

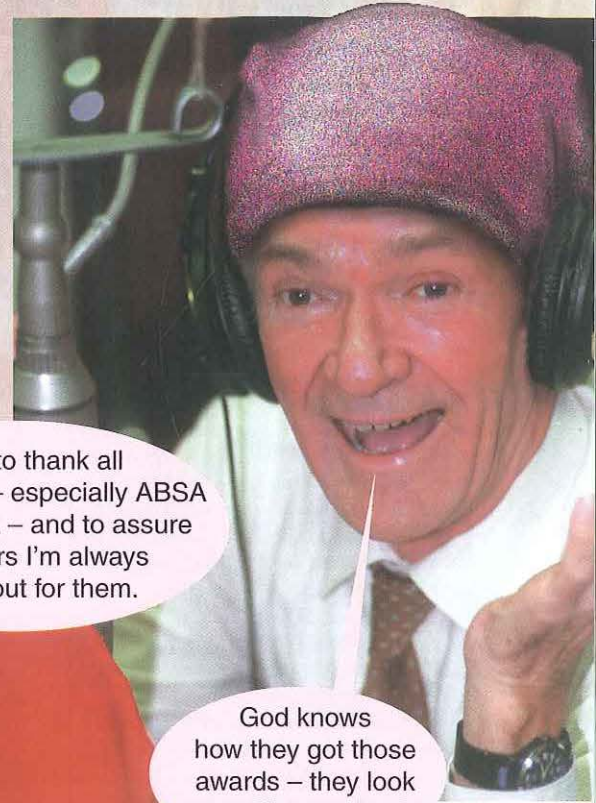
nose week

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WOMEN OF THE YEAR



I'd like to thank all my sponsors – especially ABSA and Verimark – and to assure consumers I'm always looking out for them.



God knows how they got those awards – they look just like my char!



Goodbye sailor! Did Old Mutual scupper the SA Merchant Navy for a quick billion?

Rethinking AIDS Part 3: The HIV test is positive about nothing • Off-shore murder mystery:

what the Reserve Bank is so keen to hide • Second-hand car salesmen: back in the spotlight

Dear noseweek, I am buying my friend a subscription to save him from the embarrassment of loitering around the magazine racks at CNA, frequently moving questionable titles to see whether noseweek is misfiled behind them. Now he can pace the stoep at home like Penny and I do.
Denis Gordon, Franschoek

MURDER OF SIMON LAW

Dear Sir, Now that noseweek has published the second part of the Jenkins story, I am glad to see that the rest of the media in South Africa are finally taking an interest. Corruption had so thoroughly permeated much of the old white business regime that people like David Jenkins felt they would always be above the law, allowing them not only to mislead and threaten officials with impunity but, ultimately, to arrange the murder of an ex-partner who represented a danger because he knew too much. I find Jenkins's attempts now to imply that Simon Law had other shady business contacts, or that he was 'not a nice businessman' and was 'solely motivated to make money in any shape or form', utterly despicable. Anybody who knew Simon would know that this is nonsense. Simon made more real friends and brought more joy to the lives of others in his short 35 years than Jenkins ever will, no matter how much money he makes. I now have a wood of more than 60 trees growing at our home in Kent, each planted by a friend of Simon's at the memorial service held a year after his death. I have always been enormously frustrated that Jenkins continues to lead the life of Riley in SA, when Simon Law, the man I loved, was cut down in his prime by two paid thugs. Would you ever consider publishing a clear statement from me that I know that Jenkins was the power behind Simon's murder? I realise that you have to consider your libel laws, but could you not just attribute it all to me and let me worry about the libel?

Tarn Phillips, London
See page 5

THIEVES AT LAW

Sir, I refer to nose26 and various letters regarding the legal profession and in particular, the Law Society of the Cape. The society's *modus operandi* is initially to receive correspondence from attorneys' victims, then to turn a blind eye to the most carefully prepared evidence of their members' near-criminal ineptitude. The neatest is when they advise the victims to seek more legal advice (meaning get yourself still deeper into shit)! Finally they simply tell the ripped-off

public to fuck off with time-proven clichés such as 'It seems that the matter is finalised', 'We trust you understand and appreciate our position' or – when things get too hot for comfort – 'We consider this correspondence now closed'.

When, in November last year, I complained about my attorney, N Albertus, to the Law Society, its legal officer, Lewis Wiener, wrote to advise me that 'Negligence *per se* does not amount to unprofessional conduct in terms of the rules. Any damages which you may have suffered will have to be recovered by way of

by R450. The subject was, of course, not present during this shot-gun job. A few days ago I received not an account, but another summons – this time for the costly shit the bastard caused me. The peaceful day I hoped to have on 20 February last year has cost me
♦ three months without a car ♦ R12 000 to have my car repaired ♦ R1 800 for summons to defendant ♦ R2 000 for a rental vehicle for one week ♦ R7 000 for the defendant's attorney ♦ R6 000 for my hired 'help'.
Dis fokken lekker in die nuwe Suid Afrika, if you are one of Dullah's kèrels.
A J Hanekom, Kenilworth



instituting action against the attorney. The Society does not have the powers to order compensation.' The subject of my complaint had been properly instructed by me to recover damages and costs from a party who crashed from behind into my car in stationary traffic. There was a witness who offered to testify for me as to what he saw. Seven months later, attorney Albertus turned up 45 minutes late for court, forgot to bring my photographs, and did not subpoena my witness (contrary to his assurances until the day before court). Next day he arrived late for the magistrate's ruling. This farce resulted in a ruling with costs against me. A few weeks later, the messenger of the court turned up at my home with a warrant of execution in the amount of nearly R7 000 for the defendant's attorney's costs, which I had to pay immediately. My attorney had not forwarded any account, any letter of demand, summons, judgment or letter of execution – but, apparently, that's not against the society's rules. Next I got a notice from my attorney inviting me to attend the taxation of his account (for services he did not render). This amounted to another R6 000 and after a concerted effort to convince the Wynberg taxing master of my attorney's dereliction, the amount was reduced

Sir, Your exposé on crooked attorneys reminds me of the words of Shakespeare in *Henry VI*: 'The first thing we do, let's kill all the lawyers.' One is surprised that the organised legal profession has not reacted with the same degree of alacrity as you have. I want to challenge noseweek to investigate why. It takes great courage for Mark Hess to blow the whistle on H Mohamed and Associates and it would be unfortunate if noseweek goes cold on the issue. As a lawyer myself, with a special interest in human rights/constitutional law, I abhor any act of dishonesty or impropriety on the part of professionals, especially those who are placed in positions of trust.
Saber Ahmed Jazbhay, Durban

VARTY CANNED FOR THE KILL

Dear Sir, Having read Gareth Paterson's book in which he describes the horror of 'canned' lion hunting, I was ready to agree that something needs to be done to control the situation better in South Africa. I was not prepared, however, for the canned hunting I was exposed to on a recent visit to Londolozi. On a night drive, we saw two kills happening right in front of us, within a space of five minutes. Normally, I would consider this a rare privilege, but this time I felt distinctly uncomfortable. The reason for this was that the prey, young impala, were completely blinded by the film lights of John Varty and the rest of his crew, making them sitting ducks for the stalking lions, but providing excellent footage for Varty. Varty has already tarnished his name in certain quarters, because of his escapade with the lion he returned to the bush before it was properly habituated, causing its almost immediate death. It would appear that 'film footage at all costs' applies to other forms of game as well. In discussion with the rangers afterwards, they said they were as disgusted as we were. At Londolozi, the rangers make a point of switching off their spotlights when lions are stalking game, to not compromise either the

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cover story

Award winner Isabel Jones isn't the independent campaigner for consumers she once was. She's now a top-earning PR for ABSA and Verimark. SAFM's small but beautifully formed Nigel Murphy obviously owes his job as presenter of *The Editors* to his good looks.

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Old Mutual Sinks SA seamen

OLD MUTUAL'S TOP MANAGEMENT may have annihilated South Africa's once proud merchant navy in a desperate bid to enhance its year-end figures to meet the inflated expectations generated by its promoters on the London Stock Exchange. This shocking possibility has emerged from facts contained in documents placed before the Cape High Court in an application for the liquidation of Safmarine.

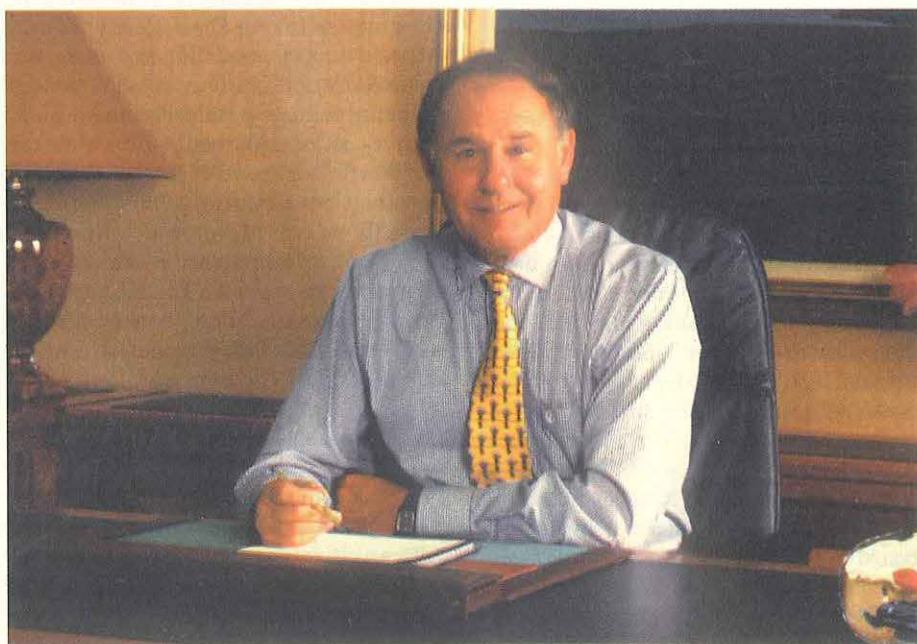
Such an interpretation of the events of the past year also finds powerful – if unintended – support in an expensively produced 164-page report on Old Mutual that was published in London in May by brokers Merrill Lynch, Pierce Fenner and Smith for distribution to institutional investors in Britain and Australia.

The authors of the report (which is prefaced with a disclaimer that reeks of dishonest intentions) fiercely punt Old Mutual's launch on the London Stock Exchange with an estimate of year-end profits that closely approximates the

amount Old Mutual hoped to realise from the sale of Safmarine's entire fleet. Although the facts must have been known to the authors, in all the report's 164 pages the sale of Safmarine's assets in order to generate a \$100-million dividend for Old Mutual does not get a single mention.

The closest the authors get to the subject is a paragraph in which they declare: 'If management [of Old Mutual plc] are of the opinion that there are no

Buddy Hawton, Old Mutual's appointee as chairman of Safren.



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available projects that will generate returns on capital in excess of the company's internal hurdle rate ... then that additional capital should be returned to shareholders in the form of a dividend.' What they are describing is, of course, more usually described as selling the family silver.

In the disclaimer, printed on the inside cover of the report in large but closely set capital type (which is impossible to read), Merrill Lynch denies all responsibility for its contents. British punters can be trusted to see through the ploy and look after themselves.

But, for South Africans, the Cape High Court case raises many serious questions about the morality and commitment of 'white' big business to the interests of the country under black rule.

Kersaf was 'unbundled' from Safren, chairman Buddy Hawton declared that the move would enable Safren to 'focus on its core business of shipping and freight, thereby optimising the synergies between these two closely related activities.'

Perhaps as indicative of the times: so far only readers of *Lloyd's List* in London have been fully informed of all the details and implications of the case. 'Certainly, when the South African court hearing takes place, ship-owners, charterers, bankers and maritime lawyers will be awaiting the outcome with some anticipation,' the journal declared in June. However, in the South African press the whole dramatic episode has passed unremarked.

While the roles of Old Mutual chair-

proceeds as a dividend to shareholders (UK-registered Old Mutual plc, being the biggest and controlling shareholder, was to get half) – also amounts to a fraud on Safmarine's long-term creditors.

In May the court issued an interim order interdicting Safmarine or Safren from disposing of the \$200-million pending the September hearing.

Knutzen says in his papers that he previously believed that Old Mutual and its top management in Safren were committed to financing Safmarine through periodic difficult phases in the business cycle – as they were easily able to do. He also contends that Safmarine was generally regarded as a national asset. On this basis he had concluded various 12-year lease agreements with Safmarine that committed his company, Golden Ocean, to financing the construction of several new ships. The last, a large bulk carrier launched this month, cost \$30-million.

When last year he heard gossip in international shipping circles that the Old Mutual men were not only planning strategies to escape these long-term commitments but were actually devising a scheme to sell Safmarine's assets as a quick and easy way of benefiting Old Mutual

at an extremely opportune moment, Knutzen decided that if Safmarine was to be sold up, the proceeds should properly go to creditors rather than to shareholders.

While Knutzen's court application must certainly be seen as self-interested, his arguments cannot be dismissed as entirely opportunistic.

In 1994 he prepared and published a report pleading for the development of the South African shipping industry. He then argued that as the majority of South Africa's exports and imports were still carried by foreign-flag vessels, a local shipping industry could become a major source of employment for relatively unskilled people and of foreign exchange earnings. South Africa already had the benefit of a developed, first-class shipping administration and infrastructure, he argued. (The situation has changed dramatically over the past year as Safmarine has relocated its top management to London and Jersey.)

Without a local shipping industry, South African seamen will have to seek employment on flag of convenience vessels, which invariably pay lower wages than national-flag carriers. South African citizens will be subject to pay and working conditions over which neither they nor their government will have any control. n



Chairman of Old Mutual, Michael Levett (left) and South African-born British shipowner Robert Knutzen (right), who is asking for the liquidation of Safmarine.

The recent sale of Safmarine's entire fleet of 50 container ships and of its bulk and 'reefer' fleets to various foreign competitors has not only imperilled the employment prospects of thousands of South African seamen. Even more significantly it can be read as a sign of the times: a clear indication that the now demutualised and London-based Old Mutual can not be expected to show any patriotic sentiment or long-term commitment to the welfare of the South African economy. What it would once have treated as a long-term interest justifying long-term financing will be exploited as a windfall profit opportunity for a UK company eager to enhance its appeal to foreign speculators.

Why, little more than a year ago, when

man Michael Levett and his appointee as chairman of Safren, Hawton, are central to the court application brought by South African-born (and Bishops and UCT-educated) British shipowner Robert Knutzen for the liquidation of Safmarine, he is not seeking an order against them personally. He is asking for the liquidation of Safmarine and an interdict preventing Safren from declaring a dividend based on the proceeds of the Safmarine asset sale. The application is set down for hearing on 6 September.

As one of Safmarine's biggest creditors, Knutzen believes the decision by Safren's board to sell Safmarine's more profitable container ships to a Danish company, A P Moller – and then immediately pay out the \$200-million (R1.2-billion) sale

The Reserve Bank is still pursuing its attempts to silence former exchange control inspector Nico Alant from telling what he knows about how the bank condoned repeated contraventions of exchange control laws that cost the country hundreds of millions. In the process the bank connived in an eight-year cover-up of evidence surrounding the murder of British front man, Simon Law, pictured below with fiancée Tarn Phillips.

WHAT THE **RESERVE BANK** DOESN'T WANT YOU TO KNOW ABOUT **DAVID JENKINS** AND THE MURDER OF **SIMON LAW**

WE FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT OUR readers are entitled to all the extraordinary information that was contained in documents former reserve bank inspector Nico Alant handed into court earlier this year – even if the documents were later struck from the court record at the insistence of the bank.

Here is just some of it: In August 1986 David Jenkins of Multistar Containers and John Hodges, manager of First National Bank's exchange control department, met with senior officials of the Reserve Bank in Pretoria. They wanted the Reserve Bank to approve a new twist to Multistar's controversial scheme to market shipping containers to the rich and famous of South Africa.

The container business in South Africa was very successful, they told the officials but, to maintain a market-related price worldwide, prices had to be reduced. Jenkins had a new idea how to do this. He proposed that the bank should allow a foreign company, International Container Leasing (ICL), to order containers from local manufacturers in bulk. Acting as an agent for ICL, Multistar would then immediately sell the containers – at a reduced price – to South African residents eager to invest in containers for leasing abroad. How was a reduced price possible? Why, the reduction in the price was derived from export incentive subsidies paid by the government on goods exported to foreign buyers.



The fact that the plan was devised to defraud an export incentive scheme funded by the taxpayer (the containers were, in fact, being bought by South Africans) does not appear to have occurred to the Reserve Bank officials.

Mr Pike of the Reserve Bank did, however, notice another deviant feature of the plan: the scheme that Jenkins was proposing was tantamount to allowing South Africans to acquire assets abroad with ordinary commercial rands – then a contravention of the law.

But, argued Jenkins, it would create jobs in the depressed Eastern Cape. And by allowing South Africans to invest in his international container leasing scheme, large amounts of foreign exchange would be earned for South Africa.

Whether this was so or not was impossible to prove. Jenkins's companies and his bankers had for years failed to file proper returns of all their transactions – a condition that had been set by the

Reserve Bank six years earlier, when it first approved his container leasing scheme. The Reserve Bank had, itself, never bothered to monitor the scheme either, leaving it wide open to abuse.

Pike concluded the meeting by saying he would refer the proposal to the Department of Trade and the Department of Customs and Excise for their comments before making a decision – and closed his file.

(It was not opened again until 17 October 1990, when Reserve Bank inspector Nico Alant found it and wrote a note to FNB formally turning down the application.)

In December 1986, four months after Jenkins's visit to the Reserve Bank, an 'extremely wealthy' British businessman, Sir Jeremy Bagge, applied to the Reserve Bank for permission to purchase nearly R10 million in financial rands for investment in a new South African company, Container Transport Services (CTS) which was to buy locally manufactured shipping containers in bulk. No-one at the Reserve Bank apparently noticed any connection, despite the fact that Sir Jeremy proposed appointing a well-known Johannesburg businessman, David Jenkins, to manage his new business in South Africa.

'Financial rands' were, in effect, rands sold to foreign investors at a substantial discount – as much as 40% discount – to

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RE THINK ING AIDS PART 3 THE HIV TEST

What does
it really
test for?

A study of 10 000 young adults in Uganda published in the British medical journal Lancet in 1994 showed that those who tested HIV positive were 60 times more likely to die within a given period than those who were HIV negative. Clear evidence, surely, that HIV causes AIDS. This is certainly the way it was presented in Lancet. But closer analysis of the study shows exactly the opposite. Both the mainstream and dissident theories of HIV and AIDS predict significantly higher death rates among those testing positive on the standard HIV tests. The difference is that, while the mainstream view is that HIV causes ill health, the dissidents believe that a positive HIV test is frequently a result, or marker, of ill health. Had HIV been a cause of new deaths in Uganda, the overall death rate should have increased significantly. However, when Ukrainian researcher Dr Vladimir Koliadin analysed the Uganda study ⁽¹⁾ he found that the number of deaths during the study from causes other than HIV had been far lower than normal. The number of deaths of HIV-negative and HIV-positive people, combined, was about what would normally be expected without the presence of a deadly new virus. In other words: in Uganda HIV/AIDS is simply a new label for old diseases. Koliadin also found that the distribution of deaths between the HIV-positive and HIV-negative groups differed significantly from that predicted by the HIV-causes-AIDS hypothesis. The Lancet study, he concluded, actually favoured the dissident point of view.

WHEN, IN 1993, US HEALTH AND HUMAN Services secretary Donna Shalala testified before the US Congress that without massive federal AIDS intervention 'there may be no-one left', she was echoing US newspaper headlines over the previous decade. In the six years since Shalala's testimony, US health bureaucrats have again expanded the definition of AIDS. Yet the latest US annual report on AIDS, published in June this year, shows that the number of new AIDS cases in the US dropped by 20% last year to 48 000 – this in a population of about 260-million. The proportion of non drug-abusing heterosexual AIDS cases remained constant at 14% of the total.

According to the mainstream view of HIV/AIDS, women are much more vulnerable than men to HIV transmission, but 80% of AIDS victims in the US are still men. Other reports have shown that the total of cumulative AIDS deaths – even as the definition expanded – between 1981 and 1997 was 390 000. In the same period 633 000 people were diagnosed with AIDS. Compare this with the dramatic spread of sexually transmitted diseases: 68-million cases of chlamydia in the US in the same period, 13,6-million of gonorrhoea and 6-million of herpes. There are many specific studies that confirm directly what these figures so strongly suggest: Americans are not practicing safe sex and AIDS is not transmitted by heterosexual sex.

Even this relatively low number of AIDS

victims is contentious. AIDS is officially diagnosed as any one of 30 diseases – including tuberculosis and pneumonia – in patients who test positive on the standard HIV tests. All the AIDS-defining diseases have causes and treatments unrelated to HIV. All can be found in people who test HIV negative. The list of AIDS-defining diseases has been expanded many times since 1984 – in terms of the original definition, AIDS in the US would have affected only 8 000 people. HIV dissidents say that, while the expansion of the AIDS definition has brought a small number of other groups into the picture, the original high-risk groups whose lifestyle explained their vulnerability to disease – promiscuous gays and drug-abusers – are still the only real victims of AIDS in the US.

One of the most famous of the thousands of scientists and physicians who doubt that HIV is the cause of AIDS, Nobel prize-winning biologist Kary Mullis says: 'The CDC (US Centers for Disease Control) has virtually doctored the books to make it appear as if the disease continues to spread.'

Just as there has never been a true AIDS epidemic in the US, so has there never been an epidemic of HIV infection. In 1994 investigative reporters from US TV news channel ABC forced a concession from CDC officials that they deliberately exaggerated the number of HIV-positive people in the US for fear of the budget cuts that would result if the actual

because we know we're not
the only fishy business
and that sometimes
things get a little hard to swallow

Lying is politically correct — premier

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NELSPRUIT: Politicians caught lying to the public should not be axed or disciplined "because the practice is a widespread and accepted political technique", according to Mpumalanga's new premier Ndaweni Mahlangu.

Addressing a news conference here yesterday, Mahlangu insisted that politicians all over the world lie about their actions for a range of reasons, including frustration, African Eye News Service reported. "It is nothing new. Many politicians publicly deny they did certain things but then later admit to them.

"It is accepted and is not

unusual anywhere in the world. It wasn't the end of (US President) Bill Clinton's life and I personally don't find it to be a very bad thing," Mahlangu said.

He was criticised by opposition parties last week for re-appointing three controversial MECs, two of whom are leading figures in probes by Judge Willem Heath's anti-corruption unit.

Mahlangu confirmed that re-appointed Finance MEC Jacques Modipane had "privately admitted he lied" when he publicly denied signing three illegal promissory notes worth R340 million last year.

The promissory notes illegally used 32 government game reserves as collateral and were secretly issued by the Mpumalanga Parks Board without Reserve Bank, Treasury or national cabinet approval.

Modipane vehemently denied that he knew anything about the deal when it was first exposed in the media last year and instead accused senior parks board officials of forging his signature on the documents.

Heath was forced to send the documents for forensic handwriting analysis to both Pretoria and New York before Modipane pri-

vately retracted his denial.

Mahlangu told the news conference: "I know that (Modipane) first denied and now admits to signing the documents but this was not a grievous enough mistake to send anyone to the guillotine.

"I'm not saying it was correct but he was not acting as an individual at the time. He was following instructions and cannot be held personally accountable."

Mahlangu refused to say whose instructions Modipane was following when he signed the promissory notes and later publicly lied. — Sapa

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figures were known. The number of people testing HIV positive in the US has been constant at about 800 000 from the outset of the HIV hypothesis.

South Africa seems to contradict the US experience. Here there are a large number of people who test HIV positive and they are spread throughout the population. But according to the Perth Group of HIV dissidents, while the HIV test does, in many cases, indicate serious health problems, it never indicates infection by a deadly virus. They say that the signals that give rise to a positive HIV test are not contagious but arise from within the body as a result of a variety of possible causes.

There are two standard HIV-antibody tests, the ELISA and the Western Blot. Both work by exposing the patient's blood in serum to what are supposedly pure HIV proteins, that is proteins supposedly unique to HIV. Assuming the test is against genuine 'HIV' proteins – and this the Perth Group and other dissidents strongly dispute – there is always the possibility of antibody cross-reactions, especially in Africa. Antibody tests are used to diagnose many diseases for reasons of cost and convenience. The body forms antibodies to infectious agents such as viruses, of which proteins are the most basic constituents. If there is an antibody reaction to the 'HIV' proteins it is assumed the patient has developed these antibodies through exposure to HIV – by infection – and the diagnosis is HIV positive. However, it is accepted that antibodies to one disease can cross-react with antigens or proteins of other diseases. The HIV-antibody tests are particularly subject to this problem, having been documented to cross-react with some 70 diseases, including malaria, tuberculosis, flu, hepatitis and herpes.

Africans have a far greater exposure to diseases and infectious agents than people in the West. Africans therefore inherit and develop far more antibodies and consequently have a greater chance and occurrence of cross-reactions on the HIV-antibody tests. A 1994 study in central Africa by US researcher and AIDS establishment stalwart Max Essex concluded that more than 70% of HIV-positive test results in that part of the world were false positives, because of the prevalence of cross-reactions with antibodies from diseases rare in the West, such as tuberculosis and leprosy.⁽²⁾

Another condition that commonly causes cross-reactions is pregnancy. Think about it. Ante-natal clinics in KwaZulu-Natal report that alarming numbers of pregnant Zulu women are testing HIV positive. These women are diagnosed on the basis of the ELISA test alone – the standard for diagnosis in South Africa. But in the US experts agree that the ELISA test overreacts, and the Western Blot test is always used to confirm repeatedly positive ELISAs. Even Abbott Laboratories,

manufacturer of the ELISA test kit, warns: 'ELISA testing alone cannot be used to diagnose AIDS ... it is appropriate to investigate repeatedly reactive specimens by additional more specific or supplemental tests.' Since heterosexual sex in the West does not transmit HIV or cause AIDS, is it not reasonable to suggest that the tendency of



Dr Val Turner, emergency physician and spokesperson of the Perth Group of HIV/AIDS dissidents, based at the Royal Perth Hospital. The Perth Group is led by biophysicist Eleni Papadopulos-Eleopulos. Other members include: professor of pathology John Papadimitriou, and senior clinical physicist Dr David Causer.

HIV-antibody tests to cross-react with something as innocuous as pregnancy is the more likely explanation for so many Zulu women testing HIV positive?

But there is a more fundamental problem that confounds every aspect of HIV testing. Max Essex obtained his estimates of the inaccuracy of the HIV tests in central Africa, cited earlier, by repeat testing and by using the Western Blot to confirm the results of the ELISA. But, logically, an antibody test can't be used to establish the accuracy of another antibody test.

The only proper way to ascertain the accuracy of HIV-antibody tests – or to show that a positive antibody test result establishes HIV infection – is to compare antibody test results with the presence or absence of the virus, HIV itself, in the patient, by the independent gold standard procedure of viral isolation. The standard was agreed at a symposium of leading virologists held at the Pasteur Institute in 1973. Many HIV dissidents, most notably those based in Perth, have assiduously argued⁽³⁻⁴⁾ that this most basic requirement of test evaluation cannot be performed, because the HI virus was never originally, and has never since been, isolated in terms of the 'Pasteur rules'.

The Perth Group critique asserts a critical

mistake at the birth of the HIV hypothesis with mind-boggling consequences. As Etienne de Harven, professor emeritus of pathology at the University of Toronto, recently observed: 'Contemporary viral oncology research is based on the identification of viral markers such as proteins or nucleic acids. However, the specificity of viral markers depends on the success of virus isolation and purification ... the virus (HIV) has never been properly isolated.'⁽⁵⁾ Fifty-billion dollars worth of HIV/AIDS research presupposes proper isolation of the virus, but, in electron photomicrographs published in March 1997, HIV experts themselves showed that there is no such thing as purified HIV.

Even more astonishing was the admission in 1997 by Professor Luc Montagnier that his 1983 cell cultures putatively infected with HIV, and used to prove the existence of HIV, did not contain any retroviral particles whatsoever⁽⁶⁾. Attempts to improve the specificity of the HIV tests by synthetically producing 'HIV' proteins and the use of other HIV diagnostic techniques – such as the polymerase chain reaction invented by HIV dissident Kary Mullis – to measure 'viral load', are futile, because they are based on proteins and nucleic acids that are not proven constituents of HIV. The Perth Group has demonstrated that the proteins identified as unique constituents of HIV, and used in the HIV antibody tests, are in fact not viral at all but cellular.

The Perth Group points out that HIV has proved impossible to isolate by the classical procedure, and that its existence was instead inferred from the observation of certain phenomena, characteristic of, but not unique to, retroviruses. Claims by Montagnier in 1983 and by US researcher Dr Robert Gallo in 1984 that these phenomena proved the existence of a new retrovirus and, in Gallo's case, that it was the probable cause of AIDS, were prematurely accepted by US health bureaucrats and virologists who were under great political and budgetary pressure. Certainly, in the case of HIV, the principles of published work and peer review – usually sacrosanct in a scientific discovery of this importance – were waived.

'HIV' proteins are specified p for protein, and gp for glycoprotein, followed by a number to represent its molecular weight. HIV is said to uniquely comprise proteins p24, p17, gp41, gp120 and so on. This fundamental assumption was cast into doubt by an experiment on 144 dogs tested for HIV antibodies with the Western Blot test in California in 1990. Seventy-two of the dogs were reactive to one or more of the 'HIV' proteins⁽⁷⁾. In 1998 60% of patients with hepatitis B and 35% with hepatitis C were found to have antibodies to the 'core' HIV protein, p24⁽⁸⁾. P24 has also been found in 41% of patients with multiple sclerosis⁽⁹⁾. Since neither of the dogs nor the patients were HIV infected, these findings, and

many others, directly contradict claims that unique protein constituents of 'HIV' have been identified.

In the Western Blot test, 'HIV' proteins are separated along the length of a nitrocellulose strip. This enables individual reactions to the 10 or so 'HIV' proteins to be observed. In Australia a positive test requires particular sets of four bands to react; in the US different sets of two or three (which may or may not include the bands required in Australia) suffice. In Africa, on the rare occasions when the Western Blot is used, only one designated set of two bands is required. Since the bands supposedly represent proteins unique to HIV, AIDS-dissident scientists ask why it should be possible to have a reaction to any of the single proteins or bands and not be HIV positive. If one band was acceptable for the diagnosis of HIV infection (and it used to be in the US) then 25% of Australian blood donors would be infected with HIV.

In terms of the dissident view AIDS patients are expected to test HIV positive - but people testing HIV positive are not necessarily expected to develop AIDS. There are many people who test HIV positive who live normal, healthy lives.

One is Christine Maggiore, founder of the Los Angeles branch of the group Health Education AIDS Liaison (HEAL) that has for 18 years provided support for HIV-positive people. She tested HIV positive in 1992, and has since tested both negative and indeterminate. Maggiore avoids all AIDS drugs, is in perfect health, and in 1997 gave birth to a healthy boy. She says: 'It's wrong to encourage HIV testing and to administer death sentences to those who test HIV positive.' Of the long-time HIV-positive survivors she says: '... what we all have in common is that we have abandoned the terror

of the HIV-positive diagnosis and we don't take the toxic drugs [like AZT].'

It's ironic that the HIV antibody tests should be the basis for the prescription of AZT, a highly toxic chemotherapy that specifically attacks the immune system.

The largest and longest trial of AZT treatment, the Concorde study, first published in *Lancet* in 1993, showed that AZT significantly increased the HIV-positive person's chances of developing AIDS⁽¹⁰⁾.

Dr Donald Abrams was one of the heroes of the most famous chronicle of the early years of AIDS in the US, *And the Band Played On* by Randy Shilts. Now he is professor of medicine and director of the AIDS programme at San Francisco General Hospital. Recently Abrams told a group of medical students at the University of California: 'I have a large population of people who have chosen not to take any anti-retrovirals ... I've been following them since the very beginning ... They've watched all their friends go on the anti-retroviral bandwagon and die.'

Conditions in Africa make AIDS much more subject to misinterpretation. Yet in Africa it is not even necessary to test for HIV to diagnose AIDS. According to the World Health Organisation's 'Bangui' definition AIDS in Africa can officially be diagnosed simply on the basis of common symptoms such as cough, fever and diarrhoea and a few diseases, some of which, HIV dissidents point out, have been endemic in Africa for generations.

As Dr Valendar Turner of the Perth Group commented to noseweek, anyone in the West diagnosed HIV positive on those grounds would sue their doctor.

In 1985 well-meaning Western researchers from countries where it was unthinkable to have hundreds of thousands of people dying each year of diseases like tuberculosis (as has always been the case in sub-Saharan Africa) came to Africa and started calling these diseases AIDS.

They attributed them to sexual promiscuity, not realising that many of the communities ravaged by AIDS were among the most sexually conservative in the world. There was no need for a virus to explain the vulnerability to disease Western researchers attributed to HIV: the modern phenomena of crowded urban slums and the age-old realities of poverty, malnutrition, untreated tropical diseases and civil wars were sufficient. In 1998 a Tanzanian study showed that simply providing pregnant HIV-positive women with multivitamins resulted in healthier babies and a noticeable increase in post-natal immunities⁽¹¹⁾.

All the dissident groups including the Perth Group, the Group for the Scientific Re-Appraisal of the HIV/AIDS Hypothesis and HEAL consistently request an international, independently adjudicated debate on the issue of HIV/AIDS.

The initiative for such a debate lies in the hands of an AIDS establishment with huge vested interests that, on the whole, simply ignores mounting evidence that the theory is dangerously wrong. Now, it is reported, the World Health Organisation is planning to kick-start the development of an HIV drug market in developing countries that 'could be worth \$50-billion to the big drug firms'.

It is urgent for the South African Department of Health to join the movement for a thorough re-consideration of the issue. n

Numbers in brackets in the text refer to scientific sources which readers may find listed on our website: www.noseweek.co.za

VIEWS WE SHARE (WITH COMEDIAN ANDY ROONEY)

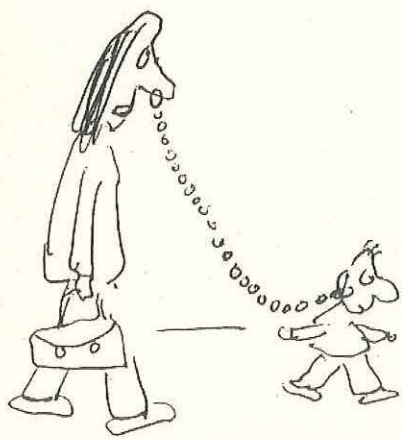
Prison: Did you know that it costs the State R25 000 a year to house each prisoner? Jeez, for twenty-five thousand bucks a piece, several of our friends will happily take a few prisoners into their homes. They live in Gauteng. They already have bars on their windows and high walls with electrified fencing and electronic gates. Criminals shouldn't be given free room and board. They should have to run 12 hours a day on a treadmill and generate electricity. And if they don't want to run, they can rest in the chair that's hooked up to the generator.

Fabric Softener: Rooney's wife uses fabric softener. 'I never knew what that stuff was for,' he says. 'Then I noticed women were coming up to me (sniff) 'Married' (walk off). That's how they mark their territory. You can take off that ring, but it's hard to get that April Fresh scent out of your clothes.'

Ads in Bills: You, too, have noticed they're putting advertisements in with your bills these days? As if bills aren't distasteful enough, they have to stuff junk mail in there with them. 'I get back at them,' says Rooney. 'I put garbage in with my cheque when I mail it: coffee grinds, banana peels ... I write, "Could you throw this away for me? Thank you."'

Award Shows: Can you believe how many award shows they have now? They have awards for commercials. The Loerie Awards. A whole show full of commercials. I taped it and then I fast-forwarded through the whole thing.

gus



Modern parenting No. 27

NOSEWEEK
.....
BANNED OUR
.....
LAST AD.
.....

*Provocative stuff.
August issue out now.*



SAcitylife

SOUTH AFRICA'S MONTHLY INFORMATION & ENTERTAINMENT MAGAZINE

continued from page five

encourage genuine new foreign investment in South Africa.

Despite the reservations expressed earlier by Mr Pike about Jenkins's plan, the Reserve Bank approved Sir Jeremy Bagge's application.

A piece of cake, really, considering the low level of understanding displayed by the bank's officials in the letter of approval. 'Should you dispose of any fixed assets acquired ... with financial rand ... the proceeds may not be utilised for any other purpose without out prior approval,' it read. Which was pretty pathetic, considering that the assets they intended acquiring with the money were very mobile tank containers. Presumably they were free to 'utilise' the sale proceeds of those for any purpose whatsoever!

What the officials dealing with this new application presumably did not know – or had not bothered to find out – was that Sir Jeremy was not wealthy at all and did not himself intend investing a penny. He had for years been employed by Jenkins. This was simply the next scheme Jenkins had devised to profit from the Bank's lax attitude to law enforcement.

Jenkins now retained Cape Town attorney Joubert Rabie – soon to gain notoriety for his role as adviser to the directors of Masterbond – to help him exploit this new opportunity.

In April 1987 Rabie instructed Tony Cannell of London solicitors Coward Chance, to draw up a series of contracts

on the basis of which British bankers Kleinwort Benson [see page 12 for more about them] would be asked to raise a \$2.2-million loan for a new, secretly South African-controlled off-shore company, Overport Ltd. Bagge was to front as director and shareholder of this company.

The loan was to be illegally guaranteed by Jenkins's company, Multistar. He hoped to use the dollars to buy financial rands – effectively gaining an illegal 40% discount – for investment in the shares of a new South African company, Container Transport Services (CTS).

In reality the money was to be used to buy SA-manufactured tank containers for immediate export – at a discount of up to 40%. The profit would be accumulated off-shore, to be recycled through the same system again and again – a form of currency fraud called 'round tripping'.

Just how temptingly profitable the scheme had become – and something of the intrigue that surrounded it – is demonstrated by a written instruction Jenkins issued concerning Joubert Rabie's attendance at the negotiations in London: 'Joubert/ Mike [Swemmer, Multistar's accountant based in Boksburg] / Jeremy to imply, if subject is raised, that Joubert is fronting for an eminent SA political figure. ... As far as Simon is concerned we only got this deal through the good offices of a high-up South African political figure.'

Negotiations with Kleinwort Benson were more protracted than expected.

Meanwhile, using Simon Law's connections, Jenkins persuaded a US company, International Container Leasing (ICL) to advance a \$386 000 loan – enough to buy R1.5-million in financial rands – to his off-shore company, Overport Ltd. It immediately became part of Sir Jeremy Bagge's purported great wealth destined for investment in South Africa.

That Overport Ltd was Jenkins's company and not Bagge's was made clear in a telex sent by Jenkins to the Jersey-based manager of Overport (Mr David Waters of City Management) on 18 March 1987: 'As a shareholder in Overport Ltd I hereby authorise you to ... transfer all my shares to ICL, such shares to be held in trust by City Management pending repayment of the loan.'

Days later R1.5m in finrand (the equivalent of US \$386 000) was deposited to the account of Container Transport Services (Pty) in Johannesburg.

On 6 April Jenkins enthusiastically reported to KB director David Wake-Walker on this trial run: 'In this microcosm all theoretical cash flows have proved themselves in actuality.'

Judging by the next paragraph of Jenkins's letter, the profits to be derived from the scheme were going to be substantial: 'We have been able to finance Overport in excess of two hundred and sixty thousand dollars ... and what was a shell company now has a capital base.' □

To be continued

On September 9 Detective Lambkin, officer in charge, L.A.P.D. Hollywood Homicide, reported

NEVILLE VAN DER MERWE HAD hurriedly packed some clothes and left his home in Johannesburg on foot in May 1991, telling his father, Willem: 'Someone has gone missing and I am going to get the blame for it – I've got no alibi.' Willem did not see or hear from his son again until August of that year when, following a tip-off from a friend, he flew to meet him in the United States.

Now, six months later, Willem had agreed to be interviewed once more by Sergeant Roberts, the British detective investigating the murder of accountant Simon Law. Willem told how he had asked his son whether he had been to Law's house in the Kent countryside, and that Neville had admitted that he had gone to the house with Glen Chait – the second suspected hitman – on three occasions in a car they had borrowed from some people they were staying with in England. But, Neville told his father, he had remained in the car, except for one time when he walked around Simon Law's house and looked in through the windows. Neville told his father that

Glen had told him 'the less you know about it the better'.

It was then, said Willem, that Neville had asked him the curious question: 'Is Glen Chait still alive?'

Five years later, in 1997, the South African police attempted to arrest Chait. Two senior officers from the widely feared Brixton murder and robbery unit went to his home in the Northern suburbs of Johannesburg, but, remarkably, when he came to the front door, they politely agreed to wait for him there while he packed a bag – and calmly escaped out the back door. Scandal in police circles led eventually to his successful arrest several weeks later – but the day after a magistrate ordered his extradition to England, Chait was found hanged, dead, in his police cell.

In September 1998 the British police provided the United States immigration service with Neville van der Merwe's identity details. US Special Agent Enright performed a number of computer searches and found an entry with some matching details: a male person calling

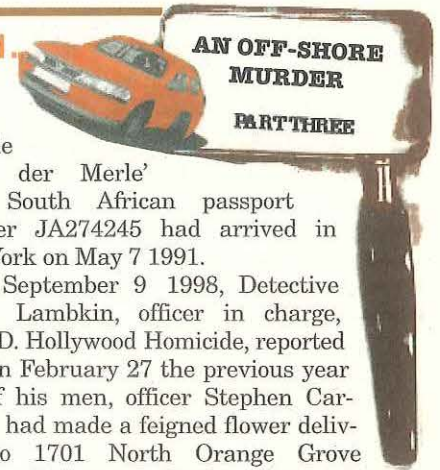
himself

'Neville

Uvan der Merle' with South African passport number JA274245 had arrived in New York on May 7 1991.

On September 9 1998, Detective David Lambkin, officer in charge, L.A.P.D. Hollywood Homicide, reported that on February 27 the previous year one of his men, officer Stephen Carmona, had made a feigned flower delivery to 1701 North Orange Grove Avenue, Hollywood. Having previously viewed photographs of both Neville and his brother Graham van der Merwe, officer Carmona was confident that one of the persons he observed there was either Neville or Graham – he could not be sure which. But Sergeant Rogers was immediately sure it was his man. Interpol had told him that on the day officer Carmona made his flower delivery, Graham was in South Africa – under arrest for allegedly smuggling stolen vehicles to Botswana. □

To be continued





The World Wildlife Fund: An Unnatural History by Kevin Dowling

The WWF portrays itself as a charitable organisation through which people can express their love of nature and concern for wildlife, particularly those species threatened with extinction by man. One would expect it to be representative of its members' views and accountable to them for what it does and how it spends their money. However, as our ongoing series by Kevin Dowling has shown, the WWF is, in fact, a secretive organisation formed by spies and big businessmen with dubious histories, secret agendas and scant regard for democracy. The effect has, more often than not, been disastrous both for nature and those ordinary people who have lived their lives closest to nature.

7. An A to B of the 1001 Club

PRESIDENT OF WWF International Prince Bernhard welcomed a Rothmans executive, Charles De Haes, on to his staff in 1970. De Haes was assigned to help the prince turn one of 'feather-head' spy Peter Scott's ideas into a reality. A thousand of the world's richest and most powerful men were to be invited to contribute \$10 000 each to the environmental revolution.

The \$10m capital sum, invested in arms, chemicals and other high-paying stocks, would enable WWF International to function independently of its national appeals.

The 1001: A Nature Trust, was a brilliant start to a career at the forefront of the world environmental movement for the Belgian-born De Haes, who became joint director-general at WWF-International in 1974, and assumed sole title to the job in 1977.

WWF's recent endorsement of scandalous forestry projects in South America in return for multimillion-dollar payoffs (see nose26) was not the first indication that the controllers of the WWF were more interested in money than in nature. Years ago, De Haes and Scott endorsed a bid by WWF-UK to broker a deal between the world's largest pirate whaler and the International Whaling Commission to legalise £1m-worth of illegally held whale meat. They proposed that WWF-UK should get half the profits. The Whaling Commission rejected the deal.

But it is the names they recruited to join the 1001 Club that offer the most interesting insights into what the WWF was really all about. A selection of those to be found under A and B give the drift:

ABEDI, Hassan (of Pakistan): an early – and typical – recruit to the 1001, Abedi was the 'money mystic' who founded the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI), a gigantic money laundry for dope syndicates and intelligence agencies. The bank's \$14-billion collapse

was the biggest in financial history.

Abedi's friend and fellow director of BCCI, Sheik Salim Bin Ladin, was one of four Saudis recruited to join the 1001.

One of BCCI's projects was to finance the atomic bomb for Islam (money from Saudi, brain power from Pakistan). It set up a front company in partnership with the Union Bank of Switzerland, called Thesaurus Continental Securities, for this purpose. Curiously, for some time at least, South Africa (for the money) and Israel (for the brain power) used the same company for the same and other, lesser, nefarious purposes, such as secretly buying up foreign newspapers.

The Botswana chairman of BCCI, Louis Nchindo, was also the chairman of the Kalahari Conservation Society, a WWF-associated charity run by Anglo and De Beers executives. Nchindo, also chairman of the De Beers affiliate Debotswana and the local Barclays Bank (more about them later), was leader of a band of cattle barons caught poaching big game in 1991. They were hastily released when their identities were confirmed.

Sir Frederick Bennett, director of UK bankers Kleinwort Benson (much more about them later, too) sat on the board of BCCI Hong Kong.

Swiss spook Albert Hartmann (also a member of the 1001) ran BCCI's Swiss operations.

One of the more interesting consul-

tants employed by BCCI was Sir Julian Amery, former *Times* journalist; member during WW2 of Section D, SOE (Special Operations Executive, an early British dirty tricks and intelligence operation funded by Sir Ernest Oppenheimer); Tory MP (1950); official in the War Office, then the Colonial Office and, finally, the Air Ministry (1958-62). In 1960 Amery was involved (with WWF founders Richard Kleinwort and Rex Benson's bank), in the staging of a coup in Yemen on behalf of Saudi Arabia; and, with SAS (later MI6) founder David Stirling, in reorganising Oman's armed forces around a core of SAS personnel. In the 1970s he popped up in negotiations with the FNLA in Angola. In sunny SA he was a director of Vaal Reefs Exploration & Mining Corp and of Western Deep Levels.

ADEANE, Lord Robert (died 1979): a UK member of the 1001, Adeane was also an enthusiastic big game hunter. He accompanied Prince Philip to India and Nepal in 1961 where they shot tigers together.

He became chairman of the 117 Old Broad Street (or 'Drayton') Group of companies in 1966. Drayton were Crown Agents for the Colonies and managed investments for the Queen and the Church Commissioners, *inter alia* in Lonrho. Other major stakeholders in Lonrho included Angus Ogilvy (whose wife, Princess Alexandra, became president of WWF-UK).

Adeane's cousin Michael was private secretary to Queen Elizabeth; Michael's son Edward was treasurer and private secretary to Prince Charles.

Adeane personally headed Steenbok Investment Trust, the subsidiary of the Drayton Group which managed the Queen's vast investments in apartheid South Africa. In 1971 Lonrho treasurer Fred Butcher and two company officials were arrested on charges of defrauding minority shareholders in the company. A

panic on the JSE threatened to bury Lonrho, until foreign secretary Duncan Sandys (another of the original founders of Bernhard's Bilderberg Conferences), persuaded SA foreign minister Helgaard Muller (his brother, Tommy, was a WWF-SA director) to arrange for the charges to be dropped. Adeane ordered the immediate disinvestment of Queen Elizabeth's funds from South Africa.

Steenbok's MD, interviewed at the airport by the *Financial Mail*, said that he 'hoped' to avoid arrest by fleeing the country - and he did.

ABS, Hermann J (died 1994): While Abs, one of the German trustees of WWF-International, was not officially a member of the 1001, he remained influential in 1001 circles through his many friends and associates who were.

A prominent member of the Himmler Circle before and during WW2, Abs was known as 'the Nazi banker who never joined the party'. He ran the National Treuhand, a slush fund created for Hitler's personal use by his German, British and US backers. Nazi ecologist Rudolph Hess, signatory on Hitler's behalf, ran his personal finances through Abs, as did Ribbentrop and Goering.

He represented the Nazis at the Bank for International Settlements.

In 1942 Abs also joined the supervisory board of I G Farben (Auschwitz), where thousands perished making artificial rubber for the Reich. The artificial rubber process had been developed in the US by Standard Oil of New Jersey, controlled by the eco-friendly Rockefeller family. Since the patent threatened the continuing domination of the rubber planters in the Belgian Congo, British Malaya and Washington's South American client states (its general use would have ruined them), the Rockefellers concluded a series of cartel agreements with Farben. The effect of the agreements was to put the Wehrmacht on wheels, while making sure the US forces remained dependent on colonial rubber.

I G Farben also exploited the oil-from-coal process. Later the Farben-konzern would share its patents with Anglo-Vaal, the South African mining house controlled by the Hersov and Mennell families, wildlifers all. Twenty years later oil-from-coal helped cushion Rhodesia and SA from UN oil sanctions.

Abs was sentenced to death in absentia by a Yugoslav war crimes court for his work at Auschwitz, but the Anglo-Americans refused either to surrender him or try him themselves. Instead he was absolved of blame through the intervention of Lord Rockwell, a director of WWF founder Sir

Ernest Kleinwort's bank, and made head of the 'de-Nazified' Deutsche Bank.

As spokesman for the main board, and later chairman of the Deutsche Bank, Abs became chairman of 20 major industrial companies and a member of the supervisory boards at another 24. He was a prominent participant in Prince Bernhard's Bilderberg conferences.

The Pope selected Abs, an ostentatiously devout Roman Catholic, to investigate the Vatican's scandalous involvement with the Mafia in the collapse of a Swiss bank, Banco Ambrosiano, and in Lucio Gelli's criminally inspired Freemasons Lodge, *Propaganda Due* (P2). Abs was able to reassure the Pontiff that no impropriety had taken place.

ANDERSON, Robert O: A US oil tycoon - Atlantic Richfield (ARCO) - he was both a member of the 1001 and a trustee of WWF-International. The *Wall Street Journal* reported accusations that Anderson and fellow ARCO executive Thornton Bradshaw (RCA Corp, NBC, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, etc) had bought influence to build the controversial Trans-Alaska pipeline from fellow 'conservationist' Clinton 'Pink' Guttermuth (of the National Rifle Association).

Anderson owned *The Observer* of London (see nose23), and was a sponsor of the Club of Rome. A keen eugenicist and population controller, he and Bradshaw founded the Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies. Aspen, which is committed to the view that the poor constitute a form of pollution, provided a \$200 000 grant to help set up Friends of the Earth under Rockefeller lawyer Brice LaLonde.



ANNENBERG, Walter: Another US media mogul among the 1001, he was also a trustee of the Aspen Institute, a fellow of the Leakey Foundation and a member of the English Speaking Union (with banker and spy-boss Rex Benson). A former US ambassador to Great Britain and financier of the Trilateral Commission, he was a crony of Ronald and Nancy Reagan. He

was estimated (in 1992) to be worth \$2.4-billion in cash, securities, real estate, and impressionist art. (By 1991 he had already donated paintings worth \$1-billion to the NY Metropolitan Museum of Art.)

BANCROFT, James R: 1001 member and chairman of United Nuclear Corporation, Falls Church, Virginia.

BARRAN, Sir David: a UK member of the 1001, he was also governor of the Centre for Environmental Studies (1972-75). His hobbies are listed as shooting and embroidery. As MD of Shell Petroleum and chairman of Shell International, it is no surprise that Prince Bernhard's wife made him a knight of the Order of Orange Nassau. He was also chairman of the Midland Bank and director of BCCI, Canadian Imperial Bank and of pharmaceutical giant Glaxo.

BATA, Mrs Thomas J: Canada's lady among the 1001 and a member of the board of WWF-International, she and her husband are naturally better known as directors of Bata Ltd - whose shoe sweat shops in KwaZulu once attracted international condemnation for their low-wages policy. n

In our next issue we continue our 1001 sample alphabet, starting with:



BECHTEL, Stephen D: Besides being a member of the US contingent in the 1001, he heads the world's biggest building corporation, which recently constructed the CIA's new African base in Botswana. Long ago it built the Hoover Dam; today it has all but finished rebuilding Kuwait. The company culture is rabidly anti-Semitic and profits from the revolving door between big business and covert agencies. Bechtel's partner John A McCone was head of the US Atomic Energy Commission (1958-60) and director of the CIA (1961-65), when he commissioned Edward Lansdale to assassinate or overthrow Fidel Castro.

The Letters of AL KROK

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"DEAR EDITOR,
THANK YOU FOR OFFERING TO
PUBLISH MY LATEST WORK.



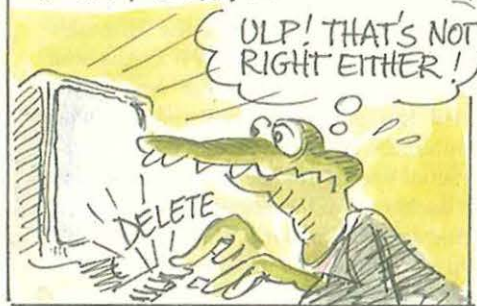
"AS YOU KNOW YOURSELF,
BEING A WRITER IS
NOT EASY..



THAT DOES'NT
SOUND RIGHT..



"BEING YOURSELF A
WRITER, AS YOU KNOW,
IS NOT EASY..



LET'S FIGURE
THIS OUT..



IF BEING A
WRITER IS NOT
EASY...

THEN SIMPLY
TO BE REQUIRES
EFFORT..



.. IMPLIES
RESISTANCE.

BUT HOW
CAN THAT
BE?



BEING IS
JUST BEING



YOU DONT
DO BEING!



..OR DO
YOU?



"NOT TO DO
IS TO BE"



BHAGAVAD
GITA

"TO DO IS
TO BE"



JEAN-PAUL
SARTRE

DO
BE
DO BE
DO!@



FRANK
SINATRA

THE ART OF "NOT-DOING" REQUIRES PRACTICE!



I'LL WRITE TO THE
EDITOR TOMORROW..

CLICK!

AUTOMARK SALESMAN FAILS POLYGRAPH TEST

LAWYERS HAVE BEEN HOGGING the lime (lemon?) light for so long that it's years since second-hand car salesmen got their fair share. It's not surprising, therefore, that when Richard Emdin walked into Sandton Toyota in October 1996 he had forgotten that sex and buying a second-hand car are the things that farce are made of.

Helping him on the way to blissful forgetfulness was that witty ad on TV in which a second-hand car salesman, wired up for a lie detector test, was asked whether he would sell his mother-in-law a dud second hand car. 'Never,' replies the Automark salesman – and the bells *don't* ring! The graph stays even! After a few more questions in the same vein, the punch line: has he ever lied about his golf score? 'No,' he replies – setting off bells, whistles and a wildly fluctuating graph. Moral of the story: an Automark dealer may lie about his golf scores – but never about the used cars he sells.

Richard wanted a used Toyota Camry and he wanted the benefit of the implied assurance. Sandton Toyota (an Automark dealer) had just the car. Before finalising the deal, he wanted confirmation on three issues: the car had a full service history, that it was not an ex car-hire car and was not from the coast.

Salesman Milden Lurie assured him there was a full service history available (but he couldn't see it immediately as it was held in the company's safe because of its value), the car was from Pretoria and it had been bought from a private person.

When he took delivery of the car a few days later, Richard noticed that the service book commenced at 50 000 km. 'Why? Because we've given you a brand-new service book!' said Milden with a confident smile. Memories rushed back and Richard said he would prefer the (original) 'old' service book, thank you.

It transpired there was no 'old' service book in the safe, there was no service history: the car had originally been owned by Avis Car Hire – and it was from the coast. Red-faced, Sandton Toyota's sales manager, Mr Claasen, undertook to replace it with another Camry which did meet Richard's criteria. But, when after 10 weeks they were still unable to find one, they refunded his money.

On 21 January 1997 Richard wrote to the Advertising Standards Authority of SA to complain about the Automark TV ad. 'I was grossly misled and feel that it does not meet the standards of honest advertising required,' he told them.

He asked the authority to order the immediate withdrawal of the ad. Alternatively, he suggested, Automark should

But, says advertising authorities, it doesn't matter. That TV ad didn't mean to tell the truth, it merely conveyed 'a commitment to' the truth.

make it clear 'the person taking the polygraph test is not a real salesperson, that not all Automark salespeople take such tests and that the real Automark salespeople may or may not live up to the implied guarantees of absolute honesty in the advertisement'.

When Barlow Motor Investments, owners of Sandton Toyota, got to hear of Richard's 'sorry experience', MD Brian Diamond wrote to assure him: 'This is certainly not the way in which we do business. I have asked our director in charge to fully investigate the matter as a matter of urgency and revert to you.'

Gary Farrell, national manager for Toyota SA's Automark project, wrote to confirm: 'The salesman did initially lie to this customer, and is no longer in their employ as a result of this whole debacle. Please let me know if there is anything further we need to do.' The implication was obvious: there was nothing more they needed to do.

The ASA certainly thought so. In July 1997 it advised Richard it found nothing wrong with the ad: 'The advertisement is intended to convey to the public that Automark has committed itself to a policy of honest and fair trading.' Most significant was the reason given for its ruling: 'It is quite in order for the Automark commercial to continue as *corrective action was immediately taken to ensure conformity to the Code.*'

Imagine Richard's dismay when in September 1997 a friend happened to mention that he, too, was buying a used Toyota ... from a nice man at Sandton Toyota called Milden Lurie! It transpired that Lurie had, as he himself put it, merely been 'sent away for a few months' until things 'cooled down'.

Richard angrily wrote to ASA: 'Any action that might have been taken was fabricated to enable Automark to protect their position. The information provided to ASA appears to have been no more than a subterfuge which reflects no commitment to upholding the standards implied in the advertisement.'

As the departure of the salesperson was, by their own account, a key factor in

ASA's decision not to take action against Automark, he was certain the authority would, as a matter of urgency, want to review its decision.

Toyota's Mr Farrell wrote to Mr Diamond at Barlow Motor Investments (copy to Mr Emdin) demanding that they immediately fire Mr Lurie – and give Toyota the assurance he would not be employed at any other Automark branch. In conclusion, Farrell pointed out: 'We are in the situation where we may be forced to withdraw a multi-million rand advertising campaign, due to the actions of one salesperson.'

But, in January 1998, after Toyota's ad agency, Saatchi & Saatchi, informed ASA that the 'lie detector' commercial would not be flighted again, the ASA's manager, Mrs Pestana, wrote to Richard: 'With the advertising no longer being used ... no purpose will be served in adjudicating on this matter.' She did add: 'Thank you for writing to us.'

Imagine his dismay, not to speak of confusion, when, two months later, he received a further letter from ASA from the chairman, Mr IRB Shepherd, defending the ASA's earlier ruling. Contrary to what ASA had originally advised Richard, Shepherd told him the (purported) dismissal of Sandton Toyota's lying salesman had had 'nothing to do' with the original ruling in favour of the Automark ad. 'The ASA was not concerned how the company dealt with the offender,' he said, the ad had been considered 'in advertising terms only' and was found not to be misleading.

Why was Shepherd so anxious to make this point, two months after his manager had dismissed the complaint as irrelevant history? We don't know, but it was certainly useful to Saatchi & Saatchi and its client, Automark. This became clear in September last year when, lo and behold, Automark's lie detector ad was back on SATV – despite Saatchi & Saatchi's undertaking to the ASA. Maybe their colleague Mr Shepherd anticipated their need. The expense of the ad had, after all, justified a longer run.

Richard again wrote to the ASA: 'I look

forward to hearing what action you are going to take as this is the second time Automark has misled the ASA regarding my complaint,' he told them.

Early this year ASA sent Richard a letter it had received from Saatchi & Saatchi, explaining that early last year the Lie Detector ad came off air when they 'developed new creative'. Perhaps it was too creative, because in September the client had ordered the new commercial to be taken off air 'due to various reasons'. The decision was so sudden, that Saatchi's had no time to

cancel the expensive air time they had booked for the coming month - horrors - so out came the trusty old lie detector test! 'In retrospect, we realise that we should have checked with you prior to this decision being made for which we deeply apologise,' Saatchi's director of 'advertising standards' told the ASA. 'I can give you my assurance this commercial will not be flighted again. We are currently working on new creative.' And he apologised 'for any inconvenience caused'.

'We consider this matter closed,' said

ASA optimistically.

Question: why would they all be so anxious to ignore Barlows' non-dismissal of their lying Automark salesman? Here's one possible reason: maybe Sandton Toyota couldn't fire Milden Lurie because he had simply done what his bosses had told him to do? Maybe they're running a line in Avis's rusty hand-me-downs from the coast - a subject they'd rather not discuss while wired to a polygraph? But then, of course, that's not seeing it from an advertising point of view. ■

LORENZ'S *Butterfly* by Harold Strachan

FEIZAL AND I ARE DOING SOME serious marathon work back of Durban North, because we're dead sick of training on the Comrades route with its tired old romance and we're completely lost because this is a new-style suburb of an old-style suburb and there's not a single street at right angles to any other around here. We come to a municipal parks bloke with an orange overall and a wheelbarrow full of marigolds. We realise we have seen him before. Recently. Howzit, bhai, says Feizal, can you tell us how to get to Old Mill Road?

You go straight up, you go straight down, he replies. One time. He points.

Aaah, thanks friend, says Feizal. We forge ahead. What did it mean? I ask. Bugged if I know, says Feizal. So we pound out another 10 kays or so and find ourselves randomly in Old Mill Road, at least five kays from the citizen with the marigolds and at right angles to his pointing.

After another five or so Feizal says What are you giggling at, man? and I tell him of another straight up straight down thing and my Dreadful Suffering in the Struggle.

Young Thabo's pa, Govan, you see, summoned Max and me to appointment as the technical committee of MK, day one, armed phase, to design bombs and things, because I flew a bomber in WW2 and Max is a photographer who knows about chemicals. I try to explain that we got our bombs from a factory in WW2 and Max declares he knows enough about chemistry to put sodium chloride on a fried egg - but in vain. We are the committee. Furthermore, we must get into revolutionary mode soonest by doing

a useful bit of industrial sabotage. Training, like. Right now.

We huddle down and drink dop, and decide to start off in a modest way, perhaps with phone lines, before moving on to the big stuff with Eskom power lines. When? I ask. No time like the present, says Max; we'll get a ladder and shin up a pole and cut the wires on the road to Uitenhage with a pair of pliers. Ar come on, man, I reply, that's the Wild West, man, it's the Anglo-Boer war. Copper is ductile, malleable stuff; I've got my long Durban south pier barracuda gaff here in the Baai, we'll



This is planet SB391, a beautiful, swirling, blue biosphere, but badly infected with homo sapiens

just pull the wires down one by one until they break.

Piece of cake. Physics, my boy, physics. So we clamber into Max's spastic bakkie and off towards Uitenhage, where the lines run a hundred metres or so from the road. At a suitable corner I say This is it, and clamber out with the gaff. Pull her up next to this pole here, which he

does, then I'm up on top of the cab and reach aloft with the gaff and hook the lowest wire and pull. Just tentatively, of course, for pull # 1, but the second pull is a real heave good and positive, and my feet leave the roof of the cab and I slide along the wire to a point between this pole and the next - they always leave a bit of sag in the wire, you know.

There I dangle and flail around while Max leans against the bakkie for support, laughing, pissing himself. He is the only African I have ever seen with a ginger moustache. Right now he looks like the Imperial German flag: the black, the red and his bloody big white teeth exposed to the molars. I hate him. For Christsake, Max, do something! Who, me? You do something, let go! How the bloody hell, it's solid thorn bushes down there, man! But no choice, I let go and scramble away and scratch myself stukkend, because this time I've got the physics dead right: the gaff has taken off vertically like an arrow from the bow of Robin Hood and it's going to come down vertically - and rather a scratched arse than a cranium stove in by a heavy bamboo pole.

Lorenz knew about developing systems, all right, he was a meteorologist. The flap of a butterfly's wing in Brazil, said Lorenz, can by accretion of random events end up as a tornado in Texas.

The above parable has a moral: never think the path is clear because you can point there like the sammy with the marigolds. This melodrama was the flap of the butterfly wing that's got to end up as the African renaissance. Somehow.

Hope et blind faith is what we need, my boy. Physics sucks. ■

Just for the thrill of it

Rough Justice
Lisa Scottoline
Harper Collins
R160.00

The Testament
John Grisham
Century
R140.00

The Simple Truth
David Baldacci
Simon and Schuster
R119.95

Reviews by
William Saunderson-Meyer

A CHRONICALLY LITIGIOUS SOCIETY, the United States of America has more lawyers per capita than any other country on earth. And since the end of World War II, the trend has been inexorably upwards, with the higher education churning out lawyers more rapidly than a Ford assembly line.

This is much to the despair of the average American, who places lawyers on a value scale somewhere between vermin and road kill.

Understandably pierced to their sensitive souls by the cruel jibes of their fellow Americans, fully 40% of legal practitioners in the United States, according to research quoted in *Fortune* magazine, would like to change their profession.

It seems that there is only one thing that is likely to halt the legal growth curve and that is the explosion in lawyers-turned-author. This one of the fastest growing genres in fiction, as well as one of the most remunerative, which is another reason why novel writing is becoming a favoured pastime for American lawyers.

John Grisham started the stampede with a series of blockbusting novels that have made him, as the dust jackets proclaim, the wealthiest writer in the English language.

There was some merit in Grisham's earlier work. He is adept with language – as one might reasonably expect of someone who would be standing in front of a judge and jury pleading your case – and wrote a good yarn, usually with a final little twist. The twist normally had natural justice triumphing or showed the hero, who will have played the usual legal hardball and sometimes crossed the moral and ethical divide, choosing the path of righteousness.

But hell, it is a tired formula. It would be nice if a man who did not, for financial reasons, have to write pot-boilers, desisted from doing so. If he actually took the freedom that his immense wealth gives him and tried to create something new, avoiding the template he has developed that presents the reader, except for some faintly etched differences, with a poorly disguised variation of every other Grisham novel.

Alternatively, ignore the unintentionally faint praise of the dust cover of *Rough Justice*, which quotes *People* magazine as rating Lisa Scottoline as 'the female John Grisham'. Read her, she is much better than Grisham, even though her work is still a tad unfinished around the edges. Scottoline is another trial lawyer who has turned to writing. Her second book, *Final Appeal*, won the Edgar award for which her first book, *Everywhere That May Went*, was also nominated.

Rough Justice is set in Philadelphia against the backdrop of slum lords and the City Hall politics of urban renewal. An all-woman firm of lawyers, under the guidance of senior partner Marta Richter, is just hours away from obtaining the acquittal on murder charges of millionaire businessman Elliot Steere.

In the one unlikely piece of plotting, Steere lets slip to Richter that his self-defence claim was untrue and that he did, in fact, murder the homeless man he is accused of killing.

It places Richter in an ethical dilemma: she cannot reveal the confession to the court, since it is a privileged client-attorney exchange. To do so is to invite being disbarred. Since the jury is already out, she cannot withdraw from the case, as it would prejudice the constitutional rights of the accused and lead to the acquittal she wishes to avoid.

It is around this moral conundrum

that the plot hinges. Of course, noseweek readers would be forgiven for discounting the likelihood of any lawyer having a problem with the guilt of a client, especially when said client has already coughed up more than a quarter of a million dollars in fees ... but hey, this is fiction after all.

A furious Richter resolves to unearth the evidence that will convict Steere and the race is on to do so before the jury returns its likely verdict of not guilty.

A counterpoint to Richter is Benedetta Rosato, a young woman associate who she drafts to help with the task. Rosato is pitted against the evil genius of Steere, who continues to manipulate events from his cell. She also has to contend with the misguided Richter, whose determination to nail Steere threatens to ruin the law firm in the process.

The plot is fast-paced, the characters are credible – although it is somewhat wearying to have all these women lawyers coping with the male establishment by being tough-talking, arse-kicking, brow-beating ball-breakers. However, it's a good read.

And finally, there is David Baldacci, who is intellectually probably the best of this trio. *The Simple Truth* is a fast-paced story about a conspiracy within the heart of the American legal system and the fight by convicted murderer Rufus Harms to exercise his constitutional right of appeal.

As a young conscript, Harms was jailed for the brutal killing of a school-girl. Now a stray letter from the US Army reveals new facts about the night of the murder and the possible role of some other army officers who have since risen to powerful positions in Washington society.

Harms's scribbled application for leave to appeal is smuggled from his cell. Attempts to thwart the application lead to a Supreme Court clerk being murdered. The young man's brother is ex-cop turned criminal attorney John Fiske, who is drawn into the web of intrigue and further deaths.

Baldacci is a more than adequate writer, but one can sense that his first love is the law, as he dissects with obvious enjoyment the subtleties of the American Constitution.

And as with all these lawyer-authors, Baldacci can not resist the temptation to portray the lawyer as the knight in shining armour who vanquishes the forces of darkness.

But what is wrong with fairy tales, after all? *n*

Do these people really exist?

Scott Williams lives in Newport, Rhode Island. He digs things out of his backyard and sends the stuff he finds to the Smithsonian Institute, labelling them with scientific names, insisting that they are actual archaeological finds. He really exists. Anyway, here's a recent response from the Smithsonian. Bear it in mind next time you think you are challenged in your duty to respond to a difficult situation in writing.

Smithsonian Institute
207 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20078

Dear Mr Williams,

Thank you for your latest submission to the Institute, labelled '93211-D, layer seven, next to the clothesline post ... hominid skull'. We have given this specimen a careful and detailed examination, and regret to inform you that we disagree with your theory that it represents conclusive proof of the presence of Early Man in Charleston County two-million years ago.

Rather, it appears that what you have found is the head of a Barbie doll, variety that one of our staff, who has small children, believes to be 'Malibu Barbie'.

You may be quite certain that those of us who are familiar with your prior work in the field were loath to come to contradiction with your findings. However, we do feel that there are a number of physical attributes of the specimen which might have tipped you off to its modern origin:

1. The material is moulded plastic. Ancient hominid remains are typically fossilised bone.
2. The cranial capacity of the specimen is approximately 9 cubic centimetres, well below the threshold of even the earliest identified proto-hominids.
3. The dentition pattern evident on the skull is more consistent with the common domesticated dog than it is with the ravenous man-eating Pliocene clams you speculate roamed the wetlands during that time.

This latter finding is certainly one of the most intriguing hypotheses you have submitted to this institution, but the evidence seems to weigh rather heavily against it. Without going into too much detail, let us say that: A. The specimen looks like the head of a Barbie doll that a dog has chewed on. B. Clams don't have teeth.

It is with feelings tinged with melancholy that we must deny your request to have the specimen carbon-dated. This is partially due to the heavy load our lab must bear in its normal operation, and partly due to carbon-dating's notorious inaccuracy in fossils of recent geologic record. To the best of our knowledge, no Barbie dolls were produced prior to 1956 AD.

Sadly, we must also deny your request that we ask the National Science Foundation Phylogeny Department to assign your specimen the scientific name *Australopithecus spiff-arino*. I, for one, fought tenaciously for the acceptance of your proposed taxonomy, but was ultimately voted down because the species name you selected was hyphenated, and didn't really sound like it might be Latin.

However, we gladly accept your generous donation of this fascinating specimen to the museum. While it is undoubtedly not a hominid fossil, it is, nonetheless, yet another riveting example of the great body of work you seem to accumulate here so effortlessly. You should know that our Director has reserved a special shelf in his own office for the display of the specimens you have previously submitted to the Institution, and the entire staff speculates daily on what you will happen upon next in your digs at the site you have discovered in your Newport backyard.

We eagerly anticipate your trip to our nation's capital that you proposed in your last letter, and several of us are pressing the Director to pay for it.

We are particularly interested in hearing you expand on your theories surrounding the trans-positating fillification of ferrous ions in a structural matrix that makes the excellent juvenile *Tyrannosaurus Rex* femur you recently discovered take on the deceptive appearance of a rusty 9-mm Sears Craftsman automotive crescent wrench.

Yours in Science,
Harvey Rowe
Chief Curator - Antiquities

Thanks to Gavin McFadyan, London

letters continued from page two

lion or the game being stalked. But the rangers feared retribution if the issue was raised.

The Varty family still owns the land, which is leased to Conservation Corporation, and they fear he might retaliate by denying them traversing rights off-road. Indeed, Varty has already gone to the extent of declaring parts of the reserve off limits to guests at certain times, when he is filming.

I am writing this letter to express my absolute disgust at what I saw. Perhaps some publicity will shame Varty into stopping this despicable practice.

Jack Bean, Bishopscourt

AIDS / HIV

Dear Sir, A disease that on one continent selects 90% of its victims among men (60% of whom are homosexual) while on another continent attacks heterosexuals of both sexes indiscriminately is a very strange disease. According to the US Army, which routinely screens all recruits for HIV, there is an almost equal distribution of the virus between men and women in the US. Yet AIDS in that country, despite the direst predictions, has stubbornly remained (and stabilised) within its original, predominantly male risk group. A virus that, according to US estimates, is so sparse in sexual fluids that it takes an average of a thousand contacts with infected partners to contract the infection - yet, in some countries, is claimed to be spreading at a rate to equal Europe's Black Death - is a very strange virus.

(This risk estimate was supported locally when a group of children were found playing with medical waste, including hypodermic syringes. Our local medical authorities, as reported in the *Cape Times*, sought to reassure the parents by pointing out that even a fresh needle stick from an AIDS patient would incur risk of only 0.3%. That's one chance in 330 for fresh blood, which makes the US figure of one per thousand for semen seem plausible).

Your recent article seeks to attribute the prevalence of AIDS among non-African homosexuals to anal intercourse.

Another plausible explanation is their (until recently) almost universal use of nitrite inhalants. Known as 'poppers', they are used to facilitate anal intercourse through their muscle-relaxing properties.

According to dissident virologist Dr Peter Duesberg the regular use of poppers over many years could well destroy the immune system and produce all the symptoms of AIDS. Duesberg, an eminent retro-virologist, has consistently been refused research funding to test his hypotheses on the cause of AIDS. He has, however, written a fascinating book *Inventing the AIDS Virus* (obtainable via the Internet from Amazon Books).

As a layman it is difficult to take sides when

medical experts disagree. The mainstream theorists have often been wrong in the past. The many contradictions and anomalies in the HIV-causes-AIDS hypothesis deserve an airing – and some answers. noseweek is to be congratulated on its contribution to this overdue process.

A Todd, Pinelands

Dear Sir, I wanted to compliment you on your AIDS article – even if I disagree with some of the statements made in it – and to contribute to the debate about the nature and causes of AIDS. Instead I am driven to enlarge on the other issue that featured in nose26: whistle-blowing and hiding the truth.

I am head of the Department of Public Health at the Eastern Cape's Cecilia Makiwane Hospital and in charge of 18 clinics and other community health services around the hospital. I am also secretary of health of the PAC of Azania and have been speaking out in that capacity on health issues for a long time. Since last October I have been concerned that the Minister of Health has refused to make short-course AZT available to pregnant mothers who are HIV positive. Babies born to these mothers have a 50% chance of being born HIV positive. It is currently accepted medical opinion that by administering a short course of AZT to the mother in the last month of pregnancy, the number of HIV-positive babies born to HIV-positive mothers can be halved, to 25%. Since the majority of HIV-positive babies die before the age of five, this must be a cost-effective way of dealing with the problem.

As PAC spokesman, I announced in April that we planned to take Dr Zuma [then health minister] to court and charge her with negligence and even man-slaughter for denying such children the right to life guaranteed by the Constitution. Since it had been clear Dr Zuma had no intention of changing her policy – and that children are dying of preventable illness as a result – we decided to put pressure on her to think again. I was interviewed by the *Daily Dispatch* on 15 April. Within a week the Secretary of Health in Bisho, Dr S Stamper, advised me that I faced several charges under the Public Service Act (Act 103 of 1994) stemming from my comments in the article. The gist of the charges is that I publicly criticised the Minister of Health and disclosed information gained in the course of my employment, viz, that AZT would not be administered to pregnant women.

It was allegedly not my duty to disclose such information to the public. I am said to have prejudiced the administration of the Department of Health. Among the alternative charges is an allegation that I 'failed to loyally execute the policies of the government of the day in the performance of my official duties' and 'failed to execute my duties in a professional and competent manner'. I have taken legal advice but am much more concerned about the issue of suppression of information and the discouragement of anyone who might try to expose deficiencies in

the public services.

The PAC has long condemned the 'condom culture' approach of the minister and insisted that the answer to AIDS lies mainly in the realm of eliminating migrant labour, poverty, malnutrition, landlessness, female illiteracy and massive urbanisation.

So it was refreshing to see those factors mentioned in your AIDS article.

I look forward to your piece on AZT and AIDS.

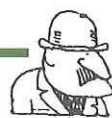
Costa Gazi, Amalinda

See our next installment on the HIV-AIDS controversy on page 6 for a contrary view on HIV and pregnancy. – Ed.

BAREND DU PLESSIS'S HOME

Dear Sir, In nose26 a side comment was added to the effect that I was 'now living in Switzerland'. It would seem that this time Mr Nose did not really have his nose to the ground! The truth is that I live in South Africa as I always have and as I prefer to do.

Barend du Plessis, Johannesburg



In the City

LORANA SULLIVAN, who died last week aged 61, was one of the pioneers of investigative financial journalism. She was also a long-standing contributor to this column. For almost 30 years, showing an encyclopedic knowledge of, and unerring intuition for, City 'bad guys', she successfully targeted such Eye favourites as Slater Walker, Rossminster, BCCI, Roberto Calvi, Jonathan Aitken and bucket-shop share peddlers Chander Singh, Tom Wilmot and the mobbed-up Tommy Quinn. Most recently she focused her exceptional talent for dismantling even the most complex corporate webs by exhaustive examination of company records on Mohamed Fayed. I believe that we have proved that he is a crook and is not worthy of obtaining a British passport, was her verdict on the phoney pharaoh. A view shared by all those who had the privilege of sharing her expertise.

The above item appeared in *Private Eye's* famous column by 'Slicker' in April. American-born Lorana Sullivan shared our interest in the Sicilian Mafia and its associated mobsters. As a result, in 1972 *The Wall Street Journal* was obliged to transfer her from its office in New York to London out of concern for her safety. Besides writing for such well known publications as *The Wall Street Journal*, *Private Eye* and *The Observer* she also gave her distinguished support to noseweek from its inception, and was our UK representative until her death.

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KEEP UP the good work! – J.P. Roux [5522]

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