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Rhodes' Most Extensive Independent Student Newspaper March 1995

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Varsity in Crisis

***DURING** the dark days of apartheid, Wits was regarded as the main 'liberal' university at the forefront of the struggle for democracy in South Africa. But, it appears, Wits has been unable to cope with the dramatic changes in the country. The mainstream media has portrayed Wits as a battleground between students and the administration and it highlights a growing conflict between black and white students. **Jonathan Ancer** spoke to Socialist Student Action Committee (SSAC) member, Claire Ceruti for the latest story on the crisis at the university.*

NINE workers have been dismissed and 12 students expelled from Wits university since the National Education, Health and Allied Workers Union (Nehawu) and the South African Students Congress (Sasco) embarked on a campaign to "transform" the university last year. Students and workers did not defend themselves at the disciplinary hearing because, "it is an illegitimate structure in the first place", said Claire.

To put pressure on the administration to reinstate those who had been dismissed, 80 workers and students decided to embark on a sleep-in on March 3 at the Senate House concourse, the main foyer of the administration block.

Claire explained:"The sleep-in publicised the issue dramatically." The protesters were greeted the next morning by Gauteng Premier, Tokyo Sexwale who was attending a Congress of South African Students (Cosas) conference at the university.

According to Claire, Sexwale promised to phone the university's Vice-Chancellor, Robert Charleton and intervene on the students and workers behalf.

"People slept on blankets in the concourse. We organised a Food Committee and a Media Committee. The Food Committee was also responsible for fund-raising and in one week it raised R1 000 from students and people involved in the campaign. We decided to honour the VC and named the concourse Meshenga-Charlton-Ville." said Claire. Meshengaville is a squatter camp in Soweto.

According to Claire, there were isolated incidents of antagonism from some administration members and some students, but, "these were unsuccessful, people either supported our sleep-in or remained neutral", she said.

On March 5, about 150 people from the occupation marched to Liberty Life.

"We handed over a memorandum explaining to Liberty Life that their funding was being used to maintain racist control over the university. When we got there a Liberty Life bureaucrat called Jan Brandt told us to hand in the memorandum. We told him we wanted to read it out and he told us that he didn't have time. Someone in our group shouted, 'Well so much for your social responsibility programme', to which he replied, 'You said it - I didn't'."

During the occupation between 20 and 30 striking workers from Spar came to Wits to show solidarity with Nehawu and Sasco by handing a memorandum to Charlton demanding that he reinstate workers and students. Spar workers have been on strike since December last year because 36 workers were dismissed, allegedly for attending President Nelson Mandela's inauguration.

The administration appointed a committee to reconsider the dismissal and expulsion of the workers and students.

The committee consisted of four members of the University Senate namely Anglo-American's Bobby Godsell; Sowetan editor, Aagrey Klaaste; National Union of Mineworkers president James Motlatsi and the director of Toyota South Africa, Elizabeth Bradley.

Nehawu and Sasco made a submission to the committee which delivered their findings on March 9.

Wits Council then met to ratify the report and it accepted their recommendations that the dismissals be upheld.

Claire said: "The committee was undemocratic. It was purely window dressing." She said the report was never released.

The main slogan of the Wits campaign is, "No Transformation Without Reinstatement".

"Transformation," maintains Claire "was the original protest that people got hammered for." Sasco's demands include the ending of financial exclusions and the reconstitution of Council by a forum which is representative of all of South Africa and not, as Claire points out, "just white men and one white woman in suits."

Claire explained SSAC's position on financial exclusions and said:"Wits is still 80 percent white even though our country's population is 80 percent black.

" The administration is using financial reasons to keep out black people. SSAC believes that the only solution is to fight for free education. That is the only way to make education a right for all and not a privilege for the rich, mainly white, few."

The ANC has always supported students and workers campaigns, even if it has been silent at times, so it came as a surprise when President Mandela criticised the protesters and called on the administration to crack down on unruly students.

On March 12, Sasco, Nehawu and the Gauteng Provincial Legislature met to discuss the ongoing crisis at Wits. President Mandela signed a statement to the effect that students and workers should determine their own struggle.

● see page 3

FOR HISTORICAL RESEARCH

The art of educating

Claire Smith

RHODES University's Drama Department, in association with the National Arts Coalition, will hold the Ilitha Arts Education Conference from April 24 - 26, 1995. The national conference will discuss the integration of arts into the primary, secondary and tertiary schools curricula. This move stems from the Reconstruction and Development Programme's proposal that the development of creativity, imagination and communicative skills must be explored alongside science and maths, in order to provide South Africans with a more holistic education. The unique form of learning and experience offered by arts studies: drama, visual arts, crafts, music and dance, will eventually develop a society that will redress inequalities and challenge the stereotypes that have become so much a part of our life experience.

The aims of the conference are to get all interested parties aware of the issues and the task at hand, and to get them involved. The conference is not an end, it is merely a beginning towards developing a strategy for this new education policy to come into practice.

The varied and exciting programme includes speeches by Professor Sibusiso Bengu, national Minister of Education, and Winnie Mandela, Deputy Minister of Arts and Culture. There are also workshops, discussion groups, tours to various arts centres, performances and exhibitions.

Oppies dig into the food at the Oppie cheese and wine Pic: Michelle Lentin

Lighting Campaign

Debbie Roberts

THERE was a very positive response to the lighting campaign initiated last year which both SRC Representative Bridget Lydall, and campus security would like to see it continue.

Two areas in particular were identified as badly lit - Eden Grove and the area between the Law Department and the Moot Room. In both cases, lights have now been put up. The path near the Botany Department is the next target for lights.

Maintaining existing lights is an ongoing process - a team is employed by the electrical section for this purpose. However, they rely on reports of burnt-out lights to ensure efficiency. Campus Security sends in a report once a week and students are encouraged to report any broken or burnt-out lights to campus security or leave a message with Lydall at the SRC Offices in the Union building.

Campus Security has had problems with people kicking or shaking lights which causes them to go out for about ten minutes. An appeal is made to students not to do this - these lights are sometimes reported as broken and it is a waste of the electrical department's time.

RAG knows no limits

Rhodes crammed 27 people into this little car, but WITS managed to win the competition. UNO's what happened o the person jammed at the bottom...

Fireside Jam

Dani Bergman & Hannah Kaye

MARTELL Brandy is generously providing funds for the Monday night Fireside Jams at the Union this year. According to Public Relations officer for Rhodes Union and Kaif, Nick Grubb, this sponsorship which will include a variety of specials on Martell, will make the Jams "bigger and better events."

Fireside Jam T-shirts will be available from the Union next week.

"Any technical hitches as experienced at the last Jam will be ironed out and until the noise issue has been discussed with the University, Jams will continue to end at 11.30pm," he said.

Nick hopes to see the Union sound proofed by the end of the year.

Jams are open to all local bands and there is equipment available on Monday nights for aspiring artists to make their debuts.

The plans for the Fireside Jams this year include the culmination with the Battle of the Bands competition towards the end of the year. The winning band may have the opportunity to produce a demo album. Nick Grubb feels that these events will prove to be "a true and constructive supporter of South African music."

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New VC Selection Commission

Lukanyo Mnyanda

FOLLOWING the controversy around the selction of a new Vice-Chancellor for Rhodes and the disruption of sole candidate Michael Smout's public lecture by toyi-toying students last month, the role players have decided to terminate the selection process and create "a new commission to define a fresh and legitimate process".

In a press statement, the Forum for a Democratic Transformation of Rhodes (FDTR) called on the University Council to "ensure that the special commission is constructed in a way that guarantees the process will be fully representative of all stake holders.

"We believe that a full commitment to the principles of democracy and transparency provides the best guarantee of a smooth selection process."

The selection process was plunged into dispute when the University Council questioned the FDTR's participation in the selection committe, with Registrar Keith Hunt claiming they did not know who the Forum were.

Council then removed FDTR's voting rights, demanding that the Forum prove their "democratic credentials". These were subsequently returned, but the Forum was shocked to discover Council had also uniterally decided to add three more members to the selection committe.

The process was thrown into further controversy when candidate Edward Webster withdrew from the race and left Smout as sole candidate. Community representatives demanded that the process be halted while Council remained adamant that it would continue as planned.

Matters came to a head when a letter of protest from the ten community representatives of the selection committe was read out by Grahamstown TLC member, Mtwe Nkwinti before Smout's scheduled lecture at the Great Hall on February 24.

In the statement, Nkwinti accused the Council of manipulating the selection process and insulting the "representatives of the broader community".

"We further thoroughly deplore the conduct of the chairperson of the selection committee, Brian La Trobe (also acting-chairperson of Council), who throughout the process has acted divisively and partially."

During a meeting of the selection committe held ealier that day, La Trobe had allegedly refused the Forum's demand to put motions that the selection process be reconstituted and the post of Vice-chancellor be readvertised. Eastern Cape Education MEC, Nosimo Balindlela, supported this demand and mandated the Eastern Cape government's representative to vote in favour of the reconstitution of the selection process.

According to the statement, ten school principals from Rhini/Grahamstown had written to La Trobe, voicing their "outrage" that T.T Long was placed on the selection committee as the representative of schools without their knowledge.

Nkwinti said; "in the light of all these considerations, we have no option but to declare that the activities of the University Council and their representatives have rendered this entire process illegitimate and unacceptable to the wider community.

"It therefore follows that no candidate appointed by this outrageous process can possibly be regarded as legitimate by the general public, the country at large and large sections of this university," he added.

The community representatives then called on Smout to stand down and, together with a large sector of the audience, walked out of the lecture. Smout's attempts to deliver his lecture were subsequently disrupted by students who sang outside.

The now-defunct selection committe later released a statement in which it conceded that the process of selection had "lost credibility and legitimacy among significant sectors of the interested community".

The committee felt it was not in the interests of the University or Smout to pass judgement on his suitability and recommended that Council "appoint a small representative commission to explore fully the composition of the next selection committe and the process of selection".

When approached for comment on the new commission, Rhodes spokesperson Annete Clifford-Vaughn said: "Nothing is happening at the moment as we are waiting for the SRC and the TLC to submit the names of their representatives."

A STEP FORWARD

Karuna Gopal

SEXUAL Tolerance and Education Programme (STEP) held its first national conference in Port Elizabeth, at the beginning of March, to highlight issues regarding gays and lesbians in South Africa.

The conference, which followed on the heels of the formation of the national coalition in December last year, comprised of delegates from gay and lesbian organisations in the former Transkei region, Port Elizabeth and Rhodes. The main decisions that arose from the discussions were the commitment of the represented bodies to the non-discriminatory clause in the new South African constitution and the adoption of a fourth principle of non-heterosexism.

"It is a principle against the belief that heterosexual is the only way to be," explains Larissa Klazinga, chairperson of STEP Rhodes.

She adds that the national conference catalysed several new goals for the organisation at Rhodes. At the top of the list is the aim to encourage more interaction between STEP and the greater Grahamstown/Rhini community, as well as to expand the non-homophobia campaign to areas outside Grahamstown. "The main idea is to focus on setting up the campaign regionally and to encourage participation in other towns, like King William's Town and Queenstown."

Also on the agenda for Rhodes is the commemoration of International AIDS Memorial Day in May, which will culminate in a memorial service for the victims of the syndrome.

"STEP is looking to liase to a greater degree with the SRC and Gender Forum this year, particularly for the international memorial day when we hope to draw in people from Grahamstown and Rhini."

Transformation Without Restraint

Continued from p 1

The ANC also said it would intervene but stated that it could not support, "hostage taking, littering and other disruptive forms of action."

On March 16, after meeting students, ANC leaders, Cheryl Carolus and Walter Sisulu negotiated with the administration. Claire described this effort as "fruitless", adding:"People were very frustrated and began littering. These people [Carolus and Sisulu] are in government... they could have done a lot more."

On March 17, students suspended the sleep-in to investigate other forms of action. Claire said two of "their comrades" were to appear in court on Monday, March 20 on criminal charges and abduction after last years campaign and a picket was "to be organised outside court".

The "abduction" occurred when 50 students and workers occupied the offices of two administrators refusing to let them leave. Eventually the police stormed the office. Claire remarked dryly:"The only time the 'hostages' were hurt was when the police fell on them attempting to 'rescue' them."

Claire called on students and workers in other campuses to show solidarity with Wits students. "Collect petitions and donations in support of our campaign. March on your own administration demanding they put pressure on Wits Administration through the Council of University Principal. Put pressure on the government to make sure that they come down on our side. We have to organise ourselves and keep up the fight."

You can send petitions or donations to:

C/o "The Wits Defence Campaign"
PO Box 18530
Hillbrow, Johannesburg
2038

Send donations to the Spar workers on strike at the same address, Care of "The Spar Strike Committee".

Crisis at Vista

SASNEWS

VISTA University students are embarking on a national boycott, protesting against the suspension of an administrator and three SRC members at the university's Sebokeng branch.

Sebokeng Campus Director, NS Kekana and the SRC members were suspended because Dr Kekana allegedly deposited university money into a Sebokeng bank. According to the Vista Act, the money was supposed to be given to the Vista Management Committee.

In his defence, Kekana said he had acted according to the fact that the Vista Committee had resigned. This was due to pressure from Vista National Transformation Forum.

Other Vista campuses, excluding Port Elizabeth, started the strike on March 10.

PE students met on March 13 and decided to boycott classes, in solidarity with other campuses.

In an apparent attempt to divide students, The University Council then distributed pamphlets to explain the cause of suspension. The students did not accept their explanation and SRC deputy president, Mr Tukashe accused Council of undermining the transformation process. He demanded the resignation of the "illegitimate" Council.

The SRC handed a memorandum containing their demands to Campus Director, Prof Voges.

The students resolved to boycott Vista until these demands are met.

Furthermore, on March 14, there were sit-ins at the University and another memorandum was submitted to Voges. This contained new local demands which included access to university cars, the buying of two kombi's and transparency on the appointment of staff.

On March 16, students marched to the Department of Education and Culture with a memorandum asking Education Minister, Professor Sibusiso Bengu to intervene.

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The Drug Deal

There is a major problem with drugs at Rhodes: you must have seen it. Sure, it goes on, as it does everywhere, there is nothing new in that, and it will so long as there are young people who want to experiment with altered states of consciousness. So, what's the problem? People can pretty much get what they want, and so long as they're sensible, there is little chance of getting busted. The major problems are hypocrisy and misinformation, claims ***Fred Bright****.*

DID you see the little blue pamphlet knocking around your res called enticingly, 'The Hazards of Drug-Taking'? The very title is highly misleading. It mentions 'drug-taking,' not abuse or use, and if all the hazards of drug consumption could be contained in a ten page booklet, then I am a banana.

Okay, so there is some important information in there, but the overall tone of the booklet is essentially one of shock and scare tactics, cloaked in the disguise of pseudo-scientific respectability, and as such, is pretty shallow.

For example, Dr Natie Finklestein asserts that frequent users of cannabis "lose interest in work, recreation and personal hygiene." Personal hygiene! *Very* scientific. If ever a statement was made to perpetuate the myth of the stinking hippy, then this is it. This kind of comment is typical of the more reactionary approach to drug use, especially when a distinction is drawn between legal and illegal substances. That distinction is predominantly a political one and not the area of expertise of pharmacologists.

The most common public appearance of substance use at Rhodes is obviously the extreme quantities of alcohol that this campus consumes. Somehow the level of intoxication that is tolerated at bars and clubs in Grahamstown is not really seen in terms of drug use by the users and dealers of this particular commodity.

Excessive drinking is seen as culturally acceptable

Excessive drinking, especially by young males, is seen as culturally acceptable and entirely in keeping with certain macho stereotypes that prevail in this country. I am not asking that the same level of acceptance be equated with illegal drug use, but that the hypocrisy should be recognised.

The same analysis can be applied to tobacco use. The average cigarette contains over 200 chemicals. The main three harmful substances are tar, which is a carcinogen as well as a cause of chronic lung and respiratory problems; nicotine, which is known to cause heart and vascular disease, stomach and lung tumours and is the chemical which produces the actual addiction; and carbon monoxide, which derives from the burning paper around the tobacco itself.

Yet this product is available in every high street for relatively little monetary cost and is cynically advertised in the media as a symbol of success, sophistication and fashionability. Just because this has been the state of affairs in the past does not make it acceptable, which is a point many South Africans are beginning to wake up to.

Unlike alcohol, which is implicated in the majority of car accidents and breaches of the peace in this country, drug *use* does not correlate strongly with violent, anti-social behaviour.Violence in the drug culture is strongly linked to the selling of drugs and

disputes over territory, unpaid debts etc - all of which are linked to the relatively high price of the substances. The high prices are a direct result of their illegality and consequent scarcity on the street. It is the price of an addicts' habit which leads him, or her, to theft and prostitution, not the addiction itself.

Education in this area is severely lacking: the message of: 'Just say No!' does not take into account the realities of the situation and is an incredibly naïve response.

Whether politicians and establishment figures like it or not, drug-taking by young people is mostly associated with having a good time. A message which overstates the dangers, which tells us that drug-taking leads to inevitable addiction and untimely death, simply does not work.

Similarly, attempts to hound drugs off the street, the very act of illegality itself, can lead to all sorts of disastrous and alarming consequences. The lack of quality control and the fact that the dealers themselves are criminals (often gangsters) only exacerbates the danger and distorts an already unclear picture.

The debate about the legalisation of soft-drugs is a can of worms that has been opened so many times that most people should be used to the smell by now. South Africa is highly unlikely to lead the world in this area, although there is sound economic sense for the nation to at least consider this option seriously.

South Africa is renowned for producing some of the finest and most potent ganja in the world. Although the genetic engineers and hybridisers in Holland might disagree, South African grass has the potential to be a market leader in this sector. This could potentially be a valuable asset to the country's balance of trade, and directly benefit rural communities.

Alternatively, there are strains of the cannabis plant that contain minimal amounts of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC: the psychoactive component of the plant), which if grown on a commercial scale would eliminate the need to cut down trees in order to make paper. This is because hemp contains far more cellulose cells than wood pulp and makes excellent quality paper that is far easier to re-cycle than paper made from trees.

Like flax, which is used in the manufacture of linen, the cannabis plant can also be made into a comfortable and cool fabric.

Environmental considerations make the commercial production of dagga a serious consideration

Cannabis used to be grown extensively in North America, notably in the eighteenth Century, as the raw material for rope-making: so there is a precedent and tradition of commercial growth. Incidentally, one particular cannabis farmer of that time went on to cause quite a stir; his name was George Washington.

The environmental considerations alone make the commercial production of dagga a serious consideration. Meanwhile, the Government's Narcotics Bureau is busy indiscriminately spraying KwaZulu/Natal with environmentally catastrophic herbicides, that are highly toxic to humans as well as cannabis plants. This shows a level of short-sightedness that is quite staggering, but all too familiar.

Eloquently argue for the full legalisation of drugs

Milton Friedman, the eminent economist and champion of the freemarket, has frequently and eloquently argued for the full legalisation of all drugs, be they soft or hard. He sees government interference in the demand and supply of goods and services, for whatever motive, as a distortion of the market and thus as against the economic well-being of states, and the freedom of individuals right to choose which, he believes, is fundamentally and profoundly undemocratic.

However, don't get your hopes up yet, as Milton's perfectly competitive world does not include the political leverage of monopolistic breweries and cigarette manufacturers and governments worried about the dangers of a questioning, free thinking population.

Legalisation and the creation of a 'free market' in substances is not seen by its advocates as the solution to all the problems associated with drugs, but as a process whereby the problems are transferred from the economic and political to the social and medical arena, where they belong.

Young people are likely to get involved in drug use

The simple truth is that increasing numbers of young people are likely to get involved in drug use. A lot will only do so for a short time, but some will get hooked and some will die.

Recognising the situation for what it is, rather than waging an un-winnable war on demonised deviants seems to be the sensible option.

I recognise that, at this juncture, a government which embarked on a serious campaign to legalise drugs would be inviting political suicide. However, Bishop Tutu recently wrote in an advertisement to encourage participation in the forthcoming local elections, "When the Government of National Unity took office, it committed itself to achieving freedom for all South Africans...Freedom from fear. Freedom from oppression and freedom from ignorance." There is more to ultimate freedom and democracy than I think he and many politicians are willing to fully realize.

Grahamstown's first HIV and AIDS support group was launched recently with the intention of providing counsel, AIDS awareness and education to the greater Grahamstown community.
***Indressa Naidoo** looks into the service that will be provided to those infected with HIV and AIDS and at what you could do to help.*

Aids. Don't let it happen

"NOT much has been done in Grahamstown in the past," said co-ordinator of the AIDS and HIVsupport group, Ben Schoeman, when talking about work done in conjunction with AIDS and HIV. He said the AIDS rate here is not very high but that the number of cases are growing.

Ben is presently working with 17 HIV cases and thinks majority of the people are ignorant about AIDS, and "while others accept the disease but feel they will never get it".

He therefore stresses the importance of AIDS awareness campaigns which incorporate education and training for non-AIDS sufferers as well as information on services available to HIV and AIDS infected people.

The support group hopes to get off the ground really soon and start working with what they call the Buddy system. It is a system based on having a "buddy ", who is actually a trained volunteer, who will be a friend and companion and someone you can talk to about the problems you may encounter as an AIDS or HIV infected person.

The group received initial funding from the Hospice association of South Africa but, now, this responsibility has fallen on the Red Cross.

"We need to start fund raising," said Schoeman. "If we had more funds, we could have more workshops, we may be able to acquire a vehicle with which to visit people or have a house to nurse people with full-blown AIDS like the AIDS haven in PE." However, funding is only one of the setbacks the Hospice and the AIDS support group has. They need more volunteers - more people to assist with the Buddy programme. Further details about the support group and the Buddy programme are outlined below.

There are many helpful services available to you and you are encouraged to make use of them. There is no charge for any of the services. This is a volunteer based programme of people who care enough to give you their time. Confidentiality is the hallmark of the programme. All involved are cognisant of the problem you face. Your rights will be respected and none of the volunteers will try to convert you to their way of thinking. The following are services available to you.

THE BUDDY PROGRAMME

Buddies are trained volunteers, familiar with the epidemiology of HIV and AIDS. A Buddy will agree to be your friend, companion and advocate for at least one year.

Experience in other AIDS programmes has shown that it is advisable to get a Buddy as soon as possible after you have been diagnosed as HIV positive.

Buddies work in teams of four or five. Through this programme, it is possible to develop a social network. You should find this helpful, because you will be able to talk freely to others without fear.

COUNSELLORS

Your Buddy - your friend, may not be able to fulfill all the needs you have. You will have to then talk to your Buddy about arranging for a counsellor to work with you.

HIV & PEOPLE WITH AIDS (PWA) SUPPORT GROUPS

As an HIV infected person, or PWA, there are many situations you will have to deal with in your life and, many, because of the disease, will be new or difficult. By coming together with other HIV sufferers or PWA's you will be able to talk about your problems and your joys.

Support group meetings are an excellent way to help you cope. Talk to your Buddy about this service.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Often, those with HIV/AIDS have legal problems with pensions, insurance, and health care. We have volunteer legal assistance for you.

WHAT CAN YOU HELP DO TO STOP HIV INFECTION

This may be one of the most important questions to ask yourself. You are in a vulnerable position because it is a fact that society backs away from the disease, but it is only because of ignorance.

Education is the only way to overcome that ignorance, and you as a person who has this experience, are most qualified to teach others and inform them about HIV and AIDS.

Please consider volunteering to become an educator, it may 'blow your cover', so to speak and could disrupt your life further so, you would have to consider it carefully. It could also be fine with you yet may not work for others.

Should you decide to become involved in teaching people about HIV infection, we will train you and work closely with you. It must be noted that those with HIV infection make the best Buddies, so think seriously about volunteering as a buddy. It will also be a great help to you in dealing with your disease.

Further information is available from Ben at 29661 or you can contact him at G'town's Hospice Association offices in New Street (opposite the Vic).

PUSHING THEIR LUCK

Joanne Levitan

"**BIBLE BASHERS**", "the Godsquad" or spreaders of the good news? Who has not been a victim of so-called "soul-winning", when student preachers knock on your res door or stop you in the street to spread "God's word"?

Many students admit to feeling resentful about the invasion of their privacy and intolerance of their beliefs. Different students have described feeling "trapped", "pressured" and "pushed into corners".

One student, who does not wish to be named, said she was visited every day by a "spreader of the word", and took to hiding away to avoid a confrontation.

Evidently, no place is sacred. Students have been approached in That Pizza Place, where a craving for vetkoek turned into a heated, insulting religious argument. One girl who defended her position as an atheist was "condemned to hell" and "rebuked in the name of Jesus Christ!" Tolerance and freedom of belief seem to play a very small role.

Many students at Rhodes say they do not mind open-minded conversations on religion where each view is accepted, debated and discussed. Unfortunately, many radical Christians will not tolerate other viewpoints. It tends to leave many students feeling insulted and resentful.

" I have a right to my personal beliefs - religion should be a personal thing anyway and if I choose to be a non-believer in a God of any kind then that is my democratic right," said BJourn III student, Indressa Naidoo.

These Christians, however, feel that they are following the word of God and many use this passage from the Bible to justify their actions: "Go into the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned." (Mark 16:20)

His People is one of the Christian groups who feel it is up to them to introduce Jesus Christ to people and thus "save them".

Sarah, a member of His People, explained their position. She said what she discovered in Christianity is "so incredible (she) can't help but share it, and seeing people's lives change is the fruit of it."

It is not bible-bashing in her eyes, but a desire to share the happiness she has found and her love of Jesus with as many people as possible.

She said their job is not to convince people because it is "the word of God that does the convincing". They are merely his mouthpieces. Their belief and joy they have found is so strong that they want others to share in it. This, she said, is the reason for their "soul-winning" campaigns.

Sarah said that most people are responsive to them and those who see it as an invasion of their privacy are probably feeling guilty of their sins.

This year, His People are using slightly different tactics. On Saturday afternoons they intend to convene on Kaif lawns and hope to attract people with music and Christian dramas.

This method certainly has its merits. Now, people can approach them, instead of being approached by them. If people feel they need religion and religious guidance they are free to find it themselves.

Rhodes university encourages non-discrimination in terms of race and gender. Surely this should extend to religious belief. Those who are comfortable with their views should be respected and left to discover their true inclinations for themselves.

Pic: Michelle Lentin

New Tactics... Nigel Desmond, a preacher for His People, shares his views on Kaif Lawns last Saturday. By using christian music and drama His People hope to convert fellow students to Jesus Christ.

TRUTH COMMISSION

Jonathan Ancer

A week before convicted killer, Almond Nofomela was due to be executed alleged South African death-squad commander, Lieutenant-Colonel Eugene de Kock, paid a visit to death row. We don't know what was actually said, but Nofomela realised his former 'friends' in the security police had turned their back on him.

After de Kock left, Nofomela contacted Lawyers for Human Rights (LHR) for help. Ironically LHR were part of the mass democratic movement that Nofomela had, on behalf of the South African Police, waged a war against. Nofomela told LHR about his involvement in South Africa's dirty war.On the basis of these allegations Nofomela was granted a stay of execution.

The police denied these allegations, accusing Nofomela of fabricating an elaborate story to save himself from the gallows. Before fleeing to the ANC in London, Captain Dirk Coetzee contacted the *Vrye Weekblad* Newspaper and confirmed Nofomela's allegations; blowing the whistle on atrocities committed by an elite unit of the South African Police. The unit was trained in covert activity to destroy the enemies of the state. Amongst other things, Coetzee described in detail the brutal murder of anti-apartheid activist Grifiths Mxenge in the early 1980's.

During the apartheid era various anti-apartheid groups accused the government of "third force" activities designed to fuel and perpetuate political violence and weaken the mass democratic movement.

The outgoing Commissioner of Police, Johan van der Merwe and two former National Party cabinet ministers, Adrian Vlok and Magnus Malan, have been implicated in this spiral of violence.

Granting unlimited power to the apartheid state's security forces led to some of the most gross human rights abuses since Hitler's Germany, throughout the Southern African region. Countless people were murdered in detention, even more just disappeared without trace, and scores were brutally and habitually assaulted and tortured. It is this web of murder and other human rights violations that has encouraged families of victims and survivors to call for an investigation into past atrocities.

The "Promotion of National Unity and Reconciliation Bill" has been presented to parliament to set up a multi-purpose Truth Commission. Various political parties and groups with vested interests in limiting the scope of the Truth Commission have ensured that the original draft of the Bill has been watered down by political compromises.

One of the most controversial concessions is the granting of a blanket amnesty to perpetrators from both civil claims and criminal charges. The draft bill has also made provisions for perpetrators to give evidence *in camera*. Proponents of the Truth Commission argue that South Africa cannot be united until perpetrators confess and victims forgive.

A wide range of civilian based organisations such as Lawyers for Human Rights, the Independent Board of Inquiry and the Human Rights Committee objected to the secrecy clause on the grounds that it isn't conducive to establishing the truth. Parliament has not yet confirmed whether the evidence will be open to the public. The Commission is only likely to be established towards the end of the year.

The commission, in its present form, will consist of three committees. The Human Rights Committee will investigate abuses of human rights from March 1961 to December 5, 1993. Perpetrators will make an application about their involvement and the Amnesty Committee will consider these applications. The third committee will hear victims tell their story and will attempt to compensate them for their suffering.

The compensation might not necessarily be in a monetary form and may be symbolic. Victims have specific needs, for example Stanza Bopape's father is not interested in who killed his son or why. He just wants Stanza's body so that he can give him a proper burial. Albie Sachs wants to know the chain of command that was responsible for ordering the bombing of his car in Mozambique and Marius Schoon wants to know who killed his wife and daughter and he wants them to be charged.

After surviving two assassination attempts in London, Dirk Coetzee has returned to South Africa committed in his resolve to help the ANC get to the bottom of state hit-squads. Nofomela's death sentence has been commuted to a prison sentence and Colonel de Kock, after receiving a "golden handshake" worth over R1.2 million, is in prison awaiting trial on 121 charges of murder, attempted murder and fraud.

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Computer Hacking

Carlien Vavruch, Michelle Lentin & Saadia Ebrahim

THE glamorous and heroic image of young hackers who penetrate deep into government and corporate systems is a creation of the media. Yes, hackers are often young geniuses (usually male) who sit in front of their computers for hours, but the equipment they use is rarely of the sci-fi type and they seldom achieve anything without hours of plainly primitive snooping.

A hacker is anyone who tries to gain access to restricted areas in a computer or network, or who misuses the access that he already has. They use other people's sign-ons and disk space, and pirate software programmes. But in comparison to a cracker, who sets out to do damage, a hacker is usually only out to see how far he can push the system without maliciously intending to destroy anything. They are thrill -addicts, bored with everyday life and getting their highs from the challenge of the chase rather than from the end result.

According to Time Magazine, February 27, Kevin Mitnick, America's most infamous hacker, first hacked into his high school's records. Typically , he didn't change anything, though he could have. He was just looking. Mitnick has been looking ever since. When he broke into the computer of Tsutomu Shimomura, one of the world's best computer-security experts, he could have been unconsciously asking to be found out. (Shimomura hunted him down through networks and phone companies and he was finally caught in February.)

So are there any Kevin Mitnick's hiding in the Rhodes computer labs? Rather difficult to find out, as no one will openly admit to hacking, fearing suspension. (Although the ability to get into places where no student has ever been before is ego-boosting to the highest degree and difficult to keep to yourself.)

According to Dave Wilson, Director of Computer Services, there are loop-holes in the Rhodes system and bright students may unintentionally find ways in. But they usually tell Computer Services and the cracks can be patched up.

Rhodes is unusual in that it gives all students free access to the computer networks. So short of limiting access there is no real way of checking that all users are honest.

How can you protect your own address and files from abuse?

***Keep your password to yourself - giving someone your password is like giving away your PIN number and then complaining when you find money missing, says Wilson.**

***Use a decent password, include numerals and don't make it obvious and easy to guess.**

***And especially: remember to log-out!**

If someone uses your address to send hate-mail there is no way of proving that it wasn't you. The policy at Rhodes is that anything done in your account is your responsibility.

Should computer-bofs with itchy fingers be keeping you awake at night? The general view is: no. Rhodes security is good and most users don't have the time or the inclination to abuse their access. Computers can be compared to a locked door - some have the key and others don't. Only a minority of those without the key will bother to pick the lock. No lock is unpickable and there will always be cracks in the Internet and computer systems . Just don't be stupid and leave your key in the door.

The calm before a storm?

*While other campuses around South Africa erupt in demonstrations Rhodes remains "relatively calm." Are we doing something right or are Rhodes students simply apathetic? **Sarah Skinner** reports.*

WITS students have been protesting since September 1994 and have recently staged a sleep-in at Senate House to demonstrate solidarity with workers and students who were expelled for protests last year.

Basic grievances centre around slow change at the university.

"Wits is still 80 per cent white" said an activist on campus, Jonathan Rosenthal, "very few black families can afford the fees at Wits, given the history of apartheid, so Wits is remaining a privilege for the rich, mainly white few, even in the new South Africa."

University of the Western Cape (UWC) students staged massive demonstrations, disrupting lectures and taking hostages, in protest against the exclusion of students with outstanding fees, which amount to at least R20 million. Vista university and Bloemfontein Technicon students followed suit.

And Rhodes? Looking at the entrance figures for 1992, 75 percent of students were white and only 36 percent of new undergraduates were black.

In 1995 the provisional figures estimate that 64 percent of students are still white but the percentage of new black undergraduates has risen to 51 percent. At face value, these figures suggest that Rhodes is starting to redress racial imbalances.

Perhaps a small university like Rhodes with its lower lecture:student ratio offers an increased likelihood of passing?

"This is impossible to quantify" said director of the Academic development Programme (ADP) at Rhodes, Philip Collett, "considering that some mix of many variables influence performance".

The figures comparing average pass rate in 1984 - 1988 with those of 1989 - 1993 (with ADP involvement) showed between one and 20 percent increase across the faculties of commerce, humanities and sciences.

Similar projects are run at UND, UCT and WITS but their larger numbers and positioning seem to make it harder to get results. The current demonstrations on other campuses is clearly linked to finances and this in turn is linked to their size.

Rhodes has approximately 3200 students while Wits and UWC have over 18000 and 13200 respectively.

Being small, Rhodes still has potential for growth. The increase of 10 percent in the admission of new students this year can be contained.

pic: Rycherde Walters

A similar protest to the one at Wits happened at Rhodes in August 1993, with students joining staff protesting over dismissals

WITS and UWC have for years opened their gates to more students than could actually be accommodated. As these increases come mostly from disadvantaged backgrounds, their numbers can no longer be financially sustained.

Rhodes applied the Swedish point admission system more strictly. Should students on these large campuses who have passed be excluded solely on the grounds of lack of finances? And if not, who is going to pay the bills?

Dean of Students, Moosa Motara informed me that every student who approached the university directly for aid this year, and had produced the necessary financial need information had been accommodated.

Tertiary Education Fund of South Africa (Tefsa) provides universities with money for loans.

At larger institutions, where this must be spread over more students, loans given out usually reach around R3000 compared to as much as R8250 at Rhodes.

Here, each student's financial need is carefully assessed and those at the highest end of the need scale must only provide a basic fee of R1500 for the year and the university makes up the rest from other sources.

According to registrar of the Rhodes Finance department,Tony Long, Rhodes' budget for 1995 will amount to approximately R90 million, of which 59 percent (R53 million) should come from the government. This is a drop of 3 percent from last year. Where has Rhodes found these extra millions?

The SRC and the South African Students Congress (Sasco) called a meeting with administration in September last year to discuss the issue of extra funding in the form of bursaries for disadvantaged students, as well as discussions into a new academic admissions test which would increase numbers by not discriminating against people with inadequate schooling. These meetings resulted in Rhodes' Council putting aside an extra R1,5 million for bursaries.

According to Sasco chairperson, Vuyo Kahla there is also a mentor program in the pipeline where senior students will get involved in helping disadvantaged students.

The Rhodes administration and student bodies as well as the small numbers here may have helped to maintain the relative peace, but with increasing intakes and decreasing finances, will cuts have to be made somewhere (building maintenance, new equipment, staffing, fees?). 'To be sustainable, funding must be seen as a national responsibility and not a local one, business can only do so much when R50 million can only get 2500 students through one year.' This was echoed by students and administration alike.

So what can you do to make sure things on this campus don't reach the stage they have on other campuses? One step in the right direction may be the National Commision of Higher Education which reports directly to the education minister, Sibusiso Bhengu. This body is being set up to investigate funding mechanisms (where and how are funds made available), national education goals as well as information structures needed to government funding mechanisms. Do you believe the government should stop funding foreign students which is the case in Britain? Can universities share resources? Ideas are needed before the 30th July.

The contact address is:
Teboho Moja,
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
PRIVATE BAG X212
PRETORIA 0001
tel 021 312 5505/6

Editorial

"Death to student apathy"

Activate - the independent newspaper of Rhodes University

A month into the first term, council and the selection committee have still not decided on a new vice-chancellor for Rhodes University. The process was abandoned after much controversy, with council being accused of manipulating a process which was supposed to be democratic and transparent (see page 3). Activate welcomes the progress made by forming a commission to look into the make-up of the new selection committee, and hopes the process will be swift, truly democratic and free of conflict. Council should realise that the Grahamstown community will not give in to the authoritarian tendencies which have wrecked a process which should have been completed by now.

As for Michael Smout, we find it very strange that a person who wants to be Vice-Chancellor will not take the time for the student newspaper to take an up-to-date photograph of him. Could it be that he does not want to be recognised on campus? Recently, Rhodes hosted a Freedom of Information Conference and Smout's behaviour makes a mockery of the university's stated "liberal" position, which should encompass freedom of speech, the press, etc.

And while on the subject of Freedom of Information; the same Journalism Department that hosted the conference seems to be disregarding this concept when it comes to RMR's application for a licence from the IBA (see centre spread). By insisting upon the creation of an "editorial overseer" they are interfering with RMR's right to make their own decisions and learn from their mistakes. The department is failing in their duty to produce critical and independent journalists. While understanding the need for the university to protect itself from libelous action taken against it, we share the IBA's concern that admin wants to turn RMR into a university mouthpiece, and are concerned at RMR's apparent lack of resistance to this idea.

But lack of resistance and general apathy have not been uncommon at Rhodes in the past and may still be a problem in 1995. It is important for one to ask why, when other tertiary institutions are fighting against administrative red-tape, unfair dismissals and for better policies, Rhodes seems to remain relatively unaffected by the wave of protest that has been unleashed country-wide?

Sirion Robertson may imply that students merely come to varsity to get educated and should not get involved in student politics (in an earlier edition of *RHODOS* and in the EP Herald), but politics is everywhere and is an imperative part of our education. Students need to get involved in trying to change policies that affect their lives and inhibit their freedom of expression and their right to a fair, free and open education. One should not sit back and wait for things to change - one should get out there and play an active role in trying to make thinks work out in such a way that everyone benefits from the desired change.

We are not saying that our campus does not take any form of action against Admin's policies; we acknowledge the little victories we have accomplished like Smout's abandoned address at the Great Hall, but support for protest action on campus is sorely lacking.

Complacency seems to be fashionable, these days, and so too may be ignorance of all the issues at hand. But ignorance is never bliss and does not justify intellectual lethargy.

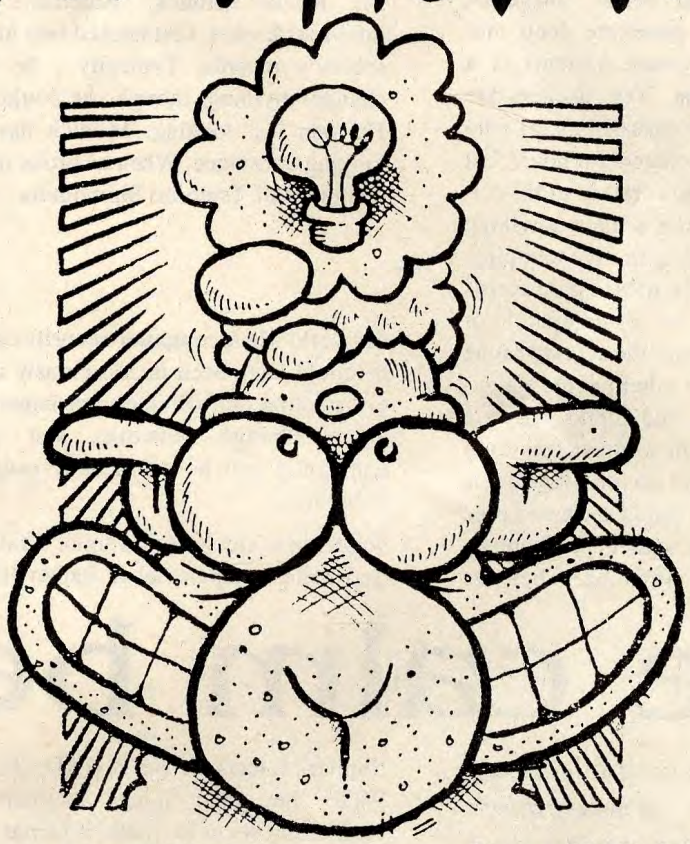
However, ignorance is rife and seems to appear in every corner of this campus, including the SAN. It seems that while Admin talks about logical solutions, compromise and looking to the future, it fails to abandon the misconception, inherent in the minds of conservative thinkers, that the distribution of condoms from San will promote promiscuity. They seem to overlook an extremely significant factual detail - condoms are not just for the prevention of unwanted pregnancies - they are here to promote safer sex and to prevent to spread of AIDS, HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases.

Admin may think that giving out condoms will force you into having sex - do they not realize that at a tertiary level, while many may be fresh out of high school, we are all young adultswho must hone our independent thought processes and learn to survive in a swiftly changing world and environment?

And, times are definitely changing. Rhodes must either adapt to it in order to survive or be trampled upon, en masse, during the inevitable stampede. Rhodes thus needs to be extra careful that it is has it's feet firmly planted in the fields of change and does not lose its way in the journey to transition. However, the right direction must also be taken into account and should be openly acknowledged, but in order to do so, we need proper leadership that will ensure reconstruction, reconciliation and democratic transformation and a move away from a conservative attitude that hinders growth, development and intellectual stimulation. These may sound like vague terms or empty promises at this point in time, therefore, and it will be up to the new head at the helm to clarify these terms make them meaningful to everyone at hand.

THIS EDITION IS DEDICATED TO ACTIVATE MEMBER EFFA BANSON-BASMURI WHO PASSED AWAY ON FEBRUARY 19, 1995.

Dear Activate



No New Names

ADMIN, wake up! A year has passed and the new residence ("New House') has still not been named. I am aware that Rhodes Administration would dearly love to name the residence after someone who is willing to donate large amounts of capital to the university.

Evidently this has not happened and it seems unlikely to occur in the near future. Please inform me if people like Smuts, Retief, and Jameson, who fostered segregation and racial discrimination made any financial contribution to this institution?

I would like to suggest that the Rhodes Administration consider making a meaningful and significant move towards joining the national transformation process by naming the new residence after people who were major players in this transformation. The names Chris Hani, Ruth First, Oliver Tambo and Joe Slovo come to mind.

Yours sincerely
still a 'RHODES' student.

No Condoms at San

WHY are condoms and birth control not supplied at San? The San has a major role to play in health care at Rhodes, and precautions for the prevention of Aids and Std's should feature high on the priorities list of such an institution, especially in the modern situation.

Also, unwanted pregnancies are always a possibility and it is necessary for students to be able to get comdoms without embarrassment or awkwardness. The condom machines at the Union Building never work. And even if they did work, they are situated very far away from most women's reses.

UCT offers all contraceptive pills free and Diane at cost-price. Why can Rhodes not do same?

Yours sincerely,
Concerned.

Smout's Public Address

"**TO** be a complete member of a herd of sheep, one must, before anything else, be a sheep." Albert Einstein

This is an accurate description of what was going through many people's minds in the Rhodes University Great Hall at Dr Smout's attempted public address. What do "equal rights", "justice", "democratisation" and all similar buzzwords in the new South Africa mean if one does not comprehend that one's own "freedom" to exercise them stops there where the freedom of the person nearest to you begins. This implies a compromise which is best achieved by giving this freedom some structure. Order, waiting one's turn, having constructive debate and letting the matter come to be heard from all points of view are the ways of leaving the most rational of all the compromises to be the one that survives the day.

Rational compromises, progress and the passing of time are not governed by sociological laws or societal norms, but by natural laws and reality, and, are better understood by the result at the end of the day, than by the method of selection at the beginning. The latter being one that lends itself to maintenance, and the former towards objective progress, without which time does not pass, and most people will know that we don't want to stay where we are at the moment.

Julius von dem Bussche

Looking for Friends

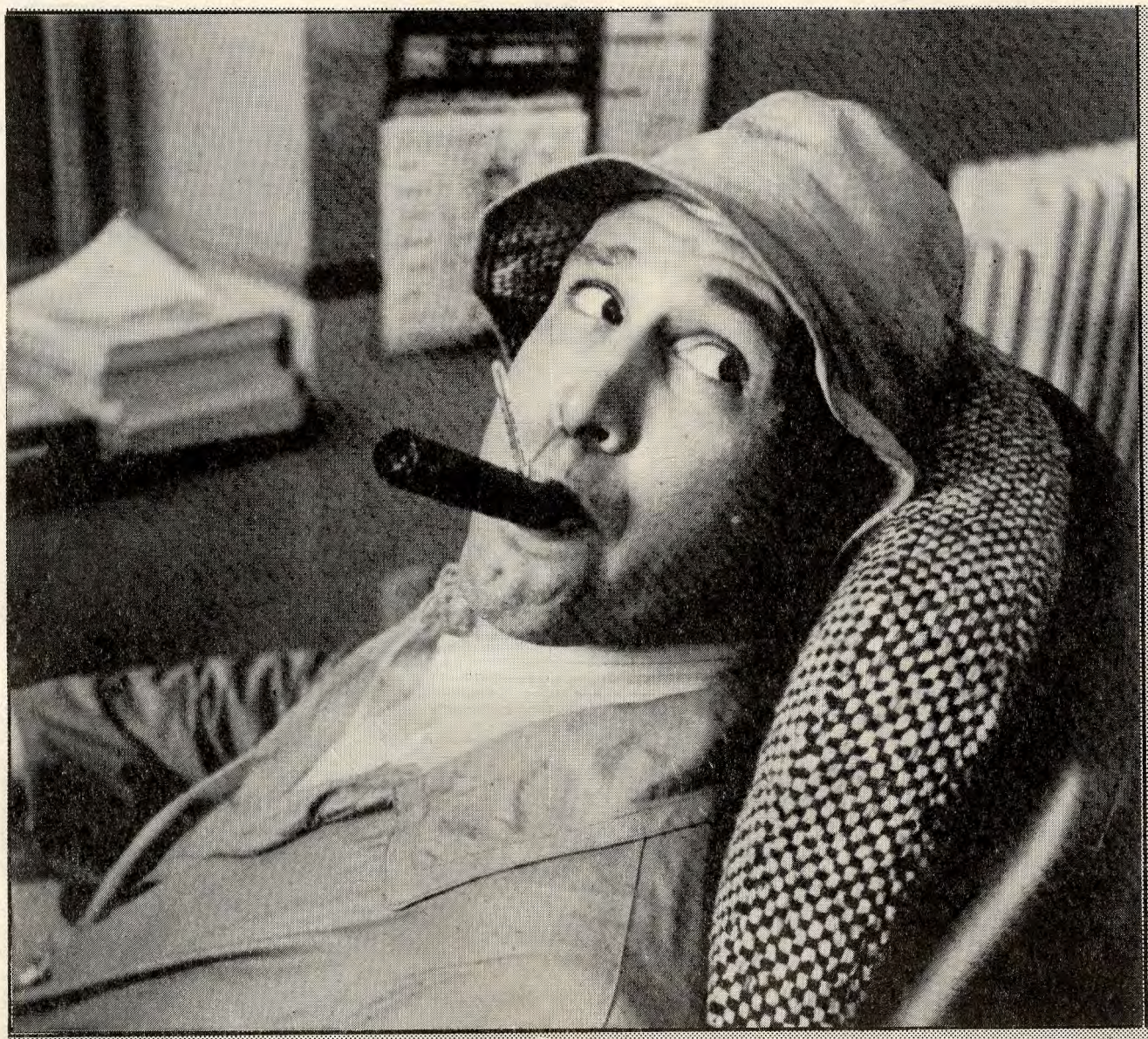
I'M a French young boy living near Paris and I'm searching for a South African young girl (18-24 years old) to ameliorate my English, in view of a travel in South Africa and of course to become friends with her.

I speak English, French, Italian and a little bit of Spanish.

I hope to interest someone and I hope to receive a response. My address is:

5, rue Paul Cezanne
31600 Savigny sur orge
France

Yours sincerely
Fabien Depeyrot



Dear Uncle Madge

Campus Carnival

IT'S just NOT fair. Why do all the other campuses get to riot and not us? They get to be on TV, in the newspapers and everything. They have so much of fun while we sit here on the Rhode to nowhere. Do you think I should have joined the Human Riots Soc at Societies evening or would that have been making too much of a statement?
Introducing the Riot Act

Dear IRA
Making statements are extremely important especially when you have the freedom of speech so you better forget about it quick if you intend staying on at Rhodes. We never get ahead, only herd! And if you want to protest about this, you might not want to consult with the president - he is not as sympathetic as I am, lovey.

It's a matter of Principal

ARE they still deciding who is going to be the new vice-chancellor? I was sure that he'd been chosen already. Why are they taking so long - do they all have second thoughts and doubts?
Counting sheep

Dear Sheep
Someone's definitely pulled the wool over your eyes 'cos in this part of town we don't have no doubts - only Smouts. And if you're referring to democratic selection procedures, weeell, that book ain't been read yet. And if you happen to get hold of a copy, make sure you send one to Rhodes Admin.

A Royal Pain

I was in PE the other day and there was this pensioner with a handbag causing a royal scene There were many soldiers around her so I thought she must have stolen it but no-one tried to stop her. They just gave her the red carpet treatment. Was she someone I should know or was it Pieter Dirk-Uys in a new wig?
Throne for a loop

Dear Throne
That was the queen you idiot. Peiter is a lot younger and wouldn't need to stare up men's kilts. She was here to finish the mini-series Winds o' War and have lunch with Nellie and to discuss South Africa's common wealth ie. RDP.

Music to my ears

I heard that RMR will have a licence soon from some secret sources. Does this mean that I will be able to buy alcohol there? Or will someone try to break into my spirit-ual habit and interfere with my freedom of expression?
International Boozer Association

Dear IBA
Your secret sauce must have been alluding to a broadcasting licence, fool! You call yourself a Varsity student? ...Sheesh...kids these days! They should be seen and not heard. Ask the Journ Department. They are very clued up on the Freedom of Information.

Trance-ient State

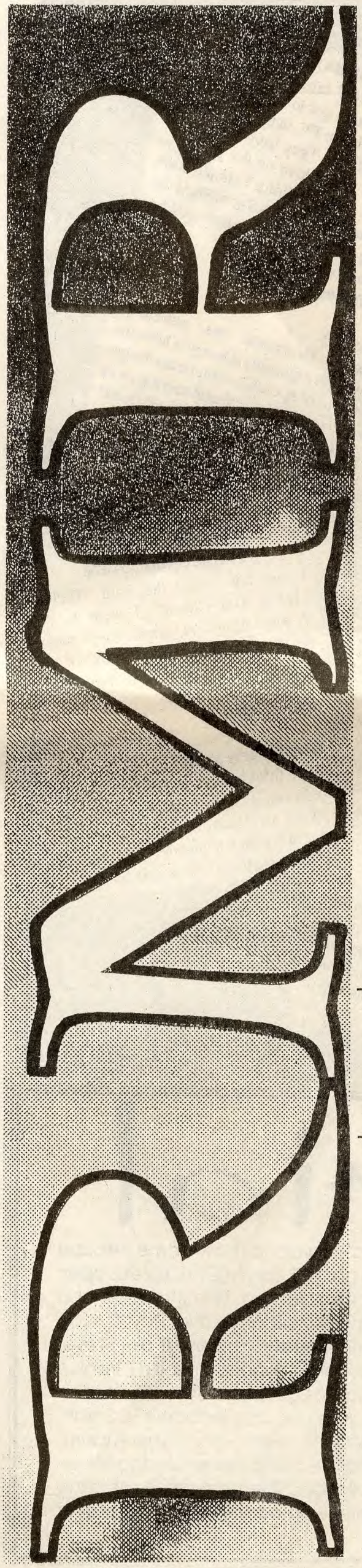
I saw this poster that said "Techno Makes You Clever". I went to the Powerstation and drank some smart drinks. The next day I took an IQ test...errr...dur...Wuz there somethin' wrong wif the recipee?
Smarty pants

Dear Smarty pants
Well, thinking that you were pulling the right strings is riske business. But taking an IQ test the next day is plain stupid. Sooner or later everyone is going to think that you're a raving lunatic.

Creditorial

Roy (Take that off now!--I don't have experience but I can still do it.Oh, you have two of them!), Swapna (How come hers are getting bigger and bigger?), Maria (He's good-looking? Compared to what?), Kammy (I've got flu), Taryn (Ohh, toilet paper. Wonderful!), Karuna (It's too big or too small, I never get the right size!), Jonathan (new coffee bearer), Tess (I'm rude and obnoxious and like small, cute things), Michelle W, Sanja, Hannah (If only the old man drowned), Lukhanyo (No, Roy, it's too painful and I haven't had one all day), Carlien, Vusi, Clinton (I'm here to type), Lauren, Dani Vlismas (She nose it all), Steve, Claire, Michelle L, Kay, Katie, Dani Berg (I'm not staying if I'm bored), Richard Wasserfal, Nicci, Sarah Skinner, Fred, Ilja (Break a leg next time!), Marco for setting new deadlines, Marc - next time okay with you?, Matthew B (You've got penis-envy) , Katherine (We'll call it a fashion statement), Robin Kalmek (I let in seven goals, hey!), Kabello (Are you sure you can reduce it?), Sarah, Robin Kelly (Don't cut my crap!), Martin Kerem (I just stand and she does everything), Debbie Roberts, Glenn van Loggerenberg, David in Yeoville (the missing graphic detail), Colm, Vuyo, Bon Jovi, the Cranberries, RMR fax machine (not!), paste-up cigarrettes, James Small, the mom and a hairdresser, The Wits Activist, res soccer, the drama dept, a lost wallet and the flashlight, Doobie the dog, Bob, the Sasco Roadshow, Sasnews, Frisco, pool cues, the tango, pervs and everyone else who contributed in whatever way....

Campus radio



IBA Licence saga climax

Richard Wasserfall

RHODES Music Radio's (RMR) quest for a temporary broadcasting licence came to a climax last week when the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) held a hearing to assess RMR's application.

The five person IBA panel chaired by Mr Peter de Klerk and Ms Lyndall Shope-Mafole heard RMR station manager Glenn van Loggerenberg motivate for the station's application for the licence.

The university, in whose name the application was made, was represented by the head of the Journalism and Media Studies department, Prof. Guy Berger; Mr George Mazarakis and the deputy registrar, Mr Jonathan Lancaster.

De Klerk began by hearing the application for the temporary 12 month licence and gave Glenn van Loggerenberg the floor to make the presentation.

Glenn began by explaining how RMR intends to serve its targeted community; the Rhodes students, academic, administrative and service staff. RMR, he said, would provide entertainment, news and a forum for debate within the community. Support of South African musicians and music culture, particularly local musicians, would be a high priority.

RMR will also provide a fair and impartial news service with special emphasis on local news, giving all members of the community a chance to air their views, said Glenn.

Journalism Department supports apllication and does not want RMR to become a PR voice

When questioned on the role of the Journalism and Media Studies Department in the application, Prof Berger said the department supports the application and does not wish RMR to become a PR voice, but to develop as a separate body.

The department wishes to ensure the professionalism and financial viability of the station, so a new post is being created in the department to serve as "editorial overseer" for monitoring news and maintaining work ethics, with particular attention to defamatory material. This post will be filled in about four months.

At the end of the presentation, de Klerk commented that the IBA was "particularly pleased, you (RMR) have shown diligence" in the application.

A point the IBA probed was an agreement between RMR and the university that only

RMR Station Manager Glenn van Loggerenberg. Pic: Taryn Cass

We are moving into "new realms of broadcasting" Berger continued, and we need to ensure professionalism. The advisory post of editor-in-chief would offer experienced judgement to the station.

He went on to say that universities are volatile places and Rhodes is concerned community common ground for social interaction and has powerful reconciliatory strengths.

about the station being "hijacked by one particular concern".

Another issue with which the IBA were concerned was representation on the station, Shope-Mafole asked if the RMR community was well enough represented in terms of race and gender?

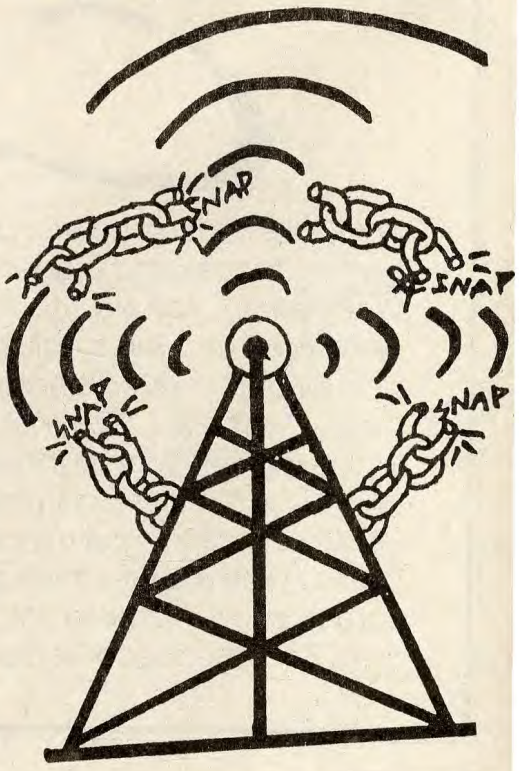
Glenn responded the station felt "representative in principle". He said RMR practise was to open audition to everyone, and only those who audition can be accepted.

Glenn said the RMR general body are the "nerve endings" to reach out to the Rhodes community. They receive feedback which can enable the station to best serve the needs of the community. A "listeners club" or a "feedback system" would be implemented to ensure the widest possible interaction with the community.

The IBA raised the point that RMR is one of very few applicants for a licence for the sole purpose of being a music station. In reply, Glenn said Rhodes was very plugged into music and it gives the previously published news (eg taken from daily newspapers) is to be broadcast, and no talk shows and live phone calls may be broadcast until an "editororial overseer" is in place to advise on the legal implications of news writen by RMR.

De Klerk said it "concerns us in basic terms", that the Journalism and Media Studies Department "should impose such restrictions" on RMR. This goes against what the IBA stands for, he added. "We have a responsibility to open up the airwaves," said Shope-Mafole.

Berger said this position was not to promote the university's views through the station, but in principle to "encourage press freedom." The "interest is not to censor" the station, he said, but to establish parameters so the university could be protected against libel action.



breaks sound barriers

Editorial overseer not censorship

Taryn Cass

HEAD of the deapartment of Journalism and Media Studies, Guy Berger, has denied that the creation of an "editorial overseer" post for RMR would be a form of censorship.

The position was proposed during RMR's IBA hearing last week.

Berger said the original agreement with RMR was to form some kind of synergy with the Journalism Department for mutual benefit. RMR was supposed to draw on Department expertise for legal advice, student news and quality control, etc. Admin wants direct participation by the Journalism Department so that there is continuity in RMR programs, and to avoid legal problems, he added.

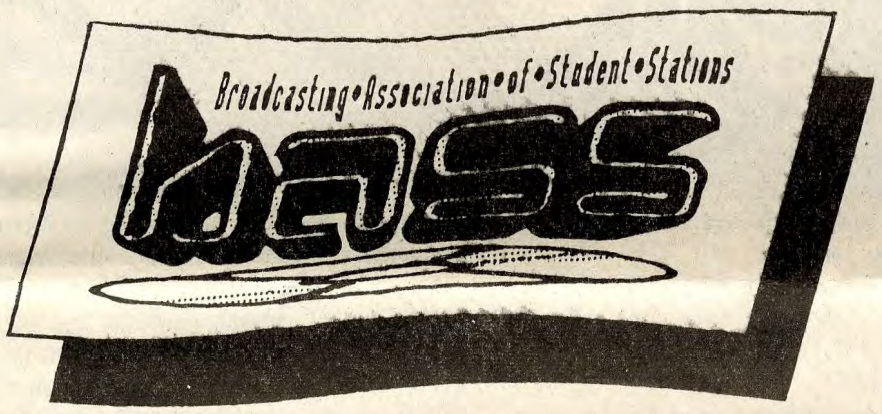
Since the IBA hearing, Berger says, he has been thinking of a new way for this position to operate. One idea is for the editorial overseer to be made accountable to a Trust comprised of representatives of the community RMR will serve, ie. Rhodes students and staff. Berger sugests that the SRC, Nehawu, Rusa, Senate, and other departments with particular interest in RMR, eg Journalism and Commerce, would have seats on the Trust, and this would guarantee editorial freedom.

Asked to comment on this idea, RMR Station Manager, Glenn van Loggerenberg, said the station envisages the RMR Trust as a legal entity (an idea which still has to be approved by the Rhodes Council). "The Rhodes community will be represented by individuals as members of the RMR General Body, and by an advisory board which will be comprised of prominent community members like the SRC Chair, Activate, Chamber of Commerce Chair, University representatives and others.

RMR reserves the right to reject all advice offered by the Journalism Department, although we consider it unlikely that we will have to."

The Journalism Department should be involved in running of RMR, Berger feels, because Rhodes has a unique opportunity to draw on the services of professionals within the community RMR will serve. "I wouldn't like to see a station that isn't the best in the country", Berger said.

"The IBA told me that every other campus is employing a full time editorial person", said Berger. To create such a post at Rhodes the staffing commitee would have to be approached, he said, and a position created in terms of the agreement reached with RMR.

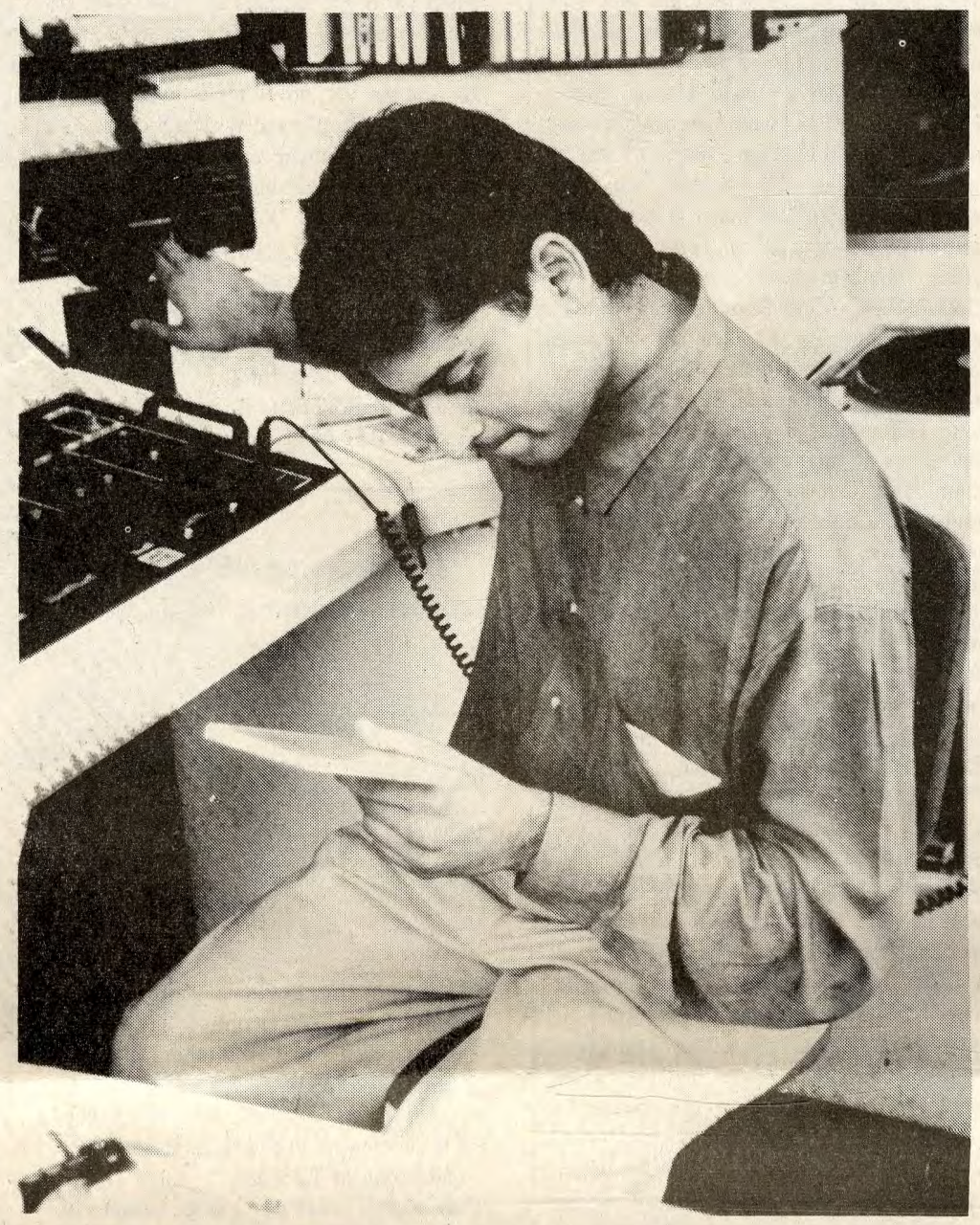


As a community station Berger feels RMR should be "Student driven but not student centred".

Glenn said that RMR is open to all members of the Rhodes community, and that any members of academic or service staff may join the station. He emphasised that the station will retain its editorial independence, and that decisions on editorial policy will be made by the members.

Auditions have been held for the first half of the year and the new DJ's are already in training. "At the moment our main aim is to get the station on the air and running properly", said Glenn. RMR hopes to start training service staff who pass voice auditions soon, and there will be more auditions later in the year," he said.

RMR will still be mainly a music station, Glenn explained, saying they feel this is the best way to promote unity on campus. "We want to get a feeling from the community and translate it into music and give it back to them in that way," he said.



RMR DJ Nishid Dosa at work in the studios last year. Pic: Taryn Cass

Application to IBA well received

Matthew Buckland & Roy Mckenzie

RHODES Music Radio's (RMR) application to the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) for a temporary community broadcasting licence last week, was, according to station manager Glenn van Loggerenberg, "well-received".

Panel impressed with professionalism of application

He said the panel were "impressed with the professionalism of the application" and that RMR's chances of getting a licence were "better than ever".

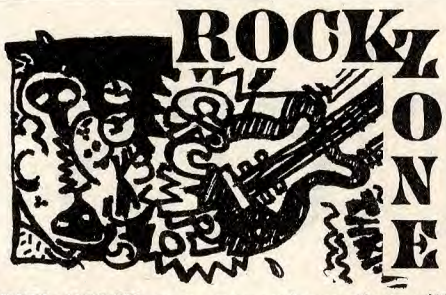
At the application hearing, Glenn appealed against plans to move RMR to an AM frequency. He argued the retention of RMR's 88FM frequency, which allows stereo broadcasts, was vital for RMR as primarily a music station.

The licence, once approved, will allow RMR to broadcast within a 15km radius to reach University students and staff in the Greater Rhini/Grahamstown area.

A waiting period of 10-14 days, while the IBA reviews the application, is expected.

LICENCE APPLICATION

RADIUS: 15KM
FREQUENCY: 88FM STEREO
HOURS: 24/24 - 7 DAYS/WEEK
PROGRAMMING: MUSIC, NEWS & TALK
TARGET: RHODES STUDENTS, STAFF & WORKERS
IBA HEARING DATE: 15 MARCH 1994



WELCOME to a new column that will focus, explicitly, on music. This includes reviews, happenings, news and just about anything that has a base, treble and tone.

Fact: The Kolors tape mechanism eats tapes like a rabid parrot. This is the reason why everytime one walks into the establishment (sic) the music is exactly the same as when you left it...last year. Bring your own music at your peril!

GREEN DAY. Many Rhodents can relate to experiencing the odd 'green day' or month for that matter. The music is wild, agressive and party-recommended. Pumping it really loud can vibrate a digs like lightning.

Many music mags gripe how a trio of young farts can make their millions with four chords and an attitude. They call it the remergence of punk, as the grunge movement has collapsed under its own anti-establishment weight. Bullocks! The massive commercial success of bands like *GREEN DAY, OFFSPRING* and their instigators like *PEARL JAM* and *NIRVANA* has to do with the ideology they represent. Basically, they scream on your CD players "We are truly pissed off". Pissed at the system, pissed at the music business, pissed at being pissed for so bloody long. Why do you need intricate harmonics, off-beat rhythms and counterpoint in order to be considered talented by your peers?

GREEN DAY's songs often follow the same repetitive structure, and several people I've spoken to said it's like listening to the same song over and over again. But the songs hook you like a heavy-weight boxer: it punches, it grabs and it leaves you feeling physically exhaused and wanting more. "All I've got is a red guitar, three chords and the truth." - written by Bob Dylan, immortalised by Hendrix.

Interesting quote:"*Losing my religion* is nothing if it's not a re-write of *Every breath you take*." - Michael Stipe. (*REM* actually opened for *THE POLICE* on their US tour in the early eighties.)

Prince, or Symbol (or penis-head if you wish) has released a superb collection of 'super-funky' songs on the much anticipated BLACK album. Apparently his royal_____(place name here) did not want the album to be released in the first place, but the record company owned the rights to the songs, and they insisted. He's apparently peeved, shouting high-pitched obscenities at his body guards, % and #.

Personally, I think it's all a publicity stunt, but no matter. It's technically a superb disc, check out the tracks such as *Bob George*; *2 Nigs united 4 West Compton* (with an incredible bass solo), and the song with Cindy Crawford in the background, *Cindy C*.

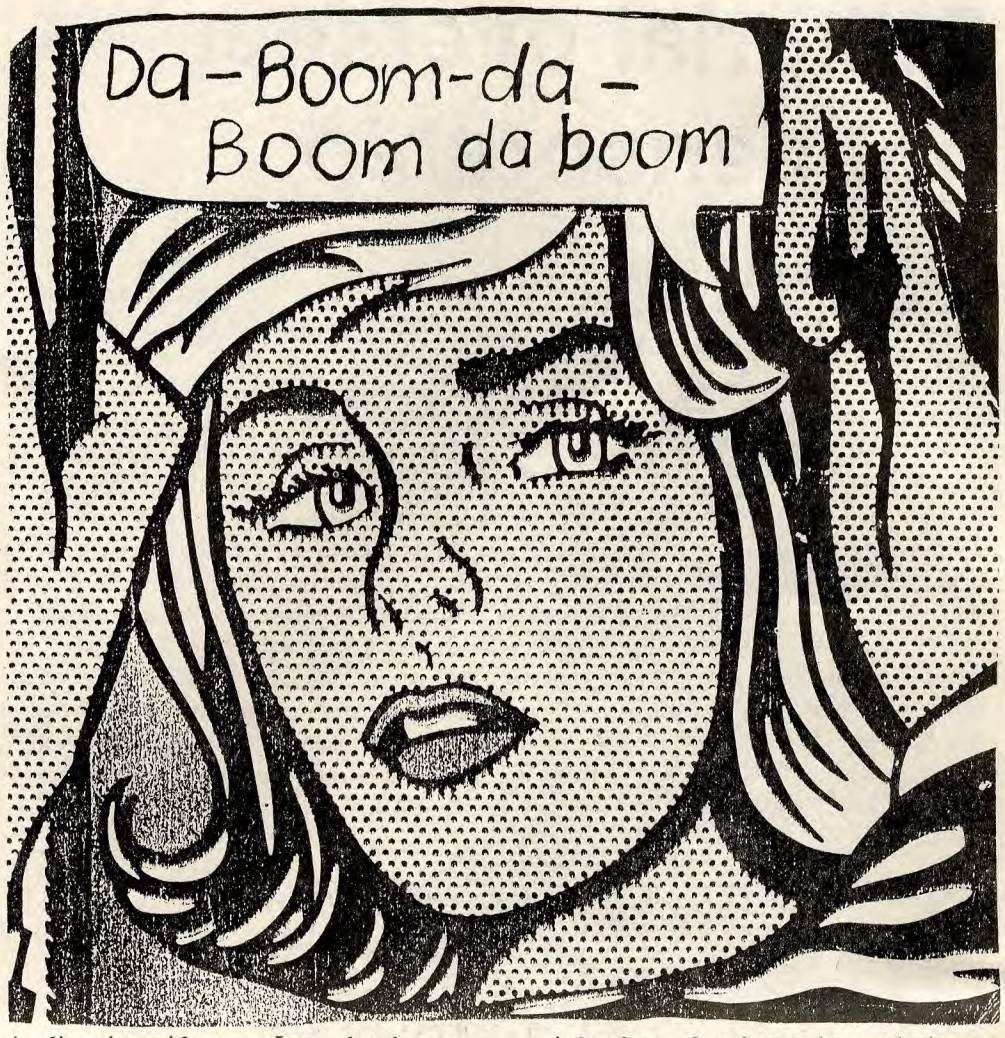
To conclude, there's a rumour that *THE CULT* are going to tour South Africa in the not too distant future. Excellent.

JUSTINCASEMENT ("all the way from Grahamstown"; Barney Simon raves) are making a name for themselves in Jo'berg, playing nightly gigs around the city, including Wings Beat Bar on Friday Nights. Absolutely fabulous, sweetie.

Positively the last interesting quote: "Usually by the time a band gets to the cover of Rolling Stone magazine, I don't like the music anymore." - Vital Eddie Vedder. Rock me out of this Zone!

Rob Kalmek.

RAVE ON



Xiola Blue

IN the beginning things were formless and desolate. The wasted desert that covered everything was engulfed in total blackout of good venues to go to or places to rave in, and the spirit of the students was restless and bored.

Then came the command, "Let there be music venues" - and live music venues appeared in the form of the Monkey Puzzle and the Vic, not to mention the Union. And we were pleased with what we saw. Then the live music venues became separated from the darkness, and the live music venues became "Pubs" and the darkness "raves". Evening passed and morning came - that was the first 90 years.

It is here in the darkness, punctuated by strobe light which would blind a dead man, but seems to do nothing to the local student population, that I find myself. It is the first Inc. rave of the year, and I am sitting in the commentary box with our Rwandan correspondent, Richard Bailey. "Evening Richard, welcome to the edgeRAVE."

Bombs going off, air raid sirens screaming, ak-ak barrages

"Its good to be here Xiola."

"Rather like a good movie about the Gulf War wouldn't you say? Bombs going off, air raid sirens screaming, ak-ak barrages, anti-aircraft fire, bodies crashing, disorientating lights, and people flinging their bodily fluids all over each other."

"I especially like the RNN crew shoving their camera right there in the action, bringing the audiences who couldn't make it here tonight into the front line."

"Yes, it does seem that a large number of people decided to spend the night at home."

"Its a pity cause the venue seems to have been made for raves: Imagine an old chapel been converted to a rave venue, complete with vaulted arches, high ceiling, pillars, stained glass windows and of course the high altar of the DJ, pumping an incessant 140 beats per minute."

"Just to clarify a few things for those who are not familiar with Inc. Since they decided to carve themselves a niche of the techno/rave market last year, Inc have produced high quality raves including those at the Drill Hall, Power Station, and the Chapel as well as playing at the Future Shock Rave and many others."

"And this is no exception, it seems that the 200 odd ravers have all turned out dressed to the hilt. Cat suits, swimming outfits, silver techno gear, ethnic wear, body suits, tattoos, piercings, body paint ... the more skin the better in this fiesta of sweat."

cranked to marrow-boiling levels, plunging ahead at fetal-heartbeat cadence

"Let's ask one of the ravers for a comment. To the benefit of our viewers who don't have television; Lee Gull is dressed in a swimming costume, he is wearing a pair of swimming goggles and what appears to be a snorkel. His hair is cropped short and his skin is glistening with sweat. Lee, what do you think of the rave?"

"This is big, this is bigger then The Playground, this is bigger then the new Vice-Chancellor, this is bigger then the Simpsons."

"Clearly a serious case of *NBK* overdose, wouldn't you say Richard."

"It seems that people are going to the bathroom younger and younger these days. Although people have been known to free trip on this type of music ... you know, start seeing people with laser eyes and stuff like that."

"I personally really enjoyed the bathroom, which resembled an artificial lake ... I really hope that was water."

"All hell is breaking loose around here. The DJ's prancing around like some sort of high priest or pagan god in front of an instrument panel which would give a 747 a run for its money, decibel levels are constantly violating the red line. The music is a seamless skin,a solid blanket of sound. Relentless, it is almost all bass - a _boom_ da _boom_ do _boom_ da _boom_ cranked to marrow-boiling levels, plunging ahead at fetal heartbeat cadence."

"In other words, great ... "

"Yeah, although I wonder why the emphasis has been placed on rather exclusionary tactics. I don't hear any jungle or garage on anything of that sort. It seems to me to be entirely straight down the line techno."

"MMmmmmm rather disappointing, although the techno is good: fast furious and it gets the crowd jumping."

"And now for a quick word from our sponsors."

And then the command came, "Let there be a dome to unite the students and to keep them in one place" - and it was done, and it united the students in a frenzy of dance and bonded it with sweat. He named the dome "Inc." Evening passed and morning came - that was Friday 3rd 1995.

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GRAD PRODUCTION

Dayleen Allan

This year's annual graduation production is Oscar Wilde's *A Woman of No Importance*. It is a social comedy set at the turn of the century about a woman who falls pregnant by her lover who then leaves her to raise her son alone. After a number of years have passed, the father meets his son and offers him a better chance in life. This causes a struggle between mother, father and son.

According to co-director, David Alcock, "it is a complex play. I think Wilde was making a statement about women and questioning the institute of marriage."

Alcock said he chose this particular play because it is about strong women. The main characters in the play are women and it looks at their position in society. He said, "It is an early feminist play and is thus feminism in its infancy."

1995 is also the 100th year anniversary of Oscar Wilde's imprisonment on charges of homosexuality, and is being celebrated countrywide.

The set is being designed for the Rhodes Drama Department by Rumanian designer, Maria Cupsa, and the costumes will be supplied by Capab.

The play features a talented cast of sixteen people, with the female lead, Mrs Albuthnot, being played by former eGoli actress, Nan Hamilton.

Nan, an Honours student at Rhodes Drama Department, played an industrial spy in *eGoli* in 1994. Concerning her character in the graduation production Nan said, "on the surface she seems quite severe and harsh. She is a social misfit because she is a single parent in a time when it was frowned upon by society."

The production will be staged on March 31, the 1, 2, April 3, and over graduation in the Rhodes theatre.

If you have never seen a graduation production before, or you want a go *A Woman of No Importance*, with a talented cast and exceptional director is a must see!

Tamara Gohrs (left) and Kay Johnson (right) as they appear in A Woman of No Importance by Oscar Wilde. pic: Dror Eyal

Stool Talk

THIS is my second attempt at a column this year. For *RHODEO*, I wrote about cutting the crap and vox populi's. The basic focus was student culture and the rather nebulous phenomena referred to as student opinion.

This column's focus will be much the same, with the exeption that I no longer even bother to muster student opinion...

Let me explain:

I was in UPB browsing through the magazines when a girl I had met the night before at Boaters walked past. I couldn't remember her name but I could remember meeting her, so I stopped her and asked how she was, which was followed by where she came from and whether I had seen her around: -Fine; -Johannesburg; -Whitehorse, we had met months before.

I was then naturally curious to know what she thought of Grahamstown. First year opinion is a fascinating jewel. Amidst acres of dark seething earth, way below the surface there is a sparkle of diamond and a streak of gold. "Grahamstown," she answered, "is soooo pretentious."

With her hands on her hips and her lips in the air she continued to explain how totally uncool it is to be cool in Grahamstown. Coming from Jo-burg myself, I'm quite aware of the scene. People dress up when they go out there. And they dress up well. Fashion is never far from a club whether it be lurking in black leather or courted by CATS.

What she was getting at was probably the aspirations of an idealistic few wanting to be wanna-be-bungees. You know the bungees - those dirty hippies that never wash or appear to change their clothes, have lots of hair growth and talk sentences slower than other people even when they're straight.

And in a lot of ways she has a point. Third and fourth years tend to go out in the clothes they wake up in, the same clothes that were not even ironed in the first place. But Grahamstown is a small town. You see the same people for three to four years. You see how res bleaches the lovely garments they arrived in when in first year. You see how digs wear tear and dirt, a year later, eats the material. Then you begin, another year later, to recognise favourite clothing, and more often than not its that "characterfull" ripped to shreds collection of coloured threads with some profound design or story behind it. Character, I guess, takes preference to fashion.

For example - The Power Station Rave: Atomic Blast. 11.03.1995.

At the rave were an assortment of fashion styles. Dudes from Cape Town wore fancy tracksuits that would've been complete with "Starship Enterprize" slapped on the shoulder...Dudes from P.E basically styled in waistcoats and shoulders, and the unconcerned snort of coke...while women generally wore tight fitting T-shirts with seventies like inscriptions across their chests (Did anybody miss *Babydoll*?).

But the Grahamstown crew, we were out to just dance as we were, which is a little sad in terms of the size and scale of the social occasion. Last year was the year of great sex raves, lots of energy, and techno-babes. But we are back to the hybrid of each from their own place, each to their own sector: Ruggers, bungees, ravers, heads.

And so the scene is set. Each person wants to identify with a certain group, be part of a particular sect, as well as be an "individual, man." within that community. In Grahamstown the locals are too cooked to provide any consistancy in fashion sense, so we all bring our various homes from home with us.

After a while though, and this goes out to the girl who said the scene was pretentious because fashion is underplayed, this place becomes a home where you can feel comfortable wearing, on most occasions, exactly what *you* want to wear.

I know when I go out, I appreciate seeing someone dressed up, looking comfortable and confident. Trendy and cool sometimes looks very unsociable and unapproachable, but when worn with an attitude of casual jest, I agree - fashion has a face too. But the word for me is attitude. The way people wear what they want to wear. And sometimes, high fashion is a little loud for minds so concerned with cool on campus and clothing culture.

So why am I so concerned?

Because I like this town, I like the familiar stains, the growing rips, the crinkle cut. I like the clown, and the anything goes, and the nobody cares. It makes for a change, and its the only fucking chance I'll ever get to yank out my eighties post-punk, pre-wham breakdance gunk, or my father's seventies crotch-killing, bell-bottomed, collar flapping brown and green, mothball-smelling crap...

But back to this column, and why this one is accepted in place of the previous one. *ACTIVATE* does not believe that a column called "HARD-UP", dealing with the sometimes humiliating consequences of flashing your naked erection at passing cars in the early hours of a Friday night, and accidentally flashing at your father who drives home little pickled from the office, is beneficial to the intellectual student community at large.

But come to think of it neither do I. The idea of exposing myself to you, the mass, is daunting, and disgusting: You might just relate...

Robin Kelly

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EGAD! Picture the scene if you will, me lovelies : it's one of those typical nights out; rough, hard (but it's the hard that makes it great) and groovus. You stroll into Kolors (sic) where you are immediately blinded by an array of cheap paints designed specifically to irritate the crap out of nursery-school kids. That beer you just drank is slowly trying to make it's way back up your throat, as your soul is most likely doing it's best to redecorate the awful mess that is disrupting it's peaceful sojourn.

Yes, I'm sure the management had best intentions when they decided to turn one of Grahamstown's best watering-holes into Noddyland. Sorry, it failed. Miserably. May they role this zone and smoke it.

The Monkey Puzzle is finally realising it's potential at long last. Sunday nights now have a life outside of res videos and the M-NET movie, and it warmed by blackened heart to see the fantastic support they've been receiving. Support local music, it can be quite a blast if you give it a whirl, and the student bands are really beginning to make an impact.

Two things disturbed me of late; Kylie Minogue's frightening hairdo in Neighbours, and the immediate distinction between the clicks of Rhodes' already cliquish society. Just a reminder that you don't have to belong to any group before you go anywhere. In fact, how else are you ever going to meet the people your mother warned you about? Spread your wings and fly like a chicken.

I was recently in the unfortunate position to have witnessed a fist-fight outside (c)Kolo(u)rs, and not only did the two lads deliver truly weak uppercuts, but they broke

what experienced zoners refer to as the 'the chill zone'. This is the unique element that G-Town possesses that prevents it from turning into Joburg or even Cape Town. People relax here, vibe in peace. Brawling is neither needed nor wanted, so take it somewhere where it belongs please ..., like lower Beirut.

The Union does not escape a gripe, with the continuing saga of the incompetent Dallas chip. How long are we going to stand being rounded up like cattle and herded into tight iron gates, one at a time? It's degrading, and this kind of constipation needs to be rectified. The guys try hard, but can still smoke my zone.

Ever notice how living in Grahamstown is a bit like watching the movie Groundhog Day? Nothing much changes week-to-week, year-to-year. Yet we all have the opportunity to be different, to experiment, to change in an unchanging environment. So be different, take chances and wear your Bio-Tribes in pride.

Finally the recent techno-rave was truly impressive. It was well organised, and had response from Cape Town and other far off places. If it is your cup of cocoa, go for it. Keep yourelf zoned, and try not to work too hard. Roll me out of here.

Robin Kalmek

Powerstation

Sarah Skinner

"**TURN** the lights off and see just how dark it gets up here," Shelley laughed. I closed my lips around another Stuyvesant blue, smoke popping out the window as we hit another bump in the dirt track leading up to the Power Station.

"Far out!" - well, not yet. People sitting on tree stumps, or are they concrete slabs? Hard to tell, just dark figures lit up by blue light which keeps flashing out of the windows in time to a techno beat.

Still early, 12am, the party only started at eleven. High, high ceilings, broken windows, perfect! Chris Roche, care of Cape Town, and Henry from PE (ravers on the move) DJ from their perch in the corner. The crowds are growing. Yes 'Zim Soc' has arrived, as have the 21st crowd from 'Bottoms' (still trying to digest that alcoholic fruit!).

Loads of familiar faces jumping around and waving their arms, computer graphics seep into you off the screen, spiral pulses seem to draw your eyeballs outwards - no, I was not taking anything! Drugs go with the music in the Rave scene overseas (no alcohol sold at the Ministry of Sound in London) but they didn't seem to dominate here and no one was prepared to comment afterwards?

I weave my way towards the bar. "No alcohol only smart drinks" says the shaved head behind the table. So what's in them? Carla Rae tells me it is a secret recipe. Lots of sugar and vitamins, which keeps improving, but it is expensive to make.

Back on the dance floor, sweat flying around. Fran's Massage Parlour hangs mid-level between floor and ceiling, action behind the screens (R5 for 10 minutes) lit up in florescent green.

Candace Sterley, armed in bodysuit is shouting and people are clapping their hands, the room seems to move together.

Quick escape, down the rusty iron fire escape, back to the blue bodies sitting on the tree trunk concrete slabs, can't see the step, toilets and an arrow heading into a donga, through an alley, must be that patch of light on the right?

"Techno doesn't equal rave" says Simon Whelan, an Irishman who has experienced the British Isle rave scene. But Robin Folley tells me it was all there - jungle, house, trance, contemporary hard core and ambient (described to me as music made up of 'beeps' and silences) for those who lasted until the sun came up.

And where will the next rave be? "Not confirmed yet, but raves must keep moving venue - it keeps things interesting" explains one of the two organisers, Michael de Beer. Interesting it was on my return from the adventure in the donga. There was paraffin being lit and thrown around in a corner of the warehouse, faces all turned together and lit by the fires light.

It became clear to me from my discussions in the Union, after the event, that rave people have formed a network in South Africa, and will come from all over if someone organises a rave.

It's an expensive exercise. Over R9000 spent, and even with the crowds on Saturday they lost almost R3000. "It was our first one" says Michael, "if we get our transport and other things organised, losses shouldn't happen again. It's the experience that matters."

Do you ...enjoy rave music? Know what rave music is? Already fit into the network? Are you...slightly crazy? Tired of buying beer and passing out in the Vic? Able to last until sunrise? Perhaps you should be at the next rave.

Francoise Gallet

The "Intrepid Ravers",the "Nineties Kids" and "The Techno Freaks" appeared to have stepped into the year 2000.

Bodies clad in sheens of gold, silver and other weird and funky techno gear danced the night and early morning away at the Atomic Blast Power Station Rave on March 11.

The rave was a sensory cornucopia, a mind explosion, a trip through the psychedelic zone.

"God was there - it was kiff," mused Kim Donnelly. Sue Stark felt that "there was a really good energy". And there was. The atmosphere was electric. It was live, tangible and the boom boom beat of the bass literally pulled at every muscle fibre. Scintillating strobes bedazzled and flashing yo-yo's whizzed in dark corners. The graphics, which appeared on a screen above the dance floor absorbed one's mind into an abyss of incandescent colour. People raved and raved and raved...

"My attention was there the whole time - it was wow. Continual funk the whole way through - it was amazing to see people just keep on going," said Lee McCabe, a first-time raver.

If dancing wasn't your scene, a mass of alternative entertainment was offered. You could have your body painted or a massage at Franny's Massage Parlour. For those who needed to "chill out" a VIP lounge was provided. Both the massage parlour and VIP lounge were raised on platforms above the dance floor, and were accessed by ladders - adding to the industrial atmosphere of the Power Station.

A real feature were the periodic fiery blasts emitted by a very venturesome fire blower. Dirty Dave summed the evening up in two words: "Carnival Atmosphere" Not only did the rave blow the minds of fellow Rhodians, but also those who invaded from outer spheres such as PE, Cape Town and even as far afield as Zimbabwe.

This very extraordinary type of party is not new. Raves have been prominent over the past few years, but their influence today is being felt to a greater extent.

For those who've never been, it's a must - at least for the experience. But then again the true raver is a special breed. As Jason Harvey said:"It gave me a reason to live... well, at least for the next two months." I think that if you ask anyone who was there last Saturday they'd tend to agree.

ANYONE got any flippers for a frog?...Dancer, Lannon Prigge, needs a pair when he plays the debonair and ever-popular Toad in A.A Milne's "Toad of Toad Hall", an adaptation of Kenneth Graham's book "The Wind in the Willows", early next term. Directed by Jane Osborne, the Rhodes University Drama Department's children's production is currently in rehearsal. The flippers are needed to complete Lannon's green Toad costume before the end of April.

The cast is made up of nimble physical theatre performers, who enhance the production with their gymnastics skills. Lannon was recently nominated for Best Male Dancer in a contemporary dance at the Vita Awards this year.

In the above photo he shows his natural, frog like flair, by jumping over Samantha Pienaar in the First Physical Theatre Company Dance Umbrella piece, "They dreamt of diving where fishes fly."

The play will be staged at Rhodes University Theatre from May 17 to May 19. Bookings can be made at Grocotts. Anyone who owns or can assist in the acquisition of the flippers Toad requires may contact Jane Osborne at the Drama department.

Pic: John Hogg

Caesar Lives

Swapna Prabhakaran

Only in educational drama could the noble figure of Julius Caesar defy the script, refuse to say "Et tu, Brute?" and karate-chop the conspirators, with no intention of dying on the Senate steps. This is exactly what does happen in the fun schools production of Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar", by the Rhodes Drama Department, and the audiences love it.

The production was first staged last year, and has been revamped by director Michael Carklin, with a new cast, and is ready for tours of Eastern Cape schools next term. Starting off this year's run, the first production was held at the Institute for the Study of English in Africa (ISEA). Oddly enough, it was on the ides of March.

ISEA hosted a Shakespeare conference on March 15 for in-service teacher trainers, and the play was used as a demonstration of the latest communicative approaches to teaching drama. With an enthusiastic cast to work with, Carklin has used interactive theatre and simple staging to full effect. Characters wear sheets to signify togas, and the conspirators lurk in the corners wearing dark glasses and handling plastic knives.

But the idea gets across and makes an enormous impact upon school audiences, as was apparent from last year's tour of local schools.

Carklin sees the production as an attempt to get beyond the traditional approaches to teaching literature. "It is a major challenge to the learner's imaginative facilities, " he grins, "A challenge to get people to see the possibilities beyond 'talk and chalk' teaching. For me it is an insight into new approaches to teaching dramatic literature."

By taking this show to teachers in the former homelands Transkei and Ciskei, Carklin hopes to give demonstrations of the value of teaching communicative Shakespeare in classrooms.

"You can't underestimate the value of an experiential learning process for any subject." he says. "There's a long way to go still, to implement this method of using arts as a teaching methodology."

One of the editors of the new communicative Shakespeare series of textbooks published by ISEA, Jane Bursey, thinks the play is a wonderful idea. "Enactment gives it a life of its own. Doing it brings something else to the text which is not there when you're just reading. The whole idea is that kids should see Shakespeare as drama, not just a 'book'."

The cast is mostly from the Educational Drama in Theatre Drama III group, and there are possibilities for other performances geared towards social work. Most ideas for performance are workshopped by people in the group and this year's group is keen to work with any community organisations interested in drama. There are even plans for formalisation into a travelling company serving the Eastern Province area, called "Suitcase Productions".

The "Julius Caesar" tour of the Transkei begins in May, and should last for a week. Until then, local schools will be targeted. Carklin says, "It is valuable for the Drama department to interact with other departments, like ISEA, and also to move out of the classrooms and into real schools in the Grahamstown community at large. We are moving into the real world."

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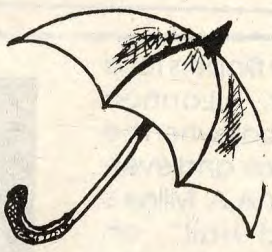
We Deliver

Dance



Claire Smith

THEY Dreamt of Diving Where the Fishes Fly and *Like Icarus from the Ashes* were the two works presented by Rhodes First Physical Theatre Company at the recent 1995 Dance Umbrella, held in Johannesburg. Once again this year's productions were spearheaded by the head of Rhodes drama department, Gary Gordon.

Gordon was awarded Best Choreographer of the Year for his 1994 production, *Shattered Windows*, a violent and anguished piece which was received with much enthusiasm and awe by last year's Umbrella audience. The reaction to this year's work tingled with excitement as the audience waited in anticipation to see what the 'experimental' Rhodes company had to offer.

They Dreamt of Diving Where the Fishes Fly dealt with common prejudices that are exhibited against fat people. Although the padded bodies of the dancers presented a rather humorous overtone, the piece maintained an underlying sadness of people who are determined to achieve a better life. Gordon believes that his work is shaped to deal with issues that are pertinent to our lives.

The second piece, *Like Icarus from the Ashes*, choreographed by Juanita Finestone, deals with the atrocities and violence in our world, and was particularly inspired by the bloodshed in Rwanda. The message delivered by the piece is: out of devastation, there still remains hope.

Compared to the work of other companies, which Gordon describes as neo-classical, the First Physical Theatre Company is truly contemporary, and different in body and choreography. The dancers do not merely move, they are essentially brave, thinking performers who are able to work both conceptually and with their feelings.

Their work, often described as "experimental", remains rich in technique and sophistication, and arises out of a rigorous training programme. Though the messages conveyed by their performances alters with each new piece, the Company's style and aesthetic remains consistent.

Gordon's vision lies in eventually forming a permanent physical theatre company, that can offer employment to professional performers. Sooner than that, though, the Rhodes First Physical Theatre Company are looking towards performing at the P.E. Schools Festival and the National Arts Festival.

Not advertising in Activate is like going bungee jumping with both your hands cuffed to the rails. It's a bit silly.

Turmoil

Xiola Blue

GRAHAMSTOWN students once again proved that Apathy is the drug of choice in this once peaceful community. Attendance at the rather well publicised Turmoil gig at the Vic, scored a rather dismal two on the people scale at the supposed starting time of nine o'clock ... In Cape Town Everything may start with an E but in here, Anything (doesn't) start with an A.

At half past ten the band, despairing of waiting for a bigger crowd, or maybe discovering their talents did not lie as champion pool players, took to the stage. One wonders what was going through Bob Marley's head, as he watched Turmoil prove that South African rock is not dead, but perhaps should be killed. One, however, does hope that something along the lines of electroshock therapy or a slow roast over a fire was coursing through his neural network.

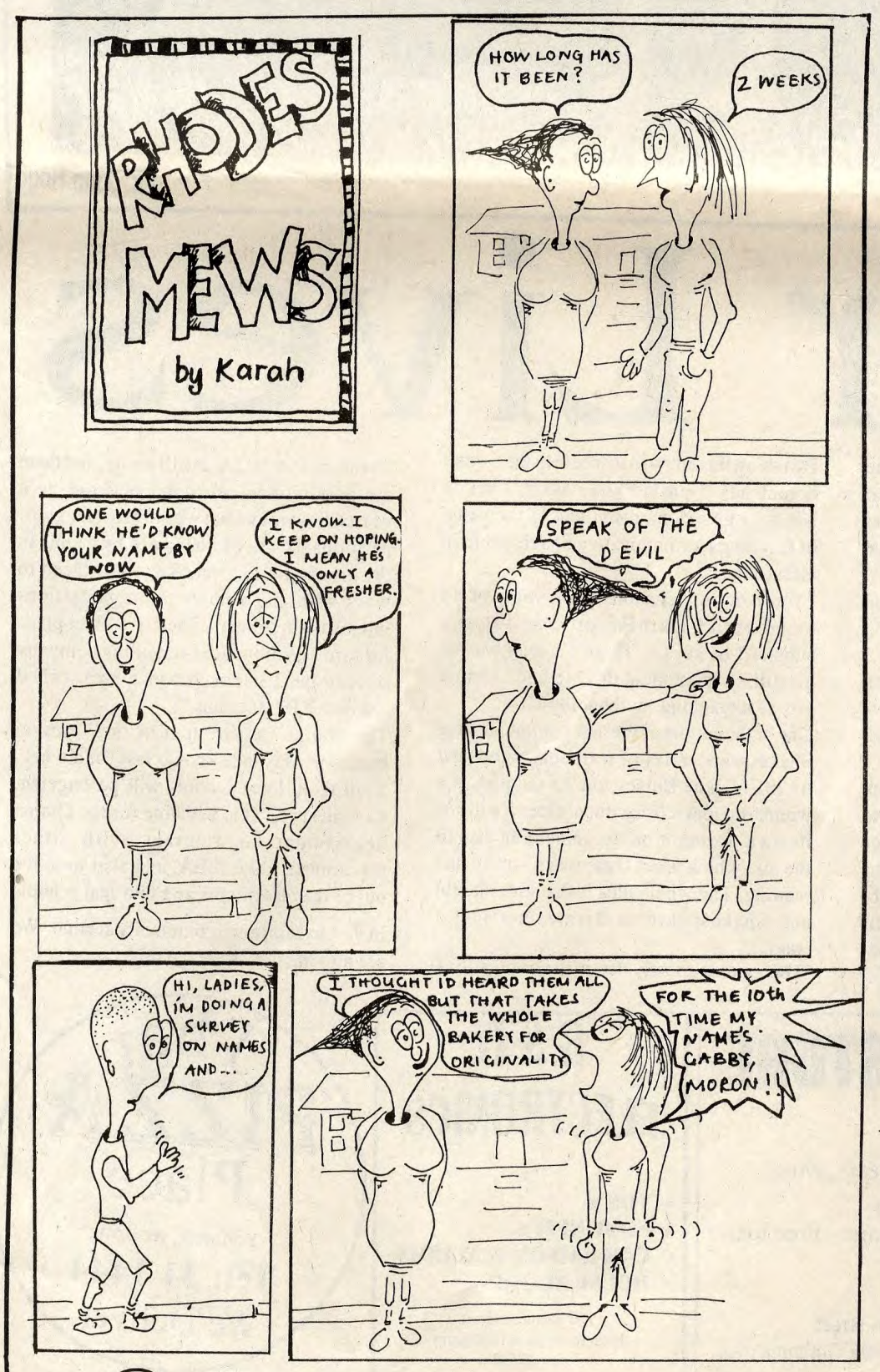
As ten or so spectators watched (double that if you want to include Bob Marley and the rest of the gang up on the walls) Turmoil churned out competent rock which was fast, loud and technically adequate. But to paraphrase a rather infamous T-shirt 'Competent Rock Still Sucks.'

The inbetween song banter about not doing covers did not help the band, and started getting on one's nerves after a while. Come on, think of something original to say. Nice light show though. It seems that the CUBS (Children of Uncle Barnev Simon) are still alive ... oh well.

Of course this kind of music has been going on forever and Turmoil are certainly not the worst purveyors of this kind of dirge, and some in the 'crowd' did enjoy the performance. In fact, a rather big fan of the band, and here I am referring to size rather then stature, did give them a big thumbs up ... although one has to wonder up where he intended to stick those thumbs.

A big well-done goes out to the Vic for supporting live music. Great idea, shame about the band.

Come to think of it maybe it wasn't apathy, maybe they've just heard Turmoil before, and were saving their money for the Inc. rave.



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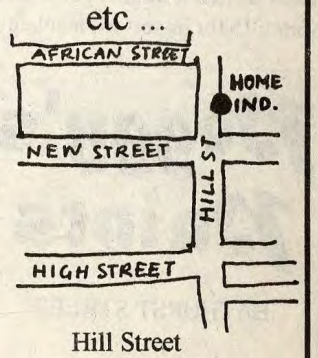

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Killer Satire

The recent premier of Natural Born Killers had a far greater impact on the Grahamstown community than one would expect. ***Katie King*** *weighs up the pros and cons of such an explicitly violent movie.*

BY the time the opening frames lighted on the screen, the audience was practically a full house. Students arrived in their droves to watch a film which many of them had seen before, and which many would return to see again. The occasion? Grahamstown's first screening of *Natural Born Killers (NBK)*, controversial director Oliver Stone's latest film about the psychopathic tendencies of Mickey and Mallory, a modern-day Bonnie-and-Clyde team.

A film as mentally provocative as it is violent

At least, this is what the film is ostensibly about. Some critics argue that Stone has purposefully created a film that is as mentally-provocative as it is violent. They claim the fragmentary and multiple-media techniques used were intended for a far more profound purpose than to simply complement the film's superlative soundtrack. The appeal of the imagery is undeniable: wide shots of barren landscape, alternating black-and-white colour frames as well as the continual use of a myriad of different-angled shots and even cartoon sequences. As a first year BSC student, Emma Fletcher said, "It was like watching a long music video".

Stone's motivation in using these techniques, it seems, is to highlight the influential role he feels the media has on society. Specifically, we see this during the course of the film, in the media coverage of Mickey and Mallory's trail of murder - they are transformed overnight into national cult heros through the extensive television, newspaper and magazine exposure they receive. Teenagers copy their mode of dress, docudramas are made of their previous assaults: it seems as if the media is insatiable in its desire to exploit the "marketability" of the two famous killers. In fact, in the closing moments of the film, shots of actual media issues are projected, the controversies surrounding O.J.Simpson, Tonya Harding and Lorena Bobbit in recent months being just some of the news incidents which are referred to. Clearly it is here that the crux of Stone's argument lies; that the violence in the film is actually insignificant when placed in the context of how the media has the power to manipulate issues and imagery that are consumed by the public.

"A load of self-indulgent crap"

Why, then, did so many students who were interviewed feel that *NBK* promoted violence or was "a load of self-indulgent crap"? Even those like a second year BComm student, Jill Briscoe, who conceded that the film was "well-made", felt the message was conveyed in "the worst way possible".

The film is definitely not for the faint-hearted, but was the violence really so overpowering as to prevent any other impression being made on the audience? This is a question which most students seemed to be aware of.

"I felt the underlying message was too subtle for an uneducated audience"

"The film raised interesting issues and was brilliantly made," said a fouth year BJourn student, Nicky Retief, "but I felt that the underlying message was too subtle for an uneducated audience." Was Stone aware, one wonders, that a large percentage of the people who watched *NBK* saw it only as the hype concerning the antics of super-cool Mickey and Mallory, and failed to perceivethe profound social commentary that was being made? Was the audience, perhaps, as taken in as the film's teenagers who formed a cult following in worship of the two anti-establishment idols?

The repurcussions of this debate are still being felt in the world. Recently a French couple went on a bloody rampage, killing six people and wounding six more, in a *NBK*-style attack. Parisian police said that a poster of the film was found in the couple's apartment, stuck against a wall. The question everyone is asking now is: On whose head lies the blame - the film's creator who insisted on using such explicit violence, or those in the audience who misinterpreted the message the movie attempted to communicate?

Grahamstown's students, it seems, share the sentiments of the critics and remain undecided.

Journalism student Sarah Skinner dances in one of the Adult Education Contemporary Dance Classes held by the Drama Department every week. Pic: Taryn Cass

Rag going strong

Roy McKenzie

"**RAG** is really going to be strong this year," said RAG chairperson, Paula Mayger.

The response to RAG this year has been "good" and with a membership of over 1000 students, it is one of the biggest societies on campus.

The 400 T-shirts that were ordered for the year sold out on the first day of registration; a far cry from the state of RAG over the last few years.

"There has been a lot of apathy," said Paula. " Without positive student support, Rag will not get anywhere."

She added that much of the poor reputation that RAG had achieved in the past owed to the bad behaviour of drunken students. The high levels of alcohol consumption at beer stooges and RAG processions resulted in these events being prohibited by the Rhodes Administration. The restriction on alcohol events remains.

"Rag is not against drinking," Paula said, "it brings in money for charity, but we are against driving afterwards."

However, Paula remains confident that with student support RAG can return to its "way back when" standards, despite being changed into a society by Admin. It has lost its secretary, telephone and fax machine, and has to fight for its offices to be maintained.

She cites the successes of the Night Cricket, UNO Jam and Fresher Competition as recent signs of RAG's recovery. "People had a lot of fun and there was good spirit.

"Rag is the flagship of community help in Grahamstown," said Paula, "It works hand in hand with other charities."

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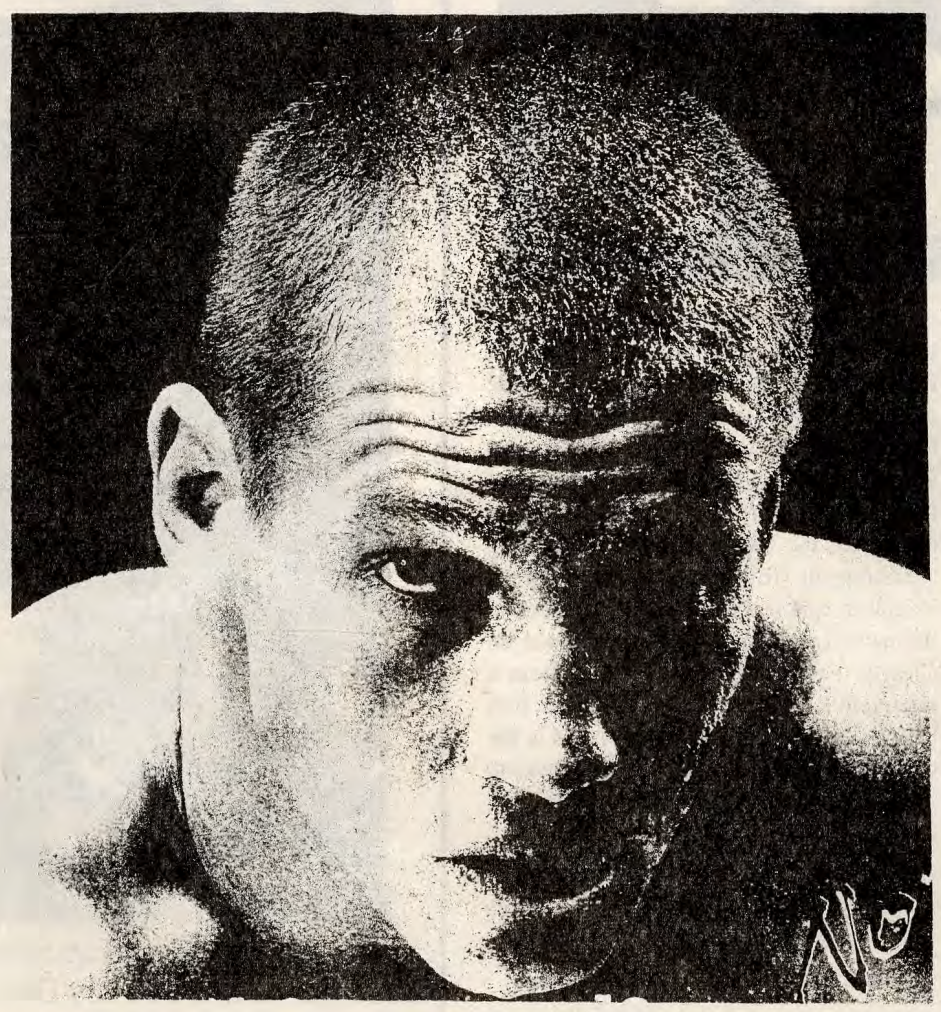
Making Small Talk

He has a short fuse? He is far too aggressive on and off the rugby field? He is extremely sexy? So many people have divided opinions about James Small. ***Nicci Grant*** *spoke to the talented player and discovered a modest and sensitive person who contradicts his image.*



JAMES Small turned 26 in February and displays many Aquarian traits. He has never been a conformist and is a very unconventional character. One could say it is one of his faults and a reason for his fame as one of South Africa's most unorthodox players. Yet it could stand in his favour, as we have all witnessed his unpredictability and versatility on the rugby field.

Due to press publications in the past, most people would expect Small to be macho and arrogant. He is in fact very sensitive and sentimental. He is particularly close to his folks and his sister, Kelly, with whom he spends many a spare moment.

It was also his mom's birthday recently and he told her he wouldn't be able to make the occasion.

"Sports comes easy"

"Mom was most distraught at this," says Small, who had reassured his sister he was planning a surprise turn up. Sure enough on the night of her birthday, he pitched up at the restaurant where the family was dining and surprised his mom.

"She was elated to see me," says Small with note of sentimentality in his voice.

Small confesses to having a great love for music and golf.

"One of my buddies works for a record company and we often spend time together with our music."

Sport has always come easy to him; he was a sprinting champion at school.

Funnily enough, the multi-talented sportsperson admits to "struggling a little with golf, though."

Small works for a clothing company called "No Rulz" - a name that fits perfectly with his reputation.

When he's not running after rugby balls, he helps with design and promotion.

Presently he is travelling between Johannesburg and Durban where the South Africans are training for May's Rugby World Cup tournament. He has been busy with trial selection for over a month now and hasn't been able to spend much time at his Berea home, which he shares with two friends.

He is one of 36 players who have gone through to the final selection of 26 players to compete in the World Cup.

Determined to make a come-back after his controversial sacking last year, he says: "My main aim at the moment is to play again for South Africa in the World Cup."

Small confesses that rugby has changed his outlook on life and has motivated him to succeed.

"I was a pretty aimless youngster at school but rugby has given me direction and something to work towards."

What Small has learnt from rugby is to exercise control over his emotions. He is especially fond of children and is very aware of the possibility of them imitating his actions. "My proudest day," says Small,

> was when I scored my very first try in international rugby, not so much wearing the green and gold, but scoring the try".

His worst day was when he was sent off during a match in Australia which his sister says "devastated him". When asked if the sending off and his suspension from the tour overseas last year, made him bitter, he replies, "I felt that I was treated too harshly and was bitter about the manner in which the press handled the situations."

Another of James' controversial attributes is that he loves to party. He calls himself a MAJOR PARTY ANIMAL - maybe he should have studied at Rhodes!

He rides a second-hand Harley Davidson motorcycle which he bought and fixed up. He says he does not drink heavily but enjoys the occasional Jack Daniels and smokes Marlboro.

Small is a sucker for sweets and his favourite are condensed milk and jelly crocodiles, which he can eat by the packetful.

The good-looking star doesn't have a girlfriend at the moment, but is "seriously looking." He did have a girlfriend a few months ago but they parted on good terms. When asked what he was looking for in his ideal partner, he jokes about having a preference for "small, petite,dark girls".

He is considering settling down and having a big family.

"Perseverance and faith in yourself are important criteria", is Small's advice for budding young sports stars.

After the interview, I hoped Small would follow his own advice and make the South African World Cup squad.

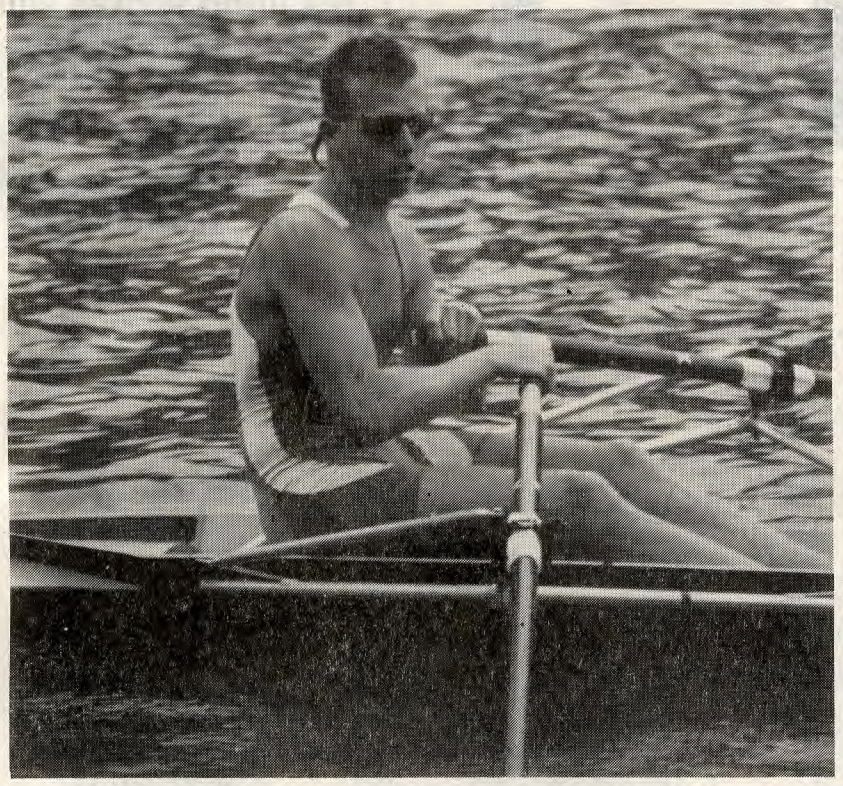
Pic: Michelle Lentin

Inter-societies soccer . . . SAUJS goalkeeper, Robin Kalmek, looks back in despair as Hellenic Soc's Petros Agousti heads for goal.

RTR
RHODES TALK RADIO
NOW WE'RE TALKING!

Rhodes Talk Radio will be holding auditions for talk show hosts from Monday April 3 and Friday April 7, 1995. If you have a good speaking voice, a flair for investigative journalism and keep well informative of the latest news events, you just might have what we're looking for. All those interested are advised to put their names down as soon as possible on the notice that will be posted outside the RMR studio on Sunday, March 19 as there are limited audition spots available.

Battling Andy Mac



Pic: Marco Pedroncelli

Andrew MacLachlan after the disappointment at Buffalo.

Marco Pedroncelli

"**BUGGER** it, I'm battling."
These are the words of Rhodes' most celebrated rower, Andrew MacLachlan. He's probably battling because, along with his studies, he is training for a World Cup Rowing tour in the single boat division.
Andrew is confident about the future after recovering his position as the number one sculler at the African Championships. "African Champs are a gateway to European racing," Andrew says of the competition where he attracted the attention of the national selectors, resulting in his planned World Cup tour.
However, making the World Cup squad will depend on his performances in the forthcoming Natal Championship and South African Championship regattas. With time being the criteria for selection, Andrew will be training for up to five hours a day to ensure that his times are internationally competitive. Yet some days "not even this is enough".
Along with the pressures of training comes the concern over his loss at last month's Buffalo Regatta in East London. Commenting on Buffalo, where he lost the Silver Sculls trophy for the first time in five years, Andrew shakes his head and smiles, "It woke me up a bit.". Push a bit harder and he grimly says, "It was a learning experience."
The World Cup tour is bound to be tough considering that overseas competitors have been concentrating on single scull racing for the last four years. Andrew, on the other hand, spent two years in the coxless four boat, forming part of the Rhodes and South African Coxless Four squad. However, now that the Rhodes coxless four has failed to reconstruct after the departure of Jeremy Ashton and Grant Hartley, Andrew has returned to the single and is focusing on winning in this division.
Andrew mentions the financial demands of the sport and says they have been resolved by the "great support" given him by the National Olympic Committee of South Africa and the Rhodes Sports Administration. "They do so much for international oarsmen, and not just financially."

Sports Editorial

HOT on the heels of the departure of two international rowers from the Rhodes rowing team, Rhodes sport is facing yet another loss, this time in the form of resigning Senior Sports Officer, Paul Davies. Activate notes with interest Davies' comment that the inclusion of the University of Fort Hare in this year's Intervarsity would "lower our standards". It is disappointing that a member of Rhodes' Sports Administration views Fort Hare's proposed participation in such a negative light. One would expect that Davies would recognise intervarsity sport as a way of building bridges between universities in the Eastern Cape - bridges that would eventually foster interaction at other levels of university life.
On the point of interaction, it is refreshing to note that the air of exclusivity that seemed to divide Rhodes sportspeople from the rest of campus in the past is fast diminishing with the implementation of a greater number of inter-res sports events. Even better is the inclusion of women's teams in the inter-res soccer events and look forward to the creation of Rhodes women's teams in sports like cricket, soccer and rugby that, in South Africa, are traditionally male dominated.
Speaking of rugby, World Cup fever seems to be taking the country by storm. The increase in support that rugby is receiving from all sectors of South African society is encouraging, particularly since rugby was always regarded as an exclusively white, male sport. The greater support means that the demand on the South African rugby squad to succeed will be strengthened. Hopefully the team will be deliver the much desired home victory.
Also on the national front, we hope the Activate profile of rugby wing, James Small, will be the first of many more interviews that will keep campus in touch with national sportspeople. Of course, Rhodes' ambitions in terms of national sports personalities should aim higher. We urge Sports Admin to insist that these sportspeople visit Rhodes in the interest of development. Furthermore, our campus is brimming with talent; these visits will provide an opportunity for such talents to be recognised by national selectors. Sport in the Eastern Cape should not be allowed to be marginalised.
One final observation: what the hell are you doing still reading this instead of being out there promoting sport?

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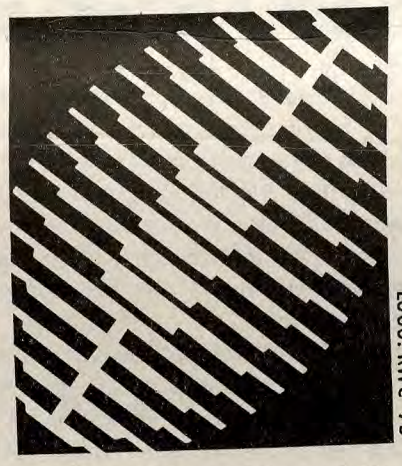
Ready for Kick-off

Ilja Graulich & Marc Strydom

THE countdown has begun. The Rugby World Cup 1995 is just around the corner and is going to take place right here on South African soil.
This competition, initiated in 1987, will take place from May 25 to June 24, and will be the biggest sporting spectacle Africa has ever seen.
16 countries will be participating, grouped into pools of 4.
Group A: Australia, South Africa, Canada and Romania
Group B: England, Western Samoa, Argentina and Italy
Group C: New Zealand, Wales, Ireland and Japan
Group D: Scotland, France, Tonga and Ivory Coast
The top two teams in each group will advance to the quarterfinals, culminating in the finals on June 24 at Ellis Park in Johannesburg.
The obvious favourites include defending champions Australia, New Zealand, winners in 1987, and South Africa. The force from the North include England, multiple winners of the Five Nations Championships, and France, talented but erratic.
Teams that will not threaten for the finals but that are always good for an upset include 1994 Five Nations Champions Wales and Scotland, recent winners over France.
What are South Africa's chances? Considering home ground advantage, a place in the finals is the least expectedfrom a demanding South African following.
However, certain key problems will have to be addressed, most notably lineout possession and the need for a reliable goalkicker. Eliminate these problems and add a fit Francois Pienaar and success could be ours.



LOGO: RWC '95

Who will be the superstar of RWC 1995? Zinzan Brooke from New Zealand? David Campese, the worlds leading try scorer and France's Phillipe Sella, the most test capped player of all time. It might even be one of our own players, spearheaded by Andre Joubert, or new lineout sensation Mark Andrews.
Over 20 broadcast companies will provide pictures for RWC 1995 to more than 150 countries, making the RWC the biggest media-covered event in South Africa.
The following games will be played in the Eastern Cape Region.
26 May Canada vs Romania in PE
31 May Australia vs Canada in PE
3 June South Africa vs Canada in PE
27 May Western Samoa vs Italy in East London
30 May Western Samoa vs Argentina in East London
4 June Argentina vs Italy in East London
All matches will be screened live on South African television
The battle for the William Webb Ellis Trophy can begin!

SPORT

Activate supports Rhodes sport. Submitted details of all match fixtures and resulting scores will be appreciated.

A whole new ball game

Rhodes rugby has lost its most prominent administrator to the lure of the African bush. ***Vusi Khoza*** *tracked him down to find out more.*

I arrive at Sports Admin. About eight people are standing around the secretary's desk waiting to receive her attention. Among them is the tall, dark-haired figure of Rhodes Senior Sports Officer, Paul Davies - the person whose name is synonymous with Rhodes rugby and waterpolo.

His eyes are fixed towards the door as if he is about to leave. Indeed he is. Just one more day and Paul will no longer be at Rhodes. His new employment contract has been finalised in a different field. A wildlife organisation wants him to start his new job at the Luangwa Game Reserve in Zambia as soon as possible. He will be culling animals in national parks in Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Tanzania.

No sooner had Paul noticed my arrival than he called over a friend. "Lipi," he says, "this guy wants to speak to you too." Lipi Sinnott is Rhodes' rugby coach and probably Paul's second best friend after his dog, Suki. As introductions are being made, the phone rings - it's an invitation to the Rat & Parrot.

"So they told you I've had enough?" asks Paul as he puts down the phone. He knows I have come to ask about his decision to quit his job at Rhodes. After almost six years of involvement in sports at Rhodes, Paul has little to say about his achievements.

"I can't think of anything," he says, "but I have enjoyed my time in rugby."

Despite his love for rugby and waterpolo Paul's interest has always been in wildlife. "I came to Rhodes because I felt the need to do a job in sports. Otherwise my interest has always been wildlife, game and outdoors. I spent my weekends away doing that."

This is the second offer of a job by the organisation. He rejected the first one two years ago because he "was still enjoying rugby". His departure, he insists, is not because he does not enjoy rugby anymore but he just "can't stay in one place and stagnate. Life will be without adventure".

Prior to his arrival at Rhodes, Paul had coached boxing but says that he couldn't do it here because, apart from it not being offered, "people still see it as being barbaric". He then developed an interest in rugby and waterpolo, to which he devoted most of his time in the past six years.

The "implementation of bursaries and the effort made to go to schools looking for talent has seen Rhodes sport improve to professional level".

Paul laughs, "Although we do not do extremely well, we manage to cross the line". He adds that Rhodes is unique, "we offer everybody a bit of sports. We are jack of all trades."

According to Paul the standard of Rhodes rugby is "very good". "There's a lot of good players and we have had some good events." He says the most important thing he learnt during his involvement in rugby is "to be very patient."

Paul believes that rugby should remain the main event at Intervarsity and that the inclusion of Fort Hare would "lower the standard."

"Intervarsity should always be UPE against Rhodes. It is possible for us to play with Fort Hare but on a lower level and keep the main events between Rhodes and UPE."

However, his greatest concern at the moment seems to be Suki to whom the Sports Admin has become home - an indication of Paul's presence in the office.

"She has been coming to the office with me everyday", Paul muses, "If you want to know whether or not I have left, look for Suki."

Pic: Michelle Lentin

Which Res Rules?

Pic: Taryn Cass

left: Milner "United" and Prince Alfred clashed at inter-res soccer last weekend.

Natalie Gardyne

SHOUTS of encouragement filled the swimming pool outside the Union last week, as the first event in the war of the reses got underway.

Despite heavy rain and a rather murky-looking pool, the inter-res gala was enthusiastically supported and enjoyed by all.

The spectators were kept amused by one Bryan Porter who seemed to have some difficulty convincing his costume to stay in place. Matthews House also made their presence felt and made up in spirit what they lacked in talent.

The inter-res touch rugby matches were held on Sunday, March 5. The Smuts and Oppies teams made it to the final, with Oppies registering a convincing 2-0 victory.

The popularity of these events, not only among the residences but also with oppidians, has lead to Sports Admin considering staging a "Finals Weekend".

Each sport will be played up to the final and all final matches will be held on the same weekend, where we will find out which res rules.

GALA RESULTS

WOMEN	MEN
1. Oppies	Goldfields
2. Jameson / Beit	Oppies
3. Thomas Pringle	College
4. Cant'bury /Din'mans	Winchester
5 Milner / Allan Gray	Botha
6. Atherstone	Graham
7. Phelps / JK	Cory/Matt
8. Olive Schreiner	