazoned above its entrance. Try as you might, however, I think you will find that there is little on offer. From the Kaif, with a couple of antique

tables, video games and unreliable business hours, to 'The Union' and its dance floor packed with invisible students, the amount of action will keep you going all night – that is, if the building was actually in operation after midnight.

Are we forever stuck in the dark ages – a colonial time warp where students' needs are neglected, and we sleep before midnight? The students are crying out for a central place where they can gather, socialise and generally do what students do. In comparison to other universities, where millions have been spent on upgrading their student union buildings (Wits, for example), it must be said that Rhodes has not moved forward, in fact we have taken a step backwards. We pride ourselves on the quality of the instruction we receive, but what about the rest of our education? In order to enter the workplace as functional individuals we need to have a well-rounded education that prepares us adequately. The Student Union Building must be revived and the space within better managed. Let's bring life back to this campus, let's create a viable space for the students and let's hope that it gets done before the last of us graduate. ■

**Are we forever stuck in the dark ages – a colonial time warp where students' needs are neglected and we sleep before midnight?**

List of complaints left at the SRC offices:

- **Gentlemen's toilets upstairs:**  
The floor is stained, dirty, unhygienic and needs replacing. The urinal is often blocked and dirty. Not only is it full of rust, urine content leaks out through the light socket onto the back stairs of the building. The toilet seat and bowl are stained and water continuously leaks onto floor. The lights have not worked for the past two years.
- **Gentlemen's toilets downstairs:**  
The toilet seats are damaged and there is never any toilet paper. No lights in over three years. The condom distribution machine is dysfunctional.
- **Women's toilets downstairs to the right of entrance:**  
The toilets smell and are dirty. The seats are damaged; there is no toilet paper and often no running water. The floor is dirty and unhygienic.
- **SRC, RMR, & Activate:**  
All these organisations' offices are located on one floor while an entire upper floor is left open and unused. A suggestion would be to move the SRC upstairs and open up the rest of the floor to create more space.
- **Other:**  
Broken windows, lack of adequate lighting, broken floor boards, deteriorating notice boards, wires hang loose all over the building. The Kaif has several dodgy electricity connections, fire exits in resource centre last year were not usable, Resource Center is dirty, badly ventilated and essentially under-utilised space. ■



"Yay, yay, that's my response. We need a Pick 'n Pay."

(Nkosi, 3rd year Bjour)

“ 3



"Yes, students do need a Pick 'n Pay, because it is more cost effective."

(Konrad, 2nd year BSc)

“ 4



"Yes they should, because Pick 'n Pay has more variety (and better prices)."

(Bhaskar, 2nd year BA)

“ 5



# Taking hip-hop to Africa

by Rob Boffard



READY: (from top to bottom) Hip hop trio, Godessa; Cape-based MoodPhase5ive; and detail of graffiti in Johannesburg (below).

pics courtesy AfricanDope Records and [www.hiphop.co.za](http://www.hiphop.co.za)

Confronted with rap music and its images on MTV, one could be forgiven for thinking that rap and hip-hop artists are nothing but Tupac-imitators interested only in three things: money, scantily-clad women and smokin' blunts. Unfortunately, this has led to immense negativity directed at one of the biggest industries in music, with activists such as Bill O'Reilly describing hip-hop as the "downfall of America's youth".

However, for every Ja Rule-type of 'next-big-thing' rapper you hear on RMR, there are thousands you don't hear. For the most part, the lyrics of these MCs (let's get rid of the rapper stereotype right now) are intelligent, well-written and introspective, providing a big contrast from the jewellery-flashing, booty-loving rappers you are probably used to hearing. The good news is that we have lots of these MCs and bands right here in South Africa.

Most of the local hip-hop scene – spread throughout cities such as Johannesburg, Pretoria and Durban – has, for years, been concentrated in Cape Town. Areas such as Mitchell's Plain on the Cape Flats are now becoming legendary for conceiving some of the best acts in South African music. The local kids no longer join gangs, instead, they form break-dancing crews, bust rhymes and become graffiti artists. Concerts take place every week; rapping and break-dancing competitions (or 'battles') are regularly held, and it seems that African hip-hop is slowly educating the masses. The real heart of this music, however, beats in a shabby building on the outskirts of Cape Town – the headquarters of African Dope Records.

Set up by producer duo Krushed & Sorted in the early 90s, African Dope quickly established itself as the premier label for homegrown hip-hop. What distinguishes Krushed and Sorted from other South African-based labels is that money is not their primary interest. Their main concern is exposing the immense amount of talent in South Africa. Unfortunately, no immediate plans are underway to push African Dope in the US, although Roach (head of African Dope business management), feels optimistic about this prospect. "Provided that we work to the same production quality as they do; making the listening experience as smooth as possible; with excellent production and mastering whatever the style, it is only a matter of time before one of these [artists] from SA and the rest of Africa is going to blow a new market wide open in the USA, UK and Europe," Roach said.

At the forefront of African Dope's acts stands the quintet MoodPhase5ive. The band, headed by lyricist D.Form (Denver Turner), boasts an impressive array of artists and instruments. Ernestine Deane is on vocals, Brian de Goede on the drums, Riccardo Morretti on the keyboards and congas, Boody Carver on the bass and Douglas Armstrong on the trumpet and guitar. MoodPhase5ive has already put out two releases, headed a successful European tour, regularly played sell-out gigs all over South Africa and are about to release their second album, entitled 'Xse'. Their sound combines soul, funk, jazz, reggae, electronica and a healthy dose of pure hip-hop. Combined with Deane's fantastic voice and D.Form's mind-blowing rhymes, this setup always works beautifully.

MoodPhase5ive is not the only hip-hop act to take South Africa by storm. Comprised of singer/MC EJ Von Lyric (Eloise Jones), Lady of Shame (Shameema Williams) as the front-woman and notorious poet Burni (Bernadette Amansure), Godessa are the first all-female hip-hop recording group in South Africa. With socially conscious lyrics, pinpoint-accurate rapping, the success of last year's single 'Social Ills' and a live show to rival the very best, Godessa has been catapulted into hip-hop's limelight. The group has gained experience at events such as the International Hip Hop Conference in the US and has also headlined several shows around South Africa. With a full album due soon, it is inevitable that Godessa is going to become even bigger.

In addition to bringing out quality acts, Krushed and Sorted have also done a huge amount for the development of hip-hop culture in and around Cape Town. Between releasing their debut album 'Acid™ Made Me Do It' in 1999 and managing acts such as the Kalahari Surfers, GhettoMuffin and DJ Felix Laband, they have helped organise and run several events aimed at producing fresh talent, such as the annual Cape Town-based Hip-Hop Indaba. All of this culminated in two fantastic compilation albums with some groundbreaking new tracks released in 2001 and 2002.

**"Provided we work to the same production quality, one of these (artists) from SA is going to blow a new market wide open in the USA, UK and Europe."**

However, it is not just African Dope that brings out the cream of our local talent. Companies such as Johannesburg's Black Rage Productions (started by three Rhodes Journalism graduates) together with its offshoot Outrageous Records, who run artists such as H2O and Volume, are making a big impact on the South African entertainment industry. Acts such as the legendary Max Normal, now unfortunately defunct, and artists such as

Brasse Vannie Kaap, Cashless Society, the nine-strong crew Skwatta Kamp and Black Noise, now on their third album, have been 'destroying' local and international stages for years. South African DJs are also world-class, such as Max Normal's Sibot, DJ Bionic, who has been described as the hardest working man in South African music, and Ready D, who won the South African DJ Championships in 1988 and has gone on to work with the award-winning group Prophets of Da City.

Of course, it is not just our MCs who have been causing chaos. Our break-dancing crews, such as Azanian Flames and the Static B-Boyz, regularly compete overseas at events like the Battle of the Year World Championships held in Germany last October. Our graffiti artists, headed by pioneers Falko, Makone and Wheelz, also rank among the best in the world.

Hip-hop is the single fastest growing music industry in South Africa. It is local and accessible unlike overseas acts, which rarely (if ever) grace our shores, and it has an inherent uniqueness that you just don't find on MTV. With new albums from African Dope and Outrageous in the pipeline, a whole slew of festivals, including Oppikoppi and Woodstock, and unconfirmed rumours of a US tour, it seems that South African hip-hop just got bigger. ■



Continued from pg 5>



"No, because we have SuperSpar and Checkers. We need more fast food places or an entertainment area."

(Sam, 3rd year BJourn)

6



"They (students) want one. Checkers is too small, but they (the students) don't need one."

(Rat (Jonathan), 2nd year BSc)

7



"It's cheap, it's organised. I prefer it to the other super-markets. I would like to have one in Grahamstown."

(Shukurani, 1st year BPharm)

8



# JSAK

## JUST SAY KNOW

4

2003

## get SENTENCED.

The Outrageous wave has spawned a new set of offspring – the Maximum Sentence Mixtapes. Soon to be every South African hip-hopper's most prized collection of local underground hip hop tracks, Maximum Sentence Vol 1 is the first of a series of four to be released on Outrageous Records directly to the streets. No majors, no holds barred and no strings attached.

Having released the widely acclaimed Rage compilation through EMI last year, Outrageous Records has embarked on an enriching course with its independent releases this year. Maximum Sentence Vol 1 is aimed at building the hip-hop culture in Johannesburg by affording local rap talents a chance to be in studio and record tracks that will be heard. Add to that the continuous supply of a solid fix to local hip-hop junkies from artists who would seldom release products, if at all.

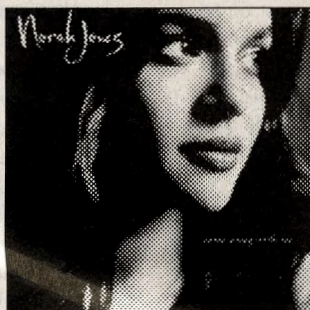
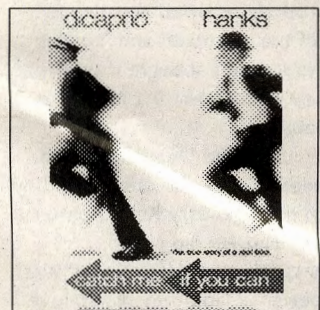
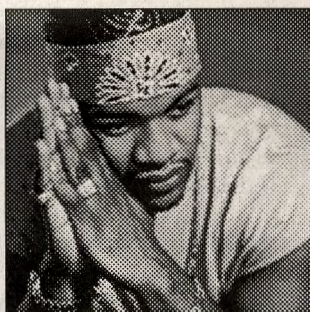
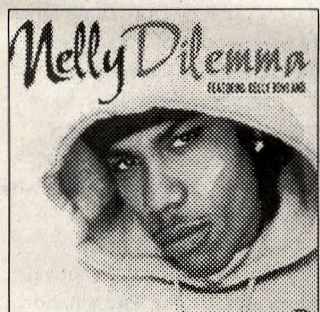
All tracks (save two) on the mixtape are produced locally by Outrageous Records' in-house producer BattleKat and feature the following artists:

Nel (from the group RAW)	Audio Visual	H2O
Zubz (from the group The Originz)	Optical Illusion	ProVerb
Tumi (from the crew Volume)	X-Rate	Selwyn
Deth Kowd	Equivalent	Pebbles
P-nda aka Righteous	KroniK Kulca	Mad Scientist
Golden Shovel (from the group Optical Illusion)		

With varying styles from both male and female artists, Maximum Sentence Vol 1 is broad and encompassing while maintaining a strong hip-hop bias. MC Nel rips up a toxic, high energy beat with the track 'No Competition', dispelling the myth that SA sistas can't hold their own on the mic. The heartfelt lead single by Optical Illusion featuring Zubz, 'For Hip-Hop' aptly sums up the aim of the project and has already been received positively on South Africa's largest regional station, YFM, by being voted Song of the Day on the leading local hip-hop show 'Harambe'.

With over 15 tracks of an international calibre laced with the finest lyricism and put together with such meticulous attention to quality, it's no wonder Maximum Sentence Vol 1 claims to have the streets 'locked down' this year.

Maximum Sentence Vol 1 has already hit the streets.



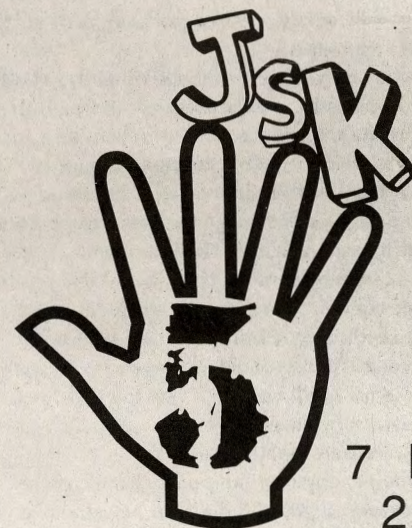
## #ONES

MOVIE: Catch Me if You Can

SONG: Put that Woman First – Jaheim

CD SINGLE: Dilemma  
(Nelly & Kelly Rowland)

CD ALBUM: Come Away With Me  
(Norah Jones)



Out  
7 May  
2003

(content: Hilton Tarrant; sources: www.rage.co.za, Powerzone, Ster-Kinekor, RMR Top 30, Musica.co.za, imdb.com)

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DEAN MACHINE

KISS THE PREZ!

That's great. But students are people and may only respond to human contact

DEAN MACHINE

KISS THE PREZ!



One can always tell when it is close to the end of the term. The computer labs are choc-a-block, everyone is either really sick or heavily fatigued, and they all seem to have that I-am-so-bored-I-want-to-cry look on their faces. I happen to suffer from all of these symptoms, and they are all connected to my going out four days-a-week because I am bored and sick to start off with.

I am not really sick, just allergic to something in Grahamstown (someone I kissed, no doubt!). This cough of mine is so awful that the lady I sat next to in the movies told me to go sit elsewhere – how utterly embarrassing! As I don't seem to get any better, I decided it is time to rest when I get back to Joburg, where my mommy can take care of me. Till then, I am tiring myself out at Friar's and the Rat, Friar's and the Rat, Union, Friar's and the Rat...it is so repetitive I want to scream!!!

At least there is always a solution to being bored. Being bored so often myself, I could write a book on the subject. My favourite solution at the moment is to try something new. Recently, it was CJ's on a Wednesday night. There was plenty of free wine and 'wigga' music that left my friend and I dancing away till we lost all memory of the evening. I think it must have been that the wine was yellow and thus very potent.

Free wine always has me thinking about cheese and wines, and no matter how few societies you join, there are always enough cheese and wines to last throughout the year. Last year, I left these gatherings early to do work (I know, shoot me now!). This year, however, I am fully prepared to punish that naughty liver of mine!

Now that I am in second year, I have noticed how old I have become. The Union, for example, has too much energy for me, and I prefer to sit or lean against something. I figure it must be because everything is so bright and new for the first years and just so old hat for the rest of us.

Being this old and wise, I was wondering – if spring is the time for new love, then is autumn the time for break-ups? If so, then there are going to be plenty of frozen tears this winter! Just a thought, not initiating anything, I promise. Boredom might be a reason, but don't use it as the excuse. I have a feeling that Justin Timberlake's 'Cry me a River' will be a far more popular tune in the month to come.

Seeing as you are so inspired to be reading my column, please help me be jealous of the Afrikaans trip to Stellenbosch, and join in the sobs for Perez's last performance. There has been an increase of Rhodent poetry, and I encourage more so as to convey the inner spirit of Grahamstown.

I just received news that in my third year, one gets even more bored, and will most likely land up at Champs in the middle of the week. I have decided to get my beauty sleep. And I will collect a few friends for a trip to the fountain of youth – any Grahamstown bottle store.

• Submit any original poetry for possible publication to g02o0555@campus.ru.ac.za



**Off  
Centre**

Natalie Oram – Arts & Culture Editor

# If you can't stand the heat... get out and see 'The Kitchen'

by Wesley Deintjie

Posters have settled on car windows, bathroom doors and local restaurant façades. In fact, they seem to have found their way onto every available space on campus. So, what is 'The Kitchen'?

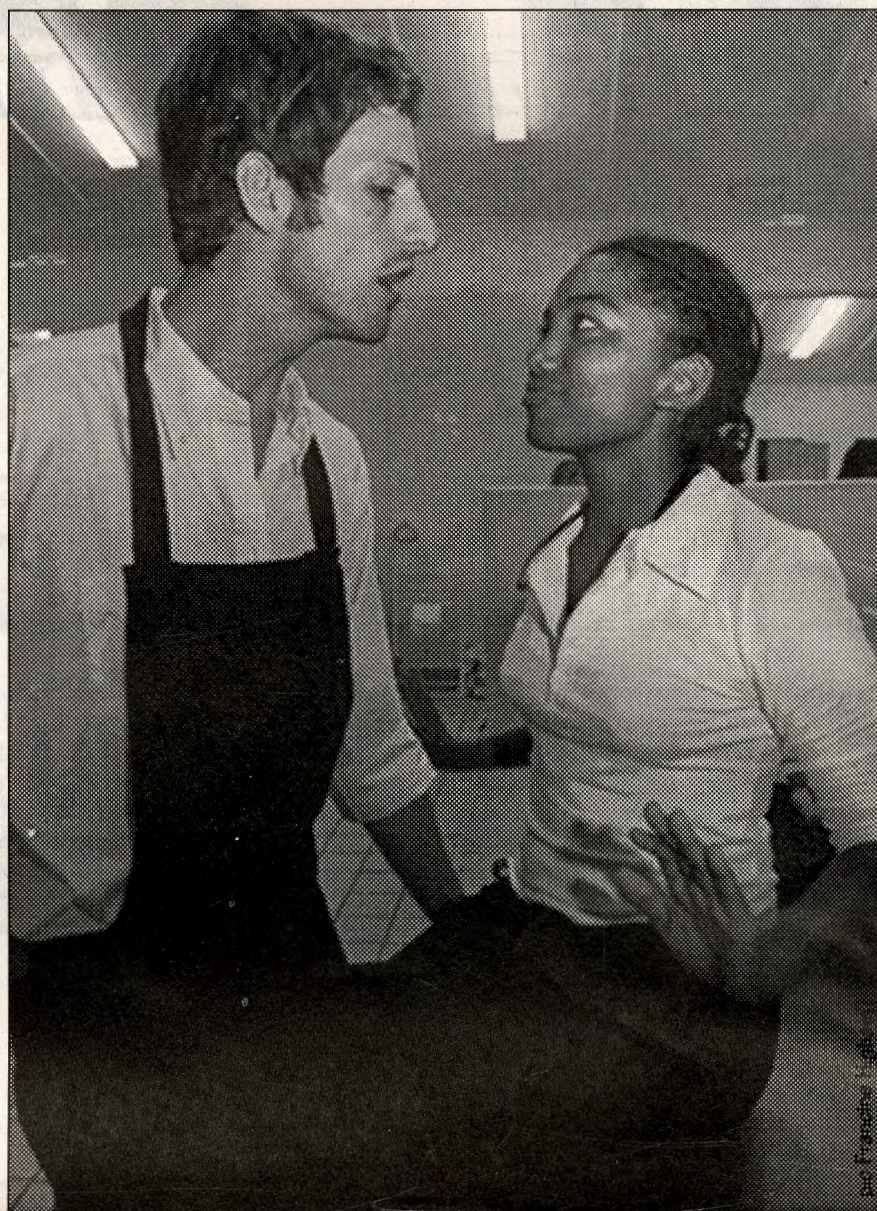
'The Kitchen' is a new production by the Rhodes University Drama department, directed by Professor Andrew Buckland and Alex Sutherland. It is a play that has had a worldwide revival since its premier in the late 1950s. Even though it was written in the 50s after the war, it still has relevance – the directors and cast have worked tirelessly to update it, replacing the stuffy British feel with a rich textured South African taste.

Sutherland came across the play when she studied drama and brought it to the attention of Buckland earlier this year. She felt that the issues dealt with in the play have strong meaning for South Africans today. She also says that it deals with a "microcosm" of issues that will definitely appeal to a wide audience. Buckland agrees and says he was drawn to the script because of the fact that, unlike most plays, it relies heavily on ensemble work from about 30 actors, rather than the traditional idea of one main actor in a small group.

The play is, in essence, a study of the human condition and 'Big Brother' syndrome, as it experiments with the idea of people from different backgrounds and cultures being thrown into one big melting pot. The play uses clever, witty and sometimes outlandish comedy, rather than didactic force to entertain and push its message across to the audience.

Don't feel that because this play deals with racism and politics, you shouldn't go and see it. Rather go expecting to see these issues in a new light that will entertain all.

It has a flop-proof recipe: In one small pot, cram as many different and strange characters as you can find. Add a pinch of love, racial discrepancies, language barriers, a touch of relationship problems, violence and a sprinkle of sex. Allow to simmer over medium heat and as soon as you think it is done, push the heat right up to the top, to see who in the stew will crack. Serve in large, lavish amounts on a bed of garnish with dry wine and this, says Buckland, "Will leave a taste in your mouth that is utterly delicious!" ■



COOKING: 'The Kitchen' will show from 2 to 5 April for the general public, as well as on 11 and 12 April for Graduation weekend at the Rhodes University Theatre.

## Afrikaners en Nederlanders is plesierig!

by Kara Chèlyn Geach

ON 5 March, five of the second year Afrikaans and Netherlandic studies students left for Stellenbosch. The Afrikaans department sent the students to the annual 'Woordfees', held at the University of Stellenbosch.

The 'Woordfees', held every year in March, is a celebration of the Afrikaans and Dutch languages. Many renowned Afrikaans and Dutch authors and poets were there to read their literary works. Some of the literary greats at the festival were: Antjie Krog, E.K.M. Dido, Dalene Matthee, André P Brink, Etienne van Heerden and P.J. Philander.

"The 'skrywersgala' was an amazing experience because we had the chance of seeing people like André P Brink in the flesh!" said Dalli

Weyers, one of the five students. Simone Kerseboom added, "It gives [one] a total adrenaline rush to see one of your favourite authors walk right past you!"

The students had supper at a wine cellar called Die Bergkelder, where they experienced Dutch podium poetry for the first time.

At the beginning of the evening, the group *Dichters Danzen Niet*, which consists of three members: a poet, Dj and VJ (video jockey), performed their unique genre of poetry. This combination created the ultimate sensory experience. As the poetry was read, the VJ created visuals as a backdrop while the DJ played corresponding music.



Podium poets also on the scene were Jeff and Luc. They made a similar combination, but their music was from a guitar.

At the 'Woordefees', poetry truly came alive. Instead of reading a poem out of a book, it became an auditory and visual journey.

During Netherlandic day, where interviews were held with the Dutch author Henk van Woerden and the controversial Belgian, Tom Lanoye, Afrikaans poet Daniel Hugo argued why Dutch literature should be translated into Afrikaans – truly thought provoking stuff!

Van Woerden is responsible for the captivating novel, *'n mond vol glas*, on the assassination of Hendrik Verwoerd.

Lanoye's eccentricity received negative feelings from some of the 'oompies' and 'tannies' present, while the students thought it was "cool that contemporary writers weren't afraid to voice their opinions".

Besides the Afrikaans and Dutch literature readings, the students were also entertained by some music from the legendary Koos Kombuis and Brasse Vannie Kaap – a rap group.

The five students said the 'Woordefees' was an incredible experience, and they would love to go again next year. ■

## Perez play their last gig in Grahamstown

by Siobhan Louw

PEREZ, possibly one of South Africa's finest living rock legends, caused quite a sensation when they hit Grahamstown. Hundreds of fans went wild as the band performed for the local audience in their third last gig ever. Drummer Mike Goddard said, "It's sad that it

takes a last tour to get the crowds to flood to our gigs like they are this time round."

Perez is a true rock phenomenon that has gathered thousands of fans and captivated crowds all over South Africa during the last two years with hits such as 'Wasted Out', 'Picture Perfect', 'Mama Mia' and 'Dreams and Troubles'.

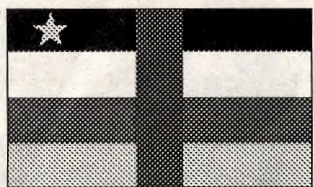
Nic Olsen (guitar and vocals), Matt Wilkinson (guitar and vocals), Mike Goddard (drums and vocals) and Adam Connor (base and vocals) have rejoined the band for their last tour.

Perez supporters all over the country are devastated that the band is breaking up, but in the name of great music, let's hope

that other bands continue to produce top class rock. The guys hope that their final gigs have "given a rock show worthy of an exit". Good luck guys, and go with the words of fellow SA band Tweak: "Live your dreams and believe that you can!" ■

• Check out the pictures from the gig on page 10.





## CAR rebels storm government

by Magriet Cruywagen

**R**ebel leader, Francois Bozize, seized power in the Central African Republic (CAR) on 15 March. He has declared himself Head of State, suspended the current constitution and instituted a National Transitional Council. This is not Bozize's first coup attempt. A similar attack had been successfully suppressed by gov-

ernment troops protecting the president, Ange-Felix Patasse in October 2002.

Bozize's forces entered Bangui, the CAR capital, capturing the presidential palace and the Bangui M'poko Airport, which were both guarded by troops from the Economic and Monetary Community of Central African states (CEMAC). The troops offered little resistance and withdrew to their barracks. The palace was subsequently looted.

The public welcomed Bozize's troops and some even spread their garments in the road so that rebel vehicles could drive over them. The speedy seizure surprised the government as it had allegedly been gaining the upper hand on the rebels. ■



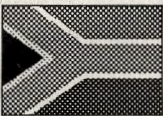
## Widows refused candidacy

by Janet Jobson

SWAZI women who have been widowed within the past two years were banned from running as candidates in this year's parliamentary election, reports AfricaOnline.com.

Chief Electoral Officer Robert Thwala said the decision "is in keeping with Swazi tradition, where women must respect the proper mourning period".

Women's rights organisations that fight against cultural discriminatory restrictions classifying Swazi women as legal minors, have responded strongly to the decision. "The mourning custom denies women their human rights. They are not even allowed to tell their chiefs their problems. Such women have no way of having their needs known," said Zakhe Hlanze, a research assistant for Women in Law in Southern Africa. ■



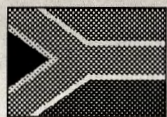
## Child sex slaves on the increase

by Sean Naidoo

SOUTH Africa is allegedly becoming a haven for child molesters. Current HIV/Aids levels, coupled with inadequate legislation and poverty, have made children vulnerable to molestation. There is also evidence of a growing sex tourism trade in the country. Both situations are increasing due to weak or no preventative measures being implemented by the police.

Large numbers of children are smuggled into South Africa from all over the world to fuel the trade. Children are sold to individuals for approximately R300 to R500. Many of the children come from areas of extreme poverty which have led parents to sell their children to survive.

Ms Bernadette van Vuuren of the children's organisation Molo Songololo, said that numerous international crime syndicates have become involved with South Africa's sex slave industry because of its lucrative business. ■



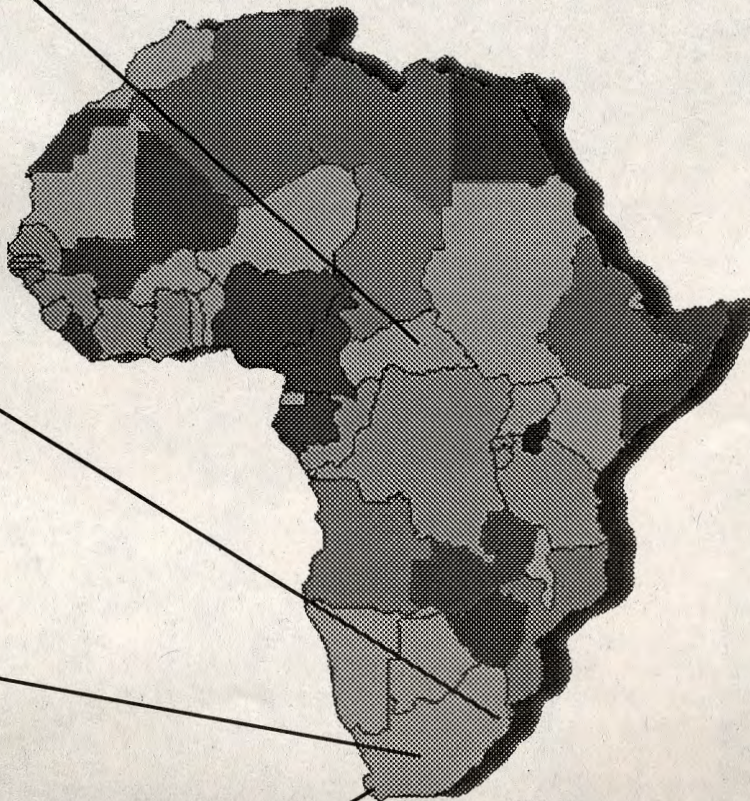
## The Cape of Good Dope?

by Sean Naidoo

THE International Narcotics Board has identified the Cape of Good Hope as being one of the major drug smuggling centres in the world.

The board has revealed that almost a quarter of marijuana seized in the world last year was found in South Africa. It alleges that South Africa has also become the main centre for cocaine trafficking in Africa.

The drugs are smuggled through South Africa and sold in countries all over the continent. In addition, South Africa is also being used as a trans-shipment point on the 'drug route'. On numerous occasions, drugs en route to various other countries have been seized by the Board. Recently, 36 000 ecstasy tablets on their way to New Zealand were found and confiscated. ■



**B**y the time this is published, the war on Iraq will have almost certainly begun. I was going to write a column this week about herbs, but I feel some sort of obligation to write about the war. The problem is, I don't really have much to say.

I could rant on about the evils of a corporate driven war; about the inequities of US imperialism; about the possible spirals of civil war and 'ethnic cleansing' in Iraq that may begin, about the hundreds of thousands of civilian lives that may be lost on top of the million lives that have already been lost due to sanctions, about the fact that this war may officially discard, once and for all, all hope of the UN acting as an effective organisation of global security, about the fact that this war may inspire a new wave of anti-Western terrorism, marking a significant turning point in the creation of a new, and more ominous, world order.

But all these things have been written about by far more intelligent and knowledgeable people than myself, so what's the point? It is raining today. If war began today, I would feel damp and disgruntled but would go on with my day, regardless of the war, taking comfort in the spinach and feta pie that I will buy from Spar for lunch. Certainly, I will start reading the newspapers more and watch television where I can, but the problems in my life will remain entirely separate and untouched (Although Champs and the Rat might switch their sports coverage to war coverage and rising petrol prices will make weekend trips to Kenton more expensive).

Still, there is a sense of strangeness and ambivalence that one feels when history is taking place – a mixture of excitement, nausea and unreality. It is like watching the past or a memory from the inside. What sense can one make of it? Is it possible to do anything other than merely watch and be entertained by the inevitably untrustworthy images that we will be bombarded with from places so far away? Any conviction one has about the situation seems almost trite and ridiculous.

Perhaps if I was a Kenyan, I would feel differently. Islamic terrorists don't seem to see the difference between Kenyans and Americans and Israelis, the same way Westerners don't see the difference between Iraqis or Afghans or Palestinians. That's the problem with power. It's not the evil or the malice of power that's the greatest threat; it's the stupidity of it.

Perhaps that's the only way we can understand what's going on – by understanding the stupidity of power. Because it's not so different from our own stupidity, really. It's just bigger. It's the stupidity of not being able to see what's actually there, but only seeing what we want to see. It's the stupidity of telling ourselves lies to justify what we're doing. It's the stupidity of wanting to be recognised by others for things that we aren't. It's the stupidity of wanting warmth and comfort on a rainy day, no matter how other people are feeling.

Am I making any sense? I don't know. I'm tired and this is the second time I've had to write this stupid column because the computer deleted my first copy. I probably should have written about herbs instead.



## Dystopian Diaries

Matt Wilhelm-Solomon

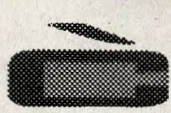
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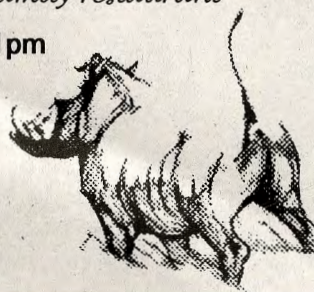
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# All wasted out



Perez played their last gig in Grahamstown recently. The venue was packed to capacity and tickets were sold out by lunchtime.

Six bands from the same record label (Sovereign) will play in Grahamstown on 31 March and 1 April 2003.

PERFECT: Nic Olsen from Perez (left); the crowd (below) and opening act, Nude, in action (bottom).

pics Alex Maughan





# Over R4 500 raised for Asisipho

by staff reporter

**A**sisipho Mnyungula had his operation at the Red Cross Hospital in Cape Town on 19 March and Michelle Burger, who is involved in fundraising for Asi, said that although they removed his entire right kidney, he has responded well, and the operation was a success.

A total of R2 020 was raised from the raffle held in aid of fundraising for Asi, with Bevan Boswell, the warden of Cullen Bowles house, winning the prize. The juices, which were sold by the catering department, raised R1 200 profit for Asi. Oriel Hall held a carwash on 15 March and raised a whopping R1 554,37, all of which will be given to Asi and his family. Oriel is hoping to have another carwash before the end of term.

**WASHING:** a successful carwash was held on 15 March (left); all types of cars, including Land Rovers, were washed (below); and Dean of Students, Dr Moosa Motara's car was also washed.

pics Chris Czipionka



## Stop Press

Dear Editor and students

We are all at a very particular and important crossroads as the young and educated youth of the world. The President of the United States has withdrawn my country from the community of nations and in turn, solidified ill will toward the American citizenry. I am writing to declare that there are millions of American students and citizens that stand united against this failure (among many) of American foreign policy. My family, close friends, and many of my professors are committed to showing our continued disapproval of President Bush's impatient actions. My country has a long and shameful history of violence and immorality, often perpetrated against the most helpless of people. I ask for your solidarity in fighting the US system of terrorism as we remain committed to forging a United States that is bent on using its resources for a commonwealth of global respect, health and genuine good will. I look forward to peace.

In Solidarity,

Lopaka Purdy

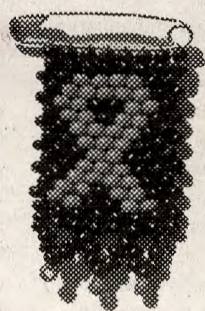
American Student & World Citizen

Salem, Oregon - USA

(Lpurdy@willamette.edu)

E-mail your opinions about anything and everything to the Editor at [g01m0259@campus.ru.ac.za](mailto:g01m0259@campus.ru.ac.za)  
Please include your name and contact details.

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# Inter-res mountain climbing a success

by Nicola Kane

Firstly, I would like to apologise. I really didn't want to talk about cricket this week, but I just couldn't help myself, so I promise that after this edition, I will not mention the subject for a long time! South African cricket has plunged into mayhem following the Proteas' dismal 2003 World Cup, which now belongs to Australia.

Admittedly, the trophy didn't have far to go – the trip from Steve Waugh's back pocket to Ricky Ponting's has been a relatively easy ride (let's hope that Graeme Smith's appointment even vaguely resembles the aplomb with which Ponting has taken the job).

Graeme Smith – now that's a name everyone should know by now. Just under a month ago, I was still enraged by the selectors' decision to leave Smith out of the World Cup squad, sullenly defending him against his detractors with the claim that he would still be the next South African captain (oh, and Nick, who is Neil McKenzie?). Little did I suspect, when I was championing Mr Smith's cause, that about a week later he would be in the squad as a replacement for Jonty Rhodes and that within the month my prophecy would be fulfilled.

**Graeme Smith – now that's a name everyone should know by now.**

After a smidgen of self-congratulating righteousness, I tried to figure out Smith's sudden change of fortune. He was only left out of the World Cup squad because of the need to include five players of colour (don't tell me choosing Robin Peterson over Smith had anything to do with potential) and answered his critics immediately with his masterful 151 against Pakistan. This innings showed his ability to handle pressure, even if this had not already been apparent against the Australians last year.

Out of the darkness of crushing home and away defeats, Smith was a beacon of hope and at 22 he could provide a valuable fresh approach and some renewed enthusiasm. He certainly has leadership qualities, having captained Gauteng under-13, under-15 and under-18, as well as Western Province (on occasion) and South Africa A's tour of Zimbabwe earlier this season.

It could be argued that he is not ready; that he needs more time to be groomed by the likes of Shaun Pollock and Eric Simons. He may have needed two more seasons to gain some valuable experience away from home (he has only played eight tests, all in South Africa), but now Pollock can concentrate on his bowling and batting; and besides – there really was no other replacement.

Thankfully, South Africa's schedule does allow Smith to settle in: his first two assignments are the Sharjah Cup and a tour of Bangladesh. Not too taxing for a fledgling skipper, but Smith's next challenge is a tour of England that is likely to include five tests, up to seven one-day internationals and seven tour matches. England is always tough to beat at home, and a series win is essential for Smith's confidence as captain.

We will have to wait and see how the cookie crumbles, but personally I have a sneaking suspicion that this golden boy is about to shine.



**Rowan's Rambles**

Rowan Watt-Pringle – Sports Editor

An encouraging number of enthusiastic residence students gathered on 12 March 2003 to try and scale the climbing wall. The Mountain Climbing Club held their annual Inter-res competition at Alec Mullins Hall. The organisers were very pleased with the turnout in both the men and women's competition.

Over the last few years, the Inter-res mountain climbing competition has grown into a popular event, with both experts and novices turning to lend their full support. Spectators also have great fun watching the competitors attempting to scale the man-made walls, which are built at various angles. There are those that barely make it halfway up the first vertical wall, whilst others traverse walls that are almost horizontal, in true Spiderman-style, to claim the Easter egg treats at the summit.

Tessa Mullin, a novice climber from the Canterbury House team, commented that "the competition was pretty tough, but climbing is definitely an adrenalin rush". Brian Connellan, an experienced climber and former club member said: "It's great fun to be able to show off your skills on the wall and watch the 'first-timers' attempt the beginners walls."

In the men's competition, the Oppies were victorious, followed closely by Cullen Bowles in second place and Adamson in third. In the women's competition, the Oppies shone through as worthy victors. New House showed considerable skill to claim second place with Jameson securing third place.

The mountain climbing competition has given the Oppie ladies the necessary points to take an early lead in the Inter-res competition. All who attended the competition, either as competitors or spectators, had great fun and the night showed that there are definitely a few Rhodents out there with sticky feet.



STRADDLING: A participant from Allan Gray racing up the climbing wall.

## Briefs

### Arsenal players to strike over Iraq

Robert Pires and the other five French players from English champions Arsenal are ready to go on strike in protest at the United States and British-led war on Iraq, *The Sun* newspaper reported on Saturday.

"I'd be ready to stop playing as part of an anti-war protest," the midfielder Pires said.

"Lots of sports people are against the war. And if we have to stop playing, to show we're against the war and against the Americans, why not?" he added.

Arsenal have a huge French contingent with Arsene Wenger as coach and six players. "The French players at Arsenal are proud of Jacques Chirac's stance and support him," said Pires.

www.sportal.co.za

### Vieri denies making racist comments

Inter Milan striker Christian Vieri has denied making racist remarks at Newcastle's Lomana LuaLua in last week's 2-2 Champions League draw.

UEFA said last week it had opened an investigation after Newcastle United complained about racist comments directed at their Democratic Republic of Congo striker LuaLua.

Newcastle lodged their complaint after LuaLua clashed with Inter players as they lined up a free-kick, but Vieri says he was unaware of any problems and insists he did not abuse the striker.

"I didn't say any words of a racist nature. I just tried to distance the player, who had even been booked in that moment, by telling him to move back," Vieri told the Inter website.

www.sportal.co.za

## Back to the grassroots, but where is the grass?

by Nic Haralambous

IN my brief experience with the soccer club at Rhodes, I have been exposed to many different people from extremely varied backgrounds. This has been one of the great joys of the sport for me. I have made friends with people who on a day-to-day basis I would otherwise probably never have met.

This integration and exposure was pushed to the extreme on 17 March. Both the Rhodes University soccer teams – the Saints and the Rhodents – played their first league games in the township.

As a first year at Rhodes, just driving into the township and seeing the poverty and turmoil was an eye-opening experience.

In the midst of all this, there we

were – going to play a soccer game.

Upon arrival, there was not a soccer field in site. As we drew nearer, it became apparent that the field was, in fact, there but in a rather dubious state. The fields I have been accustomed to playing on have had grass on them, and lacked the pits, cracks and crevices that greeted us on arrival. However, it became apparent that the match wasn't about the pitch. Besides, both teams would have to contend with the trying conditions. As the Rhodents took the field, we felt a slight sense of unease, but this was quickly dispelled as the game got underway and competition for the ball became intense.

Supporters were strewn all around the sidelines, but not all were supporting the township side, Arsenal (who ironically were dressed in full

Manchester United kit!).

As we began to score our goals – four in all – it became evident that the cheering we heard was not for our opposition but for the goals – any goals.

After our third goal, a group of supporters even invaded the pitch to hug our striker! These people were there to support, but they were supporting the game, not the team.

The joy that a simple game brought to the people of the township was immense, and we all felt good after the game. Firstly, because we had won 4-1 over a team named Arsenal, and secondly, because the fans (our fans for a short while) ran onto the pitch to congratulate us on our performance.

The Saints managed to play to a goalless draw on a relentless pitch.

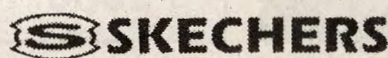
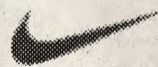
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# REVOLUTION NEWS

Independent Official Newsletter of the SRC



## Student Forum – have your say at last!

**T**he SRC traditionally receives a lot of flack from everyone on campus. Complaints have always seemed to centre on the fact that the SRC is viewed as being up there and the students down below somewhere. We are determined to break that myth! How are we going to do this? The Student Forum is the place where the SRC meets with you, the members of this campus, so we can hear what you have to say.

The Student Forum is only entering its second year of operation and many people are not aware of the benefits that this forum potentially seeks to offer.

Let us start off by explaining its composition. The Chairperson is the SRC Vice-President and it is essentially a body made up of 16 SRC members; all Hall Senior/Head Students; House Senior/Head Students; two Sub-Wardens from every hall recommended by the various Hall Committees; a representative from the Oppidan Council; the Student Faculty Representatives for the different faculties and the Chairpersons of the Societies.

The SRC is accountable to the student body for its actions. We report at the Student Forum all that we have been doing with regards to representing you and show what we have done well and not so well. This is where questions

can be fired at the SRC to determine whether we are doing our job correctly or not at all.

The line-up for the Student Forum this term involves a quarterly report from the SRC President – James Chipunza; an Orientation Week Report, and the proposed amendments to be made to the current Societies Policy. The other issues that will be addressed are to do with meal refunds, student safety and the upgrading of the Union Building facilities.

Members of the Student Forum are able to bring other issues they feel are of concern to the well being of our campus. These can be formally put on the agenda when we call for "Other Matters for the Agenda."

Although the Student Forum consists of a collective voice of all the student governance sub-structures on campus, the general student body is allowed to attend.

If anyone from the general student body wishes to raise an issue at this Forum, they must seek permission from the Chairperson first.

Oh!! There is another reason you should join us at the Student Forum – for the refreshments.

Come join us on Thursday the 27 March 2003 at the General Lecture Theatre at 7pm and be heard!

### ISSUES TO BE TACKLED:

- Meal refunds
- Student safety
- The state of the Union Bldg
- Anything YOU want to raise



## Be safe!

The SRC is greatly concerned with muggings on and around campus. We have launched a safety campaign around campus to increase awareness of this very serious matter. One of the SRC's attempts to help find a solution to the crisis has been to organise an Oppidan bus which will take students who live off campus to their homes for a fee of R5. This bus leaves nightly from the library at 8.30 and 10.30 pm. We are aware that R5 is expensive for students, and we are working on organizing a subsidy from either the University or a Grahamstown company to help us out.

Tips for safety on/around campus!

1. If attacked, DON'T RESIST: Cellphone R1000, life priceless!
2. Try not to carry a handbag when walking.
3. Don't wear visible jewellery.
4. Walk with as many people as possible.
5. Avoid deserted/badly lit areas.
6. BE AWARE of your surroundings.
7. Be aware of where campus security is stationed.

If you feel threatened/unsafe, call the police (10111).

## What the SRC does on a weekly basis

The SRC meets once a week at 7pm in the R.A. room in the Union building. This meeting is open to any student who wishes to attend it, and the SRC welcomes observers. The weekly agenda mainly consists of general student issues that students have brought forward; as well as report-backs from university meetings that council has attended. The Executive also meets once a week to focus on matters that are on a strategic level.

Examples of current items on the SRC's Agenda:

- \* Student safety in light of the recent increase in muggings on and off campus.
- \* The Student Forum
- \* SRC/Admin meeting to discuss the state of the Union building.
- \* The upcoming SRC Slave Auction and party.

James Chipunza, the President, attends on average 8 planned meetings a week as well as impromptu ones. He meets with Dr. Johnson, the Vice-Principal, every Tuesday to discuss current student concerns. James interacts with various students on a daily informal basis.

**X** \*Did you know that James Chipunza is a qualified kung-fu instructor?  
 \*Thamsanqua Moyo is fondly known by the SRC council as 'Grumpy Dwarf' for reasons that shan't be disclosed!  
 \*Thami Sibisi is our very own 'Dark Horse' - there's just too much 'Sparkling Water' to go round!!

## Upcoming SRC events

27 March 2003  
STUDENT FORUM

What exactly does that elected student council do to represent our needs? Are you tired of not being HEARD? What is the SRC doing to change this campus? FIND OUT!

Bring Your Concerns and Issues and come debate in our Student Forum.  
You are all invited.

Time: 7pm  
Venue: General Lecture Theatre  
Date: 27 March 2003

Snacks to be served afterwards!!

28 MARCH 2003  
ACTION AUCTION PARTY

The SRC 2003 is committed to bringing you quality entertainment!!

SRC is presenting an Action Auction Party at the Drill Hall on the 28 March 2003.

- \* 14 Fine RU people to be auctioned off!! Come bid for the date of your dreams!!
- \* Then we throw a wild, wild party!! That will blow your socks off and shake off that G'town lethargy with our Top DJs - G-Force(Vetkoek and Mahuta Fame), Babsy (Popart's Jockeys), Wigga (RMR plays on)!!
- \* Tickets for the whole deal only R20!!

Tickets sold everyday 13:00 - 14:00 at Day Kaif.

## COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

Please feel free to contact us at:

SRC Office  
 Phone: (046) 622 7122  
 Fax: (046) 622 4162  
 E-mail: council@src.ru.ac.za

## So, who is on the SRC and what so they do?

There are 15 councillors on the SRC. There are nine Hall Reps, one Oppidan Rep, and an executive body consisting of five members. These five include the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and Academic Councillor. Hall Reps have two portfolios: one as Hall Rep, and one other. Hall Reps and their additional portfolios are as follows:

- Kirsty Hunter - Oppidan Rep/Gender and HIV/Aids
- Thamsanqua Moyo - Founders Hall Rep/Societies
- Thami Sibisi - Allan Webb Hall Rep/Transformation
- Nyasha Mashozhera - Hobson Hall Rep/Community Interaction
- Matirasa Chasi - Jan Smuts Hall Rep/Residence
- Andrew Elliot - Drodsty Hall Rep/Media
- Privani Moodley - Oriel Hall Rep/International Affairs
- Michael Shama - Kimberley Hall Rep/Sports
- Miriam Goeieman - St. Mary's Hall Rep/Entertainment
- Bryan van Wyk - Nelson Mandela Hall Rep/Student Benefits

THE EXECUTIVE:

- James Chipunza - President. James is a 5th year LLB student.
- Earl Hodges - Vice-President. Earl is a 4th year Bcom student.
- Lexi Fincham - Secretary. Lexi is a 3rd year Journalism student.
- James Rycroft - Treasurer. James is a 3rd year Law student.
- Morgan Botha - Academic Councillor. Morgan is a 2nd year Business Science student.





# ALL ABOUT OPPIDANS

# OPPI.NYON



pic Chris Cypionika

## Has Rhodes left Oppies in the lurch?

By Haru Mutasa

**D**espite several muggings, Rhodes is still not prepared to fund the SRC bus that could ensure the safety of oppidans going home late at night. The Oppie bus, a shuttle organized by the SRC to take students home at night, costs R5 a trip and only operates within a six kilometre radius from the main library. Students living beyond this (i.e. in the township area) have to fend for themselves.

The bus is for students who stay late on campus to use the library or computer labs to finish off assignments.

"I agree R5 every night is expensive," said Kirsty Hunter, the SRC Oppidan rep, "but when we had our meeting with admin last week, Dr Woods said that under no circumstances would the University run a bus service."

"The University can find enough money to take

students from Grahamstown to Port Elizabeth and back [for aeroplane flights] and yet we have to pay R5 to get a lift home," comments an oppidan student in the SRC suggestion book.

"It seems as if once one moves out of res, the University does not care about you anymore. So long as students are safe on campus, then all is fine," said Hunter, "In my opinion the University seems to believe that students who choose to stay off campus should fend for themselves."

Hunter said there are about 200 first years in digs this year and not all of them are there by choice.

"There simply was not enough room in res to accommodate them all," explained Hunter, "and now that Rhodes is busy expanding it will eventually have to cater for the needs of students in digs whether it wants to or not."

The recent spate of muggings has left students living off campus uneasy and worried about going home late at night.

"The bus is there to make sure students get home safely," said Hunter, "but the SRC simply does not have enough money to fund the service by itself. Unless the University chips in, we might have to stop the service. We are barely making enough to cover petrol costs, and the driver needs to be paid as well."

The bus seems to be an immediate short term solution for ensuring the safety of oppidans. Unless Rhodes subsidises the shuttle service, the SRC must continue to fend for itself and hope a private sponsor comes to the aid of Oppies.

James Chipunza, SRC president, said none of the Grahamstown transport operators are interested or prepared to offer such a service to students.

Hunter said the University would rather look at other options regarding student safety such as information campaigns and working closely with the police.

• e-mail Kirsty with any problems you have at [council@src.ru.ac.za](mailto:council@src.ru.ac.za)

*Oppi.Nyon* is an independent publication and is not affiliated with *Activate*.



# The really-useful stuff guide

## Upcoming events

Cheese and wine on 2 April in the Oppidan common room in the Student Union building. Event starts at 6.30pm and ends at 8pm. Bring student cards and make sure you have your Oppie stamp. Cards can be stamped at the Oppie secretary's office in the Union building.

The Oppidan Ball will be held next term at the Graham Hotel. Details will be given later.

## Oppidan benefits

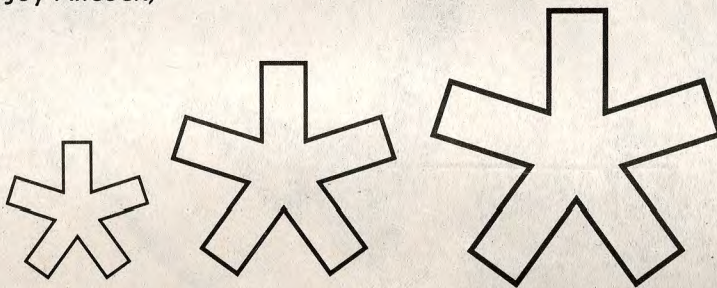
Tea and coffee (10 to 11am and 1 to 2 pm) every weekday during term.  
DSTV in the common room (down the hall from the Kaif doors)  
Comprehensive digs lists and lease guides  
Lawn mower  
Vacuum cleaner  
Daily newspaper  
SRC suggestion book is in the common room and can be used to make suggestions or raise oppidan issues that one may have.  
For the moment, the SRC shuttle runs from 8pm to 10.30pm. It costs R5 and leaves every weekday from the main library.

## Contact details

- Oppidan warden - Gordon Barker - 603 8443 (g.barker@ru.ac.za)
- Oppidan secretary - Joy Allcock - 603 8229 (j.v.allcock@ru.ac.za) She works mornings only from 8.30 to 12.45pm.

## Oppidan committee members:

Charity Ncube (Head student)  
Kirsty Hunter (SRC oppidan representative)  
Chavonne Randall  
Donate DeBruin  
Catherine Smith  
(Committee members organise balls, cheese and wines, sporting events, etc. Anyone interested in joining the committee should see the oppidan secretary Joy Allcock)



## Quick 'n easy recipes

### Spanish omelette wedges

This dish is perfect for a light lunch or evening meal. Serves 4  
Preparation and cooking time: 35 minutes

#### Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon of oil
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 1 garlic clove, crushed
- 360g cooked potatoes, cubed
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley or 1 tablespoon of dried mixed herbs
- 2 eggs
- 2 tablespoons skimmed milk
- 60g grated cheese
- salt and pepper

#### Method

- 1) Heat oil in frying pan. Add the onion and garlic and cook gently for about 5 minutes or until soft. Add potatoes and continue to cook, stirring occasionally for 4-5 minutes. Season and stir in the parsley. Continue to cook gently, without stirring, for about 3 minutes.
- 2) Beat eggs and milk together and pour into frying pan, loosening the potatoes slightly to allow the egg mixture through. Sprinkle cheese over surface and cook gently until set. Put pan on moderate heat and cook until surface of omelette is brown.
- 3) Leave omelette to cool in pan for about 5 minutes, then cut into quarters and serve with a mixed green salad.

#### If things go wrong...

If the omelette goes hard and leathery, cover it with a sauce - tomato or cheese for example. Alternatively turn the omelet into scrambled eggs or abandon it and start again.

e-mail your recipes to g01m0259@campus.ru.ac.za



## Editorial

### Back from the dead

The Oppidan Newsletter was the first South African independent student newspaper. It was started in 1976 by students who felt the SRC and admin had too much control over *Rhodeo* (the predecessor of *Activate*) and other campus publications at that time.

These students felt the campus desperately needed a paper controlled by students - totally divorced from admin, SRC bureaucracy and finance. The Oppidan was entirely financed by advertising and grew to be a vibrant and respected part of campus life.

Some of the writers and editors are well-known and respected journalists in the media today. The exact details of what lead to the demise of the paper are still unclear. The last copy available dates back to 1987. Since then oppidans have not had a voice of their own. *Activate* was, and still is very campus-orientated. It does not adequately address oppidan concerns such as leases, digs life and problems of living off campus, such as security.

The Oppidan Newsletter, now called the *Oppi.Nyon*, will come out with every edition of *Activate*. While it is a part of *Activate*, it will retain its autonomy as a mouthpiece designed to cater specifically for students off campus. Unlike *Activate*, it does not get a grant from the University and funds itself.

Up until the end of third term, the supplement will be overseen by the editor of *Activate*. Any one interested in taking over must motivate and run for the position of Oppidan editor for the staff of 2004. The candidate must obviously be an oppidan but does not have to be studying journalism. He/she will sit on the Oppidan board and take on the media and public relations portfolio.

We welcome aboard our sister publication and hope it regains the reputation it once had as a vibrant and respected part of campus.

- Ideas, suggestions or topics you would like discussed (no matter how controversial) can be emailed to the editor on g01m0259@campus.ru.ac.za

### 21 YEARS AGO...

#### Residence crisis again

The administration's preference that students spend at least their first year in res, unless they live with parents or are over 21, still holds. They have thus been forced to put even more students into hotels this year than before. A spokesperson for the Grand Hotel told the Oppidan that Rhodes had tentatively booked 20 double rooms for the first month of term. Dr Derek Henderson, the then Vice-Chancellor said, "I ask those of you who will be experiencing a degree of inconvenience to bear this with cheerfulness and patience. After all, the only alternative would have been to have asked you not to have come at all."

February 1982, VOL.7 NO.1