

news you're not supposed to know

R25
(including VAT)

nose week

issue
54

March 2004

**Don't
mess
with
GrandWest**



ANGLO DIRECTOR'S CHEAPSKATE DIVORCE
MAIDEN WAS NO VIRGIN OFFSHORE INVESTMENT RIPOFF
BEN TROVATO UNMASKED FURTHER KOEBERG REVELATIONS





HOW DID JACK DANIEL'S WHISKEY TASTE BACK IN 1866 ?

(HAVE ONE TONIGHT
AND FIND OUT.)



Not for sale to persons under the age of 18.
Please drink responsibly.

JACK DANIEL'S and OLD NO. 7 are registered trademarks of Jack Daniel's, ©2007
Please visit us at www.jackdaniels.com

PAGE
14



cover by Colin Daniel

DON'T MESS WITH GRANDWEST

A fun family night out at a Cape Town casino became a nightmare for Arie Levy when he was robbed of £8,000 and – following a dramatic car chase – was held up at gunpoint by the establishment's heavies

4 Letters Tip of the Koeberg ■ Rian Malan and Aids ■ Calling Dr Dolittle ■ Another Landmark encounter ■ Ivor Lazerson exhumed

7 Dear reader Koeberg: a plea for answers and some common decency ■ Democracy: use it or lose it

8 When Barry left Sally Anglo boss Barry Davison's ex-wife faces the demeaning prospect of having to prove her worth as a wife

18 Koeberg's secret medical files: Part 2 Eskom gives its former radiation worker – ill with leukaemia – the runaround

20 Maiden was no Virgin Need some extra cash over the festive season? Why not launch your own airline and persuade travel agents to sell tickets for it, even if you haven't any planes and have zero chance of getting a licence?

22 Licence to print money The world's most expensive liquid may well be hidden away in a piece of equipment on your desk

24 Notes & Updates Ben Trovato outed ■ Mercantile and Dr Carlisle's missing R20m ■ Claridges and that sinkin' Phelan

26 US set to beat about Bush Sarah Ruden gloats over two books that turn up the heat on America's president

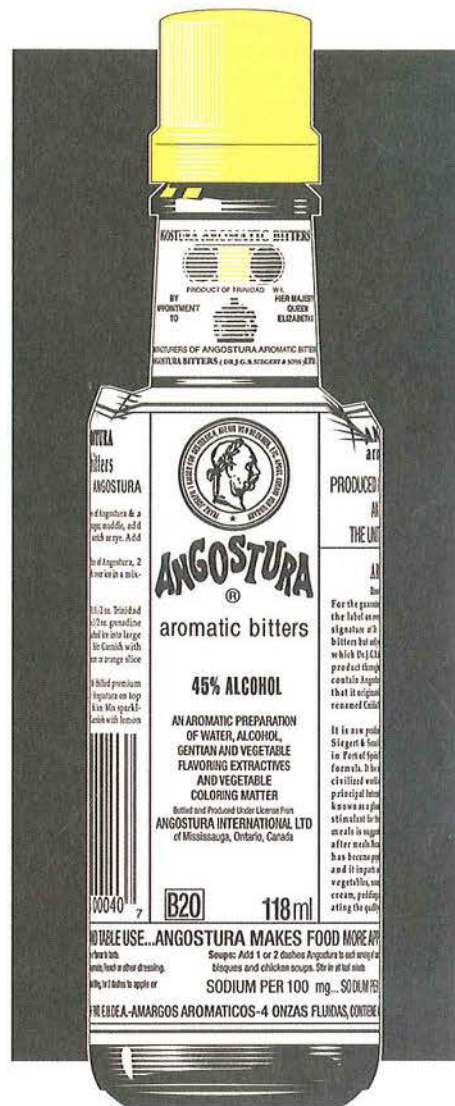
30 No place like a UK home What happened to that nice couple's R750,000 offshore investment that was supposed to go into a London property?

32 The dark reality of Burma Tourism isn't much fun if you're living in one of the world's most repressive dictatorships

34 Last Word The geometry of history is fractal, reckons Harold Strachan

Competitions Write a limerick and win a R1,200 fountain pen: page 6
■ Ken Forrester Wine Draw: page 11

The World's Most Interesting Bottle



...famous for flavour since 1824

Ever fantasized about enjoying a "Pink Lady" or a "Pousse Cafe"? Explore the exotic world of cocktails with "The Professional Mixing Guide", Angostura's pocket sized power pack with nearly 200 cocktail recipes.

E.W. Sedgwick & Co. Ltd.
PO Box 68
Cape Town 8000

Please send me a copy of
"The Professional Mixing Guide"

Name _____
Address _____

Code

I enclose R10 which includes postage and VAT

www.angostura.com

NWWM 01

Tip of the Koeberg

Thank you for your article, which shows up how Eskom looks after employees at Koeberg. What surprises me is that it has only just come to light. Ten years ago I met an atomic engineer from the UK (he was in Cape Town to do a survey) who told me, "There will be big problems at Koeberg before long – they have no idea about good housekeeping".

Thomas Potter
Constantia

■ I was, as no doubt were many of your readers, shocked at the revelations in your story "Koeberg's Secret Medical Files" (*nose53*).

■ Your article on the withholding of Ron Lockwood's medical records at Koeberg makes for chilling reading. It makes you think.

If Eskom cannot look after the health of its own (supposedly closely monitored) employees, how can it possibly guarantee the safety of people living next to its nuclear installations whose health is not monitored in any way?

According to research in other countries (there is no South African research) populations around nuclear installations show increased rates of leukemia and other radiation-linked diseases – exactly like Mr Lockwood.

South Africans will be paying a high price even without counting the R12bn of public money that will pay for the experiment of the pebble bed pilot model – and will drive up the price of electricity.

I'm sure the public, given a choice in the matter, would prefer to see this money being invested in clean, modern forms of energy like wind, solar, wave and tidal energy.

For more on the local struggle against new nukes, look at our website: www.earthlife-ct.org.za.

noseweek, thanks for having the pebbles to report this.

Victor Munnik
Earthlife Africa, Johannesburg.

*PS: It's worth noting that after denouncing us as notorious "denialists", ThisDay's Aids reporter Cullinan turned around and confirmed one of our most important claims – that the Medical Research Council is about to revise Aids mortality estimates downwards again, the fourth such revision since 2001. Remember you first read it in *noseweek*: "news you're not supposed to know."*

Gagging with disgust

I had to swallow really hard not to gag with disgust at Rian Malan's article on Aids statistics in *nose52*. This was made worse by your ludicrous editorial in *nose53*.

It's a tragedy that South Africa's premier investigative magazine is run by an Aids denialist. If there is any one story that needs in-depth investigative journalism, it is the government's woeful inability to come to grips with the Aids crisis in SA.

To dredge up has-beens like Rian Malan and to completely ignore all the well-researched facts on Aids statistics, is unacceptable.

I write as a medical specialist about to be confronted by several Aids patients during the course of a working day.

Just a Spectator?

ThisDay (22 January) claims that the Rian Malan article on HIV/Aids in *nose52* is just a republication of his earlier article in the UK magazine *The Spectator*.

Is that true? If so, surely you should have told your readers, as the mainstream media do when they reprint syndicated articles?

Keith Gottschalk
Claremont

Dr AH Bruning
Gatesville

We have never denied the existence of Aids, or the seriousness of the condition. It is because of the seriousness of the problem that I find myself dismayed by the level of irrationality surrounding it. Surely a serious problem is best approached factually, coolly – and rationally. It is precisely because we did not ignore all the well-researched statistics related to Aids – as opposed to the less well-researched ones – that we now, once again, find ourselves slandered as "Aids denialists". You owe it to your patients to do some serious reading on the subject, doctor! – Ed

*ThisDay is mistaken. The article that caused all the trouble was first published in *noseweek*, then – in an adapted form, and with *noseweek's* permission – in *The Spectator*.*

ThisDay's error says something about the colonial mentality of the "mainstream media". Many important stories are completely ignored by SA media until they are published in the great big Overseas, whereupon local hacks suddenly think, a-ha, this is sanctified.

It was true under apartheid, remains true today. What a pity. – Rian Malan

"Ten years ago an atomic engineer from the UK told me, "There will be big problems at Koeberg before long"

I know and worked with Ron Lockwood at Koeberg Nuclear Power Station for many years and I can vouch that our "rad worker" medical records were not disclosed to us.

I look forward to the full disclosure of this sordid and disgraceful mess.

R J Middleton
Melkbosstrand

How reliable will the health information be when we have 20 or more pebble bed modular reactors operating in different parts of the country, and trucks with nuclear fuel and waste on all our major roads?

What will the proposed smelter of radio-active waste at Pelindaba really put into the air – and people's lungs?

Gus



Not only is it digital, but it's also bio-degradable!

Dr Dolittle

While I acknowledge that *noseweek* may not be interested in balanced reporting and that this letter might never see the light of day in your journal, the slanderous attack on my ex-husband, Dr Peter Whitfield in *nose53* begs response.

During the year prior to the events of the 30 August, Mrs Hubbard is reported to have had five operations to rectify complication from her initial surgery. In your own words "they'd had a hideous year". I believe this must be taken into consideration when reporting the events of this case. Anger toward the medical profession, it may almost safely be presupposed [really?], is an integral component in this vitriolic attack on Dr Whitfield. [We researched and wrote the article. Our reporter had not had a "hideous year" at the hands of the medical profession. She simply got tired of waiting for Dr Whitfield to respond to our calls for his comment.]

The unfortunate incident, when Mrs Hubbard's husband suffered a stroke, would have left anyone devastated. It is understood that anger at events that

unfold is often a component in the coping mechanism of individuals during a crisis and this anger is often directed at those who were involved, particularly in the care of the loved one. It is one of the many downsides of the health care profession.

While one can accept this, one cannot accept that under any circumstances an individual has the right to a one-sided libellous attack on the integrity of another.

There are measures in place that allow for a dignified yet rigorous examination of the truth in which both parties are represented equally and fairly. The principle of hearing both sides is one to which any honest examination of events must adhere.

Had this type of examination of events taken place, and had Dr Whitfield been found guilty of an act of misconduct then one would have no qualms about the findings being made public.

Your slanderous article cannot be given any credibility by anyone who is interested in the truth and the reporting thereof.

Linda Whitfield

BA Hons (US), Dip Labour Law (UCT)
Kenilworth

The moral blackmail in paragraph 1 – is that Psychology I or Landmark II? Have we managed to tap into your secret reserve of sentiment for your ex or are you worried your alimony might dry up if his practice does?

Who is the "one" you keep referring to who is endowed with so much wisdom and understanding? Is it yourself, or is it some mythical third party to whom you prefer to attribute your own less-well-founded views? Surely you are not suggesting we should have deferred to one of the Medical Association's cosy internal hearings? – Ed.

■ Your courageous article about the medical case of Chippy Hubbard (*nose53*) was well researched, succinctly written and capped with a brilliant heading – "Dr Dolittle". That title summed up the doctor perfectly.

As a close friend, I've watched with dismay and sadness the decline of the once crisp and lively Chippy since his stroke in August 2003.

There is no way of knowing if speedy treatment would have changed his future, but the fact that

he had to wait so long for any treatment creates the uncertainty for his wife that keeps her awake at night.

Your article should be a short, sharp wake-up call to all on-call doctors. "On call" means being on call, not just responding at your earliest convenience.

Fiona Chisholm

Tokai

Landmark

Your article on Landmark and other Large Group Awareness Training courses sent shivers down my spine.

Not long ago, the Kairos Foundation invited me to an "introductory talk" about Life Training. I was assured I could leave during the halfway break if I wished, but the break never materialised; for three hours we exchanged names, hopes and dreams, and took turns writing negative emotions on a chalk board on the left-hand side of the room, and positive emotions on the chalk board on the right hand side of the room. While never actually said, it was suggested that we would all experience more of the right hand side's emotions after having coughed up the R1,800 or so for the weekend course.

After the talk, I was

THE SECRET SINGLE MALTS OF SPEYSIDE



Y&R Clam 99/109

Nearly 200 years ago, in the remote Livet Valley in the Speyside region, one master-distiller had perfected his craft to create "The Glenlivet". As the very first licensed distillery in the Scottish Highlands, it is a perfectly balanced single malt that embodies the delicacy and softness that typifies all Speyside whiskies.

Nestled in the heart of the Scottish Highlands, Speyside has always been at the centre of whisky distilling. Considering the high concentration of distilleries in the area, it's no wonder the Speyside region has earned the nickname "The Golden Triangle". Connoisseurs even describe Speyside whiskies as the champagne of Scotland.

And rightly so, since the secret to their rich balance of flavour, and exceptional softness, originates from Josie's Well, the sparkling clear, and ice-cold, fresh mountain spring water used to create single malt whiskies of unrivaled quality and infinite elegance.



engaged by "team" members who did their best to get me to sign up for the weekend. When I resisted I was asked what was wrong with me that I didn't want to take this next big step in my development.

When I said I couldn't afford it, I was told I could pay for it on my budget account – it was crazy.

M Lestat
by e-mail

Lazerson: another dig

Your article on the affairs of the late Ivor Lazerson [nose46], which I have only just read, provided me with at least an hour of amusement. But you missed three other chapters in his life: soccer, road running and road accident insurance claims.

I came across this bombastic, arrogant man when he became chairman of the Transvaal Road

Running Association – which he immediately turned into another moneymaking opportunity. I bumped heads with him when he demanded to be paid to be the race organiser of the Nashua Johannesburg Marathon – and then bypassed the running association and negotiated to get paid directly by Nashua – while the association paid his expenses. He also arranged sponsorship and up-front appearance fees for the likes of Bernhard Rose and Johnny Halberstadt – for a cut, of course.

The classic: he got a paid trip to the New York Marathon, ostensibly to meet Arthur Lydiard to invite him to SA. Once again it was on the basis that he got the fees, we got the expenses. On his return he gave a great oral report on the trip, the marathon which he ran and his meeting with Lydiard; how, sadly, Lydiard was not available that year but maybe the next ...

Unfortunately for Ivor, I'd been tipped off by a very prominent and concerned ex-

SA runner that Lydiard had not been in New York. In fact he hadn't left New Zealand at all. When I challenged Ivor on this, he threatened me with all sorts of things. Where he got it wrong is that road running relies on thousands of unpaid volunteers to function; the Road Running Association believed he was feathering his nest and threw him out.

I was subsequently told that he was thrown out of Soccer for similar behaviour. I was also told that there was another very lucrative side to his legal practice – motor insurance claims, where he acted for the victims, very often black pedestrians with little knowledge of their rights. Here he was known for quick settlements and high fees i.e. the poor victims received very little of the settlement amounts.

I wonder how he and Uncle Nick are getting on. Between them it's a toss-up who'll get to steal whose wallet.

Godfrey Franz
Sydney, Australia

Pen a limerick and win a Sonnet

noseweek, with Pen & Art, is giving away a Parker Sonnet fountain pen worth R1,200 each month for the best topical limerick submitted to the magazine.

Email your scurrilous, amusing or insightful scribbles to noseweek@iafrica.com; post to Box 44538, Claremont 7700; or fax to (021) 686 0573. Entries must be received by Friday 13 March and must be headed "March limerick competition"

The winning entry will be published in the April edition of noseweek. The editor's decision is final.

And last month's winner is...

B Williams of Pinelands with:

**There once was a judge named Desai
Who faltered one night in Mumbai.
Some called for a probe,
What made him disrobe?!**
Could de charge of deny be denied?

Old Mutual puts the record straight

Michael Naidoo's letter (in nose52) regarding the allegedly dismal performance of a colleague's Old Mutual "flexidowment" policy taken out in 1995, was based on incorrect figures. Old Mutual has assured us – and we are pleased to report – that his colleague's investment had, in fact, shown modest growth by November – and has enjoyed substantially accelerated growth – in line with the stock market – since we published his letter in December!

Here's Old Mutual's explanation: "The harsh reality is that many South Africans have watched their investments plummet under the combined impact of falling international equity prices and a concurrent strengthening of the rand. An investment in the average foreign equity unit trust at the start of 2002, for example, would have lost about 44% of its value by the time Michael Naidoo wrote his letter," said OM general manager Dave Hudson.

"But his colleague's situation is quite different. With a limited exposure to offshore investments, and in spite of a weak local equity market, his investment (as at November last year) was not down by R11,000 as claimed; it was up by R4,568." (And in the three months since November, the "current value" has risen to R34,460.94 – R7,016 more than the total of R27,444.55 paid in premiums since 1995.)

The spark that started the controversy was a simple typo on a spreadsheet put together by brokers PSG Consult for Mr Naidoo's friend, Mr P N Zozi, which incorrectly described the "surrender value" of the policy as the "current value".

But Old Mutual has admitted it missed at least two opportunities to correct the misunderstanding long before the spark became a wild fire:

The day after Mr Zozi was given the incorrect information – 5 November 2003 – he phoned OM's call centre to ask how it was possible that his

investment had fallen by so much. The young call centre consultant launched into an explanation about the markets on the assumption that Mr Zozi's figures were correct.

"If he had simply started by checking Mr Zozi's figures, he would immediately have seen that they were wrong and been able to put the record straight, saving Mr Zozi a great deal of angst, and Old Mutual some unearned, but damaging publicity," said Mr Hudson.

A few days later Michael Naidoo asked one of OM's financial advisors in PE to explain the apparent drop in value of this endowment. He, too, assumed that the figures were correct and explained the apparent loss in terms of international equity markets and rand strength.

"Once again, if only he had started by checking the actual value of Mr Zozi's investment, instead of assuming that the broker's figures were correct, this whole saga would have been averted," says Hudson.

Tel: (021) 686 0570
Fax: (021) 686 0573
noseweek@iafrica.com

Editor

Martin Welz

Managing editor

Marten du Plessis

Production editor

Tony Pinchuck

Assistant editor

Marion Edmunds

Gauteng bureau

Jack Lundin

Censor-in-chief

Len Ashton

Researcher

Jacqui Kadey

Foreign correspondent

James Sanders

Cartoons

Gus Ferguson
Myke Ashley Cooper

Contributors

Paul Kirk
Nicola Dudley
Sarah Ruden

Subscriptions

Maud Petersen

Advertising

Adrienne de Jongh

Subscription rates

SA only R195 for 10 issues.
Overseas (airmail) Europe,
Americas and Australasia:
R345 (for 10 issues).

To subscribe by post

Send cheque with name,
address and phone no. to:
noseweek,
PO Box 44538,
Claremont 7735.

To subscribe via Internet and pay by credit card

go to www.noseweek.co.za

Copyright All material in this issue is copyright, and belongs to Chaucer Publications (Pty) Ltd, unless otherwise indicated. No part of the material may be quoted, photocopied, reproduced or be stored by any electronic system without prior written permission.

Disclaimer While every reasonable effort is taken to ensure the accuracy and soundness of the contents of this publication, neither the authors nor the publisher will bear any responsibility for the consequences of any actions based on information contained herein.

Printed and Published by Chaucer Publications (Pty) Ltd.



KOEBERG

We must make sure that all our business relationships reflect our personal integrity, respect for human dignity and the rights of others, honesty, and commitment to what is right, fair, reasonable, legal and – most importantly – just.

Eskom chief executive Thulani S Gcabashe

Now, where Eskom is concerned, there are a number of values that we consider to be inviolate. Integrity we would insist on. Probity is something we would insist on.

Eskom chairman Reuel Khoza

In our last issue we started telling the story of Ron Lockwood, a radiation worker at Eskom's Koeberg Nuclear Power Station who was pressured into taking early retirement in 1996. He did not know that, buried in Koeberg's secret medical files, were pathologists' reports showing that for the previous nine years he had had elevated white blood cell counts – the first signs of progressive chronic leukaemia.

Understandably, as we explain in the second instalment of the story on page 18, he has never attempted to prove that exposure to radiation at Koeberg was the

cause of his cancer. He has neither the time nor the resources to wager on such a high-risk court case. All he wanted was for Eskom to compensate him for having persuaded him to take early retirement when, in view of what was in those files, it was patently not in his best interests to do so. Eskom has, even on that score, contrived to avoid its responsibility. Until now.

Eskom's employees at Koeberg and the public of Cape Town are entitled to a much wider-ranging enquiry. How many Koeberg employees in those years showed elevated white blood cell counts or developed cancer? The only way of knowing if radiation is causing cancer at Koeberg is if the incidence of cancer is higher there than in the rest of the population. The only way we will know for certain is if an independent enquiry is held. Unless it has been destroyed, all the information is there – hidden in Koeberg's secret medical files.

When Koeberg employees start meeting one another in the oncology wards of city hospitals, people start to talk ...

Mr Gcabashe, Mr Khoza: do the right thing!

VOTING IS EASY

We will never stop being grateful for our miraculous delivery from a grim future under apartheid, and for the open and vital culture that has emerged instead. But when we vote in April, it's not about dishing out rewards for what happened in 1994 or thereabouts – although many politicians clearly think so; it's about what we want to happen in 2005 and who we trust most to realise our hopes.

It really doesn't require high theory. Be practical. Who do you most trust to do what they say they will do? Who has courage to go upstream – is our petticoat showing? – and who just goes where the Merc takes them? Who frightens the pants off you? Do you want to vote for a party that sees nothing wrong with Robert Mugabe and what he has done to the people of Zimbabwe? Keep in mind that, when you vote for the ANC, you are personally giving your approval to the arms deal: spending billions on submarines and inappropriate warships (and lining the pockets of many shades in the

process), rather than on housing, schools, and hospitals. Do you want to vote for a party with a hidden hand in all sorts of shady business deals? A party that talks the talk, but doesn't walk the walk? That, suddenly, weeks before the election, discovers social needs in SA and announces a R100bn spending programme? That, after ten years of neglect, trundles out two District Six old-timers for a photo opportunity? And suddenly there are intimations that apartheid era brutalities will be raised again... for vote-gathering?

Speak up. That's an essential part of the democratic process. Investigate the alternatives. Perhaps choose the best of a bad bunch. That's democracy. Give them a donation. Offer some of your time, experience, passion. Get involved in influencing our future. That's democracy! That's how you give thanks for, and honour, our fantastic Constitution.

Yes, get angry! Laugh! It's good for your circulation – and ours. And make sure you're not absent on voting day.

The Editor

After decades of serial infidelity Anglo American's King Platinum ditched his wife to get hitched to the 'Poison Dwarf' (corporate lawyer Manda Scheepers) while trying

to brush off his ex with a paltry R7m (of a fortune believed to exceed R100m).

Next month, in a landmark case that will test the validity of *Katz v Katz* – in which the judge ruled that a wife should get only appropriate recompense for the 'services she provided as a wife' – the divorced couple face each other to scrap over how much the Porsche-driving, wolf-hunting, bone-fishing, bear-shooting, vodka-swigging tycoon should pay his former spouse

WHEN BARRY LEFT SALLY

Pity the wives of rich South Africans when their sell-by date falls due. Today Sally Davison, divorced wife of Barry Davison, executive director of the Anglo American Corporation and chairman of Anglo Platinum, sits alone in her sprawling Atholl home, having been offered a paltry R7m settlement (just six months' salary for Barry) in return for 31 years of corporate matrimony.

In America and Australia, where it is usual for a discarded wife to get half of her husband's assets, a millionaire doesn't say "I've been divorced" any more. He says: "I've been subdivided." But in South Africa the about-to-be-dumped wives of the rich and powerful must run the demeaning gauntlet of the 1989 judgment in *Katz v Katz*, which decrees that a divorced wife is only due what she needs to "maintain" herself – with appropriate recompense for "the services she provided as a wife".

It's not that the florid-faced Anglo director doesn't have a bob or two. Some suggest Barry Davison's worth is considerably more than R100m. More than 80 suits are said to hang in the spacious wardrobe at his Herbert Baker mansion in Johannesburg's Westcliff. He cuts a dash at the wheel of his elegant Porsche. Heads turn as he occasionally coasts Cape Town's leafy southern suburbs on the chrome-clad Harley-Davidson he keeps parked at Steenberg estate.

He smokes only Cohiba cigars, hand-rolled in Cuba at R200 apiece. For holidays it's bear and wolf hunting in the wilds of Russia, salmon fishing in Scotland and Alaska, bone-fishing in the Seychelles, trout fishing wherever. His retreats include a custom-built house at Steenberg golf estate (worth about R6m), a coastal pad at the San Lameer golf estate in



Photograph: The Star/Trace Images

PAST TENSE: Barry and Sally Davison on their wedding day

KwaZulu Natal and a half share in a Free State farm at Ficksburg. And in London don't forget his R10m stopover flat in fashionable Kensington.

No, it's not that Davison can't afford to pay his ex more. It's just that he reckons she's worth less – less, certainly, than the great Bill Venter's ex, Edith, and Winnie Madikizela Mandela, who got bigger divorce settlements years ago.

That must be why he instructed Anglo's attorneys Deneys Reitz (senior partner Manley Kapelus, no less) and senior counsel Michael Cooper to keep Sally under hostile cross-examination for five consecutive days in the Pretoria High Court in October: in order to make her feel and look worth less. (Shortly before the hearing commenced, Cooper SC was heard to reassure his client: "Don't worry, I'll be ruthless with her.")

We are not permitted by law to report on what was said in court, but the word is out and the ladies and gentlemen of River Club and Inanda are asking themselves: Has the man in line to head South Africa's premier company exposed himself as so obsessed with looking after Number One that

Davison is known to have got on well with the Russians. 'I've sacrificed 80% of my liver trying to find out what's going on in the Russian platinum industry'

nothing else counts? Or, worse, as crass – a man with no class?

Aggressive and autocratic, Davison is 58 and perhaps at the pinnacle of his career at South Africa's flagship corporation: He's number two on the Anglo plc main board in London. Back at home he's the chairman of Anglo American Platinum Corporation, better known as AngloPlat, the world's largest producer of platinum. (On his travels throughout the world Davison is courted and pampered as "Mr King Platinum".)

In 2002 – before he joined the executive of the plc board in London – he pulled in a total emolument of R12.9m – that in a year that AngloPlat's net profit slumped by 28%. That's apart from the "killing" he is said to have made with share options.

Sally and Barry Davison were divorced in November 2001. Following a precedent set in the Mandela divorce, the court granted the divorce without having settled any of the financial issues between the parties. (Barry was in a hurry to marry Manda Scheepers, attorney member of the Judicial Services Commission that oversees the appointment and promotion of judges.) The judge ruled that if the parties could not reach a final settlement on the financial aspects of the divorce themselves, they could return to court.

Barry did pay Sally R7m as an "interim" settlement of her claims for a division of assets, maintenance and legal costs (which might easily have totalled a million, as such celebrity divorce cases go). But Sally clearly thought she was entitled to more than R7m – while the AngloPlat boss was typically adamant: what he had offered was all he was prepared to pay. So no settlement was reached.

Which is how Sally found herself back in the witness box two years after she was divorced. After giving her own evidence, court records indicate she was cross-examined by advocate Michael Cooper SC for 23 hours.

The settlement hearing resumes on 19 April, with 10 days scheduled for the next batch of witnesses.

We have conducted extensive interviews with various friends and associates of both Sally and Barry. Here's what we have discovered.

Both come from prominent South African business families. Sally's father was Ernest Mackay, a one-time chairman of the diamond-mining group Industrial & Commercial Holdings. He was also a big cheese at the Industrial Development Corporation. (Sally's nephew is Graham



FLORID: King Platinum Barry Davison

Mackay, the present chief executive of SABMiller in London – he who still owes us and the taxman an explanation of what happened to all those Black Label royalties that were secretly posted offshore. See noses51&52.)

Davison's father was John Davison, a former chairman of the Rand Club and head of Hawker Siddeley in South Africa.

In the late 1930s Ernest Mackay abandoned his business career to become a cattle rancher in Swaziland – not a good idea. When he died in 1950 he was not a wealthy man and friends had to chip in to keep Sally at elite Roede-dean girls' school in Johannesburg.

After matric and a spell working as a secretary at the *Rand Daily Mail*, Sally spent the traditional few years working in London. While there the dark-haired beauty met a slim 22-year-old St John's old boy doing a post-grad commerce diploma at Birmingham University – Barry Davison.

Back home in South Africa, Davison started work with JCI as an investment analyst. He married Sally on 7 February 1970.

By 1986 Davison had developed the belligerent and ruthless style that, com-



FUN AFFAIRS: When they divorced Barry made Sally an offer she could refuse

bined with undeniable brilliance, saw him elevated that year to the JCI board. Two years later he was appointed managing director of Rustenburg Platinum Mines – now AngloPlat.

By then he and Sally were well installed in the Atholl house with their two young children, Robert and Lisa. They frequently entertained – mostly business guests – and Sally regularly accompanied Barry on his many trips abroad. Life at the top was glamorous.

Davison is known to have got on well with the international set, especially the Russians. He enjoys his vodka and it's in Russia that he acquired the title Mr King Platinum. ("I've sacrificed 80% of my liver trying to find out what's going on in the Russian platinum industry," he once joked in a press interview).

But as he clawed his way up the JCI/Anglo ladder, all was not roses in the Atholl marital bed. Davison needs to be in control of every situation. He's

never wrong. He never says sorry. He loves to petrify people – and he was not averse to putting Sally down in public.

(On one memorable occasion she laid on Russian fare for a dinner party of visiting Soviets. Pat Retief, who as chairman of Rustenburg Platinum had appointed Davison to the MD's job there, was among the guests. Retief stayed behind after the Russians left. He thanked Sally and told her how lovely the meal was. Turning to Davison he said: "What would you do without Sally?")

"I'd get my secretary to do it," Davison replied.)

His business travels continually took him away from home and, increasingly, Sally stayed at home with the children. (Robert, now 32, works for AngloPlat as a systems consultant. Lisa, 29, is in film and television – she was technical director for three *Big Brother* shows).

Davison's best friend, a furniture salesman named Rob Baillie, also lived in Atholl, in nearby 5th Avenue. Baillie's wife, Avril, had been at Roedean with Sally. The two couples were forever together. If the Davisons went to Plett on holiday, the Baillies went as well. Barry preferred it that way.

Eventually Sally noticed Avril Baillie, a dark-haired very attractive woman, was making a play for him – and told Barry so. Barry accused Sally of being "paranoid", but eventually, in 1994, he admitted that he was in love with Avril. The Davisons were seeing a counsellor to try and save their marriage, but Avril forestalled these good intentions. She "carelessly" left her handbag open on her husband Rob Baillie's desk with, at the top, a note clearly headed "Barry". It detailed how they had been seeing each other, how they wanted to get married, how they were going to break the news. Her husband read the missive and ejected Avril from the house.

"How he didn't go straight over and shoot Barry, I don't know," a friend observes.

Barry Davison moved out of the Atholl house into a furnished apartment. Then he bought a house in Morningside. He attended business functions on his own. The more powerful and successful Davison became, the more attractive he was to women. Women were mesmerised by him – and he loved it. He had a number of affairs.

"But he kept telling Sally he didn't want a divorce. He told her he wanted to come home – he just wasn't ready yet," a close friend told *noseweek*. "But that didn't stop him from taking his washing to her and having supper in Atholl three times a week."

In 1997 there was talk that he was having an affair with a lawyer. Early that year Davison's Amplats (as the platinum producer was then known) was locked in a fierce legal battle with rival Trojan Platinum over mineral rights. Trojan's lawyers were top Johannesburg legal firm Webber Wentzel Bowens, whose attorneys in the case were Michael Brink and a pint-sized firebrand of a woman named Manda Scheepers.

At one stage Trojan (or could it have been Scheepers?) sent the sheriff

Davison needs to be in control in every situation. He's never wrong. He never says sorry. He loves to petrify people and he wasn't averse to putting Sally down in public

around to JCI House in an attempt to attach Davison's office furniture and company car for non-payment of legal costs – which Amplats maintained had already been paid.

Davison was totally obsessed with the case and the obvious ability of Scheepers. "Manda was very clever and it drove Barry mad because Amplats actually lost the case," recalls an asso-

ciate. "For Barry to lose is something he cannot tolerate. And I'm sure that was the attraction then; she was able to beat him."

By the following year Davison was living in a cluster home at Riverclub. "He told Sally that his relationship with Avril was over – but he needed time to ease Avril out gently," says one of Sally's close friends. So from the end of 1998 Sally and her husband were together again – at least in public. Davison took her to all the business functions; they were entertaining at home again – but after dinner Davison would slope off back to his cluster home.

He built a house at Steenberg, the Cape Town golf resort. All the Anglo directors



LANGUISHING: The Davison home in Joburg's Atholl, where Sally lives

were given very good deals there, with first choice of the sites. Davison asked his wife to go down and furnish it for him. Sally, who enjoys decorating, obliged. "I told her she was being a fool, but she thought it might bring them together again," says her friend.

"He thrived on the situation – being married, having Sally to entertain and do his washing and also having the freedom to do what he liked."

At the end of 1999 Manda Scheepers surfaced again. Davison was on one of his business trips to Russia. On the way back he stopped off for the weekend in London, to look for a flat. Just then a huge strike broke out at the Rustenburg mine and his office desperately called to get him to return to Johannesburg at once to deal with the crisis. His response was memorable: "Fuck them, I'm staying in London".

That was so unlike Davison's usual punctilious attention to his company's affairs that it rang alarm bells at home. "A couple of weeks later Sally phoned

me in a state. A letter had arrived at the house in the post from the Four Seasons hotel in London, where Barry usually stayed. Sally had opened it. Barry had queried a couple of items on the bill. In response the hotel had sent him copies of chits for room service. They were signed by Manda Scheepers."

She was by then a partner at Webber Wentzel in Johannesburg (where a colleague describes her as "hardnosed, dynamic – she gets what she wants").

And she sat on the Judicial Service Commission, the body that vets senior lawyers and judges for appointment to the judiciary or promotion to higher office. An observer of the commission's activities describes her as having been "awake and on-the-ball, but not a team player. She's the one who would ask the unpleasant questions about probity – she would home in on any naughtiness the candidate might have got up to."

One judge candidate, Russel Madlaga (he was subsequently appointed Judge President of the Transkei Provincial Division), received a mauling from Commissioner Scheepers when he kept referring to a hypothetical accused person as "she". Scheepers interrupted his exposition: "You keep referring to 'her'.

Do you think it is only women who can be criminals?" she demanded.

Back in Pretoria, Manda had a theology professor husband and two young sons.

Amongst Sally's circle of friends Scheepers quickly became known as "The Poison Dwarf".

Shortly after the London incident, Scheepers put the word out that Davison was going to divorce Sally and marry her. She had good reason to think so: at the beginning of November 2000 Davison had coughed up just under R3m to buy his new love a house in Westcliff. This at a time when he was still pretending to be with Sally! Cynics now suggest that the reason for this pretended reconciliation was that Davison's appointment to the Anglo plc board was in the offing, and he wished to present a picture of public togetherness with his wife (the appointment came through the following year).

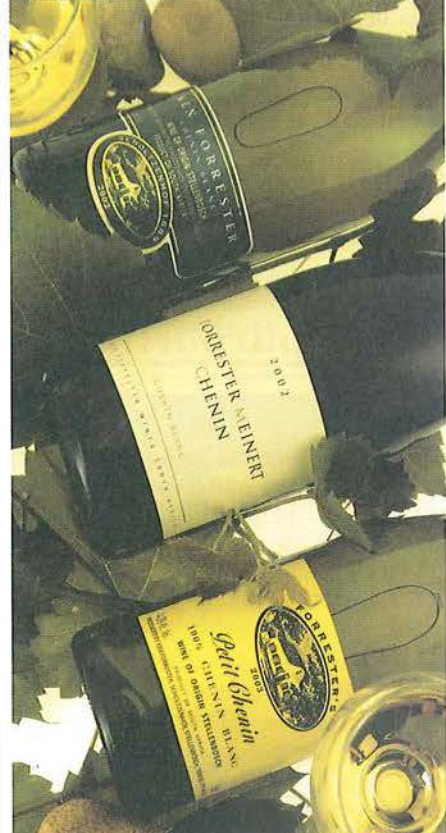
Scheepers got a quick divorce from her professor. And Davison gave her a job at (the now renamed) AngloPlat, working on mineral rights. (One wonders what



The Italian Lighting Job

Available only at professional lighting retailers

KEN FORRESTER WINES



Tasting and cellar sales
(021) 842 2020

Orders
(021) 855 2374

marketing@kenforresterwines.com

WIN A WINE GIFT PACK
Five lucky new subscribers will each wine a pack of Ken Forrester's award-winning Chenin Blanc and the unique Grenache-Syrah blend. Subscribe by Fri 19 March.

LAST MONTH'S WINE DRAW WINNERS
Mrs R McLaren, Claremont 7708; Mrs A Davids, Calvan Park 6020; Mr MV Partridge, Monument Park 0180; Mr JLF Dutrieux, Onderstepoort 0110; Jeanne Kure, Maritzburg 3201.

AngloPlat's corporate lawyers, Deneys Reitz, thought about the arrival of this interloper from its big rival Webber Wentzel.)

On one occasion Scheepers accompanied Davison on a trip with minerals and energy minister Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka to Whisky Creek, Anglo's fishing lodge near Sabie. Davison and Scheepers shackled up together in the director's lodge, while the rest of the party stayed in the main lodge.

Sally decided it was time for a show-down. "She braced herself and finally put it to him that she believed he was having an affair – to which he blandly replied: 'I've had lots of affairs.'"

In June 2001 Sally was playing bridge at home with Frances Boustred, wife of Anglo's legendary former deputy chairman Graham Boustred, when

'I seem to recall there's a section in the Divorce Act that prohibits any publication of the like you're purporting to do'

Manda Scheepers

a divorce summons arrived. Davison wanted a divorce and he would pay her R7m. It was their daughter Lisa's 27th birthday.

Sally asked some of her close friends for advice. Doug Band (Standard Bank Group, M-Net, MTN, Bidvest etc. etc.) declared Barry's offer of a R7-million divorce settlement "an insult". Boustred phoned her later that night and told her: "You need a street fighter for this!" He had already called widely feared divorce lawyer Billy Gundelfinger to ask whether he was available to take Sally's case.

Gundelfinger became Sally's lawyer. On 25 November 2001 Sally left Pretoria High Court divorced, plus R7m "in the interim". Davison married Manda Scheepers (Judith Magdalena on the register) six months later.

Now in her mid-40s, The Poison Dwarf gave up work a few months after the knot was spliced and is now a lady of leisure in the Westcliff mansion. She clearly wears the boots there



CHICKENED OUT: Retired JCI chairman and ex-director of Amplats Pat Retief (left) was going to testify on behalf of Sally but has changed his mind; while SABMiller boss Graham MacKay (right), who is Sally's nephew, has declined Barry's entreaties to lobby her to settle for the derisory R7 million

– she made Davison sell the house in Plettenberg Bay (she doesn't like Plett) for a new holiday home at San Lameer on the KwaZulu-Natal coast.

And she's forbidden Davison to smoke his expensive Cohiba cigars in the house – for that pleasure Mr King Platinum is banned to the garden!

Next month will see the final drama played out – when in keeping with the notorious *Katz v Katz* precedent, the court will assess the "worth" of the "services" Sally provided as a wife to Barry Davison.

Retired JCI chairman Pat Retief, 71, resident at Steenberg, was to have been one of the witnesses to be called to confirm her value. But he's chickened out.

"I told Sally I would be prepared to write a letter to the effect that she was a good wife as far as I was aware," says Retief. "She played her part at her husband's side by way of assisting in entertainment of his business clients and associates and their wives. She was well liked and respected.

"But apparently a letter is not admissible. I was subsequently approached to testify in the case and that's something I'm not prepared to do, because I'm friendly with both of them. I'm in a very invidious situation.

"I appointed Barry to his position at Rustenburg Platinum because of his ability. It was suggested to me that I should now somehow indicate that his advancement in the company was due in some way to Sally. Which is not true. She had to entertain people and she was a very useful sidekick."

Barry, in turn, has solicited the support of Graham MacKay, whom he told Sally had "performed badly" in

court, that all her money would go to Billy Gundelfinger and that she was going to lose. He hoped MacKay would advise Sally to settle for the R7m. He hasn't.

In case, dear reader, you think we haven't tried to speak directly to Sally and Barry – and to Manda – we have. Here's what they told us:

Sally: "I have no comment. It's a private matter." How much was she asking for as a settlement amount? "Speak to my lawyer, Mr Gundelfinger." No. No comment, no. But asked about life after Barry she relents to confide: "I'm better off now, in that I can think and do as I please. I can dance on the table if I want to." Can we come and take a picture? "No."

So we called Billy Gundelfinger. How much was his client asking and how was the case going? How did he intend dealing with *Katz vs Katz*? "Before talking to you, I'd like to give it some thought," he said. "I'll call you back." He's still thinking about it.

Barry Davison: when we informed him that we were calling from *noseweek* he put down the phone. We left messages with his secretary saying we wanted to talk to him about his R7m divorce settlement offer. He declined to return our calls.

When we called Manda Scheepers and asked her professional opinion (as a feminist lawyer) on *Katz v Katz* and miserly divorce settlements, we received a veiled threat. "I'm not quite sure where you're going with this," she said. "I'm not a divorce lawyer, but I seem to recall that there's a section in the Divorce Act that prohibits any publication of the like that you're purporting to do. Maybe you should just check on that." ▣

Why **settle** for the city?

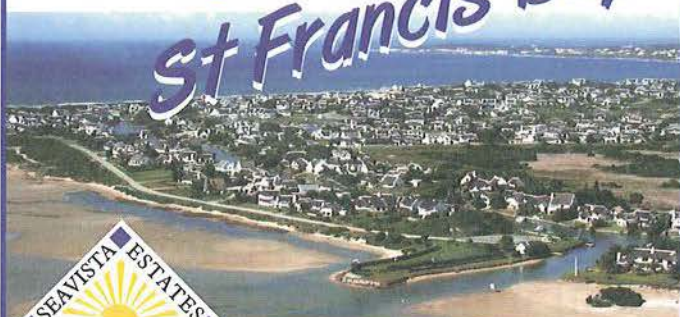
When you can have a **piece** of the
Sunshine Coast.

Commuting is not for the birds, it's
for the **brilliant.**

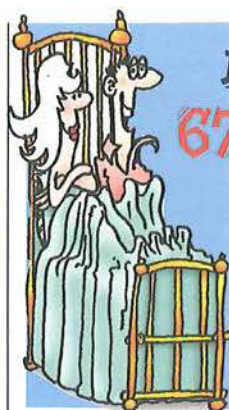
Choose **beauty, tranquility,**
safety and fresh sea air.

See you in **paradise.**

St Francis Bay



Tel: 042 294 0222 • Fax: 042 294 1783
Email: stfrancis@seavista.co.za
PO Box 93, St Francis Bay, 6312
Web: www.seavista.co.za



nosepitality

67% of our readers
like eating out

65% travel regularly

Advertising enquiries:
noseads@iafrica.com

NEED ASSISTANCE IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM?

To register a criminal docket is time-consuming
And an administrative burden for the SAPS. As
a risk management company, we hereby extend
an offer to assist corporations to obtain case
numbers from the SAPS for insurance purposes.
Consultants would:

- Obtain the statements and documents required to register the case docket in the comfort of your office.
- Register the docket at the local SAPS.
- Obtain the case number.
- Liaise with the SAPS with regard to the progress of the investigation.
- Assist the SAPS in the investigation if required.

This service will enable the SAPS to spend their valuable time on the investigation of the actual crime. For more information call John Luyt at 011 482 3660 or e-mail johnl@stratsol.co.za. Prices available on request.



Strategic Solutions

E-Boards Specialists in Giant Outdoor Screen Advertising



Specialists in giant screen indoor and outdoor media, E-Boards has made its name through the provision of the highest quality design and implementation of electronic screens as well as screen campaigns. Contact us for further details on the benefits of locating an electronic screen at your venue or the benefits of promoting your product, service or brand through the existing electronic screen network.

The Wedge



Montecasino



Sandton City



Pricing for the electronic screens is dependent on requirements, location, term of contract and duration of advert

See the bigger picture!

Creative Indoor Outdoor Screen Specialists

Tel: (011) 787 7788 · e-mail: eboards@eboards.co.za · www.eboards.co.za

Most people go to GrandWest casino for fun and a flutter – but Arie Levy's last visit to the Cape Town pleasure dome left him severely traumatised, in trouble with the law and, he says, £8,000 out of pocket. And all this trouble had nothing to do with bets at the gaming tables. In fact, it all started in the parking lot.

Levy was a regular at GrandWest. Both he and his girlfriend had special gold MVG (Most Valued Guest) cards awarded as a result of all the cash they had spent over the years at the vast casino complex. Levy would often entertain foreign guests at GrandWest, and his children were keen ice-skaters, visiting the GrandWest rink at least three times a week. Levy says he has also supplied GrandWest stores with stock from his Montagu Gardens business, Clothing Warehouse.

On the evening of 26 March 2002, Levy and his family and some guests from Israel decided to spend an evening at the casino. They arrived in two cars – a Pajero and a Golf belonging to Levy's girlfriend Michelle – which they parked in the MVG underground parking area. One of the perks of gold membership, according to GrandWest's website, is a "dedicated parking hall" and "exclusive unlimited use of undercover parking".

Levy was particularly buoyant – his guests had bought him a considerable sum of cash from his savings in Israel: a bundle of US dollars and a bundle of English pounds. He says he took the dollars - \$7500 - into GrandWest, where he handed the money to a friend, Christina Hu, to repay a debt.

At that stage he did not know that Michelle had left the bundle of sterling – £8000 – and some jewellery in her wallet, locked in her Golf in the parking basement. After an evening of fun, which included dinner at a Chinese restaurant, Levy decided to take his children home in Michelle's car, and then come back for more partying. On his return, he once again drew into GrandWest's MVG parking lot, and steered the Golf towards the bay, beside his Pajero, where it had been parked previously.

At that point, a man, later identified as limousine driver Errol John Poggenpoel, approached, and forbade him to park his car in that particular bay. Levy says he could smell alcohol on Poggenpoel's breath. A heated dis-

Abducted at gunpoint by GrandWest's Men in Black

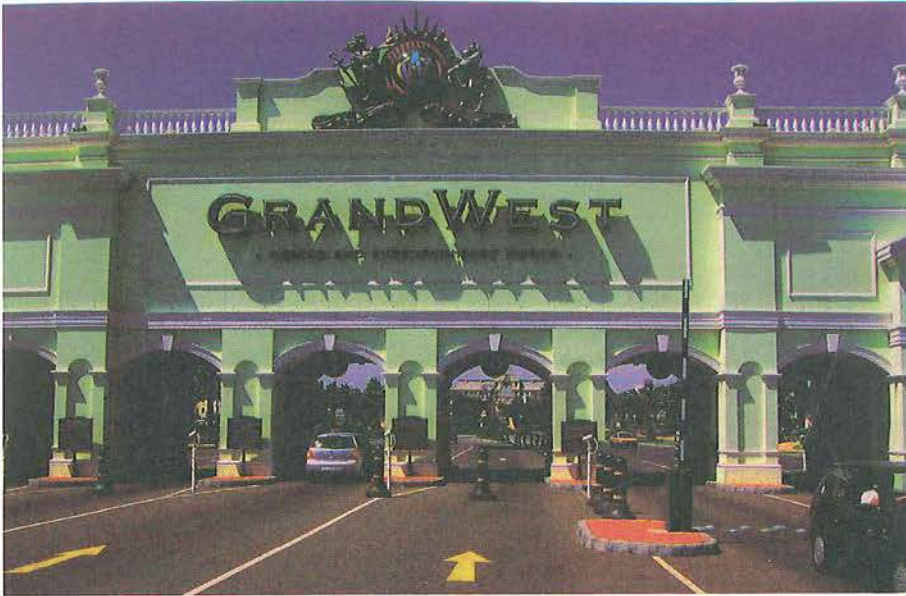
A fun family outing to a Cape Town casino ended in terror when Arie Levy was chased down by the establishment's heavies, bundled into a car, then charged with armed robbery



pute ensued. Suddenly Levy saw "men with batons" running towards them. Realising that things were getting out of hand, he prudently decided to depart the scene and reversed his car out of the parking bay. Unhappily, the boom failed to rise when he swiped his gold card, so Levy hastily swerved the vehicle around the boom, and fled via the entrance lane. He moved at speed, he says, because a bakkie with impatiently flashing lights had drawn up close behind.

What happened next is a matter of some dispute. Levy says he raced towards Maitland police station with the mysterious flashing bakkie on his tail. The bakkie drew up alongside and

If you read **noseweek**, you must want a better daily newspaper...



a male occupant waving a gun indicated Levy should pull over – fast.

A shaken Levy obediently did as ordered and, within moments, was face-down on the pavement with guns to his head. “Don’t shoot, don’t shoot,” he screamed. Then, he says, he was bundled into the passenger seat of Michelle’s car, and driven back to GrandWest. The gun-toting men were later revealed to be members of the Casino’s squad of dark-suited heavies, the self-titled MIB team– the “Men in Black”.

Subsequently, in court, one of the three-man GrandWest team who pursued the trembling Levy told the magistrate that they had been intent on effecting a citizen’s arrest. Former army dog-handler Jan-nie van der Mescht testified that they had given chase because they wanted to ban Levy from GrandWest Casino - for reckless driving.

Levy maintains that the citizen’s arrest was anything but polite and that none of the trio identified themselves when they put guns to his head.

At GrandWest they confiscated his firearm, and marched him through the casino halls, telling everybody they had arrested an armed robber.

“It was as if they were driving into Rome as victors,” complains Levy. “All the people were looking. With the guards around me, I could have been the US president or Jack the Ripper.”

Levy (GrandWest’s Most Valued Guest number 2820353304) was then thrust into a small room. Another man arrived, introduced himself as an investigator and told the Tel Aviv-born businessman he was going to go to jail for a long time for armed rob-

Levy found himself face down on the pavement with guns to his head. ‘Don’t shoot, don’t shoot,’ he screamed

bery. There was talk of somebody who had been wounded, who might die.

“I thought: ‘I’m finished, I’m dying, my life is collapsing around me’,” Levy says. The investigator wrote his name and the number of his gold card on a sheet of paper and then left the room. When he returned, the man again told

Levy he was going to spend a long time in jail – but this time the crime involved a hit-and-run accident. One of the security guards in the chase was allegedly in hospital. Arie was photographed and told he was to be banned from GrandWest for five years. No more Most Valued Guest status for him.

Confused and upset, Levy made his way home. Next day, he says, he met an associate from GrandWest, Sam Birkan of Sun International, with whom he had business dealings. While they were in conversation, Michelle arrived to say that her wallet containing the £8,000 and jewellery was missing from the Golf.

Levy then tried to lay charges against GrandWest at various police stations, but says the police were not greatly interested. According to him, an officer at the Elsies River Police station motioned to a pile of dockets and said “all GrandWest complaints”, indicating that there was really no point pursuing the matter. Levy says he gathered that GrandWest controlled all the surveillance cameras in the surrounding area – on Vanguard Drive, Voortrekker Road and Summer Green Way. So perhaps, if there were a formal dispute about events, the tapes would resolve the matter.

So Levy proceeded to lay charges and tried to get hold of the tapes. An Inspector Pienaar of the SAP Elsies

River eventually opened a docket, took his statement, and said he would investigate. Later, Levy received a call from Pienaar, saying he had taken statements from the individuals in GrandWest and that things didn’t look good for Levy. In fact, the officer suggested, it might be wiser to drop the

Printed in Cape Town, Durban, Port Elizabeth and Johannesburg,
five mornings a week...

charges and "let it all go away".

Levy stewed over the matter for days. He showed his girlfriend the casino banning order - and she noticed that the membership number on the order was not in fact Levy's number, but hers. They came to the same conclusion immediately: The person who had drawn up the banning order was, or had been, in possession of her gold MVG card, which had disappeared with her wallet and the missing sterling cash and jewellery.

Levy was elated. "There is a God," he rejoiced as he rushed off to see Inspector Pienaar at the Elsie's River Police station. But a police captain



Arie Levy

Cape Town and to surrender his passport.

The punchline, Levy says, was: If you want your life to start again you must drop civil and criminal charges against GrandWest.

In due course the case came up at Goodwood Magistrates, court. The hit-and-run charge was dropped before the hearing, leaving Levy to face one of reckless driving. The state produced as witnesses the GrandWest limo driver, Errol Poggen-

poel, and the Men in Black, Jannie van der Mescht and Roger Abel. Their performance was less than impressive.

In fact, Magistrate J de Beer dismissed the matter, and said: "The three state witnesses have contradicted one

All of which should have been music to the ears of Levy, his family and his lawyer. But, says Levy. It was merely the start of a new chapter in the saga: he now found himself the target of endless police harassment, he says.

"They come in without warrants, with their dogs, they kick open my boxes and make a mess. They arrest my workers."

Levy says he and his girlfriend and children have fled their home in Blouberg. Instead, they live at a secret address and he commutes some distance to work. He says he's become paranoid, forever double-locking doors, fretting over his children, watching the streets at night.

GrandWest is apparently still refusing to hand over the surveillance tapes. So Levy, shaken but unbowed, will see them in court in March to sue for damages.

Asked for comment, the general manager of GrandWest Casino - a Sun International establishment - issued this statement: "Aside from the unsuccessful prosecution brought by the authorities against

Mr Levy for reckless and negligent driving, and the judgement of the magistrate in that case, which we have noted, GrandWest is also aware of Mr Levy's wide-ranging claims with regard to the security company employed at the complex, and the police.

"These are the subject of a forthcoming civil case and, as a result, it would be inappropriate for us to comment ahead of that process.

"However, it is hoped that evidence that will be led at the civil trial will serve to show the events described by Mr Levy in a different light."

noseweek has made many attempts to contact Inspector Pienaar. The acting station commander at Elsie's River says Pienaar has been transferred to another police station; we have yet to track him down. ■

The magistrate concluded that as a result of hearing the story he would never again darken the doors of the casino

directed him instead to a prosecutor at Goodwood Magistrate's Court, a Mrs Dlamini.

Mrs Dlamini seemed very excited by his story, says Levy. She said she would go herself to GrandWest to claim the tapes and then would summon both Levy and his lawyer to view them.

Levy received an urgent call from Inspector Pienaar to report at the police station. Progress at last!, he thought. But, on arrival, he was read his rights, he says, and told he was being taken to Pollsmoor prison "for a long time". He was fingerprinted, placed in an interview room, and told he was being charged with involvement in a hit-and-run accident. He alleges Inspector Pienaar said he would be released pending the court case but was required to remain in

another in so many instances that we are going to sit here for another four, five hours if I have to repeat every one of them." said Magistrate J de Beer.

"All I can say is that, on the evidence in front of me, I am absolutely dumbstruck to see how an operation like GrandWest, with their security personnel, or whatever they want to call them, can operate in such a manner." De Beer said that the Men in Black had made a "boo-boo" and then tried a "cover-up". The magistrate instructed the Independent Complaints Directorate to investigate whether the Elsie's River police and the "people at GrandWest" had colluded in bringing Levy before court on trumped-up charges.

And, said magistrate De Beer, as a result of hearing this tale, he would never again darken the doors of the casino.

Delivered to your doorstep in all major centres...

Subscribe now!

THISDAY



To have THISDAY delivered to your office or home is easy! Just fill in the form and fax it to us at 011 783 8261 or call 0860103419

Surname First name

Work telephone Home telephone

Cellphone Delivery address (Line 1)

Delivery address (Line 2)

E-mail address

Payment details Cheque Visa Master American Express Diners

Account holders' name

Bank/Institution

3-digit security code Expiry date

Account number Branch number

Period 6 months 12 months

subscribers receive
30%!
discount ●

6 months: R265
12 months: R530

Please mail to
The Circulation Department
THISDAY PTY LIMITED
PO Box 787262, Sandton 2146

Phone 0860 103 419 Fax 011 783 8261 Office hours 7am - 5pm Monday to Friday

THE LONG GOODBYE

Koeberg Part 2: Eskom drag their feet over sick radiation worker

Ron Lockwood formally raised the matter of his leukaemia diagnosis with Koeberg's management for the first time when he met the nuclear power station's manager, Peter Prozesky, and Eskom's chief medical officer, Dr Charles Roos, on 2 September 1998.

He had been a "radiation worker" at Koeberg for many years when, in 1996, he was persuaded to accept an early retirement "package". In July 1998 - two years later - he was diagnosed as having chronic lymphatic leukaemia. Only then did he discover that Koeberg's medical facility had failed to inform him of the abnormal blood counts recorded in its pathologists' reports for the ten years prior to his having been pressured by Eskom management into taking early retirement. [And we mean "pressured": for the year prior to accepting the package, he was given no work. "Instructions from the bosses," his section head confided.]

It is almost impossible to prove that any individual case of cancer is caused by radiation, rather than by any number of other possible causes. Lockwood is both intelligent and practical: he knew he had neither the time nor the money to waste on a high-risk court case.

But one thing was certain: Had he been informed of the dread pathology results in 1986, or at any time thereafter, he would never have accepted Eskom's early

retirement offer. He would have stayed in secure employment for as long as possible, improving his pension status and enjoying Eskom's medical aid coverage for as long as possible.

A month after their meeting, Prozesky wrote to Lockwood that, while Eskom had been working on verifying the information "as per our medical records", it had become apparent that a more formal investigation was necessary. "An independent review team has been constituted and these persons are presently engaged in conducting a review of the matter. [See editorial.]

"From the information available to Eskom on chronic lymphatic leukaemia, it is our understanding that your illness is not associated with your employment at Koeberg, and hence this is not reportable. [More about that later. - Ed.]

"We understand your approach to Eskom to be ... that you believe that you have been denied the opportunity to more effectively plan your financial and other circumstances, by virtue of the fact that an early diagnosis was not made.

"Eskom is not yet in a position to state its position." Prozesky set up a follow-up meeting for 1 December. He said that "the team" had "mandated" him to bring in Mr Calvin Theko, a legal advi-

sor from Eskom head office, to attend the meeting.

"I told Prozesky that I was not represented in any way and would be at a serious disadvantage," Lockwood said. "He assured me that Eskom's legal advisor was 'not there as a lawyer' and that there was 'nothing formal or legal in terms of what Eskom were proposing'."

At the meeting on 1 December 1998, Prozesky told Lockwood that "opinion varied" between Eskom having no liability and "some" liability - and that Eskom was "thinking of" offering him "about R160 000". This vague proposition was immediately withdrawn when Lockwood asked how the sum was calculated. His requests to

be shown Eskom's actuarial reports and the independent investigation's findings were refused by Prozesky. At this stage, Lockwood was asked to leave the room to enable Prozesky to consult privately with his legal advisor. A flip chart was then set up. Like a typical snake-oil salesman, Prozesky now launched into an elaborate and complex scheme of "annuities" and "sinking funds", with figures and graphs, to support the

proposition that the R160 000 scheme was "actually worth R250 000" and that "with the R250 000 we gave you for early retirement you would be getting R500 000".

"I told him that I did not accept his arguments," says Lockwood. "I asked to be provided with a written and motivated offer in order that I might have it properly evaluated. Then, as the meeting was becoming increasingly hostile and I was not feeling particularly well, I took my leave."

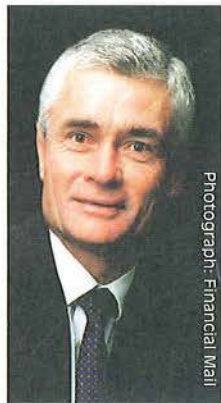
A few days later Lockwood wrote to Eskom's [then] chief executive, Allen Morgan, setting out his concerns:

"Mr Morgan, clearly the issues that have arisen from investigation into radiation workers' medical records at Koeberg nuclear power station are disturbing. In my case, the opportunity I had in 1987 [when a pathologist's report obtained by Koeberg first revealed a blood abnormality - but this was not disclosed to Lockwood] to make a substantial improvement to pensions and other plans for my future with leukaemia, has now been lost to me."

He added: "Mr Morgan, I request that Eskom, through your good offices, pay the



Ron Lockwood



Photograph: Financial Mail

Eskom senior general manager Peter O'Connor

costs for the independent professional representation I need to protect my interests in an equitable settlement. I ask for this as a gesture of goodwill from Eskom."

It was in response to this letter that Lockwood heard for the first time from Peter O'Connor, Eskom's senior general manager (technology). O'Connor, it emerged, was now the "executive responsible to ensure the finalisation of the matter".

O'Connor needed some time to bring himself up to date, but six weeks later, on 18 January 1999, he provided the first of many curious responses to Lockwood's requests for assistance:

"It appears that your financial settlement aspiration is higher than ours. We take the view that Eskom is not legally liable for the situation in which you find yourself. Therefore, any settlement is ex gratia in sympathy with your situation. You have rejected our offer and we need to explore some other resolution."

Lockwood responded: "I am not sure what Eskom 'offer' you are referring to." O'Connor's reply (on 10 February): "The offer is that made by Peter Prozesky and Calvin Theko during a meeting with you on 1 December, without prejudice and in full and final settlement of the matter. The terms and conditions were not discussed with you, due to your dissatisfaction with the offer itself."

Pressed to be specific, O'Connor wrote on 1 April: "Since there was no finalisation of our negotiations, Eskom considers it inappropriate to confirm it in writing. As regards legal advice, in terms of its policy, Eskom does not assist employees (or ex-employees) financially in matters against itself. However, I do appreciate your trepidation at having to negotiate with Eskom. Therefore, after due consideration, as an exception to this policy, and in line with Eskom's commitment to an equitable resolution, Eskom proposes to provide you with an amount of no more than R3 000 to enable you to obtain legal advice on the matter."

Next issue: If O'Connor's objective was to wear down his anxious and terminally ill ex-employee, meanwhile letting time pass by, so enhancing the chances of his claim against Eskom prescribing or – who knows – even of the bothersome man dying before he could prove a claim, the Eskom senior general manager has done very well. If that's how Eskom executives earn their bonuses, congratulations Mr O'Connor! Thanks to your evasiveness, Ron Lockwood's claim has prescribed. Eskom does not have to pay him a bean. ☐

Are you an unhappy Voyager member?
We can assist with all aspects of Voyager travel.



(031) 764 0647
paolak.kaltravel@galileosa.co.za



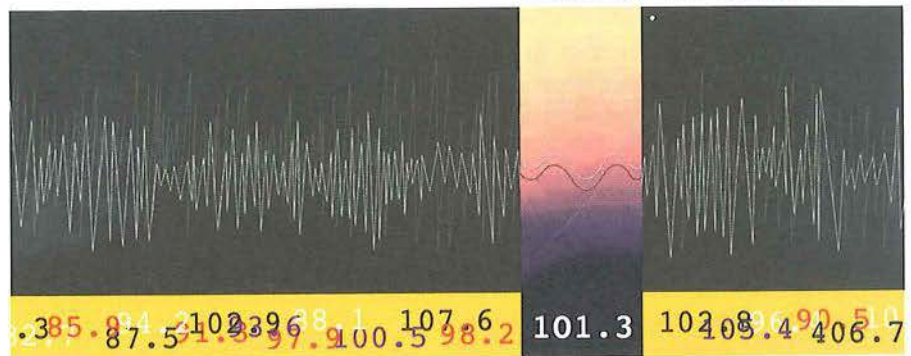
KALTRAVEL.cc
Specialists in Personalised Travel



Gillan & Veldhuizen Inc.

Attorneys, Conveyancers & Shipping Lawyers
Suite B15, Westlake Square, Westlake Drive, Cape Town
☎ (021) 702 3863 ■ Fax (021) 702 3861
www.gvinc.law.za

calm in chaos



When in Cape Town
Refining the art of leisure.
Calming life's tempo.
Striking the right chords.
Fine Jazz. Fine Classics. Fine Radio.

**Fine
Music
Radio 101.3**

motiv 315611

Maiden was no Virgin

In October, fledgling company Maiden Air (Pty) Ltd announced they would be flying between South Africa and London four times a week from 14 December. The company offered travel agents attractive commissions on ticket sales of up to 12%.

Agents rejoiced: more seats, low fares – and great commissions! But alas, there was a flaw in the plan. Maiden Air was still in the process of applying for a Foreign Operator's Permit and, as it later emerged, had no aircraft. In the end Maiden was denied a permit and several agents were left out of pocket.

As John Morrison, chief executive of the Airline Association of South Africa, points out: "It's unethical to sell tickets without a licence, otherwise any Tom, Dick or Harry could just start selling tickets."

But who cares about ethics? Rob Williamson, CEO and sole stakeholder of Maiden Air, isn't just any Dick; he put in a lot of effort convincing the travel industry that his was a legitimate operation.

When Maiden first announced their launch, Williamson made it clear that they had not yet been granted a licence, but his cunning "unique passenger protection policy" made buying a ticket seem risk free. Under this policy all ticket deposits were to be made directly into a trust account "administered solely by the company's auditors". Williamson assured agents: "Maiden has no access to this account whatsoever ... and funds are paid to Maiden only when we have provided the service."

The Association of South African Travel Agents (Asata) wisely



Here's a quick way to make some extra cash during the peak tourist season: register a company called something-or-other Air, put in an application for an airline operator's licence and start selling tickets. Providing aircraft (or not) is a detail you can worry about later

investigated this claim, and found the trust account was actually a current account. Williamson quickly quelled agents' concerns by claiming he had R500,000 in a trust account held by his attorney. He explained that the current account existed purely to enable him to pay refunds immediately should Maiden not fly. Asata repeatedly asked for proof of the trust account, but Williamson failed to provide any.

In November, the Department of Public Transport (DoT) issued this statement: "We wish to caution the public that Maiden Air has not obtained the necessary approval to operate a service between South Africa and the UK and, as such, no passenger protection scheme is in place." With this, they relinquished all responsibility should Williamson's business fail.

Asata duly warned agents against purchasing Maiden tickets. For some the warning came too late. Others were, once again, reassured by Williamson, who sent out an email to agents, instructing them not to make deposits into Maiden's account. He urged them to continue booking tickets and the costs would be reconciled once Maiden flew. In a report by *Travel News Weekly* on 19 November, Williamson said: "I am 100% positive of getting the licences. I am putting R1.73m down on the strength of getting them and obviously wouldn't do so unless I was absolutely sure." Williamson assured agents that should Maiden not obtain a licence, he would refund purchased tickets and personally foot the bill for passengers to be transferred to other airlines.

On the strength of this, some agents continued to book tickets. After all, how could they lose money if they weren't giving him any?

In December the International Air Services Licencing Council denied Maiden Air's application for a permit. Williamson was suddenly not contactable during the peak tourist season, leaving agents with no choice but to book their clients onto other airlines at their own expense.

Williamson did provide some stranded passengers in the UK with one-way tickets, gaining him a measure of good publicity. However,

it later emerged these tickets were paid for by a UK travel agency (which is so embarrassed they do not wish to be named). This agency is now owed £7,000 by Maiden and have approached the SA police representative at the SA embassy in London. They say they intend to lay criminal charges against Williamson.

Despite numerous assurances by Williamson that all agents would be reimbursed, many are still waiting. Wally Gaynor, CEO of Club Travel, is owed R73,808 by Maiden Air. Williamson says he will not pay Gaynor because he has submitted inflated invoices, even though Gaynor has proof that his invoices are legitimate, as does Munlin Travel who are owed R43,199, Abne Travel who are owed R11,319 and a list of others.

Surely an airline should not be able to sell tickets without securing a licence, let alone an aircraft? According to the DoT's spokesperson, Ndivhuwo Mabana, it is not illegal to sell tickets once you have applied for a licence, but it is considered a business risk and "if the public wish to take this risk the DoT cannot stop them". Mabaya reiterates that DoT did all they could by issuing a warning to the public.

The DoT was rather peeved to learn that MA had been using the DoT's name for self-promotion. In an email sent to agents on October 23, Williamson wrote: "... in association with the SA Department of Public Transport as well as the local Civil Aviation Authority, we will be operating a Boeing 767-300ER for the period 14 December 2003 to 31 January 2004." Mabaya stated that at no time was the DoT operating in association with Maiden, and such a claim implied the DoT's public protection policy was guaranteed, which was never the case. Mabaya said: "We will investigate this and if it is true we will take legal action."

Similarly, the Civil Aviation Authority spokesperson Moses Seate, says: "It is ridiculous to claim that a regulatory body would be working in association with a commercial airline. Maiden was never given permission to use the CAA's name and we consider this to be fraudulent."

As more evidence of Williamson's

dodgy business dealings emerge, it seems odd that no background checks were carried out on Maiden.

It is the DoT's responsibility to safeguard the public, so why did they not investigate earlier? The permit application was made in the name of the European Aviation Airline Company (the charter company from which Maiden planned to lease an aircraft) and not Maiden, so the DoT was under no obligation to check Maiden's background, even though they knew Maiden was behind the application. Maiden piggybacked on the credentials of the EAAC, boasting on their website: "While Maiden awaits their operating licences, we will be operating an aircraft on lease from a registered airline in the UK. This company is a member of IATA and ATOL bonded". However, it now emerges, no agreement was never finalised between MA and EAAC. In fact, ceo of EAAC, Willie O'Neil views his dealings with MA as a fruitless waste of time: "We were given a number of assurances that all regulatory issues were being resolved", says O'Neil, "After a number of promises that funds would arrive from various sources (including a letter purporting to come from his bank, which was proven to be false) none were forthcoming." As a result, Maiden never secured an aircraft.

Mabaya said that when the permit application was published in the government gazette for 28 days, so interested parties could object, they received a number of appeals from individuals who claimed to have been in soured business deals with Williamson.

Little else is known of Williamson. In an interview with *Travel News Weekly*, he claimed to have been a pilot for Swiss Air for 25 years, saying his licence was lost for medical reasons. The Civil Aviation Authority confirms Williamson did have a pilot's licence issued in 1993, but this was a private licence and he definitely could not have flown commercial carriers with it. Swiss Air is now defunct. His private licence lapsed in 1995 because he failed to renew his medical certificate. He worked as a tour guide for a popular tour company in 1996/1997, earning an average of R4,000 a month. ▣

Pen & Art®

Cape Town • KZN • Johannesburg • Pretoria

The Specialists!

leading stockists of

Montblanc Omas

Waterman Ferrari

Montegrappa

(sole importers)

and many other fine pen brands

17 branches nationwide

(011) 325 6080

maxiprop

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY BROKERS

Specializing in Cape Town CBD

tel 021 422-4262

fax 021 422-4268

email reception@maxiprop.co.za

**WILDEKRANS
COUNTRY HOUSE**

Historic homestead, art, wine,
walks, mountains

Houw Hoek, 80km from Cape Town

www.wildekrans.co.za

(028) 284 9827

Start the year on a good note

Get what is rightfully yours

RAPS DEBT COLLECTORS

South Africa's biggest and most successful

old fashioned debt collectors

011 861 3860 (30 lines)

www.DebtCollections.co.za

info@raprotection.co.za

Nationwide and international collections

A LICENCE TO PRINT MONEY

Tom Dennen goes under the cover of his inkjet printer to investigate the murky trade in the world's most expensive liquid

For decades I have been under the impression that one of the most expensive liquids in the world (you can't count heavy water unless you're a wannabe terrorist government) was an extremely sophisticated (and the only "green") catalyst brewed up in Hluhluwe that is used to turn 90-octane petrol into 98-octane. It used to go at \$20,000 for a 44-gallon drum, about R10,000 a litre if my calculations are anywhere near correct.

For the last few years I've been wrong.

Because for the last few years, with expanding, exploding techno-marketing, you can put 10ml of (admittedly somewhat designer) ink into a tiny



plastic box with a sponge inside it and sell the package for up to R700 a pop.

Do the maths: a standard 10ml Epson OEM black cartridge at Game City in Durban costs R450. That's R45,000 a litre!

Okay, you can get a generic for closer to R100, but you get the idea – a lot of businesses are making serious bundles on ink.

Very serious bundles. If you've ever doubted it, here's the maths from ink wholesaler sales@vamex.com:

They quote \$279 for five gallons of the best WJ-190 black ink.

Five gallons times 3.7854 (the number of litres in a gallon) gives us 18.93 litres. \$279 converted to rands equals about R2,000 for 18.93 litres. Divide 1,960 by 18.93 and you get R107 a litre (that's R1.07 for 10ml – the amount of ink in the plastic cartridge you've just paid R450 for at Game! (And that's just the wholesale price. The price from the world's biggest manufacturer of printer ink, BASF in Germany, to wholesalers and major cartridge manufacturers has to be even less.)

A while ago we all discovered that printer cartridges could be refilled and a whole industry sprang up around the business of refilling 10ml printer cartridges for just a couple of hundred smackers – what a bargain! (After all, the refillers were only making R199 profit on every R1-worth of ink they were selling!)

Then we discovered that we could refill the cartridges all by ourselves and another industry leapt out of

the woodwork to sell us just the ink! (Retailing at around R1,000 a litre, we were now into real savings).

But then the printer manufacturers woke up and built some tricks into their cartridges.

The high-tech trick: manufacturers are now installing a chip on their ink cartridge that shuts down your printer when the ink runs out: no matter how much ink you subsequently put into the cartridge, it tells the computer, "I'm empty! Don't print until I'm replaced" The only way to reactivate your printer is to replace the cartridge with an expensive new one from the manufacturer – which has a chip programmed to tell your computer, "I'm full. Print away!"

Which sounded the gong for round two of the battle. Manufacturers of cheaper, generic refills, have started making refills with a chip of their own that reassures your printer that all is well with the cheaper substitute. (Last year Lexmark began a lawsuit in terms of the US Digital Millennium Copyright Act, 1998, against a company called Static Control for alleged infringement of Lexmark's intellectual property contained in the chip it puts on its branded ink cartridges.)

Meanwhile, the European Union has banned the use of cartridges that have chips that make printer ink cartridges unreuseable. The reason: thrown away, the cartridges increase toxic landfill and are a threat to the environment.

Back in the US, the battle has reopened on a new front. At epsonrefill.com (or a site nearby) you can order a cartridge chip re-setter for \$15 that tells the chip on your empty ink cartridge "You're full again!". So consumers can, once again, refill the cartridge themselves, circumventing both the greedy printer manufacturers and the only slightly less greedy generic refill manufacturers.

That has, so it is said, prompted an even nastier counter-attack from the ink cartridge manufacturers. According to what we've been told, it's shockingly simple. They're putting a thin layer of an evil oily sludge on top of the original ink supply in what now becomes a self-destruct cartridge: when the ink runs out the sludge drains through and permanently clogs the inkjets.

"So weh! You can't refill me!" And so another couple of tons of toxic waste are headed our way! So I'm told.

Okay, so what, exactly, is the bottom, bottom line? I addressed the following enquiry to ink manufacturer BASF's head office in Germany: I

Manufacturers are now installing a chip on their cartridges: no matter how much ink you put in, the cartridge tells the computer: 'I'm empty! Don't print'

am researching the profit path from manufacturer to consumer of printer ink cartridge content. Any assistance will be acknowledged.

Their email reply:

Dear Mr Dennen, Thank you for approaching BASF on ink jet inks. Unfortunately we are not in a position to provide you with any data regarding profit path of inks.

*Best regards,
Juergen Weiser.*

Asked for his comment, Hewlett-Packard's Warren Rother started telling me all about high R&D costs (of that sneaky chip built into the cartridge?) which have to be recovered, transport costs, etc etc etc – but he had to admit that they didn't add up to R30,000–R40,000 a litre. **□**



"Seems everybody has a little something on the side."



Visit us at:

Pineslopes Shopping Centre

Witkoppen Road Fourways

Tel: +27 11 4672475 Fax: +27 11 467 2476

Email: gots@farsa.co.za

www.farsa.co.za



FINE ART RESOURCES S.A.
CONTEMPORARY ART • GRAPHICS • ORIGINALS • SCULPTURES • ARTIFACTS

Vineyard Gallery

ORIGINAL ART • GRAPHICS • PRINTS
ENGRAVINGS • SCULPTURE



Visit us at:

29 Vineyard Road

Cnr of Cavendish & Vineyard Roads Claremont
Cape Town

Tel: +27 21 683 9597 Fax: +27 21 683 9144

Email: vineyard@farsa.co.za

www.farsa.co.za



FINE ART RESOURCES S.A.
CONTEMPORARY ART • GRAPHICS • ORIGINALS • SCULPTURES • ARTIFACTS

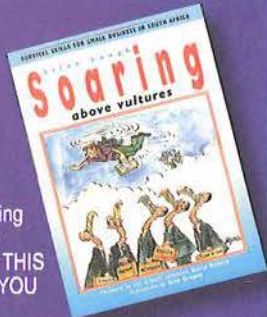
Soaring Above Vultures

Survival Skills For Small Business
in South Africa

By Brian Hough

Own business and up to your backside in alligators? This hilarious book is like finding the missing Kruger millions. In his 28 years of small business Brian Hough has seen it all.

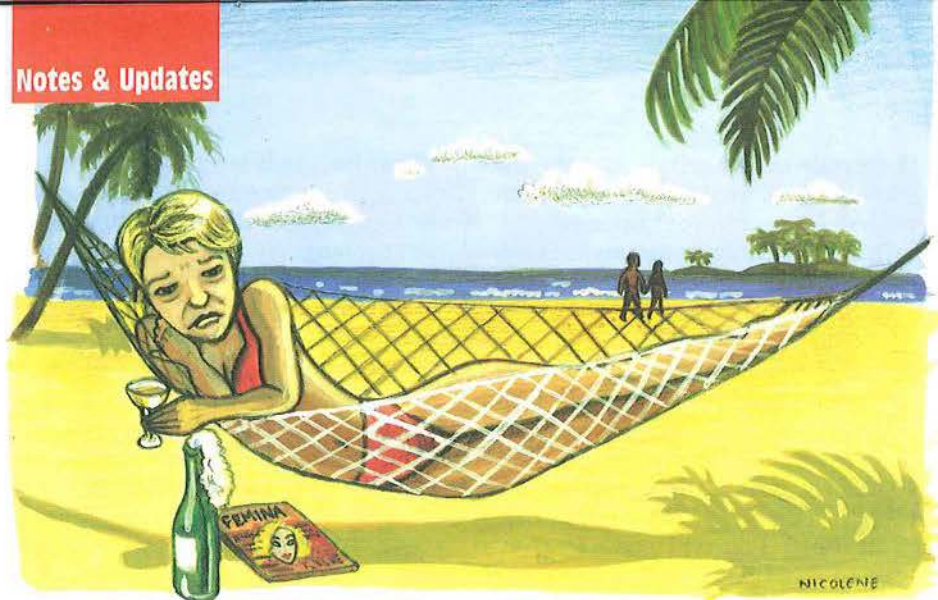
Each chapter has a thread of steel founded on practical experience, and is delivered in an easy-to-read manner. Considering starting your own business? READ THIS BOOK BEFORE YOU BEGIN!



Direct orders R50 per copy (including postage anywhere in SA). Cheques to: Brian Hough, PO Box 320, Bruma 2026.

Tel: 011 622 1519

Direct Transfer: B E Hough;
20Twenty Account: 4053447308;
Ref: 10238781101.



The Mark of Trovato

In December, *noseweek* revealed the true story behind a cryptic column by newspaper columnist Ben Trovato in which the two-timing toad sought to entertain his fans with a luridly fantastical version of his recent break-up with a lady friend in which he divulged all but her name. Might this have inspired Trovato's sadly wronged innamorata to go public with her side of the tale?

Alert readers of *Femina* may already have noticed that a travel article by the magazine's editor, petite blonde Clare O' Donoghue, in its February edition, recounts events that are a mirror-image of those described by Trovato in his column. But before you leap up in horror at the prospect that Ms O' Donoghue is the latest victim of the deadly Bristow-Bovian copycat virus, let us reassure you that even though her trip was a freebie, her words are entirely her own.

"Twenty-four hours before my (now ex) boyfriend and I were to fly to what is considered the most romantic destination in the known galaxy, I found out that he had behaved in a Manner Unbecoming," she writes.

"We were set to experience 'real romance.'" While not mentioning the skunk by name nor his offending deed, she describes her destination as one deserving of a "Romeo" not a "Lothario" – so, wounded to the core, she tears up his boarding card and takes her sister, Brigid, along instead.

Bronte-like, Ms O' Donoghue writes of her "collapsed relationship" and her "deflated heart" as the plane touches

down in the Seychelles. A flower behind her ear, she flattens a bottle of champers solo in the hotel and avoids what was listed in the itinerary as an "Intimate Moments' experience", a candlelit bubble bath to "seal a night of passion".

She praises her sister for her support and sympathy. And in between she writes about the "aqua ocean", the "umbrella-ed cocktails" and the panoramic vistas. The piece entitled "Heaven Can Wait" is a travelogue underpinned by the bitter outpourings of a broken heart. After many paragraphs describing the sybaritic comforts she enjoyed on the island, Ms O' Donoghue declares that there is no place better than the Seychelles "to have as a heartbreak hotel". But in conclusion she wistfully suggests that, in fact, romance would be a better reason to visit.

noseweek believes there is one more part to be written in this saga of romantic intrigue which has fed the fantasies of readers of a range of publications for months now. The "Christian virgin" of KwaZulu-Natal – the "other" recipient of Ben Trovato's amorous emails – must come forward with her version of this love triangle (quadrangle, if you include Darrel Bristow-Bovey in the equation).

But meanwhile, let the villain of the piece, Ben Trovato, come forward to take a bow in the spotlight – and reveal himself to himself and the rest of the world – as e.tv's former chief sub-editor of news and Cape Town-based documentary film-maker Mark Verbaan. □

GUS FERGUSON

Love amongst the middle-aged

AND OTHER CARTOONS



LOVE AMONGST THE MIDDLE-AGED

Cartoons sans sell-by date. Hilarious snobwit. Many published in *noseweek*. Ideal gift.

Send R50 per copy to
Snailpress, 30 Firfield Road
Plumstead 7800.

Or phone 021 762 3714.

Dr Carlisle's missing R20m

We described in September last year (*nose49*) a long-ongoing battle between Dr Frank Carlisle and Mercantile and Lisbon Bank over money allegedly missing from Carlisle's account with the bank.

Readers will recall that after Carlisle sold his business, the Production Management Institute, to Adcorp in 1998, the proceeds totalling tens of millions were deposited into an account with Mercantile. Carlisle assumed, unwisely it later transpired, that the money was safe in his bank account, and was somewhat lax about monitoring it. Instead of insisting on proper bank statements each month, he was content with "reconciliations" of the account especially typed up for him by Robert Lowe, the bank's head of corporate finance.

In December 1998 Carlisle became concerned about the account, and in January 1999 wrote directly to the bank's head of operations, Alan Greenstein, asking for proper bank statements. It was Lowe who wrote back, as follows: "I would welcome having a meeting with you and your auditor at the bank to go through all the transactions on the account. I have instructed our treasury department to produce all the vouchers and instructions and these are being obtained from our archives. They should be available on Monday 18 January."

By the appointed day, however, Lowe had gapped it and was nowhere to be found. (It later transpired he was en route to Thailand, via Germany). There was a big hole in Carlisle's bank account and much to indicate – as related in our original story – that Lowe was responsible. (One is a handwritten fax from Lowe to Carlisle threatening dire consequences should "I be attacked by you in any way ie: the courts". Hardly the stuff of honest banking.)

So much for the recap. Subsequent

to the story we received a letter from Mercantile's lawyer, Anthony Berlowitz, denying that the bank was in any way at fault (but failing to address the specific charges raised in our article).

We stand by our story, but think it's time to turn the spotlight away from Mr Lowe and onto the Mercantile directors and Mr Berlowitz himself.

It may seem improbable, given the scale of what was taken, but, according to Fred Schutte, Mercantile's legal advisor, the bank "does not have an accounting policy and procedure manual ... does not have an internal delegation framework." So perhaps it was possible for a senior executive such as Lowe to circumvent normal banking safeguards, since it appears none were in place at Mercantile Bank.

If we accept, then, that Lowe acted alone, his sudden disappearance, and the subsequent questions about Carlisle's missing millions, must have come as a shock to the Mercantile directors.

Their immediate professional obligation, of course, was to investigate and to account fully to Carlisle for all the debits on his account (ie: to produce, as far as possible, those vouchers and instructions mentioned by Lowe). What could be simpler, or more fundamental to the provision of an honest, professional banking service?

But Mercantile's directors chose instead to hand the problem over to Berlowitz. Carlisle was left in the strange position of having to go to court to try to get his bank to account for the money in his bank account! He has been battling to do so since March 1999 without success. Carlisle's legal strategy over the years has undoubtedly been confused and inept, but there has been a consistent theme running through all his sometimes misguided court actions: that Mercantile be ordered to explain what happened to the money in his account; in whose favour payments were made; and on whose authority. In September 2003, when Carlisle launched another new case against the bank, he again asked for a full accounting, listing some 20 debits from his account totalling R20m that he wants explained.

In his letter to us Berlowitz makes clear the bank's response to this idea. "On 3 September 2003," he writes, "Carlisle served a further summons

Shot in the arm for man Shot in the back

Ian Hamilton

was shot in the back by a psychotic woman.

We provided Ian with a policy enabling him to see that justice was done in the courts.

And done it was!!

We also assisted **Pedro de Lima** shot by his cousin who was out on bail for murder when he obtained a gun licence. And we covered the relatives of the Storms River disaster in their claim for negligence.

Need a 'financial' shot in the arm? Contact Legal Protection Services for more information on how we can cover your legal expenses from R50 000 to R10 million!!

For more cases - see our web site
www.lps.co.za.

(011) 888-6201 cps@lps.co.za
(021) 689-1538 www.lps.co.za



LEGAL PROTECTION SERVICES (PTY) LTD

All policies underwritten by Constantia Insurance Company Limited



on the bank in which he claims payment of some R20m and, in addition, a statement of account and a debatement thereof. The bank is presently applying to set aside [Carlisle's new] summons as an irregular proceeding. If the application is not successful the bank will raise the defence, *inter alia*, that all Carlisle's claims have been extinguished by prescription."

Relying on prescription is one thing as a technical legal defence. But it's an extraordinary attitude for a bank to take to a customer's request for an explanation of the transactions on his account. (In fact Berlowitz misrepresents Carlisle's court action; he is not asking simply for payment of R20m, but, much more reasonably, for a debate over debits totalling some R20m, and payment of those sums found to have been improperly debited from his account.)

The bank's unwillingness to account openly to Carlisle speaks volumes. But it gets much, much worse.

After Lowe went AWOL Mercantile immediately and unilaterally closed Carlisle's account. According to Mercantile's own computer printout, there was a closing balance on the account of almost R1m. That was five years ago. With interest that balance should now be closer to R2m. We said that the bank was keeping the money, and refusing to answer Carlisle's questions about it – a devastating allegation, surely?

But in Berlowitz's long letter he makes no attempt to refute that allegation. *noseweek* can only assume that's because it's true.

In our original story we told the complicated tale of how Robert Lowe had introduced an acquaintance of his, Thomas Klein, a golf course manager from George, as a potential buyer of a minority shareholding in Carlisle's business.

As we related, shortly after the first R15m of the purchase price was deposited into Carlisle's account with Mercantile, a fax was sent, ostensibly from Klein, authorising the bank to make various payments from the account, including one of R1.25m to a company controlled by none other than Robert Lowe.



SHIRTLESS: Dr Frank Carlisle

In April 1999 Klein declared under oath that he knew nothing of the fax, that by the time it was sent Lowe had already told him that the share deal was off, and that he had thereafter had nothing further to do with Carlisle or his business, that he had never paid for shares in Carlisle's business, or received any money in connection with a shareholding in the business.

The signature on the fax in question is nothing like Klein's, and it even misspells his name. It is clearly a forgery.

The bank, and Berlowitz, were in possession of a copy of Klein's affidavit soon after he made it. Nevertheless, in September 1999, Mercantile claimed in court papers, in response to a question raised by Carlisle, that the payment was "made on the instructions of T Klein to whom the said amounts were due and payable". Leaving aside the absurdity of the bank's argument that Klein, who was never a shareholder or officer of the business, never a signatory on the bank account, and never authorised in any way to make instructions on behalf of the business could have authorised the payment – Berlowitz must have known that the origin of the fax was at the very least highly questionable. He must also have known all about Lowe's precipitate departure and the circumstances surrounding it.

So what's up Mr Berlowitz? How could you allow your clients to use a fax in support of their case that was a patent forgery? Isn't that dangerously close to misleading the court? And you're an officer of the court!

■ Mr Berlowitz previously featured in *nose30* in a story entitled "BoE's fishy business." Online subscribers can look up that entire sorry saga at www.noseweek.co.za. ☐

Phelan's groovy

Despite the hoopla, construction is yet to start on the site of the planned Cape Town luxury hotel Claridges, brainchild of Irish multi-millionaire Paschal Phelan. In *nose53* we described Mr Phelan's colourful past, filled with intrigue and corporate controversy. We also told how various contractors who had worked on renovations to his Tuscan-style villa in Fresnaye claimed that they were out of pocket and fuming at the end of their contracts.

While we've heard nothing from Phelan himself, *noseweek* has received a number of phone calls from people who have an interest in the former meat-broker's business dealings. One such person sent through an article published in Ireland just before Christmas, entitled "Paschal's angry backers see no life in Mars 2112 – NYC diner's profits disappear into black hole". Readers will remember that Mr Phelan's big boast here is that he is the principal shareholder of the largest restaurant in New York, a space theme eatery which seats 400.

"...a lot of people who invested in his New York restaurant are howling with fury at the moment," reads the Ireland on Sunday article. "Paschal convinced many to invest in his futurist theme restaurant on Broadway just five years ago. The restaurant has gone bankrupt, with crushing debts." The newspaper refers to court records which show that the company behind the restaurant, Broadway Mars Restaurant Corporation, owes more than \$500,000. (Mr Phelan assured us earlier this year that nobody had lost money when Mars 2112 got into financial difficulty.)

In fact, Phelan's silence apparently masks his anger at our article. Certainly he is smarting, and his quest is to restore his good name in Cape Town, so as not to damage the final sale of the last remaining hotel suites in his yet-to-be-built hotel.



When we last checked, some of the multi-million rand suites were still up for grabs and estate agents Pam Golding were still bullish.

So, the man who is often described by admiring business colleagues as "visionary" has penned a letter on behalf of the architect responsible for the renovations at his home, Vanessa Sass, rebutting the allegations carried in *noseweek*. In the letter he denies having treated the contractors who did his home renovations badly or failed to pay the full amount owing. He's asked his architect, Ms Sass, to sign on the dotted line, print it out under her letterhead, and then fax it back to him as evidence of his virtue.

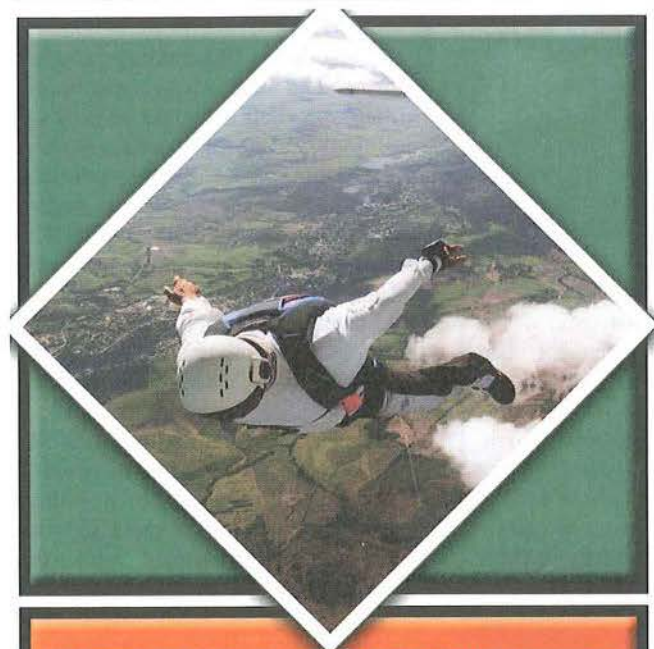
"Even though the project cost more than planned, was months behind the

CAN'T GET IT UP: Vacant site of the as-yet-unbuilt Claridges Hotel, Cape Town

agreed schedule and the finished (sic) left a lot to be desired Mr and Mrs Phelan discharged each of my payment certificates on time," reads the ghost-written letter.

"... I have spoken with a number of the other contractors on the job, all were fully paid and speak highly of Mr and Mrs Phelan.... To expose this as a situation of 'non payment' in *noseweek* is appalling in the extreme, as I found the Phelans to be people of the highest integrity."

noseweek understands that the architect has refused to sign Mr Phelan's self-referencing testimonial. What will he come up with next!



**BUYING A PARACHUTE?
WOULD YOU ACCEPT
THE CHEAPEST QUOTE?**

**More
than just
excellent
guarding –
we provide
you with
total peace
of mind!**

**CONTACT
BRIAN ADAMS
0800 000 112**



A member of the Quiver Group of Companies

strategy
Tony Manning/Strategist
www.tonymanning.com

Steve Banhegyi
Transformation Consultant
Personal Coach • Lecturer
www.geocities.com/stevebanhegyi
083 232-6047
steve@connectit.co.za

Improve your business image

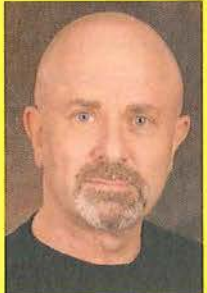
www.fdesign.co.za

Logos, letterheads, business cards, compliment slips, design online. **F** design.
Call: 083 2977737

Someone stealing from you?
Someone handled you?
Looking for someone with a sore heart?
Think that your spouse is cheating?

Call us:
IRS FORENSIC INVESTIGATIONS
Representatives throughout SA
011 861 3860
www.irs-southafrica.net
chad@aprotection.co.za

www.clivesimpkins.com



Marketing and communications strategy and coaching

US looks ready to beat about Bush

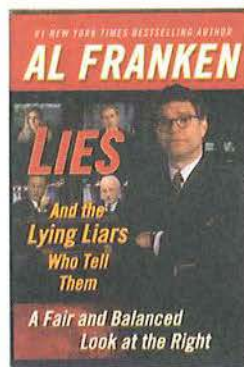
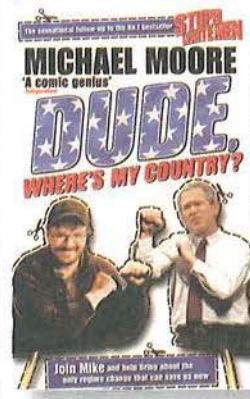
Get on top of the wave of new thinking crossing America, and you too will be persuaded that the world can only get better, even over here, when the US's SOB president is gone.

Well, here's hoping. I get a boost of hope from a couple of recent anti-Bush books. Al Franken's *Lies and the Lying Liars Who Tell Them* and Michael Moore's *Dude, Where's My Country?* were third and fourth respectively on the *New York Times* bestseller list at the beginning of the year and are showing considerable endurance. There is mainstream American interest in them, if not downright glee. Though the book is available in South Africa, I got my copy of *Lies* in a Christmas package from rural Pennsylvania, along with a scrawled confession from my crew cut, Korean War vet father that he had read it before sending it. Moore I got here – an edition for the overseas market with a preface admitting American ignorance and warmongering but promising better things. Hmmm, tell me more.

Bush's approval rating has dropped below 50%, and several Democratic candidates look hunky. Perhaps most important (and perhaps under the influence of Moore and Franken), the politeness about Bush in the establishment media is disappearing. James Fallows in *The Atlantic Monthly* – the dowager in the palace – has now called the White House inner circle "fools".

Both Moore and Franken in their particular ways represent astute politicking. Franken is a comedian and comic writer who is as much of an insider as he could be and still have really rude things to say. He produced this latest book on a grant from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, which funded 14 research

American citizen **Sarah Ruden**, who is resident in South Africa, gloats over two books attacking the present occupant of the White House



assistants to locate everything from warnings before September 11 that the Bush administration ignored, to evidence against the claims of talk-show hosts that liberals use a nastier "tone" in the media than conservatives do. Even before the grant, Franken was an unassailable man for the job. He performed for US troops abroad and for corporate functions. His is a form of liberalism palatable to power, and he emits the message, "Hey, get rid of this clown, or we won't be able to keep our system together – he and his pals are all that's wrong with it."

I'm fairly sure he'll damage Bush in the elections. This may seem like a lot to read into a book that spends so much space on accounts of personal squabbles with right-wingers and on phenomena like the cheerleaders with ankle-length skirts at ultra-conservative Bob Jones University. But I'm reading as an American, and I'm telling you the good and the bad news. Even with regime change, it's still going to be us. The US is going to be just as selfish. The plan is to be more efficiently selfish by being smarter, as in Democratic former presidential candidate Wesley Clarke's plan of broader, deeper "coalition building". The benefits for the developing world will come from Americans' realisation of the stupidity of a policy based on the belief that they can bully, exploit and destroy people because Americans are morally superior. We need to at least seem more just, while taking over the world.

Even Moore, who used to be leftwing by American standards, has repackaged himself. Though he is a professed pacifist, he endorsed the retired general Wesley Clarke as a presidential candidate. One chapter

of *Dude* argues that Americans are actually liberal enough just as they are – they only need to stand up for beliefs they already have; another chapter concedes that conservatives are right about a bunch of things: that criminals need to be locked up, that drugs and teenage sex are bad, that religion should get some respect, that unions have a downside, etc. After backing Ralph Nader in the last election and being blamed for throwing victory to Bush, Moore knows that, in the country he's in, there's no useful role for the pundit he used to be.

But this very flexibility is a comforting sign. American politics is practical. Americans reinterpret and add onto what they can't change. Moore's career shows how this can work to the wider good. As a novice journalist, he was obsessed with unemployment in the motor industry because of the shift of jobs to Mexico and overseas. It was a natural concern for the son of a motor vehicle parts worker, at a time when General Motors was making billions, but laying off thousands of US workers. The concern naturally intensified when Moore lost his own editorial job and had to return to the wasteland of his hometown. But although the concern was deeply felt, it didn't involve a heck of a lot of thinking. In the movie *Roger and Me* (1989), he hilariously tracked General Motors CEO Roger Smith and lampooned the American post-industrial economy and class system, but didn't ask the obvious hard questions. Aren't bigger forces at work here than the greed of a few individuals? How could we get so much stuff – which we don't want to forego – without capitalism? But how would capitalism work if it weren't competitive? Is the American dream of ever-rising wages and ever-more-lavish consumption for all realistic? Doesn't the rest of the world want to imitate it, and where will the natural resources come from? Isn't a South African's dollar-an-hour car plant job that sustains life arguably a lot more necessary than an American's 24 dollars an hour that sustain a lifestyle?

Through four more movies, four books and two TV series, Moore shuffled on. He was huge, he wore baggy couch clothes and baseball caps, he clutched bundles of fast food on camera. He looked like a strip mall denizen, and he could sound like a crusader for what he seemed to embody: leisure and consumption. But by the time of the book *Stupid White Men* (2002), he was asking us if we thought that this was a "nation of idiots", so bad was its school system, and he was blaspheming against the internal combustion engine. In his last film, *Bowling for Columbine* (2002), he looked at the America of fear and violence and compared it to gun-happy but almost murder-free Canada. He addressed that most basic question: "How do we keep from killing each other?" In *Dude, Where's My Country?* the query goes worldwide. He even says what I thought was unsayable

You have to be American to know just how flabbergasting the idea of living less well is

to the US public: "What if we were known as the country that shared its incredible wealth – shared it even to the point where it might mean that we had to go without some of the luxuries we're accustomed to? How would the poor and desperate around the globe feel about us then? Wouldn't this reduce our chances of being victims of terrorist attacks?" Sharing, caring, more aid, more diplomacy, more peacekeeping: we've heard all about those as remedies against terrorism. But the idea of ordinary Americans living less well, getting by with one car per family, buying fewer appliances, as a direct cost of living more peacefully with the rest of the world? You would have to be an American to know how flabbergasting that is. That the above passage of Moore's hardly stands out in his book that sold a million copies in three weeks signals very cheering things about the future of America's relationship with the rest of humanity. ☐



"The best software for Attorneys"
Tel: 0861 711150



Johannesburg International Commodities Management

Leaders in International Treasury
Foreign Exchange and
Commodities Management
for Individuals and Institutions

Jhb ☎ (011) 467-8500
Dbn ☎ (031) 572-3614
Ctn ☎ (021) 425-8377
Email: jicm@jicm.co.za

Income tax returns outstanding?
Tax in a mess? We can help!

PROFESSIONAL TAX SERVICES

Saving you tax for 13 years
☎ (021) 531-0727 Fax (021) 531-0166
proftax@icon.co.za



Money Coach

Expand your business!
Learn what works.
Simple, practical, hands-on
approach by successful
businesswoman.

Call Kiki Theo at Blue Sky Solutions
021-788-3101 or 082-600-8229
The sky's the limit!

RipleyEvans Inc.

Commercial Attorney

Slawenhuis, 37 Herte Street, Stellenbosch 7600
☎ (021) 883 2823 law@ripleyevans.co.za

There's nothing flashy about Paul Groves. His sensible appearance is appropriate to an accountant entrusted by many well-off South Africans with millions in offshore investments. In particular, he is noted for handling the once-off R750,000 individual allowance that the Reserve Bank permits citizens to invest abroad.

But that sober image has now been dented. Seriously. A well-known Cape Town couple are demanding their money back and the British police are taking an interest in the matter.

Who is Paul Groves? The London-based accountant grew up in Cape Town. He attended Wynberg Boys' High, and he married well. His wife, Belinda, is the daughter of Mike Rattray, the inspiration behind the award-winning Mala-Mala Game Reserve.

Groves has been in the investment business for more than 12 years. His company, Compass Informatica, offers financial and investment advice, as well as guidance on "optimal offshore ownership structures to ensure security, protection and confidentiality". He also offers property advisory services.

Groves says he will take your R750,000 allowance, find a suitable property in London, invest, install tenants, organise repairs to leaking geysers etc - and give you a handsome return. Which was precisely the kind of service that Cape Town cardiothoracic surgeon Susan Vosloo and her specialist anaesthetist husband Anton Ferreira were wanting.

Following the birth of their twin daughters, Nina and Lila, in 2000, Vosloo and Ferreira planned to invest their R750,000 allowance as long-term security for their daughters. For 18 months, Vosloo monitored property sales in London and attended Cape presentations on new London developments.

During this exploratory period, she and her husband frequently heard Groves recommended for this kind of transaction. He was chairman of the South African (SA) Business Club in London (a networking centre for both South Africans and Britons). His website features an impressive range of services. A brochure bears praise from the likes of Pick 'n Pay's Gareth Ackerman, and Old Mutual's retail product

There's no place like a UK home

Whatever happened to that nice Cape couple's R750,000 overseas investment allowance?

and service delivery general manager Peter Dempsey. Other references include one from a peer and another from a professor.

In December 2002, Vosloo and Ferreira contacted Groves in London. Groves said a development named South Villas was coming on line in London's Camden area. A large house was being converted into four apartments. The all-inclusive purchase price was £300,000 for the lower ground unit. The couple planned to put their entire R750,000 into the property, and to raise a bond for the balance, which would be serviced from rental income.

Groves insisted that, in order to

secure the property until Vosloo could view it in January 2003, they transfer £10,000 into the "client reserve account" of Compass Informatica.

He said his lawyer was away on holiday in South Africa, and also he (Groves) would hold the funds. Vosloo and Ferreira felt uncomfortable about this arrangement, but Groves assured them the account functioned like the trust accounts of South African attorneys and the money would be perfectly safe. In an email on 18 December 2002, Groves stated that the money would be "properly protected" in the account and added that, while the arrangement seemed "rather formal, compliance requirements are very onerous and we could get into a lot of trouble if things are not done properly."

These arrangements were, however, not exactly in accordance with the provisions of the Compass Informatica guide for clients. Point four of this guide states: "Client investment capital for the purchase of a property is never sent to or held by Compass Informatica. It is sent to the transferring attorney's client account and is not accessible by Compass Informatica". Vosloo and Ferreira were not in possession of the guide at the time of this exchange.

Groves did state that the money would be refundable if Vosloo decided against buying the property. He also stressed that the developer insisted on a deposit, even though nothing had been signed.

On 31 December 2002, the £10,000 was transferred to Compass Informatica. In mid-January, Vosloo flew to London, met Groves and viewed

the South Villas property for the first time. The flat appeared to be a suitable investment, and Groves assured her that Camden area would benefit greatly from the upgrade of King's Cross railway station, as well as planned improvements to the Camden tube station. Vosloo then made a payment of £8,000 to Compass Informatica.

In March 2003 Groves asked for a further £52,000 towards the balance of the deposit. He told Vosloo that he wanted all the money "in place" when transfer was obtained. En route to a Chicago conference later that month, Vosloo again viewed the property. Satisfied that renovations were nearing completion, she arranged for the money transfer.

Vosloo and Ferreira wanted a company, owned by a trust, to make the purchase on behalf of the children, since British law does not allow minors to own property. In April, Twin Haven Limited was set up by the BoE Trust Company on the Isle of Man. BoE Trust Co were to handle the formalities of the transaction on behalf of Twin Haven Ltd.

Time flies when you're busy raising little children and running two demanding medical practices. Suddenly it was August and Vosloo and Ferreira had not heard a word from Groves about the transfer of the South Villas property. Vosloo called Lenza Breytenbach, conveyancing solicitor for South Villas. Breytenbach said that she was having a problem getting hold of Groves and nobody at his office seemed to know about the matter. Vosloo says it took days of continual telephoning before she managed to contact Groves. He said problems with the developer had resulted in transfer being delayed.

Vosloo informed him that BoE Trust Co needed confirmation that the renovations were complete before they could approve transfer of the balance of the deposit. Groves mentioned that he would be visiting Cape Town during the following month and would bring along photographs of South Villas to prove the necessary work had been completed. He was not specific about "problems with the developer".

It now appears that, five months prior to this conversation, and unbeknown to Vosloo and Ferreira, the renovations had been completed and tenants were already occupying the property. Groves had apparently not

might not provide the security that Groves described. The couple demanded that their money be transferred immediately from Compass Informatica's account to Twin Haven Limited. Groves agreed to do so.

But by early October the money had still not been transferred. On a subsequent visit to Cape Town, Groves told Vosloo and Ferreira that, "since 9/11", new regulations against money laundering required that they furnish the bank with a letter confirming the legitimacy of their funds. They provided this document immediately.

The two doctors laid a criminal charge with the British police and applied for Groves' liquidation

been forthcoming with buyers and the developer was compelled to make other plans.

In September Vosloo met Groves at a Sea Point café. Despite the promise of photographs, he arrived empty-handed. There were no pictures of South Villas. He then promised to email them on his return to London, but failed to do so.

The doctors were understandably unhappy with the situation. Groves had produced neither pictures nor property – and he had their £70,000.

The warning bells rang louder when BoE Trust Co told Vosloo and Ferreira that the Compass Informatica account "may not" be a trust account at all and

In early December Vosloo once again flew to London. She met solicitor Peter Moran and instructed him to send Groves a statutory demand for the money to be paid over by January 2, 2004. A criminal charge was laid with the British police. Vosloo, Ferreira and certain other parties who find themselves in similar straits, have applied for the liquidation of Groves.

At the end of January this year, Groves abruptly resigned as chairman of the SA Business Club. John Shea, acting chairman, says this was a surprise. Groves claimed that work pressures were too great to allow him to carry on with his club duties. ■



Fivaz, Ogle & Associates

INSURANCE & CLAIMS SOLUTIONS
PROVIDERS OF EXPERTISE TO POLICY HOLDERS,
BROKERS AND THE LEGAL FRATERNITY

**"WE ENDEAVOUR TO TRANSFORM INSURERS
PROMISE INTO REALITY"**

100 Main Street, Jet Park 1469. PO Box 2380, Alberton, 1450 South Africa
Tel: (+27 11) 823 4821/869 9668 Fax: (+27 11) 826 3578/869 3495
Email: fivazogle@telkomsa.net

Contact:

A.J.E. Fivaz 082 410 0074 • A.J. Ogle 083 273 9940

- Claims: Investigation/Negotiation/Handling/Advice (All Classes)
- Policy Wording Overview
- Broker Adjudication
- Risk Retention Analysis/
Risk Identification/Control
- Training
- "Catastrophe" Claims Management
- Workmens Compensation Overview

Tourism glitz masks a dark reality

I am saddened to have to respond critically to an article in your publication: Jacqui Kadey's account (*nose47*) of her visit to Burma.

It seems your reporter paid little attention to the sheer evil that rules Burma today. Archbishop Desmond Tutu has declared that, after apartheid South Africa, Burma is the new evil that the world must confront. He has described the struggle of the Burmese people as "epic". Yet Ms Kadey talks of her "first visit to a real, genuine military dictatorship" – as if it's some mark of quality or rite of tourist passage!

The International Labour Organisation has charged Burma with a "crime against humanity" for its widespread and systematic use of forced labour. It describes how men, women, children and the elderly are forced to work on roads, railways and other construction projects, facing punishments that include extortion, beatings, torture, rape and murder. The same gruesome litany of abuses appears repeatedly in reports by Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch.

I do not doubt that Ms Kadey had a wonderful time and that tourist Burma is all it's made out to be, but bearing in mind the above and the fact that Aung San Suu Kyi ("Burma's Mandela", who is still in detention) has asked that tourists not visit Burma yet, should a publication such as yours not have raised these issues instead of encouraging what the military wants: tourist revenues?

A further point you may wish to note: Zaw Thet Htwe, a journalist, was sentenced to death in Burma in

Free Burma Campaign (SA)'s **David P Kramer** takes exception to a dictatorship being treated frivolously as a tourist destination



Burma's detained opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi has asked potential tourists to boycott her country

December for doing just what you do. He is the editor of the *First Eleven* sports magazine, and was arrested with eight others in June after his magazine published a story alleging misuse of an international grant.

According to a BBC report, the Burmese military then accused the publication's staff of planting bombs around Rangoon and of working with the opposition National League for Democracy to stir up unrest.

In a letter of protest addressed to Burmese Prime Minister Khin Nyunt, the Paris-based Reporters Without Borders and the Burma Media Association accused the Burmese government of "once again showing its criminal attitude towards journalists who refuse to comply with orders".

"We challenge you to provide the evidence of this journalist's implication in a coup attempt," the two groups said.

Your readers may recall that Lieutenant General Nyunt – who is not only prime minister but also head of military intelligence in Burma – attended President Mbeki's inauguration.

In December 2000 I was privileged to be able to put a question to Aung San Suu Kyi in an interview on the BBC. I asked what she would want from the people of South Africa. Her reply: "I would like to remind the people of South Africa that they have been through very, very difficult times themselves and we would appreciate it very much if they could view our situation with sympathy and do whatever they can to help us.

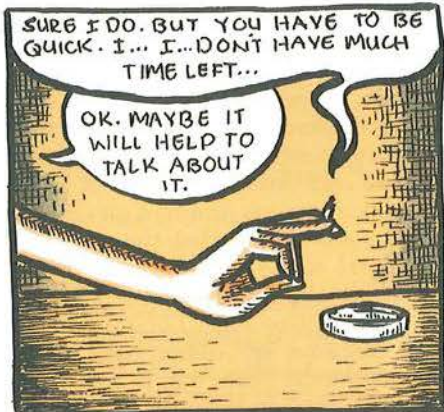
"I sometimes think that when change comes to a country like South Africa, people in authority forget that once they, too, were struggling. I have to be quite frank and say that I have often wondered whether the present government of South Africa does everything it can to support our case or whether it is even interested in doing everything it can to support our cause."

Newsweek has reported that, according to reliable estimates, laundered drug dollars account for as much as 50% of Burma's GDP. *Time* reported in 2000 that Burma's military regime was spending twice as much on weapons as on education and health combined.

Now you'll understand why I expected better of *noseweek*. □

SMOKING KILLS

BY NICOLENE LOUW



BY HAROLD STRACHAN

OLD BONEY

WHY HAVE I ALWAYS

been taught that the reason for Napoleon's handing over the Battle of Waterloo to Marshal Ney was that he had the flu? Also the bellyache once more, that's why he again had his hand tucked in his weskit over his paunch? Fact is, that fateful day his haemorrhoids were so bad he couldn't sit on his horse.

And why do I have to find out at the age of 78 how profoundly daft Onkel Blucher was? Amongst other things he believed he was pregnant by an elephant – no bullshit, you can read him up yourself.

Flu, schmu: Old Boney would have tagged along anyway, on his nag, and groggily told Ney not to make a poephhol of himself by sending the elite Imperial Guard to get minced up by British musketry at the moment of crisis. Elephant schmelephant: Onki Blucher would likely enough have gone into labour at this point and left Oberst-Schmoberst Göttlieb von Kräppenhausen to take all the lads voet in die hoek back to Prussia. And on the newly-possessed Island of St Helena the POW-for-life Wellington would have written: Ah well, it was a damned close-run thing.

Another thing I was taught early on was how History trundles along certain tramlines with the utmost inevitability. A bit bumpily at times because there are always distortions, you know, we're only human, hey: but surely, Cde, surely. I mean we don't actually talk about laws, know what I mean, more a sort of systemic certainty, like you can see in the Parthenon, the Universal geometry, ultimately predictable, sort of, which certain people like those classical architects and Vlad Lenin can perceive with their high-amperage minds and advise us proles a little bit how to make the inevitable tramline trip all come true.

Well to be sure at the time of this my early education the tramline had run, albeit in a curly sort of way, from blokes driving mammoths over cliffs and their missus collecting snails and berries and *goeters* right along to full-on dictatorship of the proles and *sozialismus* in



Offpissing
I say to be
declared
demoralised
by this lot
because
I don't
flounder
about in
revolutionary
shmaltz

one state, so there was no logical case to make against this, the functional timetable of the Universe.

But, but there was also at the time this gent called Lorenz who had a butterfly, and what Lorenz's Butterfly said was: a flap of its wing in the Brazilian rain forest can end up as a typhoon in Bengal. And there's presently another gent called Robert Kirby who complains, as is his wont, that if he wants weather prediction for his flying he has to suck his finger and stick it in the wind, in spite of all available hi-tech gadgetry available to the met. team, and that's a disgrace. But he must have heard of the Butterfly: a series of random events can cancel one another out, or implement one another overall so as to make an enormous consequence.

The geometry of weather is fractal.

Trouble is, the geometry of history is fractal too. Also politics. And the only characteristics of fractal geometry are infinite unpredictability and self-similarity. Chaos systems: you can see them in wave and weather. If you know a physicist, ask her.

So then, Vlad gets up on an armoured car at the Finland Station in Petrograd, Yeltsin gets up on a tank in Moscow, and de Klerk gets up on his BMW wherever and they all say the same thing: Comrades, this is the moment! Do it now! And 63% of comrades do it, and that's self-similarity.

You see, it's not my bloody fault the Soviet Union collapsed, nor is it my fault the bloody Yanks came to the Boere and said Listen, boeties, the Cold War is over and time to pull your fucken fingers out; nor am I to blame that FWdeK done the dirt on Peewee and pulled the rug out from under his feet and realised his own kids were sick of Apartheid and his capitalists too and had an election and cancelled it all and pulled the rug out from under the feet of the ANC.

So it's a bit offpissing when Cdes who used to send me analyses from London and Lusaka about SA because we didn't have knowledge of anything round here, but it was worth the tragic suffering of exile so to do, whilst I was ten years house arrested and banned and sixteen years unemployed and seeing the blood and meat of the Christmas Eve bomb blast all over the Amanzimtoti supermarket, offpissing I say to be declared demoralised by this lot, counterrevolutionary even, because I don't flounder about in revolutionary schmaltz with geriatric heroes of yesteryear's struggle. Filling the air with vapid ideological declamation. Mouthing suitable Shakespeare quotations learned in some Pommy varsity by our Thabo for when he's State President.

And come to think of it, Robert Kirby can suck his finger and stick it up his cockpit. ☐

PERSONAL

Good Luck at big school, Noah. We are very proud of you. Love Mom, Dad and Kili.
Hope you've become a *noseweek* subscriber too, Perry.
Happy Birthday Michelle my last and best forever, Tony.
Monty Roodt we love you, best dad, best husband. Hugs and kisses.
Walter Savage back, realising how many sods I know belong in *noseweek*. Working on it.

HOLIDAY ACCOMM & LEISURE

Sandton self-catering apartments and B&B at reasonable rates for business or leisure
 k-hbalzer@iafrica.com; fax (011) 884 8167.
KZN Shelley Beach Little Paradise. 5 mins walk to the beach. In tropical garden. Self-catering cottages Tel/fax (039) 315 6031 Victor and Debbie; cell 072 273 4351; email Deborahhall@telkomsa.net
Morgans Bay EC Large executive home with panoramic views. Email az00651@iafrica.com or fax (011) 802 1588.
Arniston seafont 4 bedroom home on beach. Breathtaking view 082 706 5902
Clarens, near Golden Gate in the beautiful Eastern Free State – Rosewood Cottage B&B offers all you want for a break from it all. (058) 256 1252.
Cabana Beach 6 sleeper from (week 16) phone Martie. Tel (073) 234 6658.
Luxury self-catering apartments on the beach, unobstructed views of sunsets over Table Mountain. (082) 570 1045.
Pietermaritzburg Hiltonview B&B caters for business and travellers. (082) 443 7139. www.wheretostay.co.za/hiltonview
Family sailing holidays in the Med, or Croatia. Wives hate the thought. Phone Barbara Lundy for gentle persuasion (021) 790 6731.

PROPERTY TO BUY, SELL OR RENT

Vaal River Properties Hour from Jhb. Buying or selling. Jacques 083 308 9133; www.susstoltz.co.za
Cape Heritage Real Estate residential property specialists in Knysna. Tel (044) 382 5474 or chp@knysna.co.za
Limpopo The best real estate deal. Renting and purchasing commercial & residential. Solly (083) 254 2293.
Coleman Properties for all your property needs, sales, rentals and sectional title. Cecil Coleman (011) 867 3773 or (082) 323 5882.

Hout Bay, Cape Town: For any property-related service/advice call Nadine (082) 462 6664.
Sandton Exec townhouse to let. 3 beds, 2 baths, 2 gar from R8,700. Rob 082 850 8844.

SERVICES

Caricatures A unique gift idea for a special occasion. James 083 773 3875.
Tanzania and Ghana Economic market, and commercial industrial research undertaken. info@randomwalk.co.za
Computer networks Professionally designed, installed and serviced. RGB Technical Services (011) 462 3503.
Finance for property development or purchase of built commercial property (011) 869 7767. (031) 769 1204.
Digital video editing and format conversion (MiniDV, VHS, DVD), personal and corporate. Enquiries at info@randomwalk.co.za
Cell-u-Centre, sales and repairs of cell phones and accessories. Cape Town (021) 423 3767; Claremont (021) 671 0444; Hermanus (028) 312 2399.
Computer problems Want to outsource? For expert assistance contact Carmen Lawson (011) 468 1636 or (082) 925 6879.
High quality Arabica coffee Ground and roasted R58 per kilo. Green Beans and honey. Candice (084) 427 8995.
Prestige Rigid Inflatable 'Rubberducks' direct to readers. 021 534 3111.
Trailer hire & Manufacture. Roman Close, Hermanus. Tel/fax (028) 312 3890, cell (082) 892 0661.
First aid kits Standard or custom kits. (031) 579 4870. Kendon Medical kendon@iafrica.com
Artist Annie Pigott Oils and Silk Painting. Private corporate commissions (021) 785 5438. Email anniepigott@absamail.co.za.
Bioway insect & dust mite killer, environment friendly 750ml spray bottle. Ronald (021) 712 6417.
Holland single trigger 12-bore detachable locks beautiful stock custom case with accoutrements. R7500. Contact Baring-Gould (021) 852 1683.

PAYMENT & TERMS FOR SMALLS

Deadline for smalls is the 10th of the month prior to publication.
Smalls ads are prepaid at R75 for up to 15 words, thereafter R8 per word.
Boxed ads are R130 per column cm (min 3cm in depth).
Payment by cheque should be made to Chaucer Publications, PO Box 44538, Claremont 7735.
Payment by direct transfer should be made to Chaucer Publications; Account No: 591 7001 7966; First National Bank; Vineyard Branch; Branch code 204 209.

THE SCALES OF JUSTICE

Thwarted by the complexities of the law? Your scales of justice no longer balanced? Lost in the quagmire of ancient law and being judged or affected by individuals who dislike the constitution? If so try me out – figuratively – not literally. Taxidermy services offered to clients by Peter Clive Soller graduate of the class of 68 Wits Law School. Master of Legal Taxidermy and Forensic Business Science. Special access to the Kama Sutra and Masters and Johnson (volume 69 – banking and insurance technology). Honest banks and insurance companies welcome and may also apply.

Peter Clive Soller 011 788 4359 or 072 441 7028
 www.soller.co.za • pcsoller@telkomsa.net

WANTED

Wilbur Smith (hard cover) Dark Of The Sun. Phone Ian Tel (021) 671 1338.
American comics from 40s, 50s and 60s in good condition. Phone 083 254 3436

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Greyton House School Cambridge curriculum from nursery to grade 12. Greyton (028) 254 9260.
Learn to type in three weeks. Electronically aided typing course in Johannesburg. Leonie (082) 883 1463.

HEALTH & FITNESS

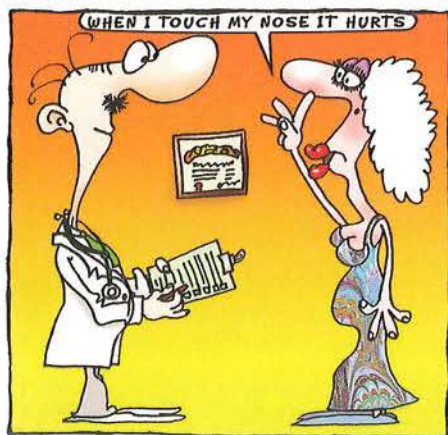
Relief from backache. Barbara McCrea, London-trained muscular-skeletal therapist. 083 745 7086 or (021) 788 9626.
Chiropractor Dr David Dyson specialises in back pain, neck pain and headaches. (031) 469 4192.
Organic vegetables delivered to Cape Town once a week call Brain Amery (021) 863-2519.
Visiting Margate? Join us at Super Bodies Health Fitness centre, Margate for a workout.

PUBLICATIONS

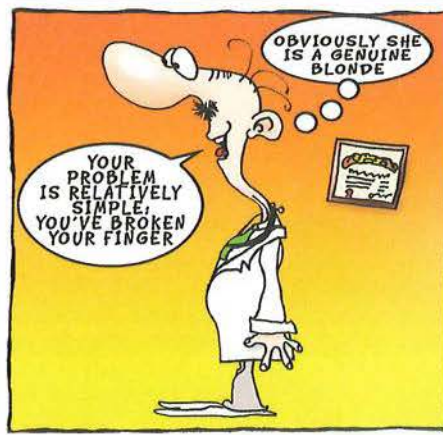
Who is this Bloggosharian anyway? Fact or phony opinion? Evolving interaction or a word dump. Read free. www.Williamsreport.co.za

What's up doc?

by Ashley Cooper



© NOSEWEEK





evolve inc.

Concept design and layout specialists.

With the ability to create unique and original concepts and campaigns,

Evolve Inc. will carry through from the original idea to the design of the media and implementation, printing and monitoring of your campaign.

With a background including a number of South Africa's most prominent brands as well as smaller more targeted campaigns, Evolve Inc. can devise marketing and promotional solutions for any product at any budget.

Evolve Inc. - The expert's experts.

Direct: +27(0)83 656 7911 · Fax: +27 (0)11 462 9992 · stevee@icon.co.za



**WHEREVER
YOU ARE**

get **noseweek**online

Now available worldwide

www.noseweek.co.za