

MADIBAZNews

News for the students, by the students

CAMPUS LIFE FESTIVAL STUDENT CONCERT



Photo: Bianke Fouche

By Vanessa Bodole

Once again, Nelson Mandela University has shown us it does not fall short when it comes to talent. The annual Student Concert happened on the 22nd of February and it was nothing short of impressive. South Campus's Indoor Sports Centre was thriving with singers, dancers, poets and other showcases of talent. The vibe in the air was fuelled by the highly energised crowd and impressive acts.

Vuyiseke "LoveChild" Lungiswa was the opening act and did so with a beautiful musical number of her own. The other singers of the night included Thokozani, Michael and Thandazile who each respectively covered songs by Billie Eilish, Katy Perry and [] Ne-yo. The Best Singer Award went to the lovely Akho, who effortlessly serenaded the crowd.

Then we were given a lesson in how to move. 'PE's Finest' was the first dance group to perform and they most certainly lived up to their name, while dance group, 'LOL' had the audience thrilled with their unique look. But in the end, the Best Dance Award went to Eclipse who showed off some seriously hot moves and won the crowd over.

Poetry truly flourished on the night. This was seen through the crowd's clear

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

We are all attracted to new beginnings: start-overs, the turning of a leaf, the sun rising on another day. Hence, this being our first edition of the year, it is brimming with the enthusiasm and excitement of new ventures.

This is new for me too. Appointed as Senior editor at the end of last year, I am still a toddler finding my feet. But I am like a New Year's fanatic, ecstatic as the fireworks explode over this new beginning of mine.

I am merely the captain of this ship. I have a crew alongside me that is the crux of this endeavor. My team, as will become evident, is a highly talented and passionate bunch. I'm proud of them and cannot wait to continue on this journey with them.

Our goal? We are "News for the students, by the students". We report and write because we love doing it. But we also do it for every peer we could potentially brush shoulders with on campus. We do this with every student in mind, hoping to inform, educate and entertain through the stories we cover and publish.

I would like to mention that Luthando Jack, the Dean of Students will be writing a monthly letter to us as students on the university's Student Affairs page. For this month's message just follow this link: <https://studentaffairs.mandela.ac.za/News/Discourse-of-Student-Life-Vol-1,-No-3>. As a broadcasting service, we understand the importance of, and our role in, bridging the gap between management and students at NMU.

We take the "Reasons to be Proud" conversation further by delving into a profile on one of our very own, the incredible Wandile Msomi who is making his mark in the world of international politics.

Following from that, we have a lovely selection of articles covering campus life, Valentine's Day and the upcoming political elections. We tickle your interest in the latest technology in sign language, tertiary education and sexual health. We know your life does not just exist on campus – we have you covered with PE's latest coffee spots and the off-campus festivals you will not want to miss in 2019.

Along with this publication, we run a MadibazNews blog where additional articles are conversations are sparked. Be sure to check that out: <http://www.madibaznews.co.za/blog/>.

Unlike New Year's resolutions, which mostly fizzle out, we promise to maintain our zest for this newspaper throughout the year. I look forward to a year of passionate journalism and an increasingly more informed public.

AMY WARD

adoration of poet, Atinkosi Sinjini who delivered an absolutely stunning performance, taking first place in the poetry category. The other poets of the night, such as Sinovuyo and Ashwin, undeniably gave the crowd pieces to remember.

Choirs from our various student accommodations also remarkably flaunted their voices. The UV choir led the way and performed a thrilling piece with clear inspiration from Sophiatown. LL was slightly late but compensated with an enchanting performance in their all black ensemble. Choirs from Omega, Laboria and Oceana followed, each bringing something different to the table. XM came out on top winning the Best Choir Award with their breath-taking display of a love story.

Other performers such as This Is Us, showcased a creative combination of singing and painting. Zelant, who did poetry, surprised the crowd by converting her poetry act into a dance. Musical group, Pointers treated the crowd to a soulful song and rappers such as Nimi gave the crowd just the right energy to get the night going.

All the while, the residences present were competing for the Spirit Cup award which goes to the residence with the most comradery and energy on the night. This stirred a liveliness in the audience that was present throughout the show and took the event to another level. After a final showdown between the residences, the ever-enthusiastic XM was announced winner of the Spirit Award.

What a night it was! Our very own students gracing the stage and proving once again that our university is bursting with exceptional talent.



Photo: BIANKE FOUCHE

CELEBRATING WORLD RADIO DAY WITH MADIBAZ RADIO



By Vanessa Bodole

World Radio Day clocked on the 13th of February and Madibaz Radio celebrated it in style. The station organised a charming set-up at the Rendezvous Café on South Campus for a celebratory breakfast to commemorate the station's journey and significance.

Melikhaya, the station's Programming Manager, led the crowd through the course of the event and wasted no time in announcing the first speaker. His co-Programming Manager at the radio, Hlubikazi Zibi, briefly walked us through history and reminded us that the station's first broadcast was on the 16th of September 2014.

Today, the online radio station carries 31 on-air shows and has earned about 10,000 listeners in its four and a half years of operating. Hlubi praised the student-run station for being an excellent development platform. The BA Law student used herself as an example, sharing how the job once lead her to receiving a slot on Supersport. Over its course, the station has also successfully groomed 20 interns, some of whom are now working under the Herald and Umhlobo Wenene.

Madibaz Radio, grounding itself in PE, caters to a youth-based market. Hlubi expressed how the entire team is dedicated to staying true to its 'connect, engage and inform' motto. The station tackles a wide range of areas from parties to politics to campaigns for awareness. An example of a project they've done is the #SheWalks initiative; which had their male presenters wear high heels to metaphorically give them a taste of the struggle in a woman's world.

Hlubi closed off by treating the audience to a comical behind-the-scenes video of the male presenters strutting - and stumbling - in the high heels they wore for the #SheWalks campaign.

Reggie Solani of Umhlobo Wenene then passionately took to the stage, highlighting his own journey that began on the campus radio. He advised how seriously the platform must be taken and how the evolution, and growing preference, of online radio cannot be ignored.

Mr Solani spoke of the impressionable and diverse listeners the radio reaches. "You are shaping someone's life, not just entertaining," he said. He joked about the stereotypical heavy bass 'radio voice', reminding us that it is not the voice but rather what you say that matters.

He applauded Madibaz Radio for balancing content between entertainment and critical issues in society. Mr Solani closed off with moving advice; to always remain humble and prioritise the listeners.

After a brief break for refreshments, the crowd was serenaded by the soothing vocals of Madibaz Radio's, Andisile Langa. He did a stunning cover of Rihanna's 'Half of Me' and had the audience charmed by the heartfelt song.

The last speaker, Thabiseng from UNASA, emphasised the power and importance of radio. She shared the rules and responsibilities the radio must comply with. One of them being linguistic diversity which about information being communicated in people's preferred languages. This makes it much more impactful and meaningful. Her intriguing presentation brought attention to problems facing the radio world and its listeners.

Melikhaya closed the function by enlightening us on the unbelievable amount of work that goes into radio. There is a lot more to being on-air than we might think. Using Mr Solani's final words, he repeated, "It's never about you, it's about the person that's listening to you".





Photo: Lithalelanga Vena.

WHY VOTE?

By Luyanda Mkhize

Nationwide all South African citizens stood in long queues to rectify their registration issues in order to vote for the political party of their choice on the 8th of May 2019. Within the numbers of people that filled voting stations, there was a noticeable misrepresentation of the younger generation, specifically students which has one asking; is voting still relevant to the youth of 2019?

Through a few interactions and debates with random students on campus, I found that a lot of the students who chose not to register to vote were grouped under three main sub categories, namely:

1. The "Why should I vote when my voice doesn't have a say" These are people who feel that their vote is not necessary because even if they were to vote there would be no change in the status quo.

2. The "Even if I would vote, who am I voting for?" These people are those who have assessed the available political parties and decided that there is none that they would trust with the governing of the country. Leaving it to the rest of the country to decide.

3. Then there are those who simply felt that the IEC did not do enough to advertise the last registration weekend.

For a lot of students it is very clear that they do not find their role in the voting process relevant and are willing to simply adapt to whatever happens in the country based off their fellow citizens' decision. The winning party then goes into governance and all that is left now is to wait till May to see if these students still share the same sentiments.

WHY I CAME TO UNIVERSITY?

By Laurenzil Bagoes

Students come from far and wide with one goal in mind: being accepted and granted the opportunity to further their education at university. The underlying truth is that there are far more reasons than just this one as to why first years in particular, chose university instead of searching for a job straight away.

We gathered the following answers from students and highlighted the following:

1st year LLB student, Motlatsi Meela said, "The unemployment rate is very high and coming to university increases my chance of employment. Coming from a family that is not exactly the most privileged, furthering my education provides me with a chance to change the situation at home and provide my siblings with a better future."

1st year BVA student, Nicole Mbuthia said, "I had some time to figure out if this is what I wanted to do while working in Johannesburg. With my passion lying in the field of fashion I quickly realised that you do need a professional set of skills to go further and that lead me to this decision."

1st year BA General student, Kelly Pullen said, "I actually want to make something of my life since in this day and age a matric certificate does not mean much."

We all have our reasons as to why we find ourselves at university today. One thing which we all share is that we chose Nelson Mandela University as a helpful pathway leading to our dreams ahead. Let us make the most of this opportunity as we move forward together.



Photo: Bianke Fouche



BRIDGING THE SOCIAL GAP ONE POSITIVE VIBE AT A TIME.

Photo: Thando Khanda

By Siphumelele Mahaia

For a university of great magnitude, Nelson Mandela University is going to be blessed with the introduction of a new society, namely "Campus Vibes". According to Mandilulame Manjezi, the founder of this renowned society, the differences that students have in terms of skin colour, cultural beliefs and social interaction preferences are about to be a thing of the past. Mr. Manjezi, who studied Politics at Rhodes University, believes that human interactions are what unite people of different backgrounds and personalities. With the introduction of Campus Vibes, the plan of action is to create a space whereby students of all races, local and international, can express themselves through any form of skill and talent that they possess.

Mr. Manjezi describes Campus Vibes as a society that will serve to unearth public relations, media and marketing, assisting them in obtaining practical experience. The practicalities will consist of Campus Vibes working with the media, communications and journalism students within various operational channels. It is most evident that as one of the Nelson Mandela University students, an initiative of this nature is what is needed to break social and cultural barriers.

Andile Ntlazane and Wayne Bomani are members of this upcoming society. Andile, a local South African deejay said that he is excited to be a part of this venture, as this will not only enable him to get a chance to grow as an artist, but also as a person and business man. He believes Campus Vibes will grant him an opportunity to share his musical creations with fellow students and enable awesome interactions through dance, one beat at a time.

Wayne is a Zimbabwean international student, who has expressed his passion for film and is soon going to start his own YouTube channel. He says that he has travelled to various places around the world and for him to be a part of the diversity at Nelson Mandela University makes him excited to capture moments where students from various walks of life come together in one location. For him, it is a mission to share his footage of students at Campus Vibes and document social interactions, hopefully inspiring people to have meaningful conversations about their differences and educate each other about different cultural mannerisms.



KEYS TO A HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP

By Chifundo Mazengera

February is the month of love and that is mainly because of Valentine's Day. However, instead of just focusing on the romance of Valentine Day, we took time to interview students on their concept of what constitutes a healthy relationship.

Beatrice, a fourth-year student said, "Communication, love, and faith. Most importantly, you need to communicate with the person. Then, having faith in each other because ups and downs are inevitable. And finally, love because you have to be in the relationship for love otherwise what are you in it for?"

Zakhe, an LLB student, who argues that there are not enough healthy relationships around, said, "Compromise, in order for both parties to understand each other, and patience, which is crucial in keeping an open mind, are both important. And complacency is a big no-no. Complacency is a message that the relationship

is no longer worthy of your effort and that can be unhealthy."

Fabian, a third-year BCom student said, "I believe first and foremost communication because it's the basis of all understanding with your partner. Another key element is honesty. And I would say happiness. Everything about life is happiness. It comes with a growth element. Happiness to me is the definition of success."

When asked why these were their foundations to a healthy relationship all three students said it was through experience.

Theoretically, all students know what makes a relationship healthy, but why is it that they are difficult to find at University? According to Dr. Myles Munroe, "Healthy relationships should always begin at the spiritual and intellectual levels - levels of purpose, motivation, interests, dreams, and personality."

Photo: Bianke Fouche

WHAT DOES VALENTINE'S DAY MEAN TO YOU?



Photo: Bianke Fouche

By Phelisa Mkendlana

We often celebrate Valentine's Day not knowing the exact story behind it. We talked to some of our students, on campus to find out what Valentine's Day means to them, but before we dive into that, here is first a brief historical background on Valentine's Day.

The story goes back to the third century and revolves around a priest named St Valentine. At the time, marriage was banned by the emperor so the priest began arranging marriages in secret. He was soon thrown into jail where he fell in love with his jailer's daughter. About to be executed - on the 14th of February - he wrote her a love letter that he signed, 'Your Valentine'. While Valentine's Day is celebrated in most countries, different cultures have developed their own traditions for this day. In some parts of the world Valentine's Day is observed as a day for expressing love between family members and friends instead of romantic couples.

Valentine's Day is most commonly associated with romantic love, with millions of Valentine's Day cards being exchanged each year. Gifts and flowers such as the classic red rose are sent with romantic messages to love ones and couples put effort into spending time together and spoiling one another. Some couples even aim to get married on this day.

We spoke to students - both couples and singles - on campus who were glad to answer our questions. A few single ladies said they did not believe in celebrating love on just one day, but that people should celebrate each other every day.

Several single gentlemen pointed out that celebrating Valentine's Day is just a waste of time and money and that most girls expect to be the only ones receiving gifts. Other single individuals were of the opinion that it's just like any other day.

MORE THAN JUST TRENDS: GENDERLESS DRESSING, SELF-EXPRESSION AND SUSTAINABLE FASHION

By Roxzann Thomas

With every new year comes new fashion trends. What's 'in fashion' now can only stay relevant for so long until it gets replaced by a new, hotter trend. Genderless dressing, self-expression and sustainability however, are more than just temporary fads. These current trends are much deeper than that. They support a new way of living and thinking.

Genderless Dressing:

Fashion is slowly but surely catching up with society's shifting attitude towards gender. The aim of unisex fashion is to drop the labels of 'male' and 'female'. Dresses are not only seen as garments for ladies and trousers not only for gents. Clothes simply become clothes. Not worrying about looking too girly or too masculine all while serving bold looks and being completely comfortable are just some of the benefits of unisex fashion.

Self-Expression:

Social media has been a prominent agent in encouraging people to express themselves through fashion. This is something that many of us used to shy away from. Self-expression should be regarded as a movement because it encourages independence and the right to be different, a freedom that was once constricted and heavily moderated. The message? It is important to dress for yourself and not for the approval of others. Every day provides a chance for you to express your personality and embrace individuality through your style. Remember not to limit yourself to trends but to rather incorporate them and make them your own.

Sustainable Fashion:

Why stop at metal straws and reusable shopping bags? You can also make a positive impact on the environment through what you wear and how you wear it. Sustainable fashion is not only achieved during the production of clothes, but also through sustainable consumption. You can be more conscious by opting for thrifting rather than buying brand new clothes, donating old clothes and investing in good quality and trans-seasonal pieces.

These topics are the future of fashion. They might even have the potential to change how we dress forever.



Photo: Bianke Fouche

MONUMENTAL FIGURES OF CULTURAL PROUDNESS

By Unathi Vimba

In a world where culture is battling to stay relevant, there are a few iconic figures that exceptionally mould their roots into their image. Without a doubt, Sho Madjozi and Laduma Ngxokolo serve as great examples of cultural proudness. Their unapologetic attitude regarding their roots is a remarkable form of inspiration to the youth. Madjozi (Xitsonga) and Laduma (Xhosa) have both pinned a fundamental spot for themselves in the entertainment and fashion industry.

For Laduma it all started with the idea of wanting to create a modern, yet traditional dress wear for amakrwala (young men who come from initiation). His brand MaXhosa has a distinct sense of Xhosa influence. He inspires the youth to be creative with their traditional wear and to incorporate their own style while remaining true to traditional meaning.

Madjozi, who is in the blossoming music genre of Xitsonga rap, believes if someone is foreign to her Tsonga language, they should feel inspired to learn or ask their Xitsonga friends. All this is to grant people of different backgrounds an opportunity to learn about each other's cultures. Her dress sense, like Laduma, is complementary to her culture and she too incorporates her own personal modern style while staying appreciative of cultural meanings.

Both figures reassure the youth that you do not have to feel bound to old traditions that no longer identify with our modern ways in order to embrace your culture. They show, in a magical way, that it is completely okay to claim your culture and embrace it while incorporating your own personal touch.

You can never go wrong with being proud of who you are. If culture still means something to us, let's take pride in our roots because it is an inexplicable beauty that needs to be cherished.



Photo: zalebs.com

MORE THAN JUST MAKEUP



Photo: Bianke Fouche

By Unathi Vimba

Makeup has been in use for many centuries and to this day, people all over the world use it in their own unique ways. The misconception around the use of makeup has been an underlying issue in society and this article aims to highlight overlooked aspects of makeup.

Being a young woman, I've found myself in multiple situations where I've had to explain and justify why I'm wearing makeup. It's quite baffling to see how my harmless eyeliner or lipstick can create such controversy or disapproval. This has resulted in me feeling attacked and wrongly perceived as someone who is insecure of her natural self. I'm here to say makeup is neither an automatic cry for attention nor a sign of insecurity.

The main point people tend to misunderstand is that make up is an enhancer - a way of highlighting natural features and a form of expression. Women use it in versatile ways to suit their own personal styles and functionalities. Whether it's to look presentable at an event, to hide a pimple you'd rather not display or to uplift one's mood for the entire day - for some women makeup means more than just to 'slay'.

And yes, like any other societal challenge, an argument against this is unavoidable. However, how much makeup someone is wearing should be the least of our problems as a society.

Makeup is purely a form of art. Many women find a large amount of zeal in simply discovering different ways of application and getting dolled up. They gain a sense of confidence and with this defy the spaces they occupy all while displaying their own creative abilities and talents. For some, it is therapeutic and counts as a fun activity when done with friends. Makeup has the power to create a sense of excitement, unity and even serves as a constant reminder of one's own voice.

This is not to put down people who prefer no makeup. We all gather confidence, joy and self-satisfaction from different things. For some of us, a bit of blush and glitter just goes a long way.

NOBLE LYRICS THEN, PROBLEMATIC LYRICS NOW



By Andisile Klaas

Society and the world in general is an ever evolving place, from fashion, music, technology and even how people think and perceive certain concepts. What was perceived as noble and righteous a decade ago can possibly be deemed as unjust as the times move forward. The songs one jammed to a few years back, can take a whole different meaning now. The following are some of the songs that have lyrics that seemed okay until a change in society occurred.

Destiny's Child – Nasty Girl

"You make it hard for girls like myself who respect themselves and have dignity"

Coming from their third studio album titled 'Survivor', this song tells the story of a girl who doesn't dress or carry herself with 'dignity'. Upon its release in 2001, Destiny's Child were commended by the public for encouraging conservativeness amongst young girls. Fast forward to 2019 where the world is gravitating towards being pro-choice, the song is now viewed as problematic as it shames and looks down on girls who don't carry themselves in a way that is seen as "ideal".

Lil Jon – Lovers and Friends (feat. Usher and Ludacris)

"Once you get inside, you can't change your mind"

This is one of those laid back R&B songs you can easily jam to without paying much attention to the lyrical content. But at the height of women fighting for their voices to be heard and to not be objectified, some of these lyrics make people sit up. Usher can be heard singing lyrics that imply that once a woman gets into his car then she has made the decision to go home with him.

Lauryn Hill – Doo Wop (That Thing)

"Hair weaves like Europeans, fake nails done by Koreans"

Like many songs of the 90's, this song governed how women should dress, act and think. This song was ideal at its time of release. Many people saw women who dressed a certain way as classless, but this song is different in the sense that it addresses men too - the second verse is dedicated to men who are "more concerned with his rims and his Timberland boots than his women". This song was a success and went on to win Best Female R&B Vocal and Best R&B Song at the 1999 Grammy Awards.

GOODBYE BELLY FAT, HELLO STOMACH VACUUM?

By Vanessa Bodole

What if I told you sucking in your stomach actually flattens it? It sounds a little crazy and too good to be true. But it's real. And it's been taking the fitness world by storm. Introducing the Stomach Vacuum! Disclaimer: it has nothing to do with the actual household appliance.

While it's not the newest discovery on the fitness scene, the convenient ab exercise is continuously claimed as a reliable trick to keep your waist trimmed and belly fat humbled. From bodybuilders all the way back in the 1970's to fitness models we see on Instagram today, the testimonies for this relatively simple and quick workout are incredible.

The Stomach Vacuum targets the hard-to-reach, inner muscles in your abdomen known as the Transversus Abdominus. It involves firmly sucking in your belly while standing, lying down or sitting, and holding the position for about 20 seconds (all while still breathing). It keeps your inner ab muscles engaged and working without requiring much movement from you.

Intrigued? It gets better. The fascinating workout strengthens your core and betters your posture all while shrinking your waistline in a remarkable amount of time. On top of it all, there are no negative effects associated with this exercise.

An important thing to note is that the vacuum may tone down your tummy, but it won't magically give you a six pack or change the numbers on the scale. So, if you're looking to get ripped, this workout unfortunately won't do much for you.

What do you think? Yay or nay to the stomach vacuum?



FASHION FORWARD FRESHERS

By Ziyatandwa Goduka

On the 9th of February 2019, the Nelson Mandela University SRC hosted what some may call 'a welcome party' for first years. The Fresher's Carnival, characteristic of a night time event, had fashionable outfits flowing from every direction within the boundaries of the Madibaz Stadium. Both first years and seniors were dressed to kill.

A few questions were asked to both groups on what inspires and influences their night time outfits and how they choose clothing items that best bring their vision to life. The first years had plenty to say in response.

According to Sokhana Mjekula, his outfit for the night was based on his feelings that day. Nandile Vellem on the other hand, wanted something that would allow her to dance freely and be comfortable overall while in style. To many, fashion appeared to be a form of language that allowed for self-affirmation and expression.

The seniors were also asked to shed some wisdom on the best way to dress up for these kinds of events and they had some notable advice to give. Siyabonga Mhletywa urged that it is important to not box one's self as there is no set style for events. Jordan Bennick also pointed out that it is key for an individual not to dress to impress other people but rather for their own pleasure. He also encouraged the first years to try out new styles, explore their wardrobes, not to be afraid of being judged and to be themselves.

The consensus reached was that an outfit should reflect who an individual is and what their preferences are. On that note, it becomes clear that great fashion shall be an ever-present force on campus this year.



Photo: Bianke Fouche



Photo: Bianke Fouche



Photo: Bianke Fouche



Photo: Bianke Fouche



Photo: Bianke Fouche

CARNIVAL CRAZE



Photo: Blanke Fouche



Photo: Blanke Fouche

By Leigh Nakeetah Jason

The two-part event that gave our newly recruited students a one-of-a-kind welcome was wildly prosperous. The eventful day began at around 10:00 on a particularly sunny Saturday on the 9th of February. Various residences and student groups joined forces and paraded from the entrance of North Campus to the Madibaz Stadium Grounds. Not letting the excruciating heat of the sun stop them, students were fuelled by energy and excitement by singing songs and war cries.

The Campus Clinic made an appearance and educated people on the advantages of safe sex and advised them to visit the clinic whenever they're feeling sick. An appearance was also made by Cell C who were promoting their new data sim cards. The group stood in the blazing sun and explained their product to people while helping them port their numbers and handing out freebies.

Students were treated to a fashion show which showcased four talented local designers. Performances by our very own campus-grown artists and dancers also

added to the entertainment for the afternoon. The day passed quickly and closed off with an appearance from radio host, Reggie Solani from UMHlobo Wenene.

When night fell, countless students made their way onto the Stadium Grounds to dance the night away while waiting in anticipation for the special guest and well known South African artist, DJ Shimza. As the hottest local DJs gave the crowd something to dance to, food stalls and drinks where also set and ready to keep everyone refreshed.

Colours blended into other colours. Laughs became a chorus featuring shouting voices as the crowd-enjoyed themselves. Whether sitting, standing or dancing, everyone seemed to be having a good time. Joy was in the air all night and amplified when the famous DJ took to the stage and cranked the fun meter all the way up. After playing countless songs, Shimza retired and handed the stage over to the remaining DJs of the night. The party ended at around three o'clock in the morning, giving students just enough time to rest before their first day on campus.



Photo: Blanke Fouche

FASHION BLUES... AND REDS AND WHITES AND GREENS

By Leigh Nakeetah Jason

The Freshers Carnival introduced new students to a taste of the university life and was a huge success! From the performers to the music to the different residences that showed off their competitive spirit, there was one distinct voice: fashion.

In conjunction with the carnival, Nelson Mandela University offered designers a platform to showcase their designs. Many entered, but only four designers had the privilege of displaying their work to the students. The four winners, Athini Mabala, Okuhle Maqina, Limakatso Mali and Thandolwethu Piliso, graced the stage and excellently showcased their brands.

Attractive designs, interesting brand names and underlying messages were flaunted by the designers. Maqina's brand for example, 'Wear Your Voice' served to encourage students to stand up for what they believe in. One designer had his brand named after himself – in well-justified confidence off course. Thando Piliso's brightly coloured clothing was characteristically African and embodied our rainbow nation.

The designers had a lot on their plate before and after taking the stage in all that heat. After the fashion show, we only managed to catch up with the colourful king, Thando, and asked him a bit about his brand. The designer, who was mentored for six months by Gert –Johan Coetzee, confessed that he started making clothing at the age of 16 but decided to study business management. His passion however, played the role of a temptress until 2014, where he finally gave in and studied fashion at Damelin.

When the fashion showcase caught his eye, he knew he had to participate – not only to show off his clothing, but to put the Eastern Cape on the map. His focus is to bring the world's attention to the Eastern Cape's fashion abilities and to take the Eastern Cape to the world.

On the 9th of February we saw a fleeting version of Thando's vision. By the first of April, we will be able to see more of Thando's work when he opens his store along with two of his friends, in Westbourne Road, Central. Be sure to check out 'Designers on Board'.



Photos: Lithalelanga Vena

FOUR NEW COFFEE SPOTS EVERY STUDENT SHOULD CHECK OUT

By Christina Makochieng

As a student, it's important to find balance between work and rest. What better way to do that than with a nice cup of coffee or a quick lunch date? With new restaurants constantly popping up in PE, it can be difficult to keep up. But do not worry - we've got you covered with four new spots every student should check out during their next study break.

Holiday Coffee Company

Found on the corner of 6th Avenue in Walmer, Holiday Coffee is a breath of fresh air offering PE residents a new laid-back vibe. The bright, colourful decor and friendly staff make it the perfect place to catch up with friends. They open at 06:30 daily, making it ideal for a stop before your 07:45 lecture. Their iced mochas will have you coming back for more.

Coco Jo's

This is for all those that are a little more adventurous with their food choices. Found on 145 Main road, Walmer, Coco Jo's is a garden restaurant that offers a menu primarily comprised of chocolate infused food. From traditional waffles to dark chocolate pasta, there's something for everybody to try.

Hello It's Me

This trendy new coffee shop found on 1054 Main road, Spring field offers a more stylish setting for all those who appreciate great interior as well as great food. The restaurant closes at 21:00 daily, making it a great place to visit regardless of how busy your schedule is.

Loop Coffee

Loop Coffee offers customers a cosy inviting atmosphere and a menu to satisfy any craving, from amazing coffee and food such as great pizza deals and delicious sandwiches. Found on 2 Pine Road, Overbaarkens this goes to show that coffee shops are not exclusive to caffeine lovers. There's something for everyone to enjoy.

Next time you've got some free time on your hands and are around town, be sure to support these awesome new restaurants.



Photo: Bianke Fouche



Photo: Facebook.com



KITCHEN & BAR

Photo: Facebook.com



Photo: Facebook.com



WHO'S THE KING OF THE SEA?

Photo: cbr.com

By Ebenezer Memani

DC has come out with yet another movie. Unlike the previous ones, I caught myself genuinely enjoying this one. John Wan directs Jason Momoa as Arthur/Aquaman who must retrieve The Trident of Neptune (a mythical long golden fork) before Aquaman's power thirsty younger brother, the Ocean Master (Patrick Wilson), claims the throne and wages war on the people of the land.

Contrary to most comic movies beginning with the introduction of a villain and their sinister plans, Wan opts to orientate the opening scenes around an unusual love story. This is between Tom Curry (Temuera Morrison) and Atlanna (Nicole Kidman) who bear a child deemed as a half-breed amongst citizens of Atlantis.

Not much time is spent on Arthur's childhood. The apprehension of his mother and discovery of his powers is hurried through. Quickly after the movie title is shown, we see Arthur again as a full-grown man who has enough might to push a submarine to the surface of the ocean. Thanks to some well-timed flashbacks that transition seamlessly, we learn that Arthur has had some training and assistance from Vulko (Willem Defoe), a friend of Arthur's mother.

Being an action movie, it is only natural that there are many action scenes, which to some extent were dizzying to watch. For a lot of those scenes, a panoramic shot combined with the free movement of

the camera between the characters is used. The best fight scene though is when we interchange between two fight locations in one shot - using one camera throughout. In this instance we can appreciate the timing and communication between the cast, director and production crew.

For a movie that's based underwater, the jokes are quite dry. There's a fair amount of them, but they are predictable and unamusing and I could not even bring myself to grin.

While it is more than obvious that plenty of CGI is used, the production masked this excellently. The switch from stunt-doubles to CGI must only be noticeable if you're the one who put them there.

No parts of the film were shot on location; half built sets, blue screens and harnesses were the order of the day, an experience Jason Momoa says was terrible but would definitely do again.

Judging from the previous DC movies, I was expecting Aquaman to be at a lower standard than it is, especially since Aquaman does not have as much of a fanbase compared to Superman and Batman. But I was pleasantly surprised by it and John Wan's directing for the most part, was enjoyable.

Recommended? Yes. Still enjoyable even if you are not a superhero movie fan.

MUSIC FESTIVALS YOU DO NOT WANT TO MISS IN 2019

By Roxzann Thomas

Are you a fan of feel-good music and positive energy? Look no further because that's exactly what you can expect to find at these festivals.

Ultra-Music Festival

This event will be taking place from the 1st to the 2nd of March. It will hit Cape Town first and then move on to Johannesburg. The headliners include The Chainsmokers and Martin Garrix who will be supported by artists such as DJ Fresh and Timo ODV. VIP and VVIP ticket holders can look forward to special perks such as express entry and elevated dance floors.

Cape Town International Jazz Festival

Known as "Africa's Grandest Gathering" this is an annual festival held at the Cape Town International Convention Centre from the 29th to the 30th of March. The first one was held in the year 2000 which means the 20th anniversary celebration will be happening soon. This year's star-studded lineup includes artists such as Steve Kekana and Chaka Khan.

Grahamstown National Arts Festival

This is the largest and most colourful arts festival on the African continent. This event takes place from the 27th of June to the 7th of July. Every year Grahamstown's population doubles as the people converge to witness the performing arts here.

Rocking the Daisies

The RTD Facebook page tells us to save the date for the 14th edition of this festival which will take place from the 4th to the 6th of October. This is the biggest outdoor and camping gathering as it attracts over 20 000 people to Cloof Wine Estate in Darling (Western Cape) each year. Previously featured artists include 6lack, Majid Jordan and Mura Musa.

Afropunk

This event will take place at Constitution Hill and the date for 2019 is yet to be announced. This festival has a show of diversity for people of all races, genders, creeds and tastes. Last year artists like Kaytranada and Moonchild rocked the stage.

Whatever your taste in music, these festivals have got it covered.



Photo: Matthew Withers

REASONS TO BE PROUD: IN THEIR OWN WORDS



Photo: Supplied

By Athenkosi M. Mafojela

Port Elizabeth – Reasons to be Proud is a newsletter, started by Nelson Mandela University roughly seven years ago. The aim is to celebrate its students and their achievements in various fields, but who are the people behind the accolades? Here we provide you with the answers to the questions you might have had about the recent honourees and we take a closer look at the reason we are proud of these individuals.

For our readers who don't know you, who would you say Wandile Msomi is?

Wandile is an easy-going young man with a keen sense of humour. I'd also like to think that I'm funny. I get sarcastic or very quiet when I'm tired, I get along with everybody - unless you're the problem - and I'm very stubborn.

You're a politics student - what attracted you to the world of politics?

I've always been fascinated with politics. You probably won't believe this, but my love for politics started in 2006, when I was in grade 2. At the time, President Jacob Zuma was embroiled in his legal battles. I couldn't even speak English, but I remember watching the trial [on TV] and I would have my family explain to me what was going on.

Also, I come from a political family: my mother's sister was a UDF leader, back in the 80's in Kwamashu, my mother works for the IEC and my grandmother was a member of the ANC woman's league, so in a way it was only natural that I gravitated towards politics. I am however the only child of my parents who is interested in politics.

How did your trip to the New York WFUNA International Model UN (WIMUN) come about and was this always your goal? (WIMUN is a simulation organized by the World Federation of United Nations Associations).

It started with an internal Model UN early last year. At the time I didn't even know what the Model UN was, but I managed to [] get two honourable mentions. From there I was selected to go to Pretoria, where I was a UK delegate in the Security Council and I got the Best Delegate award. There the adjudicator suggested that I put my name forward for the WIMUN, which I also didn't know about until I Googled it. I applied, not thinking much of it at the time, and I was accepted [] about two days later. After that the processes of fund raising and visa application started.

Three weeks before going to New York, I heard that I had been elected as the chair of the committee I had been assigned, meaning I was no longer going to be a delegate.

Find the rest of our interview with Wandile Msomi on our blog: <http://www.madibaznews.co.za/blog/>



we
think
code_

Photo: Facebook.com

WETHINKCODE OFFERS TUITION-FREE EDUCATION

By Tamera Morgan

We all thought free education was still a few protests and millions of Rands away.

Little did we know that a revolutionary idea was on the horizon – something that will make a significant difference to many students' lives. WeThinkCode is a tuition-free, three-year-old that institution exists within Johannesburg and Cape Town and is training its students in the valuable field of coding.

You can study through WeThinkCode without requiring a matric certificate, provided you survive its stringent application process. Firstly, you need to be between the ages of 17 and 35 years old. After entering in your personal details, you are presented with a slew of application games. Yes, games. These games determine whether you're capable of the problem-solving skills needed to excel at the institution. If you're deemed capable, you will be invited to a month-long pre-course, after which you will be selected for the full-time program.

How does the course work? You're not taught by teachers. You are expected to solve coding problems among your peers. A schooling system such as this is a big change, but everything revolutionary is exactly that – a change. WeThinkCode offers a perfect opportunity for those students who don't have the financial capability to attend a costly university, or who don't feel fulfilled by traditional methods of learning at tertiary institutions.

TECHNOLOGY SAVES STUDENTS TIME AND MONEY

By Nyameko de Bruin

The internet is gaining attraction in South Africa. According to a recent study conducted by We Are Social and Hootsuite regarding internet usage in the world, South Africa has over 30 million internet users (over 55 % of the population). South African internet users spend approximately 3 hours a day on the internet.

And looking at this a little bit closer to home, internet is a powerful, yet accessible tool that has shown its ability to improve the education experience for many students. It empowers students at all times of the day and all distances from campus. The university's online registration system, available for senior students, is a simple but effective example of technology's impact.

This online registration process typically takes no more than 10 minutes and being able to register from anywhere in the world poses as an obvious advantage to students. The scenario without it is far less ideal. Typically, a student would spend approximately R50 a day on transport to and from South Campus. Many students use NSFAS and bursaries that normally pay out by April and the shuttle services only start operating once lectures commence. This combination of additional money and time was extremely inconvenient.

Siyabonga Mtiwa, a student from Matatiele, said, "Online registration has saved me money because previously I would have had to travel to PE in January just for registration, head back to Matatiele for 2 weeks and then come back again to PE for classes in February. But now I can just do it online."

Johanna Messiah, an Admin Admissions Officer, said "The university is working on new ways to improve the online application process. In 2018 the university introduced a new way to make sure that there are enough spaces for all applicants. First years receive a notification with a link stating that they must click on the link within X number of days to confirm their offer. This takes into account that most prospective students apply to numerous universities. The 'click on a link to accept the offer' will help the university to know beforehand how many spaces are available in order to accommodate students on the waiting list."

BE YOUR OWN HERO: PART 1

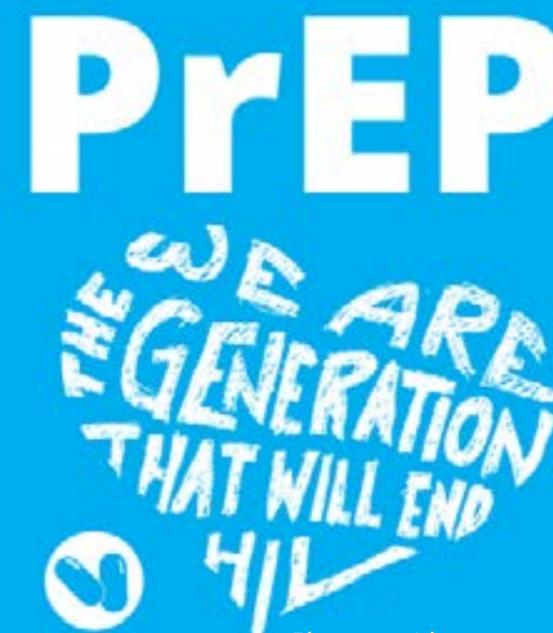


Photo: unaids.org

By Sendibitiyosi Gandidzanwa

Did you know that South Africa's HIV prevalence rate of people aged between 15 and 49 years is about 19%? Approximately one in five people you know might be HIV positive. Universities accommodate a lot of students within this age group which puts them at risk of meeting someone with HIV. Regardless of the current HIV preventative methods, the number of deaths or people infected with HIV continues to increase rapidly every year. Prevention is better than cure and a good sexual health program must be practiced by everyone who is sexually active.

An excellent sexual health program entails knowing your partner(s) status, using condoms correctly and consistently, regular HIV/AIDS tests, abstinence, treatment of STIs, male medical circumcision, consumption of ARVs for partners living with HIV and proper family planning. Sadly, these methods are not always adhered to. One can reduce ones chances of contracting HIV by using a dual preventative approach. Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), is a relatively new anti-HIV medication that lowers the risk of HIV negative people from contracting HIV. It is recommended for people at considerable risk of HIV infection. If used with condoms, the chances will be reduced to almost 0 %. It takes up to 20 days to be fully protected and the PrEP pill must be taken daily. A few side effects can be experienced during the early days including nausea and headaches. However, in most cases, they go away after a few weeks.

A person needs to have HIV and blood test screening together with a kidney test before being given their free monthly supply. After which, it is recommended that every three months they return for an HIV test and a new 3-month prescription for PrEP. However, PrEP does not prevent STI's, pregnancy, or protect you from HIV after exposure. PrEP reduces your risk before exposure.

Nelson Mandela University has centres where one can get more information about or collect PrEP pills. Self-care in the form of healthy sexual practises immensely contributes to overall vitality. Why not consider lowering the risk by more than 90 % at no cost? The Campus Health Services will be delighted to assist you in rendering this free and essential service.

MASTER SIGN LANGUAGE THROUGH ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE



Photo: design.tutsplus.com

By Sanele Thwala

Speaking sign language is not as easy as we think it is, as well as being difficult to learn and teach. When people are communicating through sign language, they don't just use hand gestures, they also use their mouth, facial expressions and body posture to communicate their message successfully.

It has been a long struggle for deaf students to have sign language be recognised as an official language in South Africa, but South African Sign Language (SASL) has been officially recognised as a home language in the education system. It is indeed a worthwhile effort and the education sector has taken a bigger step towards transforming the education system that seemed to suppress deaf people's right to being taught and assessed in their own language. At last their rights are being recognized and they no longer need to feel like foreigners in their own country.

Umalusi conducted a research study that aimed to provide guidance on the implementation of SASL as a home language for school learners and for its inclusion as one of the examinable subjects in the National Senior Certificate.

Deaf students do, however, still face challenges at tertiary institutions. Most students do not speak SASL or don't understand it fully and so a communication barrier still exists. This means that deaf students may not get assisted as people often struggle to understand what assistance they are looking for.

This disparity is brought about because professional teaching programs for sign language are rare and often expensive. However, that is changing with help from artificial intelligence (AI). Stephanie Stoll is a PhD candidate in Computer Vision at the University of Surrey. He and his colleagues are working on software which can be used by individuals to learn sign language in an automated, intuitive way. The tool can analyse the way in which a student performs a sign and will provide detailed feedback on how to improve the hand shape, motion, location, and timing. The software is capable of teaching various sign languages used around the world and helps its users consider more intricate features of the languages, such as sentence grammar and the non-hand elements of communication.

Previously, AI has been used only for recognition, translation or interpretation of sign languages. The added ability to also teach and correct users who are trying to learn sign language is a step in the right direction and if embraced, can bridge the communication gap between those who sign and the general population.

Photo: Matthew Wilton

NEW WIND TURBINES BLOW AWAY THE COMPETITION

By Aphelele Ngcambaza

Renewable energy from wind turbines is now a standard form of generating electricity. The most common type of turbine has been the Horizontal Axis Wind Turbine (HAWT). Through development, scientists and engineers have invented a new type of turbine, the Vertical Axis Wind Turbine (VAWT).

Vertical Axis Wind Turbines can generate power no matter what the direction of the wind is. They operate like all turbines, taking the kinetic energy from the wind and converting it into mechanical energy which is then converted to electrical energy. The main advantage of the VAWT is that they do not have to be aligned with the wind. The generator and gearbox of the VAWT are placed near the ground level, eliminating the need to be supported by a tower as compared to the old horizontal structure. This also makes them more accessible for maintenance.

The VAWT blades can move at lower wind speeds compared to horizontal turbines which produces less noise. This means that they can be placed in residential and urban areas. In the same vein they can be built in locations where tall designs are prohibited by the law and are suitable for areas with extreme weather conditions. Many countries use this type of wind turbine to produce electricity since it also costs less than the HAWT.



Photo: pexels.com

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