

news you're not supposed to know

noseweek



Mbeki
The plot thickens

The last Mohegans are after Sol's scalp!

How MI5 masterminded SA's dreaded Special Branch

The secrets of Thabo's MAP

Germiston hair has Neanderthal roots

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ON THE TRAIN

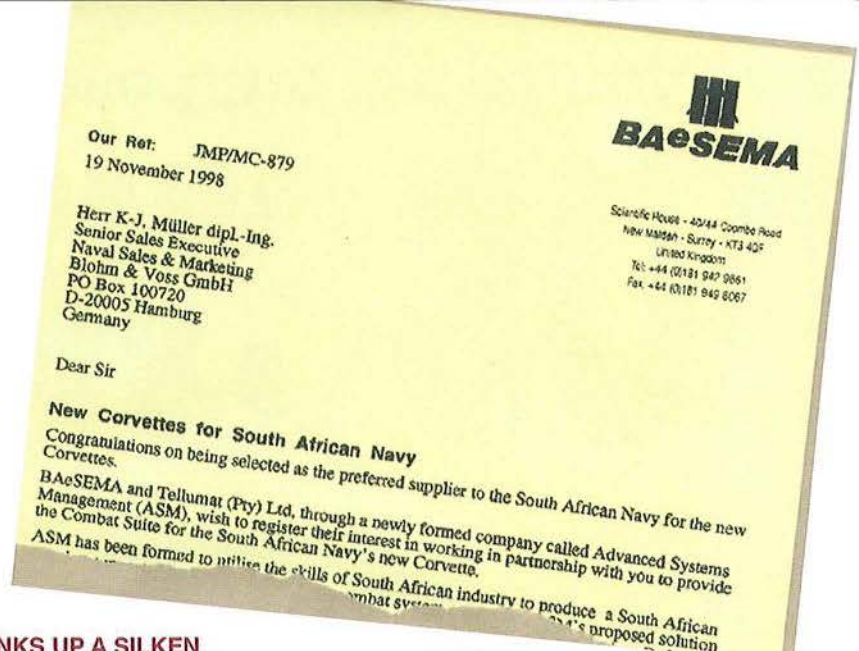
Can your readers help me unravel something? The other day on a train from Bournemouth to London, two men sat next to me, one black, one white. During the journey the white man addressed the black man as the chairman of a South African public affairs committee. The white man came from a computer company in the Southampton area and was very excited. He rang a colleague on his mobile phone to explain that there was a big deal about to go down in South Africa for touch-screen technology (computers allowing you to pay car tax and tv licences in post offices).

The committee chairman was going to help their company secure the tender. They would have to hurry, though, because the bids would close in 10 days time. However, this was okay because the chairman was flying back to South Africa that night. He had undertaken to get copies of the other five bids, which the Southampton company would then simply undercut. The bids would be shortlisted to three. Their company would be one of these and then they would be awarded the contract. All the committee chairman wanted was a new home, schooling for his children and an offshore bank account.

These were discussed in detail, including fees for the bank accounts and how his home could be bought without any trace to him. At the end of the conversation the committee chairman assured the computer man he would not regret the deal and mused: "You know there are certain times in life when everything comes together. This is one of those moments and I feel I must grasp it. You will not be disappointed."

The two men then signed heads of agreement on the train, either for this deal or something else — perhaps the personal deal. Is there any chance of finding out whether a deal of this nature is going through and, if so, who this committee chairman might be? I'd recognise him if I saw him again.
JCB, London

A full set of noseweek back issues will go to the first reader able to identify the chairman in question! — Ed.



LINKS UP A SILKEN SLEEVE

Yusuf Surtee is a 30% shareholder in the IT company, SEMA (South Africa) that has been chosen as the IT supplier to Cell-C. SEMA is a French company with close links to arms companies. Vive Le Yusuf!
ANON, ANON

Indeed! See the letter reproduced above. If I were Mr Mandela, I'd discreetly drop that line in silk shirts. They're starting to smell. — Ed.

Please answer these two questions.

1. In a notice of the annual general meeting of the Automobile Association, I note that a Y Surtee is listed as a Director of the AA. Is this the silken-shirt supplier Yussuf Surtee who featured in your organogram [nose32]?
2. Is Andre Stander of the notorious Stander gang of the 1980's really dead? In the mid 1990's when I was a guest in a suite at Loftus Versfeld in Pretoria, a sober, unknown policeman told me in a whisper that Andre Stander is alive and well. He said he was from the police unit that investigated police crimes. That night I hardly slept. The occurrence still haunts me today. Was Stander's "death" in Fort Lauderdale in 1985 a police cover-up? Koos Botha, Pretoria

1. *Yes! See previous letter. He's also a director of Vodacom. Which only goes to show it's who you know, not what you know, that counts in the world of big business.*
2. *We don't know. Maybe he didn't exist to start with, and the real plot was ... forget it, you don't want another sleepless night! — Ed.*

ARMS AND THE MAN

Congratulations on your subpoena — or whatever you've been threatened with! Now you know you've hit a raw nerve! Good luck!
THE MOUSY MANDARIN, Cape Town

The ANC is summoning the innocent. It is the cabinet who should be interrogated for info on the arms deals. Good luck and shake them off !!
TB, Johannesburg

ANOTHER TONY, ANOTHER MERC?

Your Tony Leon cover hit the mark more than you imagined: I hear an admirer has given him a lovely new Merc. Another Merc, another Tony! He has hurriedly put it in the party's name to avoid Yengeni-type enquiries.
WJ, Johannesburg

COVER STORY

Dear Reader,
Meet some of the Nedcor board members who approved the allocation of "phantom options" worth R195m to 16 executives as a bonus kept secret from shareholders: (left to right) Prof Michael Katz, Chris Liebenberg (chairman), Richard Laubscher (CEO), and Mike Levett (also chairman of Old Mutual plc). The scheme was cancelled when *Sunday Times* columnist Steve Mulholland cried foul! — See page 14.

Editor Martin Welz
Tel (021) 671-4809
Fax (021) 683-8641

Managing Ed Marten du Plessis
Deputy Editor Sam Sole
Editorial Consultant Peter Soal

Production Editor Rob Meintjes
Design Consultant Ray Meylan
Research/Writer Tony Beamish

Gauteng Bureau Vivienne Vermaak
Subscriptions Jacqui Kadey
Advertising Adrienne de Jongh

e-mail noseweek@iafrica.com

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WHAT GOES 'OINK OINK'?

I've never had such fun as I had reading noseweek. To say what you want and damn the rest! What utter bliss!

As for the rudeness of BMW drivers: I've figured it out. It's *where* they buy their cars. Here on the West Rand, everyone with a good job on the mines has bought his first-hand-second-hand Bee-em from For(s)dicks. That explains it nicely.

Also, Germiston can't claim sole proprietorship of that hairstyle. It originated on the West Rand, where it is alive and well and seen in Westgate — next to Forsdicks! SANDY DE BEER, Supplements Editor, *The Citizen*, Jo'burg
See page 24 — Ed.



What's the difference between a hedgehog and a BMW? A hedgehog has the pricks on the outside!

JIM IRVINE

YANKING SAA'S CHAIN

It was with relief and a sense of vindication that I read your article on Coleman Andrews. Unfortunately, the nation will pay for what he has done to SA's national air carrier.

The SA government appears to have done its best to sell off, or wreck, our international transport links. Safmarine was sold to the giant Danish container company A P Moller (Maersk), whose intentions remain doubtful. Then we bring in Andrews, a man with a history, to sell off part of SAA to his cronies at SAirGroup — and launch a carboot sale of a fleet of aircraft that have served the country's freight and passenger needs very well.

Where on earth are we heading?

As a trading nation SA *must* have reliable transport to move that trade. We want to join the global economy, yet we sell off the means to sustain links with our trading partners.

Last year Andrews sold off SAA's wide-bodied Airbuses and replaced them with narrow-bodied Boeing 737-800 aircraft. Why? What we have bought are just stretched old 737-200s with screens and gadgets added to make them look hi-tech. The Airbuses we sold, on the other hand, are versatile and equipped with state-of-the-art technology.

My association questioned SAA Cargo about this decision. Chris Greenside, SAA Cargo Manager at the time, conceded that the deci-

sion had been taken by SAA's board — without consulting SAA Cargo — and with no regard as to how cargo volumes would be handled once the Airbuses had left service. Our specific concern was cargo capacity from Johannesburg to Cape Town. SAA's argument was, apparently, that more (smaller) planes doing more flights would provide the same cargo-carrying capacity as fewer flights with bigger, wide-bodied planes had done. Which is, of course, not true. The Boeing 737-800 is a belly-loading aircraft which, as you pointed out, cannot handle air pallets/containers. Cargo is loose loaded into the belly hold, with limits on package size, and with all the problems of cross tainting of commodities, double handling, damages, pilferage and lack of cooling for frozen cargo.

Given the cargo-capacity problems of the 737-800, the idea is now that most cargo will be road feedered down to Cape Town, Port Elizabeth etc. Not a peep has been heard about this from the government, whose transport strategy is stated to be that cargo should be taken off SA's abused road network! I had these questions put to the Transport Minister in Parliament last August:

1. Were stakeholders consulted about cargo specifications of the new fleet?

The minister's reply: *Cargo clients were not consulted because negotiations surrounding the purchase were sensitive.*

2. Were alternative air-freight arrangements considered, based on current and anticipated future demand?

The minister's reply: *As the Boeing 737-800 will be operating additional frequencies, there is no need to introduce alternative air freight arrangements to cover anticipated demand.*

What sensitivities was the minister talking about? There has been more in the press about SA's arms deal than about these aircraft. This is a commercial purchase, so why should there be sensitivities?

In Cape Town we already see the unfortunate results of this bad aircraft choice. Cargo space is at a premium. What will happen in two years' time when we want to fill a new conference centre with hundreds of delegates — and fly in all their exhibits?

What about the much-mooted ship-repair and movie industries, both punted as saviours of the local economy? These need good passenger and cargo links — now tenuous at best.

One last point: what is it with this firm of consultants, Bain & Co? They've been through SAA and SARS and seem to be the flavour of the week. In the book *Dangerous Company* Bain is described as being "the consulting industry's most secretive firm" and is nicknamed "the KGB of management consulting".

To quote the book: "From the outset, Bain

letters continued on page 25

Have you read any good bottles lately?



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Just because the president is paranoid doesn't mean there isn't a plot



The point is often made that President Thabo Mbeki surrounds himself with informers rather than advisers — with the result that he is often well informed but poorly advised.

In that light, how are we to judge the — outwardly mystifying — plot allegations which have rebounded so badly on the presidency?

Most commentators dismiss as nonsense the notion of a plot against the President — involving a threat to his life. Steve Tshwete's revelations were undoubtedly politically driven — the culmination of an intense propaganda war and power struggle within the ANC. (See accompanying story.) But before we dismiss him as a blundering political hack, it is worth taking a closer look at the plot allegations.

The key allegations were made by former Mpumalanga ANC Youth League leader James Nkambule, who obviously enjoys credibility with Tshwete and the President, despite the 70-odd fraud charges he faces.

The Nkambule documents — those published in the *Sunday Times* and others obtained by noseweek — offer a dramatic insight into the ANC. They reveal how the party is still dogged by its

exile culture — a leadership built around personalities, each with their own shady intelligence and money-making networks — and dogged, too, by the unfinished business of those in its ranks who were allegedly apartheid agents.

Linking the two is another bit of unfinished business: the question whether there was a wider conspiracy — reaching to within the ANC — that led to the assassination of charismatic SACP leader Chris Hani.

Affidavits and reports from Nkambule indicate that he was engaged by ANC intelligence structures to spy on the so-called “Mathews Phosa” group.

Phosa mounted a strong bid to stand against Jacob Zuma in the election for the ANC deputy presidency in 1998 — a move which put him on a collision course with Thabo Mbeki. Mbeki had Phosa investigated by the ANC's Maphisa Commission, which broke up his Mpumalanga powerbase — citing “factionalism” — and allowed Mbeki to remove him as Mpumalanga premier.

Nkambule, who had been close to Phosa, delivered some of the most damning testimony to the Maphisa Commission. Despite this, Nkambule alleges, after leaving political office Phosa again attempted to cultivate Nkambule.

In one affidavit, Nkambule explains: “Mathews Phosa needed my ‘contacts’ and ‘skill’ to fight back at President Mbeki (whom he considers his ultimate enemy) ... he needed me to retract the content of a report dated 16 November 1998, compiled by myself and submitted to the ANC leadership, which he considers to have buried his political

ambitions. My retraction of this report in public would have humiliated the President and confirmed that the President lacking in ‘judgement’. This would have made it easier for Mathews Phosa to launch a dramatic return into active ANC politics, and eventually ensuring him his long ambition of being deputy president of the country!”

Nkambule proceeded to obtain what he calls “authority from the President” to renew his relationship with Phosa.

Nkambule says he then worked for “ANC intelligence at Shell House”, a clandestine structure headed by one Titus Maleka, who apparently reported to the ANC presidency.

What emerges from this saga — and from earlier reports — is the routine use of undeclared intelligence networks — and the misuse of state intelligence structures by factions within the ANC.

Mbeki seems to be the chief culprit. In nose32 we exposed the workings of Congress Consultants, a “guerrilla” intelligence network that was used by the Presidency — until its investigations into the arms deal got too hot to handle.

There have been others. The former head of the National Intelligence Agency's special investigations unit, Thabo Kubu, is alleged to have been employed at ANC headquarters during his suspension from the unit. (He was suspended when the Auditor General found irregularities in the unit's accounts.) At the time, Kubu also claimed to be reporting directly to President Mbeki.

Recently the usually well-informed *Africa Confidential* reported that the NIA was training a special unit to function as

the "political police" of the ANC. The newsletter reported that some 40 hand-picked operatives were being trained in surveillance and forensic techniques by French intelligence specialists at a secret Defence Intelligence base on the Vaal River, called "The Island". Their ostensible function would be to uncover corruption.

It is said they will investigate both political figures and government officials, and report directly to the office of Deputy President Jacob Zuma. The programme is co-ordinated by the NIA's head of operations, Peter Blose, who reports to agency chief Vusi Mavimbela.

Blose, incidentally, was the NIA agent who provided Mbeki with a report on the alleged drug smuggling activities of Tokyo Sexwale during the anti-apartheid struggle. The report caused a public breach between Mbeki and Sexwale.

But it appears Mbeki does not trust the NIA either. Mavimbela is apparently regarded as too close to some of his enemies for comfort. Intelligence sources believe that Mbeki has engaged former star MI6 agent Michael Oatley to advise him on security issues and to do "quality control" on key NIA reports via his security and intelligence company CIEX.

Police Commissioner Jackie Selebi — another Mbeki loyalist — was also involved in the Nkambule affair: apparently he assisted Nkambule's attempt to gather evidence on Phosa.

Which brings us to the Hani connection. It was in the course of spying on Phosa for the President that, Nkambule says, he came upon the Chris Hani story.

The story begins with the arrival of a shipment of arms and ammunition in Maputo harbour in about September or October 1992. The arms were, apparently, earmarked for the ANC, but, by then, the armed struggle had been called off. A meeting took place in Maputo to decide what to do with the weapons. Those who allegedly attended were Phosa, MK chief (and later Minister of Defence) Joe Modise, Hani and Teddy Coleman (an ANC man who became NIA head in Mpumalanga). They decided the arms should be sold and the proceeds handed to the ANC.

Nkambule says Phosa and Modise met in Johannesburg with Kenyan businessman Ketan Somaia. (His Dolphin Group was later to be embroiled in a controversial contract with the Mpumalanga Parks Board.) Somaia was engaged to sell the weapons, which he did, realising \$2.5m.

At a later meeting in March

1993, Hani was angry because Modise, who had been delegated to brief the ANC leadership about the money, hadn't done so. Phosa and Modise promised to rectify the matter.

Nkambule states: "It is my information that the ANC leadership was, however, never briefed on, nor informed about, the transaction. In the second week of April 1993 Chris Hani was gunned down in Boksburg by Janusz Walus."

Nkambule's sources for this story are interesting: they are all former apartheid security operatives or their ANC agents. One, Steve Mbuyisa, was a special adviser to Phosa during part of his tenure as Mpumalanga premier. He was named as an apartheid informer by former MI

'Phosa wanted Walus to implicate Pres Mbeki in the plot to kill Hani.'

agent Frans Mandlazi at an amnesty hearing last year.

Nkambule says he himself was persuaded to turn against Phosa after being shown documents by agents from the NIA supposedly "proving" that Phosa had supplied apartheid intelligence structures with information. The allegations, which Phosa dismisses as rubbish, are not new. Phosa was one of those named by PAC MP Patricia de Lille in Parliament as being on a list of 12 high-profile alleged spies.

Mbeki himself was once under suspicion of being an "agent of Pretoria". A senior Angolan government source claims that Mbeki was at one stage detained by Angolan security at the behest of the ANC — an experience that, the source believes, has contributed to Mbeki's strained relationship with the MPLA government in Luanda.

Keep in mind that also on De Lille's list were ministers Joe Modise, Penuell Maduna, and Stella Sigcau; former Deputy Minister for Intelligence Joe Nhlanhla, Peter Mokaba, Eastern Cape Premier Makhenkesi Stofile, and NIA director Reavell Rhodes "Ricky" Nkondo. Nkondo was a senior member of the ANC's department of security and intelligence. (He was, *inter alia*, Mo Shaik's "handler".)

Nkondo is one of the ANC intelligence figures who have been linked to Eugene Riley, the former Civil Co-operation Bureau agent who warned his Military Intelligence bosses of a plot to kill Hani, shortly before the assassination was actually carried out. Riley — allegedly acting on information from double agents inside the ANC — warned that an unnamed faction in the ANC was part of a plot to kill Hani.

Nkambule takes the story in Riley's report a step further — and this is where his motives become more obviously suspect: he claims that Phosa arranged for assassin Janusz Walus to draw up an affidavit in which Walus would implicate President Mbeki in the plot to kill Hani. According to Nkambule, Walus was to say that Mbeki had told him (Walus) that Chris Hani wanted to sideline Mbeki and succeed Nelson Mandela as leader of the ANC. This move would be bad for the country. Walus was required to say that Mbeki had then (through an unnamed aide) provided the murder weapon and details of Hani's security.

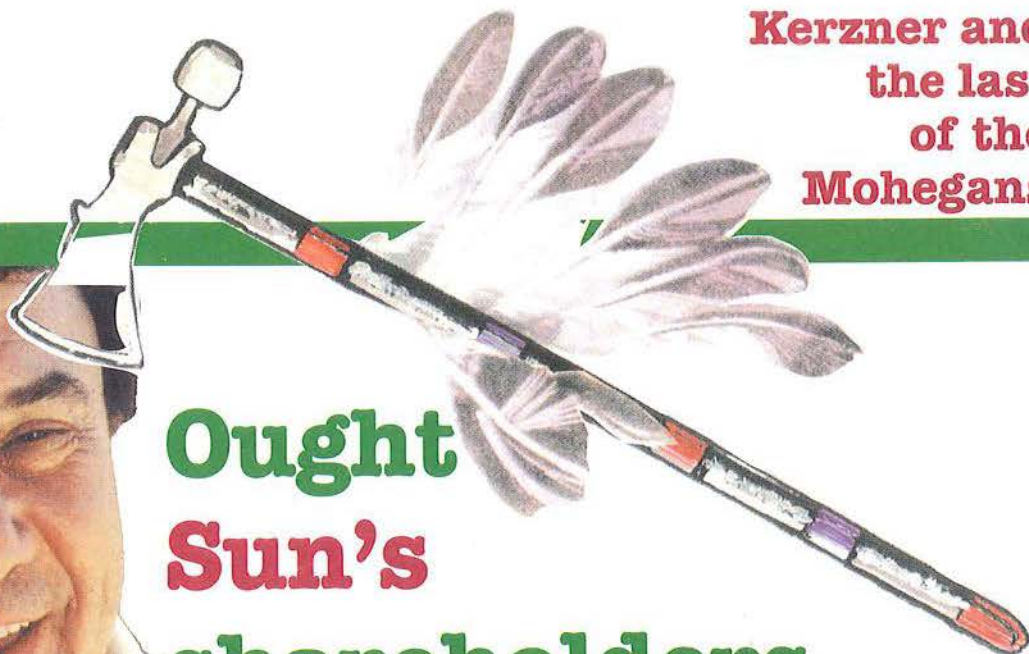
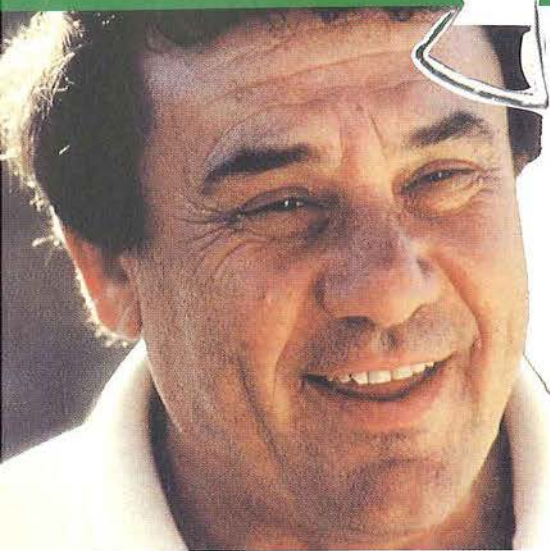
It is this allegation which Tshwete is now investigating. So far there has been an outright denial from Gaye Derby-Lewis — wife of Walus's co-conspirator Clive Derby-Lewis — but so far no word from Walus himself.

True or untrue, the story certainly has all the makings of a plot — not the political metaphor, the real thing. *n*



Artwork GRAEME ARENDESE © Writer RODNEY MORGAN

Kerzner and the last of the Mohegans



Ought Sun's shareholders be told?

Not since American colonisers bartered Manhattan for a handful of trinkets have Red Indians been as comprehensively ripped off, as the last of the Mohegans have been by Sol Kerzner's Sun International Hotels, or so it would appear from reports in the *Boston Globe*.

According to the *Globe*, Sun International subsidiary Trading Cove Associates (TCA) will have got more than \$1b for its role in establishing the Mohegan Sun casino in Connecticut. The *Globe* alleges that this was in exchange for having befriended the Mohegan chief by hiring his son, and using TCA employees to renovate the chief's modest house.

The Mohegans have bought TCA out of its seven-year casino management contract, from which they'd already paid TCA some \$145m in management fees since the Mohegan Sun's opening in 1996.

Of the \$1b grossed in total by TCA from the Mohegans, about \$430m represents "extra compensation" which exceeds the legally-established limit. It is alleged that the Mohegans used \$430m from casino revenues to buy back the 14-year right they had previously granted TCA to develop a hotel on the Mohegan Sun site.

The hotel has not been built — and TCA failed to declare this hotel "side-deal" on the hotel to the Indian gaming authorities when it applied to participate in development of the Mohegan casino. TCA's argument is that Indian gaming legislation requires disclosure of casino contracts, not hotel contracts. The US Supreme Court first approved gaming on

US Congress moves to curb casino corruption

"Leery of non-Indian investors turning tribal casinos into personal cash cows, Congress created a new agency to ensure that outsider managers get no more than 40% of net casino revenues, and only for seven years. But investors behind the Mohegan tribe found a way to receive at least \$430m above those limits, due in part to an apparent regulatory ambiguity and a sympathetic federal official. In all, the investor group headed by Sol Kerzner, developer of the Sun City casino in South Africa, will take at least \$800m out of the Mohegan Sun casino."

So declared the *Boston Globe* on 10 December last year, kicking off a series

of articles which document the Sun King's more recent adventures — in Red Indian territory. By April this year the series had reached no less than 21 thrilling instalments and had extended the scope of its inquiry to widespread corruption in the US Bureau of Indian Affairs — involving high-ranking officials in the former Clinton administration. A group of Republican Congressmen, including Frank Wolf (Virginia), and Robert Simmons (Connecticut) have asked for activities of the Bureau to be officially investigated.

Christopher Shays (Rep. Connecticut), explains: "It's gone beyond helping Indians to the point where the process is very corrupt and the way casinos are run is very corrupt. I have no confidence whatsoever that people are playing by the rules."

ship signed away extremely valuable rights to investors (TCA) when the Mohegans were penniless and were relying on the advice of lawyers who, apparently, were paid by those investors.

"The Mohegan leaders not only gave the investors — TCA, headed by Sol Kerzner, creator of the Sun City casino and resort in South Africa — 40 percent of the gaming revenues, but also the exclusive rights to develop and manage a hotel at the casino site," Murphy says.

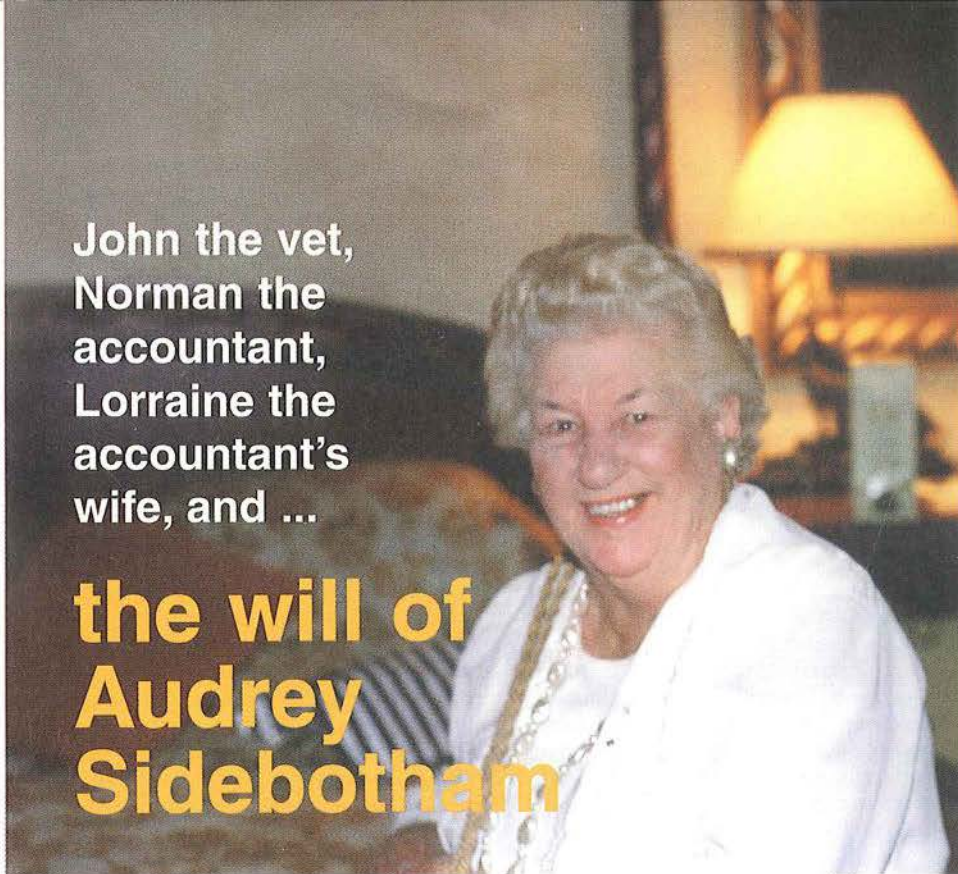
Indian reservations in 1987 as a means of economic development, points out *Globe* journalist Sean Murphy. A year later, Congress passed the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act which aimed to keep profits in Indian hands. To attract capital and business know-how to Indian reservations, Congress allowed outside investors to receive up to 30 percent of net gaming revenue for five years, or up to 40 percent for seven years in exceptional circumstances.

But in the case of the Mohegan Sun casino, writes Murphy, the tribal leader-

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John the vet,
Norman the
accountant,
Lorraine the
accountant's
wife, and ...

the will of Audrey Sidebotham



Audrey Sidebotham was a merry widow. Photographs show a stylish, jolly woman with a bombe of golden hair and a great appetite for life. She enjoyed a tipple — there are few photographs where she is not holding a glass — and entertained with extreme generosity, standing friends and relatives to free trips on the Union Castle Lines or taking parties of guests to smart restaurants. There was a sense in her headlong pursuit of the enjoyment of life of someone who had glimpsed the sadder side of things and wished to make the most of her good fortune.

Both her parents had died by the time she was eight and she and her younger sister Yvonne and brother were brought up in an orphanage. Her brother was killed in action in WWII. Her marriage to Keith Sidebotham, who earned his fortune as an oil executive in Angola, was a long and happy one, but they had no children.

Even after Keith died and right up until she was in her seventies, she remained a great party gal.

Although Audrey was not oil sheik rich, she had been left comfortably off — and like many people would be worth more dead than alive. When she died on 10th August, 1998, at the age of 77, her estate amounted to a tidy little sum of R3.7m.

However, the bulk of it was not left to her closest kin and faithful servants as she had often assured them, but was split between the family vet and Audrey's accountant, both of whom had, in

Audrey's last years, become very influential in her life.

Dr John McMullen is a bluff genial Irishman, a prodigious whisky drinker, and a society vet who has veterinary clinics in Constantia, Tokai and Pine-lands. He and Audrey Sidebotham were first drawn together over the wellbeing of Audrey's beloved miniature bulldog, Lucy. However, as time went on, they found they also had in common a fondness for whisky. Dr McMullen's rather louche dealing in potentially dangerous sleeping pills, to which Audrey Sidebotham became addicted, further added to his charms in her eyes.

Accounts to Audrey Sidebotham from Dr J McMullen & Associates and from Forest Drive Veterinary Clinic in the last three years of her life suggest that the vet

was treating the owner as much as the pet. For example, in her vet's bill for Jan 1994, a charge for R139 is described as "drugs self", while Lucy got only R9's worth of drugs, and her anal glands expressed for R10. In March that year Lucy had her anal glands expressed again, for R10, while Audrey Sidebotham shelled out another R139 for "drugs self". "Drugs self" became a regular item on his bills thereafter. In August the price of "drugs self" had gone up to R160. Lucy — who must have been on a rather ritzy diet — once again had her anal glands expressed at a cost of R6.

Even taking into account Audrey's devotion to Lucy, the amounts of money paid to Dr McMullen and his Forest Drive Veterinary Clinic soon grew to alarming proportions.

In the last years of her life Audrey Sidebotham signed cheques amounting to R227 894, made out either to Dr John McMullen personally or to his practice. Several were for large sums, such as one for R10 000 three days before Christmas in 1996, R6 000 on June 6, 1997 and on three consecutive days in November of that year, cheques for R5 000, R7 000 and R4 000. In December it happened again with three cheques totalling R11 000. In January 1997 there was another R3 000 and in March a cheque for R2 400. On May 5 1998, McMullen received a personal cheque for R50 000. "Frankly," says Yvonne Silberbauer, Audrey's sister, "I can't imagine what that cheque was for."

True he was helping Audrey to run her household, paying the servants and other bills. And there was, off course, all that whisky to be stocked. But still the sums appear excessive to Audrey's family.

As for the vet's bills, even those are odd. Lucy is a healthy dog, apart from being a bit of a greedy guts, and has hardly visited the vet since her mistress's death.

"Drugs self", it transpires, was a codeword for the sleeping drug Dormi-

Party gal Audrey Sidebotham in fancy dress and in a familiar pose with husband Keith.



cum, that McMullen was in the habit of providing for Audrey. It is a Schedule 5 benzodiazepine which is highly addictive. Every authoritative text on benzodiazepines cautions that dependence may develop with regular use. Nathan Finkelshtein, a pharmacist consulted by the family has declared: "Patients who use this agent regularly will experience drowsiness, sedation and ataxia as side effects and these effects are worsened by the concomitant use of alcohol."

"In an appropriate dose it can also be used as a hypnotic ...

"The long-term use of this agent in conjunction with alcohol could not have been in the best interests of the patient concerned. Keeping a patient on a benzodiazepine for such a protracted period of time can best be described as grossly irresponsible on the part of any practitioner."

He added: "I must express my dismay that a veterinarian was supplying a Schedule 5 medicine to a human subject."

"A veterinarian cannot supply scheduled medicines other than for an animal under his care or treatment."

surprise to some of Audrey's closest friends and family.

Monica Clark, a long-time friend of Audrey's, remembers Audrey saying that Lorraine Norman was "no friend of hers".

Sprigg Abbott had long handled Audrey's financial affairs, but Leslie Norman was a relative newcomer.

Over the years Audrey Sidebotham paid out thousands of rands to Sprigg Abbott & Company. The family is particularly puzzled about a cheque for R180 000 made out to Sprigg Abbott on 7th February 1997, the same day she signed her last will.

Audrey knew the value of money and had discussed her intentions at length with her sister, early in 1997, shortly before Yvonne left for an extended holiday in New Zealand. "Audrey insisted that I sit down with her and discuss her will, as I would be gone for three months. She discussed various items which she wanted to go to family members or her employees, adding: 'In any case you can share things out as you like. It will be your's anyway.'" She would also be making substantial provision for her maid Philda, "so she

change in her sister. "She started to get very nervous. She was agitated and shaky. She was very suspicious of people, paranoid one could say. She also became very vague and forgetful. In fact my sister changed from a cheerful type of person to a morose person. Her hands would shake and her mouth would hang open."

According to experts these could all be symptoms of benzodiazepine addiction.

Marie Alberts, next door neighbour and retired nursing services manager at Valkenberg Mental Hospital, also noticed the changes. "Already in December 1995 I noticed that Audrey was not her sparkling self. She told me she was taking pills that John the Vet got her. I told her to go to a proper doctor. She was not a dog."

Around the beginning of 1996 Audrey's attitude towards Yvonne and her daughter Lu changed. "We didn't seem to be as welcome anymore. Audrey was always making excuses why we shouldn't visit. By this time she was thick as thieves with John the Vet, although he and his wife had rarely been on Audrey's party guest lists. Leslie Norman now also seemed to be very much in the picture."

During this time John the Vet might not have been on party lists, but the man who Yvonne refers to as the "Irish drunk barracuda", was very much in home visit mode. "On many occasions, whether it was morning, lunchtime or evenings, John the Vet would be there drinking whisky," she says.

According to Lu Silberbauer there were as many as 50 to 60 whisky bottles in the courtyard of her aunt's house when she was dying. The day after her death the bottles disappeared.

In October 1997 Audrey had a car accident and was hospitalised at the Vincent Pallotti Hospital in Pinelands. Yvonne found that when she visited, John the Vet would invariably already be there — with a bottle of whisky. "The two of them would be drinking from the hospital tooth glasses," she says. "Once I had a telephone call from the hospital to tell me that they were having difficulties with Audrey. I subsequently learned that she was accusing the staff of stealing pills they had found hidden under her pillow. They didn't know where she'd got them."

Later Yvonne persuaded Audrey to see her doctor, Dr Smith. But Audrey didn't like Dr Smith's medicines. She told Yvonne that they made her feel sick, and that John the vet got her medicines wholesale. Another problem of Dormicum addiction is that you cannot easily stop taking them. When Lu told Dr Smith about the Dormicum he responded: "She's dying and I suppose it would be unkind to deprive her of it at this stage." Audrey

From left to right: Carol and John McMullen, Audrey Sidebotham and Monica Clark.



"I know that Dr McMullen would bring Madam Dormicum tablets — I have seen him bring them to her. I know they were Dormicum because I saw the name on the box," said Audrey's longtime helper Philda Kambi. "Madam took them until she died. There were tablets in her bedside drawer until they day she died. But afterwards they were missing."

The second couple to benefit hugely from Audrey Sidebotham's will were Leslie and Lorraine Norman. Leslie Norman is a chartered accountant, listed as a financial consultant with Sprigg Abbott & Company whose mission they say is, "to offer our clients good service and advice in all our fields of expertise".

The fact that Leslie and Lorraine Norman snagged one half of Audrey Sidebotham's estate came as a great

would never have to work again because she was old", and her lifelong gardeners, Charlie Mpondwana, his eldest son Johnson and his youngest son James.

Audrey was particularly close to her sister Yvonne, who says: "When we were in the orphanage Audrey assumed the role of my mother — she was five years older than me." They were so close that in 1993 Audrey Sidebotham begged Yvonne, her husband and five children, to move from Johannesburg to Cape Town so they could be nearer each other. Audrey asked her estate-agent friend Monica Clark to find her two houses in Pinelands within walking distance from one another.

The relationship between the sisters was sweet. There was even a gift of a trip to Hong Kong for Yvonne and her family.

Around June 1996 Yvonne noticed a

was soon back in the vet's care.

Philda Kambi, who had been with Audrey for twenty years, also noticed the increasing reliance that she placed on John the Vet.

"Dr John used to visit Madam almost every evening. He usually came about four o'clock in the afternoon, sometimes two o'clock or three. He stayed usually about one hour. Madam and John would both drink whisky. Madam would have about two very large tots with water and Dr John would have soda with his.

"I saw Dr John bring tablets on many occasions. He gave Madam Dormicum tablets even before her accident. She took them until she died."

Audrey Sidebotham died in August 1998. Her last will and testament was a startling surprise, to say the least. The estate was worth R2.9 million after tax and death duties had been paid. The bulk of it — over R2 million — was split between John the Vet and Norman the Accountant — or rather his wife Lorraine.

The will had been drawn up in February, 1997, at a time when the influence of John the Vet and Norman was at its height, when Audrey was heavily dependant on pills and alcohol, and when her family was away on holiday.

It starts with the usual preamble cancelling all previous wills. The only evidence of a previous will is contained in a letter from attorneys Buchanan Boyes, dated 27 June 1995, which refers to a will drafted in accordance with Audrey's instructions and forwarded to Sprigg Abbott for safe-keeping. What happened to that previous will is not known.

Leslie Norman was named as executor in terms of Audrey's final will.

By far the most significant beneficiaries of the will were John McMullen, Lorraine Norman and the Norman family trust.

Norman's wife Lorraine received a bequest of R25 000, and Audrey's Jetta (which had originally been left to Yvonne but was changed to Lorraine in a later codicil). She also got a quarter share of the residue, amounting to R498 563.

The Leslie Norman Family Trust got another quarter share of the residue.

Dr John McMullen received R35 000 in cash — plus another million or so, being his one half share of the residue.

McMullen and Norman also collected significant sums in interest earned in the estate before distribution in early 1999: For McMullen an extra R94 000, and for the Normans R47 000 each.

Staff members at Sprigg Abbott — Jeanette Craig and Loraine Banfield — both received bequests of R15 000, subject to the curious stricture that the sums would be paid only if they were still in the

employ of Sprigg Abbott at the time of Audrey Sidebotham's death — as if the bequest was a reward for loyalty to Norman rather than for friendship shown to Audrey!

Yvonne Silberbauer inherited R10 000 plus the house in Pinelands in which she was living.

Philda Kambi, now 56 years old and arthritic, got Audrey's clothes and only R20 000 in cash. The loan of R70 000 that Audrey had made her to purchase a house was forgiven, but there was no mention of the pension promised to her.

The Mpondwanas were left R18 000, not quite what they had been led to expect.

Philda told noseweek: "I do not believe that madam changed her will against me. Towards the end before madam died, her head wasn't right. I used to tell her not to take so many pills."

There were two codicils added to the original will, the first in November 1997 and the second in April 1998.

In terms of the codicils A bequest to Yvonne Silberbauer of R50 000 was reduced to R10 000. Nephew Stanley

Lucy, Audrey Sidebotham's bulldog.



Siberbauer had his bequest halved — from R40 000 to R20 000. Charles and Kathy Silberbauer had their bequests reduced from R10 000 to R8 000. Niece Lu had her bequest of R10 000 cancelled in the first codicil only to be reinstated to the tune of R8 000 in the second.

The first codicils upped John McMullen's bequest from R30 000 to R35 000. His former receptionist, Glenda Alison Sokolik, got R8 000 in terms of the second codicil.

The will left a lot of people unhappy. Yvonne Silberbauer was particularly distressed. She had been led to understand by Audrey that she would inherit half of the estate, with the residue being used to provide substantially for the servants and Lucy the dog. She and the family, friends and retainers, believe that

"I do not believe that madam changed her will against me. Before madam died, her head wasn't right. I used to tell her not to take so many pills."

the will with its codicils was not written by a woman of sound mind. But, when, shortly after Audrey's death, the family asked to see the will, Leslie Norman refused to show it to them, saying that he would not give beneficiaries a copy of the will and its codicils until such time as they had been accepted by the Master of the Supreme Court. They believe this was to prevent them from disputing the will, or his appointment as executor and trustee.

There is little doubt that, during the last years of her life, both John McMullen and Leslie Norman exercised great influence over the vulnerable old lady. In a Gothic reenactment of an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth, only months before her death she was persuaded to undergo two operations — which she had previously been advised in America were not necessary. A blind left eye was removed and replaced with a glass eye. The operation was performed by none other than Leslie Norman's son in law, a Dr Ivey. Dr Brian McMullen, dentist brother of John the Vet, extracted all her lower teeth and replaced them with false teeth.

In those last years many friends and relatives felt they were being excluded. Monica Clark was accustomed to visiting Audrey frequently. However, when Audrey was dying Philda the housekeeper told her that she had been instructed by Norman and McMullen to deny her access to Audrey's house. "I found it very emotional," says Monica, "as Audrey and I were very close and I knew she was dying and alone. I visited her at around 12 midday the day she died and was not allowed in. She died one and a quarter hours later."

Her sister Yvonne says, "What has really broken my heart is the unhappiness and trauma of my sister in the last few years of her life. The exclusion of her loyal and loving servants, to all of whom she had promised substantial pensions, which would have made an enormous difference to the quality of their lives, is another factor, which hurts enormously." n

How far will the government go?



The public face of Cell C — Zwelakhe Mankazana

Does Pretoria High Court Judge Hekkie Daniels think that the Minister of Communications, Ivy Matsepe-Casaburri is a liar?

The judge's unguarded comment to this effect (later withdrawn by his lordship – amid furious accusations of “bias”) may yet be revisited in the course of his review of how Cell C was selected as South Africa's third cellular network operator.

But much more is at issue than Ivy's credibility: the case is the culmination of an epic battle, with major legal, economic and political implications for President Thabo Mbeki's government.

The stakes – financial, personal and political – are huge: firstly, of course, for the bidders themselves. Nextcom, currently the losing bidder, is challenging the controversial award of the licence to its rival, Cell C. If the third cellular operator is only half as successful as the first two – Vodacom and MTN – the licence could be worth billions. (Of course, if grievously mismanaged, it could lose similarly large amounts.) Nextcom and Cell C have each spent millions on their bids; their two-year legal battle has cost millions more.

Next there's Ivy Matsepe-Casaburri herself. Whether liar or angel, her political head is on the block. She has publicly backed Cell C's bid. Since her appointment to the cabinet by Mbeki in 1999 (after he “retired” former communications minister Jay Naidoo), Matsepe-

Casaburri has stumbled from one policy disaster to the next. This could be her last.

The case has also heightened political tensions within the ANC alliance, pitting different factions of the liberation movement's Umkhonto we Sizwe military veterans against each other in ways which may have significant political fallout.

Nextcom is led by the ebullient Bushy Kelebonye, a comrade of the late Chris Hani and a man who was not afraid to get his hands dirty in tackling the white right-wing in the early nineties. Nextcom's financial muscle is provided by Union Alliance Media, a union investment vehicle representing interests rated “rather less close” to President Mbeki within the fractious ANC-SACP-Cosatu spectrum.

Kelebonye himself is regarded as close to Deputy President Jacob Zuma, so that the extent of his loyalty to the Mbeki establishment is a matter for some speculation.

Competitor Cell C's “empowerment vehicle”, Cellsaf, is headed by Lambert Moloi, a former close aide to MK commander Joe Modise, and rated a member of the “1d guard”. He and Modise are also deeply involved in the Mbeki government's controversial R43 billion-plus arms-buying spree. Cellsaf's other shareholders include several figures equally well-known to noseweek readers: amongst them two of the Shaik brothers (Yunis and Schabir), and Yusuf Surtee. Many, if not most of them appear to have interests in the defence industry.

The more public face of Cell C, however, is the urbane Zwelakhe Mankazana,

whose mother (all who know are quick to point out) was Jewish, and who cut his political teeth on the exile circuit in Moscow. In the background, is Communications Department director general Andile Ngcaba, another MK veteran, and widely regarded as the “eminence noire” behind both the minister and much contentious government policy within the telecoms sector.

Ngcaba clashed recently with Mandla Langa, chair of the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA), which has responsibility for granting licences for the use of the telecommunications spectrum. Next major item on ICASA's agenda is the licencing of a competitor to Telkom. Hence the outrage when Ngcaba gave notice that, prior to that event, government intends stripping ICASA of most of its authority and discretionary powers.

It is Government's instinct to usurp control from independent statutory bodies, which is rapidly becoming the central issue in the battle for South Africa's third cellphone licence – indeed it is the crux of the Nextcom case against the South African Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (SATRA – the precursor to ICASA).

In effect, the principle of independent regulation is on trial. The case revolves around evidence that could prove that there was improper interference by the minister and rule-bending by certain members of SATRA in order to achieve a decision in favour of Cell C.

But why should government and some SATRA councillors have taken the risk of fatally tainting the selection process by

favouring Cell C, if indeed that is what they did?

Possible explanations for such behaviour go beyond the recurrent rumours of individual inducement. The fact is that Cell C were in the happy situation where their bid allowed Saudi Arabian royal interests, ANC party interests, and South African "national interests" to coincide.

Cell C's major financial backer is Saudi Oger, a construction company founded by Lebanese President Rafiq Hariri – but built on the patronage of the Saudi Royal family.

The Saudis have long been supporters of the ANC – to the tune of some \$60 million in fact – and President Thabo Mbeki remains close to Prince Bandar, a key figure in Saudi royal politics.

Mbeki and his cabinet were, in any case, desperate to resuscitate the stalled 1997 R7bn deal to sell South African arms to Saudi Arabia (incidentally legitimising a R100 million "commission" already paid out by Denel to unnamed agents and still the subject of a potentially embarrassing – and inordinately protracted – investigation by the Investigating Directorate: Serious Economic Offences).

They clearly hoped that the award of the cellular licence to Saudi-Oger and its partners would demonstrate the government's goodwill and finally persuade the Saudi princes to open their nation's oil coffers to buy South African G6 howitzers, missiles, etc. (and, of course, put paid to that messy inquiry into the R100m commission payment – part of which is known to have gone to Saudi recipients).

So many birds would be either stoned or fattened if Cell C were to get the licence!

There were two potential obstacles in the way of achieving this happy outcome. One: Cell C's was not necessarily the best bid and, two: there was an "independent" selection process.

First blip on the government's radar screen was SATRA chair Nape Maepa. Maepa, a communications engineer with decades of experience in the US, was strong-willed and apparently independent. He had already blocked Ngcaba's attempt to have a consulting consortium, led by the Zader Investment Corporation, appointed as SATRA's main advisors. Zader later turned out to have taken a stake in Cell C. Co-incidence?

Maepa had also clashed with his deputy on SATRA, Eddie Funde, and with SATRA councillor Noluthando Gosa. Both had pushed for Zader's appointment. Funde is a director of Denel (surprise surprise) and, by reputation, an archetypal party aparatchik,

Thus it occurred that a series of alle-

gations of impropriety against Maepa were leaked to the media, just as the final cell bid-selection got underway. These allegations, which were never substantiated, were nevertheless taken up with gusto by that other party standard-bearer, SABC news executive Snuki Zikalala (yet another former MK commander).

Maepa won a retraction from the SABC, but his troubles weren't over. Parliament's communications portfolio committee – led by the ANC's Nkenke – held a series of closed hearings about alleged irregularities, again focusing on Maepa. Leading the charge were Funde and Gosa. The committee could find little dirt, but latched on to a claim of conflict of interest against Maepa, arising from his directorship of a company called Sun Telecommunications.

Maepa explained that SunTel had been formed to bid for the first two cell licences (won, of course, pre-1994, by MTN and

Many birds would be either stoned, or fattened, if Cell C were to get the licence!

Vodacom). Since then it had been dormant. His co-director in SunTel, Mashudu Tshivase was, indeed, a trustee – though not a beneficiary – of a trust which had a 1% interest in the AfricaSpeaks consortium – and also-ran bidder for the third cell licence.

That was enough for Minister Matsepe-Casaburri. She engaged in an active campaign to pressure Maepa into withdrawing from SATRA's deliberations.

In February 2000 the anti-Maepa campaign culminated in a series of acrimonious exchanges between Maepa and Presidential legal advisor Mujanko Gumbi and, finally, the arrival of the minister herself at the conference venue where SATRA was due to meet to choose the preferred bidder.

Eventually Maepa succumbed to the pressure and withdrew. Funde took over as SATRA chair and agreed to the minister being represented at all subsequent SATRA board meetings. Her representative, advocate Ismail Semanya, officially had only a watching brief, but in the current court action he is alleged to

have played an active role in SATRA's deliberations and in determining its selection procedures.

Cell C was duly awarded the status of preferred-bidder and was later confirmed as the final bidder, despite the fact that in two independent consultant reports commissioned by SATRA, concerns are raised about Cell C's financial status – to the extent that the company's solvency is questioned.

In the meantime Nextcom had taken the matter to court and had obtained the judgement ordering the judicial review which is now proceeding in the Pretoria high court.

The evidence which suggests that the way SATRA and the minister handled the selection process, might have been aimed at advancing other government and party interests, is circumstantial. However, Minister Matsepe-Casaburri provided another obvious pointer when on February 16 this year she announced that she was confirming the award of the third cellular network license to Cell C, notwithstanding the review proceedings which were only two months away.

The minister's announcement appears to have been hastily conceived. Cabinet spokesperson Joel Netshitenzhe indicated later that the decision had not been discussed by cabinet.

Most observers concluded that the reason for the minister's haste was to be found in the amazing coincidence that President Thabo Mbeki was due to hold a summit next day with the Saudi monarchy in Riyadh. Mbeki clearly expected the summit to culminate in the signing of a "military co-operation agreement".

As it turned out, despite Ivy's best efforts, the Saudis still would not bite. Deputy Foreign Affairs minister Azziz Pahad (brother of the more famous Essop) was forced in somewhat crestfallen fashion to indicate to the SABC's presidential groupie, Miranda Strydom that, unfortunately, the expected military agreement had not been signed.

Our sources tell us that, once again, the Americans had intervened to thwart Denel's ambitions. No doubt also anxious about anything which might cause a dramatic shift in the balance of power in the Middle East, they had seen fit to remind the Saudis that they still had Gulf War debts to settle and should not be spending money on new weapons – unless, perhaps, they were manufactured by US firms.

Will this major setback, too, be for Ivy's account? We suspect so. Watch this space for developments. *n*

Still lost after reading the MAP?

In November last year, a high-profile interview with President Thabo Mbeki in the UK's *Financial Times* informed readers that he and other African leaders are preparing to launch a Millennium Africa Recovery Plan, or MAP, "to promote development and stability in Africa. MAP aims to co-ordinate various efforts — involving debt relief, investment promotion, trade concessions or flows of foreign aid — to assist fragile African economies". In January, the "Millennium Africa Plan" was being touted at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland as a "plan to rescue Africa from poverty and chaos". During March, Simba Makoni told the *Independent*: "Our main problem is a shortage of foreign currency. But our millennium economic recovery plan is in place and it will yield results."

Six weeks later, celebrity campaigner Bob Geldof told the *Observer*: "Thabo Mbeki showed me the Millennium Action Plan, drawn up by him and other African leaders, which they'll be taking in its final form to the G7 summit in Genoa in July."

"In broad, bold and blunt language, these leaders demand deeper debt cancellation," Geldhof declared.

So what is MAP? Is it a demand for the cancellation of Africa's debt, or a salve for the SA economy? Is it the ultimate solution to Africa's problems or some sort of catch-all development programme? And why does the title keep mutating?

nosweek can provide some clues.

A bundle of MAP draft documents drawn up by some key players recently came into our hands. They reveal that MAP is a joint project of the South African, Nigerian and Algerian governments, with significant input from some of Tony Blair's top advisers.

Essentially, it is a peculiar mixture of Africanism and optimism — plus plenty of euphemisms for the age-old begging bowl. That paradox runs through all the

drafts. One titled *The Partnership for African Renewal*, for example, boldly states "Africans are not appealing for more aid or for concessions on the margin, rather this is a call for a new relationship of partnership with the international community." While the primacy of African leadership is a recurrent theme, the MAP philosophy, in essence, offers a contract ("a new global compact") between Africa and the First World: foreign investment and debt relief in exchange for responsible, democratic African government.

The documents provide an interesting insight into the thinking of the proposed First World partners. On 20 November last year, the African MAP planning team met with two advisers to the French government, Serge Telle and Georges Serre in Paris. After two hours of discussion, one of the French advisers summed up: "The French public has lost interest in Africa."

In their report to President Mbeki, the MAP team concluded "we got the impression that there is political support at the top [*in France*] but very little thinking and analysis has been done."

Their meeting in London with British officials was more encouraging: "from the start it became clear that they had been working on the project for some time," the South African team reported. The British team included two of Tony Blair's advisers, John Sawers and Anna Wechsberg; Barry Ireton of the Department of International Affairs; Mark Lyall Grant, Director for Africa in the Foreign Office (and the husband of the British High Commissioner in South Africa); and two members of the "Africa Partnership Team", Owen Border and Jeremy Clarke.

"Conflict resolution", or "Policing Africa" — a theme many believe or fear may be the real "bottom line" of MAP, did feature in the discussions, although it gets only a passing mention in the team's minute to Mbeki, where it is simply

recorded that "the need for the partnership to go beyond the economy to encompass conflict resolution ... was discussed".

The summary to the document also notes that the teams agreed that: "We cannot take the support of the developed countries for granted. We must work very hard to change negative perceptions about Africa. The need for a well planned and well executed marketing campaign can therefore not be over emphasised." But what exactly is being sold?

Another document, marked *Secret*, entitled *The Global Millennium African Renaissance Programme (The African MAP)* lists the essentials of MAP. The first heading asks: "Why should the developed countries be concerned about the state of poverty and underdevelopment of Africa? Why should they be partners in Africa's development?" Ten answers are provided, the most notable being that: "Concentration of poverty and underdevelopment in Africa ... increases the risk of disease, drug addiction and corruption; ... If nothing is done to accelerate the development of Africa, the pace and migration from Africa to the developed world would increase and become unmanageable; ... The developed world has a duty on humanitarian grounds to partner Africa in her development."

THE BEGGING BOWL

It amounts to little more than the begging bowl — with menaces: Give us money or else we'll invade your countries, spreading disease and corruption.

The second heading wonders: "In what ways are conditions different this time?" It responds with seven points, suggesting that the "resurgence of social democratic ruling parties in many western countries" has established the possibility of "building partnerships with countries in the developing world". However, there is also the "strong realisation amongst many African leaders that African countries would have to lift themselves from the quagmire of poverty and underdevelopment predominantly by their own bootstraps, with support from the developed world not as handouts but because it is also in their interests to do so."

But what if they don't have boots?

The final heading lists "principles that underpin the partnership". The key principle is seen to be the political will of African leaders and their willingness to "initiate joint investment programmes across African countries. Africa must take the lead in determining priorities and the broad macro-policy framework."

The secrets of Thabo Mbeki's Millenium Africa Plan

This continental programme, administered through regional organisations, would then be "underpinned by a comprehensive approach to development" encompassing popular participation in government, security (of life and property), infrastructure development, promotion of an indigenous private sector in addition to "private-public partnerships", mobilisation of domestic savings, utilisation of info-technology and "turning the brain drain into a brain gain". All of which sounds good, if slightly optimistic.

It is fascinating to compare the African MAP draft (marked "secret") with the *British Africa Partnership — Informal Paper* (dated 11 December). The British paper is pure *Blairism*, stuffed with New Labour *Third Way* (i.e. between socialism and capitalism: in theory, social democracy; in reality, Thatcherism with a smiley face) buzz-words. In it we are informed that there is "a *third wave* of African leaders and that there is "an opportunity for joined-up governments". In Britain, *joined-up government* was promoted to mean an efficient and effective state. It didn't. "The African partnership could ... raise the profile of African issues ... through celebrating African successes and talking up confidence in Africa as the continent of opportunity rather than just crisis." Welcome to the world of spin!

The British document talks of national poverty reduction strategies, investing in women and "Improvements in governance and corruption". Then a gem: "Governments should be accountable to their people, protect human rights, security and justice; ensure a strong voice for the poor and improve the management of public services." Of course! But what are the odds when another document, titled "A Global Partnership for Development in Africa, Confidential Draft" explains: "The continent has become decapitalised ... its human resources depleted by rampant disease and by endemic war ... Hundreds of thousands — generally those with education and skills — have left their countries ... A crushing burden of foreign debt has built up ... the capacity of the African state has in some cases, all but disappeared. This is in part ... due to sharp cuts in public sector financing as governments and donors focussed upon achieving macroeconomic stability during the 1980s and 1990s."

Beneath the positive suggestions we find the buried ambitions of the British Africa Partnership team. Under the heading *Promoting investment*, they advise: "Investment will not be generated

by exhortations of political leaders. The main steps needed are to create a stable environment in which investors can make profits." To attract international companies, it suggests the creation of "development companies to identify investment opportunities, particularly in utilities"; and "reform of investment guarantee institutions". Could we rephrase that: *allow us to cherry pick your infrastructure and provide us with rock solid assurances that our money is safe?*

Finally, the delicate matter of regional *policing*: "Measures to prevent and tackle conflict include support for regional peace-keeping forces."

The United States is unwilling to risk its troops in Africa; any intervention by British or French soldiers runs the risk of looking like neo-colonialism: far better if



MAP team leader, Prof Wiseman Nkuhlu.

Africans would do their own killing (and dying) in order to reintroduce order to the continent. Fair enough. But have South African voters been asked the question: do you wish your sons to be sent to die in Ruanda, or Congo, or wherever to secure the interests of foreign investors there?

From the British point of view it is clear that South Africa, Nigeria and Algeria serve as useful intermediaries, but with limitations: "There is concern that these countries are not sufficiently representative of Africa. None is a *least developed country*, none is eligible for HIPC debt relief, and none is heavily dependent on aid. They may not share the same policy priorities as many other countries in Africa," the British draft notes.

The incorporation of Africa into the US-led *new world order* is undoubtedly an issue. Capitalism depends on the establishment of new markets and workforces.

It is logical that Britain and France, with their colonial histories, should be key players in this process. But what is

the role of the US itself to be? That subject gets barely a mention in the documents.

It is easy to understand why Thabo Mbeki would be attracted to the concept of MAP. It offers the chance to re-launch himself as a global statesman and acknowledged equal of his predecessor, Nelson Mandela. The fact that western countries are unlikely to establish a Marshall Plan for Africa (as interpreted by the FT) without massive concessions appears to have been glossed over. The Marshall Plan was not created out of benevolence and *partnership*, it was a desperate response to the genuine threat of communist revolutions bursting out in Western Europe. The British Africa Partnership document admits that "as the [recent] demonstrations in Seattle, Prague and Nice showed, there will be increasing political tension if poor countries are left behind as the rest of the world moves ahead with globalisation". But, as yet, African leaders have not appeared on the barricades as members of the anti-globalisation campaign.

On the contrary, the MAP documents reveal that South Africa, Nigeria and Algeria are willing to play their subsidiary role to stymie any anti-globalisation linkage. The UK *Financial Times* reported in January, on the advice of Professor Wiseman Nkuhlu, leader of the South African MAP delegation and economic advisor to President Mbeki: "African presidents have finally dropped their leftwing ideological objections to the IMF's economic medicine."

The documents discussed here date from the period, September to December 2000. It is possible that MAP has undergone a massive transformation during the last five months.

Last week, on the eve of the British general election, Tony Blair listed as one of two priorities for a second Labour term: "The state of Africa is a blot on the conscience of the civilised world. I am very keen to move forward this concept of a partnership for Africa whereby the developed countries and African leaders draw up an agenda. Both sides [will have] to make changes. I think conflict resolution in Africa is vital."

In conclusion, a cautionary quote from Nelson Mandela, remembering the many foreign promises that had accompanied South Africa's transformation, but had not been kept. He had just attended a European Summit in Cardiff, hoping to shame European governments into opening their markets — in comparison to MAP a small request. He failed. "There is no ink in their pens," he observed. *n*

notes updates

F*CK CHARLES AGAIN

AND F*CK PRICEWATERHOUSE COOPERS, TOO!

Geo Louw, the ex-SAB beer distributor for the Northern Province region of Groblersdal, is nothing if not tenacious. Readers will recall our exposure of the anti-business shenanigans of the beer behemoth, and their tactics in ripping off their independent distributors in our story F!k Charles in nose31.

One crucial aspect of SAB's scheme to cheat Louw and his colleagues was the acquiescence of auditing firm PriceWaterhouseCoopers (then PriceWaterhouse).

As our story related, SAB forced Louw to sell his distributorship in Groblersdal back to them at a valuation to be determined, in terms of the distribution agreement, by independent auditors.

PriceWaterhouse was the independent auditing firm chosen. That was shortly before a merger with Coopers Lybrand, SAB's auditors. It only later emerged that the men at PriceWaterhouse received "special instructions" from SAB on how to carry out the audit of Louw's business. Clearly they were aware just how questionable these instructions were; so much so that they took the precaution of writing a letter to Breweries stating: "we will restrict the extent of our verification work and rely solely on the information and data supplied by you. Consequently you accept full and sole responsibility for the reasonableness and reliability of this information, and that our valuation will be subject to this limitation."

They as carefully omitted to tell Louw about the arrangement. PriceWaterhouse then shamelessly proceeded to rely on SAB's valuations for their "independent audit". This meant, for example, that Louw's warehouse, valued at R1.6m six months previously, was now suddenly

said to be worth just R700 000.

Question: is this in the best tradition in SA auditing? Er, let's rephrase that. Is that what they call generally accepted accounting practice? The kind of professional conduct acceptable to the body that governs auditing in SA?

That's a question that has since occurred to Geo Louw. In March this year he lodged a formal complaint about PriceWaterhouse's conduct with the Public Accountants and Auditors Board.

In his affidavit to the Board, Louw explains how PriceWaterhouse had a year previously valued his business at R3m (he believes conservatively), but valued his business at zero after changing their methodology in accordance with the special instructions from SAB.

Jane O'Connor, the legal director of the Public Accountants and Auditors Board, wrote on March 19 to Chris Dey, the senior partner of PriceWaterhouse-Coopers' Pretoria branch, informing him of the complaint.

"I have reason to believe, from the details of the complaint received by me, that you or the relevant partner may have been guilty of improper conduct," wrote O'Connor. "... If you avail yourself of the opportunity to respond in writing I must request you to furnish me with your reply within 30 days of the date hereof."

PriceWaterhouse's attorneys have written back to O'Connor saying that a written explanation will be forthcoming, but requesting a two week extension to the deadline.

More than 30 days after the original 30 day deadline, O'Connor was still waiting for their response. So are we.

The Board has the capacity to reprimand or fine errant members. The Board can also suspend or even disqualify a member from registration as an accountant and auditor.

The maximum fine the board can levy for professional misconduct in terms of the Public Accountant's and Auditor's Act is R100 000. That's not too daunting a fine for PriceWaterhouseCoopers to contemplate. But what might be giving pause is that a verdict of misconduct by the professional body could strengthen a possible lawsuit by Geo Louw.

Louw reckons he lost R4m because of PriceWaterhouse's misconduct. And that is not all. Remember in our story Louw was taken out by Breweries as a forerunner to moving on the rest of its independent distributors, most of them once celebrated as SAB's black empowerment partners. If they too were to sue PriceWaterhouseCoopers the damages could reach a total of R50m or more.

Watch this space.

MORE INTERESTING THAN YOU MIGHT THINK

President Mbeki has been maligned time and time again for daring to launch a debate on the causes of Aids in Africa, particularly on why these appear to differ so radically from those in the First World.

So it was no surprise to see a similar perspective in reporting and editorialising on the Interim Report of the Presidential Aids Advisory Panel.

Following release of the report in April it has been widely claimed in the media that government has now "had to accept" that HIV is the cause of Aids. The gist of much of the coverage was that the panel's efforts — only to reach the "obvious" conclusion — had been a waste of time and money, and a distraction from the real issue of dealing with HIV.

In fact, Health Minister Dr Manto Tshabalala-Msimang commented following release of the report: "Pending the outcome of further research the debates of the panel have not provided grounds for the government to depart from its current approach to the HIV/Aids problem."

By following their usual blinkered path on the issue, the SA media have missed the real story.

As the report makes clear there was very little meeting of minds between orthodox and dissident scientists at the two conferences and internet exchanges held by the panel.

At the end of the second conference, in July last year, participants were invited to submit proposals for experiments that would carry the debate forward.

Some ten such proposals were received and are described in the report. The proposals await Cabinet approval, expected to be a formality, before the various panelists commence their experiments.

In effect the dissidents have been given the opportunity to prove their criticisms to the orthodox theory by designing and conducting experiments that will be funded by the SA Government.

The minister made it clear that government's current approach to Aids, and the problem of severely compromised immunity and health, includes efforts to deal with the challenges of poverty, improved sanitation and better access to health services.

Scientists from the orthodox camp conceded in panel discussions that

factors such as poverty and malnutrition have not received sufficient acknowledgement from the mainstream of Aids science.

The dissidents argue that these factors are the real and sole causes in Africa of what we know as Aids.

One of the aims of Mbeki's initiative was to shift control of the issue away from the western medical bureaucracies and pharmaceutical companies that have such strong vested interests in the orthodox approach.

The first results of the proposed experiments to be funded by the South African Government should be known four to eight weeks after cabinet approval. Perhaps then — depending on the results — the significance and value of the panel will become apparent.

SAA SINKS STILL DEEPER INTO THE YANKEE DOO-DOO

The story about former South African Airways CEO Coleman Andrews and his questionable dealings at the national carrier [see nose32] gets worse.

The liquidators of Sun Air have announced that they intend to sue SAA, Andrews, his successor Andre Viljoen and SAA executive Vice-President Johannes van Jaarsveld for R90m. The liquidators claim that the three actively sought to shut down Sun Air and to prevent the company from realising its assets or being rescued.

And, following Andrews' claim to have had the approval of Minister of Public Enterprises Jeff Radebe for his New York based SAA internet venture veer.com, Radebe's office now denies such approval was given. It emerges that the scheme also lacked Reserve Bank approval. (SAA has shut down veer.com with a multi-million rand loss.)

But the most interesting development is the fuzziness around SAA's actual profit figures. A *Business Times* report in June 2000 quoted Andrews as saying the airline made an operating profit of R557m and a net profit of R431m. The difference was related to undisclosed exceptional items stripped out of the operating profit. But in the Transnet annual report these figures are reflected as R464m and R350m respectively. According to the *FM*, the airlines

auditors, Deloitte & Touche, are "not satisfied with certain details".

It appears that the difference in the figures could be accounted for by a 20% bonus on profits that Andrews secretly negotiated for himself with former Transnet MD Saki Macozoma.

Watch this space!

SORRY NEDCOR! MULHOLLAND'S CLEAN

Ever since Stephen Mulholland took up the cudgels against the Nedcor Board for secretly allocating an extraordinary bonus to 16 of its top executives, forcing them to cancel it, there has been talk in business circles sympathetic to the Nedcor directors' plight, that Mulholland might himself once have indulged in a similar scheme for his own benefit.

Sorry, chaps, it's not true. While we've had our own little differences with him in the past, it transpires that there's no solace to be had from the story: when it comes to share bonuses, Mulholland is as clean as driven snow!

In essence it's the same story that briefly surfaced in *Finance Week* in 1993, when Mulholland resigned from Times Media Ltd to join the Australian newspaper group, Fairfax.

The story in brief: two months before he resigned as MD of TML, and when TML's shares briefly rose to R21 on the JSE, he sold a fat bundle of TML share options he had been allocated in terms of a directors' share incentive bonus scheme. He is believed to have pocketed a profit of about R7m as a result.

On what basis might he have qualified for such a bonus, since, it was said, the profitability of TML's trading operations had been in sad decline for quite some time, and that almost all the profit the group was able to show was derived from its 18% shareholding in MNet, which they did not manage.

Rather like Nedcor's executives rewarded themselves with shares in Didata — which they don't control.

Unfortunately, none of it's true.

TML had, indeed, suffered massive losses prior to Mulholland taking over as MD in 1987, but thereafter profits — and TML's share price — went up every year. And, during Mulholland's term, TML received no dividends on its Mnet shares.

Yes, Mulholland was given a parcel of 100 000 TML shares (at R1 per share) on

flotation of the company — but he promptly donated them to the TML Pension Fund!

And yes, he did sell TML shares shortly before he left, but they were shares he had bought many years earlier.

"I borrowed money to buy them from JCI at full market price — which, admittedly, was low at the time," he explains.

He did also get some share options, but exercised the options at an early stage, and sold them when the share price was still relatively low. "I needed the money to repay the loan I'd made to buy the bigger lot from JCI!" he says. All legit.

So it's back to Nedcor.

BRITISH SCAREWAYS

PAYS UP BUT WON'T APOLOGISE

John Gorman, the heroic ex-Scotland Yard detective immortalised in our story "British Scareways" in nose32, has agreed to a ceasefire with BA.

When we last reported on the matter, Gorman was considering the offer of a R66 000 payment by BA in "full and final settlement of all claims that Mr Gorman may have arising from the events on 23 January 2000".

The offer allowed R6 000 for the medical costs occasioned by Gorman's impromptu actions in helping BA out with their somewhat lax on-board security arrangements, and for his legal costs occasioned by BA's attempts to cover-up the incident in which he was injured. The additional R60 000 was, no doubt, offered as a pacifier.

Gorman has now decided to accept the offer. In his letter accepting the offer, Gorman's attorney, David Smit of Claremont, told BA's attorneys: "The matter could easily have been resolved at the outset had your client followed the dictates of common decency."

Even after he had signed the forms releasing BA from any possible come-backs on the issue however, the airline was still not prepared to thank Gorman for his assistance, or to apologise for their unsavory behaviour.

"It's annoying," says Gorman, "but I've done my bit. I'm doing volunteer work at the Red Cross Children's Hospital and that really puts things in perspective. But I'm amazed at how stupid such a major corporation can be: "they're determined to make fools of themselves."

From MI5 to BOSS

Recently released intelligence documents reveal details of secret visits to SA made by MI5 chief Sir Percy Sillitoe in 1949 to strike an intelligence deal with the Nationalist Government.



When the ANC won the 1994 election it had made various attempts to prepare itself for government. However, one area in which it was impossible to prepare was intelligence. The events of the last seven years have demonstrated the innumerable problems of creating a new intelligence agency out of the remnants of older organisations. Indeed, it is understood that the ANC government has utilised the services of international private detective companies on numerous investigations during the last few years in order to bypass the tensions within the domestic agency.

Ironically, there is a parallel between the ANC in 1994 and the National Party in 1948. Documents recently declassified by the Public Record Office in London describe how Britain's post-war Labour Government rushed to secretly assist the Afrikaner Nationalists to set up their own security and intelligence services.

Noseweek can reveal here for the first time the detail of MI5 Director General Sir Percy Sillitoe's secret visits to South Africa in 1949. The documents demonstrate that the British Government had few qualms about collaborating with the nascent apartheid state.

Despite the apocalyptic hysteria which filled the British newspapers following the election of Dr DF Malan and the

National Party to government in May 1948, British Prime Minister Clement Attlee's Labour Government were quick to exercise pragmatism. In July, Attlee wrote to the Commonwealth Premiers (including Malan) suggesting that they should be accompanied to the Commonwealth Premier's Conference in October by their Security Service Representatives. At the conference, attended by Major du Plooy (head of the South African Special Branch) delegates accepted the resolution that there "should be a uniform standard of security throughout their countries". In addition, Du Plooy said that South Africa was "ready to undertake measures for improving the safeguards of vital information". The British government's concern was clear: the Communist threat and the burgeoning Cold War with the Soviet Union.

Three months earlier, MI5 had appointed a Security Liaison Officer for Central Africa. Stationed in Salisbury, the SLO was charged with establishing "an informal contact" with General Palmer, the Commissioner of Police in Pretoria. The MI5 officer visited South Africa in September 1948, February and May 1949, when he held meetings with Palmer, du Plooy, Frans Erasmus (the Minister of Defence) and the British High Commissioner, Sir Evelyn Baring. The

Sir Percy Sillitoe at a press conference in America in 1951, two years after the MI5 Director General's secret visits to SA.

SLO reported to London, after his second visit, that: "the South African Police Special Branch did not appear as yet qualified or equipped for tackling security work". British concern was intensified by the fact that the South African Cabinet had failed to enact the recommendations of the Security Conference held in October 1948.

In October 1949, Clement Attlee wrote to Dr Malan: "I have more recently been turning over in my mind the whole question of maintaining security in the face of the growing and world-wide Communist threat." Attlee noted that exchange visits between a British Joint Planning Team and the South African Minister of Defence, accompanied by the Chief of the General Staff, had proved productive.

"It seems to me that it would be to our mutual advantage if I were to ask Sir Percy Sillitoe, Director-General of our Security Service, to pay a short visit to South Africa to have discussions with your officers ... I should add, of course, that in the event of your agreeing, we should carefully avoid giving any

publicity to it, and I assume this would be your wish also." Sir Percy Sillitoe explained in a letter to 10 Downing Street that his trip should be represented to the South Africans as an opportunity "to study the experience of the Union authorities in developing an intelligence organisation to investigate indigenous Communist activity".

The detail of Sir Percy Sillitoe's trip to South Africa is contained in a substantial minute composed for Clement Attlee by Sir Evelyn Baring. The central focus of Sillitoe's mission was to win the support of South Africa's Minister of Justice and Police, Blackie Swart, for two objectives: firstly, that members of the Special Branch of the Union CID "would be relieved of all duties other than those of counter-espionage"; secondly, "one or more of the officers of that branch would be sent to London for at least six months training."

Upon his arrival in South Africa, Sillitoe visited Dr Malan, who listened with interest to reports of counter-espionage in Britain. Malan "was friendly, gave expression to his hatred and fear of Communism, and said that the Union Government were anxious to cooperate with the United Kingdom authorities ... Dr Malan was clearly impressed, showed no signs of suspicion, made, as usual, sensible comments and appeared anxious to cooperate."

The meeting with Blackie Swart was also a success. Swart accepted the proposals regarding the duties of the Special Branch and the concept of training in London. Sillitoe made various suggestions regarding the security of secret documents and Swart "appeared to take the point that an efficient records system is the key stone of any defence structure against Communist penetration." It also transpired that the South Africans were particularly concerned with the activities of "the absurdly large staff of the Soviet Consul-General in the Union". Finally, and to the delight of the British, "he said that Sir Percy should see Du Plooy ... that then Sir Percy should come back and speak a second time with [Swart] telling him whether he had noticed any weaknesses in the South African anti-Communist work and whether he had any proposals to make for remedying any defects."

Following consultations with General Palmer, Major Du Plooy and Deputy Commissioner of Police, Brigadier Mickdal, Sillitoe wrote to Swart: "I have found myself in cordial agreement with the South African Police authorities." Sillitoe added three recommendations:

● "That special attention be paid to the

recruitment and training of personnel;

● "That an officer be loaned from my Service for a limited period for the purpose of lecturing and advising the reorganised Special Branch on technical security matters;

● "That the reorganised Special Branch should be given special financial support and should be provided ... with facilities for the interception of communications for counterespionage and security purposes."

Sillitoe's memorandum was a clear attempt to interfere in South African domestic affairs. This ran against British policy at the time which was supposed to remain aloof from South African politics. But Baring's minute reported that when Sillitoe handed over the document, he "assured the Minister that it represented no attempt on the part of anyone from the United Kingdom to interfere in domestic affairs in South Africa".

Swart accepted a number of Sillitoe's proposals but demonstrated some reluctance to commit himself to the posting of a British intelligence instructor in the Union. Such a decision would need to be discussed in Cabinet. On the question of funding, Sillitoe explained how these matters were handled in Britain: "Sir Percy told him that money for the Security Service was provided from the Security Service Vote; that the

Sillitoe reported that the part he had played laid him open to criticism that he had helped create a Gestapo for the Nationalists.

Prime Minister was responsible for this Vote; and that in the House [of Commons] he refused, in the national interest, to answer questions concerning its use ... Within the Department of Justice Vote [in South Africa] there was a heading 'Special Services'. Money voted for this head could be increased to meet increased

expenditure, following reorganisation of the Special Branch. The result would be that inside an open vote there would be a smaller secret vote."

This model is, of course, exactly how money was eventually supplied for the funding of Connie Mulder and Eschel Rhodie's Information Department Secret Projects in the 1970s.

During this second meeting Swart confided to Sillitoe that "he had recently learned that a senior civil servant in the Union was a convinced Communist". One of Swart's major concerns confused Sillitoe: Swart wanted to make special arrangements whereby Major Du Plooy could report directly to him, thereby bypassing the Commissioner of Police. Sillitoe explained that procedure in Britain required an orderly chain of command. The British later learned that du Plooy "is said to be a relative of Mr Swart and a convinced Nationalist. Both the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner are officers with long service and with no political affiliations."

Two weeks later, having visited East and Central Africa, Sillitoe paid a final visit to Swart. They discussed prospective legislation designed to ban the Communist Party of South Africa. Sillitoe suggested "that this would be a mistake, unless the South African Police could assure [Swart] that they knew all the leaders and would be in a position to seize them, their papers and their funds before any such declaration were made." Sillitoe agreed to Swart's request that South Africa be kept informed of the security situation in Britain's African territories.

Dr Malan appears to have been delighted with Sir Percy's visit. He wrote to Clement Attlee on 31st December 1949: "I should like you to know how useful, I believe, his visit has been and to thank you for having made his valuable advice and assistance available to us." In essence, the British had achieved their aim, which was to exert influence over the Nationalist Government through the guise of offering the hand of friendship. Attlee, Sillitoe, Baring and others were engaged in realpolitik: by assisting the new South African Government during the early stages of its administration, they could mould the new security structures and influence the development of policy. Beneath the surface of the pleasantries, a complicated enactment of "carrot and stick" was taking place: South Africa was being offered access to the intelligence secrets of the Anglo-American alliance in exchange for disciplined anti-Communism. The stick

continued on page 21

Punt MD Dr Jackie Maré is a wonder, but not in the way *De Kat* magazine understood it in their profile of her last year.

Punting for disaster

Beep! Beep! Beep! "Welkom by Punt. Hier volg die nuus." Here's the news.

"Dear listeners of *Punt Radio*, we'd like to set the record straight. We have good news and bad news. Firstly, we need your money to continue broadcasting as the only Afrikaans talk-radio station. Some of you might have questions about the management's track record, so here goes. So far, there've been three lots. The first lot went into liquidation after the managing director was charged with screwing up the finances and with trying to do the same with an unappreciative female member of staff. The second screwed around for a while, before handing over to a third lot, whose leader has a few screws loose.

That was the good news.

Bad news is, we issued a prospectus that was highly misleading. To be honest, we lied. Please forgive us and give us money so we can continue to represent the proud Afrikaans community. Beep! Beep! Beep! (Cut to commercial about upcoming Afrikaans Christian song festival.)

Would you invest in a radio station if that were its marketing pitch? No? Well, that's probably why *Punt* hasn't broadcast such a candid newscast. Enough people did get the message, though — which is one of the reasons why *Punt Radio* stopped broadcasts in April.

So what's up? By all accounts, the Afrikaans talk-radio station, with its two AM broadcast licenses serving the Gauteng and Cape Town regions, should have commercial potential. Afrikaans speakers, at 15% of the population, are estimated to be responsible for 32% of all household expenditure in South Africa. Is Afrikaans talk radio simply a bad idea? Many Afrikaans speakers listen to, and participate in, South Africa's most successful English talk-radio station, 702. One can speculate that *Punt* didn't offer them anything they didn't already have access to.

Whatever the reason, it's always a matter for regret when yet another independent medium fails. *Punt Radio* offered Afrikaans speaking South Africans an opportunity to let off steam and come to terms with the new South Africa in their own language, says former *Punt* presenter Margot Luyt. "Talk radio



is excellent therapy for the nation." Alet van Rensburg, former *Punt* news manager, shared Luyt's enthusiasm: "It was a unique opportunity for *Afrikaanses*. I heard it happening: hardened PAC members and right-wingers talking, really talking, to each other — in Afrikaans. It was very exciting to be a part of it."

Both Luyt and Van Rensburg were amongst those who worked without salaries for several months, hoping that an investor would be found in time to save the station. Luyt, who was there from its inception, warns against seeing the *Punt* story as unique. Similar problems confront talk-radio stations across the globe. They require top-class management to succeed.

OK, so stay tuned. Grab 'n koppie koffie en 'n Ouma beskuit while we introduce *Punt's* wacky cast of characters and tell the "snot-and-tears" tale of their desperate fight for survival.

We pick up on the episode in the real-life soap opera in mid-2000. R4m in debt, the station had been teetering on the brink of closure for a year, when the then owners of *Punt*, AME (African Media Entertainment), decided to hand over the reins to a newly formed company, Seriso

Holdings, in July 2000. The new company was formed and headed by a newcomer on the scene, psychologist and ace businesswoman, Dr Jackie Maré. She persuaded several of the station's senior staff members to become shareholders, and the takeover was cast as a management buy-out.

The company hoped to raise R20m with a public offer of shares — enough to pay the station's debts and put it on the road to success.

Members of the public and listeners were invited to join in the venture. Potential investors and advertisers were given a rosy picture of a company which, with its two radio licenses, was declared to be worth R85m. An impressive line-up of media heavyweights accompanied the restructuring. Financial backing was to be supplied by a new partner, Orbtech Holdings. One of South Africa's foremost young financial advisers, Piet De Jong (son of the former Reserve Bank governor) was presented as Maré's personal financial adviser. Stan Katz, previous co-owner of *Radio 702*, was to be in charge of marketing.

Luminaries in Afrikaans journalism, Max Du Preez and Elna Boesak, were hired as talk-show hosts. Top-notch journalists and media operators Alet van Rensburg, Sharon Warr, Johan Kriek, Christelle Terreblanche and Morné Ebersohn backed them up.

New MD Dr Jackie Maré, draped in designer suits, big hats and psychology degrees, was undoubtedly the cherry on the top of the attractive package. Audience figures were on the up and programming was looking better than ever.

There can be no doubt about Maré's charisma, drive and passion to make the station work. An article in *De Kat* described her as "Wanda Wonderwerk" ("Miracle Miranda"). With Maré at the wheel, *Punt* was set to go places. Nothing could go wrngo, er wrong.

Suddenly the wheels came off. The share issue failed — neither investors, nor listeners bought into the deal.

Maybe it was simply badly tuned radio. Listening to people complain about the national flag being printed on condoms isn't every advertiser's *koppie koffie*.

News leaked that the prospectus and the management team weren't all they

were cracked up to be. Indeed, close inspection of the prospectus reveals a variety of interesting flaws, ranging from dubious financial information to outlandish personal claims.

Both Maré and marketing manager Willie De Villiers refused our repeated requests for interviews to discuss it. De Villiers figured that, since the prospectus had now been withdrawn, it really didn't matter what they had said in it. "It might as well be used as reading matter when going to the toilet," he told noseweek.

When comfortably seated and before tearing out page seven, look at the bit which puts the value of the enterprise at R85m. Discerning users might wonder: why, then, had AME been willing to sell it for a measly R3m? AME has been known to spot a champion in the past. The company owns Golden Gloves boxing promotions, which recently hosted the Lewis vs Rahman heavyweight bout.

AME owns other (successful) media interests. It clearly didn't see much point in *Punt*, citing it as one of its main loss makers at the time of the sale.

So what was the allure for Seriso? Why, the two AM broadcast licenses! Not perfect frequencies, mind you, but owning those would surely make it easier for Seriso to apply for more lucrative FM frequencies and licenses in the future.

In the prospectus the two licenses are said to be the property of Seriso. The trouble is that Seriso does not own the broadcast licenses. Not yet, anyway. AME took the precaution of stipulating that ownership of the licences would only be transferred to Seriso when the full purchase price of *Punt* was paid. It has never been paid.

To complicate matters further, no application had been lodged with the Independent Communication Authority (ICASA) for approval of the transfer. ICASA is currently conducting an enquiry into *Punt's* affairs. (We wish them luck.)

It appears Maré and De Villiers, went into the deal without any money of their own, relying on a verbal undertaking by Orbtech Holdings to provide the venture capital *Punt* needed. Orbtech claims they never gave such an undertaking. Eh? If the station was in serious debt and Orbtech dropped out, where was the money going to come from?

Punt listeners may by now be getting an inkling of what their role in the scheme was intended to be. Was all that hype intended to lure them into investing, leaving Maré and De Villiers in control without them having had to wager a cent of their own? And, of course, if the venture failed, only these innocent investors

would have lost anything. Putting a gloss on affairs is an area in which "Dr" Maré has distinguished herself in the past. Reading the write-up on her in the Seriso prospectus, one gets a glimpse of an impressive leading lady, a veritable wonder woman by any measure. She is portrayed as an award-winning businesswoman and learned Doctor, with a BSc degree in maths, a law degree and a doctorate in psychology. That prospectus should have carried the disclaimer that customarily appears at the end of soap operas: "Warning! No similarity to real people or events is intended or should be inferred." Turns out, Dr Jackie Maré is

quite a wonder – but not quite in the way *De Kat* magazine understood it. The real wonder is how she managed to get away with her fantasy right under the noses of some of the country's top journalists.

To start with: the awards listed next to her name, include the "International Image-building Award" won by the Bloemfontein Show while under her management. Unfortunately the Bloem Skou's current manager, Marius Prinsloo, knows nothing about it. "We, ourselves, have an award for our 'best employee of the year'. Jackie won it once. I also have one," Prinsloo told noseweek.

And what about the other "various



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important awards" Maré has won, according to the prospectus? Maré reportedly told colleagues that she had won the "CNN International Businesswoman of the Year Award" and that she had gone to America to collect it. BIG problem — there is no such award! Do we see a pattern emerging here?

To be fair, we did find one real award. Every year, an exhibitor at the Bloemfontein show wins "The Jackie Maré Entrepreneur of the Year Award". It was initiated by Maré during her term as the Skou's general manager. Now that's an award she could have won! Clearly someone who, with only a computer keyboard, can turn a R4m liability into a business worth R85m has enterprise! As clearly, her university training and psychology degrees had something to do with this extraordinary feat.

We know what you're thinking. You want to know more about those degrees, right? Well, we regret to advise you that, despite an extensive search, we haven't been able to track them down. Even though Maré told colleagues that she studied at Potch and Stellenbosh universities, those universities don't have any record of her. Nor does the HSRC, which keeps a relatively comprehensive record of all SA university graduates. Is it possible that Maré is making it all up? Why not? She's done it before.

In 1982, Maré, (then De Jager) made news headlines when, to entice them into investing millions in a fake company, DVV Empire Holdings, the young model convinced various prominent businessmen that she was fabulously wealthy. She reportedly told them that she was an only child and had inherited a R960m fortune from her father, a diamond trader. She claimed Gary Player, Chris Barnard and Ronald Reagan were among her friends. Then some of her "business associates" became suspicious, and it emerged that her father was in fact a railway worker and that she had various siblings.

As Jackie's world came tumbling, she spent time in Weskoppies psychiatric hospital. She admitted to stunned ex-colleagues that it was all fantasy. Cyril Blakeman, a businessman who almost got suckered into a fake real-estate deal, recalls a colleague's disbelief when she confessed. One Kobus van Staden was to have been a kingpin in her empire (and her lover, according to *Rapport* articles at the time.) Blakeman recalls how Van Staden simply couldn't believe it when she finally looked him straight in the eye and said: "Look at me, I'm telling you there is no money. I am the poor daughter of a railway worker."

Maré also reportedly admitted at the

time that she had psychological "issues" to deal with. When Jackie took over *Punt Radio* in 1999, people were once again told stories of her incredible fortune, which she was supposedly prepared to deploy to save *Punt*. She told colleagues that she owned a Greek island and several Lear jets, as well as various other pricey properties. The wealth she is, or was, about to inherit was said to be worth more than South Africa's GDP.

But *Punt* went into its death throes, without even a postcard having been received from the Greek islands.

Curiously, Maré recently threatened legal action when newspapers published details about her fantastical past,

'Hardened PAC members and right-wingers talked, really talked, to each other in Afrikaans.'

suggesting that the original news reports were not true. She might have a point here. It seems her father was not a railway worker, as claimed by the press — not her real father anyway. She's adopted.

Hold on tight for the next spin: according to noseweek's sources, they were told that Jackie was the illegitimate product of a famous ex-cabinet minister's brother's indiscretion with a Greek beauty — making her the heir to a Greek dynastic fortune. We've not been able to trace these Greek ancestors, but, as the saying goes, our door remains open.

Astonishing as it may seem, Maré is not entirely to blame for the demise of *Punt Radio*. Other prize-winning mamparas had had a serious go at screwing it up before her. And various factors came into play to help scare off investors.

Consider that *Punt* first went on air in 1997 and was put into liquidation barely a year later, R26m in debt. MD André Potgieter was fired amid a barrage of allegations, including charges of nepotism, mismanagement and sexual harassment. At the time he was presenter of *Preekstoel* (Pulpit), a Christian slot on Sundays.

In 1998 AME stepped in to save the station, after creditors accepted a R5m settlement offer. But, scarcely two years later, AME, too, was ready to throw in the towel. Only then did Maré and Seriso appear on the scene.

In January this year *Punt* was left high and dry yet again, when Orbtech withdrew its promise of finance, ostensibly to pursue an overseas listing of its own.

Now there's a new twist to *that* tale: Barbara Strauss, star of the "Strauss perfume" debacle, is reported to be raising the R12m needed to secure Orbtech's listing. Strauss caused a stink some years back when she persuaded well-known personalities like aged soprano Mimi Coertze and bar-baritone Pik Botha to invest millions in a new perfume range which she planned to launch for the centenary of Viennese waltz master Johan Strauss. It's June 2001 and still not a whiff of either the money or the perfume ... and still no Orbtech listing. We digress.

Back to *Punt's* hard place — out in the cold, broke, facing a mountain of debt, and not an investor in sight. Like the defiant baboon in that Afrikaans folksong, "*Bobbejaan klim die berg*", Jackie Maré mountaineers on — if only, it seems, to further infuriate the *boere*.

Staff members of the station have been badly burnt by the experience. For months, many received no salary. Management misled them, telling them that their medical aid and taxes had been paid, when, in fact, they had not.

They talked. Needless to say, every time another story appeared in the press, another potential investor took fright.

The only partner still willing to publicly support *Punt* is Dr Dan Roodt, who leads a small group of activists called *Praag* (*Pro Afrikaanse Aksie Groep*). Roodt once promoted *Stet*, a small anarchist publication. More recently he made headlines when he led protests against the absence of Afrikaans on Parmalat yoghurt labels. He is planning a boycott of Robertson's herbs and spices for similar reasons.

In May, *Punt Radio* asked ICASA's permission to suspend broadcasts, pending yet another attempt to find a funder.

What's the point of all this? What was the point of *Punt*?

Are we to view the *Punt* drama as just another edition of *Survivor*, an exciting "real life game" in which a lifeline is now and again tantalisingly dangled before the players, a new challenge is dropped into the arena and — the highlight of each show — yet another player bites the dust?

Have we forgotten the reason why *Punt* was granted a space on the airwaves, in the first place? It was to provide an independent medium for Afrikaans speaking citizens to freely receive and exchange information and opinions.

That's a point the members of ICASA should keep in mind when they examine the reasons for *Punt's* demise and decide on a future course of action. *n*

The price on Sol's scalp

continued from page 6

"The hotel deal never got scrutiny from the National Indian Gaming Commission because of a disputed interpretation of a portion of the regulations. The rights were later bought back from Kerzner and TCA for a whopping \$430m."

Kerzner has not commented on allegations in the *Globe* series. But Len Wolman of TCA has described the more than \$800m taken from the Mohegans as "fair compensation". In return for having provided \$9m to the tribe for expenses and salaries prior to the casino's opening in 1996, TCA had been promised 40 percent of net gaming revenues for seven years. Wolman, a former South African, owns 50 percent of TCA; Sun International Hotels, of which Kerzner is executive chairman, owns the other half.

Shortly after the renovation of his house in 1995, the *Globe* reports, Mohegan chief Ralph Sturges "signed several agreements giving (TCA) a vast array of financial interests in the yet-to-be-built-casino, which today is one of the most successful in the world". The relationship between Chief Sturges and TCA is "of crucial importance", says the *Globe*, "because the contract between the tribe and TCA may be voided and the \$1b returned to the tribe if a court finds that TCA improperly influenced the chief with gifts or services in violation of Indian gaming laws".

Sturges is not the only tribal elder to have been favoured. In January the *Globe* reported that a combination of TCA funds and casino revenues covered about \$880 000 in fees paid to a surveying company owned by Roland Harris, who succeeded Sturges as tribal chairman when the latter was elevated to chief-for-life in 1995. Harris, who served as Mohegan chairman from 1995 until last year, sold his company in 1998 but continued to receive a yearly "consulting fee" from TCA.

The *Globe* notes: "The tribe had no money until the casino opened in 1996. However, Sturges and Harris accepted \$9m from TCA, a South-Africa-based investment group, to fund Harris's fees and other expenses, including salaries for both men, beginning in 1994."

Indian gaming law requires that investors such as TCA declare that they have made "no payments or gifts of services or other things of value" to tribal chiefs or their relatives to gain "special privilege, gain, advantage or consideration", the *Globe* adds. "TCA and Sturges made such a representation when they

signed a contract reviewed and approved in 1995 by the National Indian Gaming Commission, the government agency that regulates Indian gaming."

Now the question is: might Sun International and TCA get away with it? Apart from the formal inquiries likely to be launched by Congress and the US Attorney-General, the Mohegans themselves aren't entirely lying down.

While most ranking officials and members of the Mohegan tribe were apparently unaware of the relationship Sturges and Harris had with TCA, tribal vice-chairman Peter Schultz confirmed in March that the tribe has hired an out-of-state law firm to investigate all contracts for the \$1.1b expansion of the casino, which will include a 34-storey hotel. The Mohegans' lawyers hired a team of ex-FBI agents to conduct the probe.

But Mohegan tribal leaders have privately told the *Globe* that they wanted "to avoid time-consuming litigation" in negotiating the buyout with TCA. And they worried about TCA taking them to court to enforce the hotel contract."

Is it perhaps because they know of the Mohegans' cautious approach to litigation that neither Sun International Hotels, listed on the New York Stock Exchange, nor Old Mutual-controlled Kersaf, listed on the JSE, have advised their shareholders of the Mohegan Sun controversy and its possible adverse implications for them? Kersaf effectively owns almost a third of the company controlling SIH, and Kerzner another third, while SIH owns half of TCA.

Thus, were the \$1b payment to TCA to be voided by a US court — on the grounds of the illegality suggested by the *Globe* — Kersaf's share of the amount that will have to be repaid to the Mohegans would equate to more than three times its operating profit for the year to June 2000.

So once again it seems that Kerzner is confident of laughing all the way to the bank — this time from Connecticut, just as he had from Bophuthatswana, whose similarities are blinding — unless US congressmen, regulators and investigators are made of sterner stuff than their South African counterparts. *n*



From MI5 to BOSS

continued from page 17

was the threat of isolation and exclusion. All of this was made clear in a crucial document dated 14 November 1949:

Political considerations will almost certainly enter into the build-up of a Security Service organisation in the Union, and it may be too much to hope that such a department will remain immune from political influences in its subsequent activities. The improper uses to which a Security Service might be put by the Nationalists might well include its employment against the Parliamentary Opposition and against those members of the British community out of sympathy with the Nationalist political programme. It would certainly be used to keep down the black races. In these circumstances, the part that might be played by the Director-General in establishing any form of security organisation in the Union (more particularly if separate from that of the Police) might therefore lay him open to the criticism that he had assisted the Boer Nationalists in implementing their extremist political programme — by actively helping in the creation of a Gestapo. It has, however, to be considered whether the above risks are outweighed by wider considerations of Imperial strategy and defence planning. Is it more important that South Africa, whatever its internal political complexion and Republican ambitions, shall be rendered so secure as to allow it to take its proper place in Commonwealth councils and to receive those secrets of American and/or Anglo-American origin which are so vital to that full cooperation.

Indeed, Gordon Winter in *Inside BOSS* claimed that when Hendrik van den Bergh created Republican Intelligence in 1963, he used as his model: "A lengthy memorandum gathering dust in Security Police files ... which included many novel suggestions. One of these was that liberal and left-wing journalists be recruited as secret agents." Sillitoe was the author of that memorandum.

If, or when, the ANC government's records are fully released in thirty years time, will they also reveal an impressionable government, over-influenced by the fashions and trends of the international intelligence community? *n*

● Sillitoe retired from MI5 in 1953 and opened a sweet shop in Eastbourne! Six months later, he returned to South Africa to establish the International Diamond Security Organisation, investigating diamond smuggling for De Beers. He later played a minor role in the Ian Fleming book, *Diamonds Are For Ever* (1956).



The spy who never told?

part four

Until the mid 1970s, the Bureau of State Security (or BOSS, as the National Intelligence Service was then known) slavishly adhered to the belief that all extra-parliamentary opposition to the apartheid state, and especially illegal and violent opposition to it, could be traced back to Soviet designs of expansionism in Africa. The ANC, it was argued, was a tool of the S A Communist Party, and the SACP was a tool of the Kremlin.

This argument failed to take into account that, in the early 1960s, the ANC was not the major, and definitely not the only group involved in violent activity against the apartheid government. In fact, Albert Luthuli, long-serving president of the ANC, still favoured non-violent protest, even after his organization was banned in the wake of the Sharpeville tragedy.

Luthuli was in Oslo to receive the Nobel Peace Prize when the first bomb exploded in South Africa. There were people even then who suspected that the incident had mischievously been set up to discredit him and his organization in the eyes of a "too sympathetic" free world.

By the mid 1970s, a group in BOSS started subjecting the evidence of "communist activity" to closer scrutiny and to collect evidence about the possible activities of non-communist groups. It then emerged that those first ANC members recruited to the armed struggle

were not acting on orders from Moscow, but on orders from a mysterious group with which a number of anti-communist white liberals, including a certain Professor Anthony de Crespigny, were closely associated.

The group, known as the National Committee of Liberation, was later renamed the African Resistance Movement, or ARM.

BOSS obtained a copy of one of the first reports ever submitted by a leader of the NCL/ARM to the mysterious person or organization that funded its extensive activities. Carefully re-assessed, the evidence pointed to US and British intelligence — and certain big business interests — as being the more probable sponsors of these early incidents of violence and sabotage! [See Part One of this series in nose30.]

SURPRISE NAT CONVERT

But apartheid South Africa's spy-masters for some reason found the possibility beyond contemplation, and the file was archived once more.

It was only after British born and educated professor Richard Champion de Crespigny, a surprise convert to the National Party, had been appointed to the President's Council by President PW Botha in October 1980, that the old file was hurriedly dusted off and a new investigation was launched. [See Part

Two in nose31]. This investigation culminated in two interviews with de Crespigny. Days after the second interview, De Crespigny fled from South Africa. His flight led to much media speculation about whether he was a spy and, if so, for whom — but neither the SA Government, nor De Crespigny himself, ever felt it to be in their interest to reveal what had transpired between him and the men from BOSS.

Now, 20 years later, thanks to the research efforts of James Sanders, chief researcher for Anthony Sampson's recent biography of Nelson Mandela, noseweek is able to reveal the contents of that remarkable intelligence file.

The story that follows is the fourth — and concluding — part of our series based on the 60-page report compiled by Piet Swanepoel, one of the intelligence officers assigned to the case. He was one of the NIS men who attended a polite lunch with Professor De Crespigny at Cape Town's Town House Hotel on July 28 1982, when they asked the professor some questions which he found frightening enough to prompt his flight from South Africa five days later.

The detailed report addressed to the ARM's mystery funder, which was appended to Swanepoel's report, was written by John Lang, a leading figure in the ARM in the early 1960s, when the first bombs went off.

A letter that Professor Anthony Champion De Crespigny wrote to the University of Cape Town in December 1972 should be of special interest to those who have had occasion to wonder how some academics got their jobs.

The letter was as interesting to the two NIS agents who, ten years later, sat down to question him about his political and academic career and interests.

"I would like to apply for the recently advertised senior lectureship in sociology at UCT," De Crespigny's letter to UCT began. "As will be seen from my CV, I have worked in political science departments for the major part of my career. However my interest has for years been as much in sociology as in political science. Indeed, I regard political science as a sub-sociology." Some neat talking there, already.

To lend substance to his claim to having had an enduring interest in sociology, he went on to declare that his interest in "the sociology of organizations and in race and ethnic relations" was such that, in 1971, the US Commission on Civil Rights had invited him to become their scholar-in-residence in Washington for a year.

Perhaps UCT was suitably impressed — but the NIS agents were not: they'd already checked and found out that the Commission on Civil Rights did not have scholars-in-residence.

They asked him about it. "Oh that!" he replied. "Yes, that was a funny thing: I never went to Washington."

As a matter of fact, he said ... *[and readers would be well-advised to pause here for a moment to consider his use of that phrase — Ed.]* ... as a matter of fact, he did not even know who, or what, the Commission was! He really couldn't remember why he'd put that bit in his letter.

What if UCT had made enquiries about it? the NIS men asked. "Well, one would think of something," he said.

Anyway, immediately after having demonstrated to UCT in this way how in demand he was in international sociological circles, De Crespigny got to the point: "To avoid any possible waste of time, I should state that I would not be interested in any offer short of the top of the scale. I have a strong desire to return to South Africa ... but there are strict limits to the amount of salary loss I can afford to incur."

The professor certainly new how to play to UCT's then cautiously liberal sentiments: "I should point out," his letter continued, "that I was fairly active in the Liberal Party during my six years in South Africa (1954-1960) and that I was later involved in the work of the Anti-

Apartheid Movement in London. Before accepting an offer, I would want an official statement indicating that I would be accepted into the Republic and that nothing in my past would ever be made the subject of any proceedings against me." All very tantalising and romantic — and precious! — no doubt. But how were UCT expected to solve the problem?

Then, just in case the worthies at UCT should have been panicked, he immediately steered his letter into reassuringly conservative waters: "As a matter of fact," he declared in the following paragraph, "my political beliefs are moderate, and should not be confused with those of my former wife, Caroline, who spent a period of imprisonment in Cape Town. I am not and never have been a Marxist or an anarchist or a revolutionist of any kind. I have a powerful desire to live in peace, to enjoy my family and friends ..."

The NIS men noted that in the CV he attached to the letter he once again listed, under the heading "Administrative Experience", his membership of the Sanctions Committee of the Anti-Apartheid Movement in London ("from 1961 until 1963").

That Sanctions Committee sure as hell

applies for a job at a liberal university like Cape Town, one has to have *credibility*. One has to have the *right credentials*." Being on the Sanctions Committee of the Anti Apartheid Movement, he knew, would impress the people making the decisions at UCT.

But what if the university had made enquiries and had discovered the lie?

That was a chance one took, he told his interrogators. He reckoned it was most unlikely that UCT would check.

The NIS men moved on. Why, when he applied for South African citizenship in 1981, had he told the Department of the Interior that he wished to be excused from the requirement to advertise his intention to become a citizen?

He wasn't sure, he said. There must have been some reason at the time.

Why had he implied to officials of the department that he was going to be doing some secret work or other for the South African Government? What secret work?

No, he really couldn't remember.

They asked no more questions. It was pointless. Except one: He did, of course, realise that they didn't believe a word he had told them?

No! he exclaimed. If they disbelieved him, he thought it jolly unkind of them.

How the professor lied

existed, and the NIS men demanded to know everything he could tell them about it. What a pity, he said. He would really have liked to have been able to assist them, but ... the position was ... that that bit in his CV was really a fib, too. He'd never had anything to do with the Anti-Apartheid Movement, he assured them.

But it was right there in his CV! Look: "1961-63: Member of the Sanctions Committee"! exclaimed the chaps from NIS. *And* he'd mentioned it in the body of the letter to UCT! Why had he told UCT such a terrible fib — twice over?

Yes, it was there, he readily conceded. "I put it there on purpose," he told them. "Perhaps I ought to explain: when one

He was not only disbelieved, they assured him; he was now definitely suspected of being an agent of some sort.

As they parted in the foyer of the office building where they had met, the NIS men told him that they would be pursuing their interest in him.

Four days later he hurriedly flew out of South Africa.

"May all your agents be double!", is how spies from opposing intelligence services traditionally toast one another. Sometimes they really are.

● De Crespigny didn't get the sociology lectureship at UCT in 1972. But two years later he was back in Cape Town — as UCT's professor of political science! *n*

noseweek's intrepid
investigators settle
another pub dispute

The Germiston hairstyle: why the hairstyle? Why Germiston?

Once a sleek ponytail on a shaven head declared: I'm a Mohican! Today a short top and sides with a cascade of curls behind says: I come from Germiston! Short on the top and sides, but long at the back. In America it's called the "mullet" or, sometimes, the "achey-breaky-big-mistakey" (after Billy Rae Cyrus, famous for both the song and the hairstyle.)

In South Africa, the style is most often associated with the East Rand town of Germiston, where it's also called the "*ja-en-nee*". Among the rich and famous who have sported "Germiston" hairstyles are Michael Bolton, Pastor Ray McCauley, boxing trainer Nick Durandt and a variety of WWF wrestlers. More often, though, it's the ordinary man (or woman) in the street who wears it — particularly, in Germiston.

noseweek's intrepid investigators have discovered that people in Germiston Central are twice as likely to sport the hairstyle than, for instance, their counterparts in Randburg or Bedfordview. It appears to be a mix of cultural expression and local tradition — a post-modern re-invention of the ducktail and hippie hairstyles of the 50's and 60's. Germiston people feel innately and instinctively comfortable wearing it.

Mario Jorge, manager of a fruit and vegetable shop in Germiston's main street (see pic), says his is a statement of rebellion. "When we were at school and in the army, we were forbidden to have long hair. I thought: when I get out, I'm going to grow my hair." Mario keeps his hair short on top, because it's easier to handle. The best of both styles, so to speak.

Tragically, fewer and fewer people are wearing it. Yet another bit of our cultural heritage might be facing extinction.

Time was, when one could go out into the main street and spot a good few *ja-en-nees* within the first ten paces. Times have changed. It took us a good half-hour to spot the first one, and then another two hours before —eureka— a group of four! It seems the hairstyle has moved off the open plains and closer to the watering holes. At one of Germiston's most famous, the Clarendon, we found a whole herd.

Some theorists speculate that the "mullet" sends its roots into the brain, causing all kinds of behavioural problems, such as excessive drinking, domestic violence and a craving to have fur on your dashboard. But these remain unproven and, we believe, can safely be ignored.

You won't get better "Germiston" than at Tony and Lino's Unisex in Main Street. "I've cut thousands over the years. Now I'm down to three to four a day. It's going out of fashion," says Tony Elonguiro. It's

not a classic cut from the stylists' handbooks, he says. It's a local invention. "Often, it's the wives to who tell us: Don't take too much off the back!" Tony has just started growing his own. He figures it'll be ready in four months.

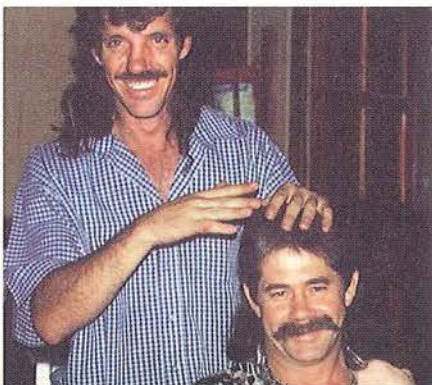
Some claim that the Germiston hairstyle is American inspired — a sort of cultural contamination. True, in America there are several websites dedicated to the phenomenon, some arguing for its extinction, others for its preservation.

Says one: "Let's get to the harsh reality: the mullet looks horrible. Wearing a mullet instantly makes you look much poorer and less intelligent."

On the pros and cons, we're not taking sides. But one thing is certain: it's no American import. While tracing back hairstyles through the ages, we came upon an image of Neanderthal man wearing nothing but — yes, a Germiston hairstyle! Why would this surprise us? South Africa is, after all, the cradle of mankind.

We know that the forefathers of man originated in the Highveld region, where Germiston is situated! It is not implausible that 37 500 years ago, on the very spot where the Clarendon is now situated, one would have found Neanderthal men hanging around sucking fermented maroelas. Case closed.

To help preserve our Neanderthal heritage, ask for a number 5 on top — and not too much off the back.



The Clarendon's bar provides a good vantage point for spotting ja-en-nees. Fruit-and-veg shop manager Mario Jorge grows his curls long as a "statement of rebellion". Barber Tony Elonguiro has cut countless "Germistons" over the years. Now he's down to three or four a day. "Sadly, it's going out of fashion," he says.

Letters

continued from
page 3

cloaked his new venture in the kind of secrecy reserved for Central American airlines under contract to you-know-who."

An interesting choice by our boys in Pretoria! GAVIN COOPER, Chairman

SA Association of Freight Forwarders, WCape

About the Yank: follow the trail and check the role of Kennedy Memani, [Minister of Public Enterprises] Stella Sigcau's advisor at the time of the SAA deal, who subsequently had a Bain franchise!
QINISO

AIDS, HIV AND AZT

The common factor in the many diseases that define the Aids syndrome is a heightened level of nitric oxide and oxygen radicals, as well as deficiency in glutathione molecules. These symptoms need not — and in all probability are not — caused by a particular virus, such as the postulated retrovirus, HIV.

It has been scientifically established that a heightened level of oxygen radicals and nitric oxide is caused by repeated infections (for example from repeated injury, contaminated water, or semen in unsafe intercourse).

The deficiency of glutathione molecules is related to malnutrition, to chronic hepatitis and to certain drugs (eg chemo-antibiotics). Retrovirals (such as AZT) do not have any therapeutic effect. Studies and animal trials since 1990 demonstrate that these cytotoxic drugs are only to 1% incorporated into the cell nucleus, far below the level that would be needed to inhibit retroviruses. The drugs do, however, destroy both healthy and infected cells and severely damage the mitochondrial DNA, resulting in damage to the bone marrow, the brain, the muscles and other organs. The producer of AZT, Glaxo, conveniently attributes these negative side-effects of the drug to the HIV-retrovirus.

See www.virusmyth.com for SA attorney Anthony Brink's challenge to Glaxo to clearly state the effects and side-effects of AZT. Details of alternative Aids therapies, based on research at medical institutions in Germany, Switzerland, the US and Australia, can also be found at www.virusmyth.com and at www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov

Anyone needing information on Aids-defining illnesses and treatment should contact us.
FELIX A DE FRIES

Study group for Aids therapy, Zürich Switzerland
Tel./Fax 09-41 1 401-3424
e-mail: felix.defries@bluewin.ch

This letter has been shortened. The full text can be found on our website at noseweek.co.za — Ed.

We note the latest developments on "cheap Aids drugs to South Africa". In our book, *World Without Aids*, we predicted two years ago that some form of pre-planned, outwardly philanthropic and highly-publicised move from the pharmaceutical industry would then elicit a grateful response from the generally naive masses. So far, it all seems to be going according to plan.

An alternative summary of the situation can be found on our website at www.whatareweswallowingfireserve.co.uk/africa.htm
Steven Ransom, steve1@onetel.net.uk

BIDDULPH RISES

I suppose you are aware that the man who apparently lied in the David Hersch-ABSA case, Biddu Biddulph, has risen to a prominent position with the Life Offices Association running their electronics business. When I asked the executive director of the LOA what he was doing there, he said that nothing in the judgement, which they had "studied carefully", indicated that the judge had said that Biddulph had perjured himself.

DAVE CRAWFORD, Fairways

Note the LOA's careful choice of words. They have no shame. Biddulph undoubtedly lied — but then, of course, he lied on his bosses' behalf, making him a loyal employee! —Ed.

US RENEGES ON KYOTO

This is a call for Civic Action Against the US Government's rejection of the Kyoto Protocol, a treaty signed by more than 100 countries (including the USA!) to agree on gradual reduction of carbon emissions.

Now the new government of the United States, the world's major air polluting country, has turned its back on attempts to regulate carbon-gas emissions.

Most scientists in the field agree that increased carbon emissions are modifying our planet's climate. Whatever the eventual impact, it is clear that we cannot wait and see — and only then try to repair the damage. This earth is the only one we have.

The US population (4% of the world's population) is responsible for the emission of 25% of all carbon gases! Those of us having no electoral say in the US have decided we will exercise our "consumer-vote" to make the US accept its responsibility. Until the US Government revises its current policy on this issue, we intend not to buy goods either imported from the US or manufactured by US companies, if an alternative is available. Join the action!

● Get more information on the subject (eg on the web-site mentioned below) and discuss it with others, especially with your children.
● Take stock of those US products you are currently buying — and stop buying them! Some examples: avoid US-branded soft-drinks (Coke, Fanta, Pepsi, etc); move away from

US-branded fast-foods (McDonalds, KFC, etc) and look for alternatives to US cars (GM, Ford, Chrysler), etc.

Email your declaration of support for the action to: KyotoAction@SayNo.NL

You will find many informative articles on the debate at www.guardian.co.uk/globalwarming
GUY BROUCKE, Pretoria

NOT CRICKET!

I am a South African living in the UK.

Recently my son and a friend, both pupils at Kings College School in Wimbledon, received approval to undertake an U15 cricket tour to Cape Town. Kings College were introduced to a travel company in Durban specialising in school tours to SA, which has become a very popular destination for UK schools. The name of the company was Sport Cullis, run by Carol and Mike Fewster.

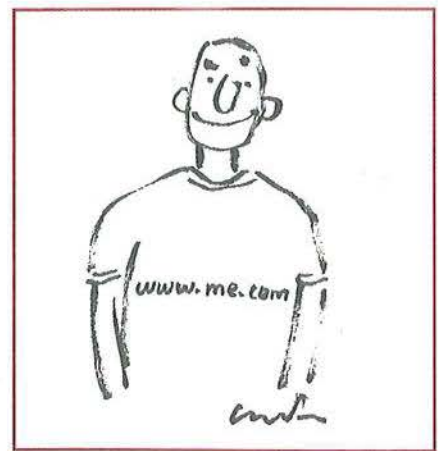
Sport Cullis was paid R140 000, and the boys were due to depart for SA on the 19th of October 2000. But, once the money was received in Durban, nothing further was heard from the Fewsters. I have now heard that Sport Cullis has gone into liquidation. Thirteen young cricketers have lost the opportunity to visit our country and the good name of South Africa has yet again been tarnished by unscrupulous operators.

I have since discovered that a company called Educational Services and/or Eduserve Travel, based in Durban and operated by you guessed it Carol Fewster, is offering opportunities to schoolchildren to tour both to and from SA. The headmasters and bursars of all the UK schools meet regularly and when the subject of tours and South Africa comes up, we now know what to expect.

SIDNEY BENSOHN, London

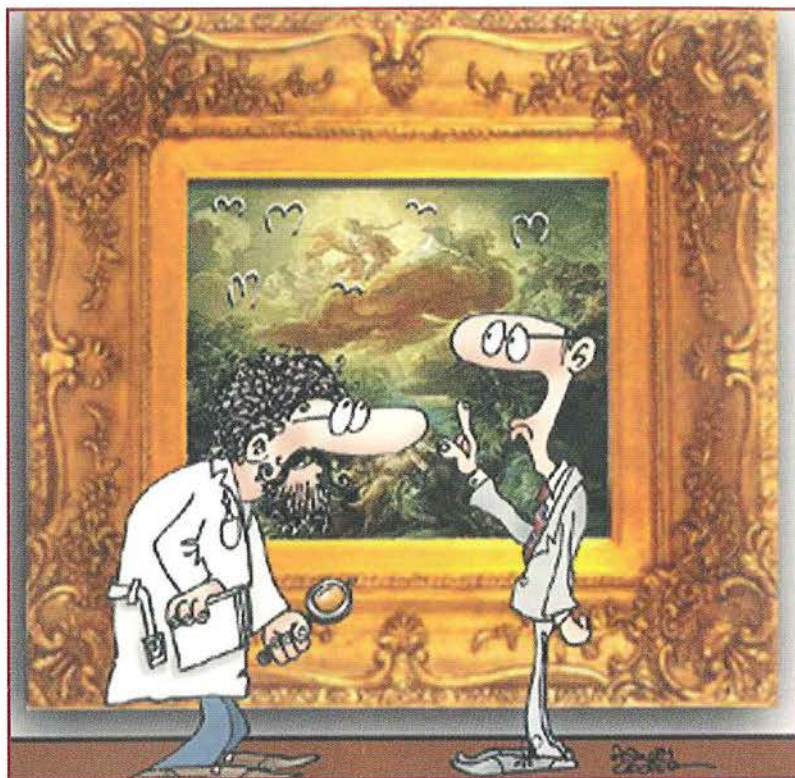
EXCITED

I have lived in far northern Botswana for 8 years and I am always excited to receive a copy of noseweek. I applaud your ability to keep "old news" vital and the perpetrators of new crimes under the magnifying glass.
DESMOND GREEN, Botswana



of spit & images

A true story
by **HAROLD STRACHAN**
which demonstrates the art of
dealing with serious art teachers
while your green lozenge
is showing



So I pull in at Betty's gallery one day in quest of restoration work, and there is some, waiting for me: a nice little oldish landscape on canvas, with blue sky and birds and trees, sound painting, but dear me so dirty! Also a message; I have to phone a certain artist, the owner, about restoration.

He knows all about art materials, so I needn't try any short cuts, he says. What is the mildest solvent you know of, he asks. Saliva, I say. There's a sort of silence. Yes, but after saliva, he asks. A special liquid soap for archival work, I say. Cost you one thousand rands for cleaning, I say. Including VAT, of course.

The silence is longer now. I'll phone you back, he says. Next week I pull in again and the picture is gone.

Well shortly hereafter I'm cracking a second quart of Carling up in my studio back of the Raymond Rooney Gallery in the sweaty city centre, singing along with GF Handel, *Let the Righteous be Glad*, and lining an ancient picture with new canvas, when I hear RR Himself thumping up three flights of stairs, and here he stands breathless, panting, before me, with a crisp white lab-coat in his hand.

Of course one doesn't wear one's Sunday raiment to work with molten beeswax, oil paint, and that most hellish of all adhesives, EVA, which constitutes the soles of Comrades tekkies. My workaday wear is the threads used for

shad angling and falling off motorcycles, stained here and there with sardine bait and road-marking paint.

Here, quickly put this on! he gasps. There's an important customer downstairs to see you, personally.

He arranges a palette knife in the breast pocket, and puts a magnifying glass in my hand, like Sherlock Holmes. Comb your hair a bit, he says. He sniffs. You've been drinking beer again, he says. Here, suck on this, unwrapping a pungent green chlorophyll lozenge and shoving it in my mouth. Okay, sharpen your pencil and hold this book on your arm; lets go!

Downstairs stands a seriously frowning young man with the self-same landscape in his hands. This is our head restorer from Budapest, says Raymond. I move the lozenge between my front teeth and upper lip to give a Hungarian type accent.

Carstairs, says the young man. Hugh Carstairs.

O'Higgins, I say. Guzman O'Higgins.

He stares at me: I thought you were Hungarian, he says. Ja, I say, that is, da; my name was Vlad O'Dracul in Hungary, but it got a bit embarrassing, you know, sort of, hey? so I changed it at the University of Teotihuacan to Guzman J O'Higgins, when I was curator of antiquities there. He looks at me aghast. What's the J for? he asks. Jesus, I say. Gee-soez. I smile sententiously. He looks at me even

aghaster: I realise the lozenge is showing beneath my moustache and upper lip, and he thinks it's one of my teeth.

Well, he says, shaking his head to clear his mind, I have this picture for restoration, but before we start talking about it I want you to know that I myself am an artist, and will understand any work you may suggest or do on this painting. He elevates his face and flares his nostrils. In fact, I am an art teacher.

I must be candid with you, he says; I have had this painting with another restorer, who wanted to clean it with spit and soap, but I had the measure of him.

Scheusslich! I exclaim. Disgusting! On such a picture I would work only with xenopolyphase and Potassium Methyl Cyclohexyl Oleate.

Archival suppliers don't label their products Spit and Soap.

With many a mutter he leaves the landscape with me and departs. With many more he's back two weeks later. The picture is ready, lovely, cracker-jack.

That will be one thousand rands, I say.

You've repainted the sky! he gasps. Not me, say I, put it under your suntan UV and new paint will show up chop chop. He glares. His eyes fall on the birds. And look here, cries he, there were five birds and now there are six!

Dear God. Am I going to dispute bird tallies whilst the days given me upon this earth slip inexorably by? No, I declare, I

don't paint extra birds or sky unless I'm paid for it. But how many birds do you want?

Now he's thrown. There's no contest. He bites his lip; Ererafive, he says. Come back after lunch and five you shall have, I say.

These birds are the sort that look like Big Mac hamburger logos, only small. I can scratch one out in one minute flat. Which is the extra one? I ask. Er, er, *that* one, he says.

So I scratch it out whilst eating my sandwich, and when he arrives at two the bird has flown and the dab of ketone varnish is nice and hard.

That'll be a thousand rands, I say. No, no, he says, There's one bird less now so you'll have to reduce the price.

Sweet Mother of Christ, I reflect, thus flits by my life. By how much? I ask.

Ten percent, he says. Done, I say, with the Mexican accent.

Manuela is at the counter doing the brain-work of this place, as usual. She overhears it all. VAT at fourteen per cent on nine hundred will come to one thousand and twenty six rands, she says. A receipt is already in her hand. *n*

smalls continued from page 28

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