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text

The Scrutinize Campaign is promoting public awareness of issues relating to the spread of HIV/AIDS through broadcasted animerts



An expectant crowd gathers at the DramAidE presentation on the Howard College Campus

Be Wise and Scrutinize...

or rather be wise and don't sit too close to the front!

SCRUTINIZE IS A national campaign in South Africa that features a number of animerts (animated advertisements) that have been broadcast nationally on local television stations.

The Scrutinize campaign is sponsored by USAID (United States Agency for International Development), and JHHESA (Johns Hopkins Health and Education South Africa) and was developed to address and educate the public on issues relating to the spread of HIV/AIDS. These include alcohol abuse, inter-generational sexual relationships, multiple sexual partners, myths of condom usage, etc. (see www.scrutinize.org.za for more information). Each of these issues is addressed as themes in the different animerts.

Recently DramAidE (Drama in Aids Education) hosted a Scrutinize campaign at the Howard College Campus. Students were reminded of the themes in some of the animerts in order to educate them on the risks

By Sarah Strauss

of HIV and ways of preventing it. This was achieved via a participatory approach, also known as local celebrities convincingly encouraged members of the audience to participate in mini productions. These 'volunteers' (whom were unfortunate enough to sit too close to the stage) illustrated the different themed ads featured within the Scrutinize television adverts. Local celebrity Fezile Makhanya and comedian Joey Rasdien kept the audience in stitches with their quirky comments and wicked jokes.

The campaign ended off with a performance by Kwaito group, 'Big NUZ' who made the crowd go wild. Their interactive and energetic performance added a fresh dimension to the campaign. Students were singing, dancing, standing on tables and chairs trying to capture snap shots of their favourite Kwaito stars. **1**

Drawing the bigger picture: *Giving voice to HIV positive children*

CAN ART STOP AIDS? That was the question we all pondered on for a while... and still continue to ponder. The national discussion on exploring visual and arts-based participatory methodologies used in HIV and AIDS intervention research was the perfect platform to unpack this question.

By Eliza Govender

The event was hosted by the *HIV & AIDS Education Research Chair*, Prof Naydene Lange at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University as part of a National Research Foundation (NRF) funded endeavour. Academics, scholars, practitioners and researchers from all over the country joined the national discussion to discuss the role of art and visual based methodologies to stop AIDS. Discussions emerged about the various methodologies employed by scholars in the field of HIV and AIDS.

Central to these discussions was establishing whether the evaluation of art-based research could form a new

knowledge field for the NRF. Interesting discussions developed with scholars like Prof Claudia Mitchell (McGill University), Prof Linda Theron (University of North West), Dr Jean Stuart (UKZN) and consultant Dr Ann Smith.

“The methodologies explored were used to take the children through a process of discovery and learning, telling their stories, sharing their experiences, learning together and taking action to live more positively”

It was at this forum, that I showcased a piece of research, more like an action-based project, conducted during my time



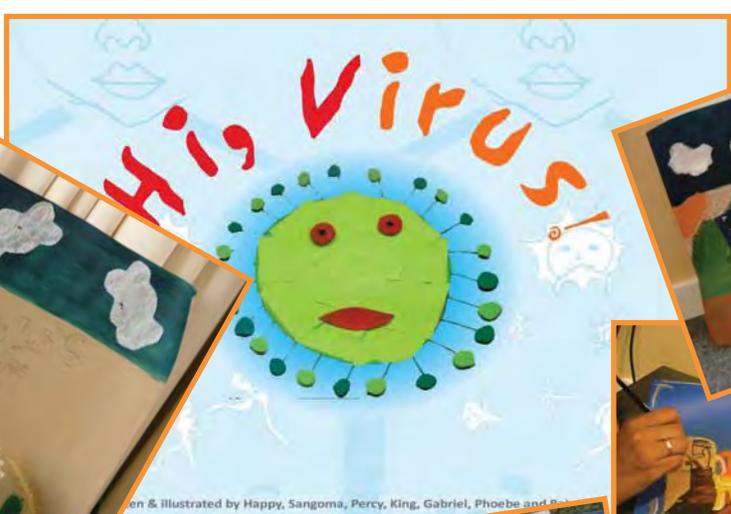
Planning an artwork exercise

at the Centre for HIV/AIDS Networking (HIVAN). The project was conducted in 2005 and 2006 with a group of HIV positive children to teach them more about diagnosis, disclosure, treatment literacy and adherence. The project was a response to the many complexities young children face when they discover their HIV status. As a result the “Hi Virus” initiative was introduced as part of the Children’s Resource Book series, created by myself and my colleagues Lauren Cobham and Bren Brophy. The focus here was on using participatory art approaches with children to address HIV and AIDS.

Workshops were conducted over three weekends. The children were taken away from their normal rural environments to a camp site to consider issues of treatment literacy and adherence. The workshops were child-centred and focused on engaging the children in the entire process of knowledge sharing and learning towards developing a deeper understanding and practical application of treatment adherence. A participatory action research (PAR) approach was taken which used creative arts and visual methods such as puppet making, role playing, drama, drawing and interactive educational games. The methodologies explored were used to take the children through a process of knowledge and discovery, telling their stories, sharing their experiences, learning together and taking action to live more positively.

While the emphasis on the project was the empowerment of children through the workshop process, the work produced resulted in the documentation of the workshop process into a child-friendly book. The children shared detailed stories of their experiences of diagnosis, treatment literacy and some of the challenges to adherence initially through role playing. They then documented this role play through a process





of drawings to serve as a tool for knowledge sharing about treatment adherence. The children's drawings were pieced together in order to form a visual storyboard for a storybook, which could be used as an educational tool to teach other children about HIV and AIDS. The book's storyline was derived from the transcribed role plays and the children's ongoing informal discussions about their drawings. This made the entire process participatory, as the children were active participants from the commencement to the end of the project, collectively designing an art-based approach to address their issues, developing the creative content and translating this into an educational resource book for other young children.

The creative arts and documentation process of the book development caused great excitement among the scholars at the national discussion, which resulted in Prof Claudia Mitchell and team asking me to submit a research paper on the project for a book they were ready to send off to print. Panic kicked in, Sertanya Reddy (researcher) and I had 7

days to submit the article, yes... 7 days. A combination of previous drafts, many prayers and lots of caffeine resulted in us meeting the deadline and submitting a paper for the "Picturing Research" book which focuses on using visual and art-based methodology for HIV and AIDS research.

The paper explores art as a form of participatory Entertainment Education (EE) in the context of HIV and AIDS.

It focuses on the use of drawings as a tool to convey information about the virus, particularly in terms of treatment literacy and the importance of treatment adherence. The research

revealed that drawing can: 1) foster greater awareness of HIV/AIDS; 2) promote knowledge-sharing amongst the people who are drawing; and 3) enable knowledge-transferral to a wider group of people. The book will be published in 2011, featuring one of the children's drawings from our paper as the cover page for the book.

The national discussion proved to be an excellent networking opportunity a time to share the work we do and more especially to learn from others. As far as the question of whether ART can stop AIDS, well that still remains, so let's leave that to the academics to continue the debate.....



Rebels with a cause: A little civil disobedience has never hurt anyone ...



All photos: Tyler Dolan



THERE WE WERE, armed with placards, slogans on our t-shirts, Right-to-Know stickers on our mouths and a burning in our hearts, intrepid stalwarts on the front lines, fighting the good fight, ready to lay down our lives for the cause...

By Shanade Barnabas

These gallant efforts were brought on by the nefarious sleeping giant (aka the South African government) who woke momentarily from a slumber induced by exhausting hedonistic pursuits to serve us with the Protection of Information Bill and the Media Appeals Tribunal. The aim of these moves is to protect the public interest, that is, they seek to protect ordinary citizens from the shock of learning that their lobotomised earnings are stored in a silo in the Eastern Cape where premiers, ministers, youth league leaders and the like go to jump Scrooge McDuck-like into the pile famed for its regenerative and healing powers.

Knowledge of these and other escapades would be bad for national morale, not to mention the ruckus that would be caused by the thousands flocking to the Eastern Cape. Therefore, anyone who publishes such restricted information will be liable to serve a jail term of up to 15 years.

Enter the Right2Know campaign. This national campaign seeks to engage citizens in united protest against these bills. Marches were held in Cape Town, Jo'burg and Durban with a memorandum handed over to local government at the rally's end.

The KZN rally day saw over 600 people gather at Botha's Garden in Berea and march

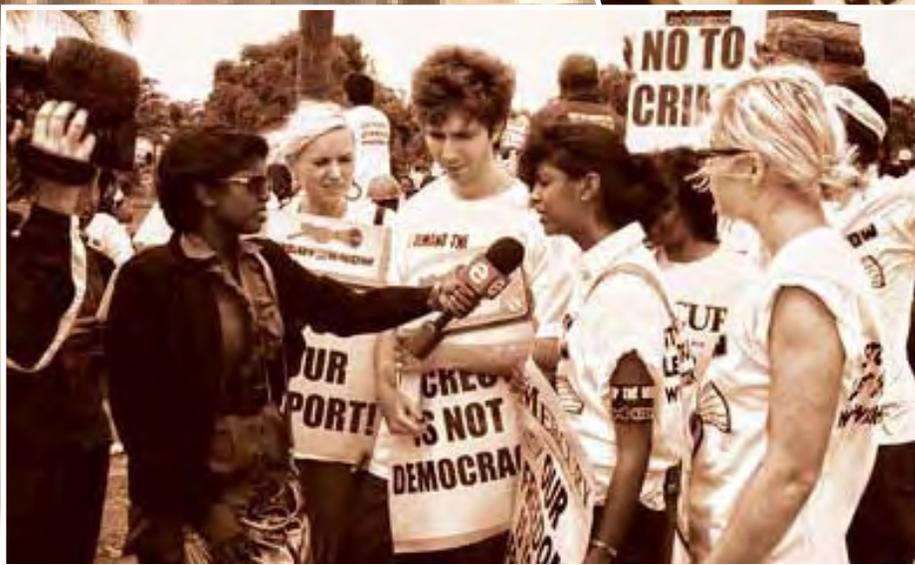
through the busy town streets to City Hall. In-between *Amandlas*, *Awethus* and *Vivas*, I found myself standing next to someone that I can't help but describe as a little old lady. She stood with her head covered in a *doek*, the top of which barely reached my shoulder, placard in hand and smiled at me saying that she was 80 years old and would march while she still had the strength.

The camaraderie was intoxicating. We all stood together, sat in the middle of the road together, danced and sang our way to City Hall.

At one point I stepped on a man's shoe while trying to get in front of his banner, when I turned to apologise he smiled and said it first. Was I in Canada? This was amazing! And then there were the motorists who smiled and waved and hooted at our 'Hoot your support' placards, this after we had claimed three lanes and had them waiting endlessly for the traffic to move.

Sure there were some who ignored even our pleas for them to hoot, but they would be followed by someone's prolonged hooting that got others going and the marching crowd shouting its appreciation. It was enough to leave one feeling a little inebriated. At the day's end, after ululating to my heart's content and shouting '*Phansi Secrecy Bill Phansi!*' more times than I thought possible, with sunburn and aching feet, I headed off home proudly wearing my protest t-shirt.

A highly recommended experience indeed, although one with a warning; when this rebel-with-a-cause bug bites, it leaves an itch that is not easily soothed.



To Blog or not to Blog?

What a question...!

BLOGGING IS EASY. Choosing what to write about is little harder, chances are somebody is already writing about it. Blogs have become increasingly popular over the last few years in the mainstream media. Whether you want to read about student life, news or celebrity gossip - you can be sure to find countless accounts by people all over the world with different perspectives and varying degrees of truth. Undoubtedly, for the reader - it is this variety and accessibility that makes it interesting.

By Nonjabulo Mlangeni

For the bloggers, it is the fact that you get to keep an online journal about your life, your job or your interests and all you have to do is click "publish" to share it with anybody who would like to know. However, a successful blog can also open doors to other jobs in the media.

The list of bloggers-turned-screenwriters or authors is longer than one would think, the most prominent name on this list being Diablo Cody, who started out as a blogger and eventually wrote the movie *Juno* which won her an Academy Award for best original screenplay. Clearly the bloggosphere is not a bad place to start a career in the media.

Had I been aware of the potential rewards of the blogging scene, I may have started a little earlier than August of 2009, after I glibly picked up the latest issue of *Village Voice Magazine* at The EG Malherbe Library. Not too long after that, I took up a pseudonym and started a blog about



Entering the bloggosphere can open up many new opportunities for aspiring writers

student life on the official website of the *Village Voice*, knowing that the place was crawling with young university students like myself who shared my same dilemmas, experiences and interests. They would make the best audience, I thought. I was right, and within a few months one of my blogs was used as an article in their November Issue. It was a success and pretty soon not only did I have a few faithful readers and subscribers, I had an editor who actually answered my emails. Things were good. Other blogs and excerpts of blogs were used in the early issues of 2010, and I finally showcased my writing in a magazine for students and by students, whose circulation reached every major university in the country. How could I complain?

But I did. Coming from my blogging background, I wasn't quite used to having my writing edited by somebody else. Also, I had made the assumption that my explicit permission was required before my writing could be changed or be published in any format. After not very many articles, my *Village Voice* career came to an end and it was back to the bloggosphere with a slightly longer CV but not very much else to write home about. One of the most appealing things about blogging is being your own boss, and having absolute control over your material — from the biggest decisions to whether or not you decide to use 'an' or

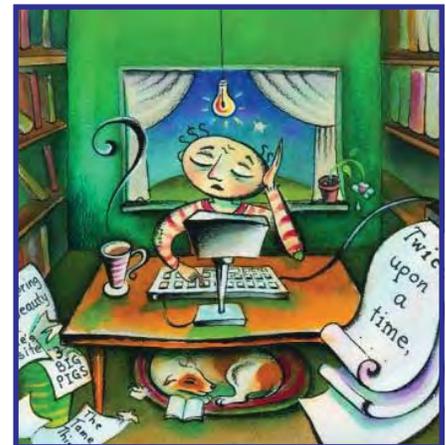
'the' in your title. It's always worth your time to do a little research on the site you use before you start to punch in those keys.

Blogging has come a long way in recent times, and as the readership of some of the more popular blogs reaches well into the millions it becomes clear that it is not just a passing fad. I would encourage students interested in the media to embrace the bloggosphere. The web is brimming with opportunities to blog, write articles or even start your own online magazine. You may not write Oscar-winning material, but if you do it your own way, you just might open yourself up to a world of new opportunities.

Nonjabulo Mlangeni is a second year student reading for a Bachelor of Social Science Degree, Majoring in Psychology and English.

BLOG

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Stop and Stare

Simphiwe Ngwane is a third year student, reading towards a BA majoring in History and Classical Civilization.



Photo: Sandile Ngwane

Taking time to live for the moment and becoming self-conscious, self-reflective and self-aware helps develop a better perspective

AS THE SEMESTER draws to an end we find deadlines that were yonder are now demanding our undivided attention. With the endless social engagements we're involved in - which enrich our university experience - we begin to find that the velocity of our lives overtakes us.

By Simphiwe Ngwane

Aside from the gravity of university our lives have become ever more fast paced. We go through life without engaging with it; we observe and quickly move on to the next item on an endless list of agendas. My solution is not that you become effete and smell the roses every morning; but hear me out.

In March 2008 OneRepublic released their *Stop and Stare* album and their second single *Stop and Stare* quickly topped the music charts. I bring this up because whilst on exchange during the first semester of 2010 I took a conceptual history class, taught by Professor Ntongela Masilela at Pitzer College, a Los Angeles-area Liberal Arts College.

After months of studying modernity the penny finally dropped and I now understand what modernity actually is. In just three words I believe OneRepublic nailed it on the head: *Stop and Stare*. Modernity is the quickened tempo of time (internal) caused by various institutions, for one to become aware of it you need to be self-conscious, self-reflective and contemporaneous; thus *Stop and Stare*.

A week ago I watched the 1989 drama film *The Dead Poets' Society* which starred Robin Williams as an English teacher at Welton Academy. He teaches his students not to conform but rather live a little by becoming conscious and viewing life from a different perspective.

He makes his students stand on his desk to illustrate his point. So often we become so consumed by the perpetual velocity of our ever busy lives that we omit to engage with our surroundings. To quote Oprah Winfrey: "We become so fixated at living our planned lives and forget to live the life that is".

So the next time you have a 7:45am lecture and so happen to walk by Devil's Drive (*pictured below*) consciously observe your surroundings, feast your eyes on the purple Jacaranda flowers that blanket it and the TB Davis area before they turn to brown mush from the tempo of life. Slow down, smell new smells, enjoy the gentle zephyrs that occasionally carry the sweet smell of Hulett's sugar from the sugar terminals in the harbour; *Stop and stare!*



Photo: Simphiwe Ngwane

Photo: Simphiwe Ngwane



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The Evolution of the Man Bag

A LINE FROM the 2009 film *The Hangover* by Todd Phillip uttered by Zach Gakliffianakis (Alan) runs: “It’s not a man purse, it’s a satchel.”

From the über lavish docks of The V&A Waterfront to the Musgrave Mall the man bag has become a prerequisite for the metrosexual urban man; yes the metrosexual man.

What is the first thing one sees when a football player like Siphwe Tshabalala or Bernard Parker steps out of the bus? A Louis Vuitton man bag, with Apple iPod Nano headsets protruding out. Even in Howard College Campus the man bag has taken on a life of its own; it has become standard stationary to own one and they vary in design; some have iconic images of Steve Biko or images of Afro-combs.

Being a history major my mind drifted to the hip and happening South African Golden era of the 1950s, during the Sophiatown Renaissance. Paging through books and watching documentaries of the time, I had noticed that mine workers carried little bags with short straps which fit snugly under their arms; a man bag dare I say. These bags were sporty in nature with football and boxing

By Simphiwe Ngwane

images on them. Their content would be composed of a packed lunch of ‘walkie-talkies’, an Identity Book and Boxer Tobacco with some Rizla papers (or a telephone directory page used to the same end). The context for these man bags would have been very proletarian and masculine and their content was also masculine. My question thus is when did the man bag shift from being über masculine to being urban metrosexual? When did the context change from man bags being spotted at Anglo-Platinum mines to Musgrave Mall?

You still find men of limited means carrying “proletarian” man bags but their bags aren’t in the realm of metrosexuality. When did the content change from Boxer Tobacco and Rizla to Dunhill menthol, iPod Nano and a bottle of Fiji water?

So whether you choose to call it a man bag, a man purse or like Alan, a satchel, the man bag has evolved over time and has gravitated from the sphere of über masculinity to urban metrosexuality.

Simphiwe Ngwane is a third year student, reading towards a BA majoring in History and Classical Civilization.