

news you're not supposed to know

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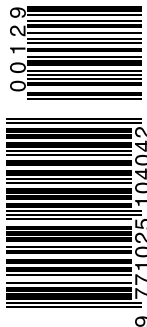
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JULY 2010

Wilf in sheep's clothing: Part 2

Comrade Giraffe and PE's empty offices

Durban's spy who got in too deep

Why al-Qaeda loves our passport



It **looks** better than a vuvuzela. It **sounds** better than a vuvuzela. So, why did Fifa **ban** the Zazu?



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Memoirs are made of this

As one of Wilfred Rosenberg's family ("Gangster on the wing", nose128) and as one of the people he stole money from (he's not my favourite uncle) I'm wondering how he's going to write his memoirs when he hasn't known what day it is for many years. If nothing else, it should make for interesting reading!

Mark Rosenberg

Australia

Schoolboy thugs and lawyers

The article "I didn't slash his throat, he fell on my bottle" (nose128), highlighted the fact that accountability has lost its meaning amongst

the youth in this country. When my son was attacked in 2005, the perpetrators of the vicious assault on him were not held responsible for their actions and went unpunished.

This lack of accountability has now had more serious consequences. Once again, a brilliant and expensive attorney has been hired to get them off the hook. I wait with anticipation to see whether this time – in light of the fact that the attack was captured on camera and the perpetrators are no longer under-age – justice will be served.

While I applaud *noseweek* for drawing public attention

to this case, the article is inaccurate on one important score: In 2005 St John's College made a proposal to me via their attorneys – I still have it – in which no settlement figure was mentioned. They'd left a blank space, to be filled in on signature of an agreement between us. I refused to enter into negotiations with St John's College regarding this proposal, as I would not accept the conditions, *inter alia*; that criminal charges would be withdrawn against the boys; that the "trial" would be held on the school property; and that compensation would be limited to the current medical expenses incurred by our family.

My son has indeed put the events of 2005 behind him and is conducting his life with dignity and a maturity beyond his years. I am proud of him.

I wholeheartedly support Martyn Webb in his attempts to achieve justice for his son and I hope that this time the legal system

to obtain compensation for Wayde from St John's in return for Mrs Baker dropping all criminal charges – an amnesty proposal rejected by Mrs Baker] just said 'there is money – there's R250,000 and there may be more'. To open the negotiations I said to Tim Gordon-Grant (St John's attorney) that we're looking around the R500,000 mark.

"I would not have encouraged Mrs Baker to take just the R320,000 medical costs, as assessed by Stephen Flowers. That didn't reflect the true damages which have been suffered by Wayde. There's pain and suffering involved."

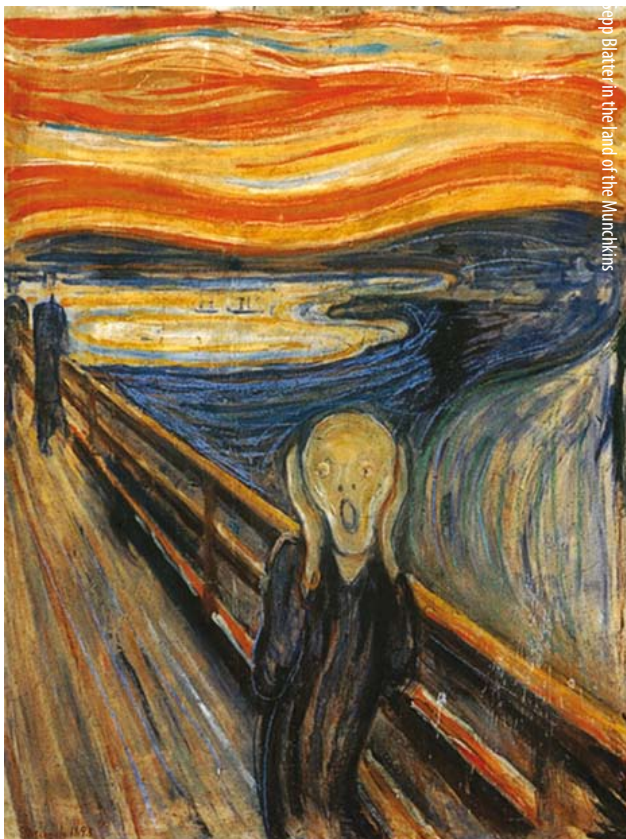
We stand by our report. – Ed.

Extortionists in suits

Your stories (noses124&128) about "law firm" Van de Venster Mojapelo Inc (VVM) hit the nail on the head. I was consulted by a very worried client who had received a finely phrased letter from VVM about an allegedly un-

Gus

2010: Munch Ado About Nothing



Keppi Blaine in the land of the Munchkins

"It's here! I can feel it!!!"

(With apologies to Edvard Munch)

I am one of the people Wilf Rosenberg stole money from (he's not my favourite uncle)

will reward him by making certain that the perpetrators of this violent attack on Anthony are given sentences in accordance with the severity of the crime committed.

Lynne Baker

By Email

While it did not appear in the papers, a figure was mentioned: In nose72 (Oct 2005) we quoted Mrs Baker's attorney Sean Sim: "Gilbert Marcus [the top advocate who attempted

paid SATV licence, in which they dealt with all the dreadful consequences that could befall the addressee should she fail to respond. I tried to phone VVM, but when I got to the endless electronic options I gave up and wrote a letter.

My client was very concerned about the demand as the addressee, her mother, had been dead for some four years. In any event, she was present when, some 16 years ago, her mother

cancelled her licence! The deceased had no television at the time of her death.

My submission, despite Grobler's comments, is that the "demand" does not constitute a demand but a form of threatening behaviour that amounts to extortion: it puts the fear of God into the soul of any recipient.

Willem
Gauteng

■ I have followed the doings and screwings of the VVM crowd with great interest. To my untrained eye it appears that they have managed to rake in a few seriously big clients.

Having not paid my TV licence for some time (due to issues of principle I have with the SABC), I received a very nasty letter from VVM's Mr Frank Konoti, early in 2009. At about that time I heard on radio that an "amnesty" would be available for transgressors like myself, should all outstanding licence fees be paid by 31 January 2009.

I promptly paid on 29 January 2009, then sent Mr Konoti confirmation in writing that I had availed myself of the amnesty and that my account was now fully settled. I have not heard since from either the SABC or VVM, but then I also haven't received a licence or other proof of payment.

So far almost good!

On 29 May 2009, due to a stupid error, I transferred R6,142 from a business account to the SABC. Although I tried, within seconds of having made the error, both directly and through our mutual bankers (FNB) to stop the payment or get it reversed, I did not succeed. In one such call (after being transferred from pillar to post) a SABC staff member assured me: "Don't worry sir, we'll credit your account and you should have a paid-up licence for many years." When I said I want a refund, the response was: "Sir, you know we experience cashflow problems – it should be a while before we will be able to refund you." When I remained adamant, I was referred to the SABC's attorneys, VVM.

VVM's Mr Konoti assured me that a refund could be processed, and that he would revert to me. On 5 June 2009, VVM asked me for an affidavit explaining what happened and that I wanted a refund. I posted it to them five days later, for attention Naphtally Moseña, who was by now dealing with the matter.

I have since then tried many times to contact VVM and the SABC about the matter, but a deafening silence seems to be the only response they can muster – once again demonstrating VVM's lack of ethics and total disregard for the gen-

FOUND POEM

From Chambers 20th Century Dictionary

Blatter:

a clattering rainy blast
a clatter or torrent of words
to beat with clattering, like rain on a window
to prate, with sense probably modified by sound

See also: Vuvuzela

Gus Ferguson

eral public.

And the legal fraternity can't understand why they're the brunt of so many bad jokes!?

Deon Afriaanse

Durbanville

Extortionists

In Nov 2008 I travelled to the East with my international roaming data card. Having done it before, I had an idea about the extra costs, but I was given no documents to sign, no warnings – nor was I told where I could, or should, review costs before travelling.

For three days in Hong Kong the price was what you'd expect: About 10 times the normal price. Then I hopped on a ferry for one hour and landed in Macau, where I stayed for three days. There, with no

warning, the data charge suddenly jumped to 300 times its normal rate.

Those three days' e-mails and internet use cost me R35,000. I refused to pay and told them to sue me. They reduced the bill by 25% and I chickened out and paid up. They must have bankrupted many unsuspecting people like this. By now there can be no doubt that this is taking place with the full knowledge of the CEO of Vodacom.

Whoever this stinking personage is, he should be given 50 lashes in the street outside the Vodacom building as a warning against screwing hard-working folks out of huge sums of money.

The issue here is informed consent: If any of us had had any idea of what

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NOSEWEEK RECIPE OF THE MONTH



No. 372: Fish Fried in Blatter®

we were in for, we would not have used the data cards. Vodacom made zero effort to inform me. Obviously they didn't – that would have lost them R35,000!

Jozy Boy
Kommetjie

Mall landmark

Your article in *nose116*, about the “Mall Meltdown”, remains a landmark piece of journalism.

All the questions you raised a year ago are being asked again, now that Retail Africa is proposing to build yet another mall on land zoned for agriculture,

at the corner of the R55 and Kyalami Main Road – probably with loans from Absa.

The majority of affected parties in the area are opposed to this development, for a multitude of reasons. Nevertheless, a draft assessment report has been prepared by Bokamoso Landscape Architects and Environmental Consultants.

The preparation of the draft report has been totally flawed; the required participation of the “Interested and Affected” parties has not taken place; the necessity of the development is

questioned; and the inadequacy of services has been pointed out. Plenty of other factors have been raised too: On one of the plots is a beautiful 60-year-old farmhouse; this is a rural residential area well known for its equine culture and tradition; the environmental impact generated by the shopping centre in an area that already cannot accommodate the through traffic will be catastrophic; safety and security issues have not been discussed.

You must surely be right when, with reference to ABSA, you use the term

“reckless lending”. You are also spot-on when you describe the valuations, formulas and data used to predict rental income as “a developer’s dreamland that bears little or no relation to reality”.

That’s particularly true here, since there’s a medium-sized shopping centre a few hundred metres south of the proposed site (Kyalami Downs); another sizable one a few hundred metres to the north (Crowthorne); New Road, with two very large shopping centres, is within five minutes drive and the large shopping centres of Woodmead are within easy reach. Then we have Lonehill and Fourways Crossing, Pineslopes and Fourways Mall. Even Boulders Mall in Midrand is relatively close.

The questions that really require answers are:

1. What is driving these unscrupulous developers?
2. Given that some of the malls Absa has financed are “haemorrhaging money”, and in view of their latest results, can it afford a reckless lending policy?
3. Do the banks have contingency plans with their friends at the Reserve Bank?
4. Is Absa violating competition laws as a result of its involvement with Retail Africa?

Lots of “news you’re not supposed to know” in this sad saga!

WF Heinz
Kyalami

Can’t get no satisfaction

A quick note to express my severe dissatisfaction with *noseweek*.

I pick up a copy from the local store at the end of the month, read it from cover to cover (including the Smalls) within hours – and then have to wait another 30-odd days before the next one appears. Very frustrating!

Johan Marais
Irene

Editor

Martin Welz
editor@noseweek.co.za

Managing editor

Hans Muhlberg

Production editor

Tony Pinchuck

Gauteng bureau chief

Jack Lundin
jack@noseweek.co.za

News editor

Mark Thomas
news@noseweek.co.za

Censor-in-chief

Len Ashton

Sub-editor

Chas Unwin

Cartoons

Myke Ashley-Cooper, Gus Ferguson,
Stacey Stent

Cover art

Dr Jack

Contributors

Bheki Mashile, Andreas Stelzer,
Harold Strachan

Subscriptions

Maud Petersen
subs@noseweek.co.za

Advertising

Adrienne de Jongh

Accounts

Nicci Joubert-van Doesburgh

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Gill gets it done

AT THE RESERVE BANK the new governor has taken the swing door in, the departing governor has taken the well-oiled swing door out.

But there is more that is noteworthy about Gill Marcus's appointment. Initially, Tito Mboweni wanted to stay and President Zuma agreed to extend his contract by a year. Then in June last year Mboweni suddenly announced that he didn't want to stay on after all; he had "other interests to pursue". Zuma wasted no time – within a month he had announced his choice of successor: Absa non-executive chairperson Ms Marcus.

Asked what his "other interests" were, Mboweni replied: "I think I'll go fishing." So Zuma said "OK, go fishing" (?). That could be *fanagalo* for Donald Trump's favourite phrase: "You're fired!" Then again, there are clues that Mboweni may have been fishing for some time, had hooked a juicy one and was in a hurry to land his catch. So what's curious about Marcus's appointment – and, particularly, its timing? One need look no further than that arrogant but smart young German banker called Michael Duerr. *Noseweek* readers were introduced to Duerr some while back – and may have dismissed him as an amusing or simply weird phenomenon. The Reserve Bank have certainly tried their best to promote that view – but recent events show they are taking him, and his threat to expose the inner workings of the bank to unwelcome public scrutiny, very, very seriously.

Mboweni, it seems, could no longer take the heat Duerr was generating and fled; Absa's link-by-marriage to the ANC was rushed in to help turn down the heat – and, more than likely, to look after Absa's interests – the ones put most immediately at risk by the German's determination to have the Reserve Bank's less salubrious activities over the past decade revealed.

Hlangani Mathebula, a former senior manager of Absa, has been appointed Marcus's personal advisor. Mr Moraitis of law firm Jan S de Villiers/Werksmans is ever at her side when Duerr is near. By the beginning of May it was panic stations at the Reserve Bank. Marcus had just declared that she felt she would be "wasting her time" talking to Duerr – who for months has been asking for a meeting "to clear the air". She had, she said, "better things to do."

So, on 1 May Duerr wrote to Marcus setting out his grievances: lack of corporate governance, dividends, voting rights, SARB's legal status and illegal lifeboats, to name just a few. Perhaps unwisely, the outspoken Bavarian reminded the governor that "apartheid is over. Everybody has the right to engage in the corporate governance and monetary policy issues".

It's the dirty stuff from the bad old days, such as the notorious lifeboat which gave Absa the jitters.

Next on the list were more recent events – such as Case 33007/09 in the Pretoria High Court, which deals with approximately R46m in losses suffered by Absa clients, allegedly due to the bank's failure to follow the required FICA procedures. A crime.

On 3 May Duerr received an early-morning acknowledgment from the governor's email address: "Dear Mr Duerr, given the importance with which I regard your statements, I would like time to consider the matters raised." Duerr's hope that the gap between them might be bridged lasted just 60 minutes. At 9.30am he found a note from a Press Association reporter: What could he tell SAPA about a press conference due to be held by the Finance Minister later that day at the Union Buildings about a new Reserve Bank Act? Nothing. So he called Marcus's office: her PA, Sandra Brown, also knew nothing. At Pravin Gordhan's office, the Finance Minister's PA, too, had "nothing in the calendar. I would know about it". Even the PA to government spokesperson Themba Maseko regarded the happening as "not possible."

Yet, by 2pm, the Minister of Finance had assembled the friendly press (*noseweek* was not invited) in room 153 of the Union Buildings, to announce that he would be "piloting" a Bill "designed to limit the influence of private shareholders over the central bank". Judging by how things are being rushed along, the Bill will be pushed through as if there is no tomorrow.

In Marcus's subsequent letter, instead of the expected in-depth answers to Duerr's questions, she told him to piss off with his "so-called shareholder activism" and "scurillous allegations", and said his "scheme" to invest in SARB shares constituted "nothing more than a desire to realise profit". *Noseweek* is quoted twice as an authoritative source of information.

Her last paragraph is the most poignant: "I consider your allegations levelled at the Bank regarding unaccounted and perhaps illegal financial assistance packages, or 'lifeboats', as not only scurillous but defamatory."

Duerr's past makes him a dangerous opponent. His network in the banking industry includes his former employer, Goldman Sachs. Which reminds us that shortly after leaving the SARB, Mboweni concluded a "handsome advisory contract" with President Obama's favourite banking group – Goldman Sachs. Here's the catch: during Mboweni's tenure, Goldman Sachs was appointed (by the SA Reserve Bank) as an official dealer in South African government bonds. Commissions are earned on such sales, the higher the tier the more commission. Does Mboweni's "advisory contract" smell a bit fishy? "What are you going to do about this?" Duerr cheekily asked Marcus in his letter. Nothing, we suspect. He'd said he was going fishing.

The Editor

Horns of a dilemma: who's who in Zazu



St Sithians boys blowing their now-banned Zazus. The college took 2000 of them to sell for fund-raising

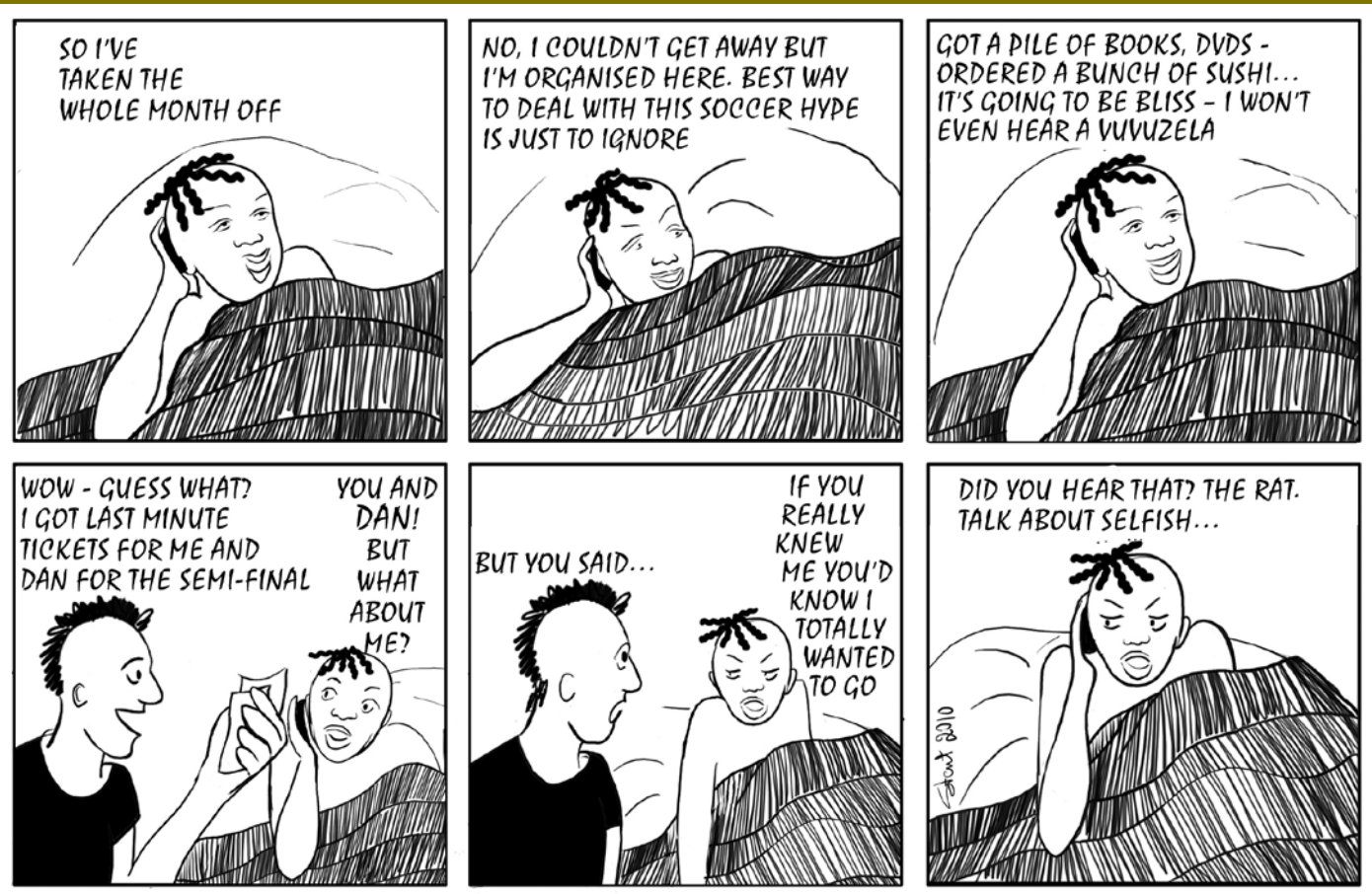
BY NOW THE ENTIRE WORLD is familiar with the Vuvuzela, that unlovely air horn that has become an icon of South African soccer. But what of the Zazu and the Kuduzela? You won't be seeing these in the World Cup stadia: security guards are confiscating any that fans may take along. For both have been banned – and thereby hangs a tale.

Unlike the very basic Vuvuzela, the Zazu is a beautiful product of mathematical design, based on a kudu horn. It's the creation of South African designer Brian Steinhobel, in partnership with jeweller Fanie Neethling. MTN, co-sponsor of the World Cup, raved about the Zazu, spoke of a minimum order of 250,000 – and requested a quote for up to three million.

The Zazu is no air horn says its proud creator Brian Steinhobel. "It's a musical instrument – you can play *The Last Post* on it."

By contrast the Kuduzela, unveiled at great cost for the World Cup by First

Stent



National Bank, is an ugly lump of a thing with a dangerously spiked end. Also based on the kudu horn, it emits a blast like a trumpeting elephant. FNB was not amused when its classically-elegant rival the Zazu obtained full and unconditional World Cup approval from Fifa in London.

Both the Zazu and the Vuvuzela went into production. There was almost a hiccup: On the same day that Steinhobel delivered the fibreglass prototype of the Zazu to MTN, that body promptly dispatched it to China, in the hope of undercutting the South Africans' price.

Fortunately, after three months of effort – at a rumoured cost to MTN of R120,000 – the Chinese said they couldn't create the complex tooling for the Zazu's beguiling lines, so MTN was obliged to stay with the Zazu's creators.

As already indicated, FNB's Kudzela is a heavy, ponderous thing with that dangerous spike at the end. A dangerous weapon, many consider. Also, you blow it from the side – which means a clout on the head for the person sitting next to you.

So it hardly came as a surprise when a local Fifa security committee banned the Kudzela “for use inside the stadium during the 2010 World Cup”. Inexplicably, they also banned the elegant and musically versatile Zazu.

Why? FNB's brand director Derek Carstens (squeeze of Jupiter Drawing Room's chief exec René Silverstone, *noses118&121*), is on attachment as chief marketing officer to the World Cup organising committee. Imagine the egg on Carstens' face after investing millions of FNB's money launching the Kudzela only to see it banned by Fifa's security committee. His bank paid R3m alone for the horn's mould, spent an estimated R20m on advertising and ended up with 150,000 of them unsold in a warehouse.

The talk is that an enraged Carstens took the view that if the Kudzela was going down the Zazu would go down with it.

“We think it's sour grapes,” says Zazu designer Steinhobel. “Why would we be banned? The Zazu is a beautiful product, designed and proudly produced in South Africa. It's lightweight, fully approved by Fifa London, and produces a maximum output of 93 decibels – compared to the Vuvuzela's very dangerous maximum of 130 decibels. We should have been selling 50,000 a month.”

Complaining about ads is always a gamble

DUE TO ITS SUPPOSED “public protector” role, the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) makes its way onto these pages rather often. The latest story comes from a retired English teacher and *noseweek* reader who – like many others, one suspects – finds the Silversands “I win my fights ...” ad crap, if not a little disturbing (the fact that online gambling as offered by Silversands is still illegal probably doesn't help).

Our reader explains it rather well: “I lodged an objection with the ASA to the Silversands ad on telly, that depicts Dolph Lundgren (a Scandinavian macho man with an American accent) saying, in the first clip of the ad, as he punches out six strapping lads: ‘I win my fights’. Jump to second clip, where, surrounded by a bevy of fawning leggy love-lies, the hero smirks: ‘I win my girls’. Then, he scoops up vast numbers of gambling chips as he spits out: ‘I win my poker games’.

“So I objected, saying that this ad might encourage puny-minded pubescent boys to imitate these uncommendable activities in a country riddled with violence (the fights), suffering with an AIDS pandemic (promiscuous fucking) and in tough economic circumstances, unemployment being what it is, playing poker to win loads of cash.”

Crap, said the ASA, we're not even going to consider this one. In a letter to our reader, Phumzile Mhlongo (administrator, complaints assessment) explains: “Dolph Lundgren is a well-known movie star. It is possible that he was watching one of his movies. Looking at the commercial as a whole, we do not believe people will readily attach such a literal interpretation to it. The commercial is clearly a recollection of personal experiences and not an encouragement of people to fight or to have many girlfriends. [But, miraculously, the last scene is supposed to be an “encouragement” to play poker at Silversands – often! – Ed.] It is unlikely that any reasonable person will



be irresponsible as a result of the commercial. For this reason we cannot investigate the matter further.”

Bit of a cop-out that – doesn't this deserve to be considered by a panel? And when did Dolph Lundgren become a well-known movie star? An unscientific straw poll conducted by *noseweek* showed that hardly anyone who has seen the ad had any idea who the dumb blond was. Told it's Dolph Lundgren, the invariable response is: “Who?”

No real surprise – Dolph Lundgren enjoyed a brief moment of fame in the 1980s when he played a big Russian boxer in one of those awful *Rocky* movies. And though today's font of all knowledge tells us that Lundgren played in plenty of other movies, the titles given by Wikipedia suggest they were hardly classics. Does anyone out there remember *Fat Slags*, *Sunny Side Up* or *Jill Rips* (Jill the Ripper)?

Which no doubt explains why the US satirical publication *The Onion* titled a 2004 article about him “Dolph Lundgren Wins Long, Courageous Battle Against Fame”. ■

Why forgers, hoods and al-Qaeda just adore our passports



There are serious security questions about the new SA passport, quietly introduced last year

IN AN ATTEMPT to prevent terrorists and criminals travelling the globe on easy-to-forge South African passports, the Department of Home Affairs last year announced it had spent R500m of taxpayers' money to research and produce a new passport that "could not be forged".

But, *noseweek* can reveal, 14 years ago Home Affairs rejected an almost identical high security solution – that would have cost under R10m. In 1996 Home Affairs rejected technology that would have provided a forgery-proof passport – as a result of shady dealings between individuals in the department and in state arms manufacturer Denel.

After the plotters successfully ditched the winner of secret tender RTS 950, in favour of an inferior product that resulted in easy forgery of our passports (done with cheap equipment that can be bought off-the-shelf), South Africa has become the pariah of the world's security services – and created a security headache for the present World Cup.

Home Affairs happily cranked out sub-standard passports for 13 years – until April last year when international pressure forced the department to introduce a new passport incorporating the technology it had spurned all

those years ago. Needless to say, the government has turned a blind eye to the dirty tricks perpetrated by its minions. Taxpayers will pay the price.

Back in October 1994, in the euphoria of a new South Africa, John Bond, head of Laser Optronic Technologies, presented a proposal to Home Affairs for a new passport using a sophisticated laser engraver and a multi-layered polycarbonate data page that would have been a major deterrent to forgery. Bond's company was then South Africa's leading industrial laser, electro-optic and measurement company and Bond wanted to supply the total system, as well as to install and maintain it.

At the time there was one trailblazing leader in the field of security printing, Germany's Maurer Electronics, whose revolutionary M550 laser engraver, using a polycarbonate personal data paper, pretty well guaranteed a forge-free passport. Bond's plan was that the Maurer engravers could be used to print drivers' licences and 30 million new ID cards.

On 18 April 1995 the State Tender Board issued tender number RTS 950 – the "S" signifying a secret tender, one not published in the weekly *State Tender Bulletin*. These so-called closed tenders indicate that Home Affairs had carried out an evaluation of the technology and was satisfied with it.

This tender went out to a John Bond-associated company, International Business Solutions.

Among the requirements the tender document detailed were safety features "to obviate any possible fraud". It stipulated: "Due to the security requirements of the passport, printers that are available off the shelf will not be accepted."

IBS's initial price for the whole system, including four Maurer M550 laser printers, was R18.2m. This was reduced to R8.7m after Home Affairs Deputy Director-General Ivan Lambinon stipulated that several hundred old camcorders, used to process photographs for temporary identity cards in the 1994 general election, be used to scan images for the new passports.

Thomas Maurer, head of Maurer Electronics, was horrified at this cost-cutting, which resulted in substantial picture quality loss. Despite expressing his concern, he was told there was no possibility of replacing the camcorders, which had been installed by Denel's Infoplan. However, Maurer was able to offer a solution – his top secret image enhancement software might recover at least part of the image quality lost by using the camcorders.

It was agreed that a Home Affairs delegation would visit Maurer Elec-

tronics in Munich for a live demonstration of the proposed equipment and systems. However, before this visit took place, Thomas Maurer made a disconcerting discovery: one of the "Home Affairs" officials he had met to discuss the problem of the old camcorders, Pieter Viljoen, was in fact an employee of a Denel subsidiary, Image Database Technologies. A rival.

Maurer voiced his concern to Home Affairs deputy D-G Lambinon, who blandly told him that Home Affairs had no resources and therefore utilised Viljoen as a consultant.

For the trip to Germany, South Africa's embassy in Austria contacted Maurer Electronics and requested assistance in hotel reservations for the six-strong "Home Affairs" delegation, whose members were named as I Lambinon, G Barnard, J Coetzee, P Fourie, Mrs Martincich and S Fourie.

After the shock of learning who Pieter Viljoen's true employer was, Maurer enquired about delegation members Gerhard Barnard and Pieter Fourie, who had not been introduced at earlier meetings. Imagine his surprise on learning that they too were employed by Denel.

Thomas Maurer was at the airport to meet the delegation when it arrived in Munich on 7 August 1995. Deeply concerned at the presence of Denel's Gerhard Barnard and Pieter Fourie – after all, he was about to demonstrate and lay bare secret proprietary information concerning his latest technology – Maurer called for an urgent meeting with deputy D-G Lambinon.

Then, as the delegation was booking into Munich's Rafael Hotel, Stephen Fourie, project manager handling the entire new passport project for Home Affairs, made a shock admission: "I'm also from Denel."

Maurer demanded the Denel men sign non-disclosure agreements. They refused. As a compromise, Maurer proposed that the Denel employees would be excluded from the most sensitive confidential technical demonstrations. Lambinon rejected this proposal and gave Maurer an ultimatum: either all Denel employees would participate in all meetings or the entire official government visit would be cancelled.

Realising that this would put his

company out of the running, Maurer reluctantly agreed.

On the second day of the visit, returning to Munich from a visit to the Basel Lasertech factory at Starnberg, Lambinon made an extraordinary proposition to Thomas Maurer: he should abandon his present

agents and affiliates in South Africa – John Bond and his companies – and transfer agency as well as technical support of his systems to Denel.

Three people were present when this suggestion was made: Maurer was driving his Jaguar V12; Lambinon sat next to him. In the back was Lambinon's Home Affairs associate Mrs Martincich. Maurer replied that such conduct



would be a serious breach of business ethics – and refused. He realised that Lambinon's real target was the maintenance and support side of tender RTS 950, for, once the technical know-how was transferred,

Denel would have knowledge of his secret image-enhancing software. Maurer announced that no information transfer would be made to Denel.

Before returning to Pretoria, Lambinon and his "Home Affairs" delegation paid a visit to the UK and the offices of De La Rue, the British security and banknote printing company. De La Rue had on offer a Japanese printer known as the Toppan system. This used colour dye diffusion technology – greatly inferior to

Twenty years and R500m later...

THOMAS MAURER, who founded his Maurer Electronics in 1975, introduced the use of polycarbonates for ID document security 20 years ago. He also invented laser technology for document personalisation. In 1997 Maurer sold the company and started his present one, Maurer Technologies, in 2002.

Today, after taking a two-year sabbatical to design a racing sailboat, Maurer is busy designing a new-generation personalisation system for passports and ID cards, the M850. But

after his 1996 experiences with Denel and SA's Home Affairs, he declares this will never be offered to South Africa.

Commenting on South Africa's latest passport Maurer says: "Polycarbonates was my technology; now a handful of people are copying it. Your latest passport is using an old but proven technology, technology we've introduced worldwide in the last 20 years. I find it interesting that they needed to spend R500m to investigate and put in place a well-established and widely used technology."



Josef Mülbauer, founder and CEO of the Mühlbauer Group

Maurer's trail-blazing laser engraver – and though cheaper to buy, was more costly in consumables.

Toppan printers could be bought off-the-shelf for R70,000, enabling the production of forged passports by just about anyone, as required.

Two months after the Munich visit, on 5 October 1995, Lambinon declared that Thomas Maurer's equipment was "too expensive" and he was in negotiation with the tender board with regard

to a solution which would or possibly would not include Maurer equipment. Soon after, Bond received a letter saying the secret tender had lapsed.

A new – open – tender, number RT9027, was issued on 24 November 1995. Not only was Denel's Stephen Fourie named in the tender document as being the person evaluating the bids, but the requirements had now been remarkably relaxed. Gone was the stipulation "printers that are available off-the-shelf will not be accepted". And inserted was the requirement that the printer "must be able to produce images in either colour or black and white".

That last edict effectively ruled out Thomas Maurer from the bidding – his M550 engraver produced only black and white images – these being favoured over colour images in security documents by police forces throughout the world.

On 18 January 1996 De La Rue was awarded a R2m-plus tender to print the new South African passport, using the Toppan off-the-shelf system. And De La Rue invited Denel Informatics to quote for the estimated R5m annual

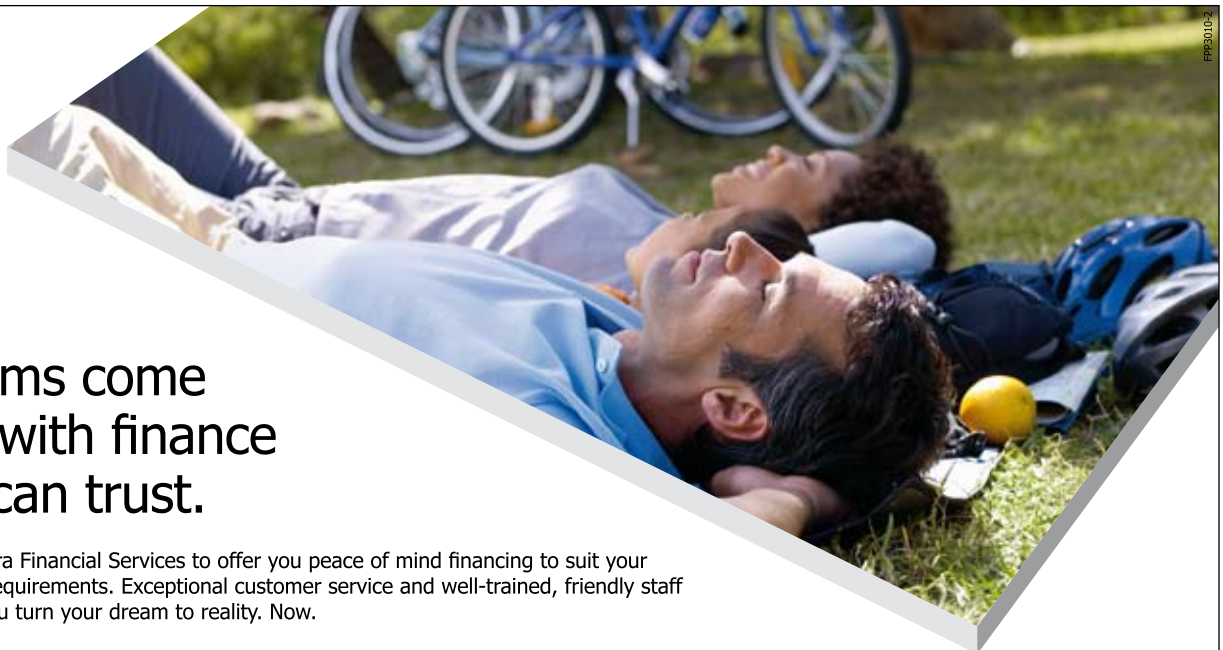
support services subcontract.

From 1996, when the De La Rue passport – wide open to forgery by splitting the personalisation page and inserting new data and mug shots under the lamination – came off the press, the floodgates were open for its misuse throughout the world.

Home Affairs minister Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula announced in June 2004 that members of al-Qaeda had been arrested with fake South African passports. A month earlier, former National Police Commissioner Jackie Selebi told Parliament's portfolio committee on safety and security that British police had found boxes of South African passports at the home of an al-Qaeda suspect.

In 2008 Britain's Serious Organised Crime Agency broke up a ring of "people smugglers" that brought more than 6,000 illegal immigrants into Britain on forged or stolen South African passports.

So discredited had South African passports become that from March 2009 every South African passport-holder has had to obtain a visa to enter the UK – at a cost of R1,000. The



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British government said it had been forced to introduce the visa regime because of the high incidence of forged South African passports being used to enter the country.

Towards the end of 1995 John Bond of Laser Optronics Technologies/International Business Solutions, had fired off a number of complaints about the loss of secret tender RTS 950. On 18 December that year then Deputy President Thabo Mbeki replied that he had discussed the "serious matter you raised" with Home Affairs minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi. "He assures me he is attending to the issue," wrote Mbeki, expressing the hope that "a satisfactory solution will be found".

The following February Buthelezi

Unfortunately I can't tell you; the passport factory a National Keypoint of Government. I can't disclose to you who the suppliers of the equipment are." Engelbrecht confirmed that the old still-valid passport "was personalised by full colour printing of the data page, using the Toppan system". The new data page's personalisation is done by laser engraving of a multi-layered polycarbonate sheet, each layer containing different security features. Delamination is now impossible, he said. "The technology as it stands now is forgery-proof."

How many of the new passports have been produced? Engelbrecht referred us to the Department of Home Affairs, whose spokesman, Ronnie

Home Affairs declined to answer questions about the new passports

recommended to Mbeki that the Office for Serious Economic Offences investigate the complaints. OSEO's director Jan Swanepoel announced the following month that his office had not found sufficient evidence for a formal inquiry. And, with that, any further inquiry was quietly shelved.

So now we come to the latest developments. And, as usual, there are serious questions over the latest South African passport, introduced quietly in April 2009 by Tom Moyane, chief executive officer at the Government Printing Works.

Moyane said it had taken his office four years to research the new passport, which had the holder's biographical data engraved on a polycarbonate page. Government, he said, had invested R500m in its production. The new passport complied with international standards and had several high security features making it "tamper-proof and impossible to forge".

Noseweek called Moyane's successor at the Government Printing Works, acting CEO Joe Engelbrecht. Where, we asked, had the new passport's forge-proof technology come from? "The technology is something that was researched from suppliers all over the world," replied Engelbrecht.

Which suppliers, precisely? "There's a variety of suppliers of equipment.

Mamoepa, declined to answer and declared: "The sort of questions you're asking me have got security implications." We emailed a list of questions to Mamoepa, but he did not respond.

Why the secrecy? The polycarbonate layers are made by monopoly producer Bayer in Leverkusen, Germany. The blank data pages come from Trueb in Aarau, Switzerland, who send them to South Africa where the data page is sewn into a blank passport. The Government Printing Works personalises the passport, using engravers supplied by the main contractor, Germany's Mühlbauer Group.

But did Mühlbauer win the new passport contract following correct tender procedure? Or is this a repeat of its recent Uganda shenanigans? The German company is currently embroiled in legal action in Uganda, following its award of a massive ID contract in March. The R692m contract did not follow Uganda's procurement or tender rules. Instead, Josef Mühlbauer, founder and chief executive of the Mühlbauer group, was taken at night to President Museveni at State House by Germany's ambassador to Uganda, Reinhard Butchnolz. There was no competitive bidding and the previous national ID contract, won by Face Technology at about R613m, was cancelled. ■

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Comrade Giraffe

and the mystery of the empty offices

THE NELSON MANDELA BAY Metropolitan Municipality is paying huge monthly rentals for office space it isn't using, but nobody is saying why – and if you're not a friend of the friends of the man known within the ANC as Comrade Giraffe, you're not likely to find out.

Better known as Nceba Faku, Comrade Giraffe spent 13 years on Robben Island, and since 1995 has been at the helm of the ANC in the Port Elizabeth region – which makes him an extremely influential person. Back in 2004 when the first of the office leases were signed, Faku was also mayor of the windy city (aka “the friendly city”) – and a good friend and sometime business partner of PE businessman Yossuf Jeeva, into whose company accounts those municipal rents tumble each month.

But first some history. The general decline of the Eastern Cape over the past ten years is sadly reflected in the decline of its major city – and nowhere more than in the city's historic central business district. Devastated by economic recession and strangled into stagnation by a bleak ring of raised concrete motorways, five years into the new era the few high-rise office blocks built on Govan Mbeki Avenue to match the new highways were emptying as fast as the old city lanes. The populace simply took off up Old Cape Road for less threatening new shopping centres in the suburbs.

(If the 1970s planners who designed those motorways thought this would signal how progressive PE had become, all they succeeded in doing was destroying Port Elizabeth's last claim to fame: its history.)

Three of the country's major financial institutions, which had rushed to stamp their mark on the small city's new “skyline”, with multi-storeyed concrete towers, quickly found these a serious liability. “Seventy percent of the office and retail space in the city

Wasted space appears to have burned more than R6m of the municipal budget

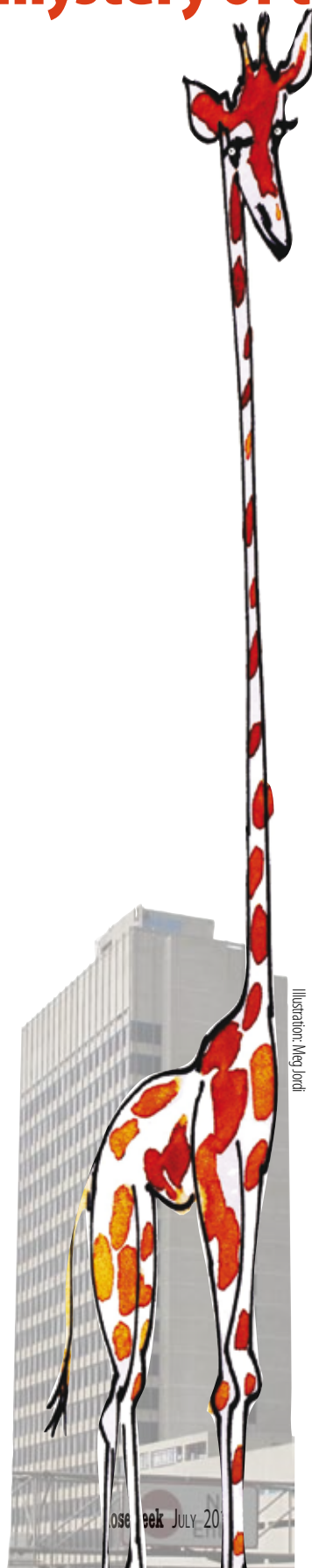
was vacant. Our maintenance and management costs far exceeded our rental income – with no prospect of improvement in the foreseeable future,” says Bonnie Olivier, sales manager at Sanlam Properties.

Sanlam's 20-storey Starport building at 40 Govan Mbeki Avenue had already been written down in value to R2.27m in 1991. Deeds Office records reveal that in 2003 Sanlam was happy to sell it for just R1.14m.

When Norwich Union's eight-storey building just down the road entered Investec's property portfolio (via Fedsure) in 2001, it was valued at just R4m. The following year Investec was happy to sell it for R2.5m.

Up the road, at 62-64 Govan Mbeki Ave, Old Mutual did somewhat better a few years later when it managed to sell its double-volume eight-storey block for R15m.

Their common history does not end there: all three buildings, it emerges, were sold to Yossuf Jeeva's Africorp International Properties. Now here's the really extraordinary bit: while Investec was so desperate to dump the Norwich building that it settled for a sale price of just R2.5m, almost immediately the deal was done, Investec granted Jeeva bonds over the three “hopeless” CBD properties for



A tower of power

THE FRIENDLY WINDY CITY has a new king: Comrade Giraffe Faku. As chair of the Port Elizabeth regional ANC Faku appears to be the driving force behind politics in the city. Actually, a closer look finds he's worn the crown for some time.

Born in New Brighton in 1956, Nceba Faku completed his matric in 1978 while serving a 13-year sentence on Robben Island. Following his release, Comrade Giraffe – given the nickname on the Island for his great height – became a regional organiser for the ANC/SACP local government portfolio and was elected chairperson of the Port Elizabeth Transitional Local Council in 1994. In 1995 he was elected ANC regional chairperson and mayor of the City of Port Elizabeth.

In those same early days of democracy, the family of his pal, businessman Yossuf Jeeva was embroiled in a battle over R49m in unpaid taxes, after the Receiver had placed two Jeeva companies in liquidation. The fight went all the way to the Supreme Court of Appeal in Bloemfontein, where four judges ruled in favour of the Receiver, ordering the directors (including Yossuf's father Adam Jeeva) of Theunsus Transport (Pty) and

Spirvin Bottling (Pty) to pay the outstanding R49m. It's not known whether or not this was ever paid.

In September 2006 Faku married 22-year old Unathi Pazi at a ceremony that drew a who's-who of South African politics. Comrade Giraffe was driven to the church by Roxane Jordaan (wife of 2010 World Cup LOC CEO, Danny Jordaan) in her black BMW 650i. Ministers Jeff Radebe and Makhenkesi Stofle, Mantis Collection chair Adrian Gardiner and Yossuf Jeeva, among others, were in splendid attendance.

The happy couple then spent the weekend at Jeeva's Kwantu private game reserve, before leaving for a week's honeymoon at Sun City.

In 2006 Nondumiso Maphazi took over from Faku as mayor of PE and soon found herself in hot water – apparently due to Comrade Giraffe's determination to continue calling the shots. In August 2009 Maphazi plead-



ed with President Zuma to rescue her from Faku. The Times quoted Maphazi as saying that things started going sour in June 2009, when the ANC regional executive committee, led by Faku, called her into a meeting and told her she and municipal manager Graham Richards were being "recalled" from their positions, to be deployed elsewhere. Three months after appealing to President Zuma to intervene and resolve the tension between herself and Comrade Giraffe, she was replaced as executive mayor by the regional secretary of the National Union of Metalworkers, Zanoxolo Wayile.

Last month *The Herald* reported that Faku was involved in a R60m contract to install 120,000 low-pressure solar water heaters in the metro. The City's Infrastructure, Engineering and Electricity Committee gave an assurance that the scheme, scheduled to start this month, is being fully funded by Eskom.

a total of R49.4m – more than three times what he had paid for them.

Investec Bank spokesperson Ciaran Whelan confirmed to *noseweek* that they had sold the property at a loss, but insisted this was "because that was the best price we could get".

Asked about the around R50m Investec then advanced to Jeeva's company, Whelan confirmed: "Yes we advanced that amount but we cannot disclose reasons as that would breach confidentiality. All I can say is it was part of a larger transaction."

Of that, *noseweek* has no doubt.

Whatever the transaction, Investec was clearly of the view that Jeeva's prospects in Port Elizabeth's CBD were way better than those of Sanlam, Old Mutual or Investec itself.

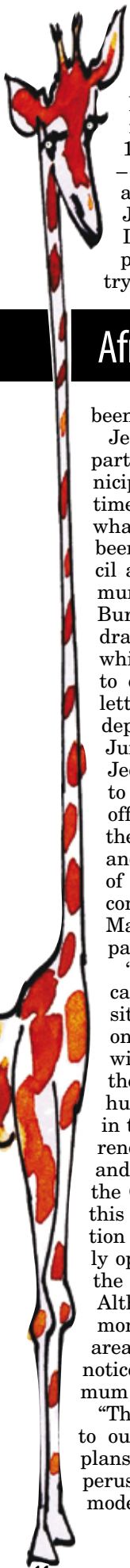
Their assessment was correct. The Norwich Life Building has a new name, Kwantu Towers, and a brand new tenant: The Nelson Mandela Bay municipality rents the bottom five floors – and three of them have remained unoccupied since their lease was signed in 2006. Two of those vacant floors were officially assigned to the municipal communications department – but only two people appear to occupy them: communications director Bernard Williams and his personal assistant. The rest of the communications department remain housed at the council-owned Algoa House, where they've been since they were "temporarily" moved there in 2006, supposedly until Kwantu Towers was ready for their occupancy.

So far, this wasted space appears to have burned over R6m of the municipal budget. (Since 2006, the council has paid around R10.3m in rents for the Kwantu Towers premises.)

Contacted for comment, the council's chief operations officer, Dr Israel Tsatsire, insisted that "the communications department" is housed at Kwantu Towers. When *noseweek* pointed out that, yes, indeed, the *provincial government's* communications department rents a floor in Kwantu Towers, but the *municipal* communications department is housed at Algoa House, Dr Tsatsire hung up.

Kwantu Towers is one of some 18 buildings owned in PE by Jeeva's Africorp International Property.

Nceba Faku ("Comrade Giraffe")



held the post of executive mayor of Port Elizabeth from 1995 to 2006. (In that period – in June 1998 – Faku was also listed alongside Yossuf Jeeva as a director of Cacadu Investment Company. The Department of Trade and Industry shows this company to have

Africorp wanted the municipality to insure the plate glass

been deregistered in April 2004.)

Jeeva appears to have offered part of Kwantu Towers to the municipality for rental for the first time in mid 2004. It's not known what discussions had already been held between the council and Jeeva, but in June 2004 municipal facilities manager Burnett Meyer received an odd draft letter from Yossuf Jeeva, which he was apparently meant to cut and paste onto his own letterhead, for circulation as a departmental memo. Dated 28 June 2004, the draft signed by Jeeva begins: "We are pleased to advise you that we have been offered office space suitable to the person and the reputation and standing of the members of the senior management, for communications, of the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Municipality.

"The premises are ideally located in a prestigious building situated next to the City Hall, on the market square, which is within walking distance of both the mayor's office and Plein-huis. The building owners are in the process of revamping and renovating the building to suit and promote the new image of the Communication Department; this will include a 1200sqm function area which is situated directly opposite the area set aside for the Communication Department. Although we will not be charged monthly rental for this function area it will be available to us on notice to the landlord at a minimum rental.

"The aforesaid renovations are to our satisfaction; copies of the plans are attached hereto for your perusal. The renovations are of a modern style which excludes any

old fashioned typical government image."

Apparently Meyer wasn't interested in playing along. A source in the municipality told *noseweek*: "Meyer was a real professional. He questioned why a provider would dictate what was to be contained in the internal memo. This questioning didn't go down well

with the City fathers. It was decided somewhere higher up to bypass Meyer in concluding the deal."

A frustrated Meyer resigned from the council and his position was taken over, in an acting capacity, by Mrs Makaziwe Mokitimi. By 15 July 2004 Mokitimi was writing in an internal memo to the council that a decision had been made to move the communications department to Kwantu Towers. She included only some of Jeeva's copy in her own, but Jeeva's original letter, of which *noseweek* has a copy, remained in the council file.

Mokitimi wrote: "Negotiations were entered into between Kwantu Towers and the Communications Office with regards to the leasing of office space. Africorp International Properties has

in principle agreed for the Communications Office to utilise space in their building subject to the signing of a lease. The Communications Office is therefore ready to move from Plein-huis to Kwantu Towers."

As we now know, the communications department moved to a different building – Algoa House. It is still there.

In 2006, Comrade Faku's administration announced a tender for the accommodation of the Nelson Mandela Bay Business Centre and the office of Economic Development, Tourism & Agriculture.

Several PE property players handed in bids, including Madobo (Pty) Ltd, Gutsche Investment Management Company (in a consortium with Ken Denton's Denton Properties) Zig Zag Properties, Transnet's Propnet and Jeeva's Africorp International.

Apparently, it was then decided during the evaluation of bids to favour Africorp's Kwantu Towers, because it was within 500m of the City Hall. Sources claim this factor was inserted as a requirement only at this late stage, to ensure that the tender be awarded to Africorp.

When the council received Africorp's three-year renewable lease

Who's who in the Starport zoo

SANLAM SUBSIDIARY Rycklof Properties (Pty) Ltd sold Port Elizabeth's tallest building – the 20-storey Starport building – for just R1.1m to Yossuf Jeeva's Africorp International Properties.

A bare seven years after the deal, Starport's municipal valuation now stands at R30m – and Africorp is now trying to sell it for R70m. Is Yossuf Jeeva just plain smart, a brilliant property speculator with a sharp eye for playing the market? Or is Jeeva's playing field much wider, and certainly more political, than meets the eye? He's definitely got friends in the right places (*see stories "Comrade Giraffe" and "A Tower of Power"*).

When Sanlam sold Starport in 2003 it had no tenants. When *noseweek* visited the building in May, Starport was turning a healthy rental income:

■ Ground floor – Izwe Loans

(R40,000 a month)

■ First floor (plus six undercover parking bays) – Moneyline (R15,300 a month)

■ Third and fourth floors – African Bank Ltd (R29,220 a month)

■ Sixth, seventh and eleventh floors – Department of Public Works (R37,934 a month; (Public Works has also just signed for another three floors).

■ Eighth and ninth floors – Eastern Cape IT Initiative (R31,795 a month);

■ Twelfth floor – Scorpion Legal Protection (R12,500 a month)

■ Thirteenth and 14th floors – Small Enterprise Development Agency – an agency of the Department of Trade and Industry (R31,150 a month)

■ The roof – MTN mast (R5,321 a month); Communication Solution mast (R1,331 a month); Vodacom mast (R5,038 a month).

agreement, Advocate Sigodi, for the municipality, questioned a number of its clauses. For example Africorp wanted the municipality to insure all plate glass forming part of the premises. Sigodi's comment: "We can't insure what we don't own."


Another example: The lease required that the municipality "shall at all times and at its own expense, keep and maintain the interior and exterior of the premises, *inter alia*, the electrical installation, gas, drainage and sanitary works, the thermostats and air-conditioning appliances, carpeting, partitions and all other fixtures and fittings therein". Sigodi's note: "Check this clause!"

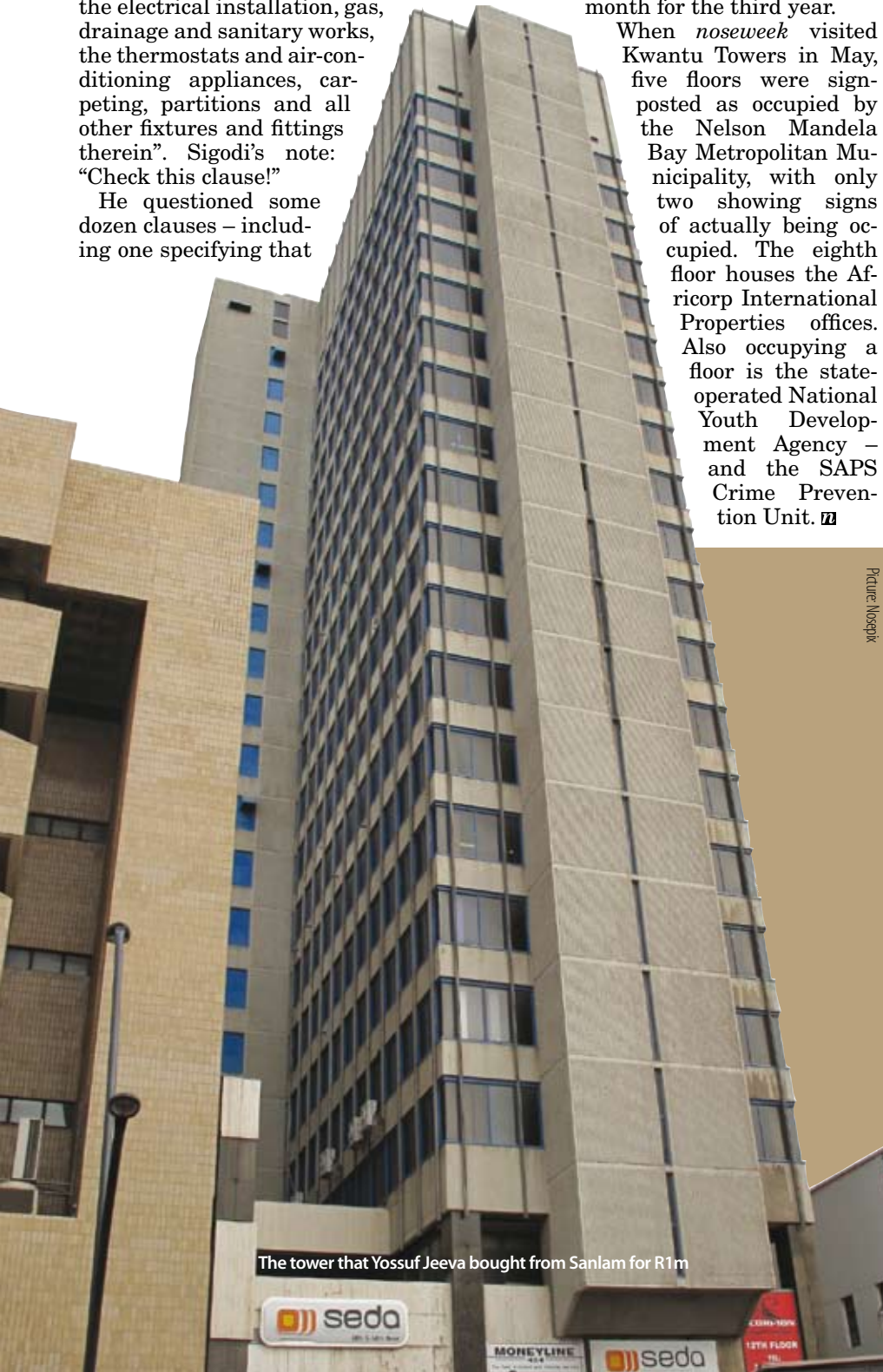
He questioned some dozen clauses – including one specifying that

the council should pay the municipal rates on the building. The owner of a property is, of course, legally responsible for rates.

All of Advocate Sigodi's objections were disregarded and the council signed the lease, with automatic renewal every three years.

Rent for the single floor then being signed for was set at R52,096 a month for the first year, R57,305 a month for the second year and R63,036 a month for the third year.

When *noseweek* visited Kwantu Towers in May, five floors were sign-posted as occupied by the Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality, with only two showing signs of actually being occupied. The eighth floor houses the Africorp International Properties offices. Also occupying a floor is the state-operated National Youth Development Agency – and the SAPS Crime Prevention Unit. 



The tower that Yossuf Jeeva bought from Sanlam for R1m

Picture: Nosepix

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WILF in sheep's clothing

Further revelations from the notebooks of the former rugby Springbok dentist turned wideboy

IN THE SECRET FILES of rugby legend Wilf Rosenberg, whose connections with the Israeli Mafia were revealed in *nose128*, is a handwritten list of 23 people whom Rosenberg describes as members of The Syndicate.

They include police officers (“Sgt Wie and Inspector Havenga”), bank officials (“Paul, FNB town, credit manager; Andrew, FNB Sandton; Christa, Nedbank Auckland Park; Mr Badenhorst, Trust Bank; two individuals from Momentum”); an attorney; and mysterious characters with names like “Max the Swiss”. The first two names, John Ferreira and Walter Pugh, still cause a shudder to run down the spine of Rosenberg’s ex-wife Shelly.

Apparently The Syndicate was a hitherto unknown part of Rosenberg’s life. Israelis do not appear to feature on the list. *Nose128* gave Shelly Rosenberg’s account of the activities of this mysterious body: “They had connections in major banks and insurance companies. They used to transfer money from crime into people’s bank accounts and then blackmail these people into removing the money and giving it to them. My account was used. I used to go to the bank and collect cash from my account.”

An affidavit sworn by Wilf Rosenberg in case 41/545/2000 at the Johannesburg Regional Court describes how one John Ferreira, whom Rosenberg said he had known during the 1960s “in the course of sporting activities”, deposited R364,000 into Mrs Rosenberg’s bank account. She was subsequently instructed to withdraw R140,000 in cash and hand it to Ferreira, which she did. She then



A younger Wilf Rosenberg on a visit to his daughter Dr Nicola Krost in Israel

wrote two cheques totalling R150,000, which were dishonoured.

This happened in 1996. Rosenberg's affidavit states that Ferreira subsequently contacted him "saying there may be problems with the monies deposited. He did mention a certain Mr Pugh, but did not disclose his involvement, save to say that in the event of enquiries we dared not mention Pugh's name, as he was known to have extremely dangerous connections".

Rosenberg adds that "a particularly difficult time for my wife and myself" followed. In one incident Shelly was alone in her car when a lorry rammed it from behind. "As she opened her door the lorry sped past ripping off her car's door. There was also an incident when three unknown men tried to enter her flat."

The bank, said Rosenberg, wanted its R140,000 back. A judgment was made against Shelly when she was in Israel getting cancer treatment, and there was a settlement. The police case against Shelly Rosenberg was eventually withdrawn, though Rosenberg was warned he might have to take her place in the dock.

Who were John Ferreira and Walter Pugh? Rosenberg claimed that Ferreira once worked with him at Fedlife insurance. In a statement to police in 1996, Ferreira, then aged 63, gave his full name as Johannes Cornelius Ferreira, describing himself as the one-time owner of a rugby box at Ellis Park, and then employed at insurance tycoon Douw Steyn's Saxon Hotel. Ferreira named Pugh as Walter Clifford Pugh, then living in Dunkeld West, claiming to have known him for almost 30 years through insurance deals.

Ferreira and Pugh crop up again in another cryptic note, headed The Facts: "1. Walter Pugh/Sgt Gideon Wie – know each other. 2. John Ferreira/Grant Wentzel – involved with making arms in SA. Bullets for Arabs – ship left for Tripoli Sunday 1/10/2000. Arms smuggling."

Wilf Rosenberg took his various



From Wilf Rosenberg's photo album: Boxing promoter Mike Segal (left) with Wilf's Israeli Mafia buddy Moshe Simantov

court appearances philosophically. On 30 November 1998, when living in a Johannesburg cottage where "there is very little space and I have most of my paraphernalia in boxes" he wrote to Shelly in Israel: "I don't know why you are getting excited about my court case. Firstly, you are talking to the wrong man when you tell me to run. I am only afraid of snakes.

links emerge from the past, surprising even a cynical me. No one speaks, no one asks questions, they each add what they can in each and all forms."

Nose128 published extracts from Wilf Rosenberg's files for the autobiography he planned to write exposing South Africa's criminal underworld. The papers came to light after Rosenberg, now 76, left the country for Israel last December.

Our story outraged Rosenberg's family and friends (except one – see *Letters*). Mike Charnas, a rugby enthusiast who says he took in Rosenberg when he was "down and out", and employed him "for 10 or 12 years", until last December, summoned *noseweek* to his research and marketing business Catalyst, in Johannesburg's Orange Grove. "That article about Wilf Rosenberg is

the biggest load of rubbish I've ever read," he declared. "We want to have a discussion with you. It's not an interview."

Charnas, 57, wanted to see Rosenberg's 26-page handwritten Chapter One of his autobiography, from which *noseweek* quoted extracts, to verify that the writing was Rosenberg's – because, he declared, the extracts

The bank, said Rosenberg, wanted its R140,000 back

"The final appearance is 2 Dec and I am not going to lose. Being my own lawyer is a new, exciting experience – you know I enjoy the courtroom. You were not told because, as I expected, you reacted just as I thought you would – in a state of panic. By now, you should know that with me the kitchen is always hot. Over the years it has become apparent you can't stand the heat."

What happened in court that 2 December is not known. But the day before, in another letter to Shelly, Rosenberg wrote: "I have an astonishing back-up system in my close family, friends and associates. Favours done in the past are being recalled and it is Pay Back Day. The chain gets stronger each day as

were full of inaccuracies. When Charnas examined the samples *noseweek* presented to him, he reluctantly confirmed these were indeed the rugby legend's own jottings.

Although Charnas has known Rosenberg only since around 1998, when Rosenberg was already 64, he insisted it was impossible that Rosenberg could have been involved with the Israeli Mafia, let alone written the newly-discovered confessions, since he had been unwell for a long time – ever since he had a stroke and had to abandon his career as a dentist in the early 60s. Rosenberg, declared Charnas, couldn't walk after back surgery, couldn't write and was totally confused from taking "39 Syndol tablets" a day. (An invoice

from Norwood Pharmacy on 13 July 2009, for R607, notes the supply to “Dr W Rosenberg” of Valoid, Viocort, Valium, Dynexan, Panada-50, Zopiderm, Status-Deo and aftershave.) Charnas states that the legend was diagnosed with dementia.

The above-quoted extracts from the neat and lucid letters Rosenberg wrote to his wife Shelly in November

been a virtual vegetable since the 60s, when the stroke left him paralysed down the right side of his body. “This paralysis lasted about 18 months, then suddenly disappeared,” he writes. “One moment paralysed, the next all was in top working order, as if nothing had happened.” However, he was unable to continue to practise as a periodontologist as “a weakness

consultant for his close friend Mackie Glasser’s Corlett Drive Estates. “They were a group of very clever men,” writes Rosenberg. “They approached the owners of large tracts of land with the purpose of buying the ground. However no money was laid out. The Corlett agents would advertise the sale of the ground, sell it, give the farmer who owned the land his share and take the remaining as profit. So Corlett Drive made money without laying out

a penny.”

Wilf Rosenberg’s role in the scam involved taking property editors out to lunch and “singing the praises” of his employers. Corlett Drive Estates, one of South Africa’s biggest property developers in the 60s, went spectacularly bankrupt in 1973. Many buyers got neither their plots nor their money back, while Rosenberg notes: “Mackie Glasser lives in Sydney in a home which is a showpiece for tour-

and December 1998 do not support this view. Indeed, Charnas then contradicted himself by describing how he encouraged Rosenberg to write his autobiography, a task the sporting icon set to without problem in the Orange Grove office. Charnas eventually handed *noseweek* nine pages of that latest effort – in Rosenberg’s neat and lucid hand.

In these pages, Rosenberg demolishes Charnas’s claim that he had

of my right hand made it very difficult to do work such as crowns and bridges”.

But this did not stop Rosenberg going on to run six Comrades marathons in the 1980s. He writes that he did the last run in eight hours. He ended up on a drip to replace lost fluid: “I forgot to drink on the way.”

In these Charnas-supplied pages, Rosenberg also describes a colourful spell working as a public relations

Rosenberg demolishes claims that he was a virtual vegetable since the 60s

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ists. He took most of the money.”

Rosenberg’s first wife Elinor died of cancer in 1989. Rosenberg describes how by that time he had been befriended by two Israelis living in Johannesburg – Moshe Simantov and Samuel Propheta. He describes how Moshe Simantov introduced him to the woman who was to become his second wife – Rachel Liebowitz, known as Shelly. “That is correct,” says Shelly today. “I was selling houses and Moshe was selling his house. He said he’s got this friend whose wife had died. We all became friends.”

Moshe Simantov was a member of the Israeli Mafia, as was Samuel “Moulie” Propheta. Shelly says today that at first she thought the Israelis were “just friends”. But in Rosenberg’s files is a fax that Shelly says she wrote to her attorney, Steven Friedland, voicing concern about Mafia members Ronnie “Fat Stuff” Simantov (Moshe’s brother), Shai Avissar (Israeli Mafia boss and husband of underworld crime queen Hazel Crane) and Avissar’s bodyguard “Moulie” Propheta. “If anything happens to Wilf Rosenberg or myself, ask them,” reads her fax.

Tweaking her memory today after years of chemotherapy, Shelly Rosenberg recalls: “Moshe’s brother [Ronnie] was in charge of seeing everyone had two IDs and passports. Israeli security people were sent here to clean up Israeli Mafioso. Most went to Australia. They were involved in bank/insurance scams and Wilf kept on getting caught and had to use police protection.”

All this is rubbish, declares Wilf Rosenberg’s most recent “employer”, Mike Charnas. The poor man has not been *compos mentis* since his stroke decades ago. “His memory was largely not here. He used to go to his doctor daughter in Israel to get cleaned up, and when he came back he was lucid. But after three weeks he was back on the painkillers again. He took zillions of them.”

Charnas suggests that Rosenberg’s ex-wife Shelly might be behind the creation of pages of Rosenberg’s “my life of crime” confessions discovered in his files. “She’s bitter and out for revenge,” he opines. “If Rosenberg really wrote all this stuff – well, he does have a vivid imagination.”

With great fanfare, Charnas produces his trump card “proving” that the extracts quoted in *noseweek* must be false. “You said the Gerry Coetzee-Big John Tate fight took place in Sun

City. But it took place at Loftus!” he says triumphantly. In fact, *noseweek* did not mention where the fight took place. Dementia must be catching.

Troy Mayers, lifelong best friend of Rosenberg’s Australia-based son Adam, does not agree that Rosenberg has been a vegetable for decades. Mayers, 39, says he first met the legend when he was seven. When he left South Africa in 1997 Rosenberg was “pretty OK then, yeah.”

When Mayers returned to SA in 2002 he found Rosenberg living alone in the Pembury retirement lodge near the Wanderers. “In the last eight years I was probably the only one who’d go and visit him. Since I got back he’s definitely had dementia. Ask him now who his team-mates were in 1955 and he’ll rattle the names off for you one by one. But I took him to the bank recently, when he was going to live in Israel. He draws his money, puts it in his pocket, walks out the door, turns to me and says: ‘Where’s the money?’”

From Israel, Rosenberg’s doctor daughter Nicola Krost, says: “The physical and mental health of my father Dr Wilf Rosenberg has nothing to do with you.”

Rosenberg did not respond to *noseweek*’s many attempts to speak to him, before and after the story appeared. However, he told Israeli journalist Raphael Ahren of *Haaretz*: “The accusations there are mind-boggling. The only true part in the whole thing is my name.”

How did Ahren find his subject? “Completely fine. He’s fine – he’s mentally fine. He’s a bit old but he understands exactly what’s going on.”

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WADE GOMES AND LOUISE BAKER – now there’s a pair of smart operators. As Gillian Klette discovered to her cost when she made the mistake of going into business with them.

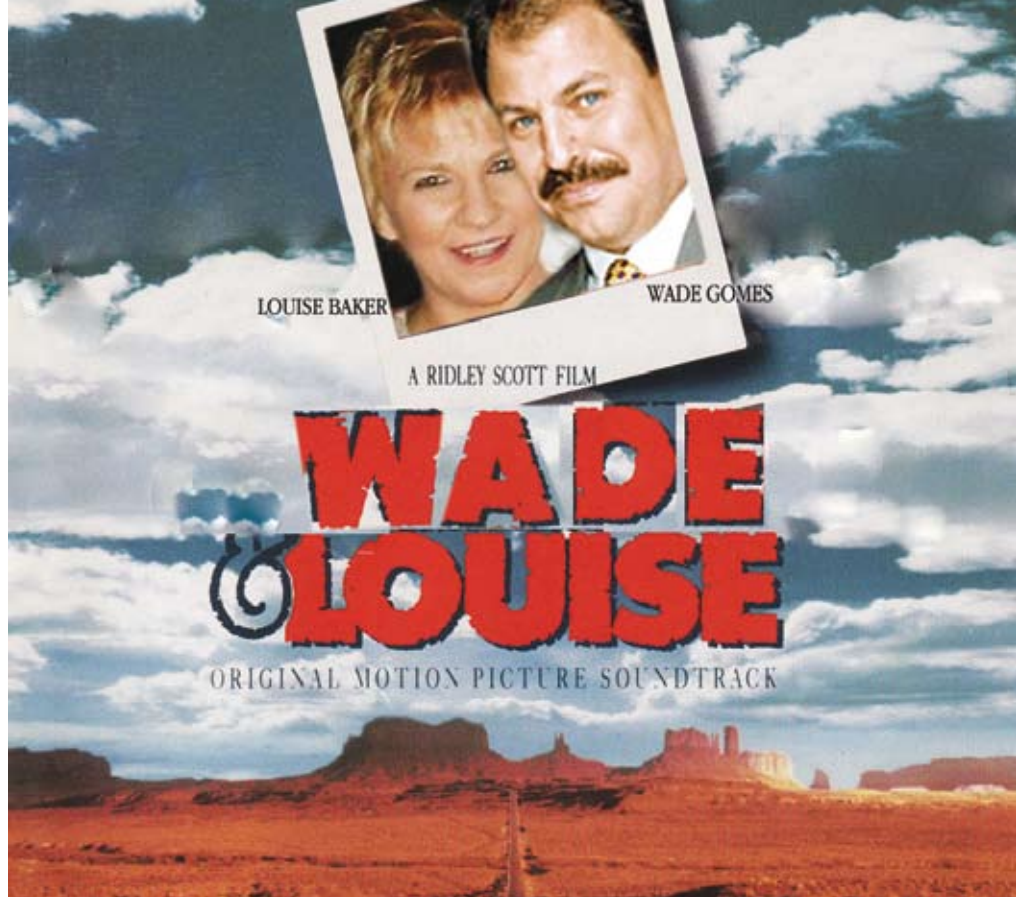
Gillian Klette is a business consultant specialising in IT, and in 2008 was approached by Louise Baker, a recruitment consultant with whom she’d had business dealings, with an interesting proposition. Baker wanted Klette to invest in her Executive Recruitment Solutions, based in Joburg’s Jukskei Park, and bring in her IT skills. Initially uncertain, Klette was eventually persuaded into a deal. She says that what finally persuaded her to take the plunge was a very positive financial report from Michael Wright, of Wrightway Financial Services, in Durban. Klette had asked for some kind of due diligence or audit, and Baker’s “sleeping partner” in the business, Wade Gomes, promised to get something from his accountant.

Apparently Louise Baker then emailed accountant Wright a series of impressive recent invoices, showing billings of some R752,141 over a six-week period, during October and November 2008. These included large invoices to Faritec, Bytes Technology and Coris Capital. Baker also sent Wright details of expenditure.

Wright now tells *noseweek* that when he asked for bank statements, Louise Baker persuaded him they weren’t necessary. Wright also claimed he’d never actually met Baker, but had known Wade Gomes for a long time, and that Gomes’s salary was “in the millions”. Wright also emphasised that he’d done only a “brief assessment” – not an audit.

Nonetheless, it was Wright’s November 2008 report that settled the matter for Klette. Wright wrote: “I have examined the records ... and I can report that the business is well established and financially sound. The turnover for the period 1 March to 31 October 2008 was R1,555,436 and the expenses, including the drawings by Louise Baker, amounted to R690,500, leaving a profit of R864,936.”

Baker and Gomes also provided Klette with an impressive 23-page business plan, setting out the business’s prospects. It dealt, *inter alia*, with the “Macro-Environmental Situation”, the “Current Political Situation” and the “Current Economic Situation”. Klette was hooked, and on 4 December 2008 signed herself in with Baker and Gomes.



It’s been a long road for a pair of con artists who have been taking a string of victims for a ride

Their agreement stated that, though Executive Recruitment Solutions is a sole proprietorship, the business would be transferred to a close corporation in which Baker and Gomes would each have a 34% interest, and Gillian a 32% interest. There was a reference to the fact that a close corporation, number 2002/064029/23, was free of debt – implying that this was the entity that would take over the business. The agreement stated that the three members would be jointly involved in managing the business, but that only Baker would be entitled to a salary. It went on to say that “to equalise the membership interest/shareholding in ERS, Gillian Klette shall pay an amount of R200,000, which shall form part of the capital account of ERS”, and that “there shall be no shareholders’ loan account”.

Gillian made an initial payment of R100,000 and paid the remaining R100,000 in 12 instalments of R8,333.33. During this period, working part time, she did software design

for the company. She says that at some stage Baker told her that she had bought out Wade Gomes’s share, because he was bad news.

By the end of 2009 Klette had paid the full amount – and, suddenly, everything changed. Baker stopped calling Klette – and changed her own contact numbers. When Klette eventually got hold of Baker’s number, Baker didn’t answer her calls. Klette left messages to arrange meetings, but Baker simply didn’t pitch.

On 22 February 2010 Klette sent a surprisingly conciliatory email to Louise: “This is the third time your business contact details have been suddenly changed since we started this partnership. [...] I’d like to believe that you went through some kind of immense personal challenge which caused you to behave in an unprofessional and unethical manner. I am hence giving you a chance to resolve this amicably by paying me back what is due.” No response.

On 29 April Klette sent Baker a final

demand, claiming repayment of the R200,000, with interest, and a further R189,000, which Klette believed was a fair price for the software she'd designed. She also challenged Baker: "I have been made aware that you have committed fraud against numerous business people in the industry. You have a record of criminal charges against you." No response.

Gillian Klette's subsequent enquiries revealed that the whole thing had been a scam. The invoices sent to accountant Wright were fraudulent: Faritec, Bytes Technology and Coris Capital have no record of the invoices Louise Baker sent to accountant Wright. One of the companies "invoiced" by ERS doesn't exist. Klette also learned from Faritec's HR department that Baker offered them Jenna Clifford jewellery in exchange for passing recruitment work her way, and that when Gomes worked for Faritec he referred his recruitment work to Baker.

As for the business plan – *noseweek* wagers this was lifted from another

Baker lasted a full five days at Catalyst, after it quickly transpired that she had provided false references and that the clients and billings she had boasted of in interviews were bogus. Further enquiries revealed that she did not hold, as she'd claimed, a BProc degree from UNISA, and that she had a shocking credit record. When Eisenhammer discovered that Baker was coming into the office at 5.30am each morning and downloading every bit of confidential information she could access, he escorted her off the premises and told her to attend a disciplinary enquiry 48 hours later. When Baker failed to show up, a company inquiry dismissed her for fraud and misrepresentation.

Klette claims that Baker and Gomes have regularly offered people equity in their "business" in lieu of unpaid bills. Huge PC, which wasn't paid for laptops valued at R11,500, and R3050-worth of domain name registration and web-hosting services, was offered shares rather than money. So were attorney Jason Killian and web

Baker lasted five days at Catalyst after it transpired she had provided false references

company, and modified as required. A Companies and Intellectual Property Registration Office (CIPRO) search shows the close corporation referred to in the agreement to be Reldann Properties No 3 – and Gomes, Baker and Klette don't appear as members.

Accountant Michael Wright was apparently also duped, and told Klette late last year: "I have not heard from Louise Baker since I saw you approximately 14 months ago. I don't know what to say. However, if I were you, I would certainly approach a lawyer for advice. Baker has also owed me money for over a year."

Klette's enquiries unearthed some juicy details about how Louise Baker operates. On 1 February this year – while she was avoiding Klette – Baker took a well-paid job with Catalyst Human Asset Management. With the help of a glowing reference from Wade Gomes, Baker persuaded Catalyst's Julian Eisenhammer that she had run a highly successful business, but was tired of the stress of managing it, after a failed BEE buyout.

designer Dave de Gasperi, who had put in some 200 hours of work for which he wasn't paid. All three had the good sense to decline Baker and Gomes' offer.

Klette has also established that attorney Goolam Norris, of the firm Kramer Viljoen, has sued Baker and Gomes for unpaid legal work.

A bit of sniffing down the tracks shows Wade Gomes to be a pretty smart operator. Klette discovered that, a few years ago, he was hired as CEO by resources company Icore, but left under a cloud after all sorts of expenditure that brought no returns. (Baker also spent time at Icore and was also forced to leave.)

Baker told Klette that Gomes was dismissed from Faritec in March 2009. Apparently he is now employed by the South African operation of Micro Focus UK, whose website boasts that "the Company has adopted a Code of Business Conduct and Ethics policy with which all Company staff are required to comply".

When *noseweek* got hold of Gomes

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he began by claiming he didn't know anyone called Gillian Klette. With a bit of memory jogging he said he had a vague recollection that someone by that name had failed to provide IT skills to Louise Baker's Executive Recruitment Solutions, of which he had been a "sleeping partner". They had to get in someone else, he claimed, adding that he knew nothing about Klette putting money into Executive Recruitment Solutions.

By Gomes' own account he knew nothing about debts supposedly incurred, but did recall the unpaid-for laptops, and claimed they carried illegal software. He insisted that the Faritec invoices submitted to accountant Wright "were genuine" – despite what Faritec have told Klette. "I suggest you speak to Louise Baker – as far as I know she closed the business down some time ago."

Gomes wasn't keen to speak about his employment at Faritec and Iocore, but conceded that he'd referred some Faritec recruitment jobs to Baker. So you shared in the fee paid by your employer? Oh no, I was simply a sleeping partner. Stop bugging me; I'm a respected businessman – and I don't need any shit!

Louise Baker finally contacted *noseweek* but only to say Klette's issues had "fuck all" to do with her, or Gomes, and that we would be hearing from her lawyer.

■ As *noseweek* was going to press Gillian Klette called to say that Gomes had contacted her with an offer: Kill the story and I'll make sure you get the full amount owing to you; let *noseweek* run the story and I'll sue you for defamation if it says anything about me being fired.

Noseweek did eventually get a request for written questions from a Pretoria attorney, which weren't answered. Then, and at the last minute, an email came in from attorney Rian Roux, speaking for Baker. Disingenuous doesn't begin to describe the litany of denials and threats. Baker claims that because Klette didn't bring in new business she was in breach of agreement and so lost her R200,000; Baker will sue Eisenhammer of Catalyst for alleging that she downloaded information; she denies that either she or Gomes were fired from Iocore, and that Gomes resigned from Faritec; Gomes never sent Faritec work on to her (of course, he admitted that he did); the laptops carried illegal software and were unusable; the allegations about web design and attorney Killian are false, and Kramer & Viljoen weren't paid because they gave bad service. Baker ended by saying ERS had stopped operating in February, due to the recession, and that, had Klette been loyal to the company, this would never have happened.

Nice one: blame the victim. ▣



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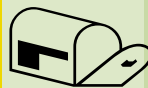
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THE EXTRAORDINARY RUSH by a host of shady characters to loot the home and offices of well-known Durban private investigator Raymond van Staden, within hours of his death by drowning, has again cast the spotlight on how notorious apartheid-era police operatives have come to dominate the country's private investigations business.

And how many "blue chip" companies – and leading figures in the ANC – happily make use of these old security branch men's services to advance their own often sinister interests.

Raymond van Staden died heroically, after plunging into treacherous currents off Amanzimtoti beach to go the aid of a man and a boy struggling in the raging surf. It was Good Friday: he'd stopped off on his way home, to gather mussels for supper. By the time lifesavers arrived at the secluded beach, Van Staden had held the child above water for over 40 minutes. Utterly exhausted, the private investigator was pulled under the waves almost the instant he passed the boy to lifeguards.

They got Van Staden to the beach, but it was too late: all attempts to resuscitate him failed. The other man who lost his life was the rescued boy's father, Johan Nel, a senior manager at Absa Trust. An unprecedented motion by Jo-Ann Downs of the African Christian Democratic Party, praising Van Staden and Nel for their bravery and self-sacrifice, was accepted in the Kwa-Zulu Natal Legislature.

But that day on the beach another train of events was set in motion, turning the spotlight on a bunch of notori-

THE SPY WHO WENT IN TOO DEEP



Desie van Staden with supermodel Heidi Klum

ous killers and shady characters from Raymond van Staden's past in the apartheid-era security branch.

Gazing in shock at Van Staden's lifeless body, his companion, a woman he'd only recently begun seeing, started calling the contacts on his cell, to give them the terrible news. Some of these reacted very fast, in an apparent bid to take possession of Van Staden's professional records and equipment. Among them were agents working for the likes of ex-Vlakplaas hitman Riaan Bellingan, and ex-security branch colonel Alf Oosthuizen – a man Van Staden had often said he admired, as a particularly shrewd operator, and with whom he remained in regular contact.

Van Staden had studied electronics before being conscripted into Military Intelligence, moving on to D Section, SAP Internal Security, where Oosthuizen had been his commander. After leaving the police – at about the time the ANC was unbanned – Van Staden set up his own private investigations company, Van Staden Forensic Services, with offices in Gauteng and Durban. It specialised in high-level debugging, using the sort of expensive electronic equipment usually associated with in-



Raymond van Staden with President Zuma in Texas

Well-equipped and well-connected

FEW PRIVATE INVESTIGATORS in South Africa were as well-known as Ray van Staden, and few private security firms were as well-equipped as his Amanzimtoti-based company, Van Staden Forensic Services.

Apart from regular debugging work for big companies like Sasol, Van Staden was for a while employed on contract by Transnet, to head up their security and investigations department. At the time of his death, he was assisting the Police Directorate of Priority Crime Investigations in several matters relating to smuggling and theft from the Durban Harbour – but all records relating to this probe have vanished from Van Staden's office and vaults.

Various company documents and files were, however, left strewn around the yard of his office and home in Amanzimtoti, including some marked "Sasol". Many of these were badly water-damaged. Notes left lying on the floor of Van

Staden's office appear to show how a group of people planned to divide up his estate. One note appears to show that a "DRC deal" involving "Zuma son", and a "Zim deal" involving "China", were to be divided between "Yoav" and "LMH".

According to police sources, there is also a note that appears to suggest an intended theft: it records that Van Staden's stock in a company called Force Continuum should be sold. Force Continuum supplied non-lethal weapons to numerous companies, including Spoornet and several security companies. Storerooms used to hold Force Continuum's stock were found empty.

The reference to a deal involving "Zuma son" is intriguing, to say the least. Ray van Staden was known to be well connected politically. Before Jacob Zuma's election to president of the ANC and then to President of the country, Van Staden facilitated meetings between Zuma and various influential US

businessmen, and accompanied him on a trip to Texas when Zuma sought to reassure US investors that his presidency would be stable. Van Staden appears to have kept his friendship with Zuma hidden from even his closest friends, and especially from his contacts in the NPA and Scorpions. The links between Van Staden, the Scorpions, Zuma and Oosthuizen may well explain how the Zuma camp were often one step ahead of the prosecution.

The private and professional records of Van Staden are likely to contain much information of great interest to various companies, politicians and industrial spies – and inquisitive journalists. As one prominent private investigator told *noseweek*: "With the sort of information Raymond had, I suspect that many of his clients, possibly including Zuma, are vulnerable to blackmail attempts. Certainly their company and commercial secrets are no longer safe." **n**

ternational intelligence agencies. Van Staden closely guarded his extensive client list, but he clearly conducted sensitive investigations for all kinds of blue chip companies.

Exactly who was first to arrive at the premises of Van Staden Forensic Services in the hours after its proprietor lost his life is hard to establish. His brother Desmond flew in to Durban the same day. A former male model with a troubled past involving drugs and petty theft, Desmond had only recently been reconciled with older brother Raymond. Known as "Desie", he lives in Switzerland and works as a high-end make-up artist – clients have included Heidi Klum and Paris Hilton.

Desie seems to have arrived at the Van Staden home alongside the likes of former Security Branch man Johan du Plooy and Dave Esterhuizen, a part-time employee of Advanced Corporate Solutions (ACS) – a security company from which ex-colonel Alf Oosthuizen resigned in 2004, leaving former Vlakplaas man Riaan Bellingan as sole director. [See box.]

Esterhuizen was on a flight to Durban within hours of Bellingan getting the call informing him of Van Staden's death. He stayed only one night before returning to Gauteng.

It appears that brother Desie – though neither heir nor executor – quickly took charge. He took office and home keys off Van Staden's lady companion and summoned Cape Town-based financial advisor Lyn May-Hammond to assist him in "taking care" of Raymond's estate.

May-Hammond is a director of Ankh Analytic, whose company website boasts: "Ankh Analytic (Pty) Ltd was founded in April 2000. We believe that without practising the highest level of ethics and operating in an environment of complete integrity, no business can survive. Honesty, transparency, putting our clients first and gaining our clients' confidence through dedication and performance are therefore our main business principles."

May-Hammond had been Van Staden's girlfriend some 28 years ago, and apparently left him to marry a local Amanzimtoti dentist. Several sources told *noseweek* that she dived straight into Van Staden's cupboards, appearing to be on the hunt for something.

A stream of nondescript cars driven by men in dark glasses was seen arriving and leaving the Van Staden compound, with the men apparently ferrying a stream of boxes and goods out of the three-storey home-and-office complex.

Carol van Staden, Raymond's estranged wife, and the sole heir, had decided to allow Desie to stay at his brother's home, as she didn't want him staying with her and knew he wouldn't pay for a hotel. But, she told *noseweek*, she did also contact Old Mutual – who, she thought, held her husband's will. Old Mutual actually did not have the will, but nevertheless immediately called Desie to insist that nothing was to be taken from the home or office. On Monday Old Mutual contacted Absa Trust, who did hold Raymond's will, and suggested that someone hightail it to the Van Staden offices.

When *noseweek* contacted Absa's Durban office all queries were referred to Patrick Wadula, the bank's Gauteng-based spokesman. Wadula confirmed that Absa had been informed about the looting of the premises, and claimed that Absa would "very soon" be laying charges at Amanzimtoti police station. Absa didn't do anything for some weeks, so the chances of a criminal investigation being successful are minimal.

When *noseweek* visited the Van Staden home, it looked as if it had been gone over by a gang of house-breakers. Rotten food was strewn everywhere. Dinner plates had been used as ashtrays – though Van Staden had always

forbidden smoking in his house. Dozens of gold cufflinks, Van Staden's weakness, were gone. Cameras worth tens of thousands, and large sums in foreign currency, had vanished. Van Staden's secret hiding places had been rifled.

EXACTLY WHAT DESIE and May-Hammond's role in all of this may have been is not known – but it transpires that minutes after the pair learned that the value of one particular item of debugging equipment could top R500,000, they rushed it to the office of an acquaintance, asking for it to be stored until “someone” called to collect it. Under no circumstances was anyone to be told about the equipment, May-Hammond told the bemused businessman. That afternoon May-Hammond flew out of Durban – she wouldn't be attending Raymond's memorial service. The businessman has recounted his story in a statement to the police.

The day after the gear was left in the businessman's office Dave Esterhuizen once again flew to Durban, and headed straight for the businessman's doorstep, where he demanded the equipment that had been “left for him”. On hearing that someone (in fact, the local police detective who had been called in by Absa) had already taken it, an incensed Esterhuizen left – to reappear with photographs of employees and associates of Van Staden's, demanding to

know if any of them had collected the gear.

Contacted by *noseweek*, a nervous Esterhuizen, who runs a superbike training school at Kyalami and Phakisa, ignored questions about the debugging gear – but volunteered that May-Hammond had taken a large amount of foreign exchange: “plastic bags full of dollars and euros”.

Enquiries reveal that Esterhuizen may well have been acting on behalf of someone else when he allegedly arrived to collect the debugging gear. As one former spook put it: “His [main] income comes from running track days at race circuits, but he does debugging part time for [Bellingan's company] ACS.”

Joining Esterhuizen, May-Hammond and Desie at the Van Staden premises shortly after Raymond's death, was another colourful character – Johan du Plooy, a private investigator from the KZN North Coast, and a partner of Van Staden in a company called the Temi Group. Du Plooy's daughter, Michelle du Toit, runs Microdot Computers which



Cape Town financial advisor Lyn May-Hammond is accused of pocketing some of the loot

hosted the Van Staden Forensic Services website. Within minutes of Van Staden's death, all business enquiries were diverted from this site to a company called Risk Diversion – where Johan du Plooy responded to messages and solicited business.

Neither father nor daughter replied to *noseweek's* numerous emails and telephone calls.

ABSA confirmed that, apart from theft charges, they had also laid complaints in terms of laws regulating telephone and email interception. According to Absa, nobody other than Van Staden, or the executors, had the right to access his email and phone calls. Intercept-

ing these in order to obtain business was, Absa believed, a crime.

Carol van Staden only discovered several days after the funeral that the Van Staden premises had been looted. Everything of value had disappeared, she says. Van Staden's desktop PC hard drive had been wiped clean and portable hard drives and piles of CDs with investigation reports were gone. Van Staden's cellphone and laptop computer had been taken, as had all company financial documents. Police have been given statements by eye-witnesses, claiming that Du Plooy removed these.

Two days after being asked for comment Du Plooy handed both phone and laptop computer in at Absa Trust.

Asked to comment on allegations that she removed items from the Van Staden home after his death, May-Hammond demanded that she not be contacted at her work email address, then denied all allegations. She said she had flown to Durban at the request of Van Staden's brother to “help him with his brother's affairs” and wind up the estate.

Asked how they could have legally assisted in winding up Van Staden's estate when neither of them were heirs or executors, May-Hammond sent *noseweek* a lawyer's letter demanding that she not be contacted again.

Carol van Staden told *noseweek*: “Have you ever tried taking over a com-



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pany that's had its books wiped out? Not many people are rushing to pay their outstanding accounts, but everyone claims they are owed money, claiming the debts were recorded in the now destroyed books."

Asked to explain what went on at the Van Staden home and why the place appears to have been looted, Desie Van Staden replied in a long rambling email. A taster: "You obviously do not have a clue what you're talking about. Your stories are ALL wrong. You're not a journalist's a-hole (so get a life and a new job!).

"My personal life is none of your busi-

ness, but to clarify a point – I stopped doing drugs 10 years ago. So watch your ugly little mouth, because I will sue you for defamation – and for trying to accuse me or bring me into complicity with whatever rubbish you've heard."

Desie finished up by defending the state in which he left the house – with maggots multiplying in the kitchen, toilets unflushed and bath taps left running for days: "As for the dirty home – the maid would've come in the morning after I left. I'm not a maid."

Noseweek looks forward to hearing what action Absa, and the police, intend taking. ■

Kebble's dirt digger

SIX YEARS AGO, IN A PROFILE piece exposing Brett Kebble as a major corrupting influence in South African business and politics, *nose55* reported on former Security Branch Colonel Alfred (or André, depending which document you're reading) Oosthuizen's sinister new role as a private investigator – and master of intrigue – on behalf of various important figures in the ANC.

Kebble had employed Alf Oosthuizen, whose speciality is said to be "digging the dirt on people", to help compromise and silence his enemies. Oosthuizen resigned as head of intelligence at Security Branch headquarters in Pretoria at about the time the ANC was unbanned in 1989. Although former Security Branch operative John Horak fingered Oosthuizen as the man who gave the order to murder Steve Biko, the aged colonel has never been prosecuted for any of the many crimes in which he is alleged to have been complicit.

He did, however, apply for, and receive amnesty for his role in a number of murders in Swaziland – all of unarmed ANC activists ambushed and shot by Vlakplaas operatives such as his current business partner Riaan Bellingan.

Besides his work for Kebble, Oosthuizen has been linked to numerous intrigues since 1994. One of his companies, OPM Support Systems, was rumoured to be spying on the National Prosecuting Authority and the Scorpions, when those two bodies were probing the arms deal and scrutinising Cell C's acquisition of South Africa's third cellular licence. In late 2001 Oosthuizen and two other former Apartheid-era spies were paid \$2m by Cell C in a hushed-up out-of-

court settlement relating to the granting of the cellular licence. In his court papers, Oosthuizen had claimed that he had agreed with representatives of Saudi Oger to help find a "local empowerment group with the necessary political capabilities and competence to successfully politically lobby for the issuing of a cellular licence".

When the success fee was not forthcoming, Oosthuizen went to court. The local "empowerment group" referred to was headed up by Schabir Shaik.

Riaan Bellingan held the rank of sergeant at the time he was a member of one of the death squads answering to Colonel Oosthuizen, but the two are today regarded as close friends. Besides their joint interest in Advanced Corporate Solutions (referred to in our main story), they are joint directors of OPM Support Systems, and – with Nicolaas Palm – also directors of a company called RDP Marketing.

A colourful, if dangerous fellow, Bellingan was one of only two policemen to receive amnesty for the murder of the Gugulethu Seven – a group of UDF activists gunned down in 1986. After the shooting of the seven the Security Branch claimed that the entire group had been highly trained combatants who were heavily armed with machine guns and other weapons of war. It subsequently transpired that they were unarmed teenagers. Bellingan was also granted amnesty for the bombing of Cosatu House and for a series of further murders, kidnappings and other crimes – at least one of which involved murdering a policeman whose loyalty had become doubtful. ■



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Bank robberies on the increase

It has become all too common for SA companies to market, as their own, products presented to them by inventors of limited means

SOME CLEVER BLOKE INVENTS something bloody marvellous and approaches a large corporate; their geeks take a look – and everyone lives happily ever after. Everyone but the inventor, that is. A common story.

The unhappy character this time is a German, Dr Wolfram Reiners, serial inventor and winner of the EU's 2007 European ICT Prize, apparently the world's foremost information and communication technology award.

In 2000 Reiners developed a solution to one of the problems of credit card fraud. His invention basically involves a transaction authorisation and authentication system, whereby safe card transactions can be performed by merchants using Internet browsers or mobile phones. Reiners registered a South African patent for the technology in early 2001.

But in 2006 MTN Banking, a joint venture between Standard Bank and MTN, launched MTN Mobile Banking,

which provides a secure payment service using technology that, says Reiners, is essentially the same as his own. Even an article in Joburg's *The Star*, publicising the new banking product, used terms remarkably similar to those he employed to describe his patent. The MTN Banking product, says Reiners, clearly infringes his patent – and Standard Bank and MTN even had the gall to register their own patents for the technology.

In April 2010, Reiners sued Standard Bank, MTN and MTN Banking for patent infringement. He points out that test transactions by MTN Banking demonstrate exactly the same procedures as the technology he came up with. One of these, conducted by Marius Heath of Heath Executive Consultants, had Heath registering an MTN Banking debit card, and receiving a bank account number that was his cellphone number with an 0. Heath then transferred R200 to the new account from

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Absa broke off negotiations, so Reiners started talking to Standard Bank. He claims that from August 2001 to May 2002 he attended between twenty and thirty meetings with Standard Bank staff, including now group deputy chief executive Peter Wharton-Hood, and lesser mortals like Craig Bond, Rodney Myburgh and Richard Verschoor. A number of those he met are now involved with MTN Banking. Santie Botha left Absa in 2003 to join MTN.

Standard Bank was so keen on his technology, says Reiners, that at one stage it explored the possibility of a “rush order” to implement it before Christmas 2001. The product was given the name White Card, and Standard Bank asked Mastercard to evaluate and certify the product.

The Christmas launch didn’t happen, but in April 2002 Standard Bank asked Reiners to attend meetings with Visa FNB. The following May, Standard Bank sent a formal request for information to Reiners, asking for a proposal in which the full operational details of the technology would be supplied as part of a possible working relationship. Reiners completed this and submitted a detailed business case with a suggested price list. And then... nothing.

The matter will eventually go to trial. Unless of course the prospect of having to disclose loads of documentation about meetings persuades one or more of the parties to settle out of court.

One rather itchy question: If Standard Bank and MTN were so sure that Reiners’ 2001 patent was invalid because it wasn’t new, why did they go about registering patents for the same technology?

Standard Bank and MTN declined to comment. **W**

an FNB account, and went shopping. At Musica he selected a DVD for purchase and a teller activated the MTN bank card. Heath received a message on his phone, confirming the transaction and indicating his card had been turned off and would only be activated for next time he made a purchase. Just what my invention proposed to do, says Reiners.

The inventor is seeking an interdict. If the court finds for him, he wants an enquiry into damages. He thinks these are huge – anything up to R1bn.

The defence that has been filed is predictable enough: there’s been no infringement because the patent is invalid. Why? Because it wasn’t novel, allegedly having been pre-empted by various US patents. On top of this, say the big boys, there was no inventive step in what Reiners developed, and the patent breaches the prohibitions on patenting methods of doing business and computer programs.

Reiners says it has become all too common, especially in the field of information technology, for South African companies to market, as their own, products that have been presented to them by people of limited means.

To back up his allegations that he’s basically been robbed, Reiners claims that from April to August 2001 he met with Santie Botha, then marketing director at Absa, to discuss his product. He handed Botha large batches of documentation regarding the operational capabilities of the technology, and Botha set up further meetings for him with other Absa staff – Flip Breedt and Dave Liebenberg of the card issuing department (can you imagine such a world?) – where further information was handed over. All documentation apparently was labelled “Strictly confidential and proprietary ... patent protection pending – for evaluation purposes only”.

For reasons that weren’t made clear,

Silence of the Debtors??

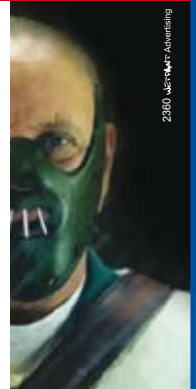
There is nothing more concerning than being unable to get hold of a debtor that owes you a fortune. Too often your ‘friendly’ client trades ‘faces’ and wears a completely different mask when it comes time to pay your invoices. Bad debts can easily flay your company’s cash flow.



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MY MY, I NEVER THOUGHT I would see the day – but there it is. Take a simple game played by 22 men, throw in an international showpiece – and, *voilà*, patriotism is cheerfully demonstrated by some of the most unpatriotic people I've ever come across.

Growing up in the USA, where patriotism is second nature, I was rather disappointed upon my return to Mzansi by what I considered a great lack of patriotism. But here I must change my tune – a transformation brought about by the recent match that saw Bafana Bafana taking on a pitiful Thailand at Nelspruit's Mbombela stadium.

My little enclave of Barberton was virtually empty, with most of our fine citizens flocking to see the Boys Boys trash our guests from South-East Asia. Maybe we can attribute the Thais' dismal 4-0 defeat to the political unrest they left at home? But what happened to Guatemala? Five-nil, for crying out loud. Don't people in that part of the world shoot their national players for losing so miserably? Well, as they leave for home let us wish them *vaya con dios* – go with god.

As it happens, I didn't make it to Mbombela stadium. But don't label me unpatriotic: after dealing with the crowds during the 1994 World Cup in the US – no thank you. I am content with watching it all on television.

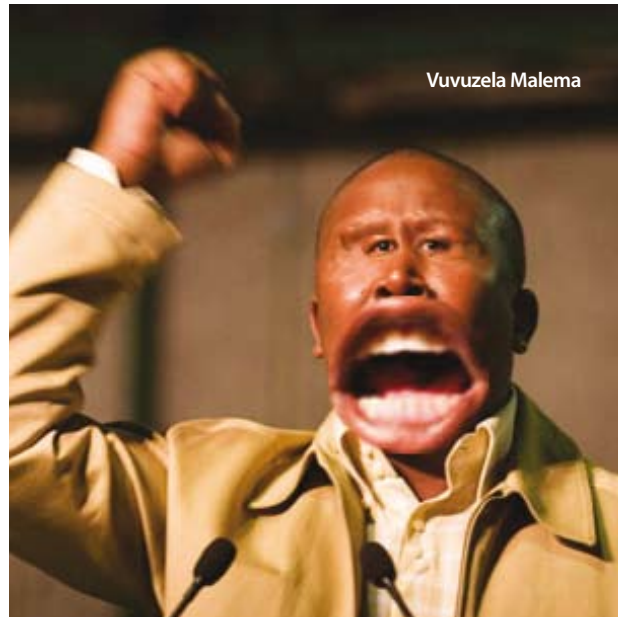
Don't question my patriotism, because, in fact, I have been astounded, and had a faltering belief that this country is truly a miracle nation re-instilled. Watching so many people waving the national flag and donning the Boys Boys jersey, I truly felt proud to be a South African.

Now of course a scribe never misses a moment, and I was truly touched when I saw a young family, father, mother and young boy in tow, dressed to the nines in Bafana gear – each carrying the national flag.

How I would love to see every home in South Africa flying the flag, as you see in the USA. How I would love to hear South Africans saying "Hey you can't do this to me, I am a South African". Why leave it to Americans with their "Hey you can't do this to me, I am an American"? Yes, even said with that extreme arrogance that pissed off the French ... and other Europeans.

There is something to be said about

They shoot players, don't they?



Vuvuzela Malema

national pride: it instils commitment and dedication to the building of a nation. I have often been asked why I publish my little community newspaper, and the answer is always the same: I like what I do and I care about my country and its people. I cannot stand by and allow a few idiots to abuse our resources, our political system and, more importantly, the hard-fought-for miracle we have achieved. No way Jose.

So, seeing that family bearing the flag and dressed in Bafana Bafana jerseys, I was simply reminded of why I do what I do. It is my hope that that young boy will grow up wishing to live by the words of the late US president, John F Kennedy, when he said "Do not ask what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country".

I mean, after all, with fine examples like our Mr Lovepants President and the revolutionary maniac Julius Malema, not to mention colourful characters like former police chief Selebi, the boy needs all the positive role models

he can get. And if his parents saw fit to dress him in patriotic garb and take him to see our team play, even if it was against such pitiful opposition, I say *Nkosi Sikelela I Africa*.

In a country that has gone through such dramatic changes, and in a peaceful manner for the most part, you would think we would be bursting with national pride. But as a journalist I cover and write about so much crap that all too often I find myself asking whether the folk of this beautiful and yes – miracle – country actually appreciate what they have.

If it takes a bunch of thugs like the FIFA crew to bring about patriotic fervor I say "Go for it Sepp Blatter". If it takes our Boys Boys to do the same, I will refrain from criticism of their performance where it counts – in front of their opponents' goalmouth.

Listen dear *nose* readers you are reading a commentary from someone who went to varsity in the States on a football scholarship – and I am talking football here, not the American grid-iron game. I am talking about the game of Pele, Maradonna and Jomo Sono. Yes; the game that has apparently brought patriotism to our shores.

Today I am proud to be a South African, and the photo of that little Bafana-dressed family has won itself space on my wall alongside other memorable pics taken in my years as a journalist. After all, it's one of the few that does not show the likes of angry youths dancing around burning tyres, or a dying woman whose inheritance was stolen by a municipal manager, or other all too numerous scenes of madness.

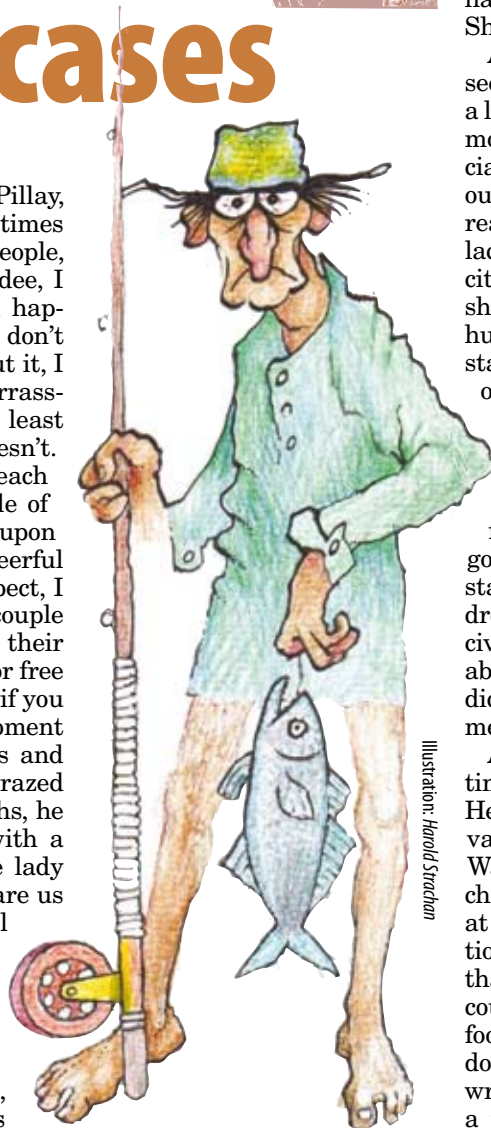
Viva South Africa, Viva the World Cup and may patriotism reign – at least for the duration of this international soccer spectacle. ▣



Special cases

SOMETIMES DESPAIR of Don't Delay Pillay, I mean I really do. I mean sometimes he's just so wantonly rude to people, you know, and I say to him Deedee, I say, your day would be so much happier if you were just normally polite. I don't mean you have to be all smarmy about it, I mean sometimes you're just so embarrassing, man! But does he ever take the least notice of what I'm saying? No he doesn't. We're coming away from the North Beach groyne one lovely morn, with a couple of nice shad for lunch, the sun shines upon us and there's every reason to be cheerful about life, but that is too much to expect, I tell you. Up ahead stands a young couple of those Christian folks who brush their teeth and smile at you and offer you for free some sanitised trolley-wipe literature if you could be so kind as to spare them a moment of your time. She stands with ankles and knees tight together lest some sex-crazed psychopath run his hand up her thighs, he stands smart/casual nicely shaved with a nice haircut, and as we come by the lady murmurs quite sweetly Could you spare us a moment of your time, please? Well yes, say I, but not for religion, I have never been religious. Well, says she, there's always a beginning, the Bible says In the Beginning God made the Heaven and the Earth. In the beginning God made you mudder's arse, says Deedee. The young man pardons Deedee instantly, smiles benignly. God forgives your blasphemy, says he. Also he forgives you mudder's arse, says Deedee. Very evil kind rogue bugger, you. Young Man's lips tremble. You bloody shit! says he. Deedee grins broadly, now he's happy, he has triumphed, he has got Young Man to betray his First Law of Life: Forgive All Men Everything Evermore.

And the above unhappy event comes to mind as I watch on the dish yet more gruesome footage about the Holocaust, of which we have a veritable spate these days for reasons unbeknownst and unexplainedst. Here we have Adolf Eichmann gripped by Mossad in Argentina and tried in Israel and sentenced to death by hanging, and it occurs to me wryly that Herr Adolf quite likely died with a cynical smirk on his lips, he had in a certain way triumphed over the Jews he so hated, since because of him they



**Uncle Sam
couldn't
allow the
people of
Chile to
make fools of
themselves**

had betrayed their First Law of Life: Thou Shalt Not Kill.

Aha. AHA! That was a special case, you see. Ja well oukei then. So we'll extrapolate a little bit, not too much, and at a convenient moment in the future perceive another Special Case and move all our righteous people out of a neighbouring land and when all is ready bottle up the entire remaining populace in a ghetto and blast these unrighteous citizens with white phosphorus artillery shells and cremate alive one thousand four hundred of them because they didn't understand democracy and elected a government of which we disapprove. Our homeland here had been filled with the sound of happy children at play and doves cooing, as in the Bible: "And in the land the voice of the turtle shall be heard". And for no discernible reason at all this false government which they had falsely elected started shooting rockets amongst the children and doves and killed three innocent civilians. Also seven soldiers. I mean sorry about another 3,600 phosphorised folks who didn't die, but God willed it. That's what is meant by Special Case, see?

And oh ja! come to think of it, at the very time of Herr Eichmann departing this life for Hell a certain dude name of Kissinger, privately known amongst Prez Nixon's merry Watergate lads as Heinrich Kushmirimtochis, who happened to be Secretary of State at the time, he, now, just happened to mention in the presence of certain CIA gents that Uncle Sam who personifies democracy couldn't allow the people of Chile to make fools of themselves as they recently had done by electing a wrong government and a wrong president name of Salvador Allende, a phoney socialist intellectual with specs, and curiously, just a month or so thereafter, this wrong prez got bottled up in his palace by a military mob and by Special Case became conveniently dead. Kashmir swore before all personkind and the Almighty that he hadn't done him in, the Chilean prez had killed himself from guilt. A reliable sort of military man who didn't wear specs, name of Augusto Pinochet, he took over and ran no risk of electoral mistakes ever and disappeared ten thousand people who wore specs, probably by chucking them out of choppers into the Pacific Ocean. Well he did bring stability to an unstable continent, naturally, and THAT'S what makes a Special Case. Ask Sec of State Clinton, she's perty good at SCs.

But I've drifted as usual. I meant to explain that Deedee is a dear soul and I like him like anything. It's just that...you know... **W**



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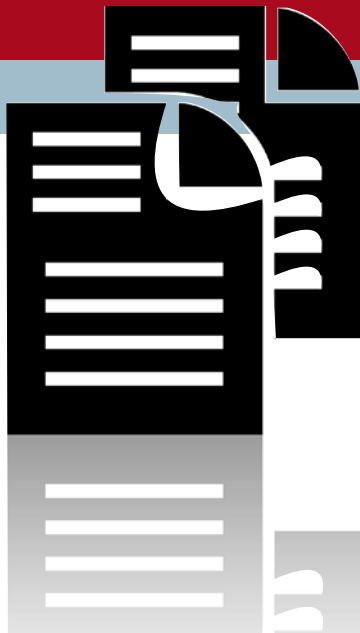
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SMALLS

PERSONAL

Koekie Falck's daughter, née Musgrave, please write to Michiel Falck, PO Box 791, Howick, 3290.

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