

RHODEO

Rhodes' Most Patriotic Paper Oct'88



LET'S PLAY BALL

INSIDE:

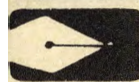
Great
Trek

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This Newspaper is restricted in terms of the emergency regulations.



A SASPU AFFILIATE

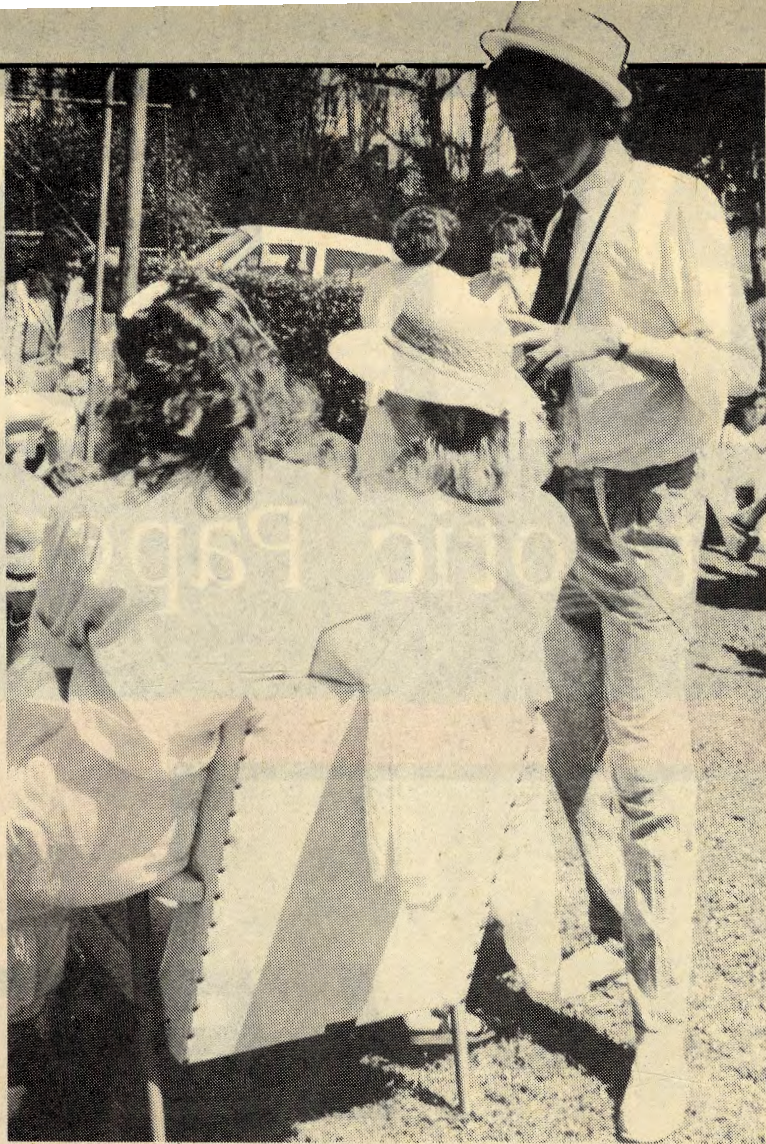
Rhodians go globetrotting

Rhodians, Pat Tandy and Michael Vermaak, have earned hot opportunities for overseas study.

Tandy, ex SRC president, is present touring the United States observing the presidential elections. He is one of the 15 who were chosen from numerous British American and African countries to attend this U.S. Information Services programme. Apart from visiting the usual tourist spots, he will also be meeting politicians, media people and students. He has already visited the Republican headquarters. Way to go Pat!

Michael Vermaak has been awarded an Abe Bailey Travel Bursary for 1988. 15 bursaries are awarded each year to South African students who have shown qualities of leadership, not only in student affairs but in a wider context. Michael obtained a first class honours degree in Geography and Natural Sciences at Rhodes in 1987 and is reading for an MSc. He studies Rhodes and Border colours and rowing. The bursars will meet in Cape Town at the end of November before leaving for the United Kingdom.

Rhodians are certainly going places!



Last Saturday's College House garden party was a return to the gracious days of old colonial Grahamstown - no gin and tonic though, only beer.

Getting Grahamstown together

The conference that launched the new Grahamstown Initiative in September was an attempt to bring Grahamstonians of all political convictions together to talk about the town's political, economic educational and cultural future.

The initiative was launched by delegates who returned from last year's Five Freedoms Forum conference in Johannesburg realising the need to form a new alliance. Liberals and those on the left had to bury their differences, while engaging conservatives as well.

Meetings were initially held under the banner of the Five Freedoms Forum, but the name is dropped because the Forum's explicitly anti-apartheid stance excluded conservatives.

Andre Roux, Grahamstown Initiative organiser and a lecturer in the economics department, said it was important to speak to a much broader group. "Under the Five Freedoms banner, we could have talked amongst people who all agreed. There is a lot of evidence that as a strategy, it achieved little success", he said.

South African politics, it is clear who is in control. We wanted to get township people, blacks, to talk to conservatives. We are aware of the obvious limitations of this strategy and know that it is unlikely to be extremely successful, but it achieved a lot more than in the past", he said.

According to Chris Heymans, an organiser and a lecturer in the politics department, the value of the conference was the exposure of different viewpoints to each other.

Many whites have never been exposed to an activist from the township," Mr Heymans said.

He also said the conference was dominated by a continued emphasis on the irrationality of local authorities. There is a need to organise

around Grahamstown as one city, not as "Grahamstown" and "Rhini".

At planning meetings before the conference, six subgroups formed to discuss planning, economics and job creation, sport and recreation, health, education and churches. The conference was structured around these subgroups in an attempt to attract as many people as possible.

The mayor of Grahamstown, Mr Dick Attwood, said the initiative was based on a "very sound idea", but that he was "disappointed that the Rhini Council was not invited."

Mr Heymans said, however, that it had been a policy decision not to invite organisations and institutions as such, as there was a possibility that certain groups on both ends of the spectrum would object to the presence of others. Rather, they decided to extend an open invitation to all individuals concerned with community problems.

Unemployment was identified as a major problem and suggestions were made for both short- and long-term projects. Great emphasis was placed on non-industrial development, as no major industrialisation is likely to take place in Grahamstown.

The economics subgroup is to undertake an investigation into the industrial potential of Grahamstown's clay deposits. Other suggestions included the greater use of Grahamstown's educational facilities and tourist potential.

Both the educational and sports subgroups ran into serious difficulties. It proved impossible to find common ground between Christian National and Peoples' Education, Mr Heymans said.

The sport initiative, according to Mr Roux, was completely unsuccessful. "The division that besets sport is serious", he said. "Sportspeople on both sides don't seem to understand the views of the other."

The cultural group was most successful and dynamic so far. A concert in Church Square is planned for the end of the month.

The conference itself encountered problems as well. There were complaints that it was too long: it ran over two days on a weekend.

More prominent perhaps, was the concern on the right that it was a "left trick". "Some conservatives thought that the left was trying to take them for a ride", Mr Heymans said.

"The concept is perhaps a bit new", said Mr Roux, "and hence some thought it was a subtle attempt to co-opt people." There was also some scepticism on the part of township residents.

Problems were also created by differences in expectations. It was difficult to accommodate everybody. Many conservatives insisted on the initiative extending a formal invitation to the Rhini Council and used it to discredit the initiative. "Many left wing people also had problems with people who were government related", Mr Heymans said.

He stressed that the new initiative was not just a "group of wishy washy liberals trying to increase communication in the community". The spectrum of people involved, he said, was so wide that it was impossible to accuse it of representing a particular group.

On the whole, the organisers felt positive about the outcome. "The more tangible things, however, will still have to come," Mr Heymans said.

"There will definitely be a conference next year, and we hope to make it an annual event." A report will be compiled and an ad hoc organisation formed as a "bridging mechanism".

According to Mr Roux, "the main thing was the communication and experience gained from the conference". Efforts were being made, however, towards achieving something more constructive.

Wits SRC smeared

Nusas and the SRC came under attack at Wits last term with the appearance of a series of smear pamphlets alleging, among other things, that the SRC elections were rigged.

The first attack came in the form of anonymous stickers over election posters which implied that students shouldn't bother to vote as the results were already determined.

At the same time the Students' Action Committee (SAC): an ultra-left grouping at Wits; issued a pamphlet urging students not to vote as the SRC took part in Council which was a government structure.

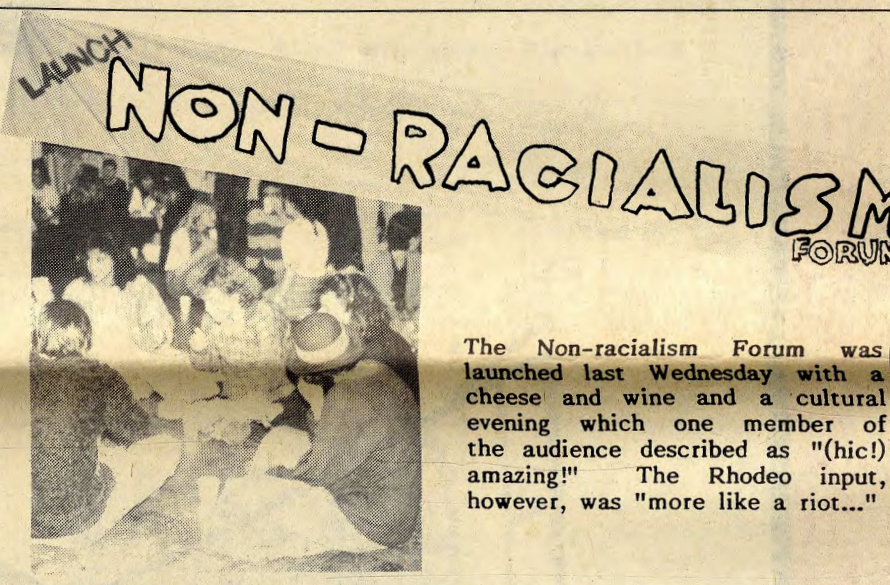
Just after these calls to students not to vote in the SRC elections, a smear pamphlet attacking Nusas and supposedly issued by the Black Students Society (BSS - the equivalent of BSM at Rhodes), appeared. The pamphlet claimed to expose secret structures in Nusas and named prominent SRC members on each campus who were supposedly part of a national caucus ruling the organisation. In view of the undemocratic nature of Nusas, the pamphlet said, BSS

had decided to break its non-racial alliance with them.

This pamphlet was followed by another smear, issued in the name of SAC which said the "BSS expose" of Nusas provided one more reason for students to boycott the elections.

Although both organisations issued statements dissociating themselves from the smears, and the administration confirmed that the SRC elections were completely fair, the bogus pamphlets were followed by a third. This one was issued in the name of Nusas and provided a justification for the existence of the secret caucus - it was in the interests of safety and security, given the repressive climate at the moment. The pamphlet went on to imply that people who disagreed with this policy were dissidents within the organisation and possibly spies.

In a statement made last week, Nusas described the smears as an attempt to "attack, cause divisions in and discredit Nusas and other campus organisations." It was clear, the statement said, that the smears were "motivated by the fact that Nusas is a strong and vibrant organisation. Strong Nusas-supporting SRC's were elected in the third quarter and Nusas's support on Afrikaans campuses has continued to grow."



The Non-racialism Forum was launched last Wednesday with a cheese and wine and a cultural evening which one member of the audience described as "(hic!) amazing!" The Rhinoceros input, however, was "more like a riot..."

Violence flares in Durban

Recent incidents of violence in Durban's townships carry with them the echo of the recent conflict in Petermaritzburg.

Both the number of incidents and the number of refugees is increasing, and some observers predict a bloodbath that would make Petermaritzburg pale into insignificance.

Perhaps the township which is most disturbed by the violence is Molweni, though areas such as Hammarsdale and Inanda are currently close rivals. Every day reports come through various agencies of incidents of violence including people killed, houses burnt and shacks destroyed.

Perhaps the most telltale factor though was the recent influx of 3 000 refugees, largely from Inanda, into Durban's central business district. Many of these people were given temporary shelter by white families on the Berea, in Glenwood and Westville - indeed, almost all white suburbs in Durban. For once, the "cordon sanitaire" that Group Areas provides for whites was temporarily broken.

The reasons for the current conflict are not clear cut. Although it is tempting to write it off as a spillover from Petermaritzburg, the situation is not just an extension of traditional Inkatha versus UDF/Cosatu

conflict.

One possible reason is the current stepped-up Inkatha membership drive. The organisation has allegedly been going door-to-door demanding that people join for a R10 fee.

Inkatha has apparently also taken it upon itself to "discipline" both youths and adults who refuse to join. Reports from Inanda and Kwamashu indicate that Inkatha impis have occupied the homes of refugees who fled the townships.

Reasons for the alleged new membership drive include the Kwazulu legislative assembly early next year and the October municipal elections. Community sources claimed that Inkatha is not only afraid of other "community leaders" standing in the elections, but also a rejection of the elections by entire townships.

An Inkatha representative said he was unaware of any membership drive. He added that Inkatha had disciplinary structures to deal with members' misbehaviour and that "although the odd Inkatha member may go overboard, the record shows that the UDF stands to gain more out of the conflict than Inkatha does".

Commenting on the municipal elections, the official that Inkatha had no stated position on the elections and that it was "not a big issue."

Student Nappers

Retention without trial exposes the contradiction at the centre of the state's much-heralded reform initiatives: reform is impossible without repression.

This is evidenced by the recent retention of a number of Rhodes students in what appears to be a major crackdown on opponents of the October Elections.

Retention has come to assume a central place within a vastly expanded system of state security. Mass arrests had the effect of silencing communities overnight. Emergency legislation gave all members of the security forces wide powers and indemnified them against any action committed in "good faith".

According to Rhodes sociologists, Marianne Roux and Melissa De Villiers, the underlying purpose of emergency detention is destabilisation. It is a method of suppressing people's power by direct intervention and control. It destabilises both communities and individuals by the huge length of detentions and the emphasis on young adults.

Out of the total of at least 500 known detentions in the Eastern Cape since the beginning of the emergency, only a quarter of those taken were known to be directly involved in political activity. Detentions are therefore

UPDATE ON RHODES DETENTIONS

*Six Rhodes students are still in detention: Mcebisi Jonas, Mvuso Mbebe, Vuyo Poswa, Mbuso Tali (all detained in August 1988), E C Papiyana (detained November 1987), K G Matiso (detained April 1988).

*S S Manona and S E Mayoli were released last week after spending more than a year inside.

*Janet Small was released from detention on September 16 but has been effectively banished to the magisterial district of Cape Town where she is restricted to her parents' house between 6pm and 5am. She has been cut-off from her Grahamstown home, her friends, her work with Black Sash and from her academic thesis.

often arbitrary which serves to unnerve communities and break down individuals.

Scholars in particular find it very difficult to re-integrate into school life, while many others find they have lost their jobs through being detained for long periods.

Detention, then, is used as a strategy of disorganisation and control. For example, Grahams-town union officials were detained on the eve of the March stayaway this year, while some youths were arrested prior to May Day: in the latest crackdown many activists in the Eastern Cape (including Rhodes students) were detained in the wake of state action against any form of resistance to the coming Municipal Elections.

Another government tactic is to restrict individuals after their detention. This ties them to a

particular house from 6pm to 5pm, and excludes them from engaging in any political activity. The new emergency regulations also ensure that people who are in hiding are excluded from making statements to the press by adding their names to a banned persons list.

Prison life is dull and repressive; health standards are inadequate; and the attitudes of some of the warders is indifferent. Long detention under these conditions tends to weaken a person mentally, emotionally and physically.

Of a sample of 175 ex-detainees examined, 143 received further medical and 73 psychological treatment. A few of those referred to psychological clinics were found to be nearly suicidal. The others had a range of symptoms within the spectrum of post-traumatic stress disorder, particularly loss of memory and concentration, emotional instability and various forms of depression. ■

Great Trek commemorators in front of the Karel Landman monument.



The Great Schlepp

The 'Karel Landman Monument near Alexandria played host to minor festivities, which form part of the larger national celebration marking 150 years of the Great Trek, on Saturday.

The Landman monument, which strongly resembles an oversized globe of the sort found in geography classrooms, is named after the leader of the Great Trek.

The event, addressed by Minister of Education and Culture Gerrit Viljoen, included: an ox wagon display, the handing over of certificates to followers present 50 years ago and a poetry recital on the Battle of Blood River.

Minister Viljoen spoke of the "unique" hardships that the Afrikaner has endured. This hardship could be remembered by those present through the purchase of toy ox wagons, belt buckles, maps and other Voortrekker memorabilia on sale.



The nostalgic speeches by Viljoen and others on the Commemoration board lasted almost two hours and ended with the singing of "Die Stem", after which the crowd (smaller than expected) satisfied their appetites with boerewors rolls and melktert.



Aids on campus?

If you thought AIDS was something which only affected others, think again...

Recent rumours on campus had it that five or six Rhodes students were infected with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).

RHODEO consulted the Pharmacy Department to find out the truth to these rumours. And fortunately, they are not true.

Screening of blood donated at the Rag Big Bleed this year identified other viruses, not AIDS, according to the Pharmacy Department.

Department member Eric Meyer said we should expect an AIDS victim on campus within the next few years. Sexually active people were not necessarily confined to indulgences on campus, he said, which meant that it was far more important than ever before to know the history of your sex partner.

African AIDS is different from European or American AIDS in that it develops primarily in heterosexuals rather than homosexuals (65% of US patients are homosexual) or intravenous drug users.

Intravenous drug abuse in South Africa is not a major problem. The main form of drug abuse is gga amongst the youth - people could just watch, said Mr Meyer,

that the abuse of the drug did not lead them into unsafe promiscuity or heavier drugs.

Dr Ann Kench, also of the Pharmacy Department, said that about 300 South Africans were known to be carriers of the HIV virus which causes AIDS. She said that most of the HIV-positive patients were white homosexuals, but she added that South Africa was likely to follow the African AIDS pattern, with the majority of victims being homosexual.

There is as yet no cure for AIDS, and medics reckon it could take a minimum of five years before a vaccine to combat the viral disease is designed.

There is, however, a medicine called AZT which stops the viral replication of the disease and slows down its progress. The drug is however extremely expensive and can affect bone marrow.

Although the HIV virus may be detected in blood donations, the giving of blood is not a sure test of whether you are infected with it or not. HIV is an elusive virus characterised by what medics call a "window presence".

Dr Kench, who is at present doing intensive research on the AIDS virus, says it may not show up in one's blood for up to 18 months.

'SRC - wonderful bunch'

The 1988/89 SRC has been in office for about a month now. RHODEO spoke to new president Rod Dixon to find out more about their plans for the rest of this term and next year:

Firstly, what did you think of the SRC elections and the percentage poll?

All the candidates put a lot of effort and energy into their campaigns, so students know who they were and what they were standing for. But not enough people knew when and where the voting was to take place, so the oppie poll was very low. Polling in the reses was encouragingly high, though, because res students could vote outside their dining halls.

I think, though, that the new SRC should publicise the next

Even though one cannot get AIDS from giving blood, if one is sexually active with more than one person, you could be giving an innocent victim the virus - without knowing it.

If you are concerned that you may be carrying the virus, tests can be done at any Grahamstown doctor. Full counselling is done before and after the tests to ensure that you are not alienated by taking them.

On the other hand, if you are in a situation, where you are having sex with someone you don't know very well, ensure the use of a condom. AIDS is a disease that cannot be cured - but it can be prevented.

An expert on the subject, Sister Gay Bulbrink, will be talking on AIDS this Friday at 8.40am. The venue is Arts Major and the talk - with a video - is expected to last an hour.

election dates more widely, and have more booths on campus to reach more oppies.

Overall, though, I think students were interested in the elections and the people elected, even though they were uncontested in some of the hall constituencies, received a convincing mandate.

So what do you think of the new SRC?

They are a wonderful bunch (chuckling). Seriously, they are highly motivated, interested, hardworking, friendly and ready to get started on new projects and campaigns. That might sound exaggerated, but I am honestly very confident about this term of office. I think we are in for a very positive and productive year.

What role do you think the SRC should be playing on campus?

As students we are vulnerable to the actions of other campus constituencies like the administration, academics, wardens, etc. The SRC should be there to represent the needs of students, for example where the res rules are too strict, library hours not long enough, societies need more offices or funds, or there is not enough parking on campus.... The list is endless.

The SRC organises Orientation Week for new students and Leadership weekend for campus leadership and provides students with a wide range of useful benefits like a discount scheme, counselling centre, SASTS, lift schemes, resource centre, the essays publication.... There are so many issues, campaigns and benefits that we can take up on behalf of students which no other constituency on campus would worry about.

What do you have planned for the rest of this term and next year?

We have decided to concentrate on the same four areas that the last SRC worked on. We realised that these four broad areas, namely student representation, benefits and services, political action and the university and out education, encompass everything that directly relates to students.

The projects we have planned for the rest of the term all fit under one of these headings, and all aim to represent and serve students. To mention just a few:

°Co-ordinating the Non-racialism Forum, which was successfully launched on campus last week. It aims to foster non-racialism on our campus and resolve some of the tensions that exist.

°Organising Orientation Week for next year.

°To continue working to gain and effectively use more student representation on university structures.

°To provide information and analysis of the forthcoming municipal elections.

°Investigating exam timetable problems and a possible swap week in June.

Do you think students know enough about the SRC and what it is doing?

There is a new promotions portfolio on the SRC which will deal specifically with promoting our projects and building closer links with all students. We aim to inform students of our activities through pamphlets, res tours, suggestion boxes and questionnaires on campus, and introductory breakfasts with house committees. So look out for us!

Group Areas and Res fees intensify



Adamson abandoned.

THE suspected rise in res and tuition fees, coupled with the harsh new Group Areas Amendment Bill, will make it difficult for black students to find accommodation next year.

Given the fact that government subsidy is due to decrease by 25 percent, fees are likely to increase by that much if not more. This means the new res fees would be about R4 500.

Admin refused to comment on the suspected rise in fees and the implications of the Bill for black students living in digs, until the university Council meeting on October 14.

The tough Bill, which compliments the Free Settlement Areas Bill providing for "grey areas", toughens up the existing Group Areas Act considerably with both landlords and tenants who

contravene its provisions facing increased penalties.

No areas in Grahamstown have been designated "grey" and this is likely to remain the case. Deputy Mayor, Martha Olckers said last week that before an area could be considered for free settlement there had to be "big enough demand".

However, people with vested

interests had to be "protected" and new areas would be more easily proclaimed.

The Bill places black students unable to pay res fees in a difficult position. As one student said: "Black students would probably have difficulties finding digs next year as few landlords would be willing to face the new stiffer penalties."

"Many students cannot afford to live in res and cannot move into the township either because conditions there make studying very difficult," the student said.

One landlord interviewed by RHODEO said he had never let the old act affect his choice of tenants and that in this case he would wait until personally informed before turning black students away.

The Oppie Board completely supports the rights of all students to stay where they choose, the chairperson of the Board, Dr Jeff Peires, said.

"Already many landlords are hiding behind the old Group Areas Act as a way of keeping black students out of their houses, the new Bill will only make the situation worse. We condemn the legislation in the strongest possible terms," he said.

CLOSURE OF RES'S

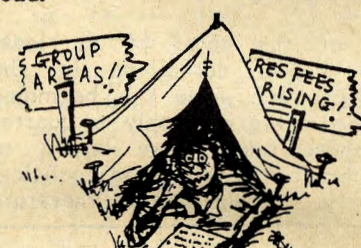
Many students have expressed fears that the closure of residences may lead to a shortage of accommodation in the future, especially for black students who

find it difficult to get digs landlords are afraid of falling foul of the Group Areas Act.

But, says Deputy Register Rod King, they have nothing to worry about. The only res which has been closed is Adams which is, according to Mr King "not a great res - it's a little like a tunnel." At the moment the building is not needed and used to house visiting sports teams.

There is no certainty that other residences will be closed at all; decision will be taken on the numbers of students applying to live in res next year are known.

This year there are 1733 students in res, with 1 870 places being available. There is thus a danger of applicants being turned away next year, especially on the reses which have been closed for renovations are open again. Prince Alfred and Stanley King are being renovated at the moment but should be ready for occupation by the beginning of next year. Skidd 1 is being converted into a postgrad res for male students, which Mr King says there is a considerable demand for. The only postgraduate accommodation presently available is for women - in Lillian Britten Truro and Oriol Annexe. Some male postgrads are accommodated in houses along Prince Alfred Road.



Attacks on Durban's SRC

Durban University SRC vice-president Jono Gunthorpe was the victim of a firebomb attack recently, the latest in a series of incidents to hit SRC members on the campus.

The attack occurred early in the morning of September 6, when a rolled-up, burning newspaper was thrown through the window into his room.

Jono, asleep at the time, awoke to find his curtains alight. He attempted to drag them to the bathroom, but was unable to do so because of the heat of the flames and eventually doused the

fire with water from the shower attachment.

This incident was the third in five weeks. The first occurred after the stand taken by 143 young men against conscription and involved the theft of a broken radio from his room, yet money was ignored. Two weeks later his room was broken into again and turned upside down. SRC president Penny Mackenzie also had jewellery stolen from her room.

To date, police investigations have proved futile.

HSS having a ball

CULTURE should be seen as a dynamic concept rather than something static, conservative and dogmatic, guests at the Hindu Students' Society were told.

Speaking at the HSS Ball, Sunil Rugunan, said it was difficult to see HSS as a "purely cultural society", especially when culture was seen as static, conservative and dogmatic entity.

"The demands placed upon us by the Western society are excessive," he said. "For this reason, our actual culture is not an Indian one but a South African

one, though it has Indian roots".

Sunil said because of the rapidly changing nature of society, culture was influenced by the "dominant political, and social forces within that society

"In a given society like South Africa, where these forces tend to expand beyond control, culture inevitably becomes linked to politics".

After the speech, the audience was treated to Hindi dances, a fashion show and tasty food.

Faculty Focus on the Zoo

Did you know that every fig species has its own specific wasp pollinator? And there are over 1 000 species of figs!

If you didn't know know that, you probably also don't know that bats have the unique ability to store sperm in winter.

Take a walk through the University's Zoology Department and discover a new world of eye-opening facts about insects, animals, and natural habitats.

The Zoology Department is fairly diverse in its approach to different animal studies it does, however, focus on things such as bees, bats, fig wasp, rocky shores and estuaries.

Research done on bees mainly concerns physiology and experimental studies. The Eastern Cape bee is quite a unique subspecies of bee in that they, unlike most bees, are able to re-queen themselves. Basic research done by Zoology students is on wax synthesis, control of colonies and gas chromatography (!!!?***?!- chemicals that enable bees to communicate) Students also study the unique closed system of the co-evolution between figs and wasps. They concentrate on five different types of figs, of which none are of the commercial type. (so don't get paranoid about wasps in your next fig!) This is a very specific study and also includes gas chromatography (chemicals that attract the female wasp to the fig)

Other studies include ecological work done with crabs, limpets and crustacean on rocky shores and estuarine research done in the Fish, Bushmans and Kariaga Rivers.

There are a number of research institutes within the Zoology department itself. They are the Tick Research Unit, the IFWS (Institute for Fresh Water Studies) and the Southern Oceans Group. Post-graduates involved in Southern Ocean research venture off to places such as the Antarctic, Gough Island and Marion Island, where they carry out their experiments. The Zoology department also collaborates with the Department of Ichthyology on certain projects involving fish studies.

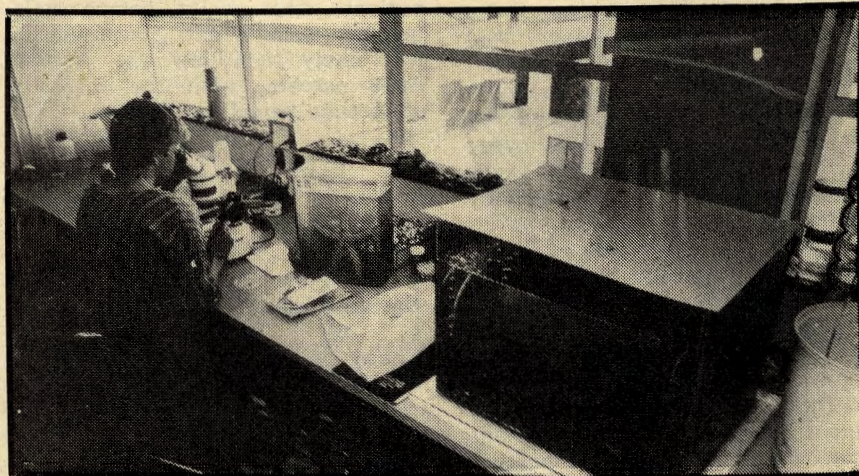
This year, the department initiated interdepartmental research seminars with UPE in order to

establish closer contacts with them. These usually take the form of post-graduates presenting research papers, followed by social afterwards.

The zoology department also has strong links with the South African Zoological Society. Prof HR Hepburn, the head of the department, is currently the editor of the society's journal.

Although Zoology is an extremely broad field, hence the absence of an international umbrella body, contacts with international societies and associations are often established when Rhodes zoology students and lecturers go overseas to present papers.

Without a doubt, the Zoology Department is certainly worth visiting. You'll find all this and much more behind tall walls right here on campus.



Zoology laboratory Inside the zoo.



CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR CALL-UP?

Visit the Conscription Advice Bureau
every Wednesday 2-5pm
in the Counselling Centre



Alternative service

FOLLOWING the banning of the ECC last term, the SRC has established an Alternative Services Committee (ASCOM) to publicize the issue of alternative service on campus.

The committee has been established as a bid to pressurize the government to revise its compulsory conscription policy.

All aspects of alternative service will be researched and the findings will be presented to the SRC.

Other tasks of the new sub-committee will be to lobby for support from all sectors of campus around the issue of conscription.

The sub-committee will be accountable to the SRC.



An effigy put up by Rhodes students to protest the banning of the ECC last term.

Another conscript refuses to serve

18-YEAR-old Charles Bester was due to stand trial for refusing to serve in the SADF this Monday. The trial could result in his being jailed for six years. If that happens, he will have spent a quarter of his life in jail by the time he has served the duration of his sentence.

SASPU spoke to Bester about how he reached his decision not to serve.

SASPU: Can you tell us a bit about yourself?

Charles Bester: I grew up in Johannesburg and I went to school at Grey College and St Martins.

I come from a very close knit, supportive family. My parents, like me, are committed Christians. They have given me a great deal of support over my decision not to serve, but obviously they are very concerned.

They are afraid that prison is going to be very harsh. After school I did apply to a university. Wits in fact, but I knew it would not be right just then. I got a job in Maritzburg with a volunteer organisation, organising missions. I did this knowing I had an August call-up.

SASPU: When did you start considering the possibility of refusing to serve?

CB: The first time I thought I might not serve was in standard seven. The feeling grew stronger over the years. When I was in standard nine, I knew I would never serve in the SADF, but I did not say much about it. In May this year, I finally made up my mind that in August I would refuse to serve.

SASPU: You are a religious person, and being a committed Christian, it is almost certain that you could successfully have applied to the Board for Religious Objection for six years alternative service. Why did you not go for that option?

CB: God works in a context, never in a void. My religious views are related to and influenced by, my political and moral views. I believe I should address the problem of being a conscript in the SADF, and not to war in general.

SASPU: What exactly has happened to you since you made your decision?

CB: My call-up was for 4 August, the day before the 143 made their refusal to serve public. When I went to Sturrock Park, I told the commanding officer that I was not prepared to serve. He was remarkably nice about the whole thing. He said: "We have been expecting people like you." Then he took down my particulars and sent me home.

Two weeks later the military police came to my house to arrest me. They questioned me and put in the police cells in Potchefstroom for the weekend. That Monday, I appeared in the Magistrate's Court.

I was questioned by Staff Sergeant Flattery. He tried to tell me what good buddies I would make in the army and how the army "isn't as bad as everybody says".



Charles Bester - Refusing to Serve.

Flattery spent ages trying to dissuade Dave Bruce because he was the first. He did not spend a lot of time on me - I think he realises there is not much point if people have made up their minds. I appeared in the Potchefstroom Magistrate's Court again on September 2, when they set a trial date for October 3.

SASPU: Are you hoping to serve your sentence in Pretoria Central with Dave Bruce if you are convicted?

CB: Obviously I would like to go to Pretoria Central where I would come into contact with Dave Bruce. But I do not want it to appear as though it's a foregone conclusion that I will go to jail. I am fully expecting to be put away, but I am not going to put myself in prison.

SASPU: Did Dave Bruce influence your decision not to serve?

CB: No, I decided not to serve before I had heard of Dave Bruce. By meeting him and seeing him stand trial, he gave me enormous encouragement.

SASPU: Are you a member of the ECC, and what do you think of their banning?

CB: I have never been a member of the ECC. I think the banning shows that conscription is deeply felt in the minds and hearts of the majority of South Africans. If ECC did not have such great support they would not have been banned.

SASPU: Why have you decided not to serve in the SADF?

CB: There are numerous reasons. First of all, I think that our education distorts the picture of life in South Africa, and it teaches us not to think. Also, all the alternative media is restricted, and so much general media is simply Nat propaganda.

Within this context, my peers are asked maybe to give up their lives or to take someone else's life without ever knowing what they are fighting for.

I have a particular concern with the townships. That is where it most clearly shows that we are in a civil war. Whites and blacks are kept apart. The only time they are together in the townships is when whites are on the back of military vehicles.

Furthermore, I think that South Africa is exporting the civil war to its neighbouring states. The SADF is upholding the apartheid system.

There will be no peace until the apartheid system is gone, and apartheid must go because it is wrong, and wrong in God's eyes.

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Did you know that dust caused by volcanic eruptions can circulate in the atmosphere for up to five years?

According to physics lecturer Richard Grant, an expert in the study of the atmosphere, this is why "there are spectacular sunsets all over the world whenever there are really large volcanic eruptions."

Mr Grant, who has done research in atmospheric scattering in the atmosphere for some time, recently visited the Institute of Space and Exploration in Brazil, where researchers have investigated the sodium layer of the mesosphere, 80 to 100km from the ground.

Mapping the progress of the dust using LIDAR enables researchers to learn how the atmosphere circulates at these altitudes", Mr Grant said. LIDAR, the optical equivalent of radar and is used to investigate the atmosphere.

Rhodes' department of physics and electronics is particularly important in this field because the LIDAR station here is the only one in South Africa.



About 80 delegates attended this year's Association for Anthropology in Southern Africa conference hosted by the Rhodes anthropology department recently.

The conference, which was held in September, covered a wide range of topics including development, religion, urban issues, conflict, women, ethnicity, work and stratification.

Among the issues was a discussion of the Zulu religion, as well as

the meaning and purpose of Zionist colours. Papers on the context and interpretation of violence and worker grievances and disputes were also delivered.

The income-generating activities of rural women in Lesotho and Swaziland formed part of the discussion, along with the effects of last year's Natal floods on women.

One of the delegates delivered papers on change and perceptions of change in the working and living conditions of employees on white-owned farms in the Eastern Cape. The area also featured in a report on anthropological/historical archaeology in the Eastern Cape.



"The Problem of Interpretation in Psychotherapy: an Exploratory Study" is the title of a new book by Prof Dreyer Kruger of the Psychology Department.

Prof Kruger, whose book is part of a series of investigations into research methodology, said the human sciences had problems of methodology because natural science methods did not fit.

"This study is part of an effort to see how interpretation should be part of the human sciences", he said.

The prof started his research in 1986 by sending problem case histories to therapists for interpretation. He also asked therapists to describe their own experiences in interpretation of cases.

"Most psychotherapists see everything in terms of their own particular theory, and we need

to stand back and look at the whole system more carefully from time to time", he said.

He added that a better understanding of interpretation was extremely important in South Africa.



The department of Plant Science, housed in a national monument, has just acquired highly sophisticated equipment for its research project on ecophysiology - the study of how plants react and respond to changes in their environment.

The controlled environment cabinet, with a multiprocessor-controlled light intensity, humidity and temperature, will improve the measurement of the rate at which photosynthesis takes place.

"With a controlled environment and a photosynthetic CO₂ gas analyser, it is possible to map out systematically the entire response of a plant to changes in light intensity, temperature and carbon dioxide levels", said department head Prof Ted Botha.

Prof Botha, who is involved in the project, is concentrating his research in grasses, while another department member, Shaun Russel, is concentrating on the ecophysiology of mosses.



the University."

Ndebele said that this lack of academic freedom is "a function of a well orchestrated system of censorship, whereby the majority are kept in ignorance and are deprived of the means of overcoming this ignorance".

The restriction comes at a time when UCT is seriously examining its role in a changing South Africa. The exclusion of Ndebele's ideas from such a debate "is not good for anyone concerned" according to Dr Glen, Head of the English Department.

Academic denied Work Permit

World renowned writer and critic Njabulo Ndebele has been denied a work permit to teach at UCT.

South African born Dr Ndebele would have conducted a five week seminar course on South African poetry in the UCT English Department.

A statement released by the English Department described the Government's action as further proof of the crass constraints under which intellectual life in South Africa proceeds.

Ndebele himself only heard of the government's refusal to grant him a work permit from the Vice Chancellor and from reports in the Sunday Times.

Ndebele sees his being banned from teaching in South Africa as another instance of the way in which the government ignores the interests of the South African people.

An angry student who had enrolled for the course said that the decision "makes a mockery of the claim that there is academic freedom in South Africa and in

Greenflies: The other police force

One of the reasons for the animosity between the community councillors and the community which they purport to serve is the existence of a powerful security force run by the town councils - the municipal police, or "greenflies", as they are dubbed in the townships. Since their formation in 1986, the municipal police have been gradually taking over the duties of the SADF and the SAP in suppressing any opposition to the government in the townships.

A Black Sash study conducted in the Eastern Cape cites in detail 260 incidents of theft, assault, eviction, beatings, rape and torture that were reported to their offices between April 1986 and July 1987. In one case, a man accused of being a member of a street committee was handcuffed to a chair and beaten with rifle butts.

A tyre was then placed around his neck and lit, methelated spirits having been poured around the rim. The man managed to remove the tyre and was released two hours later. The municipal police do not have the power to detain people and few, if any, of their 'arrests' have led to prosecutions.

The mere number of alleged assaults by the municipal police is cause for concern. In Port Elizabeth, one legal firm alone is handling over 50 suits against the Ibhayi Town Council for alleged assaults and shootings.

Although the municipal police are presented by the government as maintaining law and order, the Black Sash argues that their 'hidden agenda' is to divide communities and to disrupt political organisations. The main thrust of their activities involve random acts of violence directed at political opponents of the government, both real and imagined. As one Port Alfred resident put it: "people are jumping just like birds because of the gun-happy municipal police".

By recruiting from the communities themselves, the state is able to sow division within the communities, to distance white forces from the frontline, and to re-inforce the notion of "black-on-black" violence. Often when the situation in the townships becomes violent, the municipal police and the right-wing vigilante groups share common aims against democratic organisations. Municipal police are frequently 'ex-comrades' - "they were forced by hunger to take blood money", as one township resident put it.

Mayor Gaqa: Representing whom?

The Rini town councillors, who were elected in 1983 on a 4.3% poll, are responsible for the administration of the township and the municipal police. Reverend B.A. Gaqa, the mayor of the Rini town council, spoke to RHODEO on some of the issues surrounding the October elections.

RHODEO: What is the role of the town council?

Gaqa: We are here to see that the needs of the community are met.

RHODEO: Do you think that the state of emergency and the fact that so many potential candidates are in detention will affect the October elections?

Gaqa: It is their deeds which put them in jail. If you are outside a camp, don't throw stones inside; open the gates and no-one will stop you. The government called on all people to participate. Even those who don't support the government must come forward and participate. Negotiation from the inside is the best way.

RHODEO: Do you believe that the SADF should leave the townships?

Gaqa: Under the present circumstances, if a black man is not looked after, he will be harassed. Very often, peoples houses are burned by thugs. Someone needs to ensure harmony and security.

RHODEO: What is your response to the fact that the JMC structures are run by the military?

Gaqa: As far as security is concerned, we have our own force. The government does its own duty: to help and to ensure that the people are stabilised.

RHODEO: Rini is one of the only townships in the Eastern Cape which has a town council in operation. Why do other townships have this problem?

Gaqa: Intimidation. people were forced to resign because their lives were at stake. Here, we represent the needs of the people.

RHODEO: Is it true that the municipal offices were burned in 1986?

Gaqa: The old municipal hall was burned during the riot period. All public places belonging to the government were burned.

RHODEO: The Grahamstown Civic Association, a UDF affiliate has not been functioning since the banning of the UDF. Is there room for organisations such as this in the township?

Gaqa: If an organisation is a help to the community, I do not oppose it. If their activities are political they do not represent the people as our people are not politically minded. Black politics differ from white politics. It is easier for whites: they have a chance to study politics in universities. We don't have a background of struggle.

RHODEO: Dave Sandi of the Grahamstown civic says that the crime rate in the townships has escalated since the banning of the UDF and hence the dissolution of the street committees. What is your view?

Gaqa: He's telling lies! They were hammering people in the street committees. Unlawful sentences passed by boys on older men.

RHODEO: The Anglican bishop of the Order of Ethiopia, Right Reverend Siggibo Dwana said at a conference to discuss the 'future of Grahamstown' that blacks were being asked to lend support to the myth that they had voting rights when in fact that vote had no corresponding power. Can you comment on this?

Gaqa: He just says what he thinks. He does not have facts to back up his statements. It is these people who instigate people in churches to boycott elections. They think we are not suitable, or they don't like us, but how will they get people to meet their needs?

"We represent the needs of the people and of the community." - Reverend B.A. Gaqa, mayor of Rini.

"Black people who claim to represent oppressed can only participate in bodies and thus are not responding needs of the people." - Jan van Eck, Claremont.

What are the squirrels the municipal elections in

As the date of the nationwide municipal elections looms closer, a growing number of organisations and individuals have found it necessary to speak up, heightening the controversy over what the government has billed the "greatest exercise in democracy in Africa."

The Mayor of Rini, Reverend B A Gaqa, has claimed that his office "represents the needs of the people." However, he was elected by a 4.3 per cent poll, and no one on the present Rini Town Council was nominated by the people they claim to represent. Furthermore, in March a petition signed by 272 residents of Rini was circulated, demanding the resignation of Mayor Gaqa.

As Jan van Eck, Independent MP for Claremont has said, "Black people who claim to represent the oppressed can only participate in useless bodies and thus are not responding to the needs of the people."

With none of the candidates for the Rini Town Council running opposed, the upcoming elections hold little promise of improvement for the people of Rini. In the Eastern Cape, twenty-five per cent of the town councils will not hold elections as there are not enough candidates. In those townships where elections will be held, only 61.5 per cent of the eligible voters have registered. This means that only slightly over one third of the Eastern Cape's eligible voters will be

able to participate in the October elections.

Mayor Gaqa told Rhodoe that black people are not politically-minded, and that they do not have a background for struggle. For this reason, he says, politically-based community organisations do not represent the people.

However, as Wits political scientist Mark Swilling points out, it is in the Eastern Cape in particular that "these structures had developed most effectively." When the struggle in the townships had caused sixty-two per cent of the area's Black Local Authorities to cease functioning and numerous government building had been burnt down in protest, street committees began to form alternative structures for community organisation.

Clearly, the effectiveness of the Black Local Authorities in handling the problems of the townships needs to be clarified.

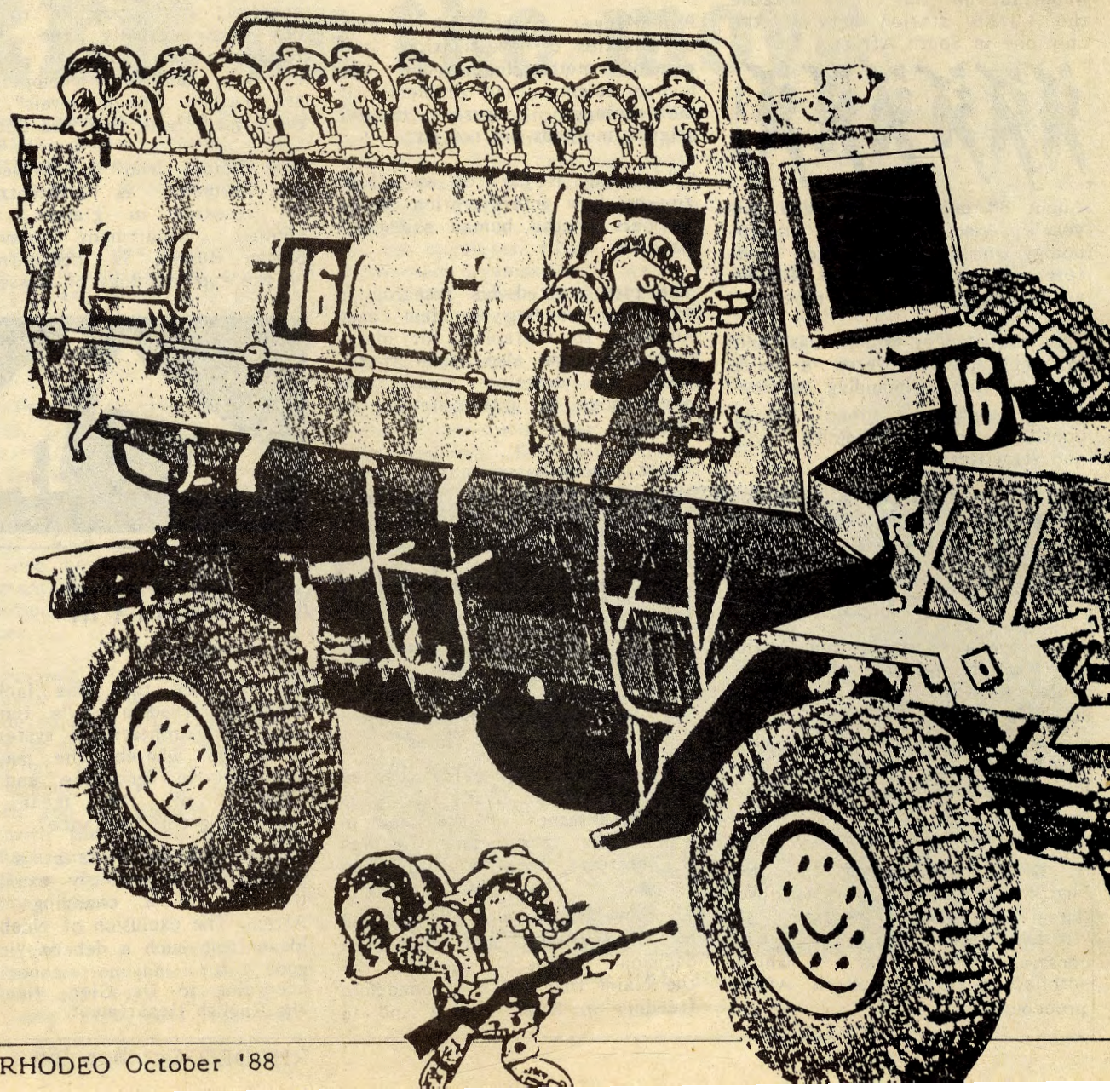
Proponents of the municipal elections hail them as the beginning of a new democratic order in South Africa. However, these "reforms" are still dictated from above, and are designed to support a racially based, apartheid system of government. The Regional Services Councils, the multi-racial bodies formed by representatives from the local authorities are lower-tier versions of the tri-cameral parliament.

Furthermore, representation on the RSC's is determined by the amount paid by a local authority for regional services. Therefore, wealthy white areas are assured of continued control over the financial resources of the RSC. As the National Union of South African Students has stated, the government is "falsely equating democracy with participation in its apartheid structures."

Mark Swilling has reported that 400 000 houses need to be built annually to meet the needs of the black population, but only 35 000 units are being built presently. These houses, none of which are constructed by the government, cost between R25 000 and R35 000. However, only thirty-three per cent of Africans can afford housing loans over R12 000.

For upgrading projects to succeed in dealing with this housing shortage, according to Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank Jan Lombard, a five to seven per cent growth rate would be necessary. The current growth rate is below two per cent.

Financial problems in the townships go much deeper than housing, however. In the Eastern Cape alone, the unemployment rate is at least sixty per cent, according to Louis Koch of the Cape Provincial Administration. The average wage of those lucky enough to find jobs in Grahamstown is R50 per month,



the less the for

"The municipal structures are not empowered to pose a meaningful challenge to apartheid at a national political level." - Louise Vincent, Vice President NUSAS SRC.

Talking about? context

while the estimated subsistence level is R180 per month. Under these conditions, few could even consider buying a home at R25 000, were they available.

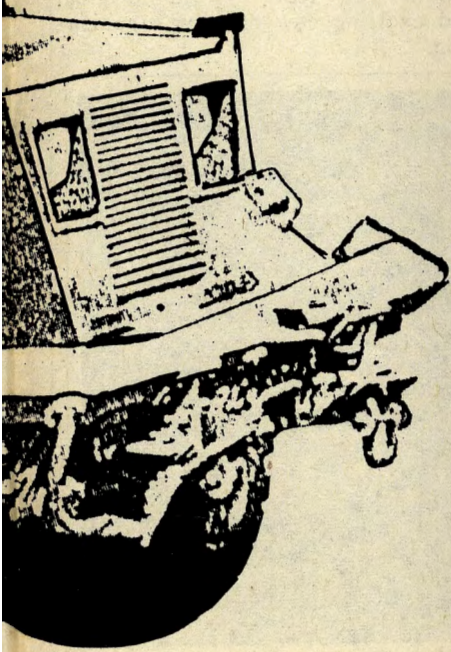
These people, who often live without such basic facilities as electricity, sanitation, or running water, suffer from problems which can not be solved by the building of a few houses; problems which are endemic to the apartheid economy. Public facilities in some areas are overcrowded or non-existent, while in other areas they are under-utilised. Apartheid is, as the Five Freedoms Forum recently pointed out, "wasteful and expensive duplication."

With the local authorities unable to provide the funds necessary to upgrade the impoverished black townships and alternative democratic organisations rising at a grassroots level to replace them, the government has chosen to implement an increasingly repressive policy to control the people.

The Regional Services Councils, are charged with providing funds for the physical upgrading of the black townships. When these authorities prove unable to do this, though, the Joint Management Centres, local divisions of the military-dominated National Security Management System, intervene to provide emergency upgrading in "hot spots."

However, PFP law and order spokesperson, Helen Suzman, has pointed out that frequently decisions which should be taken in the open by elected officials are made by the JMC's, often in secret.

In May, for example, the Rini Town Council rejected a proposal to form a comprehensive development plan in the Council. It was deemed that such a proposal would be redundant, as the local JMC and the Cape Provincial Administration had recently formed a similar plan.



Such actions have caused local authorities to come under criticism for turning over their responsibilities to unelected bodies with military domination.

It is also the role of the JMC's, which form a shadow structure alongside local authorities, to infiltrate community organisations at all levels, providing intelligence for the State Security Council. When these organisations are then "stabilised," the security apparatus is already in place to reorganise the communities under "trustworthy" leadership.

Rhodes sociologists Marianne Roux and Melissa de Villiers have indicated several basic aspects to the government's strategy. Firstly, "eliminate organised opposition." This entails the mass detention of community leaders and the banning of popular organisations. Secondly, "close off the space in which anti-apartheid groupings have operated."

This includes the banning of meetings, press curbs, and the prohibition of calls for boycotts or strikes. The restrictions of mass based organisations such as the United Democratic Front and the Congress of South African Trade Unions, and of meetings such as last week's Anti-Apartheid Conference in Cape Town, are part of this strategy.

Three successive states of emergency have succeeded in drastically expanding the power of the military. The Human Rights Commission has reported that in the last three years, 30 000 people have been detained without trial. Few of these are ever charged with a crime, and only twenty-five per cent are even known to be politically active. In the Grahamstown area in August alone, the Dependents Conference has confirmed that at least eighteen people were detained under emergency regulations. Ten of them were children.

Even when the harsh emergency regulations are insufficient to crush opposition, the government usually succeeds through SADF and municipal police occupation of the townships, with the assistance of right-wing vigilantes and death squads.

The government, has clearly recognised that local authorities can not possibly address the problems of the townships and that the people have largely rejected the racially-determined structures as inadequate and undemocratic. It has therefore embarked on an increasingly violent and repressive campaign to crush its opponents. In light of this repression, and of the unrepresentative apartheid structures, it is impossible to see how the upcoming elections can be heralded as an exercise in anything resembling democracy. ■

NUSAS: Campaigning for non-racial solutions

RHODEO: What is NUSAS' response to the elections?

NUSAS has debated at length an appropriate response to the elections. We are aware that students don't feel that the municipal elections affect them directly.

In this context we've attempted to forge a campaign which will do a number of things: Firstly, we hope to combat the effects of censorship and to make the white public, in particular, aware of the extent of repression currently being employed in the black communities.

Secondly, we hope to provide an analysis of municipal structures in South Africa and the way in which the government is hoping to use them as a means of entrenching apartheid and Nationalist Party rule. We believe that the municipal structures are not empowered to pose a meaningful challenge to apartheid at a national political level.

Thirdly, while we believe that

the municipal elections are a recipe for further conflict in our country, NUSAS and other democratic organisations do have a positive vision of the future.

That vision is embodied in our call for democratic and non-racial structures of government in South Africa. It is our belief that meaningful change and a peaceful solution to the crisis in our country can only come about through the equal participation of all South Africans.

What form will the campaign take at Rhodes?

Hopefully, our campaign will cater for each of the three aspects I've outlined. The SRC's Projects Committee will be focusing on critiquing the elections. They will be producing pamphlets and display boards aimed at providing students with an understanding of how the municipal structures actually work and what the problems with them are. We are also hoping to monitor repression and to provide up to date information particularly concerning incidents in the East-



Jan van Eck: 'Listen to the oppressed'

Jan van Eck, independent M.P. for Claremont, Cape Town, said in parliament: "Black non-participation in local government elections - the lowest level of government - must also be seen in the light of blacks being denied participation in the highest levels of government. To participate at the lowest level while being denied full and equal participation at the highest level, can be seen as settling for second best and weakens the resolve to establish a truly non-racial democracy."

The following are excerpts from an interview with Jan van Eck by the South African Students' Press Union, SASPU.

SASPU: A few weeks ago you made a statement regarding the municipal elections in parliament. Can you elaborate on that?

Van Eck: I used the privilege of parliament to convey the point of view of the democratic movement with regards to the October elections. First, I made the necessary consultations within the community, then I conveyed their call in Parliament.

SASPU: How far does your Parliamentary privilege extend?

Van Eck: There are two places in this country where the privileges to make illegal claims exists: in the law courts and Parliament. In these forums one has the right to expose wrongs and corruption without the fear of prosecution.

SASPU: How do you reconcile your call for boycotting the municipal elections and your

presence in Parliament?

Van Eck: At the moment white people are not informed about the wishes and desires of the oppressed people in this country. White people are still relevant to the aspirations of the majority. The more whites involved in the democratic struggle the less violence there will be - therefore whites must be informed. I am using Parliament to do so. I do not condone it as a racist institution but Parliament can be used specifically to achieve certain things, thus for me my participation is more strategic than principled.

The important thing is what you do with that role. This strategy is not relevant in the black communities. Allan Hendrikse and co. are proof of that. I don't claim to represent the oppressed, and black people who try to do so can only participate in useless bodies and thus are not responding to the needs of the people.

In Parliament and the city council I am trying to bring about white liberation from fear and prejudice.

SASPU: Many bodies from the UDF to the Chamber of Commerce have criticised these elections. Why is the government going through with them?

Van Eck: It's a desperate attempt to fill the vacuum created by the banning and detention of hundreds of community leaders with the government's own co-opted leadership. Heunis has been going around the country like a modern-day Father Christmas giving out lollipops to convince people to stand.

RHODEO spoke to Louise Vincent, NUSAS-SRC Vice-President about NUSAS's Municipal Election campaign:

ern Cape.

The SRC itself will be looking into what alternatives there are to the government's proposed "solutions". Our feeling is that as students we have a crucial role to play in bringing about change. This aspect of NUSAS-SRC's campaign will focus on the contribution that students can make to a better future.

The SRC will be staffing tables in every faculty where students will be able to say how they think students in that particular faculty can best contribute to non-racial and democratic future. We are gaining particular skills at university. We have to carefully assess how we intend to use those skills one day, and which sector of society will benefit from our contribution.

The SRC hopes to get feedback as to how we can provide channels for students to actively get involved in ways which they think will make a significant impact.

SASPU: There have been rumours of corruption around the elections. Have you had access to such information?

Van Eck: There has been tremendous intimidation to allow people into voting. For example in the rural areas a community finally had electricity installed only to have the boxes ripped out because they indicated their refusal to vote.

SASPU: Do you think the elections will have a dramatic effect on the country?

Van Eck: The election process will no doubt be one of violence aggravated by the fact that people may not call for a state of emergency. Whatever the results, the state will claim them as a victory for democracy and moderation.

Those black people who are elected will then represent the people on a National Council level. This will entrench division between the democratic movement and those who have co-opted.

Naturally the state will work with them and protect them. The government will be forced to limit itself into working with these people even though they know they are not the true leadership.

SASPU: How much do you expect the elections to cost the taxpayer?

Van Eck: Well, the squib campaign alone is costing about 4 million rand. I suppose the entire show will cost about 10 million rand.

CULTURAL BOYCOTT POSSIBLY LIFTED

The cultural boycott of SA may soon be removed from overseas anti-Apartheid organisations and placed in the hands of S African groups, pop star Johnny Clegg told a meeting of musicians in Durban on 19 September.

On a flying visit to SA before continuing overseas concert tours with Savuka, he was reporting on a culture against Apartheid symposium held in Athens earlier in September.

Clegg was invited to participate

in the symposium, organised by the UN select committee against Apartheid, to discuss the cultural boycott issue.

A number of theatre and film personalities also attended, including Glenda Jackson, Maximillian Schell and Joseph Papp. Anti-Apartheid movements were also present as observers, Clegg said.

"What happened in Athens augurs well for music in SA, he told the newly-formed music association of Natal meeting.

A distinction was drawn between Apartheid SA and the progressive cultural movements within the country which the symposium recognised should be supported internationally.

As a result it was agreed that the power of overseas anti-Apartheid organisations to monitor cultural boycotts be put in the hands of organisations directly involved, which included the ANC and PAC, he said.

A motion that certain kinds of

cultural contacts with SA would be beneficial was also passed.

"A call was made at the same time for musicians in SA to come together and identify ourselves with the progressive movements in the country and be seen as contributing to democracy here."

The meeting was attended by about 80 people connected with music, including students at Durban University.

LULU'S DRAMA

SEEING Speech and Drama Honours student, Lulu Khumalo, putting the Nombulele Secondary School Drama group through its paces in Joza Township is a marvel to watch.

She motivates and advises group members with enthusiasm and care while giving them room to take initiatives by writing and directing their own plays.

"The only way they can learn anything is by doing the thing themselves. My job is to supervise and make sure they do it right," she said.

"The group has displayed interest and enthusiasm. I am happy with

them because they are keen and take initiatives."

The group's plays portray life in the townships and have won them awards.

In May this year, at the Eistedfodt in the Monument Theatre, they grabbed a silver medal for their play, "Zizono Zakho Mfundisi", by Bonile Ngqiyaza, and a bronze for "Umtshilibe" by Likhaya Ngadi.

For traditional dance, which was choreographed by the group in a workshop, they went home with two silver medals.

Another perscr. charged with the

smooth operation of the group is the school's English teacher, Mrs Ann Kew.

"She is our organiser and helps us with publicity and liases with the school principal," the group's spokesperson, Likhaya Ngadi, said.

They presently have two plays ready to hit the stage. One is entitled "The Prisoners", and the other "Clefstick", the latter being an adaptation of Alan Paton's short story.

For the future, the group hopes "to keep drama alive in our own school and also perform in other areas of this country".



Lulu Khumalo and a few drama pupils.

Stand By Me

This is a rich and memorable movie, certainly one of the most realistic accounts of boyhood to have come out of Hollywood in a long while.

Skilfully avoiding sentimentality without being any less moving, it manages to capture much of the wonder and exhilaration as well as the irrational fears and awkwardness of youth. Too often has the American entertainment machine presented the public with children whose nauseating smugness and contrived precocity debase the true significance of these crowded and mysterious years.

Robin Wood speaks of the need to distinguish the true innocence of childhood from the "sentimental, sanitised, desexualised version of bourgeois ideology", and any of us who have managed to sit through some of the Spielbergian excesses of the present decade will know what he means. 'Stand By Me' fortunately, is something out of the ordinary.

The film takes the form of a double quest, that of the narrator who consciously goes back into his past and the quest within the plot itself as the four young protagonists undertake a journey which, together with being the culmination of their boyhood, is also a turning point in their lives. In gaining knowledge of themselves and of death they irrevocably forfeit their innocence,

their world shrinking to the level of the commonplace after seeming so vast and timeless.

It is a paradox inherent in a coming of age in which something must necessarily be left behind forever. Knowledge is vital, one is to grow, but it soon becomes a strait-jacket, the thing learnt being pinned down in the consciousness and in time becoming one of the shackles of reason stifling all spontaneity.

'Stand By Me', without indulging in mawkish, self-pitying nostalgia, evocatively captures the narrator's sense of loss as he wistfully relives his past.

The movie has been hyped as the "feel good" movie of the year' which is worth commenting on since it is indicative of the particularly obnoxious habit in America and consumer capitalist societies in general of attaching neat and simplistic 'definitions' to existing genres, real and imaginary.

One should not however, be put off by this glip and banal trivialisation of a genuinely worthwhile work.

"Stand By Me" is many things: haunting and sad, funny and exciting, warm and sympathetic, cohering into a whole that as satisfying as it is fulfilling.

Dave Saks

RER on the move

Rhodes Education Radio, an innovative and exciting new educational service formed by RMR, started broadcasting this year.

The original idea was initiated at an RMR rap session and with foresight and drive was brought into operation. The material broadcasted is campus and student specific.

Prerecorded networks from the English Department as well as material from other departments will be broadcasted. Students' poetry and literature will be read by the authors themselves or by RER personnel. You will also be listening to topical documentary features prepared on campus as well as from outside sources.

A dynamic innovation - the academic problem line, will provide students with the opportunity to query almost any problem that they might encounter on campus. It is a student station and its success therefore lies with the degree of student feedback and interaction it gets. So phone in or pop in anytime with new ideas!

This year is a teething period for the station which will open officially next year. Kyle Hannan, who took over the chair

from Chris de Groot, says: "We are always interested in new members." They need not speak over the air - they could act as anything from a programme compiler to a liason officer. But he stipulates: "This is not a nurse-maid organisation." Members should have an enterprising spirit and a degree of imagination.

The service runs from a second studio next to the RMR studio which was built up by John Coombes and some other enthusiastic members. RER will cooper-

ate fully with RMR and the chairperson of each society with astic members. RER cooperates fully with RMR and the chairperson of each society occupies seat on the committee of the other to ensure that a cooperative spirit is maintained.

RER will fulfill a vital role in the campus community by providing an alternative, education service for students. Three cheers for RER - an original and exciting new campus organisation.



Kyle Hannan in the RER studio

After a short relapse... the Oppie Videos Are Back... The Play Button will be pressed on Sunday Evenings at 7.30 in the Arts Major.

Presenting:

- 9th October... Blade Runner
- 16th " ... Nuts
- 23rd " ... Kiss of the Spider Woman
- 30th " ... Manson
- 6th November... Cabaret
- 13th " ... Rosemary's Baby

There will be an alternative type Jorl organised by the Oppie Board up at the Old Power Station... Friday 7th October

Oppie Craft Market on Saturday 8th Oct. Live music... lots of odds'n ends. Want to set up a stall? Contact Oppie Secretary - O'KEEF



MUSICAL CONVERSATIONS

Welcome to this brand new column that will take you on a cool journey through the ups and downs of African, South African and other melodies that have links with the developments in the local music scene. In this edition, we kick off with a review of Harry Belafonte's test offering, *Paradise in Gazankulu*.

reckon that one day when someone sits down to write the historical development of South African music, he or she must dedicate at least a chapter to Harold George Belafonte's contribution to the process.

He is the person who helped artists such as Mariam Makeba, Hugh Masekela, Letta Mbuli and Sipho Mhlanga, with their raw South African beat, to gain international recognition as authentic artists. In fact, Makeba refers to him as "Big Brother" in her autobiography.

Belafonte carried these exiled artists piggy-back in his tours and exposed them to wider audiences. He also went to the studio with Makeba and later the two stars collected a Grammy award for their collaboration.

Now here he comes again with that stuff that is as South African as "umqombothi". The credits on the album teem with local names and it sounds very much like what you hear from most baqanga groups. But it is Belafonte's name and musical know-how that give the album international flavour.

His fans will note that *Paradise in Gazankulu* is something different to the folk music they are used to. In this one you do not find anything of the nature of hits like *Jamacia Farewell* and *Banana Boat*.

Three of the songs in the album are *Amandla*, *Cape Town* and *Move*, you won't hear on your favourite SABC station. The big gigs in Auckland Park decided to ban them because they were not impressed with the lyrics.

Amandla, which features local baqanga outfit, Abakhwenyana,

he says "you give yourself to those who don't deserve you" and explicitly declares "amandla ngawethu" (power to the people).

Cape Town portrays the other side of the city, the darker one. It speaks of "a shadow in your mountain (District Six)...a cry at Crossroads...exiles in your homeland". Definitely not the "fairest Cape" image we are often presented with.

Move it is definitely one of the best songs on the album. It is brilliantly arranged, with an "igwijo" (a form of traditional music) called "Jol'nkomo sofel'entlongweni" (Jol'nkomo we will die in prison) fitting smoothly into the main melody at intervals. The sound of the percussion makes one want to take off one's shoes and boogie. Lyrics-wise, the song is radically anti-apartheid.

Belafonte's approach is amazing - he expresses himself like someone who has first-hand experience of the events in his country. As David Gell once said of him: "He sings about working women and men, of their love, their pain and their longings. And in singing, he identifies with them."

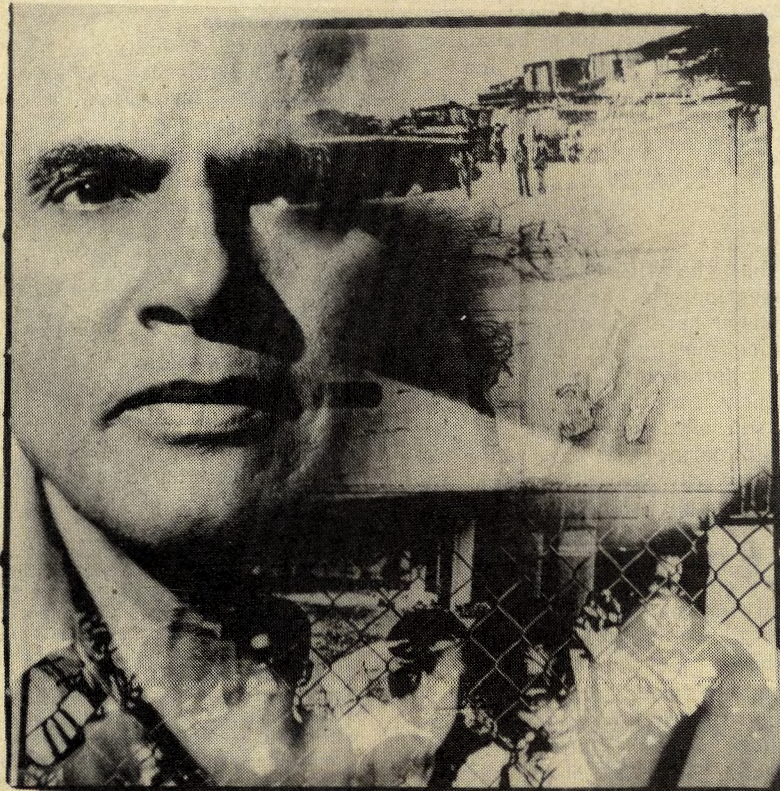
Other interesting songs in the album are: *Kwela*, a kwela music song with the typical bass lines and pennywhistle melody by top producer, West Nkosi; *Monday to Monday*, which is a duet with Brenda Fassie and the title track - an adaptation of Obed Ngobeni's song with high pitch female vocals. Ngobeni himself features in Belafonte's English/Shangaan version.

This album is a pleasure to listen to.

See you next time: same paper, same space. Cheers!!!

HARRY BELAFONTE

XXX:Paradise in Gazankulu:XXX



ZAPPY ZAKHENI

THE culmination of SATISCO's Sport and Culture Week last Friday was a scintillating performance by Soweto's Zakheni Cultural Group (Zakheni means "build yourself").

The 32-member group, which performed at the Amsterdam anti-apartheid cultural conference at the beginning of the year, was formed in 1982 to promote theatre through songs, dances, poems and plays.

Founder Boy Bangala, who writes and directs most of the group's material, said they were also "trying to come up with something constructive in society".

The group presents its plays to community organisations, hostel workers and schoolchildren, often playing an educational role by showing people why unions and other progressive organisations are important and they can achieve.

Bangala, an ex-actor, started the group when he began writing his own plays six years ago. His first play, "Untidy Children", won first prize in the Pitco Drama Competition in 1986.

At the moment the group, which has built up a good reputation in the theatre world, is trying to get sponsorship to enable them to expand; they are also hoping

for an engagement at the Market Theatre in Johannesburg.

Their performance last Friday night included two plays as well as some spectacular traditional and gumboot dancing and a repertoire of songs, which had the disappointingly small audience yelling for more.

The lack of their bongo drums was not an obstacle - as they improvised with a handy plastic Great Hall chair.



Zakheni wooing the crowds at SATISCO's culture evening

FRIENDS FIRST

Friends First - a vibey local band is currently on tour and due to play four shows in Port Elizabeth on October 7th and 8th.

The tour is to promote their third album "Another Friend, Another City" but songs from the album have been banned from airplay by the SABC. The band believes that the bannings are an NP effort to appease the right wing in the light of the up and coming elections, but concrete reasons for the bannings are still unknown to the band itself.

The band's beginnings go back to the unrest in 1985 with the State of Emergency and nationwide political upheaval, when a group of friends bonded by their musical talent, got together and rapped about doing something significant for South African society.

They formed a recording project called "We see a new Africa" which was well-received - particularly by small American and European recording companies.

They played for a number of campuses overseas and by causing a great stir, they now sit with invitations to play in places like Norway, Sweden and Ireland.

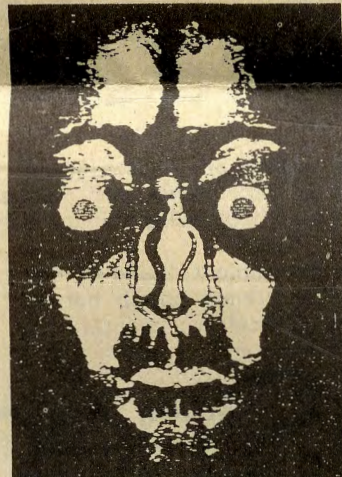
The members of the group are all good friends and the band itself was never strategically planned. It was during laid back chats that they decided to incorporate their talent and create original sounds with the preoccupation of "making friends" with all South Africans alike - hence the name: Friends First.

The 8 members of the band come from a vast array of different cultural and social backgrounds, from Joburg to Zaire and their music is an amalgamation of African township and city sounds.

The line out:

- °Leader and record arranger - J.B.Arthur
- °Base - Victor Masondo - ex Jazzanians (with Darius Brubeck)
- °Sax - Kelly Petlane - ex Bayete
- °Guitar - Danny Bridgens - ex Taxi
- °Keyboard - Joey Mabe
- °Drums - Lloyd Martin
- °Vocalist - Vuvu Pefile
- °Vocalist - Wambali Mkandawire

The concert sounds like an opportunity not to be missed - so bop along to P.E. this weekend!



Post-Pasteup Portrait! *?@...

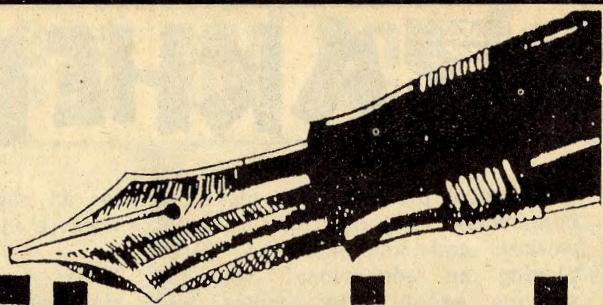
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Editorial

October 19, National Press Day, is also the eleventh anniversary of the banning in 1977 of the newspapers *World* and *Weekend World*, along with 19 organisations including the South African Students' Organisation (SASO) and the Soweto SRC.

Today very little has changed for the better. 17 more organisations were banned in February this year, including Sansco which was a Rhodes campus society. The ECC followed last term.

Another two newspapers were (temporarily) banned, several others were warned, and the implementation of harsh new media restrictions has effectively silenced most opposition from the press. Regulations enforcing the registration of journalists were withdrawn but will probably reappear in a more sophisticated form soon.

There was a public outcry at the time but by now most people seem to have forgotten how much of the "news" they see and read is censored. Sure, the EP Herald may seem a little more boring - but many just accept that as a sign that nothing is happening.

There is a lot happening, however. As the municipal elections draw closer repression and conflict are increasing daily - but most of us never get to hear about it.

In the light of this, and of the harsh censorship under which most South African journalists are working, National Press Day is especially significant. Most of what we read is censored in one way or another - this paper has been restricted in terms of the emergency regulations and several other laws as well.

The thing about censorship is that the more it happens, the less you know about it. It's easy to forget about it and that makes it easier for the state to carry on doing it. We can't leave it to a small group of journalists to defend our right to know what is happening in this country - the responsibility lies with everyone. Unless we do something about it, October 19 1977 will repeat itself over and over again as it did in February - and no-one will know.

The government's banning of the anti-apartheid conference due to be held in Cape Town two weekends ago has shown to some people that the state still holds the initiative.

The government found it quite easy to ward off the short-term threat the conference posed; but the longer-term threat certainly would seem more difficult to counter.

Stoep Talk

The macho reputation of Rhodes "bugger" males is on the line, it seems....The intrepid Stoep Talk reporter heard recently that at least three young and strapping (male) patrons of the world-renowned Vic have been savagely assaulted and left bleeding among the beer bottles under the stout wooden tables of Rhodes' best-loved drinking spot. Well, there's nothing unusual in that, you might say - except for the fact that all three of the "attacks" were made by outraged women who finally got fed up with loudmouthed obnoxious males and lost their rags. Well, it may not exactly be according to feminist form - but it's delightful to think about!

The Odeon's been taking us back in time in more ways than one lately. Come back Africa provided us with a rare glimpse into life as it was for migrant workers in the Fifties; but the daring Stoep Talk reporter was surprised to notice that the historical detail extended to the movie tickets themselves. Apart from reminding

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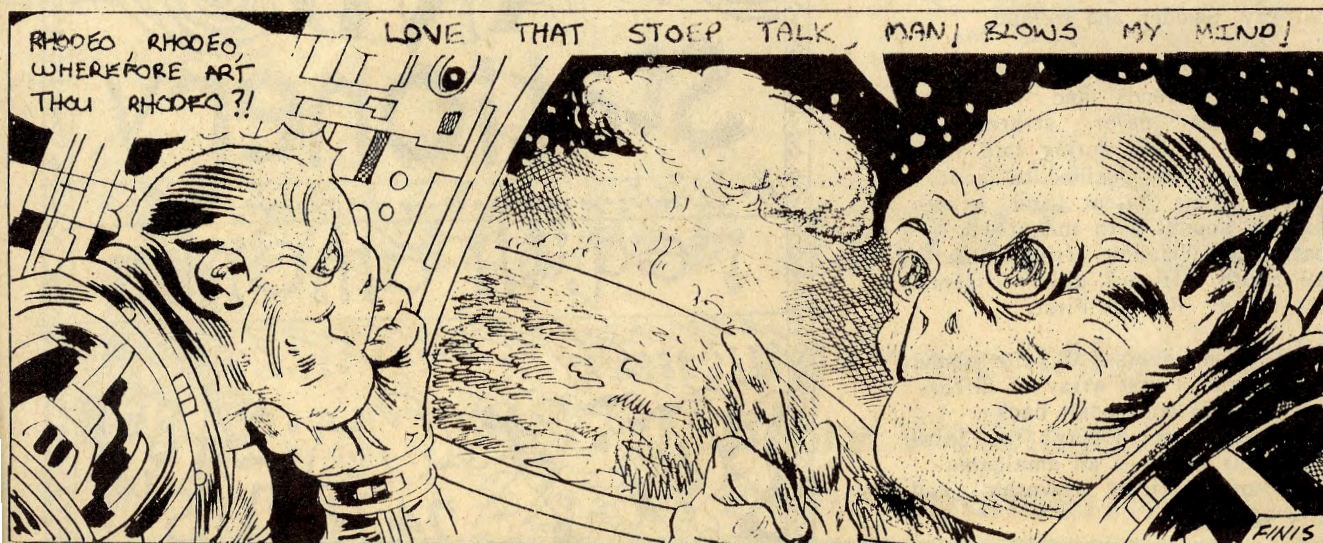
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After two years of the current state of emergency, the organisations involved were getting together to prove the government could not stop the mass unity the emergency had been designed to prevent. With the municipal elections just around the corner, the government had no reason to allow the major opponents of its constitutional system to attract publicity.

It was in this sphere that the government was able to prevent the opposition's initiative.

However, on another level, the organisations who were invited signified another level of organisation which could threaten the government in the long term. The range of organisations and groups invited was far more extensive than usual: everyone from Wynand Malan's National Democratic Movement through to COSATU.

In other words, through the anger at the banning of the mass conference, a mass unity never shown before could mobilise far more organisations than would previously have been the case.

Rhedeo's new editors and editorial board would like to thank outgoing editors Marijana Baleta and Nikki Newman for their contribution to Rhedeo as a paper and as an organisation during the past year. We wish them luck for the exams and happiness for the future - thanks guys!



LETTERS

Dear Editors

Congratulations to the Non-Racialism Forum. The spirit displayed at last week's launch was a fine indication of what our campus could achieve in terms of unity, given the necessary momentum.

I am however distressed at the absence of workers or their representatives. I am led to believe that workers were not even discussed by the Forum. This runs contrary to the emotive appeals for "unity with the workers" that we all experienced during the recent strike. Their absence at last week's "jori" was more than noticeable.

Even more perturbing was the UDF Five years and Nusas One year of affiliation party last term. The workers weren't invited, very few black students attended, and the occasion turned into a solely white affair (hijacked by the hard-core?). This was obviously not the intention of the organisers, but was the case nevertheless.

Regardless of the status afforded them by our Administration and the state, workers are an integral part of both the university community and the national democratic struggle.

The initiative of non-racialism holds great potential at Rhodes. May it continue, supported by every element of the community, workers included.

Yours faithfully,
Sidney Hook.

us graphically of the evils of inflation, the proprietors seemed determined to remind us what the heyday of Grand Apartheid was like. Is this where PW's reform is taking us?

AANSTAP, ROOIES - 203
Aanstap, rooies! Die pad is lank en swaar,
Die mense wag al daar en die koffie is al klaar.
Laat julle kwassies swaai, swaai, julle kwassies swaai, julle kwassies swaai, la koppe swaai en laat

Well, one place they won't be taking us is into the arms of the evil, heretical, Commie Reds. It seems PW is leaving that to the right wing....These lyrics were taken from a songsheet Rhedeo reporters were handed at the "Karel Landman Voortrekker-monument Kolrand" during Great

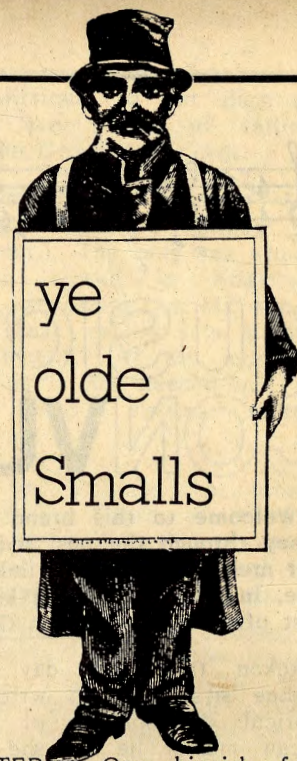
Trek anniversary celebrations there on Saturday. A rough translation for those of you unfamiliar with the Volkstaal: Onward, Reds! The road is long and difficult, the people are already waiting there and the coffee is ready."

Did you ever hear the story of the Durban surfers who kidnapped a Casspir, painted flowers all over it and took it to the beach?

Well, not to be outdone, a Namibian policeman recently decided to take the logical next step. He stole a Casspir (one belonging to his employers nogal!), loaded his family into it and disappeared over the border into Angola. He hasn't been heard of since....

Now that the furore over children in detention has (more or less) died down, here's another example of police bungling to boggle your brain: someone in Grahamstown apparently used to leave his baby son with a friend in the township during the day while he was at work and his wife was temporarily out of town.

Well, it seems our blue-clothed friends got wind of this and decided to take action - whites aren't allowed in the townships, you know. So they arrived one morning to swoop on the unsuspecting babysitter, taking the offending child briefly off to detention. Wait till Max Coleman hears about this....



***WANTED:** One biggish fridge in good condition and 1 bed mattress for next year. Contact Pam at 22305 or 27171.

***WANTED:** One 1/2 bed mattress, 1 desk, 1 bookshelf, cupboard, 1 man, 1 chair, table, for next year. Cheap please. Contact Phillipa 27122.

FOR SALE: Portable Blaupunkt Colour television. Brand new condition (even in original box). Call Wayne at 28143.

WANTED: 1 bicycle, 1 1/2 bed mattress, and a cupboard all in fairly good condition. Contact Margie 24896.

DIGS OFFERED: For 1 or 2 males in lekker house with garden and good vibes, quite far from campus tho'. Must be able to live with 3 lefties and a dog. Contact Pam at Rhedeo offices.

WANTED: Double bed base and mattress. Phone 26364 - Julian

AH'M LOOKIN' for a screen, you know, the folding-up/stand up wooden type - can be old and dirty but must work. Phone 27500

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The Shifty' business of recording

There's a zippy little record company shifting around (even into places like Botswana and Lesotho) in its mobile studio equipped-recording-caravan recording that VERY SOUTH AFRICAN MUSIC so often overlooked by bigger companies.

SHIFTY RECORDS was started in 1982 by Ivan Kadey of 'National Wake' and Lloyd Ross of the 'Radio Rats'. Both were at the time part of that "non-commercial" vibe which SHIFTY tries to promote. "The music we produce is not overtly political, but it is original, interesting and exciting in a South African context", said Lloyd Ross.

Progressive company

Perhaps the best-known alternative record company in South Africa, SHIFTY doesn't produce the plastic gunk that other record companies so often do. One can call SHIFTY the most progressive SA record company around. "They're always open to new music, and take time to consider new talent," said Philippa Robb, ex-RMR Chair.

Local names connected with SHIFTY are Jennifer Ferguson, Bernardus Niemand, the Kalahari Surfers and Corporal Punishment. Rankomata, a Lesotho-based band was recorded in Lesotho by SHIFTY, and is, according to Lloyd, the most popular SHIFTY-produced album so far.

Innovative

SHIFTY's latest release is an album called "Tananas", featuring Steve Newman on guitar, Ian Herman (of the Genuines fame) on drums and Gito Baloy on bass. The album offers some of the most innovative and wide-ranging instrumental music heard in quite a while.

Although finances haven't always been so hot, things are looking up with recent help from overseas. Some SHIFTY records have been released overseas, amongst them Jennifer Ferguson's "Hand around the Heart" and poet Mzwakhe Mbuli's "Change is Pain", which

Distribution

SHIFTY encountered some problems with distribution previously. "To get South African music going," Lloyd said, "one still needs a lot

Ethelred Q Carp was lying in his favourite hammock on the front stoep of his digs dreaming that he was on a sun-kissed Mauritian coastline skipping joyously towards his mother who was holding out a blank cheque and a pen.

But before he could embrace her, she turned into two scoops of vanilla ice-cream. He was still moaning gently to himself when the postperson emptied a sack of mail on his head. 29 items of post were addressed to him:

- * Three court summons for speeding fines he had incurred on Prince Alfred drive.
- * One court summons for a charge of crimen injuria which he had incurred when insulting a traffic policeman on Prince Alfred drive. (The phrase "you snotty, vacuous, neo-fascist scum" was cited as incriminating evidence on the charge sheet.)
- * A note from the Rhodes Disciplinary Board which alleged that he had been part of an illegal toyi-toyi in the Administration quad which had "resulted in structural damage to university property".
- * 12 library fine reminders.
- * The electricity/water account (which had the previous four month's electricity/water accounts stapled to the back of it).
- * An eviction notice from the landowner which had the words "GET OUT, GET OUT YOU ANARCHO-SYNDICALIST VERMIN" inscribed in crayon over the letterhead.
- * A birthday card from his insurance company.
- * Three DP warnings and an army call-up.
- * A notification that he had won a R5000 Anglo-American scholarship (wrong address).
- * A free copy of 'Your Family' which he had sent off for after he saw an ad on the back of a breakfast cereal carton.

This last item really cheered him up and he eagerly set about crocheting a pair of thermal underwear for his pet anaconda, Eric. (pattern on page 153, Your Family, September 1988.) But he had barely finished tabulating Eric's measurements when it suddenly struck him; he didn't have a pet anaconda named Eric.

This, Carp thought, was a sure sign that he was jolly screwed up. He felt desperate, despondent, pessimistic, hope deferred, dashed hopes, vain expectation & C509. He put down the Roget's Thesaurus and fainted. He awoke again and for one brief shining moment he thought he was on the Mauritian coastline again. But when 15 minutes elapsed and he saw no tourists it became apparent to him that he was still in his hammock.

"Oh deary me", he said with an extraordinary depth and passion that even Sir John Gielgud would have had difficulty in emulating. The next day Carp was rudely awakened at around 1.00 pm by a group of suspicious looking people with manicured mustaches, and was whisked off to jail for contempt of court.

The trial was a circus although there was some difficulty getting the elephants into the courtroom. Back on the streets and flat broke Carp could scarcely believe the events of the past few weeks (especially the bit about the elephants in the courtroom). His life had to change. So he procured some cheese from the mouse trap in the attic (maiming his hand in the process), wrapped it in a soiled handkerchief, and headed for Mountain Drive.

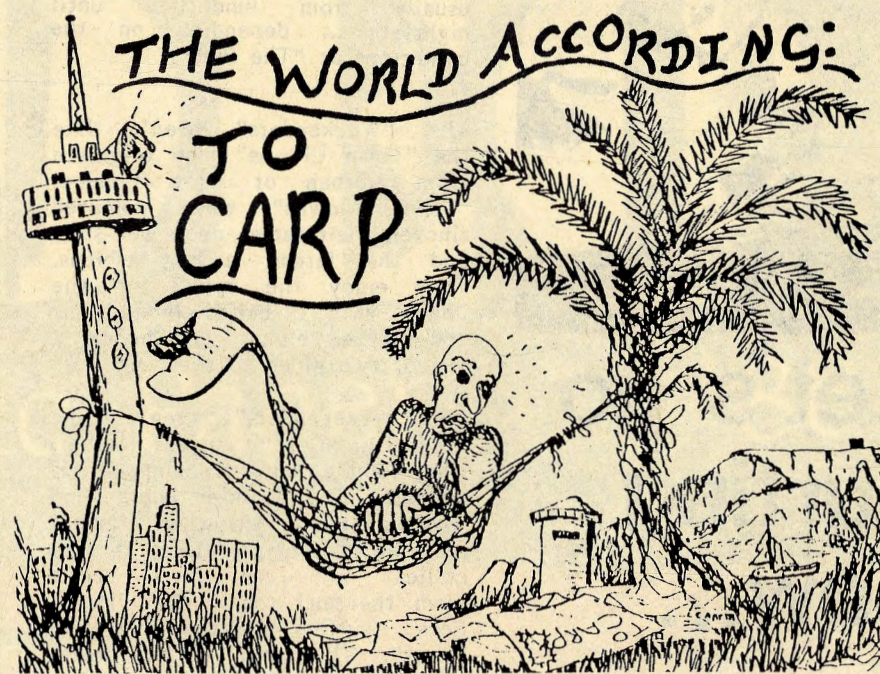
Here, far away from the postperson's round Carp rigged up his hammock between two trees and made a home for himself. He led a somewhat pathetic, hammock-ridden life, devoting much of his spare time to developing a theory of a utopian civilization which was more advanced than ours by approximately 15 minutes. This he felt, would be a great

of education." Problems lay with representatives, who were more inclined to sell commercial records.

The latest project is an Afrikaans compilation, featuring some of the bands that participated in the "Hier is die Nuus" concert at the Pool Club, Jo'burg, in March this year.

"There's a lot of heart in the new generation of Afrikaners who, for the first time are writing about themselves," said Lloyd.

Some exciting things to look forward to.



advantage over our present system as people would not need to rush to get to lectures.

But Carp really started to question his sanity when he imagined that the squirrels in the tree-tops above his hammock were wearing dungarees and talking about the merits of voting in the Municipal Elections.

Carp was by now desperately desperate. In an act of desperado, he desparingly threw himself (in despair) from his hammock. His severe desperation drew him down into the valley below and onward to the SRC Counselling Centre. He was in desperate need of their help, not to mention a couple more imaginative adjectives.

There was a brief scuffle in one of the counselling rooms when flustered staff were forced to restrain Carp from erecting his hammock between a couch and a portrait of Carl Jung. But this was soon forgotten as the session progressed. Carp bared his soul (and his bank balance) and was greeted with compassion, understanding and a tenner (which he used to buy a fillet au gratin at the Cathcart). "Reality is shit," he said, "but it's still the only place you get a good steak".

And so it came to pass that the SRC did take Carp in, for there was no room at the inn/residences. And the SRC spake unto Carp saying thus: "verily thou art an untogether, apathetic clod - but ne'er shalt it be said that the SRC didst shun a student."

And then Carp smiled and dreamed of Mauritian coastlines and SRC's without outstretched arms.

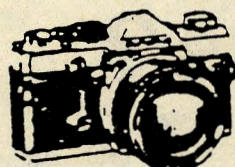
NEXT YEAR

Will Carp evade the postperson?
Will the squirrels come back to haunt him?
Just who wrote this crap anyway?

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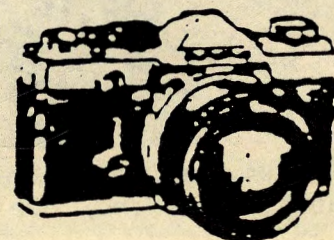


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We lose



Two Rhodes second team players falter under Wits' pressure. Rhodes lost 1-3.

RHODES Satisco soccer squad suffered defeat no. 2 at their home ground when they were crushed 3-1 by Wits Satisco. Defeat no.1 occurred when they were given a 4-0 drubbing by Medunsa.

The Transvalers took an early lead through their sensational Oupa "Khura" Tjelele. Minutes before half time, a three-man

move by Wits was rewarded with a second goal.

The Wits squad looked more like a Mt Everest for the home team to climb. Wits looked more composed and more revived. As the home side struggled to find a winning combination, the visitors took advantage when they sealed the game for themselves with a third goal.

The only consolation goal Rhodes came late in the second half when Gerhard Augustus scored from a close range.

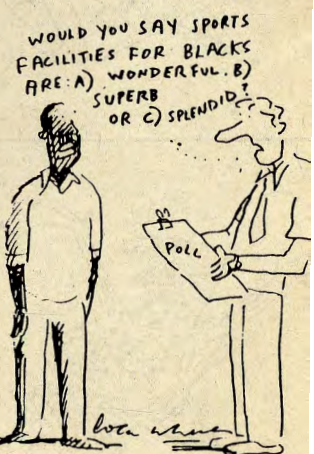
In softball the Wits team defeated Rhodes by 11-9.

The Rhodes Satisco second division netball team tasted victory when they walloped Wits by 21-16. The first team, however, drew 16-16 with Wits.

(and this year's EP u-21B side grew steadily in consistency and confidence through the season. One of the club's deeper thinkers about the game, he should, along with Bruce Mitchell, be a strong contender for captaincy in years to come. Angelo Fotiadou is no longer to establish himself on the side, yet showed a great deal of flair and tenacity, should be a key player in the future.

At the club's AGM, Paul Raynor and Ian Rogers were re-elected Chair and Secretary respectively while Leon Herbert was elected as Treasurer. Renowned for subtlety and diplomatic finesse, Leon should have little problem in collecting club subscriptions next year!

By Hugh Callaghan



...and win!

The Men's Hockey Club finished the season on a satisfying note last month, when they held the powerful Walmer side to 2-2 draw in driving rain on the Great Field.

At last, it seemed as though fortune smiled on the Rhodes side, who by that stage of the season must have been wondering at the perversity of the Gods of Fate. Rhodes led 2-0 at the break, by a Sean Lubbe field goal, and a penalty flick by Peter Marx, while Walmer managed to draw the game, it was a

performance of stirring passion and commitment from the Rhodians, that belied their bottom position on the Premier league points log.

Rhodes loses two key players at the end of the season, in captain Peter Marx and his deputy, John Bould. However, indicators are that the club can expect an influx of quality players, some of whom have played for SA schools. As it is, Rhodes were fortunate this year to have two first years establish themselves in the side Garth Kearney, who has in the past represented SWA

the pariah of world sport.

There is no doubt that sports have been segregated in the past, and although the situation has improved during the past five years, the divisions still remain. That other countries have elements of oppression and exploitation as well does not excuse the situation here.

Instead of aggrieved, self-righteous bleating about hypocrisy and double standards, South African sportspeople must change the social structures within which they play sport.

In this connection, South African sports officials have recently made concerted efforts to move towards non-racial sport. It is refreshing that rugby officials, once synonymous with the monolithic power of the Broederbond and Establishment, are holding talks with the ANC.

The situation is by no means satisfactory, however. If South African sportsmen wish to compete against international

Why pick on us?

As the rest of the world met for a fortnight of exhilarating competition and glory at the Olympics, white South Africans faced with the humiliating reality of being excluded from even watching the games took up the old cry of "...but the rest of the world is just as bad. Why pick on us?"

Ironically, however, it was South Africa that initiated its own sporting isolation in 1968, when B.J. Vorster's government refused a visa to the England cricket team's coloured player Basil d'Oliviera. That tour was banned and since then South Africa has gradually become entrenched as

sport and go to the beach when the opportunity allows them ... usually from lunchtime until nightfall ... depending on the conditions at "The Pier".

The "Weekenders" aren't like the "Town Clowns" who originate from Durban or East London. "Town Clowns" wear coloured zinc on their faces, neon wet-suits and the latest surfing-fashions. They enjoy the sport for the image with bleached blond hair and bronzed biceps, and maybe a girl or two glued to their sides.

The "Weekenders" aren't like the "Hard-Core" surfers either, who tumble out of clapped-out combis in sheepskin boots and woolly jerseys, throwing frisbees at their dogs (preferably border collies) who can fetch sticks from the surf too. The "Hard-Core" surfers are the "big-wave riders". They think of themselves as being nature-conscious, "one-with-the-ocean, broer", "flow with the wave...". They originate from Jeffrey's Bay, and they get the early morning session.

We eventually get to "The Pier", where the boys watch and discuss the waves. If the surf's good, they go out. If the surf's bad, they still go out ... they did travel all the way from Grahams-town, after all. And they stay out, while I'm way past bored, and am ready to leave. No such luck. We have to go to the local pub so that they can discuss surf-stories and radical manoeuvres achieved during their "Expression-Session". I listen to a hundred accounts of what looked liked the same thing to me.

While we sit in the local pub, the "Hard-Core" surfers sit in the bush with their O.B.'s and their dogs, getting ready for the morning surf. The "Town Clowns" have gone in search of brighter lights where they can show off their newly acquired tans to scores of interested females. We sit in the pub, until finally someone suggests we leave ... much, much later.

I sleep in the car while they discuss waves, parties and music, with girls slipped in somewhere in between, in that order. We get home, and I blissfully sink into bed while they wash wetsuits and boards and finally themselves ... After a hard day's sitting, listening and watching I thankfully fall asleep ... until ...

"Hello, is that the lighthouse? Could you tell me the swell size and wind direction, please?"

It never ends.



Let's go surfing now...

"Hi, is that the lighthouse? Could you tell me the swell size and wind direction, please?"

I think to myself, while watching the steady stream of rain through the window, why is it that certain people can put themselves through this day in and day out, and not get tired of it?

"Hi Rich, you coming to the beach?"

I groan as I listen to him round up eager and willing cronies to fill his car to make the trip to 'The Pier' worthwhile. Why is it that some people simply have no conscience when it comes to missing afternoon lectures daily?

"C'mon Greg, the surf's up, broer."

That's it! I have to find out what makes these people tick. I have to know what causes their never-ending desire to catch the best wave. So, I tag along.

"Surfing's a disease that can attack the body of society," Adam profoundly states as he balances his Raybans on his sun-blistered nose.

"It's like a cancer," says Greg, hurling the wetsuits, dogleashes, wax, and zinc ointment in the back. The surfboards are carefully strapped to the roof racks, and we leave Grahamstown to the pounding of "Gang-a-Jang", "Old Midnight Oil", or anything Australian. It's the beginning of an enlightening experience.

Above the noise of excitement and music, Adam tells me about the surfers of Grahamstown. They call themselves the "Weekenders". They simply enjoy the



A Rhodes SATISCO netball player contemplates her next move during the match against Wits. The first teams drew 16-16.