

news you're not supposed to know

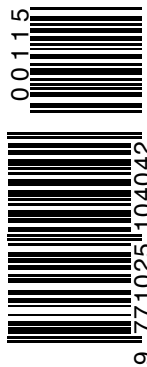
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MAY 2009



**The BEE
merry-go-
round**



Cockfight at the Reserve Bank Ken Owen: the struggle is just beginning
Glenrand's no-pay policy No corn on the cob as crops fail

What a surprise!

MR NOSE WENT TO SEE HIS doctor about a cold, and ended up being referred to a cardiologist – not for his heart, but for wine. We were discussing winter colds when the good GP mentioned that he'd been searching in vain for a case of Galleon cabernet sauvignon 2005 made by his old tutor, Prof Andries Brink, dean of the Medical Faculty of the University of Stellenbosch, now retired and a *garagiste*. Garage what? Yes, I know, it's the fancy Franschoek name for a classy backyard wine maker. Anyway, as you know, Mr Nose can't resist a challenge: find the heart man and find the Galleon.

As you'd expect, it didn't take Mr Nose long to trace 25 cases (of six bottles) of the Galleon 2005 which, by the way, had won a Michelangelo gold award.

We asked our trusted independent taster Bill Cooper-Williams for his opinion. "It has a deep rich claret colour, lovely nose and smells like cabernet a decade or so ago. Good soft tannins and full of fruit. Slight liquorice taste. Very nicely balanced. Extravagant all round wine." Bill's rating: four stars!

So now Mr Nose has 23 cases to share with readers. When Prof Brink got wind of this, he wanted to buy the cases back – but he and Mr Nose haven't been on speaking terms for the past 20 years, so our readers get first call on these collectors' gems. Once the Galleon 2005s have gone, Mr Nose will lay on Galleon Shiraz 2006 – another exclusive – of which there are only 50ish cases left. The latter is described as clear bright raspberry red in colour with a fruity nose that comes through to the palate. It was awarded three stars in the Platter guide and it should be at its balanced best in two to three years. Minimum life of about seven years.

That's half the deal. Still with winter colds in mind, rumour came to Mr Nose's ears that another renowned *garagiste* in Paarl had apparently made a four star blend with shiraz, merlot and cabernet, called Blyde Bona Dea. Bill describes it as "wine with a good colour, attractive nose and pleasant fruit" but, alas, wine-maker Lieb Loots only made a few hundred bottles that quickly sold out. Mr Nose has traced 50 of the 2002 and 2004 vintages – and that is all that's left. We've hit the jackpot: Lieb is winding up his wine-making and that's the last Bona Dea.

So here's this month's deal: one case of six bottles of Galleon, plus one case of six of Bona Dea for R1100, first come, first served.

PS: Readers are reminded of Mr Nose's regime for keeping winter colds at bay: drink six bottles and store six. By the end of the year we will each have a small, exclusive collection in the cellar.

Searching for small, exclusive parcels of wine is a time-consuming business. Readers with a nose for rarity and quality should please email or phone in their tipoffs about wines we're not supposed to know. Mr Nose will reward the best tip with a case of 2003 Amehlo, four-and-a-half stars. Happy hunting.



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COVER STORY:
The BEE merry-go-round page 7



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- 4 **Letters** Desperate DA
- 6 **Dear Reader** It's not over
- 10 **Cockfight at the Reserve Bank** Things are turning nasty at the nation's financial hub, where a dissident shareholder is challenging the governor
- 12 **No corn on the cob** Monsanto anticipates that current crop failures in SA, due to the use of genetically engineered seeds, will cost R380m
- 14 **Green Point stadium in the red** What's going to happen to the white elephant when the Fifa circus leaves town?
- 16 **Baby Michael** Whistleblower gagged by the system over tragic case of battered child
- 18 **Glenrand's no-pay policy** The insurer appears ready to go to any lengths to avoid meeting its commitments
- 20 **Aluta continua** South Africa's long walk to freedom might just be beginning, writes former Sunday Times editor Ken Owen
- 24 **While America burns** The next phase of the financial meltdown will infect the social and political arenas, writes James Howard Kunstler
- 26 **No more sunsets for Milnerton residents** Illegal four-storey development steals cherished view of Table Mountain
- 27 **Driven to drink** 'Geen Afrikaans,' rules Cipro in London Taxi trade mark case
- 28 **Grabbing the bull by the horns** An anti-quackery campaigner is back in the ring in his tireless battle against 'pseudo-scientific nonsense'
- 30 **South Africa's inhumane death traps** The use of gin traps is causing the indiscriminate and cruel killing of animals – including protected leopards
- 32 **Web Dreams** Communism, immorality and pizza
- 33 **Last Word** Durnit?

Desperate DA

On reading your editorial about the misdeeds of the DA-controlled Overberg municipality (*nose114*), it struck me that you appear not to have asked DA leader Helen Zille for her comment. As a sometime DA supporter, I think that they (like other

I also did the "Brain Teaser" (to what end I now wonder) on 20 February. I had to supply my cell number to get the result and, if I recall, in order to do so a PIN number had to be entered. After that I received a regular "brain teaser" which I promptly deleted without reading. Hav-

normally deal with the legal stuff, disclaimers etc.

Who would have thought that hidden in there was an agreement to enter into a R50 a week subscription to receive an SMS teasing my brain? I have tried to access Integrat's terms and conditions but cannot trace them.

the selfish, inconsiderate and illegal shopping mall developments around Fourways, were of the opinion that these guys were of the same flock. Discussions in the suburbs, promoted by your article, brought clarity to the situation, as neighbourhood authorities stressed the slight differences in origin of both these brash #?!\$ brotherhoods. You discussed the Lonehill boys – we have been severely bothered by the Fourways boys.

Look into the goings-on of the holders of the thrones to the following kingdoms situated between the Lonehill and BelAir Malls: Cedar Square, The Buzz, and Fourways View. Each has an anchor nightclub (or two).

Jacques
By email

The Democratic Alliance (like other parties) are so desperate for power that they choose dubious partners

parties) are so desperate for power that they choose and appoint dubious partners.

I look forward to your taking it up at the top, as dealing with the municipality concerned isn't getting us anywhere.

Vic de Valdorf
Muizenberg

Brain drain

The letter from Colin Reeves (*nose113*) alerted me to the fact that I may also have been caught up in this scam.

ing read Colin's letter I went to the deleted items on my cell and found an SMS, delivered on 19 March, a month later, giving me the option to "unsubscribe" to this R50 a week service! I immediately did. On enquiry to Vodacom I was told that my account had been debited with R250. The authority, they claim, was given when I agreed to Integrat's subscriber terms and conditions. What's interesting about this scenario is that "terms & conditions"

(The lady who answered the Integrat phone also put the phone down on me when I demanded my money back.)

Vodacom claim that they have not deducted the money but Integrat has. Why then is my account debited by Vodacom? No doubt they are relying on my asking myself the question: is the time and energy I will spend on recovering my R250 worth it?

Marguerite Davis
By email

Lodge a complaint with the Dept of Trade & Industry's harmful business practices unit. – Ed.

Credit where credit is due

More recently you have started featuring the work of a cartoonist, Stent, which is always topical, enjoyable and well created. Why is this Stent not featured on your credits together with the other cartoonists?

Thank you and your team for your important investigative work. It's always a pleasure to renew our subscription.

Tony Shapiro
Cape Town

Boys will be boys

A well-read friend alerted me to your articles about the activities of the notorious Lonehill brothers (*nose111*). Numbers of us locals, each of whose quality of life has been negatively impacted by

Tools of Zionism

I used to think Mr Nose could not be swayed by money, threats or propaganda. I must now conclude that he has become the object/victim of Jewish/Israeli propaganda, as displayed in the articles by Roth and Strachan (*nose113*), that serve as cover-ups for the atrocities recently perpetrated by Israel in Gaza.

I grew up in Nazi-occupied Friesland. My family actively opposed the Germans and hid and cared for the Jews in our midst. Both my father and his elder brother, my guardian, paid with their lives. I became a war-orphan, cared for by the survivors of the Resistance. I always wondered why these rather simple people sacrificed themselves for people that did not always appreciate their efforts. (Apparently they considered it their "Holy" duty.)

In my retirement I have made an in-depth study of the Jewish occupation of Palestine, and find that the treatment of the inhabitants of Gaza by Israel is on

Gus



a par with what happened in NW-Europe in 1940: A virtual concentration camp has been created. Israel is now desperately trying to divert attention from their mistake, by asking “friendly” publications/journalists to publish the type of article written by your columnists.

You obviously fell for the ploy. For me that means that our ways part here, unless you will also publish the Palestinian side of the story.

My feelings are best illustrated by the words of Sir Gerald Kaufman: “The present Israeli Government ruthlessly and cynically exploits [sympathy for victims of the Holocaust] as justification of their murder of Palestinians”.

Bob Visser
Kyalami

Roth and Strachan victims of propaganda? Come on! – Ed.

Rating on Pick n Pay

I walked into my local PnP after reading your article on rat poisons (*nose112*). I went directly to the poison section, removed all the products shown, took them to the manager and loudly advised him I would buy all of it, and then burn it outside his shop on a Saturday morning if he didn't remove it permanently. They did. I am pleased to say our local PnP is Finale(y)-rat-and-mouse-pellet free.

Gary
By email

Note: Our story erroneously referred to the active ingredient of Finale as brodifacoum. The active ingredient of Finale is difethialone. Both are similarly dangerous rodenticides and both are restricted in the USA. Rat bait containing brodifacoum is/was sold in Pick n Pay alongside that containing difethialone. – Ed.

■ I went into my local Pick n Pay in Constantia and removed all the Finale products and took them to the manager. I asked him to permanently remove the products and explained how it affected the environment. He said he was aware of the effects of Finale and confirmed he would. He also said he would refer the matter to head office so that they could look at removing the product on a larger scale. But, when I checked an hour later, the products were back on the shelf!

How Pick n Pay, or its competitors, can sell a product which, if ingested by a secondary predator can cause slow death over a whole week, is cruel and completely unacceptable.

I also find it intriguing that there was an outcry from a sector of the public regarding a blasphemous article in the local student rag magazine. Pick n Pay responded by taking the initiative and removing the magazines, even though they were the main sponsors of the magazine. I

salute them for that – but why, after much pressure and public outcry, do toxic products still sit comfortably on their shelves?

Ashleigh
Constantia

Flying squad

Every week, the baggage handlers at Oliver Tambo International Airport break into the baggage of my clients. So I thought I would go on to the SAPS website and let them know that it is about to happen again.

At first sight the website is impressive, and with no difficulty I filled in the date, time and some details of what is going to happen.

Problem is, you need to provide a suburb for the place where the crime will be committed. So I chose Croydon, which, for OR Tambo, is the closest Kempton Park suburb I know. But then I had to provide a suburb for the perpetrator. The perpetrators could live anywhere from Thembisa to Sandton to Daveyton, so I left that out.

You also need to provide a suburb for the victim. As I don't know exactly which of my clients will be hit this time, I cannot say. Also, the SAPS website does not provide suburbs for New York, Los Angeles or Houston in its drop down menus.

I tried pressing Submit without specifying the suburb, but the site simply flashes up a message telling you to insert the suburb. I

gave up. Nice try, SAPS, but you really must get someone a bit smarter to work on your website. I wonder how many tips they actually receive via this route.

Ron McGregor
Mowbray, Cape Town

Word Wakkerstroom!

I refer to “Bullied into Submission” and “Coal Comfort” in *nose110*. The greatest occupational hazard in government or parastatals these days, is to care about the environment. The martyrs, Dr Turton of the CSIR and ornithologist Mark Anderson, prove the point.

Whilst DA and ANC officials alike dig their fat, sweaty paws into the “development” honeypot, and indulge in cronyism and conflicts of interest, it is up to organisations like BirdLife Africa to take on “the rich bad okes”. The Wakkerstroom case alone will cost BirdLife in the region of R800,000 in legal fees. Justice does not come cheap, especially for the voiceless. It is time we started holding government officials accountable for the way our natural resources, wildlife and eco-systems are being obliterated by rampant, unabated greed.

We need to support all those who have the courage to take on the greedy Goliaths who would happily rob our children and show no respect for Creation.

Samantha Jane Martin
Bedfordview



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It's not over

Nose 32 – April 2001:

“Ever since President Mbeki waved *noseweek*'s arms-deal organogram around on national TV, as his justification for firing Judge Heath, we've been thinking: that organogram must reveal more than meets the eye.

“Whoever handed it to Mbeki certainly succeeded in pushing him over the edge. He was, apparently, persuaded that our organogram was Heath's secret ‘hit list’; a hidden agenda which listed the president and his predecessor, Nelson Mandela, as the judge's prime suspects. Within hours, Heath was history.”

Nose 37 – November 2001

“Will Mbeki allow the investigation to go all the way, risking bringing down the temple, or will he seek to limit it to small-time corrup-
tion? Foolish question.

“Those in the ANC most interested in the deals can be divided roughly into two compet-
ing groups: the Vula Boys and Thabo's Boys.

“While both are anxious to maintain their grip on power and their cut of the arms deal profits, the difference between them could just influence who will be sacrificed and who saved.

“The Vula Boys are the collection of commu-
nists and (mostly Natal) ANC intelligence opera-
tives who set up Operation Vula, the secret pre-
1990 programme to develop the leadership and
financial networks inside SA needed to launch
a violent revolution. Vula was secret even inside
the ANC: the wider ANC leadership – including
Thabo Mbeki – knew nothing about it.

“That gap between the groups appears to
have persisted.

“Vula was led by Mac Maharaj (minister of
transport, fired by Mbeki). It included Sipiwe
Nyanda (then Defence Force chief), Ronnie Kas-
rils, Chippy Shaik (head of defence procure-
ment at the time of the arms deal), Mo Shaik (de-
moted by Mbeki from national intelligence co-ordi-
nator to ambassador in Morocco), and Shaik's
brother Schabir, who [during the Mbeki era] clearly
lost the protection he might have expected.

“Jacob Zuma (then still ANC intelligence
chief) was also in the Vula network and is widely
perceived to be the closest the group has to a
protector in government. (Schabir Shaik is said
still to handle his personal financial affairs.)”

“Where are the Vula Boys now? They are
positioned strategically throughout state
structures. The Shaiks' mentor, communist
academic Pravin Gordhan, was unlikely to be
welcomed into Mbeki's political structures;
instead he heads the SA Revenue Service,
where he has been joined by old comrades
Vuso Shabalala (Customs), Ivan Pillay (Special
Investigations) and Sirish Soni.

“Solly Shoke is now mission director for the

SANDF; Raymond Lalla is a senior official in
police intelligence ...

[Yes, the Lalla who most recently helped
save Zuma by “independently verifying” the
McCarthy tapes.]

“The repeated surfacing of Vula members in
alleged plots is no co-incidence.

“All this might lead one to suspect that the
recent raids by the Scorpions on the offices
and home of Schabir Shaik are politically moti-
vated. Not so, we are assured: the raids took
place on the basis of specific information.

“But that's not to say investigators are not
under political pressure. Government is des-
perate to avoid any suggestion of corruption in
the prime contracts, which would place them
in jeopardy. Investigators have been told not
to bother former Defence Minister Joe Modise,
who is dying of cancer. There are whispers that
Jayendra Naidoo (who negotiated the final
deals) has also been declared out of bounds.

Ian Pierce, an accountant who is reputed
to have several present and former cabinet
ministers as clients, continues simply to defy a
subpoena to hand over documents.

“The focus on the Shaiks has diverted at-
tention from Thabo's Boys' also having their
snouts deep in the arms-deal trough.”

IN THE END, of course, Mbeki and his friends
were so compromised by their own in-
volvement that, when challenged by their
insider competitors, they were unable to
defend themselves.

But what both sides did – right to the end
– was defend their corrupt masters in the
European arms industry.

The re-election of the ANC as South
Africa's governing party, and the election of
Jacob Zuma as our new president epitomise
a most dangerous phenomenon of these
dangerous times: denial.

Denial of the importance of education; de-
nial of the dangers of corruption. Denial of
the dangers of excess or a lack of restraint.
Denial of responsibility for the financial
mess we're in, and denial of any responsibil-
ity to provide for the future.

At best it can be seen to represent the
despair of the impoverished masses – the
abandonment of all hope that a rational
political and economic system will meet our
needs and secure our future. So let's just
fuck on.

Somewhere in between lie ignorance and
stupidity.

Years ago we predicted the arms deal
would be Mbeki's downfall. It was. But it
has not finished its evil work.

The Editor

The BEE merry-go-round

Nasty accusations of intellectual property theft and hugely inflated tenders are causing ructions in official quarters

VALOR IT, THE LITTLE-KNOWN technology company that controversially scooped a R153m government ICT tender to upgrade the Registrar of Companies database (*nose114*), is not the successful high-tech whiz kid it claims to be – and there are moves to strip it of its massive award.

A disturbing picture is emerging of Valor IT as an unprincipled tinpot outfit working from a borrowed office; an outfit that gives a bad name to even the most enthusiastic supporters of the increasingly prevalent practice of “fronting”; an outfit that steals website content from a fellow technology company, and only won the ICT bid through the (undeclared) input of external experts and consultants.

In a desperate effort to salvage the reputation of its tender winner, the Companies and Intellectual Property Registration Office’s (Cipro) chief information officer and IT director, Michael Twum-Darko, continues to sing its praises. “Valor IT was established by a group of highly-experienced black IT professionals,” he says. “There is a wealth of experience in terms of project management, change management and project implementation and/or support, crafting and implementation of business applications.

“The success of the Valor IT solutions is driven by the passion and commitment of the management and staff, who pride themselves in their ability to deliver, and exceptional level of service based on specialist skills in every aspect of the service provided.”

But consider this fast-developing



mess of litigation and deceit:

■ Valor’s winning bid was drafted by another company, Mantra Consulting, for a percentage of the contract fee. Mantra has now threatened to seek a high court interdict to suspend the contract unless Valor hands over R10.5m;

■ Another important contributor to the tender win who’s been kicked in the teeth is Potlaki Maine, former national technology officer with Microsoft SA and now a consultant to major corporations. Maine was brought into Valor IT’s consortium for his special

knowledge of, and background in, government information technology requirements – he was once an executive manager at the State Information Technology Agency (Sita) and chief enterprise architect at the SA Revenue Service.

Maine entered into a contract for the execution of the architecture and security consulting on the Cipro project, for a fee of R980/hour, for 160 hours per month. But on 9 February Maine received an SMS from Valor IT executive chairman Josias Molele informing him that his services were no longer required.

Now Maine is demanding R813,600 from Valor IT – R500,000 for bid preparation work and R313,600 in fees for 9 February to 9 April.

■ The impressive services section of Valor IT’s website is stolen and reproduced almost word for word from the website of

leading technology solutions and services group GijimaAst.

■ After publication of *nose114*, Valor IT chairman Josias Molele bragged to a fawning *Business Times* that it had been awarded a R118m tender for a Home Affairs electronic document management system. But Home Affairs says that tender 458 was never awarded to anybody – let alone Valor IT. Now Valor IT has issued a high court summons against Home Affairs Minister Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula and Sita, claiming damages and loss of profit totalling R28.2m.

On 9 April, just days after *nose114* appeared, Valor IT chairman Molele received a nine-page letter from Abe Mbulawa, founder of Mantra Consulting, a BEE company that provides consultancy and management of BEE ICT companies.

High points of the letter:

When it came to pricing the Cipro tender, Valor IT, “who do not understand the Cipro environment, and wanting a safety net” proposed a grossly excessive figure of more than R200m,” writes Mbulawa. “Mantra Consulting urged Valor IT to keep the final pricing between R100m-R130m, excluding VAT. Valor IT finally acceded to this.” (The other finalist in the bidding was JSE-listed – and deeply troubled – Faritec, who came in at R60m.)

Mantra’s role in the tender application, writes Mbulawa, “helps remove any possible misrepresentation on Valor IT’s spectrum of competencies and possibly explains how a closed corporation with no history with Cipro, as at the end of December 2008, [and] working from a single borrowed office, managed to produce a proposal better than other larger and more fancied competitors”.

When Valor IT produced its first technology-based draft proposal for the bid, Mantra recommended a complete re-write, using a “strategic and technology-agnostic” approach, with technology as a supplement, rather than as the driver. “Had this re-writing not taken place Valor IT would never have been awarded the tender,” writes Mbulawa in his letter.

While Valor IT was approved by Sita as a supplier of ECM (Electronic Content Management) solutions, Mbulawa says the company had no penetration at Cipro and needed assistance from Mantra on how to package its proposal to raise probability of success. “It lacked the track record and expertise to meet Cipro’s complex requirements, no matter the quality of their proposal,” he writes. On Mantra’s advice, the acclaimed Indian ICT firm Zensar Technologies was brought into the consortium to beef up the ECM capability.

In terms of a services arrangement letter it was agreed that, when the project started, Mantra would provide an account executive who would act as project consultant to ensure its continued smooth running. The executive would receive a monthly fee of

Valor’s theft of a chunk of GijimaAst’s website is breathtaking in its contempt for intellectual property law

R180,000 for the duration of the two-year contract, which started on 9 February. But Valor ignored this pledge and appointed its own manager. Writes Mbulawa: “The unilateral removal of Mantra Consulting by Valor IT is not only a breach of this agreement but can disadvantage Cipro, as it will have a possible adverse impact of the time-frame and budget [...] especially given [the project’s] size and complexity.”

The Mantra letter continues: “We wish to remind you that a major reason why the DTI replaced BEE with Broad Based BEE was because of the behaviour of companies that used black companies and individuals to win government tenders and then side-lining them once won. They managed this by ignoring existing agreements because the black sub-contractors had no direct access to the clients with these primary service providers acting as gatekeepers.

“What makes this case even worse is that the primary service provider, Valor IT, is a 100% black company! Given the selective manner in which Valor IT is honouring the agreement, one can only extrapolate that they are already in breach of clause 6 of their letter of award as it is unlikely that they have informed Cipro that Mantra Consulting is a sub-contractor.

Thanks to the DTI’s BBEE initiative, such gate-keeping activities are no longer permitted.”

The Cipro contract’s precise value is R152,711,655 and Mantra’s Mbulawa notes that Cipro’s first payment of more than R50m has already been received by Valor IT. Mantra claims that under a service level agreement signed on 28 March it should have received R2.5m on signing and the balance from a total of R10.5m (for use of Mantra’s intellectual capital and for consulting fees) within two working days of Valor IT’s receipt of the first payment. “The fact that Valor IT has refused to pay even a single cent to date puts doubt on their integrity and intentions,” writes Mbulawa.

“One would have expected Valor IT to treat its partners with more respect and avoid getting in a position that could compromise Cipro and the DTI. Apparently this is water off your back as you continue to ignore all communication from ourselves, let alone meet your contractual obligations. Invocation of the breach clause is the only option.”

Unless Valor IT meets its obligations, says Mantra Consulting, it will seek a court interdict to place the Cipro contract on hold. And if Valor IT does not meet its financial obligations Mantra will institute provisional liquidation proceedings against the CC.

As *noseweek* went to press, Mantra’s attorneys wrote to Cipro chief executive Keith Sendwe, calling on him to “immediately suspend” the Valor IT contract pending the outcome of Mantra’s dispute with Valor IT.

Mantra’s Abe Mbulawa, 47, is a former De Beers technology strategist. In 2004 he was appointed managing director of Choice Technologies, an empowerment firm held 49% by Dimension Data. He formed Mantra Consulting the following year. In addition to its management and consultancy services to BEE ICT companies, Mantra describes itself as an independent video conferencing company, with “unique end-to-end video conferencing solutions”.

Valor’s theft of a chunk of GijimaAst’s website is breathtaking in its contempt for intellectual property law. In February 2008 JSE-listed GijimaAst was awarded a controversial R3.4bn tender for a new system to modernise Home Affairs’ identification systems. The final award was delayed for 12 months after an investigation by the

auditor-general found that the criteria for functionality, price and black empowerment had been changed by unnamed people within Sita.

No allegations of wrongdoing have been made against GijimaAst, although the close ties of its non-executive chairman Robert Gumede with Jacob Zuma – and his reported R10m donation to the ANC's election kitty – have raised eyebrows in relation to the awarding of government contracts.

One-time court interpreter Gumede, 45, is a billionaire and previous owner of the Dangerous Darkies Football Club – later renamed Silver Stars. In the six months to last December GijimaAst reported revenue up 25% to R1.5bn and operating profit up 67% to R129m.

After *noseweek* informed GijimaAst's external communications practitioner Tshidi Ramoshaba of the plundering of their

the D-G's office replied saying the request was receiving attention and Valor IT would be informed of the outcome. "To date no further response or information has been received regarding the implementation of the tender," states Valor IT.

Valor IT is claiming tender costs of R1,079,400, standing time unproductive costs of R8,434,720, costs for preparing software and hardware of R905,250, and loss of profit amounting to R17,810,841. Total claim: R28,230,211.

Both Home Affairs and Sita reject this claim. Through a spokesperson, Home Affairs director-general Mavuso Msimang tells *noseweek*: "There is no evidence that that tender was ever adjudicated, and certainly it was never awarded to anybody. Valor IT say they have documentation to prove that they were awarded, but the documentation they have been able to provide to us to date is not signed."

How bizarre for Valor IT to have been in a long-running dispute with Home Affairs over tender No 458, only to be rewarded with a massive R153m from another government department.

Comments Cipro's IT director Michael Twum-Darko: "Declaration of involvement

in disputes/litigation with other government departments was not part of the evaluation criteria."

■ Sita is annoyed by the statement in *nose114* that it "rubber-stamped" the R153m Valor IT award. What happened, say Sita insiders, is the following: As Cipro neared the end of its last financial year (31 March) it had R200m unspent in its budget. Rather than roll this money over, it asked Sita to fast track some of the outstanding tenders.

Sita agreed to assist. Sita's role in these government IT tenders is to evaluate different products in the market, get quotes and procure whichever gets chosen. Sita would then invoice the department – in this instance, Cipro – adding a commission from which it derives its income. Cipro has a contractual obligation to do the whole procurement process in this way.

Imagine Sita's shock when, without being consulted, Cipro allocated the vast bulk of the unspent R200m in its budget to Valor IT – cutting out Sita and completely flouting the strict procurement procedure. ■



website by Valor IT she notified chief executive Jonas Bogoshi. "It's theft," she says. "It's our intellectual property and the matter has been handed to our legal department for further investigation."

Comments Cipro's IT director Michael Twum-Darko: "Please note that the website content of bidders did not form part of Cipro's tender evaluation criteria."

So this leads us to Valor IT's current R28.2m summons against Home Affairs minister Mapisa-Nqakula and Sita over its R118m workflow portion of Home Affairs tender No 458.

In court papers Valor IT says that on 11 May 2007 Home Affairs announced Valor IT as the successful bidder, with the tender award being published on Sita's website. The three-year tender was set to start on 1 July 2007.

That October, through its attorneys, Valor IT wrote to the director-general of Home Affairs asking about the tender's implementation. Four days later

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Cockfight at the Reserve Bank

Things are turning ugly at the nation's financial hub, where a dissident shareholder is challenging the governor

LAST SEPTEMBER'S RESERVE BANK AGM saw a spot of ungentlemanly brawling after shareholder Michael Duerr and some supporters discovered that 17 items they'd put forward for inclusion on the agenda had been disregarded by Governor Mboweni, and tried to turn discussion to those important issues.

Duerr, whose family owns around 5% of the bank's two million shares, has a beef with the way the institution is being run, accusing it, for example, of a lack of proper corporate governance and of not keeping the share register up to date (*noses* 101&103.) Given

Reserve Bank governor
Tito Mboweni

that 5% investment, it's odd that Mr Mboweni would treat the Bavarian investor as if he were about to disappear.

But he did. And Duerr talked back. And Mboweni heated up. And shareholders muttered mild objection, leading chairman Mboweni to shout: "If you don't like the way I am conducting this meeting – leave! And don't come back."

"Point of Order, Chairman..." says Duerr. Mboweni: "I do not recognise you!" At which point another shareholder stood up to object, only to have the governor accuse him of talking "like white people used to talk to black people". (*Noseweek's* source claims that when he was chatting to Mboweni later on, he sensed a distinct "impression of Johnny" floating along in the waves of mouthwash.)

Duerr, and others who now share his thinking, are not about to go away, whatever Mr Mboweni and the bank might wish: the September AGM sparked Duerr into switching from co-operation to confrontation,

and he has vowed to fight. "I'm more efficient than they are all together," he declared before moving back to Germany last year, after several years in Hermanus.

Back home, Duerr set out to convince other Reserve Bank shareholders to look into the real value of their shares, and those who now share his ideas appear currently to hold about a fifth of the bank's shares. In March top German investment magazine *Boerse Online* (in addition to its web presence, it has a print circulation of 115,000) took up the story. It reported that Duerr, "an influential shareholder of South Africa's Reserve Bank", might have gathered sufficient support among shareholders to be able to force the nationalisation of the Reserve Bank – that is, force the government to buy out the bank's private shareholders.

Duerr and his legal team make a strong case that in the event at least 40% of the capital value of the bank belongs to the private shareholders. Given that in 1989 the bank was reported to hold 110 tons of gold, Duerr calculates his shares should be worth more than R4200 per share.

Not realistic? Well, since *noseweek* first broke the Duerr story, in March last year, the Reserve Bank's share price has risen by 800%. A bit more, actually. And times are bad. And the truly negligible fixed dividend of just 10 cents per share doesn't help to explain this increase.

By Duerr's calculation, a shareholder holding 10,000 Reserve Bank shares (bought for R20,000) could be worth R42 million. It is easy to imagine Duerr's view gaining considerable shareholder support: the purchase price for most of the long-standing shareholders, at least, was less than R2 per share.

Duerr and Mboweni met alone only once, in mid 2007, when Reserve Bank shares were changing hands at about R1.50. At that stage Mboweni believed that the shares should not be traded on offer and demand: "The correct price is R1.50," he declared. Duerr offered to pay Mboweni R2 per share for his 10,000 shares, plus a premium for the lot. Mboweni declined. Shares now regularly trade at over R20.

At that meeting, Duerr explained to Mboweni that the undervalued, scarce shares, in conjunction with the bank's DIY-sales practice (the bank acts as its own broker and administers the share transactions in-house), could open all sorts of avenues for manipulation. As a solution he proposed that the bank be either nationalised or totally privatised. Both options, he argued, would have advantages, including a major empowerment component – provided the shareholders got at least some of what was theirs.

However, Mboweni didn't fancy Duerr's ideas too much. "You don't really have a choice," Duerr told him back then. Unfortunately, the relationship between the two started to sour after Duerr appeared barefoot at the Reserve Bank in Cape Town to pick up documents. Word of this reached Mboweni, who seems to have been offended by what he appears to have interpreted as an insulting, if not racist, gesture.

Next on Duerr's agenda is a move to force an extraordinary general meeting at which "shareholder issues" will feature strongly on the agenda, among them share price and dividends. Only 5% shareholder support is required for such a meeting, and Duerr and other dissident shareholders already muster more than that. However, after September's "annual shareholder railroading event" it's highly doubtful that a meaningful agenda could be negotiated with the bank's governor.

The Bavarian investor is also on the lookout for Asian investors in pursuit of influence in South Africa, and who might have a few million rands to spare to buy his shares – and those of

The relationship started to sour after Duerr appeared barefoot at the Reserve Bank in Cape Town

his friends.

Mboweni clearly knows that something's up. Last month the bank's general counsel, Johan de Jager, sent identical letters to a number of shareholders with German names or addresses who have been buying Reserve Bank shares (all those suspected of making common cause with Duerr?). De Jager explains that the *Boerse Online* article made it "apparent to the Reserve Bank that Mr Michael Duerr of Schliersee, Germany, and other shareholders [...] may have embarked on a scheme [...] which would constitute a contravention [...] of the [Reserve Bank] Act".

The head of the bank's legal department then demands that recipients of the letter must provide a "written statement [...] attested before a representative of the South African High Commission [that] you are not involved in any scheme [...] referred to in the aforementioned article", and that they do not intend to hold their shares "for and/or on behalf of any other person, including Mr Michael Duerr or other shareholders of the Reserve Bank [...] participating in the scheme referred to in the aforementioned article".

If they do not agree, says de Jager, the "intended offer to purchase a further number of Reserve Bank shares will [...] not be given any legal effect". The bank's legal authority for making this threat is not clear. Quite apart from basing this radical stance on the content of a foreign news publication,

there is nothing in the Reserve Bank Act which would prohibit a shareholder from canvassing the support of others.

The Reserve Bank's legal chief claims the shareholding in the bank to be "unique" and to be "based on the concept of shared community representation [enabling] participation [of the community] in the management and control of the Bank" – none of which is contained in the Reserve Bank Act. De Jager's services are retained by the bank at an annual cost of about R3m; nevertheless, his letters often have their origin in the law firm Werksmans.

When the Reserve Bank was founded 80-odd years ago, the shareholders provided the initial capital, and were issued shares. The bank was – and is – a business. The current Act even recognises shareholder liability.

Duerr says he and his legal advisors have meticulously analysed the Bank's annual reports and balance sheets over many years – and, he says, Mboweni and De Jager will find many things difficult to explain, including any shortfall in the bank's gold reserves, when they get to court – which he believes, they surely will.

He points out that De Jager's threat, clothed in a fog of piety, is highly questionable. The actual relevance of De Jager's letter in fact lies in its recognition of the seriousness of the issue.

Duerr, ever confident, concludes with a quote from a business 101 manual: "If management does not take care of the business, the business will take care of the management." **W**



Reserve Bank shareholder
Michael Duerr

No corn on the cob

Current crop failures in SA due to the use of genetically engineered seeds will cost Monsanto R380m, writes Adam Welz

SOMETIMES CROP FAILURES happen in slow motion, like when it doesn't rain and the mielies hang around pathetically in the fields, quietly getting yellower and thinner, until they're undeniably dead.

Or such failures may appear out of nowhere, like when you do everything right with the ploughing and the fertiliser, and there's lots of rain and the mielie plants are big and green with perfect-looking huge cobs – until one day you open them up and find them bare. No corn on the cob. Nothing. Mielies *sonder pitte*.

Since February hundreds of farmers, across three provinces, have been finding such mielies in their fields. At least 75,000 hectares of fields planted with three hybrid varieties of international agri-giant Monsanto's transgenic ("genetically-engineered") white maize have shown pollination failure. (The company calls it "pollination variation".)

The company claims that, overall, only about 10% of the plants in affected fields have bald cobs. In some fields, it concedes, more than 50% failed to yield normally, because plants did not produce enough pollen.

Although pollination failures have affected some varieties of maize before, seasoned farmers tell *noseweek* that South African agriculture has never seen the phenomenon on this scale. Monsanto's US headquarters has already announced a \$42m (R376m) "pre-tax charge", i.e.

preliminary financial loss, due to this.

It's a disaster that throws up some serious questions about "food security", in other words how the world ensures that it can sustain the production of vital basic foods.

Monsanto is usually referred to as the world's biggest seed company, but they won't say what percentage of the South African maize-seed market they control. The company claims that in 2008 they sold 36% of the maize seed in the USA, which, as the planet's largest maize producer, grows around 40% of world supply. It's likely that Monsanto controls a similar percentage of our market.

Nico Hawkins, head of Grain SA, tells *noseweek* that the three problematic Monsanto white maize varieties were planted over about 300,000 hectares, i.e. a massive 20% of this year's white-maize-crop area went to these three varieties. (Monsanto sells other varieties on the South African market, so its seeds were also sown on even more land than this.)

The crisis has been contained by Monsanto assuring farmers that the company will compensate them for their losses as quickly as they can. "They're paying out in cash. All the affected farmers are required to do is sign a confidentiality agreement," several mealie farmers happily confided.

Transgenic foods are controversial, of course. Rearranging the code of life by sticking genes from one organism into the genome of another, and then

patenting the result, isn't something you do without attracting a bit of attention. Any trouble with transgenics attracts a crop-destroying hailstorm of criticism from activist groups just itching to take on global agribusiness behemoths. Journalists, too, tend to find genetic engineering a sexy topic. As a result, Monsanto tend to be more than a little coy about their dealings, downplaying the essential strangeness of what they do, emphasising both its "normalness" and their high levels of corporate responsibility.

Take the current mess, for example: Monsanto asserts that the pollination failure had nothing to do with the fact that genetically-engineered seed was used, but arose somehow from a decision taken during seed production, which turned out to be a big mistake. The seeds are hybrids (produced from cross pollinating two different "lines", or purebred varieties of maize, and something went wrong in their production.

To produce a hybrid variety, two parent lines are interplanted in the same field (one row of line A, one row of line B, etc.). Every maize plant has both male and female reproductive parts – the male pollen-producing tassel on the top of the plant and the female ear of maize (containing the egg cells that get fertilised by wind-borne pollen to become kernels) lower down. Hybrid-seed producers normally make one of the lines completely "female" by destroying the plants' tassels, so that all those plants are

pollinated by the other line, and the seeds that they produce are a cross between the two lines – in other words guaranteed hybrids.

Monsanto admits that, in late 2007 when they planted the parent lines to produce the current crop of seeds, they decided to reverse “male” and “female” lines to increase seed yield. (The three problematic varieties have a parent line in common, used as the female in the 2007 production season, which now seems to have been genetically faulty. Monsanto refuses to name this “faulty” line and have yet to explain what is wrong with it.) Monsanto is quick to say that “this process of reversing the male and female is a common practice in hybrid production”, even with non-transgenic seeds. In other words, what they did is perfectly run of the mill – even folks who don’t believe in transgenic crops do it.

Monsanto also told the press that “these hybrids meet all our strict quality-control standards”, and *noseweek* has established that the seeds were certified by SANSOR, the South African National Seed Organisation, which does quality control for the seed industry.

Monsanto has moved with remarkable speed to assure farmers that they’ll be fully compensated. Grain SA has cut a deal with Monsanto that joint assessment of losses will occur on a case-by-case basis, after which farmers will receive a cash payout. Grain SA is satisfied with the settlement, and so are the affected farmers *noseweek* spoke to.

Josef du Plessis, who grows Monsanto maize near Schweizer-Reineke and found pollination failure on his farm, said he was “extremely happy” with how Monsanto had handled the problem, and was expecting his payout soon. He added that Monsanto’s transgenic seed was fantastic, and by using it properly – with very high-tech fertilisation methods and careful planning – he had increased his crop yields from about 3.5 tons per hectare to 4.5 tons per hectare.

“These are the varieties everybody wants to plant. Nothing else comes close to their yields, at least in my district.”

In addition, the fact that Monsanto maize produces its own pesticide to kill the corn stalk-borer pest means that he doesn’t have to spray enormous amounts of organophosphate

pesticide, which, he says, killed birds and rabbits. “We are very conservation-minded here. We don’t find dead wildlife in the fields nowadays”.

Monsanto claims that the disastrous pollination failures had nothing to do with the fact that the affected hybrids were genetically engineered, saying that “research teams have analysed samples from affected fields and have confirmed that the biotechnology traits are performing exactly as designed”. In other words, the genes they inserted from other species are working properly, and hence cannot be the source of the pollination failures.

So what’s the big deal? Monsanto produced hybrid seed in South Africa for the South African market using completely normal, acceptable methods – the same methods they use all over the world, including in the USA. They tested the seed to their international standards and it passed. SANSOR certified it. Their genetic manipulation reduces pesticide use and increases yields, a good thing for the environment and a hungry world. Then there was a little accident where a chunk of the crop failed to pollinate, which has happened before – for various reasons – with “vanilla”, non-genetically-modified crops. Nothing unusual.

Does this bring to mind Sherlock Holmes and the curious incident of the dog that didn’t bark during the night when a crime took place? It should, because, as the wise old detective pointed out, the key to the problem lies in the ostensible normality of the situation.

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Green Point stadium in the red

THE CAPE TOWN CITY COUNCIL has kept suspiciously quiet about the details of its lease agreement with the long-term operator of the new Green Point mega-stadium, being built at FIFA's behest for the 2010 soccer World Cup.

The agreement was advertised for public inspection and comment just twice – once in English and once in Afrikaans – and then only in the form of one of those small-print municipal notices that begins: "Notice is hereby given ...", as if this were in the same league as a call for tenders to clean the Civic Centre's windows.

It can only be concluded that the council didn't want to draw ratepayers' attention to an arrangement that does not guarantee them financial return on their huge investment, yet leaves them carrying most of the risk.

Not that anyone should be surprised. *Nose94* exposed the shakiness of the financial case for the mega stadium. And that was before construction costs went from R1.2bn to R4.4bn, or the world economy began buckling at the knees.

Persuading a credible operator to

take on the place as a commercial venture after the World Cup was never going to be easy. After a dismal response to the first call for tenders, the city council was immensely relieved when its second appeal attracted a submission from a quality outfit – a consortium formed by the international stadium operator Stade de France and local sports marketing specialists SAIL.

Given the circumstances, the council was in no position to haggle. Still, *noseweek* is told, it put up a creditable struggle for about six months before finally agreeing to terms which would make no sense were this a normal business deal.

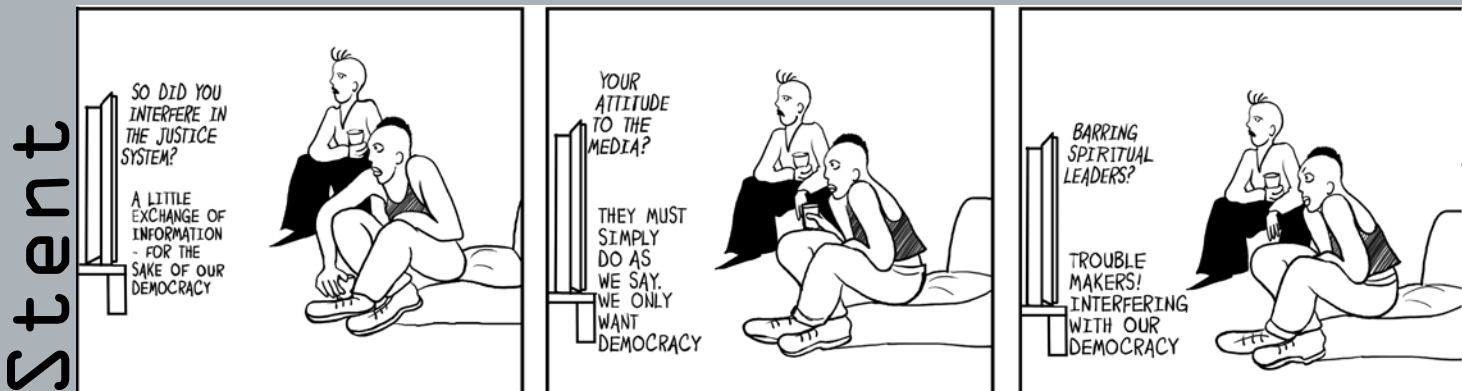
The lease, still to be signed, gives the SAIL/Stade de France operating company exclusive rights to the expensive public asset for the next 10 to 30 years, in exchange for 30% of the after-tax profits. Well, not actually 30% as the stadium rates will be deducted from the City's share.

In the not-so-unlikely event that no profits are forthcoming, the operator will pay its landlord just R1 year (and the rates due).

But, in credit or in debt, the city will remain responsible for the expensive business of maintaining the high-tech structure, including its extremely elaborate glass, steel and PVC roof. And stadium maintenance, as any former World Cup or Olympic host will tell you, is a bottomless pit. So bad, in fact, that some have elected to demolish rather than maintain them, clearing the way for more sensible development.

While the lease transfers much of the burden of risk from the operator to the city's ratepayers, it's still going to be an uphill battle for the consortium to make a go of the place. Among the analysts who have poured cold water on the city's over-heated financial forecasts for the stadium is PricewaterhouseCoopers. When they crunched the numbers, they concluded that the only chance the venue might have of making money would be to lure Western Province Rugby there, or to add a commercial element like a hotel or office premises.

So far, Western Province Rugby has refused to bite – they'd first have to sell their Newlands stadium; no



juicy prospect in the current property market – and the city has dismissed any notion of changing the zoning from “public amenities”, which means no commercial development will be allowed.

In addition, the operator will be expected to manage the urban park next to the stadium, which is likely to put even more of a strain on its resources.

But the operators are not rookies: Stade de France manages the very successful stadium of the same name in Paris, and SAIL is well established in the local sporting and sponsorship community. So what’s their plan?

According to local residents, it’s to “sweat the asset” by cramming as many events into the venue as possible. And the bigger the better.

“They will have to put on at least 45 to 50 events a year,” says a member of the De Waterkant Ratepayers’ Association, who asked not to be named.

David Polovin, chair of the Green Point Common Coalition, says the effects on the neighbourhood will be dramatic: “I don’t think people in the area realise the disruption that it will cause: the volumes of traffic and people, the noise, the light pollution, the security issues...”

Much as one sympathises, one hopes he’s right – if that’s what it’s going to take for the place to earn its keep. But even when the number of seats is reduced from 68,000 to 55,000, after 2010, it is difficult to envisage what kind of events could fill the stadium week after week.

Neither of Cape Town’s two Premier League clubs are likely to use the venue much because they will be ensconced in their own newly upgraded grounds close to where most of their fans live – Santos will remain based at Athlone, while Ajax will move to the new stadium at Phillippi.

In any case, the only time either of

What will happen when the Fifa circus leaves town?

these teams attracts more than a few thousand fans is for a couple of big home games a season – and if these are played at Green Point, the clubs will want a share of the gate.

Which leaves music concerts, political rallies, new car launches, the Cape Minstrel Carnival and maybe the occasional international soccer or rugby match.

Noseweek asked SAIL director, and executive chairman of the consortium, Morné du Plessis, (yes, *that* Morné du Plessis), whether that would be enough. He replied that discussions with the soccer clubs were continuing, and that there would be many other revenue opportunities, such as conferences, merchandising, hospitality, office rental, parking and stadium tours.

Office rental? “Most of these commercial activities are permissible in terms of the record of decision and municipal zoning and regulations, and, if not, we will follow due process to promote the acceptance of these activities.”

The neighbours won’t like that, and nor will the owners of the established malls and office blocks on the neighbouring V&A Waterfront.

He also mentioned the high-performance sports and fitness centre which has long been touted as a

money-spinner for the stadium, but has yet to be built.

“To achieve these income streams, considerable capital expenditure will be required either by [the consortium] or third party investors.” Indeed.

Du Plessis concedes that the challenges are considerable, and that a permanent sports tenant would be a big help.

“We are under no illusions as to the challenges to render the stadium financially viable in the future. We are continually reminded how difficult this will be.”

But he remains tenaciously confident. He believes the venue will break even by 2012 even though it is expected to host only between 15 and 20 major events by 2013. The neighbours will be relieved.

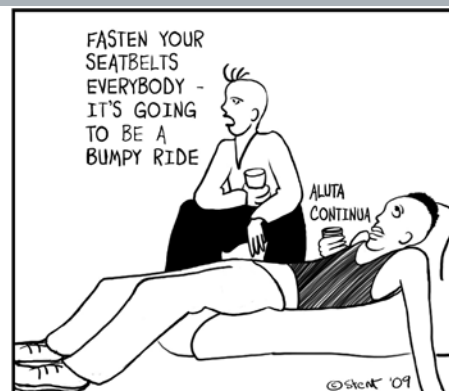
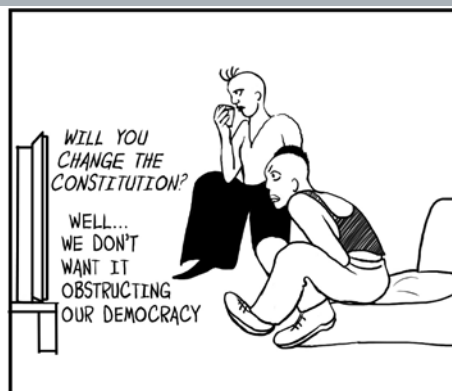
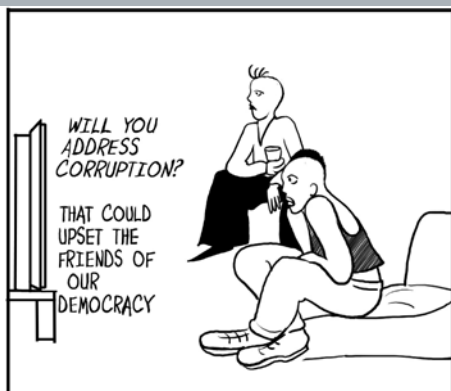
“We consider this a business opportunity and a chance to be part of and contribute to this historic 2010 event in South Africa. We are determined to make this work and will require all the positive energy and support of stakeholders.”

But it will take more than that to convince the sceptics. The ratepayers’ associations of Green Point, Sea Point, Mouille Point and De Waterkant (the kind of people who do read obscure municipal notices) are all believed to have submitted objections to the lease agreement.

David Polovin says there is a “palpable sense of desperation” about the terms. “The lessee got the deal of a lifetime. The city said yes to everything the operator wanted,” he says.

“Why did they agree to a profit share instead of a share of revenue? The operator will make damn sure there are no profits. Any intelligent stadium operator has thousands of different ways to hide income in expenses.”

Polovin says the cost of maintenance



alone means that the city will “continue to pour huge amounts of ratepayers’ money into the stadium for years, with no direct return”.

“They couldn’t even maintain the old Green Point stadium properly. How are they going to be able to take care of this incredibly complicated structure? They will probably have to fly experts in from overseas to fix the roof.”

Of course it’s easy to blame the Cape Town City Council for the situation, but it’s not really their fault.

It was not the city council which decided Cape Town needed a 68,000-seater megastadium for the World Cup – it was Fifa.

And it was not the current administration which chose Green Point as the site. It was the previous city leadership and the provincial government under Ebrahim Rasool, who had connections with a Dubai company which had its eye on a big piece of land between the stadium precinct and the V&A Waterfront.

Nor did the current council have much say over the design of the structure, although they did manage to eliminate the original retractable roof, in a vain effort to cap the budget. Whatever savings were achieved were soon swallowed up as construction costs ballooned, doubling the city’s own contribution from R500m to over R1bn

Still, it could be worse. At least Cape Town has found an operator.

According to Du Plessis, Green Point was the only one of the five new World Cup stadia considered potentially sustainable by Stade de France.

What that means for the expensive new venues going up in Mbombela, the Nelson Mandela Metro, Polokwane and Ethekwini will only become clear when the FIFA circus leaves town.

Noseweek asked the city council to provide the projected maintenance costs over the next 30 years, but they had not responded by the time of going to press. ■

Baby Michael

Whistleblower gagged by the system over tragic case of battered child

SYLVIA HAYWOOD, head of the residential home that is caring for battered Baby Michael (*nose108*), has been threatened with arrest and imprisonment if she ever utters another word publicising the plight of the tragically-abused five-year-old.

The threat has been made by Salome le Roux, a commissioner of Child Welfare SA. Ms le Roux is also a magistrate at Randburg children’s court. She recently dispatched Maureen Coetzee, head of foster care at Johannesburg Child Welfare Society, to deliver the grim message to Haywood at the privately-owned Avril Elizabeth home for the mentally handicapped, in Germiston.

Last October *noseweek* told how Baby Michael was admitted to Johannesburg General Hospital in October 2003 with a bruised and swollen left eye when he was three months old. Doctors suspected abuse, but a social worker accepted the story of his (then) 18-year-old parents that he had tumbled off a futon bed, and Baby Michael was returned to their dubious care. A month later the baby was again admitted to hospital. Now he was blind, with fresh bruises on his face and irreversible brain damage.

Our story was followed up by a *Special Assignment* TV programme, which filmed Baby Michael at Avril Elizabeth. The combined publicity resulted in readers and viewers donating more than R100,000 towards Michael’s care at Avril Elizabeth, where he will probably spend the rest of his life. Previously his fees of R7000 per month came from the



Baby Michael

home’s fund-raising activities.

But *noseweek*’s story made Child Welfare commissioner Le Roux see red. She dispatched Maureen Coetzee to Avril Elizabeth with a page from the Child Care Act, with section 8 highlighted. This reads: “No person shall publish in any manner whatever any information relating to proceedings in a children’s court which reveals or may reveal the identity of any child who is or was concerned in those proceedings.”

Baby Michael has never featured in any proceedings in commissioner Le Roux’s court, but this did not prevent her from issuing her grim message to Sylvia Haywood: any more publicity about Baby Michael and you will be charged criminally.

For the *nose108* story, Johannesburg magistrate’s court senior

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prosecutor Carina Coetzee obtained special permission from the office of the national director of public prosecutions to tell *noseweek* of the long battle to bring Baby Michael's parents to trial. (On 12 May, more than five years after Baby Michael's life was destroyed, Bradley Connor and Malinda Marshall will finally face trial in Coetzee's court, charged with attempted murder, alternatively assault with intent to commit grievous bodily harm, or ill-treatment of a child.)

But in Randburg, Child Welfare commissioner Le Roux has imposed a ban on revealing events at her children's court which led her to blast off at Sylvia Haywood. Despite this, Child Welfare's foster care head Maureen Coetzee recounted a fascinating version of events when she delivered Le Roux's threatening message at Avril Elizabeth home: Baby Michael's allegedly abusive father Bradley Connor, now 23, recently fathered another child – by a 16-year-old girl who is in foster care under the supervision of Johannesburg Child Welfare. Could this



Prosecutor Carina Coetzee

embarrassment for Child Welfare be the reason for all the secrecy? (Baby Michael's own mother Malinda Marshall has had two more children by her latest partner.)

Maureen Coetzee refuses to repeat her dramatic story to *noseweek*. "The Child Care Act precludes any mention of any child dealt with under the Act without the express permission of the commissioner of Child Welfare who dealt with the matter," she says.

Section 8 (3) of the act does indeed say that. So, had she wanted, commissioner Le Roux could have released at least the basic details explaining Connor's presence in her court, without identifying the teenage mother or her child.

Sex with a minor is an offence under section 15 of the Sexual Offences Act, but had Connor been charged he would have appeared in an adult court, not Le Roux's. The commissioner declines to give any information. "I mustn't talk to the press," she says. "I'm a commissioner of Child Welfare and I'm a magistrate. No magistrate may speak to the press without permission from my employer, the Magistrates Commission."

When word of Connor's latest child reached the ear of prosecutor Carina Coetzee at Johannesburg magistrates' court she called Johannesburg Child Welfare and a social worker removed the child from Connor's home and obtained a provisional care order. We tried to speak to the social worker about this, but were told by the director's office at Johannesburg Child Welfare: "She is not authorised to talk to the media."

At the Avril Elizabeth home Baby Michael has faced two crises in recent weeks. First he was rushed to a private hospital after he had a seizure and stopped breathing – a result of the damage to his brain. He was discharged after several days, but as *noseweek* went to press was re-admitted, this time with bronchial pneumonia.

Avril Elizabeth's Sylvia Haywood is gagged from talking to *noseweek* about Baby Michael by order of commissioner Le Roux. But she has told friends: "After everything that Michael's gone through I don't have the heart to send him to a government hospital. If necessary I will pay the private hospital costs myself. We know from experience that if we send our residents to government hospitals they're not going to come back alive."

■ *It is regrettable that commissioner Le Roux appears unable to see the difference, in this case, between Baby Michael's interests and the law she cites. While noseweek respects the laws designed to protect the interests of children, we have absolutely no doubt that publication of his story was in Baby Michael's, and the public's, best interests.* – Ed.



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Glenrand's no-pay policy

NO SURPRISE IF SOME WAIT a long time for payouts from Glenrand MIB. Commenting on the insurer's performance in 2008, forensics expert David Klatzow tells *noseweek*: "One would have struck it richer investing in toilet paper – the price of decent stuff probably tripled in the past year." Glenrand shares fell 152% to an all-time low of 62 cents by this January.

After a seven-year wait for Glenrand to address a claim resulting from a bus accident in October 2002 (*nose103*), to Iman Dharsey's relief a court date was finally fixed for 12 May. But this was also the cue for attorneys at Dicks & Van der Merwe of Cape Town to go into overdrive collecting the wherewithal to test Iman's case, from educational certificates to medical histories of her condition prior to the accident.

"The Almighty has been hearing my prayers," Iman tells *noseweek*, in anticipation of a positive hearing and the awarding of funds with which to address her debilitating and distressing physical state. Soon instructions arrived by email for Iman to visit another orthopaedic surgeon, then to be examined by occupational therapist Elana Human. To Iman it was all looking good.

Three days before the scheduled examination with Human, someone from Dicks and Co called to say the therapist had unfortunately double booked and Iman should wait for a call from them for a new appointment. Would they send her an email to that effect, she asked? – certainly they would. When none arrived, Iman went all the way to the appointment anyway – only to find there had been no double booking as alleged; in fact no-one had made an appointment for Iman with Human.

A couple of days later she was served with a court order to avail herself for

"One would have struck it richer investing in toilet paper"



examination by occupational therapist Minna Truter, at Tygerberg Hospital (on the other side of the city from her home in Rondebosch). Three hours into a strenuous examination Truter said Iman wasn't strong enough to go on, and recommended rescheduling the last bit of the examination to when she could make a house call – she thought that Iman's condition would be aggravated by another 50km journey.

Two more court orders for examinations followed. Why court orders? Well, clearly the law will know if you don't. Will they also know why a severely physically distressed woman would be sent from expert to expert across the city, when relevant medical testimony was already on record?

Clinical psychologist Larry Loebenstein told Iman during his examination that her condition could be "contained" by a cocktail of pills – but couldn't give her a prescription as he was retained to examine and not treat her. Industrial psychologist Johan Lourens then cancelled her appointment for examination.

When the attorneys asked for medical reports regarding spinal surgery performed on Iman in 1993 by a Dr Parker, the surgeon agreed to supply them to her. Iman explains that Parker's surgery was successful, and she was able to do hard physical work until the 2002 accident, when she was thrown violently about inside a bus as it came to a sudden halt. But when she called again Parker said she could no longer have the files as Dicks & Van der Merwe had

instructed him not to release them to her, but to pass them to the attorneys instead. After *noseweek* called the surgeon to point out that Dicks and Co had no right to Iman's files, he undertook not to give them out without Iman's written consent.

Dicks & Van der Merwe also wanted tax returns for her informal business at the time of the accident. Considering that the claim for loss of income was a mere R800 per month, the attorneys appear to have forgotten that such an amount was not taxable at the time (2002). Iman then had to obtain her British tax returns for 1989, when she worked for British Standard Chartered Bank in London. These are unlikely to appear at court: When the attorneys saw that Iman, who came to this country after marrying Capetonian Mohamed Dharsey in 1990, had been earning around £5,000 a month, the tune changed and it looked like they didn't want her returns after all.

Iman's attorney, Nico Humphries says the new medical examinations simply can't show anything new, as Iman's condition has actually worsened over the years – as predicted by medical opinion after the accident. He appears confident of a positive outcome for his client. No doubt others are too – about their own chances.

Yes: by all means call on Dicks & Van der Merwe of Cape Town, when it's a matter of complicating your clients' lives until your market share improves. ■



Iman Dharsey



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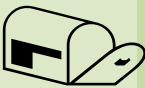
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Issue 115



Aluta continua

South Africa's long walk to freedom might just be beginning, writes former Sunday Times editor Ken Owen

WHEN I WAS A JOURNALIST I used to say: "Always predict elections – if you are wrong nobody will remember, and if you are right, you can remind them." But these days, I must confess, I am no longer close enough to daily politics to pretend that I can predict what, by the time you read this, might have happened in the elections. I make broad assumptions from what I read or hear, but I don't really know.

So I want to look at the elections from a different perspective. Let's start with this observation:

In South Africa today it takes just 2300 votes:

- to change the president and deputy president;
- to change the cabinet;
- to change the membership of parliament
- to replace a provincial premier, so weakening an already weak federal feature of the constitution
- to fire and replace the head of any government department, any chairman of a statutory commission, to shut down our equivalent of Scotland Yard or the FBI, to spring a notorious criminal from jail, or to condone or even reward criminal behaviour
- and, with a few changes of personnel and a bit of legal sleight-of-hand, to stop a prosecution despite solid evidence of crime.

All this has in fact happened since the Zuma faction of the ANC with its 2300 votes defeated the Mbeki faction of the ANC at the Polokwane party congress. The only word to describe what happened at Polokwane is the one I used at the time: it was a putsch. It gutted and made nonsense of our famed Constitution, and

it gave us a democracy of a kind not generally known in the West.

It usurped the rights of the electorate, made parliament a rubber stamp for party *apparatchiks* selected in smoke-filled rooms, and it shifted policy-making out of both the executive branch of government and the legislature.

Power shifted decisively from the electorate to the party elite. As Mathews Phosa said, there is only one centre of power, and that is party HQ.

Worst of all, there is nothing to prevent another Polokwane in a year or two, with another radical shift of power, another change of government and policy, another round of purges. All it takes is 2300 or so "disciplined cadres".

How did this come about?

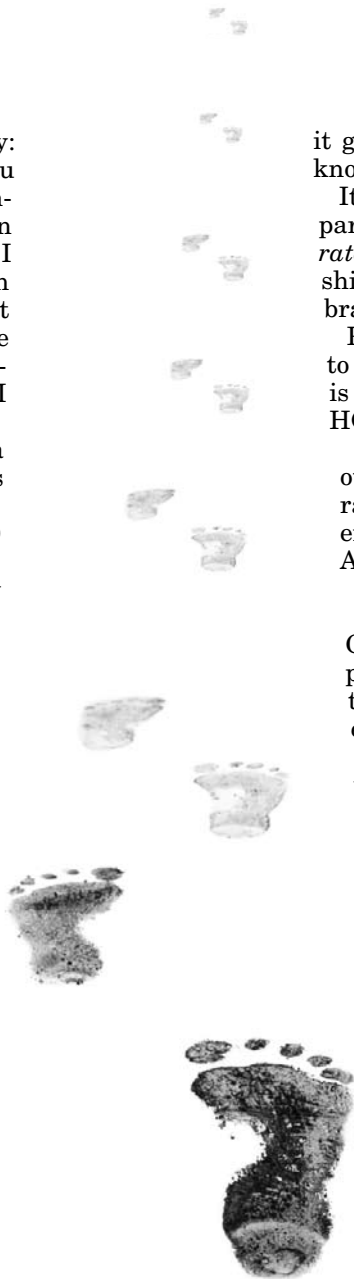
Obviously, part of the reason is that the Constitution is fatally flawed because proportional representation (as Van Zyl Slabbert tried to warn us) empowers politicians at the expense of the people.

But Polokwane was something more than that: it was a deliberate, well organised and ruthlessly executed seizure of power that merely exploited the flaw in the Constitution.

You can blame Jacob Zuma and his fanatics, or you can blame the criminals and shabby people who rallied around him, from Winnie Mandela to Baleka Mbete, and Mo Shaik. Or you can blame Mbeki's vengeful victims and enemies, like Tokyo Sexwale or Mathews Phosa.

But I can't help thinking that this is the start of "the second stage of revolution" which has been planned for so long to install a "vanguard party" at the centre of the system.

Our vaunted democracy is in the process of being gutted. However we vote, the party hierarchy will decide who governs and for how long, what policies will



prevail, and who our foreign friends may be. Whatever the issue, the party will decide.

In that sense, this has been a virtual election, not much different from Soviet elections that were regularly held under Stalin.

People tend to forget that the Soviet constitution was much admired. It just didn't apply to the *nomenklatura*.

We are in much the same position:

■ The rule of law does not apply to Jacob Zuma, or to other apparatchiks in parliament and elsewhere, against whom solid evidence of criminal behaviour exists. The powerful consistently go free.

■ Equality before the law does not apply to Schabir Shaik. Thousands of sick people die in jail, Shaik is released in a cloud of lies and dissimulations.

■ Ordinary law does not apply to a

government" to change proportional representation; each party's elite will find reason to cling to the system in order to entrench the privilege of its own *apparatchiks*.

HAPPILY, NOT ALL IS LOST. The Constitution still commands great public respect, so that government and party feel obliged to observe its forms even while defying its spirit.

The courts remain, in the main, defiantly independent and the press functions in its own haphazard and incompetent way.

Most important for the moment is that the IEC still functions, and it has been possible, if not altogether likely, for the electorate to begin to remedy the situation – provided they did so in this election, or in the next.

Let me try to sketch the situation:

The ANC is in substantial disar-

The rule of law does not apply to Jacob Zuma or other apparatchiks against whom solid evidence exists



judge who takes money from the people in whose favour he rules. It seems not to apply to drunken judges.

■ The ordinary laws on theft and fraud do not apply to thieving MPs. They get special deals, and special pardons. Even the Speaker of parliament can obtain a driver's licence by fraud and go unpunished.

The *nomenklatura* are above the law. It is straight out of Soviet Moscow or, if you prefer, from Animal Farm.

The *nomenklatura* are entrenching themselves. You can see it happening as they become steadily more corrupt, and more contemptuous of public opinion.

The scum floats to the top.

To call us either a democracy or a *Rechtsstaat* is fanciful and dishonest. It's the latest form of SA denialism.

Nor can we look to any "alternative

ray, riven by factionalism, with rival factions tapping each other's phones, forging signatures on phoney documents, and hunting down dissidents. It uses patronage, bribery, intimidation, and occasionally assassination. Character assassination is routine. Both sides interfere in the objective functioning of the legal system.

But political parties have immense inertia, and for the time being the ANC remains overwhelmingly the most powerful party.

Can it be prevented from getting a two-thirds majority that would enable it to gut the Constitution? Can it, perhaps, be held to less than an absolute majority in this election, or the next?

Cope has raised the hope that this just might happen.

Of course, the DA is the official opposition, but I see no prospect that

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POLOKWANE

it can become an alternative government. The decision by Tony Leon and Ryan Coetzee to rebuild the party on a power base of whites was catastrophic.

The party acquired its present status by exploiting the racial fears of whites to cannibalise the National Party, and it is now exploiting the racial fears of coloured people who think they are “not black enough” to cannibalise the Independent Democrats.

That strategy is doomed, and not only because it has left the DA with a taint of racism. It is doomed because its support base is emigrating and dying off. The 2007 mini-census showed that we had fewer 20-year-old white males than 60-year-olds.

Above the age of 60, whites make up 20% of the population; under the age of 10, they are less than 5%. In

**A new freedom
struggle may
be starting
already**



ten years' time there will be no white power base.

Demographic trends for coloured and Indian populations are much the

same, with a small time lag.

In short, the DA has no future unless it can outbid Cope for dissident black votes. And given its race-obsessed white and coloured support base, it has no hope of doing that.

That leaves Cope, which is finding that to launch and establish a new party is the work of many years. If they manage to get 10% of the vote this time, I'll view it as a magnificent triumph. If they get one MP, as the Progs once did, I'll see it as success.

So where does hope lie?

It lies in the character of proportional representation systems. They naturally fragment political parties. They foster palace politics. They encourage a proliferation of minority parties.

And in the end, they compel politicians to form shifting, unstable coalitions. In short, they compel compromise.

Helen Zille has shown a talent for this kind of politics, and if she can restrain her party – and herself – from treating other opposition groups as mortal enemies, she might begin a process of coalition formation. But I notice that lately she has been venomous towards both De Lille and Cope, so I doubt that she has a clear coalition strategy in mind.

The basic fact is this: to check the ANC we need Cope and the DA, and Inkatha and Bantu Holomisa, and the PAC and ACDP, and anybody else we can find. Instead of trying to eliminate and cannibalise small parties, we should make space for them and encourage them. In this diverse society, the essential political skill is the art of compromise.

The challenge is not to get people to support the main parties as “an alternative government” but simply to get them to the polls – to vote against taxes, or for tribal law, for sharia if you must, for local grievances, for whatever reason. To contain the politicians, the people must vote against them.

There lies the hope.

If it is not realised, then we face a new freedom struggle. Indeed, it may be starting already: I discern some emergent similarities to the period in the fifties when Chief Justice Centlivres and the Black Sash and a few liberals began to demonstrate in support of the Constitution.

We know what a long road lies beyond that point. ▣



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While America burns

The next phase of the financial meltdown will infect the social and political arenas – with scary consequences, writes James Howard Kunstler

EVEN AS A WAVE OF NAUSEA washed across the US last month, and unemployment rolls swelled by much more than another half million, the greatest stock market rally in seventy years succeeded in pulling in the last of the credulous suckers. These are strange days. The earth is heaving and the buds swelling again – at least north of the equator, where most of the action is – and the global economy, which was supposed to be a permanent add-on to the human condition, is sloughing away in big horrid gobs. But no one in charge of anything can believe it. The banking fiasco has introduced so much noise into the system that world leadership can't think straight.

What they're missing is really simple: peak oil (now expected due in 2020) means two things: the supply of oil will start to decline, and its price will begin to rise to the point that it is no longer a viable source of energy for general use. That means no more ability to service debt at any level, personal, corporate, or government. End of story. All exertions being performed in opposition to this basic fact amount to a spastic soft-shoe shuffle performed before a smokescreen concealing a world of hurt. If "quantitative easing" (printing money) and fiscal sleight-of-hand do happen to jack up the "velocity" of the new funny-money, and the world resumes its previous level of oil use, the price of oil would rise again – astronomically, because the previous crash of oil prices crushed the development of new oil projects to offset



depletion – and the global economy will crash again. Except that the next phase of the disease is liable to move beyond the financial, and into the social and political realms. Disorder of various kinds will rule – toppled governments, civil unrest, international tension and conflict.

The US is doing everything possible to avoid these awful realities, but probably the worst self-deception is the idea that everything would be okay if we could only "re-start lending". That's just not going to happen. There is no more capacity to service

the debt we've already piled up. Americans borrowed too much, and the bankers who made obscene fortunes in fees and bonuses on fraudulent lending managed to leverage this unpayable debt into the greatest collective swindle the world has ever known. The swindle has sent poison into every cell of the macro socio-economic organism, and further swindles are unlikely to revive it.

The rally in stocks, the financials in particular, could go on for another month or two at best. In the meantime, banks are striving desperately to avoid calling in more bad loans – especially in commercial real estate, malls, strip malls – because they don't want more losses on their balance sheets. That, too, can only go on for so long. Sooner or later the fundamental transactions of business lose legitimacy, and something's got to give.

My guess is that, quite soon, it will take the form, of wholesale liquidations of everything under the North American sun: companies, households, chattels, US Treasury paper of all kinds, and, of course, the S&P 500. We'll soon find out whether an organism the size of the United States can run an economy based on one family selling the contents of its garage to the family next door. My guess is this type of economy won't support the standards of living previously enjoyed

in places like Dallas and Minneapolis.

The socio-political fallout from the inherent anger and disappointment in all this is liable to be severe. The public is already warming up for it, with cheerleaders such as Glen Beck on *Fox TV News* calling for the formation of militias, and gun sales moving out of sight. One mistake that the banking elite and their lawyer paladins made in the past decade was their show of conspicuous acquisition – of houses especially – in easy-to-get-to places for angry mobs, like Fairfield County, Connecticut, or Easthampton, New York. Unlike the beleaguered elites of South Africa (where I visited recently), who live behind layers of fortification, the executives of Citibank, Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan, and a long list of hedge funds, will be found cringing in their wine-cellars behind a measly layer of privet hedge when the

– in the sense that it was an uprising on the grounds of principle, not survival. And the US Civil War was a wholly regimented affair between two rival factions. This time, people with little interest in principle, beyond some dim idea of economic fairness, will be hoisting the flaming brands out of sheer grievance and malice. By the time Lloyd Blankfein – Goldman Sachs Group CEO who, in 2007, received a total compensation of \$5.4m – sees the torches flickering through his privet, it will be too late to defend the honour of his cappuccino machine.

President Obama will have to change his current game plan starkly if this outcome is to be avoided. I think he's capable of turning off the mob – of preventing the grasshoppers from turning into ravening locusts – but it may take an extraordinary exercise in authority to do it, such as the true (not pretend) nationalisation of the big banks, engineering the exit of Ben Bernanke from the Federal Reserve, sucking up the ignominy of having to replace failed regulator Tim Geithner in the Treasury Department, and calling out the dogs on the swindlers who had the gall to play their country for a sucker.

As I've averred more than a few times before, the standard of living

in America has got to come way down. We mortgaged our future and the future has now begun. Tough noogies for us. But the broad public won't accept the reality of this as long as the grandees of finance, and their myrmidons, still appear to be enjoying the high life. They've got to be brought down hard, perhaps even disgraced and humiliated in the courts, and certainly parted from some of their fortunes – if only in lawyer's fees. Mr Obama pretty much served notice to this effect last month, telling a delegation of bankers to the White House that he was the only thing standing between them and "the pitchforks." It's just possible he understands the situation.

Kunstler is a well-known US political commentator whose blogs can be found at www.Kunstler.com

The banking fiasco has introduced so much noise into the system that world leadership can't think straight

tattooed minions of Glen Beck come a'calling.

This could perhaps be avoided if someone in authority, like US Attorney General Eric Holder, took an aggressive interest in the multiple swindles of the decade past, and commenced some prosecutions. But the window of opportunity for this sort of meliorating action may close sooner than government, and the media, believe.

Once the first window is broken, all bets are off for social stability. My guess is that, in the eyes of the increasingly flammable public, the bailout gifts to the bankers already went too far some time back.

The US has no previous experience with this type of social unrest. The violence of the Vietnam era will look limited and reasonable in comparison

Who nose and 'ears everything on the Garden Route?

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Fusion Trading's half-completed development before the extra two storeys were added

No more sunsets for Milnerton residents

Illegal four-storey development steals cherished view of Table Mountain

WHEN YOU'VE paid top prices for stunning views of one of Cape Town's major attractions you don't want someone sticking a high-rise block in front of your window. But if Table Mountain, lit by a purple-and-orange sunset, is one of the planet's great showpieces, someone in Cape Town's Planning and Building Development Management Department isn't particularly impressed – some developers are being allowed to get away with breaking the height-restriction by-laws, cutting off residents' views and lowering property prices.

One developer, Fusion Trading, is in the process of having a large four-storey block (with mountain views) constructed in Milnerton – after getting plans approved for only two storeys. Although residents have complained to the local sub-council, no action has yet been taken.

Fusion Trading acquired the land for the development in 2007, from Royal Ascot Property Development, an Investec subsidiary, for R14.78m. Investec then provided Fusion with a

loan of R85m to go ahead with the council-approved development. However, *noseweek's* investigations show that the land originally belonged to the City of Cape Town, but was handed over to Royal Ascot – for R100 – in 2005, on condition that they clean it up and build houses on it. Royal Ascot then sold it to Fusion Trading.

The first sign of Fusion's real intention for the development was detected when several neighbours reported the sudden appearance of large cracks in their homes. It then transpired that Fusion's building contractor, HFO Construction, had dug much deeper foundations than would have been required to support only two storeys, leading to destabilisation of the ridge on which the construction is taking place.

Fusion then performed a trick all too familiar in the Mother City: the "basement" was built at ground floor level, with the "ground floor" and two more storeys on top of that.

Fusion Trading's Equini Lifestyle Centre was beginning to look like a *fait accompli*, when, fearing loss of

value on their properties, neighbouring residents petitioned the Blaauwberg sub-council to reassess what their new neighbour was up to. In an email response, sub-council manager LP Deacon assured them that their concerns had been referred to the executive director for strategy and planning to investigate the circumstances surrounding the approvals and conditions applicable to the development. In the meantime, of course, the developer is forging ahead with construction.

Residents affected by the development are presently considering suing the City of Cape Town, for allowing Fusion Trading to deviate from approved plans, thereby leading to damage to their properties and the lowering of property values.

Fusion says the centre will include 136 apartments, a clinic with its own nursing staff, a community clubhouse, library, games room and so on. It boasts particularly of providing balcony views of Table Mountain.



Going up... and up. Fusion Trading's sunblock

When *noseweek* called Investec to get their angle, a Mr Whelan claimed that the bank was not aware of deviations from the approved plans. "We conduct regular meetings on the development," he said, "and we are satisfied with what they are doing." Pressed for details he said that he did not know when the last, or any other, meeting might have taken place.

He was also unaware that the deviations from plans had been discussed at two Blaauwbergstrand sub-council meetings in March. Neither did Mr Whelan know that the developer had commissioned a damage assessor for the neighbouring properties. ■

Driven to drink

'Geen Afrikaans,' rules Cipro in London Taxi trade mark case



DIRK VAN DER WALT, the West Rand bottle store owner who stood up to SABMiller when the brewing giant excluded small bottle stores from a Castle Lager Rugby World Cup promotion (*nose97*), is in a tussle with the Scotch Whisky Association (SWA) over his attempt to register the name London Taxi as a trade mark for alcoholic drinks (*nose107*).

Now, adding to his burden, Dirk has discovered that he can't conduct his side of the battle, to be adjudicated by our own Companies and Intellectual Property Registration Office (Cipro), in his own language. Afrikaans just won't do. Never mind Jacob Zuma's recent declaration that Afrikaners are the only honkies who are "truly South Africans in the true sense of the word", and Mathews Phosa's plea for them to "*bly asseblief – Suid Afrika het jou nodig*" (please stay – SA needs you). English it must be.

The SWA, which represents the likes of Johnnie Walker and Chivas Regal, has now filed "evidence" with Cipro, in which it claims that the name "London Taxi" is evocative of Scotland and therefore likely to fool South Africans into thinking they're buying scotch. SWA director of legal affairs Ian Barclay declares that because London is the capital of the UK, "many consumers will not make a distinction between Scotland and England", so they'll think Van der Walt's hooch comes from Scotland. Barclay attaches an affidavit from Michael Fridjhon, who needs a full three pages to explain why he's the most highly qualified piss-artist since Bacchus himself. Fridjhon says that his "liquor consultancy services are generally directed at retailers, wholesalers and producers who are engaged in the South African liquor market". So, no surprise to find him agreeing that South Africans will assume that London Taxi is scotch whisky because, he says, "England and Scotland are [...] strongly linked – generally, geo-

graphically and in the minds of most South Africans".

(Fridjhon apparently thinks they'll believe this even though bottles of London Taxi would carry labels saying, for example, "South African-made gin" – Van der Walt has made it clear that he doesn't intend to use the name to market any kind of whisky.)

The SWA's clincher "evidence" comes in the form of an affidavit from attorney Carel Crafford, whose life is so dull that he was prepared to wander around with a clipboard asking South Africans where they thought a whisky named London Taxi might come from. Of 25 questioned, two said Scotland, six England, one South Africa, one the United Kingdom, one "Britton" and fourteen "the country of London". (Maybe the SWA is right to suggest that South Africans are easily confused.)

Given this remorseless attack by the ferocious Celts, Dirk might've expected a little help from the local authorities. Not so. Cipro made it very clear that though Dirk can't afford legal representation it can't give him advice, because it needs to be "impartial". So impartial that, whereas a bunch of skirt-wearing caber-tossers can litigate here in their home language, Dirk cannot. In February he was told by Cipro's senior manager of trade marks, Fleurette Coetzee – in Afrikaans – that Cipro doesn't hear evidence in Afrikaans, and has no funds for translators.

Consulting some leading lights on whether Cipro's policy is unconstitutional or not didn't provide Van der Walt with clear answers.

Randburg senior Magistrate Cheryl Loots suggested he direct his enquiry to the director-general of the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, who, she says, "has launched a project to encourage the use of indigenous languages in courts and, from what I hear, Afrikaans is to be treated in the same way as other indigenous languages".

Professor Wim Alberts of Unisa and law firm Bowman Gilfillan expressed sympathy with Dirk's plight and suggested he speak to the *Vereeniging van Regslui vir Afrikaans* (Lawyers for Afrikaans Association). Constitutional lawyer Pierre de Vos says on his internet blog that "our Constitution is as clear as mud on the issue of language rights". He points out that section 6 of the Constitution may well say that "all official languages must enjoy parity of esteem and must be treated equitably", but English and Afrikaans (to a much lesser degree) dominate in court proceedings.

Small steps are being taken to change the situation – really small ones: It was recently announced that the Zwelitsha Magistrates Court in the Eastern Cape would start hearing all cases in Xhosa, following initiatives in other parts of the country; at Msinga in KZN Zulu is used, in Mitchell's Plain in the Western Cape Afrikaans is the *lingua franca*, and in Sekhukhune in Limpopo justice is meted out in Pedi.

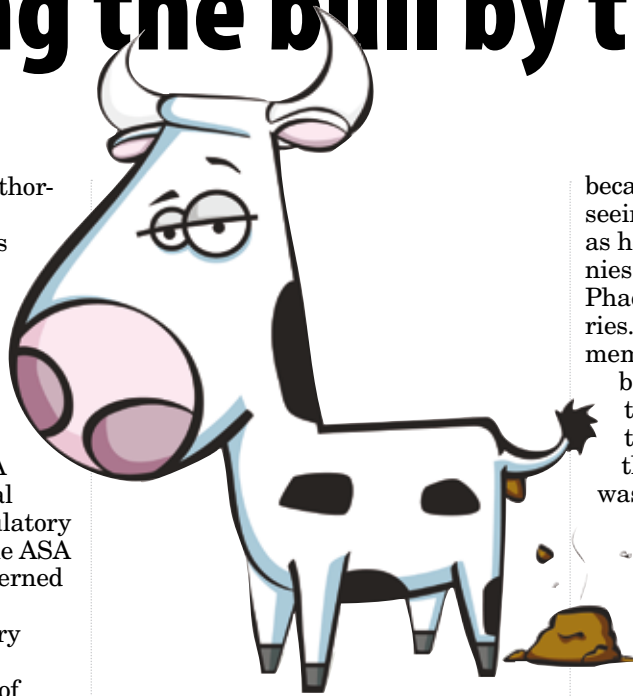
Dirk told Cipro that their language policy stinks, and asked if he could attend some Cipro hearings to familiarise himself with procedures, before coming up against SWA's battery of lawyers. Sorry but no, replied Cipro's Fleurette Coetzee – whose emails end with "Failure is not my destiny" – our proceedings are not open to the public.

But, spluttered Dirk, section 45 of the Trade Marks Act says that an official hearing of a trade mark dispute has the powers of a high court judge and must apply high court rules – and high court proceedings are open to the public, so Cipro's should be too. And I've spoken to Professor Wim Alberts, and he agrees with me.

Well yes, said Coetzee, but that is not our procedure, though we might reconsider on special request. We will, however, not reconsider the use of Afrikaans at hearings.

Strange place South Africa. ▣

Grabbing the bull by the horns



THE ADVERTISING STANDARDS Authority (ASA) clearly doesn't enjoy hearing from Harris Steinman, the medical doctor and researcher who bombards them with complaints regarding misleading adverts for products ranging from weight-loss remedies to allergy tests. However, while it's true that the ASA is ill-equipped to decide technical medical issues, the medical regulatory bodies aren't doing the job, so the ASA is first port of call for those concerned about the gullible South African public being taken in by quackery (*nose105*).

The ASA allows for two types of complaints – consumer complaints and competitor complaints. Anyone can lodge a consumer complaint and there is no fee for doing so. Lodging a complaint about a competitor's advertising, however, costs a non-refundable deposit of R8550. Steinman, as an independent doctor who acts in the public interest, uses the free consumer complaint procedure.

In April the ASA supremo, Judge Mervyn King, turned down an appeal which Steinman had lodged against an ASA decision to accept medical evidence – described by Steinman as “pseudo-scientific nonsense” – supporting advertising claims made by Bioscience Brands Ltd about its Bioharmony Alex “anti-allergy nutritional supplement” product. King rejected Steinman's appeal on technical grounds, saying that, in terms of ASA procedure, he should have applied for arbitration rather than lodge an appeal – which Steinman says he would have done had he had access to all the evidence from the outset. He thinks the ASA could cut consumers who lodge complaints a bit of slack when it comes to the technical procedural aspects of the ASA code. These codes shouldn't be understandable only to practising lawyers.

The ASA also ruled in March that Steinman may no longer lodge consumer complaints regarding a par-

An anti-quackery
campaigner is
back in the ring
in his tireless
battle against
'pseudo-scientific
nonsense'

ticular allergy-test product. Steinman had complained of advertising placed by Alcat about a food-sensitivity blood test. Steinman asked that the ad be disallowed, as the bold claims it made were unsubstantiated, and the product had been publicly condemned by the Allergy Society of SA (ALLSA), as well as similar international bodies.

Keen to avoid an ASA finding on the merits of the product, Alcat decided to raise a preliminary point, which was that Steinman should not be allowed to lodge a consumer complaint

because he had a financial interest in seeing the Alcat product discredited, as he has links with various companies that compete with Alcat, namely Phadia, Pfizer and Lancet Laboratories. Also, Alcat said, Steinman is a member of ALLSA, the professional body which rubbished the Alcat test. What's more, the ALLSA position statement, which appeared in the South African Medical Journal, was written by a personal friend of Steinman, ALLSA chairperson Dr Sharon Kling. Furthermore, a commentary on that statement, which compared Alcat with the notorious Kubus Kwekery, appeared in the magazine *Update*, which is edited by Dr Joan Lewis, who, says Alcat, was once a medical school classmate of Steinman's.

Agreed, said the ASA! In its ruling it accepted that Steinman does not personally do blood tests, but held that he represents entities which do, and that he was therefore effectively lodging a complaint on behalf of a competitor of Alcat. It therefore suspended the matter, pending payment of the competitor complaint fee. Steinman is in no position to fork out R8550 (if he was in fact representing a pharmaceuticals company, the fee would be no problem).

He has therefore filed an appeal, in which he claims that, though he consults widely in the field of allergy for companies who happen to compete with Alcat, he does not “represent” any of them, and will derive no financial benefit from an adverse finding against Alcat. He is, he says, complaining in his own right as a citizen against misleading claims.

As regards the ALLSA statement, Steinman says it was actually co-written by the ten members of the ALLSA committee and submitted under Dr Kling's name. And as for his alleged connections with Joan Lewis of *Update* – Steinman in fact only recently discovered that they had been in the same class at medical school.

Steinman feels strongly that the

decision should be reversed, because it sets a harsh precedent, and could deter independent experts from acting to protect consumer rights.

The man behind Alcat, Dr John Pridgeon, has been crowing somewhat about what he sees as a victory and vindication of his product. In the company's newsletter, the man is indignation personified: "I find it totally reprehensible that Steinman and ALLSA continue to try and protect their carefully nurtured monopoly, and abuse their position of trust within our medical community, to employ what basically amounts to profit-driven subversion, to try to discredit Alcat in this manner."

If you want to know what a man really thinks though, don't look at his PR, listen to what he says to his lawyer. In a 10 January email to lawyer Louis Weinstein, Pridgeon gave the man he sometimes calls Louis and other times Luigi, a clear instruction: "We have one crack at this one. [...] I see this as being the single most important means of getting this idiot off my back. It is vital that ASA receive our request that they investigate him before any formal judgment occurs on the three complaints from last year. If they find for him it will cost Alcat R35,000 for round two."

Then follows an interesting little comment: "I must say that I admire the work this guy has done, but the fact that he is using all of these resources to negate my business and unfairly shut down a competitor is evil and shows that he has the ethics and integrity of a hungry hyena. He is a very nasty customer. [...] First prize is to get ASA to use their legal resources to assess his gain from his anti Alcat activities."

Then the best part: "Nowhere else in the world, in the 30+ countries where Alcat currently operates is Alcat taking any flak at all, with the possible exception of Denmark – they perhaps do not need to know that a certain Dr Hoj is taking flak there, but certainly a watered down version of what is happening here in SA. If the Alcat test is such a scam, why would the local authorities allow Alcat to trade in all those countries where Alcat is now available without this sort of denigration." And, to end the email, a stirring: "Go Luigi go!"

Weinstein appears to have followed instructions to the letter. His submissions to the ASA declare: "Nowhere

in the world, in the more than 30 countries where Alcat currently operates, is Alcat experiencing any such like opposition or criticism at all."


He claims that "numerous independent medical and allergy practitioners worldwide are totally committed to the use of the Alcat test". How many practitioners exactly? Weinstein lists an impressive two: US doctor Fred Pescatore and an Italian called Attilio Speciani. Mmmm, compelling stuff!

Meanwhile, another powerful enemy of Steinman's, serial bullshitter Glomail, has the good doctor to thank for a nasty little complication. As a result of a stream of complaints lodged by Steinman, and others, to advertising for products like Bioslim Once a Day, the ASA has taken the unusual step of ordering Glomail to have its advertising checked by the ASA before it goes out, a so-called "pre-clearance" order. Glomail has appealed and is being represented by Gail Schimmel, until recently an ASA in-house lawyer.

Glomail's devastating arguments include an "aw-come-on-give-us-a-break" plea – there were "only" six adverse rulings involving the company in a 12 month period, and these related to just three products and were made by just two complainants. Then there's the "well what can you expect?" claim – Glomail is a large advertiser, so lots of complaints can be expected (ignoring that all complaints were upheld).

Or what about the "how the fuck are we supposed to know what's going on in our organisation?" argument – a departing company director neglected to tell them how many adverse rulings there had been, so they didn't know they were skating on thin ice. Or the "chill boet, this is no big deal" argument, which suggests that, as one of their whoppers appeared only on a website rather than in the mainstream media, not too many people would've seen it.

Finally there's the good old "ag shame" plea – having to pay a pre-clearance fee of R500 for every advert will really be rough on a nice little company like Glomail.

If this is what Steinman is up against, all *noseweek* can say is: Go Harris go! 



Harris Steinman

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South Africa's inhumane

DEATH TRAPS

DURING THE NIGHT of 12 April 2008 a young male leopard loped towards the boundary fence of a farm in the Glenconner area, near Uitenhage, Eastern Cape. The cat was heading for a gap under the wire, a crossing place it had used before in its long nocturnal circuits in search of food.

Sometime earlier, a farmer had visited that same point on the fenceline. He'd carefully opened a steel leg-hold trap, set its trigger mechanism, and lodged it in the gap under the fence.

It can't be said when exactly the young leopard's right front paw hit the trigger plate, but in the morning farmworkers found the cat, still alive, in the centre of a semi-circle of turned-over earth and broken branches, evidence of an hours-long struggle, its paw firmly held, by a single fractured toe, in the trap's vicious jaws.

This was a lucky leopard. The workers who found it were not employed by the trap-setting farmer, but by his neighbour. Within a few hours leopard conservationist Dr Bool Smuts had been alerted

The use of gin-traps by farmers is causing the indiscriminate and cruel killing of animals – among them protected species like leopards

they starve; sometimes they chew off their own trapped paws in order to escape – and then starve.

The traps are not usually meant for leopard, which are a protected species. They are set for smaller predators like jackal or caracal lynx, which kill thousands of sheep annually, causing millions of rands in losses to farmers.

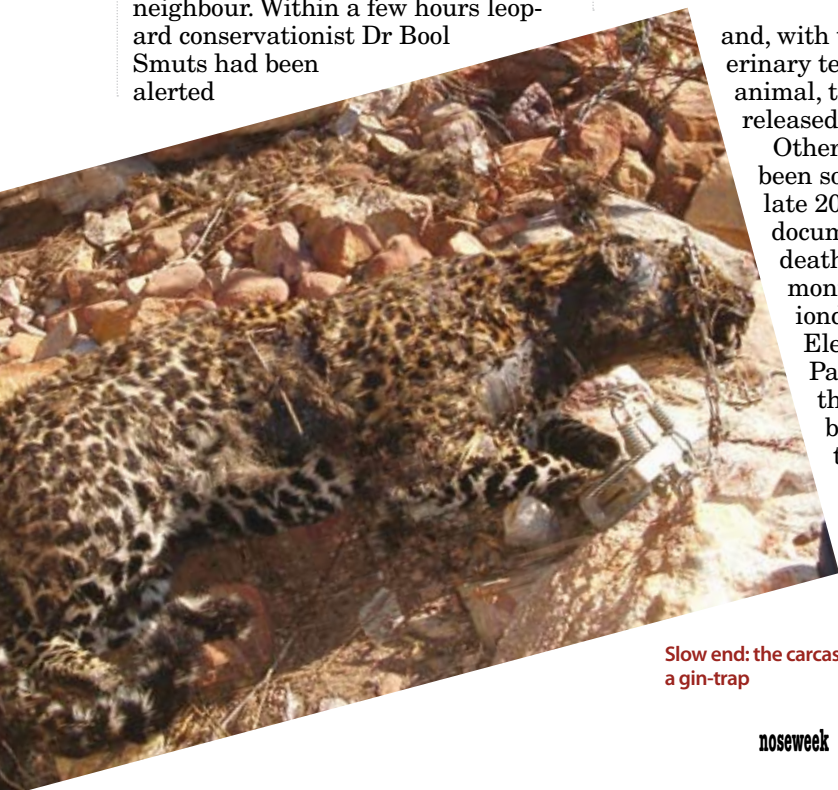
The use of gin-traps is neither illegal nor monitored, and over a thousand are produced monthly at a factory in Prince Albert in the Karoo. Gin traps snare all kinds of "non-target" animals: antelope, hares, porcupines, large birds, even tortoises – anything big enough to trip the trigger. Although farmers are legally obliged to check their traps every 24 hours, many don't, and victims often take days to die.

There are no reliable figures for how many creatures are caught by these traps, as the matter has not been seriously studied. However, it is estimated that around 20 non-target animals are caught for each target animal.

Bool Smuts comments that, besides demonstrating cruelty on a grand scale, the situation involves a serious challenge to conservation. Leopards are rare beasts in much of the country: for example a recent study estimated at between 25 and 35 the number of resident leopards in the 300,000 hectare protected area around Baviaanskloof in the Eastern Cape. This, Smuts thinks, may not be enough to sustain good genetic diversity. Although resident Baviaanskloof leopards are able to breed in relative peace, their offspring must move out to establish their own territories. "That's when they get nailed", says Smuts. With so many being killed, he thinks that leopard populations are being seriously fragmented. Genes from Baviaanskloof leopards, for example, no longer mingle with those of Swartberg leopards, and inbreeding is

and, with the help of a veterinary team, sedated the animal, treated its foot, and released it.

Other leopards have not been so fortunate. Since late 2002 Smuts has documented 28 leopard deaths in the area he monitors between Uniondale and the Addo Elephant National Park. A full 24 of these, he says, have been due to leghold traps, otherwise known as gin-traps. Sometimes leopards stay pinioned in these traps until



Slow end: the carcass of a leopard killed by a gin-trap

becoming the norm.

It's not only conservationists who hate leghold traps: the four major supermarket groups, which between them sell most of the meat in the country, dislike them strongly too. Pick n Pay say they support a total ban on the possession and use of gin traps. The Shoprite Group says they "will support any effort which curbs cruelty to any animal". Woolworths said they are working with farmers and conservationists "to find a lasting solution to the use of gin traps and other inhumane methods of managing predators". Spar's meat manager told *noseweek* that "you only have to see one picture of a leopard with its foot chewed off to know that these are barbaric devices".

But despite these fine words, gin trap-free sheep farming is far from being the norm. Much has been said in recent years about promoting farming without gin-traps or any other cruel and unselective methods of predator control – but very little has actually happened. Behind it all is, of course, the public's demand for braai-chops and woollen jerseys: our appetites that ultimately drive this mass suffering that is wiping out rare species. It's no good simply blaming the farmers, or the industry, or the supermarkets.

Petrus de Wet, head of the National Wool-Growers Association and a sheep farmer himself, tells *noseweek* that gin traps are the best way of killing the jackal that eat his sheep. He claims that a gin trap set by an expert (such as himself) will seldom catch a non-target animal and will get the problem predator "within a few nights". He avoids responding to questions on the inhumanity of the traps, preferring instead to talk about the suffering of the sheep. Sometimes single predators can go on a killing frenzy, wiping out dozens of sheep in a single night. "How humane is that?" he asks.

When one provides a ready supply of excellent food in the form of fenced-in sheep, one must expect to attract predators – there's no wishing them away, De Wet says, and you have to deal with the meat-eaters when they arrive.

He also believes that if gin traps are

banned farmers will carry on using them, as effective policing is impossible. Farmers will carry on trapping jackal, ban or no ban. And making a gruesomely-effective snare trap out of a few bits of fencing wire is something even a child can do.

Bool Smuts does not dispute that wild predators sometimes do cause severe losses to small-scale stock farmers, but insists that, nonetheless, leghold traps must be made illegal. "Do we allow paedophilia just because

You only have to see one picture of a leopard with its foot chewed off to know these are barbaric devices

Spar's meat manager

some people will carry on doing it no matter what the law says?" He goes on to argue that all "lethal control" should be reconsidered. The key idea here, one backed by some researchers, is that the killing of large numbers of highly-adaptable predators, like jackal, simply pressurises those species to evolve into even more troublesome and numerous "problem animals". Females which breed faster and younger are likely to have more offspring to survive a predator-control onslaught, so their genes become dominant in the population. Predators that become more wary of humans and learn to evade traps will pass that behaviour on. Jackals that keep territories, and are thus predictable in their movements, will be easier to kill than those which stay on the move, thus territoriality will fade away, increasing the number of predators on the move in a particular area.

The answer, according to Bool Smuts, lies not in large-scale "lethal control" of predators, but in ensuring that small herds become less appeal-

ing targets. Smuts says that farmers often don't calculate the huge cost of "lethal control" – setting and checking traps takes time and petrol – and says that farmers who switch to non-lethal methods can and do save cash. He's introduced sheep collars to farmers around the Baviaanskloof, which prevent predators from biting into sheep necks, and he encourages the use of shepherds and specially trained Anatolian sheepdogs to guard flocks. These methods are not perfect (jackal learn

to kill sheep by "eating them out from behind" and sheepdogs don't always behave as they're trained) but, says Smuts, they are making a difference.

The government has recently begun reviewing the norms and standards for Damage Causing Animal Control, and has engaged interested and affected parties in the process. One would think that, with support from the supermarkets, conservationists could get the norms and standards changed so as to ban gin traps. But they face a solid wall of opposition from various farmers' groups and "problem animal" hunters. Acrimonious email exchanges and heated meetings have all but destroyed the chances of a decent consensus, almost bringing the process to a grinding halt.

Despite their good intentions, the supermarkets have also contributed to the stalemate. As the main gateway between producers and consumers, they hold a good deal of power in the meat industry, so their rhetoric may lull people into thinking that something's about to be done about gin traps. In fact, those supermarket chains are actually doing very little – and they excuse themselves by saying that the way the whole industry presently works makes it almost impossible to guarantee that meat on the shelves comes from specific areas or is produced under particular conditions according to specifiable standards.

Many conservationists, too, don't want to rock the boat – they're terrified of alienating farmers who control conservation-worthy land, and often fluff the "emotive" gin trap issue when they're asked to take a position.

The public will soon be asked to comment on proposed changes to the norms and standards that would effectively outlaw gin traps. Bool Smuts is hoping that if enough people make



Communism, immorality and pizza

AS I'VE AGED I've come to suspect that the very concept of technological progress is grossly overrated. The other day my step-daughter's boyfriend had a pizza delivered to her doorstep. The time from order to delivery was about thirty minutes. Nothing remarkable – except that he was in Honolulu, Hawaii, and she was in Elizabethtown, Kentucky. He simply placed the order online and paid with a debit card. Ain't romance grand these days?

As an internet veteran, I remember the good old days when the internet was accessed only through dial-up. The modem would fire up with a sym-

ing whether I should pay \$58 for the basic ordination package, or \$225 for the deluxe version that includes a pastoral counsellor certificate, a church charter and an "honorary" doctorate of divinity (www.ordination.com/bm-papplications.html). Choices, choices. Such "degrees" have been available via correspondence for decades. Now you can get them online. Nothing new here, move along.

I distinctly remember the first movie I ever watched online. It was in 1998, which is about a century ago in internet years. The movie was an out-of-copyright B-grade Hollywood horror called *House on Haunted Hill*,

sound on my television – for free – but the experience of the new technology was exhilarating.

Since broadband became standard here in the US, my favourite TV shows are now available online. Thanks to the high resolution of computer monitors, the quality of the picture often surpasses that of my regular television signal. If I miss a broadcast of *My Name is Earl* I can watch the episode online at my leisure. I recommend *Earl* to all those who still imagine the US as anything similar to Hollywood stereotype (www.nbc.com/My_Name_Is_Earl/). The show is probably the best representation ever broadcast of what life is like for the average US citizen. Trust me. I live here.

I can also watch missed episodes of other favourites, like *Lost* (abc.go.com/primetime/lost/index?pn=index) and *The Office* (www.nbc.com/The_Office/).

Although South African print and radio sources have long been well represented on the Web, I was recently pleasantly surprised to find an SA television presence on the internet. The SABC provides an archive of "video bulletins" (www.sabcnews.com/portal/site/SABCNews/) but that's simply not as much fun as clips from the latest episode of *Egoli* (beta.mnet.co.za/). Sure, they currently seem to run only five or six minutes from each show, but full episodes are sure to be provided some day. It's been almost nine years since I was a regular viewer – I've got a lot of catching up to do.

I recall that the Dutch Reformed Church used to call TV the "devil's own box for spreading communism and immorality". It's nice to know I can now get my fair share of communism and immorality, with a South African accent, even from thousands of miles away. Now that's progress. Would somebody order me a pizza?

Yes, it is progress of a kind, but, puhleez – why stilted, old-fashioned *Egoli*? At least move on to *Isidingo*. Now there's a soap to make a South African far from home sob into her pizza box. **W**

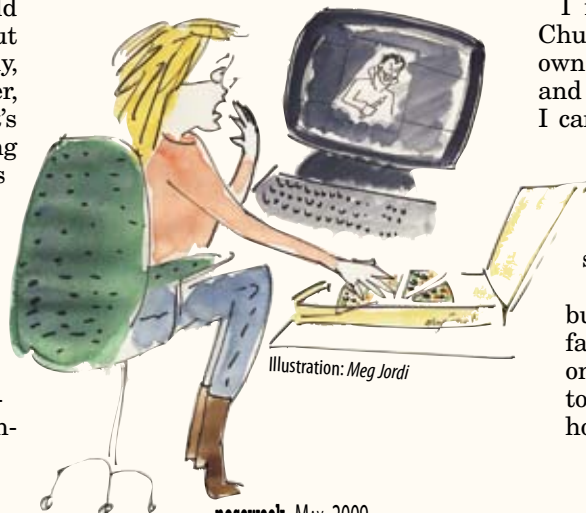
Since broadband has become the standard here, all my favourite TV shows are available online

phony of clicks, hums and orchestrated static until contact with the outer realm was established. Web pages would load slowly but surely. I called it the "world-wide wait". I didn't mind. I was exploring cyberspace and that world became my oyster.

But over the years I have come to the conclusion that the computer, rather than being innovative, is actually more of a replacement for the old and familiar. What's so special about ordering a pizza, anyway? Put simply, my computer is now my typewriter, my pen and my paper. Of course it's also my phone, mail service, shopping mall, notebook, diary, radio and, as I'll get to later, my television. One can even earn university degrees online. I've felt no need to try that out. But I have been tempted to become an officially ordained minister via the "World Christianity Ministries" site (www.ordination.com/index.htm). The only thing holding me back is my indecision concern-

starring Vincent Price (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/House_on_Haunted_Hill).

The image itself was only slightly larger than a postage stamp and heavily pixilated. The audio sounded like it was coming from a goldfish bowl. I enjoyed the experience immensely, despite the telephone bill. Of course I could have been watching a much better picture with much better





Dunnit?

YES, MY DEAR, Auntie Juno would say, one thing leads to another. Living proof of this was my Uncle Julius. A Sudeten German of deepest sensibility, his soul craved the theatrical highveld thunderstorms of Pretoria, his head, with great pink rubbery ears swivelling perpetually left-right-left, scanning horizontally for the sound of distant rumbling, like those dish arrays of old-time anti-aircraft batteries. Except when examining his dinner, or documents on his desk, his eyes perpetually swept the sky for cumulonimbus clouds full of lightning and meteorological horrors. His motor car was once hammered unrecognisable by hellish hailstones and he left it thus as symbolic of the *romantische* Wagnerian planet on which he had his being. When the first big raindrops fell upon the parched Pretoria earth met *dof-sware plof, soos koëls in die stof*, Uncle Julius would go all trembly and put upon his electrical gramophone a twelve-inch 78 rpm shellac record of *The Battle Cry of the Valkyries*, which went Ti-boom-titty-boom-ti, boom-titty-boom-ti, boom-titty-boom-ti, boom-titty-BOOOOM!, then he'd fling wide the French windows and steel burglar-guard, wax his Kaiser Wilhelm II moustache with sticking-up ends, dilate his nostrils, deeply breathe, and gaze at the Magaliesberg crags in a Siegfriedian sort of way. A nearby lightning stroke and he would cry *Ach-ach-ach!* and an operational tear would come to his eye. But then one day the lightning struck the burglar-bars and flung Uncle Julius to the carpet and reversed the polarity of his moustache, whenceforth it grew only downwards, in the manner of Pres Hindenburg's moustache. After many trials of many moustache-waxes in many hairdressing salons he finally decided the *Schnurrbart of Kanzler Hitler* went better with the *Walküren undsoweiter*, and got the haircut too.

All this is relevant to the history of my cousin Dulcie, who admired Julius like anything. By age twelve she would sit at the gramophone for an entire opera hypnotically staring at the big black discs spinning at sickening speed, and hum. The Twilight of the Gods, The Ring of the Nibelungs; all that chirpy stuff she would stare at and hum. And when Julius decided that too much playing was



One day lightning struck the burglar-bars and flung Uncle Julius to the carpet and reversed the polarity of his moustache

wearing out his records, Dulcie went along with that too and would just hum valkyrie songs on her way to school while other kids were humming Shirley Temple numbers. He cleaned his records with a damp sponge and and stored them in dust-proof boxes in an airtight garden shed with a great big padlock on the door. Wearing out sucks; even at age eleven I reckoned Uncle Julius was unSiegfriedischly spooked into curious reasoning: if a battle-cry record was playing when the lightning struck your moustache it follows that if you don't have such a record playing the lightning won't strike your moustache. I supposed he was having a thing called a nervous breakdown, fashionable at the time. When he eventually died they found some 300 records in the shed, new, virgin, unplayed, obsolete; he couldn't stop the buying, you see, it gave him possession of Wagner in some curious psychologicobable way.

Young Dulcie perceived a certain wisdom in all this, dear child. After some thought she decided she shouldn't wear out her eyes by pointlessly staring about but should keep them closed until something meaningful should come along. But how to know if such a meaningful thing were indeed coming along? By opening one eye for a couple of seconds every now and then. The left eye; the right she kept rested and ready for heavy-duty staring. And there was something similar for her hands: the right was the aristocratic elite hand, kept at ease for emergencies, while the left was the prole sort of working hand which did all the chores. And it thus came about that Dulcie was waiting to meet me at the Oom Paul monument on Kerkplein one sunny spring morn, standing with eyes shut and starboard hand dangling loose in the sleeve of her jersey, when a kindly old tannie came up and took the active hand and pressed a ten shilling note in it saying Poor young innocent, buy yourself a handbook on Braille.

Well that was about the time you no longer had to be shrieking mad to get mental help, this too was becoming fashionable. Auntie Juno took Dulcie to a nice modern psychotherapist named Miss Arbuthnot with an engaging smile and a big leather armchair. Dulcie closed her eyes. After a bit Miss A said Pssst! are you awake? Oh yes! said Dulcie, opening the heavy-duty eye, smiling engagingly. Treatment continued in this novel mode. After an hour Miss A's receptionist came in to find therapist and patient fast asleep. Pssst! said she, it's teatime. Miss Arbuthnot establis0hed thereafter a new system of Synchronous Dream Therapy and became famous. Bye-n-bye she and Dulcie became love-partners, which just goes to show. Dunnit? **W**

PAYMENT & TERMS FOR SMALLS

Deadline for smalls is the 1st of the month prior to publication.

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Payment online at www.noseweek.co.za.

Email ads to ads@noseweek.co.za.

Further info Adrienne 021 686 0570.

PERSONAL

Johannesburg Adventurous, fit, attractive, professional mid-thirties lady looking for likeminded gentleman. Enjoy nature, hiking, mountain biking. nat479@gmail.com
Darling Michelle and Vanessa Thanks for *noseweek* subscription bought on my credit card – Horace Shrubbe.

Happy birthdays Alan, Rozanne, David. At last - moments of glory in *noseweek*. Complimentary T.G. – Dad.

Hey Poopface, if you're reading this you should be studying – Big Daddy.

LEGAL, INSURANCE & FINANCIAL

Legal services in Kenya? Wanam Associates specialize in IP, Trade Mark, Corporate Law, Conveyancing/Property Law, ICT Law, Litigation, Legal Support/Resources; www.wanam.co.ke

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G.N. Dracatos, contract attorney since 1968. Call 011 907 2820.

Mosdell Pama & Cox Attorneys, notaries and conveyancers. Knysna and Plettenberg Bay. Call 044 382 5333.

Peter Jerome Financial and Investment Services for insurance/assurance/investments. 151 Main Road, Plumstead. 021 762 4179.

Robert J Blumberg Attorney specialising in horse-racing industry. 021 438 2430.

Yousha Tayob Attorney 011 838 3342; 011 833 2402 or 082 926 5408. Fax 011 838 4744; yousha@telkomsa.net.

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Tinus & Gabriel de Jongh paintings bought, sold and valued. Art prints sold. Gallery open by appointment; 021 686 4141 dejongh@yebo.co.za; www.tinusdejongh.co.za.

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Rugby programmes

Top prices paid for Rugby Programmes – Provincial and Test matches – of tours to and from South Africa up to 1968. The older the better. Private Collector. Tel Hymie 982 990 4705.

PUPP finances sterilization of underprivileged animals. Please donate saleable goods to our charity shop. Bob 021 715 7525.

Request for good used adult or children's books, for charity book sale in Cape Town. Collections in Cape Peninsula. Contact Dementia SA 021 421 0077 or 021 418 5888; info@dementiasa.org

MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES

Flying Dutchman For all your graphic design work – logos, adverts, print, packaging, corporate ID. Mich 072 141 8854.

Silver Spoon Function Hire Hiring of cutlery, crockery, linen, glasses, marquees, heaters etc. For all your hiring requirements 011 262 2227; www.silverspoonhire.co.za

The Wedding Box for superb international gowns, bridesmaid-mob and accessories nationally.

For the finest Karoo lamb and organic/grainfed beef. All venison, see www.sacksbutchery.co.za. 021 701 8885.

Solar Geyser Top quality. Cheapest prices. Tel Mark 082 552 0724.

Wine lovers go to www.bordeauxwinevilla.com

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Hout Bay Gallery Contemporary Art: Showcasing exciting young SA artists. www.houtbaygallery.co.za or 021 790 3618.

Language and editing service PO Box 13692 Cascades, 3202. deanes@mweb.co.za.

Earthmoving and plant hire in KZN Platt Plant Services CC. 033 417 1066 or 082 774 3567.

Need a venue? Visit one of South Africa's most exquisite private formal gardens. www.shepstonegardens.co.za.

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Flowers & Hampers Order now for Mother's Day, weekly contracts available for home and office. Call Flowersong 021 702 2020 or 083 459 3352; info@flowersong.co.za

Business Turnarounds & Troubleshooting Western Cape – for measurable and sustainable growth and improvement in your business. KLC Business Consultants www.klcbc.co.za 021 872 8800 or info@klcbc.co.za

Housesitter Mature, responsible female business owner with no encumbrances. Animal lover, non-smoker, sober habits. Cape Town. 083 459 3352; jennifer@thegiftsolution.co.za

HEALTH & FITNESS

Fight the flab Lose weight. Correct body alignment and posture. Free assessment. Pilates, sports training and rehabilitation, comprehensive stretching. Sandton 082 373 2409.

Chiropractor Dr David Dyson (USA). Specialising in back, neck pain and wellness. 031 469 4192.

New autoimmune boosters Dr Ron Beare 044 533 0737/083 449 3983. Naturopath/homeopath. drron@mweb.co.za

Botox, fillers, laser, etc by experienced doctor. La Colombe Aesthetic Clinic. Featherbrooke. 011 662 1877, Melrose 011 887 8551.

Personal growth Unlock your potential – hire a life skill coach. Vivian Henry 011 403 0600

COURSES

Art Classes, Muizenberg General art & drawing skills. Meg 021 788 5974 or 082 926 7666. jordi@telkomsa.net

Learn the A to Z of starting a B&B at the Bed and Breakfast School, Gauteng. 082 652 4242.

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Business Growth & Improvement Western Cape – for measurable and sustainable growth and improvement in your business. KLC Business Consultants www.klcbc.co.za; 021 872 8800 or info@klcbc.co.za

Retired CEO with 40 years experience available for short term assignments and leadership development. andenw@vodamail.co.za; 082 552 2085.

Bookkeeper to balance sheet. Pastel. East London. Call: Grace Battiss at 043 735 2154.

Farm Manager, Winterberg, Eastern Cape. Diligent, married, middle-aged. Knowledge of cattle, sheep, Xhosa. Call 082 897 9446.

Business Turnarounds & Troubleshooting Western Cape – for measurable and sustainable growth and improvement in your business. KLC Business Consultants www.klcbc.co.za 021 872 8800 or info@klcbc.co.za

PA, part-time (Remote, or in Cape Town) available with some German – R 150 per hour. 083 459 3352; jennifer@thegiftsolution.co.za

For specialised Property ads contact Adrienne: ads@noseweek.co.za

021 686 0570
(mornings)

PROPERTY TO BUY, SELL OR RENT

Oubaai Golf Estate Herold's Bay. Mountainview stand. 862 square metres. R765,000. Call Alphonso on 083 680 0485.

City Bowl, Cape Town Modern, furnished 2-bedroomed, 2-bathroomed apartment to rent. Great views. Secure parking. R7500 pm. Call 082 854 6546.

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

Arniston Stunning seafront home perched on clifftop overlooking beach. Breathtaking position and panoramic sea views. 5 bedrooms, 3 en-suite, serviced. 082 706 5902.

Clarens Near Golden Gate in the beautiful eastern Free State: Rosewood Corner B&B offers all you want for a break from it all. 058 256 1252.

Upper Newlands Friston Lodge B&B, near Kirstenbosch, UCT and Waterfront. Comfortable affordable accommodation, garden setting. Solar-heated pool, DSTV. Contact Sabine: Sabine@stay-in-cape.com; 076 156 2381;

Plettenberg Bay Anlin Beach House B&B/Self-Catering. Four-star luxury 100m from Robberg Beach. 044 533 3694; www.anlinbeachhouse.co.za; stay@anlinbeachhouse.co.za.

Umhlanga 2 bed/2 bath stunning, serviced sea-facing apartment with DSTV. putz@icon.co.za; 082 900 1202.

Hermanus Luxury home sleeps 10; ideal for two families; walking distance to

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Plettenberg Bay Fynbos Ridge B&B/Self-Catering. Fragrant Fynbos. Spectacular mountain views. Abundant birdlife.

Relax and unwind. 5-star. www.fynbosridge.co.za; 044 532 7862.

Langebaan historic thatched barn and cottage. Sleeps ten. Close to lagoon. Lovely views. 072 139 6902.

Paternoster Sea-side accommodation. Call 073 844 7722; www.seasidecottage.co.za.

Paternoster Sea-side accommodation. Call 022 752 2063; www.saltcoast.co.za

KZN mountains Self-catering. Killaloi. Sleeps nine. Remote and beautiful. William and Jo 082 785 8178.

Cape Town Waterfront, Camps Bay Best Locations, best prices! Self-catering. 021 437 9700; www.villageandlife.com

Ramsgate Stunning upmarket 5 bedroom, 4 bathroom (sleeps 10) cottage on the beach. Self-catering with maid. mercera@saol.com or 083 776 7765.

London, Central just 12 miles away, Freehold land for sale under R100k !!! 082 485 4445

West Coast Log cabin under 2 hrs drive from Cape Town. See www.privateproperty.co.za/Ref F6935 for virtual tour.R1.8m; lundy@mweb.co.za; 082 656 6666.

TRAVEL & LEISURE

Paris Beautiful sunny apartment 5 mins from Champs Elysees, fully equipped, sleeps 2. putz@icon.co.za; +33 617 045 290.

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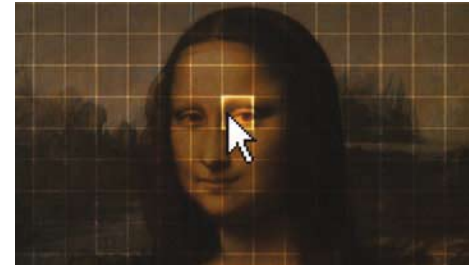
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All the smalls ads on these pages are included in the online edition of noseweek at no extra cost

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