

# activate

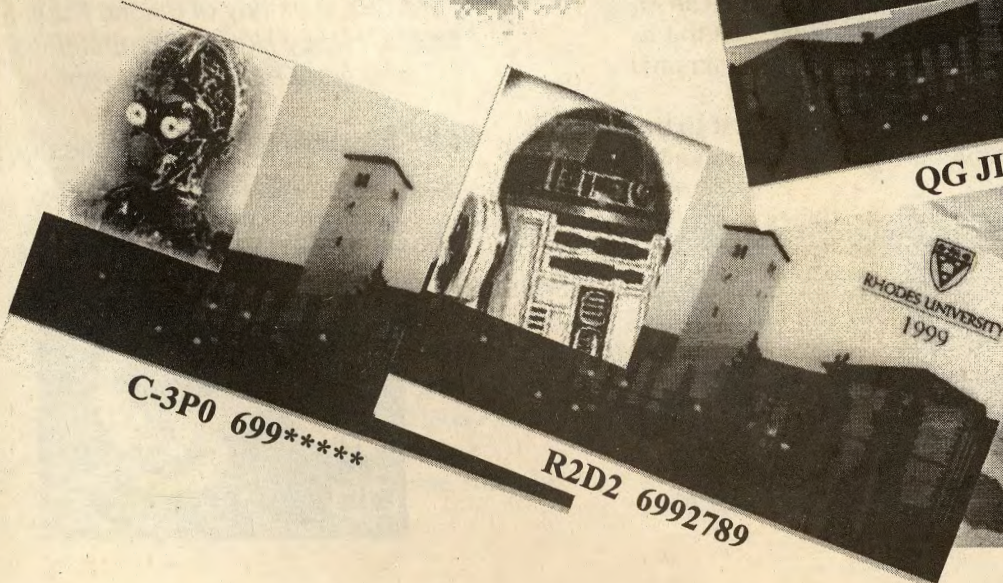
INDEPENDENT  
STUDENT NEWSPAPER



## RHODES ORIENTATION THE FIRST EPISODE

YODA 6995000

RHODES UNIVERSITY  
1999





# New Chancellor shows transformation

Nadine Botha

"THE PROCESS of appointing a new chancellor is an example of transformation at work, said Dr D.R. Woods

Vice Chancellor of Rhodes University."

The post was extensively advertised, with all stake-

holders being approached to submit nominations while a careful eye was kept over confidentiality. According to Dr Woods, "top names in the country get nominated and only one gets selected. If they are not elected, they might get upset". Commenting further on the process Woods went on to say that "it consists of a confidential process and consultation."

After nominations are made, a smaller committee of about 15 members in which all the stakeholders

are represented proportionately, identify 3 people who they deem as potential appointees. According to Woods this part of the process ran exceptionally smoothly and the decision was practically unanimous. An Electoral College of about 35 members then met on Monday 1 February 1999 to rate the candidates. The results have been forwarded to a special meeting of counsel on 13 February. The Vice Chancellor is then responsible for contacting the nominee and making a

proposition. The nominee may still turn it down, in which case they still have two more candidates.

Woods could not disclose whether affirmative action had been employed in nominations due to the confidential nature of the matter. However, he did say that the process was fully democratic and representative and that the decision making was practically unanimous. Woods also wanted to stress how pleased he was that the student body had been involved in the process through representation by the SRC. Papi Mothibi, president of the SRC, agreed with Woods that the process was an exercise in transformation.

Although the Chancellor acts merely as a figurehead, Woods feels there is definitely still a role for him in the changing South Africa as he stands for the ideals and ceremonial aspects of Rhodes University. The Chancellor plays a role of a sounding board which can give advice from a distance. Said Woods, "he is a wise person from a distance as opposed to someone clouded with the nuts and bolts of the situation." The position is unpaid and not part of the administration of the university. He presides over all ceremonial and public occasions, in particular graduation.

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## A Matter of Fact

Hugh Ellis

IN OUR final edition of 1998, Activate printed a story on alleged mismanagement in the 1997/98 SRC. One source was incorrectly quoted as being a member of the 95/96 SRC. He in fact was not a member of the student leadership at that time.

We were informed at the time that some members of the 97/98 SRC would face charges relating to failure to account for an extra 500 km on an SRC vehicle. It has since been established that the two students involved were not members of the SRC, but two students who had been authorized to drive the bus to a society conference.

We also reported that the SRC accounts showed an expendi-

ture of R 10 000 on a trip to a conference in Cape Town, while Rhodes Admin.'s accounts showed only 9 000.

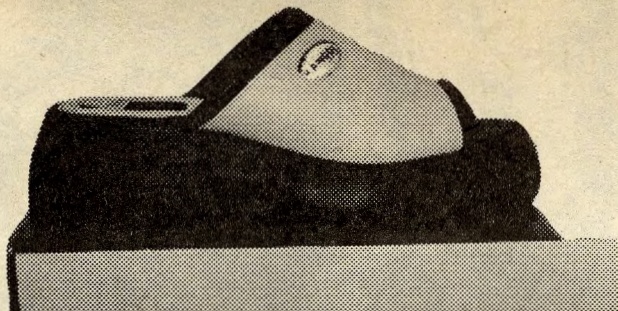
In fact, both records show that R 9 000 was withdrawn from the SRC's Regional And National Conference Account for the trip, with a "contingency fund" of a further R 1 000 being withdrawn from the Transformation Account during the trip.

While we apologize for the errors, we wish to point out that the information was the most accurate we could obtain at the time, and that no deliberate distortion took place. We also wish to state that the gist of the story remains true.

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# Make your mark...

**Bouie Leuner**  
**ALTHOUGH** no one knows exactly when the next general election is to take place, the City Council of Grahamstown still encourages students to register. Currently only 11.08 per cent of the students living on campus have registered. This could be a result of the registration having taken place during the student vacation.  
 For the students who have already registered in their hometown, on re-registration the computer automatically cancels the previous registration. "Rhodes can be

considered to be the students' ordinary residence," said Charl Malan from the City Council of Grahamstown.  
 It was recently announced by the State President that the elections would commence between 18 and 27 May 1999.  
 According to Pricilla Naidoo from the State President's office, the election has to take place before July. If there is a need, the City Council will consider setting up a registration booth in the main Kaif, with set times at which students living in residence may register. Students will be notified by the use of posters on campus as well as advertising on RMR. Students living in digs or with their parents should register at the City Hall, Church Street, as they fall into a different voting district. It is important to remember that one has to vote where one has registered. Equally important to remember is that only bar-coded ID books may be used to register.  
 City Hall registration times are as follows:  
 Mondays - Thursdays 8:00 - 13:00 / 13:30 - 16:30  
 Fridays 8:00 - 13:00 / 13:30 - 15:30  
 for the month of February.



Activate@Rucus.ru.ac.za

Activate online @ <http://Activate.co.za>

Snail mail Activate c/o SRC  
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## Obituary

**Nadine Botha**  
**DR GAVIN RELLY** chancellor of Rhodes University from 1991-1998, died in January. Relly was a man of caliber and stature. "Although his duties at Rhodes were mainly ceremonial, Dr Relly's wisdom and vast experience as a businessman and diplomat were invaluable to the University," says Dr Woods, Vice Chancellor of Rhodes University. Besides his business success, which consisted of a long career with Anglo American Corporation beginning in 1949 and culminating in 1983 with his being elected as the first non-family chairman of this leading mining house, followed seven years later by his retirement in 1990, Relly was admired for his directness of manner and transparent honesty. The cheerful manner with which he presided over Graduation and other events is remembered by many. Says Woods, "He had the right balance of formality and approachability on these occasions, which set at ease those around him." Relly capped, at an esti-



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**S.A.U.J.S**  
 SOUTH AFRICAN UNION OF JEWISH STUDENTS  
 GRAHAMSTOWN

mate, 8000 graduates of this University - both here and in East London, during his term. "One of his finest qualities was his firm belief in this country and its peoples," said Woods. In 1985, Relly lead the first team of SA businessmen to an open dialogue in Zambia with the then banned ANC. Says Woods, "His wisdom and careful advice in this role was of immense value to Rhodes and is one of the factors that ensures that the University will be here to educate the sons and daughters of our present students."

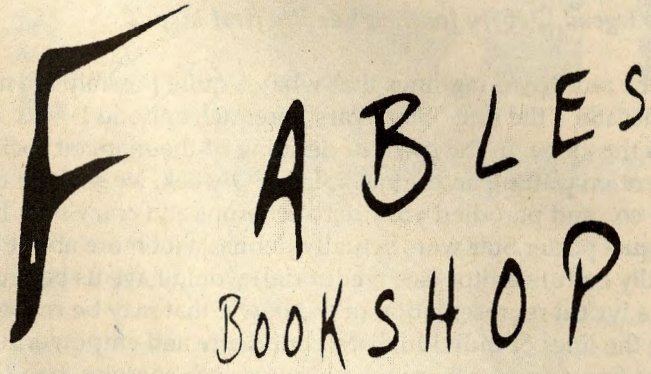
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# Horrorscopes

**Bong Bong the Omniscient** surveys the stars and predicts your future.....

**Aries:** Due to a mysterious illness called Jol Deficiency Syndrome, you will lose your joie de vivre. You will end up doing everything on the "Things to do in Grahamstown when you're dead" article. Fortunately, this malady will pass. Unfortunately it will only pass shortly after the millennium party. You lose.

**Taurus:** You will do many embarrassing things during Orientation Week involving false eyelashes, your warden's underwear and a bowl of fruit. This means you will spend the rest of the year hiding out under the bed, trying to avoid drag queens, your warden and vegetarians.

**Gemini:** Shortly before Valentine's Day, your body gets possessed by an alien presence. You will be powerless as the extraterrestrial gogga destroys your love life. You will spend the rest of the year trying to repair the damage done.

**Cancer:** A minor entanglement with the National Intelligence Agency will put you onto the witness protection programme. You will be forced to leave the country. You will return to write your exams, heavily disguised with false eyelashes, your warden's underwear and a bowl of fruit. Do not be alarmed when Taurus people faint at the sight of you.

**Leo:** It's up to you to party like it's 1999. Everyone else seems to have left the country or are hiding out under beds or bushdiving. Even though you are normally a social reject, circumstances are such that you will shine. Enjoy it while you can, as it doesn't last.

**Virgo:** Your biological clock is three hours off. Give up now on dawnsies, tequila sunrise, and body lotion named Dawn. If you want to catch the millennium, move three time zones forward. Of course this means that your clock will be six hours off, but at least we'd be rid of you.

**Libra:** You will win a million dollars in a lottery and will decide to spend it all on plastic surgery to improve your beautiful self. Unfortunately, your nose will crumble in direct sunlight. You and Michael Jackson will form a support group. No one else will want to join.

**Scorpio:** You get so worked up about the elections that you get the days mixed-up. Two weeks after the elections you will be found standing outside Great Hall with your ID book and a silly smile on your face. You will think you are the first one there. Passers-by will avert their false-eyelashed eyes and politely ignore you.

**Sagittarius:** You will discover the wonders of bush-diving and will take it up as a hobby. This, of course, will mean that you get chased around campus by irate, spade-wielding gardeners. By the end of the year, you will be superfit and will be able to run the 100m in 9.4 seconds. South Africa will enter you into the 2000 Olympics. Go for Gold!

**Capricorn:** After severe partying during Orientation Week, you will forget which res you live in. You decide to live under the tables at Arts Major for the rest of the year. You will be expose to lectures on a variety of topics from Ancient Greek Civilization to Accounting 302. You will emerge at the end of the year as a singing, dancing psychopath with four degrees.

**Aquarius:** After having been abducted by aliens seven years ago you return to your home planet. You realise no one had noticed you were gone. You find your place in the hockey team has been filled by Inga from Sweden. You will spend the year trying to figure out why Vanilla Ice pants are no longer cool. You will find yourself strangely attracted to Gemini's.

**Pisces:** Due to the fact that you're One with the Universe, you will be chosen to participate in ESP experiments. Do not resist. Scientists will stick metal probes into your brain and transfer your consciousness into the body of a lab rat. You will spend the rest of the year trying to take over the world. Meanwhile, your body will continue to go to lectures, and nobody will notice the difference.

## Letters to the editor

Students are invited to send letters to Activate for publication on this page.

Letters can be sent by e-mail to [collective@activate.ru.ac.za](mailto:collective@activate.ru.ac.za), and should be kept to a maximum of 300 words.

The editor reserves the right to edit, or to refuse to publish, letters.

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# Editorial

Against all the odds, the dedicated Activate editorial team has managed to successfully produce our first edition of 1999. This one is specifically for all you new students, and is aimed at giving you all the information you really need to enjoy orientation week and contemplate university life.

Let's face it, coming to varsity can be a confusing experience. And among the many questions that may be flying through your head might well be: "What does it mean to be at university?"

Silly jokes aside, it is a question that we all need to consider seriously. During the seventies and eighties, a major part of the university culture was the ongoing struggle for political rights.

But, at the same time it was an elitist privilege to come to varsity, with the majority of the students being the children of rich white families.

Now however, with the end of the struggle for democracy in the early nineties, these two factors are becoming increasingly irrelevant. The challenge that now faces the student body is that of defining the new struggles that we should get involved in.

These should surely include struggles against poverty and inequality, pollution of the environment and the denial of educational opportunities to the less well-off.

All these issues have an intimate bearing on Rhodes university and all those who live, work and study here. And students can still play a role in helping to solve them.

However, with oppression being a whole lot less obvious than it was back in the days, student apathy has become commonplace. Very few people vote in the SRC elections, play an active role in society committees or student organizations, or even attend the dozens of sports events that Rhodes teams compete in.

We hope that you, the newest generation of Rhodes students, will be able to change this. This is not to suggest that we should ignore our studies, but that we should all contribute even a little bit to improving the community in which we live.

Ever since the very first universities were founded in the middle ages in Western Europe, these institutions have been more than just places of learning, but also centers of cultural heritage and places where a common national identity began to be formed.

Perhaps this should be a guide as to what universities across Southern Africa should become. In South Africa, universities should try to be places where the wounds of the past can be healed, and places which turn out graduates with not just knowledge, but a belief in unity and harmony among the divided people of the country.

News may have reached you that last year was a year of controversy for the student body, and in particular, the SRC. But hopefully 1999 will, in contrast, be a year of rebuilding and renewed confidence.

Perhaps by reading the articles in this publication, you will have absorbed some knowledge of the place as it is now. If there are aspects of the place you don't like, or are downright opposed to; it is up to you to speak out about what you think this university should become.

After all, perhaps the best answer to questions of what Rhodes University life is about is: "it is what you make of it."

# Creditorial

Thanks to: Gemma (lank unprofessional, hey?), Jak (I am serving the fucking female population of rhodes), Tammy (I don't consider star wars culture), Greg (Mr Delivery), Hugh (Let's be fat cats), Teresa (don't click that pen, or I'll shove it up your..), Bouie (so she can tell you whether she likes it or not, before you go all the way), Nadine, Glenda, Sneha (get well soon), Swapna (I was here four years ago), Sam, the SRC, and the Journ deaptrment for all their help. Farewell to: Solomon, Daniel and Sholain, three valuable members of the collective who are unfortunately not able to come back this year.

# Running for Cover

*"Every generation has it's legend.... every journey has it's first step..."*

It was with these soon-to-be renowned tag-lines that what is quite possibly the most anticipated movie of the decade - the first "Star Wars" prequel, episode 1- was introduced to audiences across the globe. In the spirit of defining of-the-moment social consciousness, not to mention putting an original spin on O-week, we shelved deference to George Lucas and co., and parodied your debauchorous and crazy new lives into our personalised prequel poster. Star wars actually defines a lot more about the modern world than our silly culture editor (see creditorial) would have us believe. What is "the force" if not a lyrical representation of the power that may be reaped from a life focussed along the lines of individualistic confidence and empowerment? What are the Jedi if not the finest among those who harness such energies, bending them to their will whilst operating with and against what circumstance may cast in their path? What is the dark side if not the risk we all face of giving ourselves over to our own cynicism and embitterment?

The idea of the prequel is also apt. Orientation pretty much qualifies as the first episode, a prelude to the well recognised and rarified "best days of our lives". (Cue Yoda Soliloquy) *The future masters but pupils are and the wise.. the wise, much have to learn they do The force...serve you well it will...You on the brink of the millenium...much learn you may from an age a long, long time ago in a galaxy far,far away..*



# G'town cops deny smoking rumours

**Nadine Botha**

**RUMOURS** about lenient legislation being passed protecting drug abusers and perhaps keeping them in a false Utopia have been circulating since... However when a rumour started circulating claiming that drug abusers could be charged for possession if traces were found in their bloodstream, it was time to find out the facts. According to Captain Leon Claasen of the Narcotics bureau in Grahamstown, police have been able to do that for ages. However, they require a warrant or a reliable source to give them a tip off. Police are however skeptical about doing this as they would be "interfering with the private life and privacy" of the suspect, said Claasen. Claasen also said that in the case of them not finding anything, they could get into trouble. However, in the case of a raid on a club, they don't need a warrant as that would merely "waste time," said Claasen. As for the rumour that one is legally allowed to carry a matchbox of Dagga: dream on. "There is no difference between carrying 5g and 500kg of Dagga," said Claasen. He sees no point in legalizing Dagga in half measures, "they will either legalize it or not." According to Claasen the biggest problem in Grahamstown is "probably Dagga." Although he is sure that there are other drugs such as Mandrax, Ecstasy and LSD in circulation, police find mostly Dagga. However, he did add that they were working on it. They are not prone to crack downs, but prefer to work consistently and act upon information that comes in.

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# Student Journalist Denies Charges

**Activate Reporter**

**A JOURNALISM** student at Peninsula Technikon (PenTech) says he is appealing a decision taken last year to expel him from the institution over a report written for the Mail and Guardian. The student, Max Hamata, wrote a report alleging widespread prostitution on campus. In the story he interviewed a number of students claiming they accepted money in return for sex, and also contacted several Technikon officials for comment. Some time later, Hamata was called before the Technikon Disciplinary Committee on charges of bringing the institution into disrepute. He was also alleged to have falsified some of his sources used in the report. Hamata, a Namibian citizen who has worked part time for the Namibian Press Agency (Nampa), says he was not allowed legal repre-

sentation of his choice at the hearing, and as such, the decision was unconstitutional. It is believed that an appeal is being lodged with the rector of the institution, and that a decision will be announced shortly. The Mail and Guardian has stated that it stands by the story, and the Technikon's actions have been widely criticized by student movements, including the South African Student Press Union (Saspu) and the South African Students Congress (Sasco). Both organizations expressed the fear that the decision, if not revoked, would harm the education of journalism students, as they would be limited in what they could write about by Technikon policy. The rector of Pen Tech could not be reached for comment at the time of going to press.



For the first years: Dr DR Woods, Vice Chancellor of Rhodes University  
Pic: Communication Dept, RU

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# Library gets electronic facelift

Eileen Shepherd

**WELCOME to the Rhodes Library!** We hope you will spend at least some of your time in the library over the next few years so we would like to introduce you to some of the available services.

Last year, the Rhodes Library home page was launched. Apart from basic information about the library, found on it - such as opening hours, facilities, etc. and access to the Rhodes library computer catalogue (OPAC) - we have an interactive section which we encourage you to explore. The Electronic resources page gives links to a large number of useful sites including dictionaries, and online databases such as Medline and SABINET (the SA Bibliographic network - where, amongst other things, you can find South African information on the Index to SA periodicals (ISAP)). You can also find subject resources relevant to topics taught at Rhodes, Internet search engines, tutorials and sites which help you evaluate information on the Internet and cite your Internet sources. Under Electronic journals you will find links to (in most cases) full-text journal and newspaper articles. Most of these are journals to which the library already has a print subscription, but this offers the alternative of sitting at

your computer and reading the article you want. The S.A. Government Index gives access to Government documents and structures and various other relevant sites.

Our new Information Literacy Laboratory also came into operation last year. It is equipped with 10 computers that are available for use by the Rhodes community. As well as using the lab to type all those essays, you can access the library's computerised catalogue and CD-ROM indexes to periodical articles, the Internet, e-mail facilities and the 1997 CD version of Encyclopaedia Britannica. The lab is open during library hours (except when courses or meetings are in progress) and is situated on the top floor of the library.

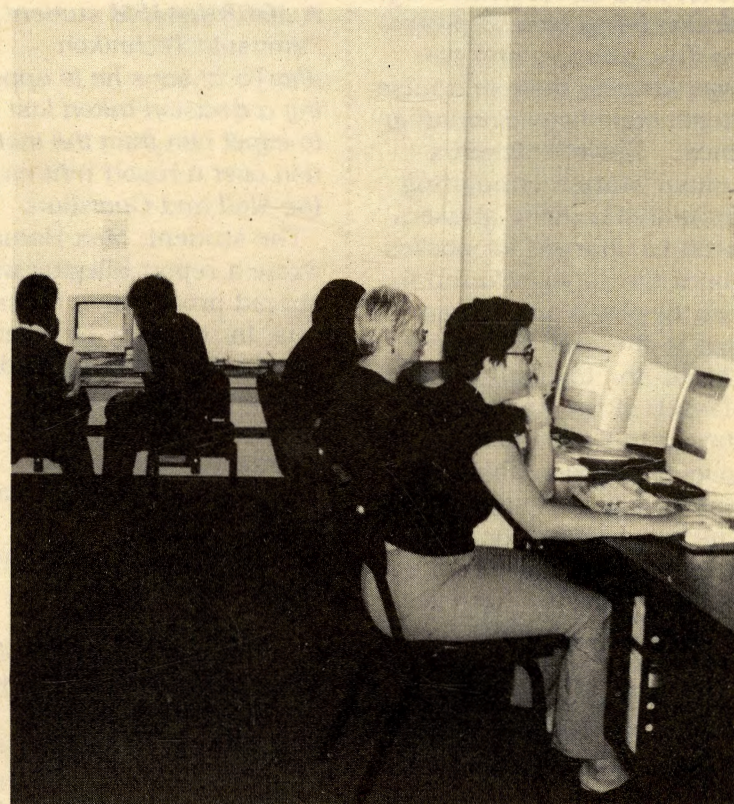
If you want to access up-to-date information on your subject then CD-ROM indexes are your answer! These may be used in the library where the physical discs are available for use at the Information Services Section, or via the Rhodes local area network (LAN) on computers in the various labs. On campus - click on the "Library CDs" icon and choose your subject. Remember these are only indexes and not full-text arti-

cles. They direct you to where to find periodical articles.

If you want help with finding information for essays or would just like a general introduction to the library and its resources, the staff in the Information Services Section are there to help you - don't feel you are disturbing us. We are also happy to arrange group tours of the library.

For those of you who are night owls and find your res too noisy to work in, we have a 24-hour study area, which is open during term time and over the supplementary examination period. It is accessible from the south side of the library (opposite the Psychology Dept.) when the main library is not open.

The library will be undergoing drastic refurbishment towards the end of this year. The Cory Library for Historical



Getting to grips with the electronic age

Pic:Teresa Alho

Research will be moving into their new home in the Eden Grove complex near St. Peter's campus. This will give us more space in the Main library. We plan to improve access to the periodicals collection, and expand the area available for public use (there will be about 500 extra seats for users). This will generally give



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Nicholas Cage and Gary Sinise

### WHAT DREAMS MAY COME

Friday 12th to Thursday 18th

@6pm

Robin Williams and  
Anabella Sciorra

### MEET JOE BLACK

Friday 19th to Thursday 25th

@8:30pm

Brad Pitt, Anthony Hopkins  
and Claire Forlani.

### RETURN TO PARADISE

Friday 19th to Thursday 25th

@6pm

Anne Heche

### ROUNDERS

Friday 26th to Thursday 4th

March @6pm

Matt Damon, Edward Norton  
and John Malkovich

### SOMETHING ABOUT MARY

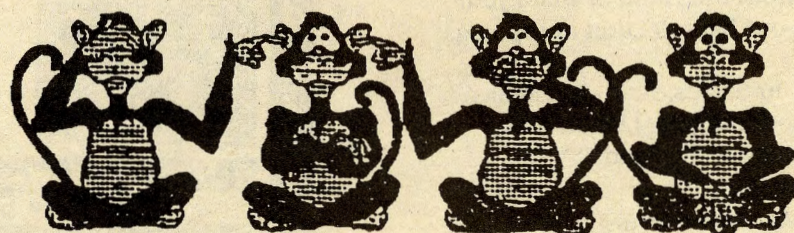
Friday 26th to Thursday 4th

March @ 8:30pm

Cameron Diaz, Ben Stiller, and  
Matt Dillon.

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# A New Dawn

Glenda Zvenyika

SOMETHING new has hit the Orientation Week scene! A vibrant alternative Christian entertainment programme will be offered to those people who don't fancy getting drunk or just don't dig the campus party life, but rather want to pursue God and all His blessings. The programme, with the theme "A New Dawn", has been organised by His People Christian Church and is facilitated by some of its members. This year is the first time His People or anyone else has offered anything besides that which the SRC has in the form of an Orientation Week programme. So perhaps people can now choose what sort of first impression they will have of Rhodes and how that impression will influence

the rest of their student lives and beyond. Those people that are taking part in facilitating the events have undergone a week of praying and fasting in preparation for this Orientation Week program. Says Wendy Turner, one of the organisers, "God is moving on this campus and bringing the light", so don't miss out! The programme is not just for members of His People but rather a chance for Christians from all denominations to meet and get to know each other, but non-Christians are very welcome to join in the fun. The week is jam-packed with activities for all to participate in and to enjoy.

## Coming Up

Wednesday 10th (Fresh Revelation)	Praise and Worship (Cell group) at the Plunge at 7pm.
Thursday 11th (Eternity)	Live student Christian bands in the Kaif at 7pm.
Friday 12th (Fire Birth)	Theatre Sports (impromptu dramas) at the Plunge at 7pm.
Saturday 13th (Sunship)	King of Fools (fancy dress) 7pm at the Plunge.
Sunday 14th	Church service at the Monument at 10am.

NB: -The Plunge is in upper High Street near Duet. There will be prayer sessions held during everyday of the week. Times and venues to be advised.

# SRC O-Week Programme

Morning	Day 5 - Wednesday 10 February
Evening	Talks - see SRC Orientation Week booklet for details
	Movie in GLT at 20:00 - AThousand Acres & The Edge
	Grahamstown by night - walking tours of G'town nightlife
Morning	Day 6 -Thursday 11 February
Evening	Academic registration
	Movie in GLT at 20:00 - Titanic
	The Union will be open to all students
Morning	Day 7 - Friday 12 February
Evening	Academic registration
	Fresher Talent Show - Kaif Lawns
Morning	Day 8 - Saturday 13 February
Evening	Academic Registration
	Craft Market and Marimba band - Kaif Lawns
	SRC lunch on Kaif Lawns
	Valentines Party in Great Hall



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# Things to do in G-town when you're dead

"Okay, we accept that down here at the fag end of the Eastern Cape you're unlikely to tick off mobsters and find yourself being hunted down by hitmen," says **Jak Koseff**. "Dead" here refers to dead bored, and the sort of things you might find yourself doing if your life is too dull to qualify as actual existence. Or perhaps you just have this unjustifiable urge to get yourself burned in effigy...

- Run around Res at 3:00 in the morning with a loudhailer screaming: "Awake Comrades...the struggle must continue!"
- Bribe the church-bell ringers to play "chopsticks".
- Diplomatically con the army base into scheduling hand-grenade practice during swot week.
- Pour 2 kilos of washing powder into the Rhodes Fountain. (PS Be kind to animals - take the khoi out first)
- Start a rumor amongst more gullible first years that the entire university has been linked to the meal-booking system and you may now unbook lectures and change subjects with your dallas-chip. Then get said people to bombard student fees with requests for lecture refunds.
- Stage mock duels outside girls residences, claiming to be defending the honor of one of the young ladies.
- See how many Uno's you can jam into a student.
- Surreptitiously plant marijuana seeds in the botany labs and see how long it takes anyone to notice.
- Discover a scientific method for














- transforming res-food into a cheap, efficient fossil fuel. (Shouldn't present much of a challenge).
- Experiment with ways of making methylated spirits taste great and sell the recipe to Zimsoc.
- Take an RMR DJ hostage. Demand that all Residence names be changed to those of Loony Toons Characters. Demand in addition, that your own res be called "Taz" and that "Porky" be a girl's res. Put "Big Hits 99" on repeat until it is done.
- Set fire to something. Everyone else does.
- Set off fireworks outside windows of res mates while they're audibly having sex.
- Run around town buck naked during Founders initiation and see if anyone notices you.
- Organise a traditional Indian buffalo hunt in the Spur.
- D.J. at Kolors (if you don't know where it is, that's a large part of the reason why it's on this list).



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# Meaningful Romance only R 9,95

Jak Koseff

*IF THE RED HOT CHILLI PEPPERS are right, and love is indeed like a roller-coaster, then Valentine's day is that point just before you plunge screechingly downhill, when you find yourself totally unsure of what to anticipate, but you've got a vague feeling in the pit of your stomach that it might just make you sick.*

I am far from a stranger to self-indulgent cynicism. I have been party to countless Valentine's day rant sessions. I've taken the Marxist tack and called it a tool of capitalist manipulation, designed to blind the masses to the dim realities of life and trick them into spending money they don't have on some vague pseudo-romantic notion they don't need. I've done the nihilistic thing and labeled it a silly and vain attempt to distract one's self from the truly screwed-up nature of romance. I've even played the purist Romantic and argued that true love transcends terrible poetry, badly preserved

roses and little stuffed devils holding furry hearts.

But the sad fact is, though many might just agree with me, the vast majority of the confused souls that make up this little celestial party joke called the human race, still head out in their millions to buy mass-produced romanticism. Maybe they do it to avoid being left sleeping in the gutter by their current partners. Maybe they do it to up the chances of getting laid. Maybe they just do it because over five centuries mindless, drooling love-struck types have set a fuzzy precedent. Maybe they're just confused.

Doesn't matter really. The social judgement scales of the late 90's are pretty set on this one. If you buy into it you're a shallow excuse for a passionate individual, but since everyone else is doing it, you're okay. I guess the classics were right: the consolation of the damned IS

company. Just accept it, all right?

Wrong! I refuse to believe that we, exemplars of the most enlightened and advanced age in all human history, cannot find it in ourselves to remedy this situation. I'm all for the post-modern valentine's day.

Roughly - THERE IS NO DAMN VALENTINE'S DAY! None, that is, aside from that which we create for ourselves. And dare we, who long ago realized that we each are masters of our private universe, choose to march with the rank and file when giving vent to what are supposed to be our most powerful and intimate emotions. Can we, without any sense of irony, carry on putting ourselves through the emotional wringer over a day which marks not only the murder of a saint, but also the massacres of thousands of prisoners by Marat, one of the lesser known thugs of the French Revolution?



Above all, in an age that defies emotional honesty - do we really need all this plastic-encrusted crap?

The answer - NO, by all accounts.

Valentine's day should be much like the mad-hatter's un-birthday - whenever and however we choose to make it. Ditch the labels. Ditch the 3rd rate sitcom emotionality. We're better than that. Join me, throughout the year, in celebrating your own post-modern valentine's day.

## The Rhodes Dictionary of disgrace

*So you've come here not knowing the first thing about how this institution of higher learning works. Well, our correspondent **Hugh Ellis** has been here for two years, and he still doesn't have a clue. But he has agreed to give us a few tips on the things to look forward to and look out for in student life, and even agreed to list them alphabetically for you.*

**Alcohol:** You will have to be very strong-willed to keep those promises you made to your parents about staying sober. If you do meet a sober person at Rhodes, any time after lunch, he or she is usually a religious fanatic trying to convert you.

**Bus travel:** The way most students escape from varsity to the relative sanity of home at the end of term. That is, if the vehicle doesn't fall apart before you leave town.

**Carrots:** A certain vegetable that is mutilated beyond recognition by the dining hall kitchens and served to you, along with other mutilated vegetables and animals, as res. food.

**Drama Students:** Typically students with unusual dress sense who are known to hang around outside the Rhodes theatre smoking various herbal remedies.

**Exams:** A twice-yearly ritual which tests your ability to panic, cram your head full of facts and waffle your way through essays.

**Failing:** Well, when you try to juggle your academic affairs with your social life, student politics, relationship problems and addictions, something is eventually going to fall, and it is usually your marks.

**Grass:** The green stuff that people play

soccer on. What were you thinking?

**Homophobia:** Fear of others (who) like oneself. Generally manifested by people who attack gay men while being unable to get anything from either sex themselves.

**Intercom:** A security device designed to prevent males getting access to female residences.

**Joke:** What most people's chances of passing the final exams are by the beginning of the fourth term.

**Kaif:** Rhodes Café. Vital when you want to take a break from res. food.

**Lectures:** A great opportunity to catch up on sleep. Go to all that you can.

**Money:** If you have none, don't bother asking. No one else has any either!

**Nightlife:** Oh, please... Grahamstown's night spots always seem to cater for alcoholics, so generally they are cheap, bad bars, playing bad music, at which you won't have a good time unless completely sloshed.

**Orientation:** A week during which you will be bombarded with useless information that will leave you completely confused when it comes to choosing which course to take at registration.

**Policemen:** Learn to say in your sleep: "Me officer, inebriated?" You have to get the voice right, or else they will not believe you.

**Questionable:** The state of your sanity when you leave this place at the end of

the year.

**Res.:** Where you will probably be staying for at least a year. Res. is actually pretty cool, and teaches you what community living really means. Most survive the food, noisy neighbors and the fire drills at two in the morning.

**Sex:** Someone is bound to be handing out free condoms during orientation week. If you get lucky and value your life, find out how to use them.

**Triversity:** A sporting tournament held every year between universities in the Eastern Cape. Main sports are Rugby, Soccer and Drinking. Rhodes normally loses the first two and wins the third.

**Union:** A student drinking spot next to the SRC offices. Probably the most debauched place on the campus.

**Vac Jobs:** In other words, being exploited by a bunch of cheap employers who know that by the end of term you will have no cash and will work for next to nothing.

**Windhoek Lager:** If you have to get drunk, at least drink something decent...

**Xenophobia:** Please go easy on all us foreigners. Just because we do stupid things like going into shops and asking for prices in dollars or kwacha doesn't mean we're bad people.

**Y** are you here? A very disturbing question: try not to ask it too often.

**Zimsoc:** A bunch of commerce faculty students who know a good party when they see one.





## "On the First day of Christmas...some bastard sent to me..."

**SOME OF** our Activate reporters attacked poor stressed supp. students and asked them what their worst Xmas present ever, was?

"I got a Pocahontas CD - that was the worst!"  
Dharmesh Nagar, B.Comm III

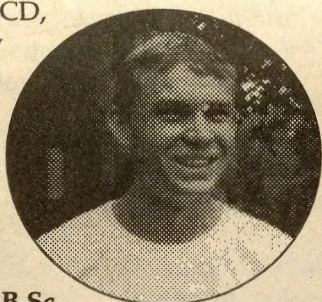


"Most of my friends and relatives know that I don't like things like socks and clothing, so they give me money, 'cos they know that I know how to use the money best to my purposes. This was one of those years which was great!"  
-Mabibi Makonese, BSS III



"Worst Xmas, I got about six photo albums, and I didn't have all that many photos."  
-Jessica Collett, BA III

"This real pop CD, and to actually smile at the person and say thank you very much was pretty terrible."  
-Rory Brumesompe, B.Sc



"This Christmas my aunt gave me a lumo-colored bag that holds make-up which looked like it was homemade - it was really kak!"  
-Priscilla Page, Geology Hons

Geology Hons

"One time I got shoes... but I was five and I wanted toys."  
-Brett Lunt, Bsc III



"Getting my results on Christmas day and finding out I had failed everything."  
-Tshepo Tiro, B.Comm

pics: Teresa Alho

# The Story of O

WHEN G heard that Rhodes had started again, ze sped down there so fast that ze left tire tracks on the greener grass of the other side - still smoking. Despite the sudden influx of traffic on the National highways and all the cumbersome Arrive Alive campaigns, G still managed to make it down to varsity in time for O-week.



Ze was puzzled as to the strange packs of three - consisting of parents and freshmeat - which seemed to go everywhere together. However G was not given time for concern as after a few beers, the packs multiplied to six and ze felt much more at home.

As G steered zir scrap on wheels into Grahamstown, G was confused at the traffic jam outside the Great Hall. Not even The Union was that popular. However, when ze saw the hordes of "semi-formal" parents pouring in to claim their seat on the floor so they could see the Vice Chancellor, G did not understand. Who was this dude anyway - Bono or something? Like that strange group of people that go around bragging about belonging to some obscure unknown male. Who was "he" that it was so important to belong to him, anyway?

Unfortunately, G got lost on the way to the OK as students lose their bearings when asked to give directions to a place nowhere near the favored watering

spots. That and the fact that there is no OK, only a Checkers. Although G took zir lurker activity of drinking very seriously, ze felt that Rhodes students inflated their ego by bragging about an urban legend that it had the highest beer consumption per capita of any university. G shivered at the thought of that urban legend being included in a movie.

Although merely half of the students were back, the noise-level on campus was unbearable. What with first year guys serenading the gals with Baa Baa Black

Sheep (where did they find these guys - Australia?).

Rehearsals for the spectacular extravaganza in which first years got to show off their lack of co-ords and music taste -

The Talent Show. The Hobson Hall intercom that can be heard all the way down at the library.

Agonized grunts as the first years' calves protested the climb up The Hill. First years' cell-phones all ringing in harmony - probably paranoid parents. The melodic plop of used condoms landing on the wet grass after being chucked out the window - funny how people found sources of free condoms so soon. In fact one could not only get free condoms; but also free pills, free morning-after pills.... G wondered if they provided sex toys too.

G was quite shell-shocked by the combined effect of the noise. G couldn't wait for the freshmeat to realize that makeup weighed you down when climbing the hill and calves were far more agreeable if not subjected to high heels. However, suddenly the noise became localized. This intrigued G as the noise had become localized to an area close to the "botanical gardens" - more like, open space with crap grass, often used for grass. G decided to investigate. Of course, the ritual first Sunday meeting at the Monkey Puzzle. Greedily G ambled towards the pub, hoping that ze could score an O-week romance.

G had always envied the deep intensity of these relationships with your lost soulmate that lasted maximum four days. The beauty of the relationships lay in the embarrassment afterwards. The determined denial of ever having known their lost soulmate. Of course, were it not for circumstances, they would have remained together. What circumstances? There are no circumstances in O-week. Relationships rarely got to the point of field trips to the girls' residences. Mainly due to the fear the state of the art intercoms induced in the technology-freaked guys. However, another concern was looking up your soulmate's name. What was it? Of course, the three o' clock curfew hardly assisted the relationship. The night was but a puppy -

that damn bitch - when girls freaked about getting back to res on time. In addition, there was no one standing at the door to see them walk in on time!

As G mingled with the students - well ze tried, there's only so much mingling one can do in a sardine can - ze was taken a back at how many people seemed to know each other, "Tom/Dick/Harry! Remember me... I was your cousin's aunt's best friend's brother's son's friend's friend..." Of course, conversation was titillating. All about the absolutely riveting tours of campus or those tasty spreads offered at the Cheese and Wines. Older students rather compared how much wine their respective residences had provided. By the time G had drank enough to multiply the last few stragglers into a writhing mob of people and collected enough names to forget to send Valentine's cards to, G was quite hungry. After declining the offer of the acclaimed people who belonged to him to walk ze back to zir abode, G decided to go down to the BP to get something to eat. However, ze was quite perplexed at the thought of having to decide whether to go to the new or old one. Instead, ze decided to go and beat up a Vending Machine.

Upon returning to zir res, having popped into the Computer lab to marvel at the social life the few freaks sitting there must have, G was glad to have remembered zir Dallas chip. Unfortunately - or fortunately as G was feeling particularly sadistic that night - a poor freshmeat was stranded on the steps having forgotten which pot plant ze had hidden zir Dallas chip in. Upon repenting upon zir sadism and letting the poor wretch in, a second wretch rushed up having forgotten which of her soulmates she had bestowed with her Dallas chip.

The freshmeat invited zir for coffee and complained about the taste of Cremora as opposed to fresh milk. They also showed G their brand new 5-speed irons. G was not sure irons had any use for five settings and ze also knew they would never be used. Before long, their only function would be as a doorstop. Much like res bread. Of course, others would never find out what washing powder their mothers had bought them, or that their res actually had showers. G decided to call it a night on the last night ze would have clean sheets for the year, and dreamed fantastic dreams about multiple people and vast amounts of toxic liquid being pumped into zir system. Upon awakening a week later, ze was hardly distressed to find that it was in fact no dream.

Will G have recurring dreams of this kind?

Will the first years find out what to do with their trays?

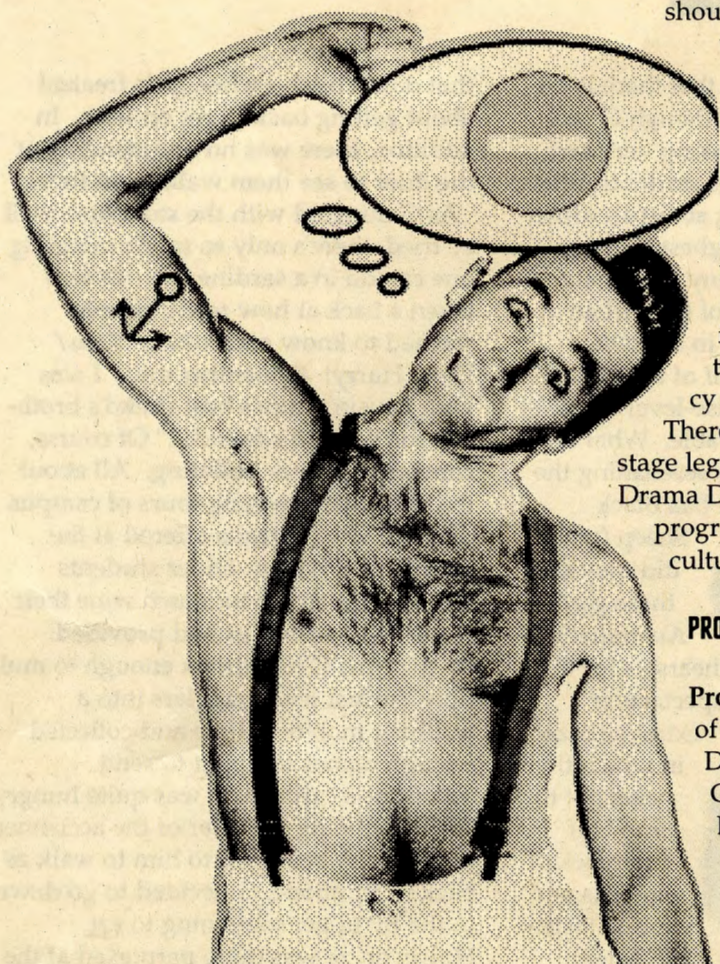
Will G get laid on Valentine's day?

Will G find zir way to the Activate offices to hand in zir next story?

Ze and zir are genderless pronouns: ze = he/she; zir = her/him



# Counter-Culture



should not only be a building with a stage, an but influence in every part of our social and cultural lives, and is dependent upon you. Whether you are a performer, designer, director, writer, or merely an observer, your presence is sorely needed if we are to keep our theatrical legacy alive.

Therefore, for all you budding stage legends, take note of the Drama Department's first semester program, then come and get cultured!

## PRODUCTIONS 1999

**Production 1:** The Fall of the House of Usher  
Directors: David Alcock & Gary Gordon  
Date: Thursday, 25 March to Saturday, 27 March 1999  
Venue: The Box or Rhodes Theatre

**Production 2:** Fugard Program  
Directors: Michael Carklin & Dion van Niekerk  
Dates: Graduation - Friday, 9 April & Saturday, 10 April 1999  
Thursday, 15 April to Saturday, 17 April 1999  
Venue: Rhodes University Theatre

**Production 3:** Klein Karoo Nasionale Kunstefees  
Director: Marietha Potgieter  
\* Watch this space for details\*

**Production 4:** Dance Umdudo  
Co-ordinator: Gary Gordon  
Date: Thursday, 22 April to Sunday, 25 April 1999  
Venue: Various

**Production 5:** Pied Piper  
Director: Jane Osborne  
Date: Wednesday, 12 May 6pm, final dress rehearsal opens to the public and students  
Thursday, 13 May and Friday, 14 May  
Venue: Rhodes University Theatre  
**Pollyanna-on-Speed**

**IN OUR AGE** of technology, television and instant gratification, theatre is fast becoming an obsolete art form, dying a slow and indistinguishable death. Much of the youth of today has not grown up with the wonders of a live performance, they have not experienced the exhilaration of being part of a live audience, and frankly, they don't seem to give a damn.

And yet in sleepy little Grahamstown, Rhodes University has managed to maintain its long-standing reputation of not only being educationally active, but also of becoming one of Southern Africa's most important cultural and theatrical centres. The work of the Rhodes Drama Department and the First Physical Theatre Company is innovative and sets international trends.

University is not merely a place of learning, it is a place of experiencing and growing. The art world is part of that growth. Participate, watch, learn, and when you leave University with your degree, be certain in the knowledge that you have been fundamentally changed by your experiences here. As trite as it may seem, you are the future of South Africa's rich cultural heritage. Theatre

# Search Soc

## Tamara Kenny

**IN THE HUSTLE** and bustle of seemingly thousands of people, it is quite understandable how a first-year, intimidated by the unfamiliar surroundings, names, people, could become confused, and thus make an easy target for the dozens of societies trying to lure members.

Societies Evening is a night of advertising, marketing and just a bit of hysteria, which sees many students (not only first-years) signing up and away hundreds of rands, much of which will be spent on "cheese-and-wines" and cheesy T-shirts.

The Great Hall, on 25 February 1999, will see the re-emergence of this annual tradition, but perhaps with some guidance, this year's new comers will make choices that they, and their parents, will not regret later in the year.

If your passion is leadership and learning about new cultures **Aiesec** is the one for you. This international organisation arranges exchange programmes between their affiliates, and encourages tolerance and acceptance of all.

Along similar lines is **Rotaract**, one of Rhodes' newest societies and a branch of Rotary International. This organisation deals with reaching out into the local and international communities, endeavouring to promote co-operation between all cultures.

There are also a number of societies involved in catering for the various cultural and spiritual needs of the students. Among these are the **Hellenic Students Association** whose Greek Ball last year was the talk of campus for weeks, the **Hindu Students Society**, the **Muslim Students Association**, **Saujs** and the **Students Christian Fellowship**, all of which play an active role in the cultural life of Rhodes students. And as for **His People**, it's prominent and dedicated voice can be heard from anywhere around campus.

For those of you yearning for home, the **Gauteng Society** and **Swazisoc** are available to ease that home sickness.

And one can never forget **Zimsoc**, the place to get the cheapest beers on campus, regardless of whether you're a Zimbo or not.

If you are prone to speaking your opinions loudly and proudly, then you have a choice between the **Debating Society** and the **Toastmasters**, however they're fierce rivals, so listen for the most raucous stands in the Great Hall, and you'll most probably find them fencing it out with fiery, fiery language.

The arts, both audio and visual are never particularly hard to track down. Among the most active societies are the **Chamber Choir**, who will be holding their 1999 auditions shortly, and the **Campus Players** who provide your local arts movie fix.

If pictures are your passion, then the only place for you to go is **Photosoc**. Its members get a funky T-shirt, enjoy the privilege of discounts on films and most importantly of all are taught how to develop their own photographs.

For those students battling to come to terms with their sexuality and needing some one to talk to, **OutRhodes** (nee **Step**) provides an excellent service, being confidential, friendly and accepting of all.

And finally, if you want to see your name in print or want to be able to voice your opinions then take a look at **Activate**, The Independent Student Newspaper (and if you happen to be a Journ 1 student, then do what you came here to do, write!!!).

Obviously, not all of the many varied and interesting societies offered at Rhodes could be mentioned, so for more information, see the RhodesHome Page, under "Student Life" at <http://www.ru.ac.za>

## IT TAKES TWO TO TANGO

### Glenda Zveniyika

**BALLROOM DANCING** is a well-recognized and much enjoyed sport throughout the world. Apart from being a competitive activity, it is also a great social event. At Rhodes, the Ballroom Dancing Society provides a great way to relax and have fun while you're at it!

We have a professional instructor from Port Elizabeth who conducts lessons for established dancers as well as beginners, so don't worry if you've never danced before - now is as good a time as any to start! If you're worried about what kind of music we dance to, rest assured it's nowhere near classical. Our instructor has a wide range of funky music that can be found in any contemporary nightclub.

The Ballroom Dancing Society hosts a number of formal evenings that give you an opportunity to dress up and practice what you've learnt.

So join us and dance like a pro. See you at Societies' Evening!

## ATTENTION ALL SOCIETIES!

**Activate** has recently created a page specifically for you to keep in contact with your members and the rest of campus.

To do this, though, we need your details: what your society has been involved in, what your future plans are, and any other pieces of information you think may be of interest to others.

If you have any queries or would like to submit articles, please e-mail them to [activate@rucus.ru.ac.za](mailto:activate@rucus.ru.ac.za), or drop them in the **Activate** box, upstairs in the Union building. Please make sure that all articles are no longer than 250 word, have a title and a byline.

## A.C.T.S Welcome:

### A.C.T.S Sports Rep

**ON BEHALF** of all the members, the Association of Catholic Tertiary Students, would like to welcome all the first years. We hope that you will have a successful three/four/five etc years here! You are now presented with a greater pool of freedom than ever before. It is important to remember your values and beliefs right now, as they are the crux of your strength. They define who you are and what you stand for. You will meet people who encourage your spiritual growth, as well as those who retard it. Do not allow yourself to be influenced by newly made

friends to stop praying, going to church or involving yourself in other spiritual practices. Do not succumb to temptation, which will be rife in this period of confusion and adjustment. Do not do things that you know are wrong for the sake of 'fitting in.' Real friends respect your beliefs, as you should respect theirs. Take time to think carefully about your relationship with God. If you need somebody to talk to, we have a priest who is willing to listen and advise you. Mass is held at St. Peter's Chapel on Sundays at 7pm (near Canterbury House).



# Da Thrilla in Manila

Jak Koseff

IT WAS AT a chill-down session after a few trial debating runs in Jo'burg that Estelle Dehon, illustrious member of the S.A. debating elite, flashed me a confident grin and said, "See you in the Philippines. I can't believe I can actually say that and mean it!" And in countless moments hence, cavorting across Manila in a coat and tie, raising endless glasses with the finest intellects of five continents - I know exactly what she meant.

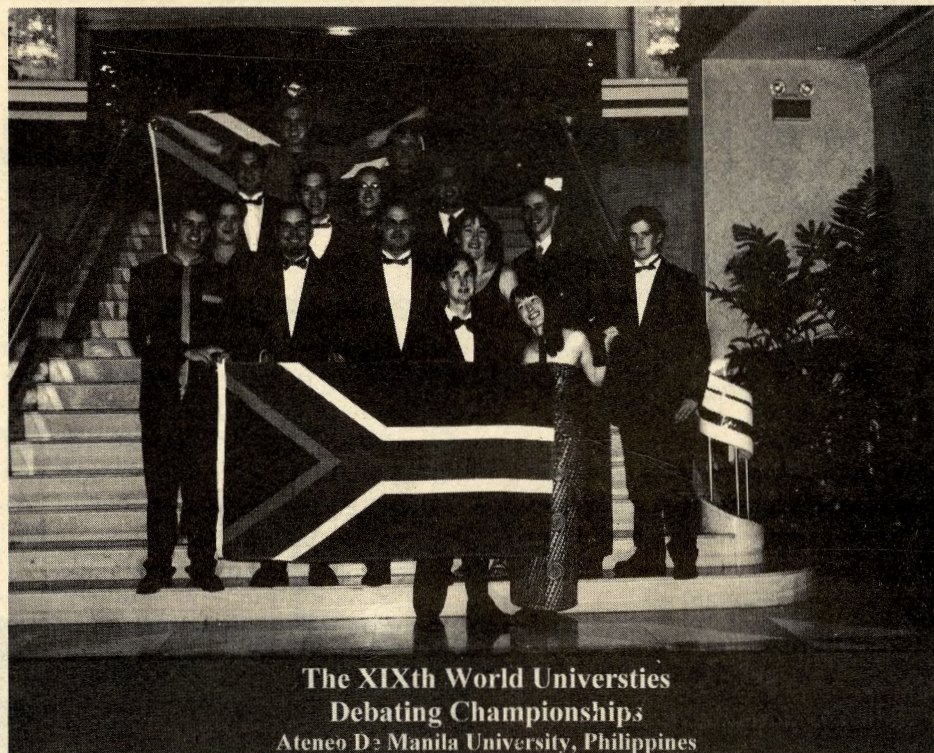
The final days of 1998 saw Rhodes Debating's second full-scale assault on the World Universities Debating Championships. The championships remain the largest non-athletic student event in the world and a gathering ground for argumentative bastards from over 40 countries. This year really threw debaters into the thick of current human consciousness. The bombing of Iraq, genetic engineering, the Russian economic crash - just about everything found in high-class newsmagazines and discussed in coffee shops the world over found its way onto the debate floor. The preliminary rounds ended with inspirational timing - a debate on the viability of the Euro on 31 December 1998, a few hours before it came into existence. Up here in the debating stratosphere it can get fucking tough. You gotta know your facts, pronounce your world leaders' names right and make sure you're not

the kind of person who thinks Millosovich was the second goal-scorer in the world cup quarter finals.

The World Champs are traditionally the stomping ground of the ancient varieties of the British Isles, but this year the flag of champions was raised not above the spires of Oxford, but the arches of Monash, Australia. This year marks one of the first times that teams from varied and ridiculous parts of the world really made an impact. Most inspirational to us down here at the fag end of Africa was the uncanny performance of the Wits "A" side, who managed to tear past some horrifyingly sharp teams and reach the semi-finals. The South African teams as a whole though, performed damn well.

The Rhodes delegation swelled the ranks of the S.A. delegation to 17, and starred Donna Kipps and Stuart Theobald as Rhodes "A", Paul Tosio and yours truly as Rhodes B, and Marika Muller as the wisened and worldly Adjudicator figure. Both teams turned in powerful performances, though unfortunately, neither made the break to octo-finals.

No dashed hopes of glory, however, can really fade the edges of the Worlds' experience much. The equation is simple - you've got close on 700 juiced-up, hormonal nut cases that for the most part have never seen each other before



The South African delegation in Manila. Rhodes team members: Stuart Theobald (3rd row 2nd from right) Donna Kipps (2nd row 2nd from right) - Rhodes "A". Paul Tosi (Back row left), Jak Koseff (2nd row third from right) - Rhodes "B".

Pic: Debating Socieity Archives

and don't expect to see each other again. So, in a stroke of most precious irony, the supposed lords of logic on the debating floor give themselves over to blissful irrationality by night. They get mortally slammed, shag people they hardly know and dredge themselves from their sheets (or anyone else's) at seven in the morning to head into battle. It's rather logical really: Debating equals communication. Communication equals give and take. Give and take equals swapping bodily fluids - easy come. Easy go.

In the end World's debating is much

like illicit sex: You thrive with anticipation, you fumble your way through the early stages, then either find your rhythm and everyone gasps in approval, or you don't and everyone lies to you about how great your performance was. By the end all you're left with is a sense of fading euphoria and a mild headache, only to tell grandiose stories about it to your friends back home.

'Til Sydney commands us to face the world again, we'll just try keep tongues sharp and our linguistics cunning...

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<http://www.RAGE-SA STREET CULTURE ONLINE.co.za>.

Kutloanao Skosana, Addiel Dzinoreva, and Maria McCloy

South African urban culture went global when RAGE magazine went on the world-wide web at the end of November last year. Features and news focusing on Kwaito, Hip-Hop, R&B and other elements of South African street culture make up the majority of the site's contents.

The site is put together by Johannesburg-based Black Rage Productions. The company is made up of journalists Kutloanao Skosana (23), Addiel Dzinoreva (26) and Maria

McCloy (22), all ex-Rhodes students.

What distinguishes RAGE from everything else is that most South African music sites either concentrate on rock or the more old-school music of established SA legends, whilst ignoring music like Kwaito and Hip-Hop. Funky Southern African writers and graphic artists who are totally into South African urban culture make the contributions.

RAGE is aimed at urban young South Africans, because no such magazine previously existed on the net, but at the same time, the site aims to expose the South African street culture to the world.

Although the main focus is Kwaito, Hip-Hop and R&B, the site is not limited to these and will also cover other music forms like Rock, Jungle and Jazz. In RAGE you can read features, profiles, news, gig-guide, a gossip/diss column called "What's Up With That?", reviews

and new album releases.

RAGE is updated every month whilst the news and gig-guide change as soon as information is made available.

The first edition covers the theme of "Can Kwaito Go Global?" We check out what South African record labels plan in terms of taking Kwaito overseas, and travel England, America, Germany and France, and check out what is happening Kwaito-wise in these countries.

There is also a profile of South African R&B star E'Smile. RAGE is not only about music, though it also takes a look at the reasons why it is so difficult to find black authors in SA bookshops.

For further information contact dzino@netactive.co.za, or check out the site itself at <http://www.rage.co.za>.

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# Review this...

**Public Enema** checks out *Alanis Morissette, The Cardigans and Big Hits '99*, and gives you dirt on what is making it, and just what isn't!

**The ratings:**

- 5 - Mind blowing
- 4 - Mind bending
- 3 - Mind
- 2 - Mind out of its the way
- 1 - erm... Nevermind

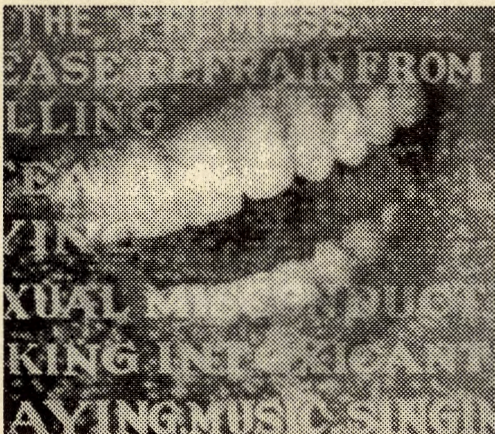
**ALANIS MORISSETTE - SUPPOSED FORMER INFATUATION JUNKIE**

ALANIS is back (unfortunately). The singer-songwriter of *Jagged Little Pill* fame has mysteriously reappeared, with \*gasp\* a new album. From the first time I laid eyes on the new cover, I decided. Al needs a new set of teeth man. Like badly. With an off pink close up of Miss Morissette's dentures, *Supposed Former Infatuation Junkie* very nearly manages to do sonically what the cover does visually.... It puts you off your dinner.

Alanis has always been proud of her lyrics, which in places are poignant and even... listenable. The problem comes with the volume of such lyrics evident on the album under scrutiny. A listen from beginning to end leaves you feeling as though you've just been brainwashed, and sadly, throughout this illicit down-load of information, absolutely nothing valuable or useful is retrieved. Kind of like the Internet, really.

With the exception of the delightful Thank U, this album is a hazy misdirected stab at a serious album, after *Jagged Little Pill* which despite having attitude, was really just a Spice effort, riding on an unique voice and some tight session musician backing.

Did Al really think she was doing something original when she started fiddling with Indianesque influences, lo-fi drum loops and strange distorted guitars? While exhibiting some talent and potential, a voice as distinctive as Alanis's coupled with a formulaic dark mush of noise is as about accommodat-ing as Sepultura Unplugged. Ah, I hear you all say- it's intentional - she's just trying to take you out of your comfort-zone. Then why does she have nothing



better to say than "Dear Matthew I like you a lot"?

For an album that is supposed to be filled with dark orgasmic sonic wizardry, Track 12's title "Would not come" pretty much sums it up for me.

Public Enema says : 1 / 5

**THE CARDIGANS - GRAN TURISMO**

When we refer to the Cardigans, we are not referring to those fuzzy granny-knitted jerseys with cute bunny rabbit buttons up the front, although this album's title does [somehow] reinforce that mental image. The Cardigans are quickly rising from the mire of late nineties music as a well-crafted and talented outfit,



capable of an apparently vast range of good music. We have all had 'Lovefool' shoved down our throats so frequently, that the average person on hearing the name The Cardigans yields the same response as a second year being offered Punch or Sambuca: we go green around the gills.

But the new album appears like the wonderful Hunters Dry- a satisfyingly drier follow-up to a successful but sickly sweet debut.

The best track on the CD, must be 'Favorite Game' with a moody muted guitar and organ intro that bursts with traditional Cardigan flair into a tasty lick leaving an aftertaste of annoyance and refreshingly un-angsty fun.

It is clear that the band has been somewhat influenced by Garbage, and have employed similar electronically altered guitars and intricate rhythm tracks and yet they still manage to create their own unique sonic landscape. One notable absence is the distinct lack of cute songs. I think perhaps Nina got tired of being the pop-idol of every under 18 year old on the planet.

The use of darker textures and a more technical approach in this album may or may not be to the taste of all Cardigans fans, but in my opinion, the use of muffled Wurlitzers, submerged pianos and Barbie-doll battery operated guitars, with clever underlying vocals backing Nina's killer voice, make for a great listen. This is the kind of album that you keep in your CD player and continue enjoying long after you have had a ceremonial burial for Savage Garden, and come down off the high achieved by sniffing the charred remains of Big Hits 99. And it has cool wobbly bits too.

Public Enema says : 4 / 5

**BIG HITS '99 - VARIOUS**

When first asked to review this album, I was wondering what sort of propagandist cult would release a CD called Biggots 99. Dunno really... Founders boys perhaps. Is it my imagination, or was this cunningly named CD released last year? But it is called Big Hits '99. Apparently there is some controversy as to when this millenium started. Either that or I missed one hell of a New Year's

Eve party.

This album is called 'Big Hits.' It is flecky purple, and has big bright green letters that either make you nauseous or leave you with the odd desire to run for a fallout shelter. If warning bells have not yet replaced the voices in your head, I would suggest some other albums for you to collect. Like The Spice Girls. Savage Garden. Hell, even good old Bles Bridges could be right up your alley.

To be completely honest (not really) there are actually a fair number of quite good songs hidden beneath the cunning disguise of this CD cover. Perhaps the objective was to attract the attention of potential customers the same way that a pile of vomit attracts flies. Hmmm.

The CD is \*thankfully\* void of the plague of the Backstreet Boys and gangrene of The Spice Girls, while still having enough dodgy popcorn quality tunes to attract a wide range of flies...erm... I mean customers.

Highlights include the brilliant new track from Placebo, Pure Morning, which confirms the fundamental axiomatic truth that we always knew: a friend with weed is better. Massive Attack I'm sure would be more than a little surprised to find their traditionally underground brand of music placed smack bang in the middle of Commercial Marcy Playground and the mournful and perpetually doped Verve. Still, a noteworthy track with a hooky vocal line that sticks in your head like all those equations that you learnt -didn't.

Gulp. If you buy this record your life will be better? Better than what? Better than being burned alive? Better than being chased naked down High Street by a pack of carnivorous poodles? Better than hammering your own tongue wafer thin with a meat tenderizer and stapling it to a table with a croquette hoop?!! Um... perhaps.

The Cardigans make a creditable appearance with My Favorite Game, (see

the earlier review) and every body loves Sex and Candy. Whether this has something to do with the delicious mental image of a 'double cherry pie' or liberal sprinklings of deadpan deliveries of 'dig it,' this track still has something cool. Fastball also appear with the love or hate song The Way which has a Spanishey feel without being too overtly 'Antonio Banderas'.

The last I will mention is the great track by Faithless, where they claim, against



5000 years of religious writings, that God is not a shepherd, cow, large stone, matchstick sculpture or woolen knitted dragon, but in fact a DJ. Well. Personally I always thought DJ's were pretty cool, but deities? Next time you go to a club, and need wine, I suppose you could just take large bottles of water.

All in all an interesting concoction- possibly a good ceremonial sacrificial offering to a DJ, which would explain the abundance of cheesy dance tracks and pre-packaged plastic music. Otherwise, sadly, it will be something which in two years time, you will notice in your CD collection, grimace, wince, groan and hide from your friends. One question you need to ask yourself: do you have any musical integrity (and 100 bucks to shell out)? Still - the CD cover could be used to frighten small children... and stuff.

Public Enema says : 3 / 5



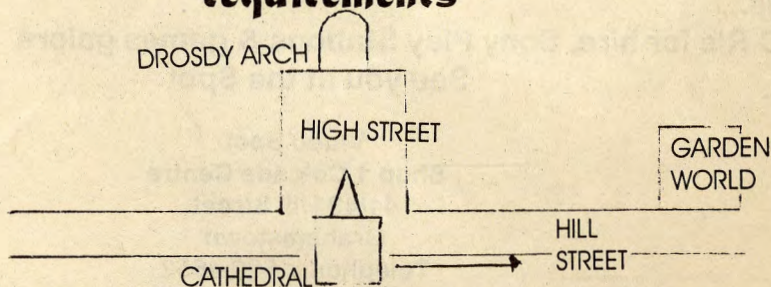
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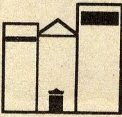
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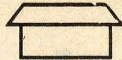
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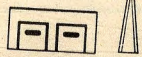


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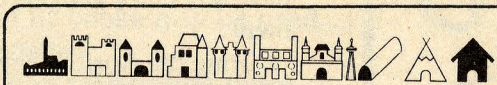
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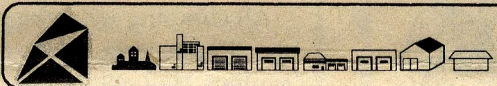
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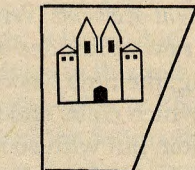
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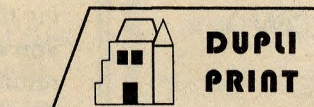


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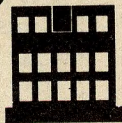
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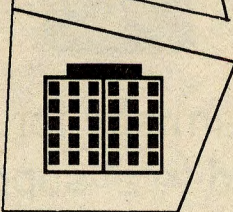
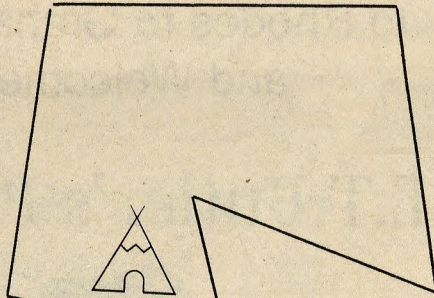
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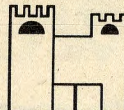


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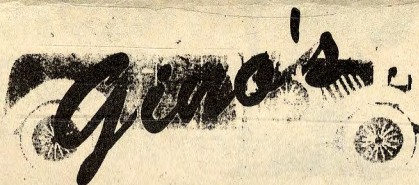
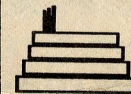


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# Mountain Madness

## Mountain club correspondent

Hiking and climbing are widely accepted as recreational and competitive activities at Rhodes.

The Mountain Club continues to grow in numbers from year to year, as more and more people seek to escape into the dynamic and exciting environment offered in the Eastern Cape region.

The Mountain Club is an excellent way of meeting people, and getting to know them outside the academic environment. The club offers both hiking, and climbing trips to the surrounding areas every weekend, as well as regular potjiekos evenings, which they have become well known for! Other

activities which are offered, include the opportunity to see Port Alfred's Cowie river on a canoe.

The Cowie Canoe River Trail is a popular weekend offered twice a year by the club. They also have a well stocked equipment room with some of the latest gear, all of which is available for hire, so there is no need to have any fancy gadgets of one's own!

During the April, July and September vacations hikes and climbs are planned for slightly further destinations, giving one the opportunity to see what the rest of South Africa has to offer in terms of mountaineering.

So check it out, you will be sure to find something that appeals to you!

Here are some of the activities which have been organised over the next two weeks just to tempt you.....

**Tuesday and Thursday Climbing Evenings: 7pm - 9pm**

Come and show your climbing skills, or if you're a beginner, come and give it a shot, there will be plenty of expert advice.

**Wednesday Evenings 7pm - 8:30pm**

**A women's only climbing evening.**

All climbing will take place at the climbing wall at Alec Mullins Hall, which is directly behind the Aerobics/Gym center.

**Sunday 21 February 8:30**

# Editorial

## Thrills spills, guts and glory.

"The time has come the Walrus said, to talk of many things", and certainly if the proverbial walrus had lived in the 21st century, and had happened to be anywhere near a TV set, even he could not have faulted the quality and the variety of sports on display over the last vac. From the Springboks, stumbling at the last hurdle against England, to Ernie Els winning the Sun City Million Dollar Golf Challenge, to the five-nil drubbing of the West Indies Cricket team in the test matches. Passion! Grit! Agony! Glory! -Admit it, as far as sport goes, the vac has been a "goody", and as for the year ahead? It looks even better! With both the cricket and rugby world cups coming up later this year, surrounded by a large number of other international and provincial fixtures, non-stop excitement is guaranteed. This, if ever there was one, is the year not to move away from your TV screen, unless of course you can make it to the games yourself.

Closer to home though, Rhodes' sportsmen and women also excelled over the Christmas vacation with a number being selected to represent South Africa in student sides. The fact that the sports represented are as diverse as Hockey, Tennis, Cricket, Boardsailing and Waterpolo is perhaps the clearest indication that Rhodes is indeed offering an environment in which protagonists of all disciplines can excel. So to all first years coming in, and to the hardened old-timers of yesteryear, get involved!

Apart from official Rhodes fixtures, there is a host of inter-res activities on offer throughout the year, where the emphasis is more on enjoyment than on the end results. While you may not be a Jonty Rhodes or a Penny Haynes, the personal glory comes, not necessarily from the winning, but from having the guts to push new boundaries within oneself. So, check out the wide range of sports on offer during Sports Awareness week (timetable overleaf), try something you've never done before, and enjoy it to the full. Don't argue, *Just do it!*



## Hike/climb and potjiekos at 6pm

A short hike up mountain drive and Featherstone Kloof region. This hike offers stunning views of the surrounding mountainous region and on a clear day the sea is visible.

There will also be an opportunity

to try out ones climbing and absailing skills. In true Mountain Club tradition there will also be chelsea buns to beat the mountain munchies.

And if that is not enough, we will be having a poitiekos early evening jol at the New Sports Bar, all are welcome.

## Taking fitness towards the new millennium

### Aerobics correspondent

Life is all about choices and making the right decisions. Whether you are new at Rhodes or are returning, the time has come to choose which clubs and societies to join but with so many clubs to choose from, how does one make the right decisions?

The Aerobics Club offers one the opportunity to choose to BE FIT this year. What does that mean? To be fit is to be in control of one's physical, mental and spiritual health. The club also offers one the opportunity to love and respect one's body and to treat it well in a society that is bombarded with quick fix diets and potions, particularly where women are concerned. In addition, "Aerobics", as one member commented last year, "has really helped me balance out res food and allows me to have a reasonable body". Aerobics has also been voted club of the Year for two consecutive years.

Variety is the spice of life, and the club is dedicated to making one's exercise program exciting and dynamic. With over 22 classes a week to choose from,

the club aims to offer one a variety of classes to meet ones needs and preferences. For those looking to increase their cardio-vascular fitness, exercises such as step, hi-lo and interval training are offered. Enjoy these classes while moving to the latest imported aerobics music that pumps through the Aerobics hall (and nearby fields and tennis courts!). Feel the energy pumping through your body while you are pushed to your personal limits. For those members who want to tone and firm up, slower, but by no means easier, classes are offered. Callanetics, flexible strength, stretch and tone, bums and tums and the infamous fat burner classes will accommodate all programmes. So there is something for every one (guys and girls alike!), every day, every term, to meet every possible need. And as requested, we will be expanding our timetable to morning classes as well. So come and join our promotional classes for the first two weeks of term and see exactly what we are made

of.

For the socialites there are two Cocktail parties a year and marathons each term, where the emphasis is in fun and de-stressing. The new committee has lots of ideas on how to improve this aspect of the club, so for old members, there will be new and exciting functions on offer this year, and to new Rhodians; to be a part of the fun, one needs to be a member of the club!

Finally, the Aerobics club is dedicated to community development and charity work. If you would like to be a part of a club that offers the opportunities to be active both physically and in the community, then this is the club to be a part of.

The club emphasizes that being fit is not being wafer thin, but about being healthy: mentally, physically and spiritually. So, if you're interested, join them this year as they move towards the twenty-first century with the right sort of attitude and a motto of: *Open your mind, Push your body and free your soul!*

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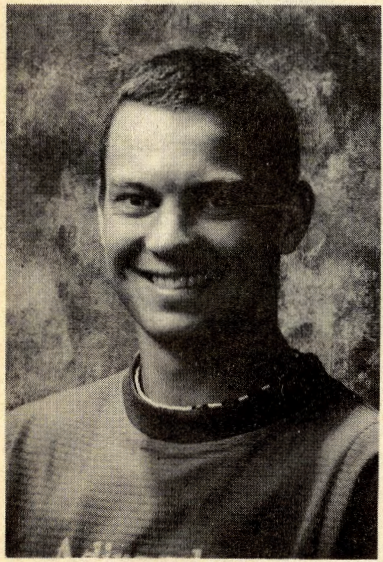
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## SPORTS AWARENESS WEEK

Date	Sport	Activity	Venue	Time
15th Feb.	Aerobics	Callanetics	Aerobics Hall	13h15-13h45
		Aerobics	Aerobics Hall	17h15-18h15
	Weights	Training	Weights Room	06h00-08h00 13h00-14h00 16h00-21h00
16th Feb.	Aerobics	Callanetics	Aerobics Hall	13h15-13h45
		Aerobics	Aerobics Hall	17h15-18h15
	Chess	King of the Board	Kaif lawns	14h00-17h00
	Climbing	Up the Wall	Alec Mullins	19h00-21h00
	Weights	Training	Weights Room	06h00-08h00 13h00-14h00 16h00-21h00
17th Feb.	Aerobics	Callanetics	Aerobics Hall	13h15-13h45
		Aerobics	Aerobics Hall	17h15-18h15
	Chess	Blitz	To Be Announced	14h00-17h00
	Weights	Training	Weights Room	06h00-08h00 13h00-14h00 16h00-21h00
18th Feb.	Aerobics	Callanetics	Aerobics Hall	13h15-13h45
		Aerobics	Aerobics Hall	17h15-18h15
	Chess	vs Rhodes no. 1	To Be Announced	14h00-17h00
	Climbing	Up the Wall	Alec Mullins	19h00-21h00
	Underwater	Braai	Underwater Club	19h00-late
	Weights	Training	Weights Room	06h00-08h00 13h00-14h00 16h00-21h00
19th Feb.	Aerobics	Callanetics	Aerobics Hall	13h15-13h45
		Aerobics	Aerobics Hall	17h15-18h15
	Athletics	Jog & Grog	Athletics Club	17h00-late
	Chess	vs Rhodes team	To Be Announced	14h00-17h00
	Weights	Training	Weights Room	06h00-08h00 13h00-14h00 16h00-21h00
20th Feb.	Aerobics	Aerobics	Aerobics Hall	16h30-17h15
	Chess	King of the Board	Kaif Lawns	10h00-13h00
	Netball	Fun & Games	Netball Court	???
	Underwater	Scuba and Hockey	Pool	10h00-14h00
	Weights	Training	Weights Room	15h00-17h00
21st Feb.	Aerobics	Aerobics	Aerobics Hall	16h30-17h15
	Mountain Into Hike		Pool	08h30 depart
	Potjiekos Evening		Sports Bar	18h00-late
	Weights	Training	Weights Room	15h00-17h00
22nd Feb.	Aerobics	Callanetics	Aerobics Hall	13h15-13h45
		Aerobics	Aerobics Hall	17h15-18h15
	Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer's evening		OMP	17h30-19h00
	Scholarship Cocktail Party			
	Weights	Training	Sports Bar	19h00-22h00
23rd Feb.	Aerobics	Callanetics	Aerobics Hall	13h15-13h45
		Aerobics	Aerobics Hall	17h15-18h15
	Clubs Evening	Registration	Great Hall	19h00-21h00
	Weights	Training	Weights Room	06h00-08h00 13h00-14h00



**WARREN POTTS - (HOCKEY)**  
Rhodes and EP Hockey Captain, selected to represent South Africa at the first World Student Hockey Tournament.  
**PIC: Sports Admin**



**CARLA NEUHOFF - (WATER-POLO)** - Picked for the S.A. Students Water-polo team.  
**PIC: Sports Admin**



**ARNE HANSEN - (TENNIS)** - Selected for the South African Students Tennis Team that will be competing in the World Student Games in Spain later this year.  
**PIC: Sports Admin**



**UNATHI NKYI - (HOCKEY)** - selected to represent South Africa at the first World Student Hockey Tournament.  
**PIC: Sports Admin**

**KENT BROOKE - (SAILING)** -Top SA Board Sailor chosen to represent South Africa at World Student Games.

**PIC: Personal Photo**



## The Netball Club

### Netball Club Correspondent

The Netball Club is bouncing into 1999, ready to take Rhodes and the Eastern Cape by storm! 1998 proved to be a very successful year and this year promises to be even better as the Club strives to achieve even higher goals.

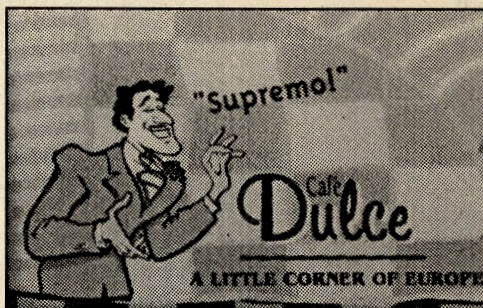
With participating in the E.P league for the second year running, the promise of sponsorship in the air, and a new coach, the club can certainly look forward to a great season as they try to prove themselves even more unstoppable than last year!

The new court is now ready for plenty of action and the

hard core training which should ensure the clubs future success. If you're interested then keep your eyes open for practice times and make sure you come along and catch the fun during Sports Awareness Week.

There will be an open practice on Thursday 25 February at 6:30 pm - 8pm for all interested and it promises to be full of fun. On Saturday there will also be a shooting competition, half-court games and old club girls doing various mind blowing skills displays.

Come and join!



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# Sport

## Three for World Student Hockey Tournament

**Gregory Hacksley**

*RHODES University Hockey has again made its presence felt in the national arena, with three of its players being selected to compete in the first World Student Hockey Tournament.*

Warren Potts, the current dual Rhodes University and Eastern Cape Hockey Captain, Unathi Nkyi, a Rhodes women's first team player, and Winston Kriel, a SA under 21 and Border player, formerly of Rhodes East London, were all three selected to represent South Africa after trials held in Pretoria in November last year.

The Tournament, which runs from the 8th to the 12th of February, in Perth, Australia, will see student teams from across the globe competing for the title of top student hockey team. The South African team however can expect strong opposition, especially from the home favorites, Australia. Amongst the other teams competing will be sides from New Zealand, Great Britain, India, Malaysia and Germany.

It is, however, unfortunate that the student team representing South African at such a prestigious event, will not be the strongest team this country can

field. Several top S.A. students had to rule themselves out of contention for selection, owing to financial difficulties, and this may well affect the team's overall chances in the tournament. Nevertheless, both for Rhodes, and for South Africa it is yet another accolade on the wall for Student Hockey.

On the hockey field in general though, 1999 looks set to be a cracking good year for Rhodes Hockey. According to the Head of Sports Administration at Rhodes, Pete Andrew, the new astro-turf pitch has attracted "a flurry of interest" from hockey players interested in coming to the University". This coupled with the usual expected influx of talented new blood and the fact that only two members of both the men's and women's first team squads from last year will not be returning, means that Rhodes Hockey supporters can look forward to a really good season this year. The season itself starts almost immediately, with the beginning of the Intercity league, which sees the top four men's and women's teams from both the Eastern and Western Cape competing for top spot.



**NYARAI MAJURU - (Basketball)**  
Chosen to play in the prestigious "All Stars" basketball team.

**PIC: Sports**

## Cricket Over The Vac

**Gregory Hacksley**

*A SUNNY cloudless sky, the smell of freshly mown grass, and the crack of leather hitting willow. Summer is magic - except of course when it rains!*

During the last vacation, which seems to have quickly slipped into oblivion, Rhodes University's cricketers took to the field in Johannesburg where they competed in the South African Universities Cricket Week.

Hosted by RAU, and running from the 29th of November to the 3rd of December, the competition saw the participation of 18 university sides divided into sections "A", "B" and "C". Once again, Rhodes was placed in the "A" section, where it has competed successfully on a regular basis over the years.

Unfortunately for all cricket lovers and participants, the week was dogged by bad weather, with a whole day being lost as a result of rain. The bad weather also affected the outcome of a number of matches.

Rhodes lost its first match against the University of the Orange Free State, owing to a batting collapse. One down, Rhodes then went on to redeem

themselves in their next game by trouncing the University of Natal, thanks largely to some great bowling by Brighton Watambwa, who walked off at close of play with five wickets in the bag. Watambwa was later to be selected to play for the South African Universities team against the South African Technikons side in a day night game at the Wanderers, a game the Universities side won.

Rhodes' next two games of the tournament, against UCT and UPE were both washed out, which left them with only Stellenbosch to play on the Friday. Rhodes won this game placing itself third in the "A" section at the end of the tournament. Positions in the "A" section were as follows 1st - UCT, 2nd OFS, 3rd Rhodes, 4th Stellenbosch, 5th UNP, 6th UPE.

Other cricket news is that Avinash Govindjee was selected to play for the Eastern Province County Districts team at the South African County Districts week, and that Wayne Wibblin, voted Border's most valued player last year, smashed a ton against Gauteng to help Border to victory.

## Calling All Sports Lovers!

### First Aid- Correspondent

*SO YOU LOVE RUGBY but can't build up the courage to sign up and play for fear of getting trampled? You adore hockey but want to hold onto your teeth for a while longer?*

Well here's the answer you've been looking for - Join the Rhodes First Aid Club!

After a very successful founding year in 1998, the club looks forward to a year of growth, starting with the introduction of regular meetings, allowing for both skills training and an opportunity to get to know other members in the club.

And for those needing train-

ing? Never fear, this will be arranged a few weeks after members have signed up.

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## The Underwater Club

**Michelle Wilson**

*THE UNDERWATER CLUB guarantees a fantastic year and promises to beat inflation.* For only R90 one can join one of the best underwater clubs in the country.

The club lends out dive kits free of charge, and also offers subsidised dives, transport for spear fishing, and underwater hockey.

Dives are offered on a regular basis and weekend trips are made to Tsitsikarma, Port Elizabeth, Port Alfred, Knysna, Morgan's Bay, St Francis and Plett for some of the best diving in the country.

As for diving instructors? They are the cream of the crop. Not only does one get cheap course

rates and gear deals but one also get to meet fantastic people.

During Sports Awareness Week, on Thursday the 18th, there will be a braai at the Club House. So, come, check it out and join the Underwater Club for an experiences you will never forget!

