



VUVUZELA



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SRC mad at him, but Judge Ed is back



BACK FOR ANOTHER TERM: Judge Edwin Cameron was re-elected as Chair of Wits Council

PHAKAMISA NDZAMELA AND SELLO SELEBI

JUDGE Edwin Cameron was last week re-elected as Chair of the Wits University Council despite calls from some student structures for him to step down.

Speaking to *Vuvuzela* on the opposition to him, Judge Cameron said that he welcomed the scrutiny of governance by student structures at Wits.

"I think that on transformation Wits has been a victim and not a perpetrator," said Judge Cameron.

Judge Cameron said that Wits had seen a drastic reduction in subsidies in the last few years.

"I do not think that it is a fair

comment to say that I am anti-transformation," he said. "I am deeply committed to transformation at every level not just in terms of race and gender."

Judge Cameron added that he took issue with the student leadership only on their allegation that he was anti-transformation, but he welcomed student structures questioning whether he should continue as Council Chair.

He invited the student leadership to engage in constructive succession planning with other constituencies.

Wits Registrar Dr Derek Swemmer said he believed that Judge Cameron was a "consummate democrat".

Prof Gerrit Olivier, Head of the Wits School of Arts, told *Vuvuzela*

that Judge Cameron had been a very "eloquent spokesperson of the university. He's handled Council scrupulously".

In a statement by Themba Masondo, chair of the Wits branch of the SA Students Congress (Sasco), Judge Cameron's re-election was described as "unfortunate".

Masondo said the election "conclusively indicates that there is something terribly wrong with most members of Council".

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"His re-election further confirms our long-held view that most members of Council remain unprepared, and seem not interested, to begin the necessary process of transformation," Masondo said.

He said that Judge Cameron's re-election suggested that increases in tuition and residence fees would continue, making access and success in the university hard for students from poor backgrounds. The statement also said that allocations in financial aid would continue to decline.

"Persistence of super-exploitation and unbearable oppression of the externalised work force would continue at Wits," Masondo said.

SRC President Mbali Hlophe confirmed that the SRC had voted

against Judge Cameron.

According to a statement by the SRC, the re-election of Judge Cameron confirmed the "unwillingness of Council to transform Wits in general and Council in particular".

"Cameron has served four terms as chairperson of Council and his leadership has proven to be detrimental to the transformational agenda of the institution and has further failed to protect the rights of students in general and the disadvantaged in particular," the SRC statement said.

The SRC said it remained committed to transforming Wits and would continue to work with Judge Cameron to ensure the adherence of transformation at Wits.

Witsie follows Witsie at top of the DA

ERICA DREIJER

WHAT started out as an active student life has equipped ex-Wits student Helen Zille to become the new leader for the Democratic Alliance.

Zille told *Vuvuzela* this week that student life represented one of the best and most privileged experiences which should be fully exploited and used to set the scene for your life ahead and to get to know yourself.

She said that although it was one of the hardest times of her life - she battled with anorexia - it was also one of the best. Wits provided her with a firm foundation and taught

her valuable skills. It opened her eyes and taught her to think, to analyze and question everything that life put in her way.

It also taught her to be independent and self-reliant.

In 1967 she joined the Young Progressives and later at Wits she was also a member of the Academic Freedom Committee, Rag and was one of the first members of the TV Society.

She still managed to achieve a first-class English literature degree.

Zille believes that student life is harder today, with the workload

having increased dramatically, but she also says that students have better access to information. In her day, students would race each other to the library to get hold of the limited amount of reading that was available on a subject. The material needed to be returned the next day. This taught her to read fast.

With her involvement in local politics, especially regarding schools, she was appointed MEC for Education in the Western Cape government. Last year in March she won election as Mayor of Cape Town and on Sunday she was elected leader

of South Africa's official opposition, succeeding Tony Leon, another Wities.

Her high profile recently is only the "tip of the iceberg" in terms of her 30 years in politics.

She will focus on bringing together the different leaders of the DA into a team to take the party to the next level over the next 10 years and to attract more black supporters.

She said that the combination of having a baby and running a business helped prepare her for handling her current jobs: Mayor and Leader of the Opposition.



HELEN ZILLE, newly elected leader of the DA says Wits was one of the hardest, but still the best, times of her life

NEWS

PSC and SAUJS' war of words

JACKIE BISCHOF

AN OFF-CAMPUS forum discussion between the Palestine Solidarity Committee (PSC) and the South African Union of Jewish Students (SAUJS) turned into a sullen exchange when the two Wits societies met at St John's College last Friday.

The two societies had been invited by the inaugural African Schools Debating Championships to discuss the topic "Is it justified to label Israel an apartheid state?"

The Wits branch of the PSC uses the apartheid analogy regularly in its publications and advertising.

The discussion had been described in the programme as a "forum... on pertinent social issues... open to the public. Participants will have the opportunity to question SAUJS and PSC on Israel's current policy".

However, after both sides had presented their arguments, the SAUJS refused to take questions. PSC delegates were shushed by the audience when attempting to field audience comments, and were told by the adjudicator that they could not answer questions if SAUJS was uncomfortable doing so.

During the discussion, the SAUJS argued that comparing Israel to



LOOKING AMUSED: Muhammed Desai from PSC and Barry Sherman from SAUJS after their off campus clash
Photo: J. Bischof

apartheid South Africa was a "lazy label for the conflict" and implied a "grave ignorance of the subject".

It also argued that describing Palestine as a "Nazi regime" for its treatment of Jews would be highly inappropriate, and therefore

the apartheid label for Israel was unfair.

The SAUJS was represented by Wits chairperson Caylee Talpert and Barry Sherman.

PSC member Kameelah Rasheed and chairperson Muhammed Desai said

the SAUJS's arguments were "window dressing of a sub-structure racist regime". The PSC representatives cited brutality in occupied territories and the treatment of Palestinians in Israel as "far more heinous than apartheid".

Comments from the audience defended both sides. One member of the audience called the apartheid label a "cheap propaganda tool... an emotive front for a real understanding of the political situation". Another defended Israel's stance towards Palestine by saying: "This is not racism, it's called foreign policy."

Speaking to Vuvuzela after the event, Desai said that the PSC had previously steered clear of such debates because it did not want to engage in "hugs and kisses with SAUJS".

"We're not here to discuss our differences," he said. "We're here to drive our case [and] in that process we engage in dialogue."

When asked why the SAUJS team would not answer audience questions, Talpert said that the society had prepared on the basis of a presentation of facts, and had not expected comments or questions from the audience.

She said she felt that although the

event provided a good forum, she would have preferred to engage on "debatable and legitimate topics that don't contain inherent bias".

The SAUJS team had requested that the debate organisers change the topic to "Racism is practised in the Middle East as it was in apartheid South Africa", as it felt that the proposed topic was not suitable to a "legitimate debate". The organisers had declined.

Founder and co-tournament director of the Africa Schools Debating Championships, Garikai Nyaruwata, said the purpose of the event was to "extend a culture of deliberation, not just in South Africa, but across the continent".

He said he hoped to encourage students to "think critically, analyse and engage in social issues".

"Debating isn't just a competitive thing, [it can] make the transformation from an academic activity to something that has the potential to impact on society."

Aside from the schools championships, the three-day event included public discussions that hosted the Department of Foreign Affairs, Cosatu and Johannesburg advocate Gilbert Marcus.

INGREDIENTS:

- 40 willing students
- Constitution
- Student numbers and signatures
- Minimum annual subscription fee of R50 per member
- Schedule a five-minute presentation to the SRC Sustainability
- Originality
- Relevance
- Wits reputation booster

PREPARATION:

1. Round up at least 40 students who want to join your proposed club or society.
2. Collect the relevant application forms and documents from the SRC reception.

THE HOW-TO START-UP GUIDE

3. Complete and return form 4: Application for a constitution.
4. When the completed form is returned, you will receive a model constitution to fill in.
5. Amend the model constitution by incorporating your club or society's information. You may insert additional clauses provided they do not conflict with the rest of the constitution.
6. Complete model constitution and Form
7. Attach Form 8: a list of the names, student numbers, undertakings to pay the subscription fee and

- signatures of a minimum of 40 members. Note that the minimum subscription fee per member is currently R50 per annum.
- 8. Constitutions, Clubs and Societies sub-committee to assess completed and returned documents.
- 8. Schedule a presentation for your proposed club or society at the next SRC general meeting. Maximum time for presentation is 5 minutes.
- 9. Show the following during the presentation:
 - (a) Sustainability: that your goals and proposed means to attain them are achiev-

- able. You should show that your club or society will outlast you as founding member;
- (b) Originality: the proposed club or society must be unique. If it has similar objectives to an existing club or society, the SRC is likely to suggest that you join that club or society instead and is not likely to approve your proposal;
- (c) Relevance: the existence of the proposed club or

- society should be for the greater good of Wits; and
- (d) Ability to enhance the reputation of Wits: the proposed club or society should not disrupt the functions of Wits or tarnish its image.
- Also watch out for additional requirements of some of the clusters.
- After your presentation, the SRC will then have an opportunity to ask you questions.

10. After considering your application, the SRC will contact you to let you know whether or not it has been approved.
11. If your club or society is approved, you will be:
 - (a) Required to open a bank account
 - (b) Allocated to a student develop officer.
 - (c) Required to meet certain criteria, including submitting annual plans and reports and holding annual elections by a certain date, in order to remain active.

How to start a club or society

KIM HAWKEY AND ERICA HIER WOULD you like to start a student club or society?

In a recent student poll, you told us that you wanted more student support from *Vuvuzela*. In response, *Vuvuzela* has compiled a simple step-by-step guide to opening a club or society on campus.

Before you decide to start a club or society, you should be aware of a few things.

Clubs and societies, other than those related to sport, fall under the control of the SRC. Currently there are nearly 100 clubs and societies, which are divided into various clusters, such as academic, international, social, and political.

The proliferation of new clubs and societies is a result of clubs and societies being started but becoming inactive after the

founding members left Wits. Other problematic issues include financial problems, as highlighted in a previous edition of *Vuvuzela*, and limited resources such as clubrooms, funding and student development officers that can assist clubs and societies.

As a result of the mushrooming numbers, a moratorium has been placed on the opening of new clubs and societies, according to Dean of Students Prem Coopoo.

However, it appears that the word moratorium has been used loosely. Clubs and Societies officer Selaelo Modiba said that there was no moratorium, but confirmed that the SRC had become more strict in opening clubs and societies in order to limit their numbers.

According to Zakhele Maya,

SRC Treasurer, the limited funding received by the SRC for club and society grants was also stretched thinly as a result of the large number of clubs and societies in existence.

Limiting the number of clubs and societies will therefore help to ensure that more funding from the SRC will be available.

So, if you want to start a new club or society, it will be necessary for you to show a clear vision, differentiation and longevity.

For more information on *Vuvuzela's* student poll, visit the April 12 edition of *Vuvuzela* on www.vuvuzelaonline.com.

VUVUZELA



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Road rage murders: Wits man goes free



OVERJOYED AT HIS ACQUITTAL: Left, Edward Kekana and right, his advocate Paul Shapiro Photo: Jennifer Bruce, The Star

SELLO SELEBI
A WITS staff member acquitted on triple murder charges last week over a 2004 road-rage incident has urged drivers to be patient when using the country's roads.
Edward Maesela Kekana, 36, who works as a technical supervisor at Wits University's Property Infrastructure Management Department (PIMD), said that people should not be tempted to get involved in squabbles with other drivers because "the roads belong to everyone".
Kekana was charged with murdering three men after a road-rage incident on August 1 2004. This week the Wits man was acquitted on all charges.

Speaking to *Vuvuzela* this week, Kekana said that the situation had been difficult for his family, socially and financially.
He said that he had gained a lot of respect for the justice system as a result of the trial and was glad that the law had taken its course.
Kekana said he had apologised to the families who had lost loved ones in the incident because they might have lost breadwinners.
"It wasn't my intention, it just happened. I did not go out to shoot people," said Kekana.
The facilities manager at the PIMD, Mark Watson, said that he was glad that the whole thing was over and that

Kekana could move on with his life.
"We had always supported Edward [Kekana] with time off and stuff like that because he is a valuable employee," said Watson.
The incident in 2004 took place when six men in a bakkie followed Kekana to his sister's house in Unigray, Johannesburg.
The men assaulted him after accusing him of driving his Toyota Conquest with the car's lights on bright.
In an act that Johannesburg High Court Judge George Maluleke has ruled was self-defence, Kekana drew his firearm and fired several shots at the men in the bakkie. Three men,

Jan Verster, 37, Tony Vicente, 65, and Frans Chilane, 32, were killed. Verster's son Stephen, 16, was shot but survived the shooting.
In the ruling Judge Maluleke said that the state had not proven that Kekana had acted outside the boundaries of self-defence.
The judge questioned the credibility of the three state witnesses and ruled that Kekana's version of events was true and credible. He also said that it was evident that the men had assaulted Kekana.
Hein van der Merwe, who appeared for the state, said that two of the state witnesses, Stephen Verster and Morne Dunbar, had since committed

suicide.
Apart from Kekana, the only other person alive from the incident is Andre Wollard, who was also a state witness. Wollard was a passenger on the bakkie.
The wife of Vicente, who did not want to give her first name, said that her husband had undergone a triple heart-bypass and had not been in a position to assault anyone.
Joseph Kruger, a Metro police officer, was a witness for the defence. He said that he had seen Verster's picture in a newspaper and that he and his wife had gone through a similar incident involving the same group of men led by Jan Verster.



Prof David Glasser



Prof Tshilidzi Marwala



Prof Ramesh Bharuthram

Profs in running for top awards

ERICA DREIJER
THREE Wits professors have qualified for the finals of the National Science and Technology Forum awards.
The awards celebrate contributions by individuals and groups to science, engineering and technology. The winners will be announced on May 23.
Prof David Glasser, Prof Tshilidzi Marwala and Prof Ramesh Bharuthram have been nominated.
Prof Glasser, from the School of Chemical and Metallurgical Engineering, heads up the Centre of Material and Process Synthesis at Wits.
He has been nominated for developing new methods of chemical processes that emit less carbon dioxide.
Prof Glasser's team is working with teams in China and Australia to help build plants that produce fuel from coal more effectively and with less harmful effects. Prof Glasser was awarded an A1 scientist status eight years ago.
Prof Marwala, of the School of Electrical and Information Engineering, was nominated for his contribution to science, engineering and technology through research and its outputs. For the 35-year-old professor it is an exceptional achievement to be

nominated for this award at his age.
Prof Marwala's area of specialisation is focused on creating intelligent software which has the added benefit of making a decision based on the information it receives. He believes that software that is developed needs to have a practical application and needs to provide a useful function to society.
He has developed a program that detects and flags epilepsy and another that detects the pressure on highways and bridges that serves as an early warning system.
Prof Marwala believes that "aptitude helps, but you need more". Often in his life he encountered people with aptitude, but because they lacked interest and curiosity they did not end up making the most of their talent. For him "attitude determines your aptitude".
It is also important for him to be involved and to grow young people. His dream is "building capacity and to increase the knowledge base of this country".
After *Vuvuzela* interviewed him, Prof Marwala was off to attend a graduation function of four of his students. Three had been accepted at Oxford and Cambridge.

Prof Bharuthram, the Dean of the Faculty of Science, is a finalist for an award given to scientists or researchers who have been instrumental in helping grow and encouraging research in areas of interest other than their own.
Prof Bharuthram said development should not depend on ad hoc interventions, but rather that it should form part of a long-term plan that straddles five to 10 years.
For Prof Bharuthram, inspiring and mentoring students to further their studies and going to the top of the ladder in their field, is a passion. He has made it his mission to drive higher education by identifying students that should consider doing their doctorates, helping them find the necessary funding and supporting them once they have completed their doctorates.
Since he started at Wits in January 2006, he has re-evaluated how funds should be applied and has developed financial opportunities to fast track students. He is also re-looking at how his faculty should operate in the light of Wits' 2010 vision of becoming part of the top 100 universities in the world.

NEWS

Wits gives author a big break

SEAN RITCHIE

ENVIRONMENTAL journalist Leonie Joubert has been jointly awarded the 2007 Ruth First Fellowship by the Wits Journalism and Media Studies Programme with photographer Santu Mofokeng.

The fellowship honours the memory of Ruth First; renowned in her time as a journalist, activist and intellectual. First was murdered by the apartheid government while in exile in Mozambique.

The fellowship is intended to give a writer, or researcher, space to perform in-depth research on a topic in keeping with First's tradition of critical, independent, socially engaged writing.

In the next few months Joubert will be conducting research on how several communities across South Africa are affected by the changing climate. In her fellowship proposal, Joubert states stresses affecting South Africa, such as illiteracy and HIV/Aids, make it vulnerable to problems caused by climate change.

Joubert, an environmental journalist, has spent the last few years researching South Africa's changing climate. She has travelled the country to view many delicately balanced ecosystems which are in danger of disappearing forever.

Over two years Joubert drew up one essay after another.

When she had sufficient material she sorted the essays into a manuscript and looked for a publisher.

"Wits University Press was beginning to think about moving into popular science projects. I sent them a proposal and one or two chapters and they immediately said they wanted it," she said.

Her book, *Scorched*, provides a fascinating - and frightening - glimpse of the troubles that will need to be faced by South Africa's flora and fauna over the next century. *Scorched* received an honorary mention in the non-fiction category in the Sunday Times Alan Paton awards.

What separates *Scorched* from other climate-change literature



DON'T LOOK NOW, BUT THERE'S A PENGUIN BEHIND YOU: Scorched author, Leonie Joubert on Marion Island

is its exploration of how specific ecosystems around South Africa will be affected. There are many climate-change models which accurately predict the broader effects of climate change. However, there is little focus on individual animal and plant species. *Scorched* gives these species a face for the first time; climate change will only increase the rate at which vulnerable species face extinction.

Earlier this week Joubert was at Wits to present a promotional speech for *Scorched*. She said the facts and figures which stem from climate-change research were "dry and bland" and did not communicate the reality of the situation. She chose to use a travelogue style to convey the essence of climate change in South Africa.

In an interview with *Vuvuzela*, Joubert provided some background

to her career as an environmental journalist and the path that led to her interest in climate change.

Joubert grew up in the shadows of Hogsback, deep in the Eastern Cape. She describes her parents as "in tune" with natural environment but admits that it held little interest for her as a teenager.

A course in science journalism during the final year of her journalism degree at Rhodes University ignited Joubert's interest in the environment.

"When I started to find my feet as a writer I found myself more interested in the environment," says Joubert.

After graduating she found it difficult to find employment as an environmental journalist and ended up working for *Wine Magazine*.

Three and a half years later Joubert realised that the only way she was going "to write about the stuff that

interested (her) was to go freelance".

Two weeks after she had handed in her resignation, a friend sent her a newsletter advertising a journalism masters bursary through Stellenbosch University.

The masters programme required the journalist to collaborate with climate-change scientists doing research on Marion Island in the sub-Antarctic region.

Marion's isolated location, midway between South Africa and the Antarctic, presented an ideal place to monitor the changing climate and its impact on animal and plant species.

The explicit examples of climate change on the island led Joubert to believe "there had to be similar stories on the (South African) mainland".

When she returned to South Africa, in March 2003, Joubert began researching South Africa's changing climate.

De La Rey annoys

Karen Zoid

ERICA DREIJER

KAREN Zoid will never speak to Bok van Blerk.

Afrikaans's best known female rocker said this about Afrikaans's most popular balladeer at a forum hosted by the M&G and Absa this week.

Under discussion was Van Blerk's now famous (or notorious, depending on your view) song *De La Rey*.

Zoid's annoyance stems from the reaction that De la Rey supposedly unleashed. She said that he, like all South African artists who perform on the platteland, know that racism is still alive and well and that "one man's hero is another's oppressor".

Zoid said that at the Klein Karoo Kunstefees earlier this year she had been told that the night before her appearance 5 000 children had stood, hands on heart, tears flowing, waving old South African flags and singing along to *De la Rey*.

She said she was shocked to hear that 16-year-olds were merrily waving the old flag - a symbol of oppression. It frightened her that they were probably mirroring behaviour from their homes, without understanding its significance in our current situation.

The forum made it clear that *De la Rey* stirred mixed opinions and strong emotions. As expected, it also opened a debate on Afrikaners and where they saw themselves in the new democracy.

The panel also included Dan Roodt, controversial right-wing author, publisher and editor, John Matshikiza, M&G columnist, Dr Theuns Eloff, Vice-Chancellor for North West University, and Mike van Graan, arts administrator and playwright. The discussion was moderated by John Perlman, ex-AM Live presenter and Witsie.

For Matshikiza, the song was more than a stirring melody and he believed that often "true meanings are hidden behind history" and the true intention of the song bother him.

CAMPUS CELEB

FULLBACK Mike Rowley is one of the only two Witsies playing on our first rugby team. **Sean Ritchie** took a trip to Business Campus to find out what makes him tick.

What's your worst rugby injury?

I broke my shoulder last year. There were two guys coming down the field and I couldn't decide which one to tackle. I went for both of them and broke my AC joint.

If you were running for president what would your slogan be?

The greater the challenge, the greater the reward.

How do you rate SA's chances in the Rugby World Cup?

Not great, I think it will come down to an All Blacks-French final.

What is your favourite movie?

Boondock Saints.



What is the craziest thing you've done or seen on a rugby tour?

On tour to Pretoria in 2002 we were at the awards ceremony. A team from another varsity were grinning while they were sitting at their table and we couldn't figure out why. Afterwards we discovered that they had smuggled in two hookers who were servicing them all under the table.

Who inspires you?

My dad. He does everything properly. He is driven, motivated and honourable.

What is your ideal holiday destination and who would you take with you?

There's a little island off the coast of Madagascar. I went there in January. I couldn't believe it existed this close to home. It looks like that movie, *The Beach*. Island living, it's perfect.

What is your dream job?

Captain of my very own yacht

What do you do to relax?

Sleep, sleep and chill with my mates and girlfriend.

Who are your favourite bands?

Parlotones and the Killers; I like to support South African music.

What was your weirdest first date?

I met this girl at Night Fever. I guess it was our first date; that was three years ago and we're still going out.