

## NEWS FROM:

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### **UCT is investigating burning of Pink Week 'closet'**

Security personnel at the University of Cape Town are investigating the destruction by fire of a "closet" structure that was installed by RainbowUCT, a student organisation promoting sexual diversity and human rights, in front of Jameson Hall on 4 October 2010 to help launch Pink Week.

Dr Max Price, the Vice-Chancellor of UCT, said: "One would have hoped that the rights of LGBTI are accepted and one need only celebrate that right, rather than still fight for it. However, it seems there are still people who do not acknowledge some rights embedded in our Constitution and that we definitely still have a lot of work to do to in this regard."

Dr Price added: "It is regrettable that this has happened. The 'closet' structure is meant to allow people to express their opinions by writing on it. The idea is precisely to encourage debate. It is regrettable that those who are responsible for burning it did not have the courage to express their opinions in an open and less destructive way. I know the UCT staff and students celebrating Pink Week will not let this incident spoil their important efforts."

Campus authorities have opened a case of destruction of property and are treating the incident as a serious crime.

The Closet was positioned on Jammie Plaza to help promote LGBTI rights and highlight prejudice against homosexuality across the country. UCT students and staff members were encouraged to write graffiti on the sides of the pink box to express their attitudes about sexual diversity. The Closet had been installed for less than 12 hours when it was set alight.

RainbowUCT is an official UCT student organisation and Pink Week has the support of UCT.

***ENDS***

***Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department***

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