

Diagnosing your best friend's pain

MELISSA DOUMAN

LOOK, don't go out and get your cat a Panado each time you think it has a headache. According to Dr Lynette Bester from the School of Physiology, the Panados will kill it.

But yes, of course animals do feel pain. In her presentation at the School of Physiology on Tuesday, Dr Bester said animals did feel pain, although the extent and nature were not certain.

This is because there is no way of asking an animal: "On a scale of one-to-ten, how sore are you?"

Human medication was designed for human bodies, she said. In proportion to most domestic animals, humans could withstand higher doses.

Human painkillers couldn't be used by animals because they don't have the digestive enzymes to break down and absorb them.

She explained that some animals were able to communicate their pain more expressively than others. Cats made loud caterwauls and become aggressive and violent. Dogs could slip into a droopy-eyed depression, with an "I don't want to be your best

friend" attitude. They stopped eating or drinking water for days on end.

Reptiles may burn themselves very badly if they come into contact with fire. Because they are cold-blooded and can withstand very high temperatures, they may not feel their scales are burning.

They probably won't show their discomfort. But if you're silly enough to try to touch them, they'll become violent.

They are very sensitive to touch, so just coming near them can cause a vibration that could get them striking.

Birds mask their pain until they are on their death nest. Parrots may squawk to express their discomfort. Lovebirds are assumed to feel a very different kind of pain - an emotional one - when they lose their better half. They stop eating, drinking or chirping until their organs fail and they die a lonely death. This type of pain, no amount of medication can cure.

Horses can experience severe abdominal pain and show this by looking at their abdomens and contorting their faces. And if you're

ever brave enough to touch a horse's hind legs, you may also experience a nasty pain in the head.

Domestic animals, like cats, won't express their pain to just anybody.

So they might make "hot tin roof" noises at home, but pretend to be just fine at the vet. This is because they feel vulnerable in foreign territory.

Chemical Engineering student, Kaveeren Naidu, is trying to get 2-million signatures for a *Stop Innocent Animals From Suffering* campaign.

Naidu belongs to a group that wants the government to assess the laws to prevent cruelty to animals.

If there were stricter laws in place, they feel people would be more aware of an animal's rights and be less inclined to hurt it.

Naidu cited the much-publicised case of the man who severed a husky's head with a chainsaw and only received a fine. "More severe laws should be implemented to stop these people from acting like animals, such as imprisonment," said Naidu.

The man who killed the dog died in a car crash shortly after. "Now that's karma for you," said Naidu.



CAT-ANKEROUS: The author examines her cat Ziggy for signs of pains or discomfort, and is pleased to discover that he seems fine!

Photo by: Melissa Douman

Saving the planet from invasion, one plant at a time



VUVU VENA

JOHN F. KENNEDY, the 35th President of the United States said in 1963: "The Supreme reality of our time is...the vulnerability of our planet."

Wits hosted an environmental exhibition called *Roots and Shoots*, from Tuesday to Thursday this week. The programme included speakers with different messages about the world we live in.

Professor Marcus Byrne spoke on Tuesday

GREEN PARADISE IN DANGER OF INVASION: Invasive plants are a critical environmental issue, according to Prof. Marcus Byrne.

Photo courtesy of www.dk.com

afternoon on Invasives and Biocontrol. He explained how invasive plants are imported into the country, what they mean for the country and how to stop them from spreading further than they already have.

Invasive plants endanger the water supply. These are plants that are not indigenous to the areas they invade.

They are imported through different means. Sometimes this is plant trade. But sometimes it's inadvertent. Some ships take in water as ballast. When they pump it out again in foreign waters, they can deposit invasive seeds. Rapid transport like jets suck in seeds from the air and drop them in other places.

The point of this exhibition is to develop a consciousness in young people to keep their world alive. Byrne ignited in his audience the need to worry, because climate change should be seen as a social issue.

He listed plants like the cactus, the hyacinth, the acacia and the lantana as common invaders. He said these plants were able to invade such large areas in South Africa because removing them from their place of origin had rescued them from their natural enemies. In areas where they were not threatened, they could flourish.

The lantana, a tropical invader, has about 240 hybrids and spreads greatly because it has no natural enemies in its hybrid form. It is among the most invasive plants in Africa, and it is poisonous.

"The American Acacia was introduced deliberately into South Africa by the government as a 'miracle tree,'" said Byrne. It has been used for shade and fodder. The Australian Acacia has been used for wood and charcoal and was also deliberately introduced to the country.

However, both these Acacias drink up a huge percentage of the country's water. South Africa has about 180 alien plant species which cover about 10-million hectares of the country. In 2002 they had caused 7% water loss. It is predicted that in 30 years, the water loss in the country, due to these invaders, will be 23 to 95%.

A number of potential solutions have been put into place, one of which encourages social upliftment. It is a programme called Working for Water. It generates money in poor communities by employing members to chop down weeds. It aims to educate people about nature, while teaching some level of botanical skills.

The second solution is classic biological control. Scientists find natural enemies from the countries of origin and transport them to South Africa. The natural enemies do not go on to become a new issue since, as the plant dies, so too do its enemies. They have nothing else to feed on.

People are encouraged to read about environmental issues and threats. Issues have even been woven into a new high school curriculum.

VOW still silent

JUMA FORD AND SEBABATSO MOSAMO

THE OUTSTANDING transmission fees that will allow Voice of Wits to go back on air have still not been paid, a week after the student radio station was closed down.

Station manager Ike Rakoto told *Vuvuzela* the money was "waiting somewhere" in the finance department, which was something he had no control over.

He added: "Going off the air has not affected the relationship with management...I don't think there was a relationship in the first place."

Anton Harber, head of the media board and Journalism and Media Studies said: "Wits' system for making payments can be maddeningly slow. We have done what we can and now we wait for the rusty wheels to turn."

The next issue VOW will have to deal with is how to compensate their advertisers.

This is a concern, especially considering Absa's recent investment in VOW's online site.

VUVUZELA

A JOURNALISM AND MEDIA STUDIES PROJECT
PRODUCED WITH THE SUPPORT OF MEDIA24.

The evolution of struggle...

THERE is this amazing story about a gentle creature that lived in the muddy waters of China's Yangtze River. An endangered dolphin with bad eyesight, it had a highly-evolved radar to compensate.

I heard this story about 10 years ago. Since then, due to over-fishing and noise from too many ships, China's Baiji dolphin has been declared extinct. Its story, like the dodo, will become the stuff of legends.

I never thought about "extinction" as something that happened to a species in my lifetime. "Endangered" is today's catchphrase. "Extinct" applies to dinosaurs and dodos, surely not dolphins? It also reminded me of another endangered - some would say - extinct creature.

The adage that students nowadays are lazy, complacent and "don't have a cause" got me thinking about this creature: the feisty, determined student whose activities once were a hotbed of committed struggle, heated debate and protest. Voter apathy in the recent SRC elections appeared to show that this creature is extinct.

But this theory was recently disproved as, instead of politics, social justice and environmental concerns played out at Wits. Some Witsies showed concern over the HIV/Aids epidemic at the recent "Democratising Science" forum, and others involved themselves in efforts to save the planet at this week's Roots and Shoots environmental exhibition at Wits.

But most obvious were the scores of chanting and toy-toying students in protest over fee increases, rumours of privatisation of student residences and an incongruous hike in fees for international students. In a show of solidarity, even students who were unaffected by the changes joined in.

But things went wrong. Stories of rubber bullets, arrests, injuries and vandalised bins started to pour in. This is not the first time this has happened either.

It begs the question: did university management foresee the fallout? Surely by now (since the early days of student struggle) management of a learning institution would have "learnt" and evolved an effective method of dialogue with students.

But perhaps I have it all wrong. Perhaps, like the dodo, an effective and attentive management has always been the stuff of legends.

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SLICE OF LIFE

The good times of our lives

BEING the private person that I am, I found it a bit testing to write this Slice of Life. So I thought to myself: let me tell them something exciting that happened in my life this year.

I am from the North West province and am studying in Gauteng. Up until March, I had never been anywhere outside of these two provinces.

My best friend and I decided to pack up and go Cape Town for a trip of nothing but fun. A chance to visit new province - yay, how very exciting.

We had been planning on doing this since high school, but every time we considered it, something would intervene and we'd have to cancel. This year we decided: enough was enough. We have to it or it's never going to happen.

We scraped together all the money we had to buy two return bus tickets to Cape Town. Bad weather conditions nearly, but didn't quite, ruin our excitement. It was raining so hard, the bus arrived an hour and a half later



Nondlela Maponya

than scheduled. We were so pumped up about the whole thing, if even the smallest thing went wrong, we worried that the trip would be put on hold again.

We finally arrived sixteen hours later, tired but happy at the same time. We were met by another friend, who is studying at the University of Cape Town. She gave us the bad news that the place she had arranged for us to stay was no longer available.

But so determined were we to have fun that it hardly mattered that we now had to share a small flat with two beds between six people.

All it meant was that, with the limited sleeping space, we'd just have to stay out and party for longer.

I mean, who needs proper sleep in a new city with plenty of beautiful things (and people) to see.

We did everything there was to do, from site-seeing to club hopping. It took us a long time to get there, but it sure was worth the wait.

Kids walk on the wild side

ERICA DREIJER

LEARN how to live in peace with your six-legged neighbours is the message that this year's Yebo Gogga event will be drumming home.

Yebo Gogga is an annual event hosted at Wits. This year's event is titled Ubuntu in Nature and will be focused on showing "how plants interact with each other and how people interact with plants", explained Caroline Crumb, Zoological Curator at Wits.

Crumb describes it as a community event that sets out to embrace and create a sense of ubuntu - by helping everyone live peacefully with their surroundings as well as establishing a sense of community.

"People living in the city have often become fearful of all flora and fauna. This will help them to remove the fear and replace it with interest. During past events, we have even managed to cure a couple of people suffering

from arachnophobia," Crumb said.

A big part of the event is "myth busting".

Visitors will have the opportunity to interact and learn more about myriad insects, arachnids and reptiles. And brave hearts will have an opportunity to nibble (or is that crunch?) on some insects, drape a boa constrictor like a feather boa around their shoulders or make friends with spiders, scorpions or chameleons.

Other activities include lectures and talks over the weekend, a race using crickets and an insect braai.

The event will be hosted at the Life Sciences Museum and Oppenheimer Life Sciences Building and will run from Wednesday until Sunday. Times: weekdays from 9am to 4pm and weekend from 10am to 4pm. Free access.

For more information, contact Cheryl or Nelly at 011 717 6470.



TRUST IN ME: Scholars at Yebo Gogga get acquainted with an African Python
Photo: Caroline Crumb

CAMPUS CELEB

WITSIE **Senzo Phungula**, a "second first year student" studying politics, is also the Bidvest soccer team's mascot. **Melissa Douman** caught up with him this week to find out why this "wanabe a politician when I grow up" has undertaken this role.

How did you get chosen to be the Bidvest mascot?

I am a big supporter of the Wits team. I used to attend every game, home and away. I cheered and commented and they must have noticed that I was an active and dedicated supporter.

What is the craziest thing you've ever done?

I have done a lot of crazy things. The craziest thing that I have done as mascot, though, has to be when I got noticed as a possible mascot. Wits were playing against Black Leopard and I stood up to speak to the fourth official. I indicated that I wanted to play too and that he should put me in as a player. He played along and held up his number board to signal me onto the grounds. The crowd went wild and I think that it was at that particular moment that I stood out.



How long have you been Mascot?

I have been mascot for about four months now and hope to be mascot for as long as my stay in Jo'burg lasts. I am from Durban originally.

Why do you support Wits then?

I like Wits. It's away from where I grew up and it has a great reputation. I also like the way that the team plays. I feel that, although they have been winning their matches, they have not been playing really well. It may be because they have a new coach.

Do you have a girlfriend and what does she think about your being a mascot?

Yes I do have a girlfriend. She is very supportive and says that she is very proud of me. She believes in me.

What do you want to be when you grow up?

I would like to become a famous politician.

Why?

No valid reason, I just like politics. I think that Zuma should become president also because he is a great politician and worked really hard to get to where he is. He has never been found guilty of anything and therefore I do not think that he should be excluded from potential presidency. I think that he will be great at running the country.

What are the perks of being a mascot and what does it entail?

I get to travel with the team and attend all the games for free. They ask for my input and I am not afraid to give it to them. I wear the outfit. I sing and, though I am not such a great dancer. I dance too, I know all the steps to the routines.

What is your favorite food?

(Laughing) Rice and chicken and my favourite colour is black.

ARTS



An un-poetic thing to say...

ERICA DREIJER

EGOS were bruised when Julius "Makweru" Moeletsi from Yfm commented that there was a lot of bad poetry out there today, and that it needed to be vetted before he would consider putting it on his radio show.

Moeletsi was speaking out at Arts Alive's *Tradition through Rendition* poetry workshop last weekend on the topic: "How poetry has been used in the past as the voice of the people" which mainly focused on the struggle years.

Moeletsi went on: "If you want to be on Yfm, you need to be good. When you want to compete, you are opening yourself to judgment."

An audience member retorted: "We are on a learning curve, we are all learning, it's a spiritual journey. Who are you to judge us?"

"By shooting people down when we don't

agree with what they say, we are moving backwards," said Mphutlane Wa Bofelo, well-known slam-poet and one of the panel members.

In his opening address, Alan Hobitz, another panel member, said that during the struggle there was "no phenomenon of a mass audience. Poetry was an isolated and marginalised art form." It wasn't just "art for art's sake", but rather a case of poets being "socially committed to art".

"Underground poetry helps to question society. But today it often happens that the point becomes the mic, to take the stage," Bofelo said.

He warned: "Don't be hungry for the stage or for the mic - you will be exploited by capitalism. Write for an audience and you will no longer question society."

He was challenged by an audience member wanting to know how poets were

meant to make a living from this art form if they did not focus on an audience.

Younger poets in the audience stated they were still committed to the art form which helped artists to speak out against social wrongs, but they struggled to accept that one could not really make a living from it.

"Art or poetry has never been a reliable source of income, but a way of living," Bofelo replied.

To be sustainable, artists needed to create a community through "solidarity of other artists". This "association I belong to will buy my new book", visiting shows and "a collaboration of efforts, skills and expertise" will be used to help each other.

The workshop was facilitated by ex-Skeem kwaito artist Teba Shumba. Thandeka "Nkqo" Vabaza - aka "Knock, knock" - a well-known poet who raps in Xhosa was also on the panel.

POETRY IN MOTION: Samm Farai Monro aka Comrade Fasto making fun of the situation in Zimbabwe and Gcina Mhlope entertaining audiences at the Market Theatre. Photo courtesy: Sydelle Smith

Romeo wherefor art thou?

ERICA DREIJER

WITH family murders on the increase, Romeo and Juliet could read like just another day in Jozi.

Students at Wits School of Arts are currently hosting this classic with a modern-day twist at the Wits Amphitheatre. It takes a look at: What are the circumstances that divide us as *Mzansizens* today?

The scene is set by a backstreet floozie - fishnet stockings, scarlet lips and boobs popping out of her clothes - and goes on to depict modern-day issues: absent parents, gangster life, mixed relationships and illiteracy. Romeo is a modern-day lover in combat pants, tattoos and dreads.

The play also tries to show us the conflict teenagers face. It looks at "identity, family and social bonds to the legacies of the past, which ring very true in today's Mzansi," the brochure explained. Timeless evils like envy, forbidden love and long-standing bad blood continue to bring about tragedy.

"Never was there a tale of more woe than that of Juliet and her Romeo."

The play was directed by part-time Wits tutor, Warona Sean - known for her performances in TV programmes like *90 Plein Street*, *Justice for All* and *Home Affairs* (recently nominated for an Emmy) - and choreographed by Khathala Knomo.

The play runs from October 2 to 13 begins at 7.30pm. Tickets are available at www.computicket.com or www.strictlytickets.com. They cost R56.50 (full price) and R35.50 (for Wits staff, pensioners, students and block bookings of ten or more). For more details, contact Catherine Pisanti at catherine.pisanti@wits.ac.za or 011 717 1376.



KNOCK, KNOCK: Thandeka "Nkqo" Vabaza, begged audiences to allow him to stay at the Poetry Session, Friday night at the Market Theatre.

Photo courtesy: Sydelle Smith

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

ROMEO AND JULIET. A classic with a modern spin. Wits Amphitheatre. October 2 to 13 at 7.30pm. Tickets R56.50 and R35.50.

IN-BE-TWEEN. An interdisciplinary production that explores literal and metaphorical spaces of transition and the potential they hold for change. At Wits West Campus. October 8 to 20 at 7.30pm. Tickets R56.50 and R35.50.

TOUCH. A Physical Theatre work which explores a nexus of issues around 'touch' in contemporary city life. At Wits Theatre. October 9 to 20 at 7.30pm.

INJE JUST US. A musical revue. Wits amphitheatre. October 11 to 20 at 7.30pm. Tickets R10.

EVENTS

MANDELA SCIENCE LECTURE. "Why Viruses Continue to Threaten our Lives" by Nobel Laureate David Baltimore. Wits Great Hall. Today at 12pm.

MASKED DANCES AND SECRET SOCIETIES IN CENTRAL AFRICA seminar by Ben Smith. Origins Centre October 9 at 6pm.

NIGHT UNDER THE STARS. CAF brings you the closing function. Hotel Devonshire, Jorissen street next to Debonairs. October 12 at 6pm. Cost R50 CAF members and non members R70. Contact Athi on 072 651 8200

EXHIBITIONS

ARCHITECTS DRAWINGS. A range of drawings undertaken by Dirk Bahmann, Thorsten Deckler, Peta de Jager, Heather Dodd, Leon Krige, Silvio Rech and Colin Savage, curated by Sally Gaule. School of Architecture & Planning. Fassler Gallery-John Moffat Building. Running until October 30 from 9am to 4.30pm.

UBUNTU. Discover a world in a compost heap, plants with a taste for meat, animals that have algal symbionts that allow them to use the suns energy more directly. Oppenheimer Life Sciences Buildings October 10 to 14 from 9am to 4pm on weekdays and 10am to 4pm weekends.

WORD FORMS AND LANGUAGE SHAPES. An exhibition by Willem Boshoff. Standard Bank Gallery, cnr Simmonds and Frederick streets. Every weekday from 8am to 4.30pm and Saturdays 9am to 1pm.

PARTIES

CHRISTOS ALBUM LAUNCH. Deep Soul Sessions present the Channel O House Explosion 2- DJ Christos, Dj Vinny da Vinci will be playing. Zambezi Lounge, Louise Botha Avenue. October 6. Tickets R60 before midnight and R80 after. Dress code: smart (no sports wear)

THE BEST OF LEVIS VINTAGE SUNDAYS. Performances by Zubs, Lira, Arno Carstens & Albert Frost, Tidal Waves and DJ Kenzhero. Bassline, Newtown. Doors open at 8pm. Tickets R50.



D-DAY

The Clever Boys are set to take on Jomo Cosmos in South Africa's richest Knockout competition, the Telkom Challenge. The must win encounter will be held at BidVest Wits stadium today, Friday at 8pm in what promises to be an entertaining encounter.

Smart Wits athletes shine

Rugby season woes

LENYARO SELLO

WITS athletes swapped their tracksuits for smart evening wear and showed that they could rock off the field as well as on at the Sports Awards Dinner 2007 at Sturock Hall on Wednesday evening.

The most prestigious awards of the evening, Sportswoman and Sportsman of the Year, went to Odette Richard for gymnastics and Andrew Polasek for rowing.

Richard has been ranked number one in Africa and South Africa. She won five gold medals at the SASSU Gymnastics Tournament and was selected to represent South Africa at the World Student Games in Thailand.

Polasek was first in the South African and Gauteng Senior Lightweight Sculls event and in the Victoria Lake Senior Lightweight Sculls event. He was also selected to represent South Africa at the Rowing World Cup in Austria.

The awards were presented by ex-Witsie and former midfielder for the South Africa National Women's Football Team (Banyana Banyana), Lydia Monyepao. Monyepao chairs the Soweto Ladies Football Club and is currently an accountant for the 2010 World Cup Organising Committee.

Full Blue Awards - recognition for exceptional achievement, performance and commitment in Wits sports - were presented to Gisella Bascelli, Katie Lambert, Claudia Hazelwood and Andrew Polasek for boat; Wayne Josselson and Pumelela

Matshikwe for cricket; Allerdyce Fulton and Natasha Glassford for gymnastics; Ryan King for karate; Emma Boyd for mountain; and Jeremy Holcroft, Brennan Robinson and Derrick Robinson for yachting.

Oteng Tlapeng from table tennis won the Sports Administrators Award. The Meritorious Service Awards saw boat athletes Bronwyn Jackson and Sean Kerr shine, as well as Irene Mansour and Conan Olivier (administration), Kelly-Anne Robertson (mountain), Oteng Tlapeng (table tennis) and Doug Wood (golf).

The Mel Siff Sportsmanship Trophy went to Zain Fredericks in cricket.

The Boat Club scooped the Sports Club of the Year Award. Chairperson



Sports man and Sportswoman of the year Andrew Polasek and Odette Richard with Lydia Monyepao
Photograph by Lenyaro Sello

of the Wits Sports Council Kathryn Robison gave the athletes words to live by in their quest to be the best in what they do: "Train hard, party

harder and keep the passion." The honoured guests were treated to a night of glitz and glamour and they truly know how to get down.

JUMA FORD

THE RUGBY season came to an end on Thursday night with the regional competition finals.

The regional competition was created after the league ended. The finals were between the Pirates and Southern Warriors, which is made up of Wits, union rugby club and the police rugby club. Pirates won 28-18.

Southern Warriors was given a difficult game. There was a lot of foul play and they wasted opportunities with poor ball-handling. However, one positive for the Southern Warriors was the excellent performance by both their flanks, captain Grant Mitchell and Charlie Hodgson. There were only five Wits players in the senior squad.

Charles Kirsten, head of the rugby department, was not impressed with the regional competition. He said that it was extremely unorganized and cut the session short for the lower division teams because of all the confusion.

"(The regional competition) was just irritating for most of the clubs. No one knew what was going on. Hopefully next year it will be fixed," he said.

Next year's pre-season begins on January 15.

Stumped by rain

ERICA DREIJER

WITS' league cricket match against Old Parktonians ended in a draw last Sunday, when the game was called off due to bad light.

A practice came to a halt the Thursday prior to the match, as a result of heavy rain. And when players arrived at Old Parktonians for the match, they were met with a green wicket and wet outfield.

Croxley Wits won the toss and had to bowl first. Inconsistency in our play and five drop catches allowed Old Parktonians to reach 228 before being bowled out.

Just as Wits came in to bat, the rain came down, forcing players to wait 35 minutes for it to clear. This resulted in the loss of seven valuable overs.

Matt Benton and Andrew Kirkland got Croxley Wits' innings underway, but three overs in, Benton fell to a poor shot.

Russel Tindale and Kirkland almost got a partnership going, but an expansive shot by Kirkland made him pay for it with his wicket.

Captain Neil Whinspear and Tindale got a good partnership going before Tindale was bowled out for 42.

Whinspear and coach-player Aldo van den Berg were at the wicket with only 22 overs to go and needing 120 runs. Whinspear played a match-winning inning before he was bowled out for 72.

The umpires called the game off with only seven overs to go.

Upcoming fixtures:

Croxley Wits Saturday four against Old Maristonians at JCE Educational Campus, from 1pm.

Croxley Wits will be playing Soweto at the Elkah stadium in Soweto on Sunday at 9am.

Wits' second team against Randburg in Randburg on Sunday at 9am.

IF you can't get Chuck Norris to walk you home, a self-defence seminar might be useful. You won't be taught the Norris round-house kick, but self defense expert, Pierre Jordaan, will introduce you to many useful karate techniques to help you feel safer in Jozi. The Wits karate club will be hosting a self defence seminar in the Old Mutual Sports Hall on Thursday, October 11 from 6pm to 8pm. Tickets are available during lunch hours at the Sports Hall. For more information contact Ryan at 083 245 4237 or Tasha 083 411 4014.

VUVUZELA



STRIP TEASE AT KNOCKANDO
CONQUER YOUR FEARS

2 PROTEST VICTIM SPEAKS OUT
5 THE DARK SIDE OF SOCCER

4
8

Wits changes

ERICA DREIJER

WITS' campus is set to undergo a large metamorphosis in the next three years when management is planning to spend R351 million to upgrade university facilities, mainly for science, engineering and technology.

Part of the money comes from a R205 million grant that the Department of Education (DoE) has agreed to give to Wits.

The grant forms part of the DoE's drive to improve education in the country by ensuring that more people will have an opportunity to receive a university education.

Professor Yunus Ballim, Vice Chancellor of Education, explained to *Vuvuzela* that the money was earmarked to help Wits "grow the Wits student population to 28 000 by 2010". Currently, around 25 000 students enrol at Wits each year, but in order to grow, additional facilities were required.

Wits had an obligation to "produce graduates that can bring about change in the world they work in, by seeing things in new ways. Students must leave here with values and a positive influence on the world they live in," Ballim said.

Focus areas for management are the current skills shortages in science, engineering and technology (SET) disciplines. Improving the facilities available to teach subjects in these fields will allow management to meet the criteria set by government for addressing these shortages.

As part of the DoE's mandate, Wits needs to make sure that a healthy balance is maintained between the enrolment of business and management and humanities students in relation to SET fields.

The main thrust that the money will be used for includes upgrading and building new teaching venues to allow more students into lecture halls, improving teaching facilities by upgrading laboratories and computer facilities and creating additional teaching support.

Structural changes planned include building a new undergraduate science building to help increase capacity for SET students. In addition,

plans have been submitted to complete the fourth quadrant of the Chamber of Mines building.

The total budget allocated to create the new undergraduate science facility is R178 million. It "is the biggest initiative" that Wits will be attempting, and it will help to increase capacity for SET students, Ballim explained.

"We haven't quite thought where we will be putting this building. One of the ideas, which I happen to like, is to put up a building up on Jorissen street [where the parking lot currently is] with a walkway across to Senate House. Science needs to stay on the main campus – the cluster and facilities are here," he continued. The new building would include four levels of parking space below four levels of classrooms and laboratories.

By completing the Chamber of Mines building, and upgrading teaching facilities, Ballim aims to create "the best undergraduate facility for engineering available in South Africa." R70 million has been budgeted for this project, of which R42 million will be for adding the new wing and the remainder will be spent on improving the facilities.

In addition, management has proposed to extend the FNB building on West Campus – which is currently used as lecture halls for undergraduate engineering – by building two extra lecture halls that will be able to seat 450 and 350 students, upgrading existing lecture halls and creating more seminar and tutorial rooms.

"Our plans are already approved, and we can start immediately; in fact, we will start turning soil in November," Ballim said.

Other plans include improving teaching support by spending R16 million over the next three years, to help students deal with academic demands for post-graduate studies.

"We also want to increase the teaching facilities, the minister [Naledi Pandor] has put an important



ZEAL-OUS AFTER BEING SACKED: Suspended SRC member Zandile Dladla. See full story on page 3.

Photo: Phakamisa Ndzamela

imperative on us to improve throughputs [i.e. pass rates], and this will help to address this issue. The money may be spent on tutors or lecturers or on software to help teach better, but it's about improved teaching and learning support," Ballim explained.

In order to qualify for the grant from the DoE, management needed to agree to strict criteria by the minister relating to the university's undergraduate and post-graduate breakdown (i.e. 70% of students need to be at an undergraduate level), growing the student population, the "shape" of the university with regard to the numbers of students enrolled into different disciplines and improving pass rates. All these factors have been taken into consideration in allocating resources.

The remainder of the funds will be coming from donations and other money available to Wits.

Ballim told *Vuvuzela* that the university "will ring-fence every cent of the interest we earn on this money [from the DoE] so that the interest is also spent on these projects, so under no

circumstances will we receive this money and spend it on other things".

In due time, the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Loyiso Nongxa, will also be announcing two other initiatives that Wits is planning, that will help the university with this step-up, Ballim said.

"What this means is that governance and senior project management is going to become important for these initiatives; this is not a task that we can do here. We are going to employ a high level position for a capital programme manager that will get total oversight on all our new projects and make sure the financial governance is hygienic and everything is properly reported to donors, to the Department of Education, to council and our senior executive team.

"The proper procedures are in place. We are not giving work to our family members or to our friends with good connections.

"All that has to be above board," he concluded.

Debaters return to World Champs

SEAN RITCHIE

WITS DEBATERS will be jetting off this December to compete in the World University Debating Championships after being absent from the competition for several years. From December 26 to January 5 the team will be competing against universities from across the planet.

Joe Roussos, president of the Wits Debating Union, says that the trip will be a debating and personal highlight for the eight Witsies who will be travelling to Assumption University in Bangkok.

"We are very excited now that it's actually happening. It seemed for a while that we might not get there, but now we have our plane tickets and registration numbers."

The Debating Union will be sending three teams of two people and two adjudicators to the world championships. According to Roussos "you need a good balance" in the team so there is a mix of younger and older students with one first year and three second year students.

The team heading to Bangkok are debaters Richard Stupart, Johnathan Haenen, Joe Roussos, Philip Williams, Alexander Sloan, Zweli Makgalemele and adjudicators Samantha Rothbart and Gergana Givanova. Roussos speaks warily of the trouble the Debating Union had securing the funds needed to get to the



NO ASSUMPTIONS: These eight people will be representing the Wits Debating Union at the World University Debating Championships in December. Photo: Sean Ritchie

competition. He says they first attempted to get private funding through companies but ended up having to cover most of the R90 000 bill themselves.

The final part of the bill was covered with a donation from a source who wished to remain anonymous.

The team is also planning to have some fun during their stay in Thailand. Once the competition is over several members of the team intend to spend some time backpacking around Asia before they return to South Africa.

Zweli says he is looking forward to the experience of "Worlds" as well as travelling to Lagos and Cambodia. "I need to look up where those places are," he quips.

Traditionally the world championship is dominated by universities like Oxford and Cambridge. "Oxford Debating has a building as big as Wartenweiler Library," Roussos comments.

He continues, "You can't really compete with them; debating is an institution up there."

The team's personal aims are to make it through the knockout rounds and be the highest placed South African team, for which Roussos rates their chances as "promising".

Locally, although they didn't make it into the finals last year, Wits is usually one of the top four universities competing in the national debating competition.

Rothbart says, "There is a friendly rivalry amongst the universities. We push each other to do better."

Researchers chairing for Wits

ERICA DREIJER

WITH a minimum annual boost of at least R30 million for research for the next five years, Wits is set to remain top of its game. Wits has been awarded 12 research chairs out of a total of 51 released by the government to encourage local economic growth.

"I think it is actually a very good initiative. It will help us to train people at the highest level and gives us access to knowledge to allow us to participate as global players. It allows us to get access to the highest technologies and an understanding of how they work at a worldwide level," said Professor Tshilidzi Marwala, who holds the chair for Intelligent Systems at Wits.

"There's a saying that if you want to look at a country's potential to grow, you need to look at the number of masters and PhD students ... coming through," Marwala said. Currently, Wits' composition of post-graduate students is at 30%, but the long-term plan is to increase it to 50% of the total student population.

It's not unheard of in other parts of the world, said Professor Belinda Bozzoli, Vice Chancellor for Research. "Canada is one of the other countries that also have a chairs programme. It gives universities a big injection of research money."

"Universities need a financial boost, as the government is not funding us properly. They want to fund at a

research level, as it correlates with financial growth in the economy."

Most funding from government is generated from two sources, she explained. The Department of Education is the biggest source of income; in addition, universities get their funding from the Department of Science and Technology (DST), which mainly focuses on research in developing countries.

Each chair is worth R2.5 million a year for five years. This period is renewable for an additional 10 or 15 years. "By government investing in universities by giving out research chairs, [it] gives universities enough time and money to do the research, and the research also gives the university a big advantage," Bozzoli said. The government is planning to extend the number of research chairs available in the country to 210 by 2010. The next round for applications will start in the next couple of months.

To date two rounds of applications for research chairs have taken place. During the first round, the government agreed to fund 20 chairs and during the next round an additional 31 chairs were established. Marwala was one of four researchers at Wits who qualified during the first round, and an additional eight researchers from Wits were awarded chairs during the second round.

The main focus is on engineering and the health sciences, but Wits was also awarded a chair in history and humanities.

"Chairs are given to the best proposals. And it is up to us to make sure that we put in exciting and viable chairs. The best university wins," Bozzoli said.

To win a chair, it helps to have an already strong research component. "Quality attracts quality," she said. The eight new chairs awarded to Wits include: Professor Bruce A Bassett (Research Chair in Theoretical Particle Cosmology); Professor Maureen Coetzee (Research Chair in Medical Entomology and Vector Control); Professor Robert de Mello Koch (Research Chair in Fundamental Physics and String Theory); Professor Heinrich W Dirr (Research Chair in Protein Biochemistry and Structural Biology); Professor Christopher S Henshilwood (Research Chair in the Origins of Modern Human Behaviour); Dr Shabir Ahmed Madhi (Research Chair in Vaccine Preventable Diseases); Professor Helder Marques (Research Chair in Bio-Inorganic Chemistry) and Professor Viness Pillay (Research Chair in Pharmaceutical Biomaterials and Polymer-Engineered Drug Delivery Technologies).

And the previous four chairs include: Professor Phil Bonner (Local Histories and Present Realities); Professor RJ Durrheim (Exploration, Earthquakes and Mining Seismology); Professor Diane Hildebrandt (Sustainable Process Engineering) and Professor Tshilidzi Marwala (Intelligent Systems).

Knockando reveals all

FARHANA ISMAIL

Residence life does have its perks - or its drawbacks, depending on how you look at it.

The girls who live at the Highfield Cluster residences on Wits education campus couldn't help but look, as a bunch of dancing and singing male students did a strip show for them on Tuesday night.

After a few drinks, approximately 100 young men from Knockando residence in Parktown walked the short distance to the education campus and stripped, in what has become known as the annual "knock-strip".

"The guys usually wear lab coats and aprons with nothing on underneath," said a Knockando resident who refused to be named. "When they get there they strip outside the residences. The girls lock themselves in, peep out through the windows and take photos."

He said the "knock-strip" was organised between the respective house committees of Knockando and the three Highfield Cluster residences - Girton, Medhurst and Reith.

"The girl's res's are well aware of what is going to be happening. They don't have a problem with it," he said.

Lewis Molefe, accommodation officer of Highfield Cluster, said: "It's a tradition that has gone on for over 30 years. The students are well

controlled and campus control and Melsan security (an outside security company based at the education campus) is there to oversee everything."

Molefe stressed that even the Assistant Registrars of Knockando and Highfield Cluster, Nazeem Randera and Lydia Sekati put in an appearance to ensure nothing went wrong.

"There have been no reports of assault and there are no incidents except that the students are having fun," he stressed.

He admitted that seeing the students in their birthday suits was funny. "Some are half dressed and some strip right down. Many wear masks so you can see everything except their faces. This way the girls don't recognise them in lectures the next day," he said.

While Vuvuzela was going to print, reporters received an email exhorting them not to use any photographs they might have received of their butt-naked selves.

"If you received any photographs, please may you kindly blur the faces of our resident students in respect of their privacy as this is a secret Knockando tradition that takes place every year."

We've got news for Knockando. It's not so secret. And sadly, Vuvuzela didn't receive any pictures. But please note, we'll gratefully receive any private Knockando privates, captured on cell phone camera.

FEATURES

Creepy crawly get-together

ERICA DREIJER

SIMULATING a mini-earthquake was only one of the "cool" experiences that those visiting this year's Yebo Gogga exhibition could experience.

The exhibition, called Ubuntu in Nature, is all about how humans, animals and plants "should learn to live in partnership with each other", explained Professor Marcus Byrne of the School of Animal, Plants and Environmental Sciences (APES).

Organisers estimate that between 6 000 and 8 000 people will be coming to see the exhibition this year.

On the first day, about 650 children from 12 schools all around Johannesburg came to see the exhibition.

"Some schools made a day of it by visiting the exhibition, Origins Centre and the planetarium," said Alistair Hay, a second year APES student.

Kids enjoyed each exhibition so much that it was difficult to get



EATING OUT OF YOUR HAND: Feel the fear and do it anyway.
Photo: Erica Dreijer

them to move from one stall to the next.

At most stalls, visitors had the opportunity to interact with the displays.

For the brave Melissa Hier, it was a delightful experience overcoming her fear of scorpions, when she held one and learned that not all scorpions are dangerous.

"I was so scared. I thought it was going to sting me. It's the first time I ever held a scorpion. I didn't even feel afraid," she boasted.

Children were told about the value of a dung ball –that it does not only serve as food or a place for dung beetles to lay their eggs, but that male beetles also use it as a courtship gift (much like humans use roses or chocolates!).

Bronwyn and Bridgette da Costa "loved the baby owl. It's so cute and fluffy. We love it most," they said.

Unfortunately the cockroach race didn't take place on Wednesday, as "they are Madagascar Hissing cockroaches, which are extremely laid back. I will see if I can persuade my roaches to race or alternatively I will need to use crickets," exhibitor Donald McCallum explained.

Jason Damerel loved the snake exhibition. He even dragged all his friends along to come and see them.

"They're just cool creatures. I guess they are misunderstood, that's what they are," he said. But then again, he keeps them as pets.



TRUSSST ME: A Scared Summit S-College Student S-hold-S a Slimy Snake.
Photo: Erica Dreijer

"I also like snakes. I just wish they would rather be vegetarians," said Hay.

Vuvuzela also learned that people tend to confuse violin and sac spiders, but that they are equally dangerous as "both release cytotoxic venom that attack skin cells and tissue, whilst button spiders release neurotoxic venom which is easier to treat," exhibitor Ruan Lambrecht explained.

For those interested in attending the exhibition, it is hosted at the Life Sciences Museum and Oppenheimer Life Sciences Building and will be running until 4pm on Sunday. Access is free.

For more information contact Cheryl or Nelly at 011 717 6470.

Rocking to a good cause

SEBABATSO MOSAMO

TWO Witsies are members of a 14-week-old band that is already making waves. Saving Jessica (SJ) performed at Tanz Café in Bryanston on Tuesday night.

The five-man band was formed three and a half months ago for a cause, to save a 15-month-old girl called Jessica suffering from neuroblastoma, a cancer that forms on the nerve tissue and can affect the kidneys, the neck, the chest or the spinal cord.

"It started off as a benefit concert to raise money for the Childhood Cancer Foundation (CHOC) and Jessica," said Peter Klein, bass guitarist for the band – and the rest, as they say, is history.

They have been working with CHOC to raise awareness and support for cancer.

This unique band is made up of five young men with different musical backgrounds to form a dynamic sound. Band members are Jason Beck on lead guitar and vocals, Siphwe Sax on drums and vocals, Viwe Ngubegusha, acoustic and vocals, Cue Bogatsu the producer and of course our very own in-house bass guitarist Peter Klein.

Klein is a third year Mechanical Engineering student at Wits and has been playing the bass guitar for eight years. He also dabbles in "a very, very little bit of the piano. It's always nice to be part of a cause," he said.

Gareth Russell, who calls himself the "operations director" for SJ, takes care of the band's technical needs, such as ensuring that all the equipment is ready and in tune.

He is doing his fifth year in architecture at Wits and was featured for the first time on set with the band on acoustic guitar. He blended in very well on stage, and despite a few blunders, the band recovered like professionals and the crowd agreed.

Asked to describe their sound, Beck and Sax responded: "It is a South African fusion of hip-hop and R&B while still influenced



SAVING JESSICA: Viwe Ngubegusha, Jason Beck, Siphwe Sax, Peter Klein, Cue Bogatsu.
Photo: Sebatatso Mosamo

by what we call rock.

"It is a fusion, it's got different elements that aren't absorbed by the other elements," said Bogatsu.

The band has been enjoying the fruits of their labour since they hit the music scene in July.

After seeing SJ for the first time, businessman Chris Boberk donated R2 000 to the band and CHOC. "There is a cause that needs help and I am prepared to help," he said.

The band's most popular song, the CHOC song, will be hitting the airwaves soon, said Klein. "We all got together in Sax's garage one day to write a song for CHOC and it all just came together," he said. "It is definitely our most popular song by far. It is our main song and it is what we are about."

"It is a message that needs to be conveyed from the child and the parent's point of view as they are the most affected," said Sax.

For more information on the Saving Jessica Project log on to www.facebook.com and join the group.

Full steam ahead

MELISSA DOUMAN

JCE RES students who spent three months in the dark and had to take cold showers throughout winter are back in hot water.

It was reported in the 17th August edition of Vuvuzela that JCE was experiencing a three month long, hot water shortage. But now, according to an email sent by Emmanuel Prinsloo, Director of Property, Infrastructure and Management Division (PIMD) at Wits, four of eight backup gas boilers are up and running.

The additional four backup gas boilers are anticipated to be up and running by the end of October. These will in future provide a hot water supply to the residences in the event of a steam supply failure from the Johannesburg General Hospital boiler system. A failure of the system at the Joburg Gen was the root of the hot water shortage at JCE.

As for the electricity shortage, students say that they still suffer blackouts from time to time, but these blackouts have been controlled to the floor where electricity use is unacceptably high. This control has ensured that the three residences do not spend nights in the dark. "I am so glad that it has been sorted out. I don't think that I can handle studying by candlelight for my final exams," said a JCE res student. The June exams proved to be a very difficult period for these students who had to study in the cold and dark.

Fashion doesn't melt

VUVU VENA

BARNATO Residence enjoyed their third annual fashion show on Saturday, despite the rain.

With free entrance, Barnato residents and other students came out for the night, even though the venue had to be moved indoors due to the weather.

The models were dressed by G10 in men's suits, by Callaghan in cocktail dresses, and by other fashion houses, including Studio 88, Hip Hop and Cameroon.

The Barnato house committee approached fellow residents to put together this year's fashion show. This organising committee was made up of Babhekile Khushi, Babalwa Xego, Rorisang Lebetho and Portia Malemane.

"We invited up and coming designers," said Khushi, "three from Pretoria, two from Gandhi Square and two from Wits."

The two Wits designers were Brigette Mashile and Lindelwa Mbebe, who are both studying for a BCom. With hardly any training, they both design and put

garments together from scratch.

Due to the short notice of the Barnato fashion show, Mashile said, "We used items that we had already made, some from the Wits Fashion Society and others from customers."

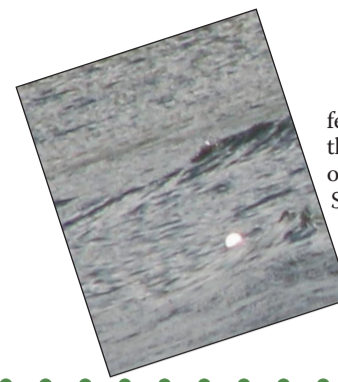
Mashile said that the fashion show served to expose them to the Wits community, especially West Campus, but she doubts it went beyond Wits.

Due to time constraints, trying to juggle their passion for fashion with their final year studies, they do not advertise their designs. People find out about them by word of mouth.

However for Mashile, if an opportunity to study fashion designing arose, she would grab it with her ambitions of becoming the best designer in South Africa.

The catwalk was paraded by 15 models, male and female, from Barnato, Sunnyside and Men's Res. They underwent serious training from a Barnato resident before the event.

"It started off badly with the rain and everything was delayed. But it was a success," said Khushi.



PLAYING WITH WATER
 Come splash out and support fellow Witsies as they participate in the Water Polo League at the pool on East Campus by the Matrix on Saturday October 13 at 1pm.

The fighting spirit of Wits soccer

JUMA FORD

DON'T bother to wait for the next season of *Footballer's Wives* to see soccer players fighting on the pitch over issues totally unrelated to the game.

Emotions boiled over right here at Wits last Monday night, after the semi-final of the Wits internal soccer league game between FC Cruzeiro and Ron Burgundy, a team primarily made up of Wits cricket players.

The Ron Burgundy team ended up winning, but the real action, which had been simmering during the game, finally spilt over when play ended.

A first year law student from the FC Cruzeiro team, who wished to remain anonymous (Let's call him Mr Cruz), got into a fight with a player from Ron Burgundy (Mr Burg). Mr Cruz would not reveal the other player's name either.

But unlike the Clever Boys fight, which originated in on-field antics, the issue between the two players was personal.

"It was not soccer related," said Mr Cruz. "It was a culmination of personal things that had finally reached escalation."

Mr Cruz said he wished to remain anonymous since the players were currently involved in a court battle. But he refused to comment on what it involved.

Both play in the midfield, which meant they were running at each other throughout the game.

Mr Cruz said his issue with Mr Burg was a source of inspiration at first but, as the game wore on, it became more of a distraction. By the end of the game, all he could think about was the off-field problems he had with Mr Burg. However, he did say it didn't affect his physical play - just his concentration.

Mr Cruz was suspended after the fight. But he met with Wits Sports Officer for Football Dennis Tshabalala, who witnessed the fight, on Wednesday to plead his case. He said he was sure he

was suspended because they thought the fight was over soccer issues.

After a meeting with Mr Cruz, Tshabalala said "his suspension was upheld till we decide otherwise". He also said that the other player involved in the incident was not suspended because "he was the victim."

Mr Cruz had hoped to overturn his suspension because he also plays in the student league. They are not only in the provincial finals vs Tuts, but have qualified for the nationals. He said he hated to miss out on those games for an issue unrelated to soccer.

"The reason I was on the FC Cruzeiro team was because my friends asked me to join the internal league for the last few games."

He said the suspension had only compounded "the frustration that was already building up because of the legal battle and family issues."

Asked who won the fight, he replied with a "no comment".

SELLO SELEBI AND JUMA FORD

YOU could have sworn it was 1975 when Jomo Sono dashed across the sidelines of the Milpark Stadium as if to score one of his legendary goals.

Only it was last Friday night and "Bra J", as he is affectionately known, was rushing to rescue his heir apparent, who was involved in a scuffle in the stadium tunnel.

His son, Bamuzi, who is Jomo Cosmos midfielder, was on his way to the change rooms after an off the ball incident with Bidvest Wits player Phil Evans. The referee Thabo Nkosi, after consulting with his assistants, gave both players their marching orders.

"Don't fucken touch me," young Sono was seen uttering, in television reruns of the incident. Sono has been included by Bafana Head Coach Carlos Alberto Parreira for the showdown with Italy.

This was after several apparent attempts by Evans to reconcile, on their way to their early shower.

Bidvest Wits Sports Officer for Football Dennis Tshabalala said normally the players would be escorted by security guards, but this time there was only one guard.

"But surely they overpowered [the guard]," said Tshabalala.

He was expecting the Premier Soccer League to hand down its decision today after a disciplinary hearing which was scheduled for yesterday.

The incident was the only blemish in an effective 2-1 victory for Cosmos in the Telkom Knockout. Cosmos opened the scoring after 62 minutes with a deft header from the star of the night, Anthony Laffor, who netted twice.

Ashraf Hendricks equalised for the students a minute later. Laffor sealed the victory for Cosmos when he netted from a Dikgang Mabalane pass.

Bidvest Wits next league home game will be against Santos on Saturday the 27th.

Here come the bookies!

JACKIE BISCHOF

WOMEN are generally fickle sporting creatures. Most of us (and I am grossly generalising here) would rather sit by the bar in huddled (generally naughty) conversation over gin and tonics while "our men" scream their lungs out at other men screaming their lungs out. It's not often that sporting competitions bring groups of women away from intense discussion of profound topics - religion, politics, sex, *Desperate Housewives*.

But as the rugby semi-finals approach this weekend, it brings a tear to my eye to see the integration of the sexes in front of the TV. Beer cans cluster with gin bottles, Dunhill Infinite Lights and Marlboro mix like happy members of a 60s communal family.

As we sat around the TV last Saturday, watching New Zealand get taken by France, I felt a satisfied glow as the women were happily accepted into the fold (of the couch) and the men beamed as they answered a variety of questions.

As I'm a curious girl by nature, I learnt a lot about the game on Saturday. For example, why the coaches all wear matching shirts when they watch a game. What the "sinbin" is (I love that word), and what an up and under kick is. I learnt that rugby is played backwards, not forwards, and that France has this huge Viking who would be better placed on a battlefield than a rugby field.

I have watched the World Cup betting pools with interest (I have no money to part with, thankfully), and have found out it's better to be educated than, well, ignorant when gambling.

If you haven't caught onto the rugby mania, or haven't placed your bets yet, there's still a chance. I sought out the two main rugby men on campus and asked them their opinions on the Springboks' performance so far, and who they predicted to win.

Charles Kirsten, head of the Wits Rugby Club, believes the Springboks could be doing better, and have "not shown their true potential as yet. We almost gave the game away to Fiji who were more motivated and hungrier to win."

Kirsten believes France stands a good chance of winning because they are on home ground and have a point to prove. They were also in the last three semi-finals.

So far, so good - I think I know what's going on. But then Kirsten lapses into rugby boy jargon. "To win the cup the Boks need to keep the ball with the forwards, and set up the fazes, or in order for the back line to score tries. We can't have guys trying to run it all by themselves (Francois Steyn). The Boks need just to do the basics right and will be victorious."

Wow, looks like the boys are going to have to do a lot of explaining to me this weekend.

Kirsten predicts that the Springboks will beat Argentina in the semi-finals by a margin of about 10 points, and will end up playing in the final against France.

Mike Rowley, Wits' Rugby Player of the Year is slightly less optimistic. He initially bet on New Zealand to win the Cup, and feels that during the quarter-final against France "they were robbed... the referee was shocking."

Rowley feels that Argentina have had a great World Cup, and stand a chance to be in the final. He adds that most of the Argentinian players play for French clubs, and so are technically on home ground. France has been "temperamental" and he doubts they will be able to put on three consecutively good performances - from quarters through to the final. As for the Springboks, Mike sighs: "They've been playing well, but they've also been lucky." He agrees with Kirsten that the Boks have not been playing as well as they could have.

Rowley has put his money (figuratively of course - he probably lost it all in his New Zealand bet) on a France - South Africa final, with South Africa winning with less than five points over the French. But he warns: "The French are dangerous if they're having a good day."

While I'm not really a betting woman, there is one thing that I'll bet my money on for this weekend and the next. That the last thing the girls will be doing is engaging in intellectual conversation over a martini at the sports bar. Instead, they'll be right next to their boys, showing their mettle as educated rugby supporters. I certainly will be!



UP THE BOKKE: Percy Montgomery in SA vs Samoa, June 2007.

Photo: Michel Bera, wikipedia.com

Cricket cancelled

ERICA DREIJER

ONLY Croxley Wits' third team managed to play cricket last weekend, when the other scheduled matches were rained out.

Croxley Wits came up against Old Eds in a Sunday 1 League match that took place at Wits.

Old Eds batted first and was bowled out for 123 in 50 overs and Croxley Wits made 264/4 when they batted. Good performances came from Peter Vonya (35), Peter Bendixon (50), Michael Chilvers (70) and Bheki Ngulube (68).

The opposition was sent in again but ran out of time and the Students could only manage a first innings win.

Best bowlers for Wits were Brent Clark who took 4/23/10 and Chris Chilvers who took 2/10/6.

Upcoming fixtures for this weekend:

Saturday:

Croxley Wits against Roodepoort City at Sturrock Park in a Saturday 4 League match.

Sunday:

Croxley Wits against Azad Swaraj Sporting at Progress Grounds in a Sunday 1 League match.

Croxley Wits against Jeppe at Sturrock Park in a Presidents League match.

Wits set to lose head

ERICA DREIJER

WITS will be losing Professor Deborah Posel in two years' time since her husband has been appointed vice chancellor at the University of Cape Town.

Posel's husband, Dr Max Price, was the previous dean at the Faculty of Health Sciences at Wits and will be taking over as vice chancellor at UCT when Professor Njabulo Ndebele's term comes to an end in July 2008.

Posel is the director of WISER and told *Vuvuzela* that she will only be leaving Wits after her son matriculates.

"I will stay at WISER until the end of 2009, which gives us plenty of time to plan for a new director," she said

"I am very proud of him, it's a great achievement.

"He's an outsider to Cape Town and UCT; the other two candidates were both insiders..."

"According to UCT they appointed the best candidate.

"His deanship turned him on to senior management."

And "on the strength of his experience as dean, he realised he

wanted to do this."

Price had applied for the deputy vice chancellor position at Wits, which Professor Yunus Ballim got.

Price left Wits in July 2006 after his second term as dean came to an end, and has been working as an independent consultant with the Department of Education

He served as dean for 10 years.

And in his period as dean, "he oversaw a series of innovations" and changes in the Wits Health Sciences Faculty that have allowed Wits' medical centre to maintain its position as one of the best in the country.

Some of the projects spearheaded by Price include a major restructuring of the medical curriculum, including the introduction of a new Bachelor of Health Sciences degree, a graduate entry medical programme, the inauguration of the Wits Donald Gordon Medical Centre, and new academic programmes in rural health, emergency medicine and others.

Posel started WISER (Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research) in July 2000.

Wits had identified a gap to create a

research space for social sciences and "wanted to do something different".

The vision was for it not to only be a space that did research, but one for intellectual debate and exchange, for research to become more "energised".

"It's very sad in a way. WISER is my baby, it's been very rewarding.

"I have had very exciting times here. I was privileged to start something and build it up," she said.

WISER is well known on campus for hosting discussions and conferences on topical issues like crime, the effect of HIV/Aids on society and political and gender issues.

Posel describes it as a "space where academics and practitioners can engage", that "brings the university more forcefully into the public sphere".

WISER attracts international audiences as well as local audiences and is open to the public as well as students.

"I often get asked by students if they are allowed to attend, and I want to extend an open invitation.

Every single WISER event is open to anyone that is interested," she said.

Maths literacy eases SA educator shortage

SEBABATSO MOSAMO

THE UNIVERSITY-BASED Marang and Radmaste Centres are working together to provide educators with an Advanced Certificate in Education (ACE) through math literacy classes. This initiative is aimed at addressing the shortage of maths and science teachers - a worldwide phenomenon.

The ACE programme provides educators who are not qualified in mathematics but received good marks in the subject with "re-skilling" in teaching mathematics. By giving these classes, the centre is finding a new and creative way of dealing with the crisis.

"This is exciting. Anywhere where there is a problem, there is an opportunity," said Professor Jill Adler from the Marang Centre. "We think it has great potential to work."

When applying for a Bachelor of Education (BE) degree, students have a choice of two subjects. The major subject is taken for four years and the other subject for two years. For those who take the math and science route, a majority choose maths as their first subject ahead of science. "People think math is easier," she said. The low numbers are a result of various reasons, such as a lack of financial aid for students who want to become teachers, a lack of monetary incentives for teachers and the heavy workload that teachers have to carry.

"The payment scheme is not progressive even for those at the highest levels," said Gundry.

"Salaries are not competitive. Student teachers go overseas to get a better salary," said Meg Doidge, a biology and science education lecturer.

Adler and her colleagues say that the lowering of entrance requirements into the profession will encourage more students to apply.

"There are flexible ways of working with entrance requirements," she said.

Through the provision of good bursaries for those going into these professions more students will apply. There is a recruitment drive to market teaching as a profession," said Adler. "The BE programme is excellent and we can produce more teachers than we currently are doing," said Gundry. The School of Education unanimously believes that the country has the capacity to produce good quality teachers and solve the shortage.

"Of course we do, but it won't happen without investment of resources and patience. It will take some time," said Adler.

Engineers hit the road

MELISSA DOUMAN

A TEAM of eight Mechanical Engineering students had the time of their lives this past weekend, when they showed off and raced their model car.

This is an annual competition that has been running for the past 12 years. Wits have taken part in the last eight. The aim of the competition is "basically, to put theoretical knowledge into practice, as well as learning how to work in a team," said 2nd year and team captain, Adam Rossman.

The guys said that the project was independent from their coursework and as a result they did not get funding from the university.

"A car like this costs a minimum of R20 000 to build," said Rossman.

This year, they were sponsored by The Yellow Pages.

It took a whole year to build. Mechanical Engineering lecturer, John Stires, and team leader Gerard Hamilton guided the team in building their model car.

The race was held at the Geratek Testing Facilities which is close to Hartbeespoort.

Universities and technikons from all over the country took part.

Three teams from India came down to take part and in previous years, there were students from Delhi and Iran also taking part.

The two day competition was divided into sections that gave points for design detail, breaks, manoeuvrability, top speed and acceleration, traction pull and hill climb.

It also included a four - hour race, around the track. The top cars managed something like 60 or so laps around the track in four hours. They had to brave a tough terrain of muddy ditches, rocky slopes and lots of dirt.

Chris De Saxe, also in 2nd year, was responsible for ergonomics (driver comfort and acceleration). He ensured that the rocky drive was as comfortable as possible.

The car took poll position for having the top speed and quickest acceleration of 44 km/h. "It has been higher in previous years, where top speed reached 56km/h," said Tim Hall who was responsible for steering, design and suspension.

In the early part of the race, the Wits team managed to hold 2nd place but then started to experience steering problems and a bending plate. This caused them to have a pit stop every half hour. The result was that they only completed 20 laps. Top teams in the race completed around 60 laps in four hours.

Rossman and David Berman worked on transmission and drive train of the car and Dylan Hemer, Nick Sim and John Hancock who also formed part of the team, worked on various aspects that had to do with building



MEAN SPEED MACHINE: 4th year engineering student Gerard Hamilton driving Wits Car 29.
Photo: courtesy John Stires

Mandela and Wits unite for kids

ERICA DREIJER

THE NELSON Mandela Children's Fund is in discussions with Wits to build a children's hospital in Gauteng.

In 2006 Nelson Mandela announced that based on the need for a dedicated children's hospital, the children's fund will be building a hospital that will be able to serve countries in the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

The children's fund is considering partnering with Wits, based on the university's strength of being "one of the leading assets in research, teaching and capacity building for Africa's development", said Oupa Ngwenya, spokesperson for the fund.

"There's a synergy between Wits' medical school and the children's hospital, especially in paediatrics," said Professor Loyiso Nongxa, Vice Chancellor and Principal of Wits.

"We see the academic value of a referral children's hospital and will be exploring with [the fund] what their needs are and what it would mean for the institution. But we are very keen to enter into a discussion," said Nongxa.

In recent years, South Africa's child health care demands have increased greatly due to an influx of children from neighbouring countries.

A need was identified for "a dedicated children's specialist referral hospital, not just for children



WORKING WITH WITS: Nelson Mandela announced in 2006 that a children's hospital is required in Gauteng.

Photo courtesy www.anc.org.za

in South Africa but for children in SADC," said Ngwenya.

In Australia, with a population of about 20

million people, 19 children's hospitals exist and Germany with a population of 82 million people has 20 children's hospital, while the SADC region, which is home to 283 million people, only has one children's hospital.

Currently, there are only three children's hospitals in Africa: the Red Cross Children's Hospital in Cape Town and The Cairo University Specialized Pediatric Hospital and Moniera Children's Hospital, both in Egypt.

A need for a specialised children's hospital is also driven by the fact that there is a difference between children's health care needs and those of adults. According to Ngwenya, children require health care that is responsive to and supportive of their physical and socio-psychological needs.

A second children's hospital in South Africa will help to ease the burden of providing specialised child health care on the Red Cross and serve as a complementary service to the paediatric services offered at Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital, Coronation and the Johannesburg Academic hospitals.

At the moment, discussions are still at a "feasibility level" but indications from the children's fund are that Wits is considered the "desired partner" from a training, education and research perspective.

Gauteng was identified as an appropriate area,

since it is the economic and transportation hub for South Africa and the SADC region and is the most densely populated province the country.

In addition, Wits might also be involved as a landowner, since it "owns two of the four sites that have been identified to build the hospital on", Ngwenya told *Vuvuzela*.

The sites owned by Wits include JCE in Parktown and Frankenkeld, which is next to the Marlboro off-ramp on the N3. Other sites identified include Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital in Soweto and TMI adjacent to the Constitutional Court in Parktown.

Pre-feasibility studies were completed at the end of 2006 and feasibility studies will be completed by December 2007. These will provide direction on the range of services provided, the size and location of the hospital, the legal persona of the hospital and issues regarding financing the hospital.

At the moment, paediatric services under consideration include: oncology, cardiothoracic, pulmonary, endocrine, craniofacial, orthopaedic and a transplant unit.

Construction will start in 2010, Ngwenya said.

In the words of Nelson Mandela: "Our bodies may give in to the force of age, but the dreams that lie in our hearts may not retire."

HIV support on campus

FARHANA ISMAIL

"HOW do I go about getting an HIV test," asks the curly-haired Witsie as she approaches the assistant seated behind the desk at Campus Health in the Matrix.

Counsellors and nurses at Campus Health are used to this question and they are also happy to help.

"Most students who come for testing to Campus Health are not positive - only a small fraction is," says Campus Health HIV/Aids counsellor Sister Bongiwe Sithole.

Sithole says Witsies are counselled from the moment they present for an HIV test.

During the pre-test counselling session, she asks her clients: "If you are found to be positive, how will you deal with it? Who will you tell?"

The response is usually: "I'll tell my mother, I'll tell my family" or "I'll tell my partner".

"But others need to accept it first and deal with it. Only then do they feel strong enough to tell someone," she says.

But once the test is done at Campus Health, Sithole may say to her client: "You are now positive. We need to establish how far you have gone with this infection."

It is then that the student is referred to the Thembalethu Clinic at Helen Joseph Hospital for "further management" if they are not on medical aid. "If a student has medical aid he or she can see the private doctor practising at Campus Health."

This "further management" involves a cd4 count test. This is a test that

counts the number of immune cells (lymphocytes) that help fight infection. A normal CD4 count ranges from 1 100 to about 800. The HI virus targets this cell. Once the CD4 count reaches 200 or less, a person has full blown Aids. "It is then that ARV [Antiretroviral] treatment is introduced," says Sithole.

She says many students also return to Campus Health after the CD4 count test for further counselling and support. It is then that they receive information around treatment options and healthy living. They learn that ARV treatment is not without its snags.

The sign on the wall adjacent to the door of Sithole's office lists different ARV drug regimens. The sign itself highlights the complexities of ARV treatment and different regimens. It states: "Anti-retroviral treatment guideline.... SA HAART regimens ARV categories...."

Even in deciding which drug to use, the medical practitioner is faced with a whole range of questions, says Dr MG Lamola, Resident Medical Office.

"We have to consider the side-effects, disease profile, pregnancy status, access to resources and other medication the person may be on. It has to be a well thought out process."

Once on an ARV regimen, there are still further considerations. Non-compliance and non-adherence to the drug regimen can result in drug resistance and the patient no longer benefits from the medication, says Sithole. "The problem is that, because of the side effects, some people think: 'let me give myself a break.' This is when drug resistance sets in."

Minor side effects can include dizziness, vomiting and pins and needles.

"Despite those side effects, you need to adhere to the drug regimen," she says. "After some time, these side effects may gradually disappear."

During the counselling sessions at Campus Health, students are also

shown that having the HI virus need not be a death sentence. "It may not be easy when a person just finds out, but it is possible to live with HIV," says Sithole.

Students are advised to do everything possible to keep themselves healthy.

"I tell clients to cut out on junk food, drink lots of water, exercise, and no

smoking. An unhealthy lifestyle speeds up the process of the virus," she says.

The compromised immune system means that, each time a person feels sick, they should "come in for a consultation and not ignore the illness."

"Being HIV positive also doesn't mean that you cannot have sex. But always use protection."



A VARIETY OF ANTI-RETROVIRALS: Treatment literacy is needed in ARV use.

Photo courtesy www.whitehouse.gov

VUVUZELA

A JOURNALISM AND MEDIA STUDIES PROJECT
PRODUCED WITH THE SUPPORT OF MEDIA24.

Mbali is not Manto

IN LIGHT of the Mondli Makhanya, Jocelyn Maker and Manto Tshabalala Msimang brouhaha, many comrades at Wits University have been saying that the *Vuvuzela* article on SRC president Mbali Hlophe is not different from the Manto Tshabalala Msimang article published by the *Sunday Times*.

Some share the sentiment that just like Makhanya, who faces prosecution, equally the two *Vuvuzela* journalists and whoever else is responsible should be arrested. This view stems from the comparison between Tshabalala's medical records and Hlophe's academic records, the common denominator being that the former and the latter are personal.

For the record unlike the allegations of theft against the *Sunday Times* editor and its journalist, the two journalists from *Vuvuzela* never stole any academic records. Not to mean that Makhanya and Maker stole the minister's records.

Further the two *Vuvuzela* journalists never handled any academic records of Hlophe. They were given a convincing brief by a source in an inner circle. The next step was to confirm with all the stakeholders affected and that's how the story was cracked, finish and klaar.

What will always remain a mystery among many journalists is that the same people who attack the media are often our very close sources of information. The very same people that attack the *Mail and Guardian* and *Vuvuzela* in the context of Wits University are the same people that rush to newspaper stands on Friday to read what's making headlines.

Maybe it's just because of eagerness to know and see whether the stories they have leaked have made it to the front page.

To access *Vuvuzela's* Code of Ethics, go to www.vuvuzelaonline.com. If you feel the code has been breached, please bring this to the attention of the co-ordinator by emailing vuvuzelaneews@gmail.com. If the co-ordinator cannot resolve the matter, it may be referred to the Board of Media Trustees for adjudication.

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Zandile reinstated

PHAKAMISA NDZAMELE

ZANDILE Dladla has been reinstated as the outgoing media and publicity officer of the Students' Representative Council (SRC).

She was removed from the SRC last week after sending a press release to management, lecturers, students, media personalities and institutions.

SRC secretary-general Thembi Mabuza said Dladla had been reinstated on condition that she make a public apology through *Vuvuzela*, print posters on campus and write back to the people she had sent e-mails to.

Mabuza said Dean of Students Prem Coopoo and the legal office had questioned whether the meeting that removed Dladla from office constituted a quorum. SRC clubs and society officer Selaelo Modiba alleged she believed she was signing an attendance register but discovered her signature was used in a campaign to remove Dladla.

Mabuza said in addition the meeting that removed Dladla had not been called on three days' advance notice, according to SRC procedures.

Quizzed on why Dladla was removed she said "she was not clued up on things, she said that negotiations were continuing but they had stopped and she said that the strike was over but it wasn't."

Dladla said she had never been expelled. "It's a shame that I had to be the Vusi Pikoli of the SRC. We are now re-united and I apologise to the student population, sincere apologies for this whole issue. We had greater matters to deal with such as fee increments and the students must not worry, the SRC remains intact.

"We respect them [students] for voting us into power. It's a shame that we allowed mini politics to get in the way. I apologise for all my wrongs and all my rights if they were wrongs to other people.

"Some of the SRC members admitted to throwing my stuff into the trash. I forgive them as we forgive those who trespass against us. I love all the members who supported me and the ones who didn't support me I love them more."

SLICE OF LIFE

Driving me up the wall

MY HUSBAND and I belong to a generation that is not scared to use our mental powers, but shirk at the implications of having to use our hands.

Do-It-Yourself is something you watch other people do or, as is the case in James' family, attempted with a butter knife, cello tape and a piece of string.

Thus, things that normally help to turn a house into a home and give people the idea that someone actually "lives" here, in our house gave the impression that we had newly moved in, were moving out, or running some kind of "at home decorating store".

We would wait for opportunities to turn unsuspecting house guests into "handy-friends" by performing small tasks or, when things got out of hand, James would resort to his favourite modus operandi: throwing money at the problem - we would hire "Dial-a-Handyman" to create some order.

Recently, after weeks of feeling as if we were walking into a store and too embarrassed to abuse another friend, we decided that the time had come to slay the DIY monster ourselves.

The task of mounting pictures and mirrors that have been decorating the floor for months lay like a mountain ahead of us.

Being procrastinators by nature, it was either something that we collectively - as a newly wed couple



Erica Dreijer

- would overcome or collectively it would overcome us.

On Sunday morning early, I sowed my first seed of "let's just get on with this" and by mid-morning had motivated James into action with "okay, let's do this". He was going to be the driver of nails into walls, after all.

One might be surprised to find out that a couple so averse to handy work actually owns a perfectly "well-rounded" and fully stocked toolbox - but in our defence, that's more for pretences and... to ensure we have the right tools when calling on our friends.

We hauled out the tools we have seen others using before: a hammer,

Hilti (yes, we even have one of those!), measuring tape, plaster (a handy hint from my mom that will apparently ensure that the walls won't crack), nails, ruler and stepladder.

And so our journey across the mountain started.

We jumped into the deep end by trying to align a set of three pictures, which except for being too high came out perfectly. Gaining momentum, we moved on to simpler tasks requiring only a single nail procedure.

House-proud and perfectly happy that the task was behind us, we looked around... It was over, and so easy... We have learned a valuable lesson: eat that monster, before it eats you!

CAMPUS CELEB

MARY Tennat, a kick-ass violinist, is a first-year BMus student. She made her way to the Dulcé in Senate House to tell us why she became a musician, what she thinks about music and the world and what all of you future musicians need to do in order to make it in the business. And now **Juma Ford** presents the interview:

Why did you choose to play the violin?

I don't know. I was so young so I really can't remember. I don't know, it just felt right.

Why did you choose to go to Wits?

Because I got a scholarship and I'm from Joburg so it was convenient - and Pretoria University accommodations are too expensive. I'm glad I came to Wits 'cause Tuks is much more classical and I've learned so much here [at Wits].

What's the best thing you like about classical music?

How no matter how many times you play a certain piece [of music], you'll never play it in the exact same way. Also, there's so much that you can play.

What's your favourite type of music?

You can never choose, but obviously I love classical. And recently I've started to love jazz and I really love ska.

What do your friends think about you playing the violin?

Many of my friends are student musicians here at Wits so most of my friends understand. They also have an understanding of the love of any music, and the rest, well, maybe they think I'm silly, but it doesn't really matter to me. And it's good to have the support of your parents.

What do you think you'll do after school?

Well, one of the interesting things about music is that you never know where you will go with it. I'd love to go overseas but there's so many new avenues to explore here in South Africa.

What's your number one concern about the world?

People not appreciating what is there in front of them,

not appreciating what they have, what they love - 'cause my friend is doing classes that she hates and every second you do that is a second wasted.

What direction do you think South Africa is going in?

I'm not sure, but I don't think it's going in the same way as Zim, and some other African countries. Things could be a lot worse. We've come so far, so we shouldn't throw what we have achieved away and we can always achieve more.

What do you think about the recent protest at school?

Protesting is fine. I don't want fees to go up either, I pay my own fees, but you should go about it in a positive way. To go into the lectures and disrupt them is really selfish. I think a lot of it was based on people being uninformed ... I mean everything is going up.

What would you tell new, young talent about music?

Be passionate about it, if you're passionate it will get you far. Talent can only help you so much, it's passion and perseverance that will get you through the rough times. If you don't have passion and perseverance then maybe you should do something else. Oh yah, if you want a place to go to find about all music events and anything else about music then you should go to www.impresarioevents.co.za.



The blind can lead the blind

VUVU VENA

THE Wits School of Education in partnership with Media Works has begun testing innovative training materials for deaf, blind and partially sighted adults.

About two million South Africans live with conditions that affect their hearing or eyesight. Frequently, their careers and lifestyle are limited because of their inability to acquire basic skills.

Media Works, which is accredited by the Education and Training Sector Education and Training Authority (SETA), specialises in Adult Basic Education and Training (ABET). As the developers, Media Works is running this programme as a pilot at Wits University.

"Government is currently one of the main employers of deaf and blind adults. Our hope is that these training solutions will significantly increase employment opportunities in other sectors.

"The development of these materials went hand-in-hand with the objective to create employment opportunities and we are thrilled that the courses can be taught and facilitated by deaf and blind adults," said Jackie Carroll, managing director at Media Works.

The course materials are being put to the test by a group of deaf, blind and partially sighted adult learners under the facilitation of Wits students. These students have registered for a BA Adult Education Service Learning course, and they do this as a practical part of their course.

This programme was developed over a two-year period at a cost of more than R2 million. The design came about in consultation with community groups and organisations representing deaf and blind people around the country.

The main point of the programme is to enable deaf and blind adults to progress to National Qualifications Framework (NQF) level one (basic education). This falls under a broader framework on which all education levels

are positioned. NQF level one is equivalent to grade nine, this will provide them with the basis from which to access further education.

Head of the Wits School of Education, Mary Metcalfe, said "Once people are literate, they can proceed to higher education. Some universities offer support for blind and deaf students."

Metcalfe said that the motivation for this programme came about through a group of staff dedicated to adult literacy and social justice. They became aware of the need.

"Adult literacy is an urgent matter of social justice and redress and access to literacy for deaf and blind learners even more so. The Wits School of Education is pleased to be part of this groundbreaking initiative," said Metcalfe.

Learners currently on the course are in their early 30s to late 40s. They are all working adults who attend four hours of lessons every week at Wits.

"The English literacy and language programme for deaf adults has proved to be a phenomenal success, with the learners making real progress with every lesson," said Heidi Bresler, who is heading up the facilitation process.

This programme is endorsed by the Deaf Federation of South Africa (DeafSA).

The Braille course material for blind or partially sighted learners is the first such material to be launched anywhere in the world. European and North American countries are set to follow suit next year.

Nita Lawton-Misra, Head of the Disability Unit, said she stumbled across information on the programme in the Wits Intranet. However she said that because their department already has equipment that might assist the programme, they would be more than willing to.

"We are quite happy to assist them in this process," said Lawton-Misra.

Mzansi Millionaire will keep on Rizing



Wits' new millionaire: Stima Mongale winner of the reality tv show Rize Mzansi
Photo: Lenyaro Sello

LENYARO SELLO

Ever wondered what it takes to be a millionaire? Could it be "creativity and team work"?

Whatever the recipe, Witsie Stima

Mangole, a fourth-year Quantity Surveying student, and his business partner and good friend Cleopas Dube have done it their way. Having won the reality show Rize Mzansi which rewarded them with R1 million, Mangole says the next step to success is to "keep the millionaire status and grow the business".

Mangole and Dube's business was competing against 11 other companies for the prize. On June 3, this year South Africans were taken into the lives of entrepreneurs as they tried to complete their tasks every week. The show depicted the highs and lows of small businesses and was aimed at motivating small businesses.

The winning company was a collaboration between Mangole's Thwantsa Company and Dube's Ekasi Graphics. "We had the same target market, and different talents that could work together. I did the advertising and he did the graphics," said Mangole.

The partners heard about the show

and thought to enter, trying their luck. "I did not think we would win," Mangole quipped.

Though the partners of what is now called Ekasi Graphics are laughing all the way to the bank and enjoying the fruits of their labour, it has not been an easy ride; they were eliminated in episode ten. "We got a second chance to get back into the game, using our ubuntu points."

Ubuntu points were points accumulated by the contestants throughout the show. The points were calculated on how many jobs they created. Ekasi Graphics had the highest points and was back in the game.

The winners were judged on their BEE status and how they will use the money to expand business among other things.

"Because we outsource printing, we will buy machinery and improve infrastructure. We will also grow our staff and give back to the community."

We have a riskier attitude – of just jumping in and doing things, because it might be fun," she explained.

For Loveday, it was an honour when the head of the Schönberg Centre told her that her piece "was so fresh. He had never heard anything like it." For her, it is more important how musicians react to her music than audiences since they have a better sense of the music as opposed to audiences that "only listen to it once".

"I loved working with such professionals. They are so committed to what they are doing instead of just hacking out music," she said.

She is of the opinion that musicians in South Africa focus too much on Europe and America for inspiration in their compositions.

Loveday thinks that South Africans have a lot of imagination, which they should explore to find their voice. "I think our students really have something valuable to offer the world. What worries me is that we are not encouraging them. We focus too much on the Western style.

"We [as South African composers] have something very valuable to offer in a European context," she said.

Loveday explained "art music by definition should always be seeking out new areas, and not capture the past. We might be developing in some ways, but man, in terms of ideas and imagination, we're good,

"You can always tell honesty in music. It's so clear and it's so fabulous," she concluded.

Over in a Blink

ERICA DREIJER

CLARE Loveday blinked and her trip to Austria was over.

It took Loveday six months to compose Blink, which was performed by some of the top saxophonists in the world at the opening of the Arnold Schönberg symposium earlier this month. Blink was inspired by the changes and restless energy that are part of life in Johannesburg.

For Loveday, a lecturer in Music Theory and Composition at Wits, it was all worth it, especially when "all these terribly serious musicians" called her composition "cool," she said.

Having her piece performed in Vienna made Loveday realise "there are people that want to hear what I want to say in my music. You [as a South African] go to these things all apologetic... but we have something to give." And the experience has given her much more confidence in her own ability, and the abilities of other local musicians.

Loveday was part of a group of five composers, of whom three were from Africa, whose music was performed by the Ensemble Reconcil. The other African composers were Michael Blake (South Africa), with whom Loveday worked closely, and Justinian Tamasuza from Uganda.

"What was common about the African work is that we are less afraid of convention.

YOUR VOICE WHAT IS SEXUAL HARASSMENT?



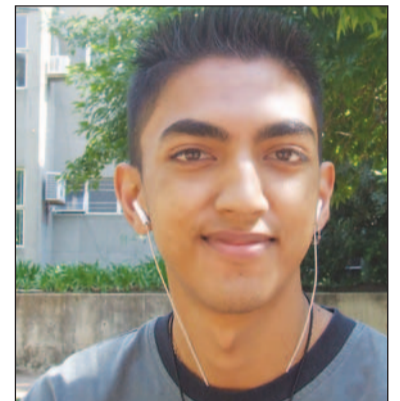
An infringement of a constitutional right.
Andrew Van Zyl, 19, 2nd year Chemical Engineering.



A light way of saying "possible rape."
Zulaika Halifa, 18, 2nd year Metallurgical Engineering.



I don't want it to happen to me.
Diana Tong, 19, 1st year BA General.



An invasion of personal space.
Samer Ram, 19, 1st year Chemical Engineering.



Anything that involves my body or personal space, an invasion to that space.
Cherae Halley, 20, 2nd year BA Dramatic Arts.



When someone does something to you that you don't like and it's sort of sexually related.
Ororiseng Godwin Mokoka, 19, 1st year Mechanical Engineering.



FOOTBALL CELEBRATION
THE Clever Boys will play against Santos Football Club tomorrow at the Bidvest stadium. The match will kick off at 15:45. Organisers of the match are trying to incorporate the match as part of University's 85th birthday celebration, and in good spirit the *Vuvuzela* will be giving away ten tickets to the match on a first come first serve basis. Get to Richard Ward 507 between 1 and 2 to get your ticket.

Forgotten: Wits student soccer team

JUMA FORD

THE CLEVER BOYS are not the only clever soccer players at Wits University. The student soccer team (No nickname as of yet, maybe just The Students?), after a tough week, have come out in the top three in the Gauteng Provincial League.

Despite the students' fantastic finish, all is not roses. A few of the players are not happy with the support, or lack of it, they receive at Wits. This unhappiness also includes an apparent lack of a structural programme to help students break into the professional team.

Tshifhiwa "Chief" Maphala, an MSc student in Engineering, claims that

although Wits has the biggest soccer programme in Gauteng they get the least support from students and faculty. "I think it's time that we get some support from anyone."

Thandanani Mbhele, a 3rd year Wits student and team captain, said that the problems with the student soccer programme go beyond a lack of support.

He believes there needs to be a system to help students get into the first team. "We wish they gave us a space for us (Students) to get into the team (Clever Boys). There isn't a structure to help us get in."

Mbhele also said that "Some young students come here [to Wits] because

of the first team but there's no direct link". He believes the situation may come back to bite Wits when former Wits students come back playing for another team, and score a winning goal.

However, according to Denis Tshabalala, Wits Sports Officer for Football, there is a very good reason for the current apparent lack of structure between the student team and the first team. According to him it has nothing to do with a lack of support for the students.

Last year the student team did not qualify for the provincial tournament and were on the brink of being relegated. "Unfortunately for this

year, we had a lot of plans but then we found ourselves fighting relegation. Unfortunately we need to first fix the in-house problems before creating a structure between the students and the first team."

Wits brought in a new coach to help in avoiding relegation. Kgabo "Mr. Fix-It" Ditsebe has been successful since the student team is not only in the top three but they have also qualified for the nationals. They are one of three teams representing Gauteng, excluding UJ, who are the host.

Last week was a busy week for the students. On Tuesday the 9th they played Tuks in the semi-final game. The game ended 0-0 and Wits ended

up winning on penalties. According to Mbhele, "We started off slow but as the game progressed we were all over them...and that's not being biased".

The final was played on Friday the 12th between Wits and Tshwane University of Technology (TUT). Wits lost 2-1. Mbhele claimed that both goals, one in each half, TUT scored should have easily been avoided. The first goal was "Because the defensive was caught napping", and the second also came from a back pass mistake.

Wits did score from a penalty but were unable to break through TUT's defences as they spent most of the second half defending their lead.



Man of the moment: Six-packed Brian Habana is faster than Marion Jones on drugs. The Springbok's rugby jerseys may be sold out countrywide. That does not stop national fever from being as hot as Minki van der Westhuizen in a tasteful bathing suit. Go bokke, we'll be eating bilton and drinking beer in your support. HIER KOM DIE BOKKE!!!!
Photo courtesy of www.sandtoncentral.co.za

Wits sets rules of the game

ERICA DREIJER

WITS ruled when we beat Roodepoort City in a cricket league match played last Sunday.

Croxley Wits' third team scored 239/9 and bowled Roodepoort City out for 80 runs.

Player-coach Zain Fredericks told *Vuvuzela*: "We gave them a bit of a batting lesson, even though they weren't bad bowlers."

He attributes Wits' victory to "putting into play what we had learned in the last month. We were disciplined in the shots that we played and our shot selection."

"Practice has improved our game in the last month. Our batting and bowling skills have definitely improved."

Top scorers were Fredericks (73) and Kurt McBain-Charles (41) and the best bowlers were Brian Ndouvhada (4 wickets), and Matthew Mashabela

(3 wickets).

"The Roodepoort City guys were really friendly. There was none of normal competitiveness and snobbishness found at other cricket matches," Fredericks said.

On Sunday, Wits' second team played against Jeppe in the Presidents League and the first team took on Azad Swaraj Sporting.

Azad Swaraj Sporting scored 220 all out and Croxley Wits got 65/3 when it started to rain.

And in the match against Jeppe, Croxley Wits assessed the wicket and decided to bat.

"We had a positive approach, but were bowled out for 211 all out," said Fredericks.

"We had a really good start, but in the last 10 overs, lost all of our wickets. We were really doing well from a bowling side and found some of their weaknesses but had to stop

playing when the rain came down."

Jeppe scored 100/4 when it started to rain. According to Fredericks, Jonathan Speller and Mark Thomas bowled really well.

Upcoming fixtures for this weekend are:

Croxley Wits will be playing Norbak Alberton at the Lindeque Oval in a Premier league match.

Croxley Wits will be playing Phillips Glenvista at the MBCG Oval in a Presidents match.

On Saturday Croxley Wits' second team will be playing Roodepoort City at Sturrock Park

On Saturday Croxley Wits' fourth team will be playing against Heidelberg at WEC

On Sunday Croxley Wits' first team will be playing Old Parks at Walter Milton B.

Underdogs triumph

JUMA FORD

THE WITS Football Internal League's (WIFL) Stewart Baxter Cup was contested last Friday between premier division team David Webster and first division team Ron Burgundy. The game was eventually decided through penalties.

When the final whistle for full-time was blown the two teams were levelled at 2-2. Extra-time saw David Webster score first.

They were unable to hold on for the win as Ron Burgundy struck back before extra-time was over. Ron Burgundy then completed the come-back by winning the penalty shoot-out.

This was the second football game involving Wits that had to be decided through a penalty shoot-out. The other game was the semi-finals of the Gauteng Provincial semi-finals. Wits beat Tuks but went on to lose the final to Tshwane University of Technology 2-1.

Thandanani Mbhele, the Wits student football team captain, had the misfortune of playing in both finals.

As a member of the David Webster team, he was now on the losing end of a penalty shoot-out.

He may have been feeling the pain of a second loss in a row but this was not the only reason he was hurting on Saturday. "Ja, it sucked that we [David Webster] lost, but it really hurts because Burgundy has cricket players on the team and we have players from the student soccer team."

Patrick Smith, a third-year accounting student and centre forward for Ron Burgundy, was much happier on Saturday. He said, "I thought we performed well in the first half, but in the second half our lack of fitness started to show and they started to dominate the midfield."

He said that the team does not train and is just a group of mates "that go out there and play with our hearts and then go out for a few laughs and the occasional drink".

No matter what Smith says about his team's lack of fitness, Ron Burgundy is a very good team.

Last year they won the second division. Winning the division promoted them to the first division.

This year they won the first division and the Stewart Baxter Cup which is played between teams from both the first division and the premier division. Not bad for a bunch of cricket players and buddies keeping themselves busy during the winter. Wits University has the biggest internal league in the country, comprised of 36 teams and three divisions.

If any registered students want to participate they can go to the open try-outs in the beginning of the year.

Teams are also allowed to have up to two students that are not official students such as exchange students, alumni and good friends of students.

Women have to do more than men

ERICA DREIJER

GENDER does still make a difference to people's lives, even at a privileged institution like Wits.

"South Africa is a very patriarchal society and Wits is not exempt from the results of this," said Professor Belinda Bozzoli, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research. "But in broad terms, we have managed to escape many of the worst features of a system which condemns many women outside privileged environments."

Uvuzela set out to explore how women perceived gender issues at Wits, which as an intellectual institution, is expected to be a progressive force within society.

According to Bozzoli, it's a general fact that women have to do more than men to get to the same posts. "However nice and kind people may be, we do live in a highly patriarchal society and this is one of the results of that fact. All oppressive systems make it difficult for individuals from the disadvantaged groups [in this case women] to achieve within them. Often this is more a result of structural rather than personal restrictions."

According to Professor Margaret Orr, Director for the Centre for Learning, Teaching and Development (CLTD), "People have their own view on the gender issues on campus. Men tend to think it's all fine, we're all equal now, everything is sorted and women don't quite feel that. There are still a lot of gender issues," explained Orr.

"The acid test for transformation is you want to get a reaction.

"Embarking on a transformation initiative and - this is so cool, and this is so nice - you are probably not doing enough. Transformation is painful and people don't like pain and you are going to get negative and positive reactions."

For Dr Sheila Meintjes, who lectures in feminist politics and Gender Studies, it's not simply a gender issue. "I think there are disparities between academics and the administration that are unjust and unfair. It's more an issue of the way we, as

women, negotiate our position at university, because of the fact that women don't promote themselves as easily as men do. That's an issue. Women are judged more harshly than men around performance, especially when trying to balance a family life. And I think that women are still in fact in charge of the home in many ways," said Meintjes.

The differences that exist appear to vary across disciplines and are affected by seniority and race.

"It's different in different faculties," said Dr Ashleigh Harris, senior lecturer in English. "I know from colleagues in Science and Health Sciences, that those faculties are extremely patronising. It's a male domain. In the Humanities there's ways of resisting those kinds of assumptions."

On the issue of age, she added: "There are instances where I have seen other women being accepting of being patronised. Often around the notion of being a young scholar, so: you're a young scholar - that's sweet."

"In some instances, it's not just family-related, it's also an insecurity bred of an institutional culture that makes more young women than young men perhaps feel that they are not doing enough. It's a complex set of facts," she offered.

Meintjes thinks society is "still very male-centric. I think that it's still very difficult for a large number of young women students. It's still very difficult for younger women to be promoted as well."

Bozzolisaid she did experience a "sense of unease" among some men "at the presence of a woman in a position of authority." "Competitiveness in academia is notorious and it is no surprise that this sometimes takes the form of tensions between the genders."

"Young women then don't challenge the structures. I don't think that you can easily lay blame either way, but I also think there is the glass ceiling problem - it might be easier for young women to go from lecturer to senior lecturer, but up to associate professor or professor

- that's where it gets tricky, which is evident in the numbers," Harris said.

While Orr believes: "It's 10 times worse for black women. They have the double whammy."

Harris thought it "telling" that, since academics are expected to produce research at an incredible rate, "most women - except for [Professor] Deborah Posel and Professor Bozzoli - that have managed to do a lot of research either have much older children or don't have children at all!"

Orr explained: "It seems that women are doing a lot of the low profile 'housework' in the institution just like they do at home. They are doing first year teaching, they are doing academic support, a lot of counselling with students, committee work and doing a lot of admin. So it's way more complicated than: they are not doing research papers."

"The public message is: it's a struggle, but it's possible and fulfilling, especially since a job in academia has a degree of flexibility," said Professor Deborah Posel, Director of the Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research (WISER).

"I don't think that the balance is particularly about academia," said Cathi Albertyn, Director of the Centre for Applied Legal Studies (CALS). "Yes, there's a struggle. I was raised with a stay-at-home mother - for me it's a lot about your expectations."

Orr added: "We are trying to be like our fathers and have a career and success and like our mothers by having the perfect house. We are killing ourselves with this Superwomen syndrome. You feel like a failure on all fronts because you are just barely hanging on at home and barely hanging on at work and you have these terrible decisions."

"On the one hand it's necessary to self-invest in the process of promotion," said Harris. "But because of the culture of guilt, of not doing enough, women's own internalisation of that guilt has resulted in them accepting that they should not be the ones promoted, and where you tend to see younger male colleagues having a far more

accurate sense of their worth at the university. It seems to be a gender culture: I am not doing enough, I am not doing it well enough."

"It's quite a dilemma," ventured Orr. "Do you fix the women? Is it the women that are the problem or do you fix the environment, their husbands? Do you go into Wits and say your criteria for recognising or emphasising one kind of academic work needs to change? You are not valuing the type of work, like counselling students and academic support, and as a university you should be noticing all the contributions."

However, Harris said that "a lot of the complexities of institutions are that it might look perfect on paper, but it comes down to the individuals in certain roles. In black and white it looks fine, but when you are engaged in the everyday life of an institution you do hit all kinds of complexities."

So have gender issues changed?

For Bozzoli, "it's a mixed picture." Gender inequalities are highly dependent on "where you are in society. For poor women in violent families and communities, things seem to be deteriorating rather than improving."

While, "on the other hand middle class women from all racial backgrounds seem to have made gains in recent years, in terms of the jobs they have access to, and the general acceptance of their rights to occupy significant positions in society."

For Meintjes "things have changed a lot in the last 20 years."

But Harris pointed to "sexual harassment claims being lost or not followed through. You do kind of wonder. It's about certain people, but it's also about an institutional disregard for what sexual harassment is. Those things symptomatically show where those glitches in the institutional culture around gender lie."

Bozzoli concluded: "Since we are the society with the highest rate of rape in the world, I do not think we have any room for complacency on the gender front."

ANC media battle

PHAKAMISA NDZAMELA

HEAD of the Presidency in the African National Congress, Smuts Ngonyama, told an audience at Wits University this week "the notion that the media was ideologically neutral and non-partisan was not true".

Speaking at a Wits University public colloquium on the ANC's draft media policy, Ngonyama said the ANC's interpretation of media and ideology stemmed from an analysis of various reports in the media.

He said in the run-up to the 2006 local government elections, some in the media said the ANC would have a decline in the number of votes because of lack of delivery, but the ANC in the end won convincingly. "We drew the conclusion that we were punished by the media."

In response, the ANC believed that it was faced by an ideological battle and the question that arose was whether the media was pursuing a certain agenda, said Ngonyama.

He added that another concern was that journalists made decisions on what stories to be covered but there was nothing said about journalists' personal preferences that might influence them in taking decisions. Also, "people drawn as beetroot, or with showers grafted on to their heads" and the question of cartoon characters "without any back-up analysis or fact" was the other gripe the ANC had.

Editor of the *Mail and Guardian* Ferial Haffajee said "anywhere in the world and especially in a robust African democracy" a health minister with an alcohol problem would be a story, because a health minister embodied the principles of health and a personal responsibility for one's own health. She argued this would be a fair and leading story for coverage in Nigeria, Kenya, Zambia, Senegal, Malawi and other countries, "yet here, this is now held up as a symbol of a media that is in essence on an ideological offensive".

Jane Duncan of the Freedom of Expression Institute said government advertising should not be used to punish the media and that advertising in the media should not be used as a potential censorship device.

On the question of self-regulation, Ngonyama said there was a fundamental issue that had not been addressed. He said there was little space given to the public and "that's where the issue of tribunal comes to the fore".

The thinking of the society was that self-regulation was favouring the media, he said.

Haffajee said the Press Council did have public representatives and that veteran journalist

Joe Thloloe was there as an ombudsman to address the concerns of the public around media.

Talking to the issue of diversity and funding models in the media, businessman Sakhumzi "Saki" Macozoma

said "in this ... capitalist mode of society, the reality is that as long as it is the shareholders' money that is used to create and to run the media, institutions will have certain shareholder [expectations]". He said it was not possible to have a commercial media without a shareholder expectation of profit. This was called "fund manager capitalism". He added that "if we don't pay attention to the recruitment and training of media people across diverse backgrounds we are not going to get diversity. We may get multiplicity of channels."

Macozoma said that diversity was not only creating institutions such as the Media Diversity and Development Agency (MDDA). "I also think that if we are going to make a difference, the Department of Education needs to embark on a programme to have media skills taught at schools, establish media centres for people to develop."

Media researcher Kate Skinner, one of the panellists said: "You may have a plethora of different media but if you don't have ... a whole lot of competing views you don't have media diversity".

Libby Young, a former CEO of the MDDA, said diversity was also about ownership, content and content producers, but ownership alone did not lead to content diversity. She added that giving the MDDA more funding would not necessarily make the media diverse. "It cannot alone achieve diversity because it only funds small and micro media." The MDDA could not assist small players in bringing a competition case against the big players because the big players were the major funders, she said.

Speaking on the role and the mandate of the public broadcaster and editorial independence, Minister of Communications Dr Ivy Matsepe Cassaburi said the public broadcaster had to try and engage all the people in South Africa.

Group Executive CEO of the SABC Dali Mpofu said universal access, plurality of views, and servicing underserved communities were very important. He said the issue was not only about geographic access but about class, language, gender and many other issues.

Dean of Humanities at Wits University, Professor Tawana Kupe said the SABC reached more members of the public than any media because of its language accessing - the SABC was unbeatable on that level.

Duncan said there was concern about the lack of a direct working class voice on the SABC board.

She said appointments were turning out a first economy board.

She added that if the SABC was going to represent everyone, then the constitution of the board needed to be taken seriously.



DISCUSSING THE ROLE OF THE SABC: Minister of Communications, Dr Ivy Matsepe-Cassaburi and Group CEO of SABC, Dali Mpofu
Photo by Phakamisa Ndzamelala

NEWS

Education

'wrong way round'

ERICA DREIJER

TEACHING, even if it is sitting under a tree, is the business that universities are essentially in, according to Professor Yunus Ballim, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic.

Ballim spoke to *Vuvuzela* about the responsibilities and the issues tertiary education institutions faced, especially in light of the recent strikes at Wits and the University of Johannesburg.

Funding was extremely important in redressing the past and helping South Africa's economic development, he said. But focusing only on this would mean missing the challenges institutions like Wits had to weigh up.

Ballim felt universities essentially had three core responsibilities in society. These were research and learning, teaching and scholarship and engagement with its community.

Of these, education was, in itself, a problematic area, fraught with challenges.

According to Ballim, "disproportionate numbers of students are registered in degree-awarding qualifications at university, as opposed to technician and artisan training".

"We're the wrong way around. It should be the other way around, especially in developing countries."

In addition, universities are also "carrying a load of a very fragile secondary education system, which they are expected to address".

"For me, a range of areas or battlefields exists. The one thing is, we must get the high school system right. It's a problem, and it's a problem that needs to be addressed.

"It's the quality of the teaching that goes on in the school systems, the way they are managed and how they are resourced. I think that we have a lot to learn from the rest of Africa. There are a lot of countries in Africa that do well in their school systems.

"I think that there is an enormous responsibility on universities themselves ... there are unacceptable failure rates, especially in third and fourth year, for which you cannot blame high schools entirely. We have unacceptable failure rates and unacceptable rates in postgraduate studies.

"Leading institutions throughout the world have the mentality that if we admit someone, it's our responsibility to allow them to pass."

These complexities affect institutions financially.

"The question is raised: if universities are expected to address these issues, then the universities need to be funded properly.

"You can't expect people who teach at universities that have a lot of research expectations, to also be the people that are concerned about pedagogy and the cultural issues that make good teachers."

According to Ballim, universities don't necessarily employ people "with good teaching skills, but rather to be competent at a certain level".

"So the nuances of dealing with a difficult learning history are not always obvious to academics."

Universities also had a responsibility to involve themselves in their communities.

"The challenge is for the university to recognise its place in its community," he said. Universities needed to recognise the contribution they could make in creating a more civilised view of ourselves as a human society.

"It's about critical engagement with the important matters of the human condition. That's what universities must do and what they must represent.

"We don't teach because we think that we are the custodians of the truth. We teach because we think that to intellectually engage with citizens is good for this country and for human views of the self.

"We live our lives next to some really serious deprivation. I don't believe that society can comfortably call itself civilised if we are able to let these two worlds live right next to each other.

"Universities must be reminded about the two-world problem that South Africa and Africa face. That's why it's so important to create structures and facilities to make sure poor people can come to university.

"If someone is really deserving of a place for our education, their financial conditions must not be a barrier. Students are right that we need resources.

"I'm embarrassed about the wastage that happens in this country. Fine minds get lost by the wayside. Inadequate advice, no money - that type of thing. Where you get students with As in high school and then see them as a night-watch three months later, that's really unacceptable."

But the "relationship between fees and government is a far more complex issue than simply saying the government needs to regulate fees," he said.

Funding should be a strategic tool. Both politically and academically, it was an issue that needed to be addressed with sensitivity.

"The case to be made for higher education is not an easy one. There is a discourse in this country where there is a focus on science, engineering for example.

"If you take a utilitarian view of education, then you focus on science and engineering and technology, because they feed into industry, and of course, it's really scientific achievement that makes the most visible progress. And society bows down to that."

But "the humanising benefits of a degree in English or history are not that obvious to society. Its ability to create a humanising effect is not obvious. You need to maintain a balance between humanities and science, engineering and technology."

Ballim felt one should ask if it was healthy for an institution that presented itself as a "social good" to be entirely dependent on government funding, or very strongly dependent on government funding.

"So the relationship with government will always be one of attention to governance and relationship," he said.

SRC in rooms dispute

FARHANA ISHMAIL

THE outgoing Students' Representative Council (SRC) is embroiled in a dispute concerning its clubroom allocations.

The Wits chapter of the Palestine Solidarity Committee (PSC) and War and Card Gaming, Anime, Role Playing and PC Gaming (WARP) have both raised objections, saying the SRC did not follow the correct procedures.

Nineteen clubs have been allocated space by SRC clubs and societies officer, Selaelo Modiba. The most sought-after space, said Modiba, is in the Matrix, but it was not possible to accommodate all applicants there.

According to the SRC clubroom allocation report, the main criteria used in deciding were "the membership numbers, proof for the need to occupy an office, and the amount of activities by clubs on the specific campus".

After negotiations between the PSC (which had been allocated a room in the DJ du Plessis building on West Campus) and the SRC deadlocked, the PSC decided to take its grievances to the Office of the Vice-Chancellor.

Chairperson of the PSC, Muhammad Desai, said the PSC was appealing a case of "unfair administrative action". He said there was "undue reliance" by the SRC on only one of the three criteria (membership numbers) and that scant mention was made in the allocation report of the other criteria. There was also inadequate explanation on how the criteria are used.

Of the five clubrooms that were allocated space at the Matrix, four had been allocated to clubs whose chairpersons are members of the

current SRC.

"Whilst we do not deny that those clubs could be justly entitled to the rooms, it is in the absence of an accountable and fair report that we have interpreted their actions as biased and highly irregular," said Desai.

He accused the SRC of using its administrative muscle to railroad this decision. "The SRC is telling us they are the ultimate decision makers and we just have to deal with it. They are using administrative power to silence our questioning of their decisions.

"Zakes [SRC Treasurer, Zakhele Maya] told us in a meeting, 'You have no right to appeal these decisions. We are the authority on this matter.'"

In a complaint sent to Lamese Abrahams of the Student Development and Leadership Unit (SDLU), which Abrahams forwarded to SRC administrator Jabu Sebeko and Dean of Students Prem Coopoo, WARP raised its objections to a proposed SRC reallocation of its clubroom which is currently in the Matrix.

"The Executive Committee and all of WARP's members find this completely unacceptable as WARP's current clubroom was assigned to WARP after two years of applying and waiting for a clubroom. The current clubroom was assigned to WARP by the previous SRC in accordance with the SRC constitution.... WARP will not be relocated and any SRC member who wishes to enter the clubroom from now on, will have to ask for permission to enter from the chairperson of WARP."

Current chairperson of WARP, Theodore Wonderlik, said the process

could "have been more transparent and followed protocol."

He said: "They didn't inform the executive that they reallocated us. They basically walked in and started taking measurements. They were planning to divide the room and allocate it to two other clubs."

But both Modiba and Maya say they cannot comment on the WARP complaint because the SRC has not received such a complaint.

Responding to the PSC complaints, Maya said that the SRC was in no position to compare the relevance of one club over another. He said that while other aspects like the history and activism of a club were considered, the clubs with the most membership were given preference in allocation of space at the Matrix because "we want to maximise accessibility of clubs and societies by students. The Matrix is a central place and you would expect that clubs with high membership numbers will have to be as central as possible.

"Numbers tell a story. If a particular club is active on campus that should automatically translate into the number of students who participate in that club."

Maya stressed that members of the SRC will always be members of other clubs too, and "this does not mean that the process is not transparent, justifiable, free and fair."

Dean of Students Prem Coopoo said, "Given that the current SRC's term of office comes to an end on 31 October 2007, I have asked Selaelo [Modiba] to finalise this matter by Thursday of this week."