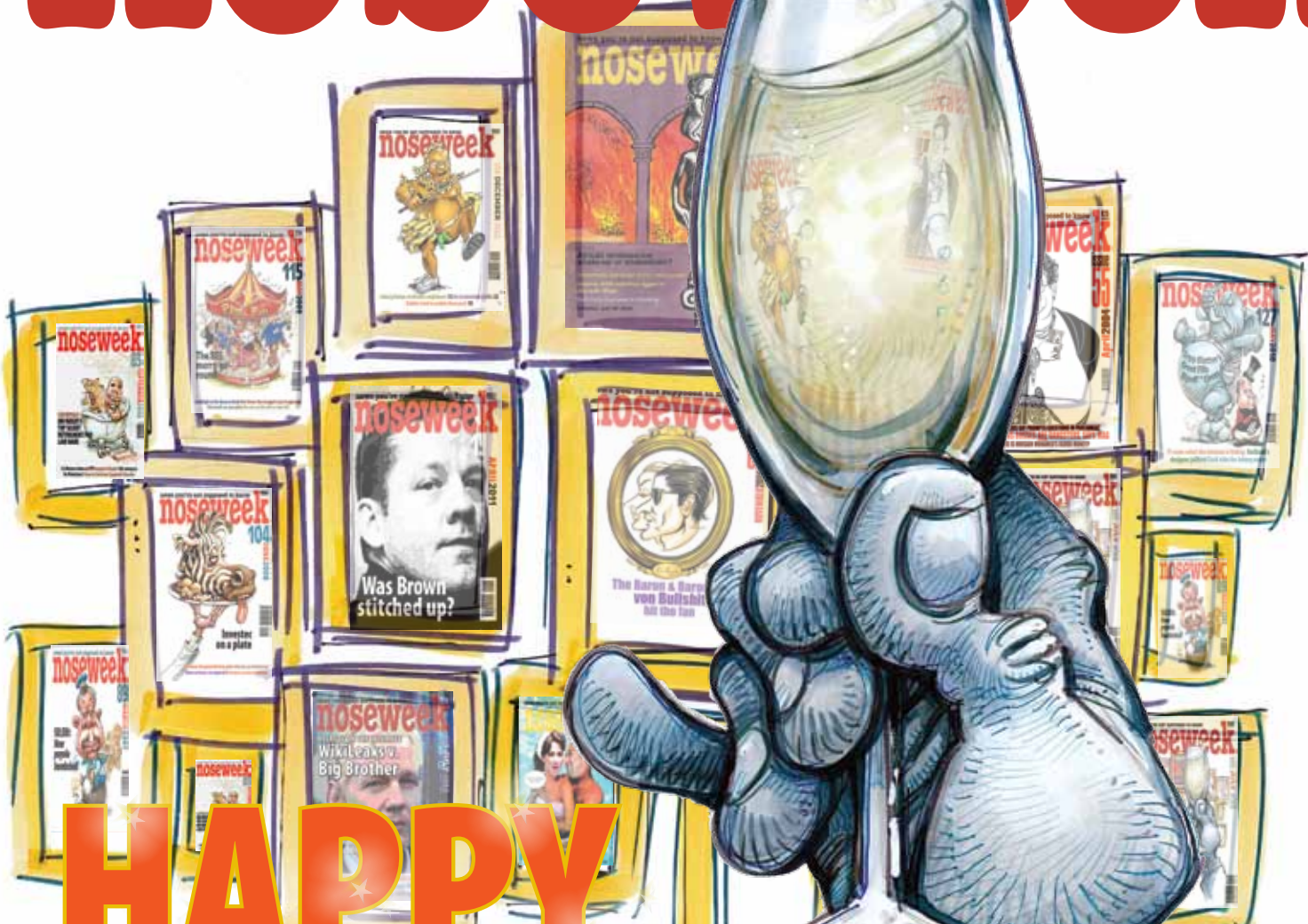


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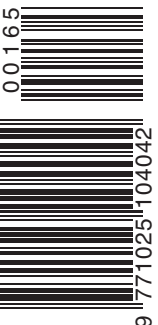


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20 years noseweek

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Letters

A future in South Africa

J M COETZEE'S *DISGRACE* IS NOT A BIBLICAL prophecy about the future of our country (Chris Meares, Letters, *nose164*); it is a story, a dark tale, in which – given the crime and graft of our tin-pot kleptocracy – prophetic overtones lurk.

Dark novels do not necessarily foretell the future and historically South Africa has never been predictable. I don't see whites flocking to other countries; I see people committing themselves to a future in this country, even with the current disastrous leadership, gross inequality and grinding poverty.

Many have learned that the grass can be pretty sere on the other side, and we believe that we are quite capable of reinventing ourselves yet again. Our leadership will either do the same or collapse beneath the weight of its own incompetence and greed.

Rosemund Handler
Cape Town

Driven to golf

COMMENTING ON ROB SOWRY'S LETTER (*nose164*), you say that "if those guys in Pollsmoor Prison and their buddies had had the good fortune to earn enough to be able to afford to experience the game of golf, they would probably not have ended up there anyway". This suggests wealth is created by good fortune and poverty is the cause of crime. These are factors but they are clearly not the root causes.

Anyone in the townships will tell you that the worst criminals there are the wealthiest. These gangsters practise their trades for expensive cars and flashy lifestyles including the most expensive drugs – not "to be able to afford the experience of playing golf" or to feed hungry children. Most people who enjoy the luxury of playing golf have worked hard to do so.

Andre Jensen
Port Elizabeth

Anyone in the golf-playing suburbs of, say, Houghton, Bishopscourt or Kloof will tell you the worst criminals in their communities are the wealthiest and that they use their ill-gotten gains for expensive cars and flashy lifestyles including the most expensive drugs – and lawyers who keep them out of jail. Golf doesn't swing it either way. – Ed

■ Further to Tom Eaton's article on golf (*nose163*), including his point about the courses needing vast quantities of water, it's worth noting that, according to the UN, America is the world's most inefficient water user. The reason: its love of golf (news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/2857587.stm).

David P Kramer
Killarney

Spinning a yarn about turbines

NOSEWEEK HAS SWALLOWED A LIE, HOOK, line and sinker by quoting one Terry McKenzie Hoy, commenting (in *Engineering News*) on wind farms in California: "...over 14,000 turbines are simply abandoned; spinning post-industrial junk which generates nothing but kills birds" (*nose162*).

You failed to check your source. The phrase quoted was taken from blogger Andrew Walden (*American Thinker*). There is one grain of truth: the total number of wind turbines in California is around 14,000 but they are not abandoned. Four thousand of them, installed 30 years ago at Altamont Pass are of a very old design, with towers attractive to birds. These are being replaced at a rate of one new efficient mega-turbine for each 20 of the old type.

Wind-generated power provided 5% of California's electricity in 2012. This could not happen if the turbines had been abandoned.

As for the matter of the true cost of wind power – subsidy or no subsidy – the *Noseweek* article has not even dipped into the topic. Research it, but



don't rely on the opinions of bloggers.

Rod Gurzynski
Kommetjie

Strip down to the belt

THIS BROKEN CAM BELT STORY (LETTERS, *nose163*) is causing a problem for workshops. If a cam belt breaks, the engine suffers bent valves etc and the repair ultimately becomes expensive in relation to the cost of replacing the belt alone. Though called a belt, it is actually an internal part which can only be inspected by stripping parts of the engine. Without knowing the belt's age or how the car has been driven, no judgement on the belt's health can be given. If in doubt, change it.

Engineers at Toyota and the Motor Industry Ombudsman both disagree with Mr Makin. He is unable to accept these judgements and is now trying to get a non-technical court to find for him – and he may succeed on a technicality. It's a waste of everyone's time.

Aivars Priede
Subaru, George

Wrong way round, Down Under

ANNE SUSSKIND GIVES AN EXTREMELY one-sided view of the reception given South African immigrants in Australia (*nose164*).

As one who has lived in Australia for over 36 years, I refute many of the allegations. Interacting with locals of all types I have honestly never come across a single instance of anti-South African feeling. Similarly I have yet to meet an ex-South African who has even contemplated returning.

Your article mentions (opposition leader) Tony Abbott in unflattering terms: no mention of the fact he is a Rhodes Scholar and an Oxford Blue with degrees in Economics and Law, is a volunteer firefighter and a surf lifesaver, or that he spends one week every year living and working with Aboriginals in the outback. God willing he will become our prime minister on 14 September. If I had a choice of leader between Abbott and Jacob Zuma, it would not be a difficult choice.

Finally, ask yourself: How many Australians have emigrated to seek sanctuary in South Africa?

Mike Greenberg
Sydney

Anti-GMO horror stories are just mumbo-jumbo

YOUR ARTICLE ON GMO AND MONSANTO IS superstitious mumbo-jumbo based on horror stories by inferior “researchers”. Why is the anti-GMO stance not witnessed in the mainstream community? Simple: peer review literature does not support the outrageous claims of the “activist” scientists. [Really? See page 9. Ed]

In properly constructed feed trials, when testing balanced “first limiting amino-acid” rations on animals, they showed no difference in animal welfare between rations that incorporated GM maize or soya, and those that used non-GM. These trials have been replicated and published in many countries. [Over what period of time were the trials run? – Ed]

Linear programmes used by animal nutritionists do not differentiate between GM and non-GM feedstocks. Empirical evidence in the poultry and pork sectors that have used GMO feedstocks for about 20 years, confirms there is no negative difference in performance.

When I read in your article that the rodents had fared poorly on Monsanto GMO potatoes, I was outraged. I checked the literature and found that the experimenter had abused the test animals.

When animal nutritionists check a new ingredient in their compound feed, they make a partial replacement in a formula. In this way they can determine if the new ingredient affects growth, mortality or fertility, at different levels of inclusion. A test where only GM potatoes are fed to rodents – wanton cruelty – is guaranteed to result in an unhappy

outcome. Anyone restricted to a diet of potatoes – GMO or not – would suffer their teeth to loosen.

Biologically, people are little different from chickens or pigs. We may confidently allow humans to dine on GMO maize as part of an amino acid balanced diet and expect them to flourish.

Rainbow Chicken nutritionists constantly check and calculate their mix of raw materials for poultry rations, to ensure efficient, safe production. If non-GMO gave better results, they would be buying it. Every single hen laying eggs commercially in South Africa eats GMO. The “pulses” fed to fowls producing “free range” and “organic” eggs are nothing less than meal from Roundup Ready Argentinian soybeans. If GMO had any deleterious affect on the fowls, Rainbow (and its competitors) would be buying non-GMO feedstock.

In the USA, over 200 million eggs are placed in incubators each week. Over the past 10 years, despite the “parent flocks” eating ever-increasing amounts of GMO feeds, the egg-hatching rate has improved. That is quite a data set to argue against: over 20 billion eggs hatched, with the trend for the number of addled eggs down.

The researchers who claim that GMO causes stillbirth or birth defects are wrong. GMO maize and soybeans do not have a deleterious effect on the creatures which consume them.

Your attack on genetic engineering is closer to an “ad hominem” than an exposé. Genetic engineering is not without risk nor controversy, which is why *Noseweek* should not cry wolf. We rely on *Noseweek* to do a solid job of its

exposés. We need to be able to trust the content so that we can widen our knowledge and our grasp of the issues.

If *Noseweek* readers tend to be in left field, it is because the facts inform us to take that position, rather than any pique or defiance.

David de V Murray

Grain Merchant, Stellenbosch

Thank you for your considered and well-crafted letter. We have always seen ourselves as only one half of the conversation. But the conversation continues.

You seem to have missed the main point of our GM/Monsanto article: it is the secrecy, paranoia and aggression of the GM industry which raise questions about the safety of its products, rather than the conclusive results of any research. The fact is, there has been a piffling amount of independent research into the long-term health effects of GM food, even on rats, and the industry has done everything it can to hamper potentially critical science. The impact of GMOs on biodiversity and the effects on food security of patented crops are two more reasons why the precautionary principle should apply.

Monsanto and its brothers-in-biotech are very powerful organisations that spend fortunes on persuading politicians and the public that GM is safe and the answer to world hunger.

*As a *Noseweek* reader, you are expected to retain a grain of healthy scepticism – yes, even about GM feeds. What do Japan and the European Union know about Monsanto’s GM crops that Rainbow Chicken perhaps doesn’t care about? See page 9. – Ed*

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Editorial

Still going strong

THIS MONTH, CAN YOU BELIEVE IT, NOSEWEEK is 20 years old! We mark the occasion with a dozen celebratory pages in which we delve into our history, re-look at our unique covers, chortle at our well-wishers and most especially honour our readers who – in a very real sense – are our partners in the enterprise. Nowhere is that bet-

ter reflected than on our letters' pages. We wish we could have squeezed in more readers' letters from way-back-when than the small selection we made, reflecting stories *Noseweek* ran at the time – on pages 22-25.

Please don't stop writing to, and reading *Noseweek* – whether it be in print or online – and we'll keep publishing. It's a deal!

Götterdämmerung

FINALLY, RAPIDLY, ALL THE PIECES OF THE Arms Deal corruption puzzle are coming together. Before long, all the guilty – from top members of the cabinet to the bottom feeders – will have been named. It's been a long and often tedious journey that began shortly after New Year 1995.

On the 20th of May 1995, veteran investigator and political correspondent Jean le May – then, already in retirement and she has since died – wrote a report in *Weekend Argus* that deserves to be repeated here in full:

"A political row is brewing over the role of Deputy President Thabo Mbeki in international tenders for new corvettes for the South African Navy.

"Cabinet Secretary Professor Jakes Gerwel said that at a cabinet meeting this week Minister of Defence Joe Modise asked for the decision on new corvettes [for the SA Navy] to be held over.

"Ministry sources confirmed that tenders had been re-opened to accept late bids from Germany, France and Denmark and that the [previously announced] short-list of two – Scotland's Yarrow Shipyard and Spain's Bazan Shipyard – had been shelved.

"Armcor had announced on December 24 [1994] that [only the] tenders from Yarrow and Bazan would be considered in the next round of evaluations. It said Frigate Consortium (a German consortium involving the Blohm and Voss shipyard and the industrial giant Thyssen), Svenborg Shipyard of Denmark, and DCNI of France had been eliminated.

"However, *Weekend Argus* has now established that during his visit to Germany between January 6 and January 14 [scarcely two weeks after that Armcor announcement] Mbeki told German foreign minister Klaus Kinkel and directors of the German consortium that 'the race was still open'.

"Douglas Gibson MP, Democratic Party spokesman on defence, told *Weekend*

Argus that 'on the face of it, it appears that there has been some political interference'. Mbeki should be careful to avoid giving the impression that South Africa is a banana republic when it comes to international tenders, he said.

"Mark Wiley, National Party spokesman on defence, said that 'a dangerous precedent is being created with politicians interfering improperly in the state tendering process'."

Read today, after the *Mail & Guardian's* June 14 disclosure of a R6m bribe agreement concluded in that same year – 1995 – by the German corvette consortium and senior ANC MP Tony Yengeni, Jean le May's *Weekend Argus* report sounds like the overture to one of those interminable operas by 19th century German composer Richard Wagner: Le May's story sets the scene and introduces some of the main themes for a battle of heroic and legendary proportions that is to follow; one that ends with fallen gods, much wailing, and a country and a liberation movement in ruins.

Wagner's operas are known for their high drama and the fact that they carry on for up to five hours at a stretch. The Arms Deal drama has gone on for 18 years and, it seems, the final, terrible climax is only now just approaching.

Six years after Le May wrote her piece in April 2001, *Noseweek* did its own bit of prophetic reporting about what was said by the self-same Tony Yengeni at a secret meeting held days after Christmas in 2000. See page 11 and be amazed.

And then of course there was our famous Arms Deal organogram that had the name Thabo Mbeki at the top of the pyramid. Quite logical, really. But Mbeki's instant over-reaction said more.

Now read our detailed further report on the German police investigation on page 12. Join the dots and you'll know where the bribe money went. **The Editor**

Monsanto's rogue wheat imperils US exports

THE RECENT DISCOVERY IN THE US OF A Monsanto herbicide-resistant GM strain of wheat that was never approved by the agriculture department (USDA), has imperilled US wheat exports, *The New York Times* reported.

The European Commission has said it will test incoming shipments and block any containing that particular errant strain of GM wheat.

Meanwhile, Toru Hisadome, a Japanese farm ministry official in charge of wheat trading, told Reuters that Japan had opted to immediately cancel part of a tender offer to buy US Western White wheat, and had suspended imports of both that variety and feed wheat. Japan is the biggest buyer of US wheat after Mexico.

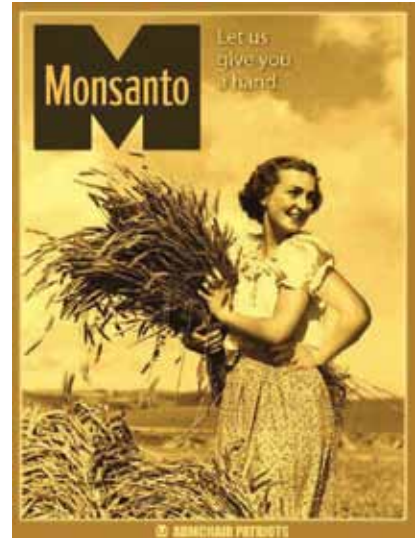
Hisadome said Japan had asked the US to provide more details about their investigation and said they would stop buying the suspended species of wheat until a test-kit was developed to identify genetically modified produce.

There is no US-approved test, although the USDA has said it is developing a "rapid test" kit.

The non-approved GM wheat created by Monsanto was discovered on a 32-hectare farm in Oregon in April. The strain was field-tested from 1998 to 2005, but never approved to be grown in the US.

The world trade in wheat is greater than for all other crops combined.

The US is the world's biggest wheat exporter. ■



Stent

Joy short-lived for Rhodes village hotelier

WHEN NIGEL OWLES HEARD THAT THE man who had moved into his Rhodes Hotel – leaving him to live in a borrowed caravan 500 metres away (*nose163*) – had lost his petition to the Supreme Court of Appeal against a second eviction order, he was thrilled that his four-year ordeal was over (*nose164*).

His joy was, however, short-lived. The usurper, Pieter van Wyk, was figuratively tossed into the street by the newly appointed sheriff from Barkly East,



Nigel Owles

but the villain of the piece had another trick up his sleeve.

While Owles and his lawyer were busy fighting a prolonged series of court cases, Van Wyk by devious means had contrived to get the hotel's liquor licence transferred into his wife's name, then set her up in the hotel off-sales. She also started a bakery and a coffee bar on the hotel's premises and flatly refused to leave, claiming she had leased the property from her husband and wasn't leaving without another eviction order.

Owles has in the meantime taken occupation of the hotel but finds himself in a bit of a pickle.

"It's like a tsunami's gone through my life," says the 66-year-old who sold the hotel to Van Wyk for R4,7 million in 2009 and never got paid for it. "I'm trying to get my liquor licence back, I have no telephone, no computers, no bank account, no car and no staff.

If you gotta go, you gotta go: Attorneys threaten to 'seek relief' over Noseweek story

ON 7 JUNE, ATTORNEYS EDWARD Nathan Sonnenbergs (ENS), acting on behalf of Stephen Gore and his firm Sanek Trust Recovery Services (Pty) Ltd, wrote to demand that *Noseweek* confirm, in writing, by no later than Tuesday, 11 June that it would not publish an article which freelance journalist Tony Beamish had proposed submitting to this magazine for publication.

They went on to demand that, should Beamish submit his article for publication in an amended form, it "should not contain any allegations, references and suggestions that their clients have shared in auctioneers' fees or have been party to a fraud on the creditors of insolvent estates". They also suggested that *Noseweek* put any revised, draft publication to their clients for comment, before proceeding to publication.

ENS attorney Adriaan Hoeben concluded his letter with the attorneys' customary threat and greeting: "Should we not receive your written confirmation in the terms set out above within the stipulated time period, our clients' rights to approach the high court for ap-

propriate interlocutory relief are strictly and expressly reserved. Yours faithfully."

Noseweek's Editor replied: "While I have not as yet had sight of the article Beamish intends submitting to *Noseweek*, and I note that he has by all accounts quite properly submitted his draft to your clients, inviting them to comment and point out any inaccuracies, with no less than three weeks' notice, I am nevertheless happy to confirm that *Noseweek* will not publish the article as it stands or at all, unless I have been satisfied that any allegations it might contain that are adverse to you clients are properly substantiated and that your clients' comment is fairly reported."

Explaining his uncharacteristically timid response, Welz said: "I wasn't sure what we were being threatened with, but it sounded so bad that I decided better to play it safe. (Surely it would be more appropriate if they relieved their interlocutory in the nearest toilet rather than at the high court?) Let's face it, we've had more than enough shit thrown around in the Cape of late." ■

"He took the computers with him telling the sheriff that he'd bought out my computer contracts. I've since received a registered letter from the asset finance company saying that there's R50 000 in arrears but they can't get hold of him.

"The sheriff told him what he can't do and where he can't go, and the next day while I was away he came in and cut the lock off the distribution board, disconnected all the electrical cables and shut off the water. It was absolute chaos for a week. The police came around to investigate and he told them that he'd done it because he needed electricity for his wife's bakery."

Owles says the hotel staff all want to come back to work but he can't do

anything until he has the hotel's bank account back and can organise a loan to rebuild his business.

"I have my hotel back but I have to get them off my premises – I can't work like this," Owles says. "Every day she's here and he drives past and gives me the finger. They also took all the bar stock and sold it to Tiffendell."

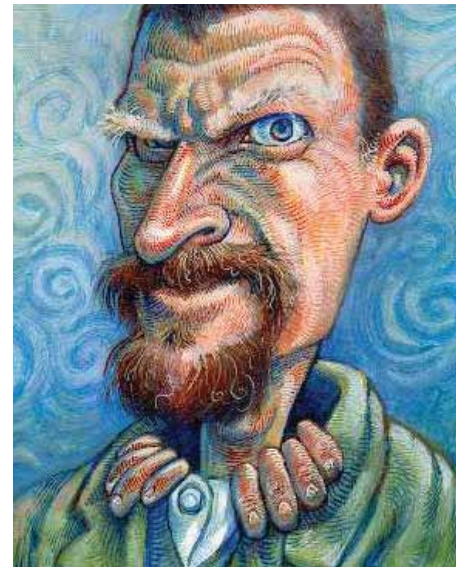
As *Noseweek* was going to print we heard that Owles had got his liquor licence back and the police were coming around the next day to close down the illegally operated bottle store. They were also due to investigate his allegations of theft against the Van Wyks.

The wheels of justice grind exceedingly slowly. May they also grind exceedingly fine. ■

Just what the Doctor ordered. Cartoonist scoops international prize



The winning cartoon



Self-portrait of the artist

INTERNATIONALLY CELEBRATED CARTOONIST DR JACK (right), who regularly adorns *Noseweek's* covers, has won first prize in the Fifth Global Cartoon Contest (Third World Journalist Network), sponsored by the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

He was flown to Berlin for the presentation ceremony and four days of discussion on cartooning in Africa, and social conditions in the participating countries.

Second prize was won by Kenyan cartoonist Victor Ndula and third went to Samuel Mwamkinga of Tanzania. The

theme of this year's competition was "Change the Perspective – African Unity: illusion and myth, or imperative and opportunity?"

Dr Jack (alias Jack Swanepoel), who farms in the Lowveld (and says he spends too much time repairing the tractor), relished the break in Europe, during which winners met the Reporters Without Borders representatives, visited a refugee camp, and participated in a public discussion at the Kenako Africa Festival in Berlin's Alexanderplatz.

Yengeni urged mates to keep mum about travel privileges

SO, ALL THOSE YEARS BACK, *NOSEWEEK* was right: last month the *Mail & Guardian* reported that German detectives had found documentary evidence to show that ANC luminary Tony Yengeni signed a R6-million bribe agreement with an arms bidder while he headed Parliament's joint standing committee on defence in 1995, and had visited Zurich at key dates.

In April 2001, *Noseweek* reported that, three months earlier, senior ANC comrades had been called to a secret meeting at the home of then-ANC Chief Whip Yengeni. The source said

those who qualified for official travel privileges were warned not to use them when booking flights, as they could be more easily traced.

Top of the agenda was what to do about the probe – called by the Standing Committee on Public Accounts (Scopa) – into the arms procurement programme, due to start early in 2001.

Yengeni was Chief Whip and had chaired the Defence Committee at the time the weapons deals were concluded.

"I and others have money in our bank accounts we can't explain," Yengeni told those gathered at his home in December,

2000 "We don't intend to explain it to anyone, either. We deserve it," he declared.

Soon afterwards Yengeni took personal control of Scopa and it was goodbye to Andrew Feinstein, the ANC MP who had been in charge of it and had supported the call for an investigation.

As *Noseweek* observed: "So much for the government's commitment to exposing the truth."

Feinstein has subsequently become an activist campaigning not only to have the bribery and corruption in South Africa's Arms Deal exposed, but in the arms trade worldwide. ■

At last: Arms Deal secrets bubble to the surface

The Yengeni connection: international police reports reveal web of corruption

FINALLY, RAPIDLY, ALL THE PIECES OF the Arms Deal bribes puzzle are coming together. It won't be long before all the guilty – from the highest to the lowest in rank – will have been named.

In March, the *Sunday Times* reported that the Seriti commission had decided to give the ANC and its leaders, believed to be the main beneficiaries of the Arms Deal, a “free pass” without interrogating any party officials or examining its bank accounts.

It quoted a letter from Judge Willie Seriti, dated 26 February 2013, in which he declared that “no evidence implicating the ANC has been brought to the attention of the commission”.

This appears only to have served as a provocation to those who know better.

In June, the *Sunday Times* reported the imminent publication of a British report that would name both the payers and recipients of bribes related to the South African arms deal, while both (specialist online publication) DefenceWeb and the *Mail & Guardian* reported the contents of a German police report about Arms Deal bribes paid to South African politicians. A bribe deal concluded with senior ANC MP Tony Yengeni was described in some detail.

How come the Arms Deal, nearly two decades after the event, still makes headline news? James Myburgh writing on everfastnews.com in July 2006 gave the answer – in the form of another question: “Although an immense amount of information has come out about President Thabo Mbeki’s involvement in the arms deal, and his efforts to quash the inquiry into it, what has been missing all along is the thing that would explain the motivation behind the ANC leadership’s strange

behaviour. Quite apart from all the irregularities later documented in the process of acquiring the arms, what were they trying to hide when they blocked [Judge Willem] Heath, got rid of [ANC MP Andrew] Feinstein, subordinated Scopa, and persuaded the Auditor-General to water down the final [first Arms Deal] report?”

As Myburgh noted, in addition to Mbeki and Yengeni’s having engineered a rerun of the corvette tender process in order to allow the Germans back into the game, “what was odd about the government’s eventual decision to buy the corvettes from the German Frigate Consortium in November 1998 was that they were purchasing them for four times the rand price they could have bought them for in May 1995.”

The silent middleman

IN 2007 THE GERMAN PROSECUTING authorities applied to their Swiss counterparts for judicial assistance in obtaining “account information and bank records” relating to bribes paid to South African politicians and officials by the German Frigate Consortium. In their supporting statement, the following passage appears:

“With the help of [previously] seized records, proof can already be led that the above-mentioned [bribe] agreements of Thyssen RHEINSTAHl Technik GmbH (TRT) were abided by and the promised funds indeed paid. In this way the consortium paid, through the middleman [South African accountant] Ian Pierce, who had

signed the commission agreement on behalf of Mallar Inc, US\$ 3 million to the South African official Shabir Shaik who acted for Armscor, so that he [Shaik], in violation of his official duty, could promote the conclusion of the agreement for the delivery of the corvettes.”

In November 2001 *Noseweek* reported: “Ian Pierce, an accountant who is reputed to have several present and former cabinet ministers as clients, and who set up many of the empowerment companies [involved in the Arms Deal and its spin-offs], continues simply to defy a [Scorpions] subpoena to hand over documents.”



This, despite the fact that – as even the watered-down Joint Investigative Team report found – Bazan, the originally favoured Spanish bidder, was still the cheapest, and the only one that met all the navy’s specified criteria.

Thanks to the most recent revelations in the media, we now know that



Convicted fraudster Tony Yengeni, in matching designer T-shirt and watch (a Breitling?), was allegedly deeply implicated in Arms Deal corruption

there was something in it for Yengeni (and the Shaiks – see box); we also know that the Germans have given serious consideration to allegations from a questionable source that there was something in it for Mbeki.

But what was in it for the ANC? And for the NP, their partners in government at the time? Thabo Mbeki and F W de Klerk worked closely together on Arms Deal matters. De Klerk and Tony Georgiadis – widely accepted by all investigators as probably the largest single channel for Arms Deal bribes and commissions – had been close friends for years; so close that De Klerk divorced his wife, Marike, to marry Georgiadis's wife, Elita.

There has long been talk (and some evidence) that Arms Deal money went both to the ANC Women's League (under Winnie Mandela) and the NP women's league (under Marike de Klerk).

(Some conspiracists have already noted that Marike de Klerk was murdered on 4 December 2001 – the night prior to Auditor-General Shauket Fakie's delivering his Arms Deal report to Parliament. Might someone have feared what she might disclose as revenge on Georgiadis and her ex?)

Returning to the most recent rev-

elations: first, on 9 June, the *Sunday Times* reported that British defence contractor BAE had set up a system of offshore, anonymous companies to funnel bribe payments around the world, and that South African companies, businessmen and politicians who allegedly pocketed bribes in the Arms Deal are to be named in a report by Britain's auditing watchdog, the Financial Reporting Council. The report was said to be due for release "within weeks".

The British audit that examined the confidential records of KPMG, the accountancy firm which advised BAE on its systems, is expected to disclose the names of influential individuals who helped BAE in exchange for cash, the *Sunday Times* said.

Almost unnoticed, two days later on 11 June, DefenceWeb said it had had sight of a report by German police on their investigation of Arms Deal bribes paid to South Africans by German defence contractors. The names mentioned in the report were said by DefenceWeb to be "well-known to those who have followed the acquisition process and allegations and denials of bribery and corruption that followed".

First to feature in DefenceWeb's story was the German police investigation of

The Mbeki hint

IN MARCH 2008 THE *M&G* REPORTED that German police were investigating an allegation from a South African source that Thabo Mbeki had received a large bribe paid by TRT into a Swiss bank account.

This single snippet from the much more extensive German report, became known when the German police secretly sought the collaboration of the South African Department of Justice to track down documents and witnesses in South Africa.

When this became known to TRT, the Johannesburg lawyer representing Sven Moeller, TRT's South African representative, publicly denied – apparently for tactical reasons – the Mbeki allegation, and in support of his denial identified its source as a less-than-reputable German businessman resident in Johannesburg called Nicholas Achterberg.

He then repeatedly petitioned the Justice Minister not to accede to the German prosecutor's request for assistance in seizing documents and interrogating witnesses in South Africa.

Noseweek has been unable to establish whether the German request was acceded to or not.

Ferrostaal, a member of the consortium that built submarines for the SA Navy. All four Shaik brothers are said to be mentioned by name in this report. [*The Shaiks' top political connections, it is now well known, were (now President) Jacob Zuma and Mac Maharaj, now Minister in the President's Office.* – Ed]

But, DefenceWeb added, "mention is also made of a raid by Düsseldorf authorities on an office in connection with possible bribery of South African officials in connection with the sale and supply of four corvettes to the SA Navy". Here, the German report is said by DefenceWeb to make "any number" of references to consultants and the apparently casual manner in which invoices, lacking in detail, were paid. (*This usually indicates the transfer of funds that are to be disbursed as bribes by the "consultant".* – Ed)

Then, quoting “open source information from Germany”, DefenceWeb revealed that “South African investigators at the [Seriti] Arms Commission of Inquiry, are still awaiting crucial evidence from German law enforcement agencies that could shed light on bribes which several high-profile ANC politicians allegedly received from the German Frigate Consortium”.

It continues: “The information relates to a German investigation into arms manufacturer Thyssen Rhein-stahl Technik GmbH (TRT) and several other companies that formed the German Frigate Consortium in 1994...

“Thyssen Rhein-stahl is alleged to have concluded a commission agreement with Mallar Inc, a company registered in Liberia [but believed to be con-

attended meetings with South African officials and business people; signed consultancy agreements related to the Arms Deal; signed the corvette contract with South Africa; wrote a book called *Das Geschäft* (The Deal) which was never published but which – said German investigators who came upon the manuscript in one of their search-and-seizure raids – “showed significant parallels to their findings concerning the arms deal with South Africa”.

Sven Moeller was TRT’s representative in South Africa. He made the first contact with **Chippy Shaik**; allegedly transported 40 million DM [R275m today] in a ThyssenKrupp company jet to Geneva and paid it into an account for **Thabo Mbeki**. The German police investigators note: “no

Lanaras; and he met **Tony Yengeni** the day the bribery agreement was signed by Christoph Hoenings and Yengeni.

Walter Ernst Ulrich Scheel, son of former German president Walter Scheel, worked at TRT with Hoenings on the corvette project; and he had among his computer files a list of code names for South African officials, including Defence Minister (Joe) Modise: “Moritz”; and Deputy Defence Minister (Ronnie) Kasrils: “Karl”.

The German police report then proceeds to tell the Tony Yengeni story, as it emerged from their investigation:

During the June 2006 search of TRT, an agreement between Yengeni and Hoenings dated 11 August 1995 was seized. In that document Yengeni was promised a commission of 2.5m DM [then worth R6m].

“In fact,” says the German police investigator in his summary report: ‘I can prove the agreement was signed one month later [in September 2006] during a visit to South Africa by Hoenings, K-J Müller and Koopmann, Yengeni and Hoenings were the signatories.’

“Hoenings, Koopmann and Georgiadis at the same time took part in a meeting with Yengeni in Cape Town at which the agreement was most likely arranged. On his return to Germany, Hoenings arranged a provision for the promised commission of 2.5m DM. This was entered in the accounts of TRT on 28 September 1995 but was removed on 30 September 1997 in connection with the merger of Thyssen and Krupp, ‘probably with the intention to reduce Thyssen’s liabilities’. Since then, no trace of a new provision can be found in the accounts, so that the Yengeni commission could perhaps be part of the money paid to Mallar Inc. It is unlikely that TRT did not pay Yengeni the promised commission at all,” the German investigator notes.

The report continues: “Although we have clear evidence of corruption in connection with Yengeni, we cannot prosecute this fact. Although the Mallar Inc contract, due to the last extension in April 1999, and the payments to Mallar Inc do not qualify [to escape prosecution because of Germany’s Statute of Limitations] we still need

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The report says: “We have clear evidence of corruption in connection with Yengeni”

trolled by deal-broker Tony Georgiadis] to which it allegedly paid \$22 million to be given to South African officials and members of the cabinet.”

DefenceWeb said: “Former ANC Chief Whip Tony Yengeni, who was convicted of fraud in 2003, is allegedly central to the deal, as a flight was booked for him in 1996 so he could participate in meetings with members of the German Frigate Consortium.”

Three days after DefenceWeb’s story went online, the *Mail & Guardian* appeared with its version of the story. It, too, had got sight of (possibly the same, or similar) German police documents.

So, just what did the German police document contain that so many in the media have recently got to see? It is certainly worth a closer, second look.

The document obtained by *Noseweek* begins by introducing some of the key German players in the drama, with a thumbnail sketch of each:

Christoph Hoenings was responsible for acquisitions at TRT a subsidiary of the major German heavy industrial and defence group, ThyssenKrupp. He was an authorised signatory for TRT;

evidence found yet for this allegation”. (This snippet from the German police report became known, in isolation, as far back as March 2008. See box. – Ed)

Klaus-Joachim Müller (“Klaus-J Müller”) was Christoph Hoenings’ counterpart at (shipbuilders) Bohm+Voss (B+V), a partner in the German consortium. He is now director of ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems AG (TKMS); he was responsible for the tender price calculations; included bribes in the tender price; signed the corvette contract with South Africa; and he was informed about the (bribe) agreement with Chippy Shaik.

Jürgen Koopmann was a director of TRT at the time of the tender process. He signed the consultancy agreement with Mallar Inc (a Liberian-registered front company apparently controlled by Tony Georgiadis, deal-broker and alleged bribe-broker); he negotiated with Klaus-J Müller and **Herbert von Nitzsch** (director of B+V) about the inclusion of bribes in the tender price; he was suspicious of receiving kickback payments through **Antony Georgiadis** and **George Z**

Wrong walk to freedom

South Africa needs to re-examine the myths of the liberation struggle, says historian Stephen Ellis

THE OTHER DAY I CLIMBED Constitution Hill to witness what promised to be the most vicious political brawl since the Second World War, when Communies and fascists routinely *moered* each other on the steps of Johannesburg City Hall. This event was hosted by the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation, associated with what remains of the old Communist movement in Germany.

The audience consisted largely of middle-aged uMkhonto we Sizwe (MK) veterans, with a smattering of left-wing academics. And on the podium was Prof Stephen Ellis, the Anglo-Dutch historian whose new book *External Mission* offers a startling glimpse of the secret world of the African National Congress during its years in exile (1960-1990). Where others see heroism and martyrdom, Ellis finds a sorry saga of corruption, factionalism and Communist domination.

Given the background, I was sure the comrades were planning to *moer* Ellis for defaming the struggle. I was wrong. The only person who was openly rude was Roshan, daughter of late Communist Party potentate Yusuf Dadoo, who said Ellis's narrative was racist and should be forbidden. (She actually said, "We cannot allow..." which sounded quite regal in her posh British accent.) Otherwise, Ellis's heresies got a sombre and respectful hearing. A former trade unionist described taking a bus to Lesotho in 1987 for a secret meeting with the armed underground. As he was about to leave, a snow-storm closed in, and the unionist found himself trapped in a hotel room with an MK officer and a bottle of brandy.

"The more we drank, the darker the stories I was hearing," said the unionist. "Corruption, tribalism... I could barely believe my ears. All around me,

MK veterans nodded their heads and chuckled bleakly."

Stephen Ellis holds the Desmond Tutu Chair of Social Sciences at the Free University of Amsterdam. He has spent nearly 30 years studying South African history but remains almost unknown among us, perhaps because he keeps saying things some don't want to hear. Let's start with a big one.

Q: I thought those MK vets were going to rip you apart. The fact that they didn't suggests you're right – many of them had unhappy experiences in ANC military camps up in Africa.

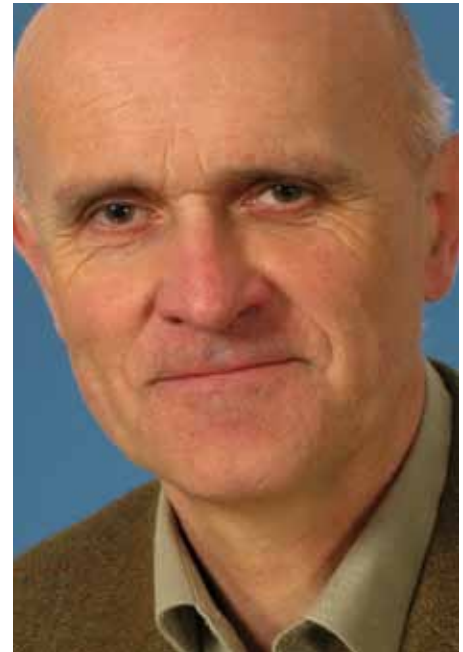
A: I have interviewed many MK veterans over the last 25 years and none rejected my questions. More than anyone else, they know what conditions were like in the camps. They suffered from boredom and bad food. After a crackdown in 1981, discipline was ferocious and often arbitrary, with people being beaten even to death for minor offences. Criticism of the leadership was not tolerated. A full-scale mutiny in 1984 ended with the ANC publicly executing some of its own people by firing squad.

Q: Who put down the various protests?

A: Above all, the ANC's security department, known colloquially as Mbokodo, the grinding stone. They were trained mostly in East Germany, by Stasi secret policemen who imparted their rigid ideological views to their ANC counterparts. I have read the training manuals they used. They taught that spreading rumours or criticising the leadership was evidence of disloyalty or even treachery. So was doubting the leading role of the Soviet Union in world struggle.

Q: And demanding the right to go home and fight.

A: That was the most common rea-



Stephen Ellis

son for protest; the ANC leadership was not in a position to use its army because of flaws in its military strategy.

Q: As you know, South Africa is now experiencing hundreds of protests each month. These are, in essence, appeals for attention from people who think ANC leaders have forgotten them. Given what happened in the MK camps, is the ANC going to tolerate this?

A: The ANC is a complex movement, but it has a thread of authoritarianism running through it. Since the experience of the camps, it also has a thread of brutality. And now that it forms the government, it controls the police, who have their own traditions of heavy-handedness. This doesn't augur well for tolerance.

Q: Some South Africans imagine corruption is a post-1994 phenomenon.

External Mission suggests it was always there.

A: The armed struggle was an invitation to corruption on both sides. Some ANC people developed smuggling rackets – buying cars stolen in South Africa and driving them to Zambia, and sending Mandrax south in return. On the government side, evading oil sanctions and arms boycotts demanded off-the-books arrangements that inevitably became corrupt. When the struggle became really intense, in the 1980s, the intelligence services of both the government and the ANC were cultivating professional criminals like Cyril Beeka. This was the nursery for much of the crime and corruption we see today.

Q: In his autobiography, Nelson Mandela observes that many of the leaders he met on his clandestine 1962 Africa mission saw him as a tool of the Communists. The old man said this was “damnably false”. Your research suggests otherwise.

A: Well, Mandela was almost certainly a top-secret member of the Communist Party. He joined probably in 1960, and was immediately co-opted into the Central Committee. Numerous former Party members – eight at the last count – have testified to his membership, or at least hinted at it. Moreover, there is documentary evidence, in the form of minutes of a 1982 SACP meeting, where a prominent Party member recalls the circumstances of Mandela’s joining. Finally, I was shown a memoir concerning a critical meeting in December 1960, at which the SACP decided to launch armed struggle...

Q: This is the meeting where the tiny SACP resolved to “bounce” the mighty ANC into joining its military escapade?

A: Right. The ANC never formally resolved to engage in armed struggle. The decision was taken on its behalf by the SACP.

Q: And Nelson Mandela was part of that?

A: He was at the critical meeting.

Q: Why lie about it?

A: After the Sharpeville killings in March 1960, the struggle against apartheid became an international affair. Huge numbers of sympathisers, South Africans and foreigners, would have hesitated to support the ANC if they had thought it was being guided by Communists, as the National Party

was alleging. So it was vital that Mandela’s membership remain secret. By the time he came out of prison in 1990, the Cold War was over but revelations of his earlier Party membership could still have been damaging, so the silence continued.

Q: Veteran Communist Ben Turok says you’re wrong – Mandela was never in the party.

A: Turok was at the meeting where the SACP declared war on Pretoria. There were only about 25 people present, so he must have seen Mandela there. If Madiba wasn’t a member, what was he doing at the most secret and sensitive meeting in SACP history?

That said... I don’t think any of this seriously detracts from Mandela’s achievements. His goal was the liberation of his people from apartheid and white domination, and he seems to have regarded the Party as an instrument for that purpose. In the long term – 50 years or so – you could say that Mandela used the Communists, not vice versa. After all, the ANC is now in power and the Soviet Union no longer even exists.

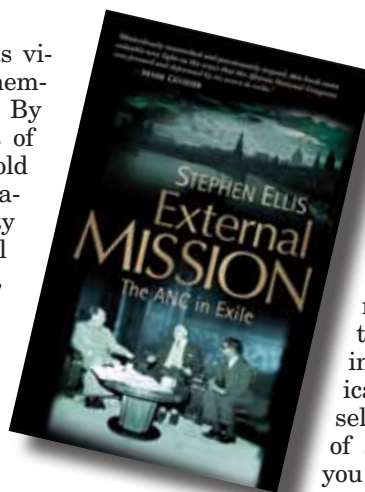
Q: The Soviet Union no longer exists for a reason – Communism made its subjects miserable.

A: Granted. The 20th Century produced a great number of “coercive utopias,” to borrow a phrase. Fascism, apartheid, and communism were all coercive utopias. I am suspicious of anyone who wants to create a paradise on earth. The crimes of communist parties in power have been monstrous. Not just the Soviet gulag and so on, but the man-made famine in China in the late 1950s caused by Mao’s Great Leap Forward. The biggest famine in history, perhaps 35 million victims...

Q: So you agree then – the Communist Party was a dangerous political cult, and Mandela was its most important member...

A: (Chuckles) You sound like a rabid Cold Warrior.

Q: I can’t help it! If Mandela had joined the Nazis, everyone would be reaching for smelling salts. For me,



objectively, there is no difference. Shawn Slovo and I used to spar about our respective fathers. Mine was an Afrikaner nationalist. Hers was SACP boss Joe Slovo. In order to keep his faith, my old man had to blind himself to pass raids, malnutrition in the homelands and political detainees killing themselves by “slipping on a bar of soap” or whatever. Have you any idea what Joe Slovo – and Mandela – had to overlook about Russia and China

in order to be Communists in 1960?

A: Perhaps you’re too close to this to see clearly. Look, Mandela believed from the early 1950s that armed conflict was inevitable, and by 1960 he (like many others) believed the time had come. Since Western powers supported Pretoria, help had to come from the Communist bloc. Also, he feared the Pan-Africanist Congress would start a race war unless Communists organised a campaign based on a class analysis rather than racial hatred. I think that was a realistic concern.

Q: You conclude your book by saying that all versions of South African history are based on myth. Why is that bad for us?

A: By “myths”, I don’t mean fabricated stories with no factual basis. I mean stories that have been taken out of their historical context and made to appear as timeless, a lesson to us all, forever. The Battle of Blood River is like that – a story that was given a meaning outside time by Afrikaans ideologues. The ANC has perpetrated its own myths, especially concerning the armed struggle and the Battle of Cuito Cuanavale.

“It is dangerous when myths become so divorced from reality they are no longer believable, or when policy-makers start using them to justify dubious decisions in the present. I believe the ANC has reached that point. That’s why the past is so important today. South Africans need to think about their history and produce some new visions.”

● *External Mission – The ANC in Exile* is published by Jonathan Ball ■

20 years

noseweek

Sylvia Vollenhoven, filmmaker:

Noseweek's journalism is **a valve that stops this whole pressure cooker of a country from exploding**. We don't always value your early warning system as much as we should. I loved your aggressive teen years and look forward to the next decade.



Zapiro, cartoonist:

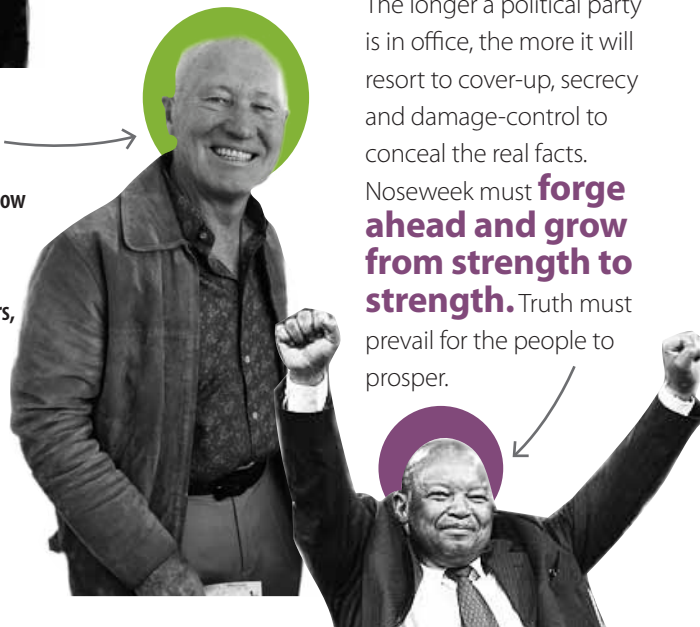
When secrecy becomes law, when mainstream media come with political strings attached, when self-censorship becomes an infectious disease, that's when **we really need irreverent independence and fearless snooping**. Long live Noseweek, long live!



Picture: Karina Turok

Terry Crawford-Browne, arms deal activist:

The arms deal scandal has highlighted how South Africa's constitutional democracy has been almost gutted by the "criminal underworld" of corrupt politicians, bankers, lawyers and auditors. As the privileged elite, they are even more venal than the sleazy gangsters of the criminal underworld or even the Italian Mafia. For the past 20 years, Noseweek has made **an extraordinary contribution in exposing these characters**.



Mosiuoa Lekota, Cope leader:

The longer a political party is in office, the more it will resort to cover-up, secrecy and damage-control to conceal the real facts. Noseweek must **forge ahead and grow from strength to strength**. Truth must prevail for the people to prosper.

Rhoda Kadalie, executive director – Impumelelo Social Innovations Centre:

Noseweek is fearless, feisty and irreverent. **When it smells a rat, it goes for it**. It is ruthless about unmasking the allure of ill-gotten wealth and exposes those in power who got there because of corruption. Nkandla and Gupta are two current examples of why we desperately need to keep Noseweek alive.

Paul Hoffman, director of the Institute for Accountability, Southern Africa:

Noseweek – the canary in the coal mine of entitlement expectations; the cuckoo in the crow's nest of accountable leadership; and the guardian against decapitation of the goose that lays the golden eggs – **a truly fowl magazine**.



Richard Young, electronics engineer and founder and MD of C²I², one of the arms deal bidders that lost out because of high-level corruption:

Noseweek's Martin Welz, investigative journalist-par-excellence, proved that **the real reason for the Arms Deal was not the defence of the motherland, but the ANC's Houdini-like escape from financial bankruptcy** and its desperate need of funding for its 1999 election campaign. (Plus the collateral enrichment of its leaders and cadres.)



Trust me, I'm a financial planner

A renowned British author is among those talked out of their life savings by a smooth-tongued advisor, who has since bought a wine farm in in Franschhoek

RENOWNED BRITISH AUTHOR AND columnist James Delingpole and freelance journalist Anna Bruning are, like most writers, avid readers. Pity, then, that they didn't read what the author of *Gorky Park*, Martin Cruz Smith, had to say about financial advisors: "As a novelist, I tell stories and people give me money. Then financial planners tell me stories and I give them money."

After six years, Delingpole is £250,000 (about R4 million) and Bruning £79,000 (about R1.25m) out of pocket with little chance of getting any of it back from financial advisor Peter Ronald who, between commutes to London, leads a luxurious life in South Africa. (His Franschhoek wine estate, Blueberry Hill, produces a wine ranked highly in *Platter*.)

Ronald's unhappy clients have even less chance of recovering their money from the mysterious Sphere Global Properties management fund in which he claimed to have invested their cash. The objective of the fund – said the Sphere prospectus of 1 March 2007 which Ronald showed his gullible clients – was to achieve capital growth by investing in *options* to purchase off-plan property in the global property market. (It boasted profitable previous ventures in obscure markets such as Northern Cyprus, Granada, Budapest, and Dubai.)

The marketing blurb made no mention that Sphere would be based in the Marshall Islands, a notoriously secretive tax haven where companies are not required to name or disclose any particulars of their directors; there is no directory of directors, managers or shareholders; no company tax; and no disclosure of beneficial ownership. The corporate executive office where records are kept can be situated anywhere in the world. Tellingly, there is also no requirement to file financial statements or reports, and no legal necessity for annual audits. All of which makes the Marshall Islands a Ponzi operator's dreamland.

Anna Bruning, raised in Bloemfontein and now resident in London, was one of the early victims signed up by her new

smooth-talking financial advisor to invest in Sphere. In June 2007 a friend and colleague from *The Telegraph*, gardening writer Elspeth Thompson, had introduced her to Ronald, her financial advisor who she "trusted with her life".

"When we met, he told me not to worry, he was from Bulawayo and would look after me," Bruning says. Ronald encouraged her to raise as much capital as she could and invest it in his Sphere property fund which had "achieved returns of up to 38% per year".

Bruning was nervous but followed Ronald's proposal. "I realise now that, just like with Madoff and his New York scheme, I was a victim of affinity fraud – I trusted a fellow Southern African.

"Ronald asked me to pay my £50,000 into his personal bank account. When I queried that, he told me it was a sort of shell account he'd set up for Sphere trading to stop the taxman taking an interest.

"Like Madoff, he told me Sphere was a special niche property fund open to favoured investors by invitation only."

The first statement she received, in December 2007, reflected capital growth of 24% in six months, despite the global credit crunch that year.

In July 2008, Bruning invested a further £29,000 of her News International pension fund in Ronald's fund. This was a good time, said Ronald, to invest in Sphere because the market was so low. Again, the money was paid into Ronald's personal account. Her trusted financial advisor had in effect recommended she invest a fortune in a shady company with no traceable directors or owners and no auditors.

At the very least, Ronald had shifted from being a financial consultant to being a Sphere facilitator, without bothering to tell his clients. *Noseweek* has a copy of his business card from that time reflecting him as a director. As the heat mounted, he dropped that title and claimed to be "only an agent".

After the first year things went downhill fast. Bruning, unaware of how things are done in the Marshall Islands, fre-

quently requested audited statements to confirm the figures Ronald supplied in his six-monthly reports – requests met with promises that the information would be supplied in a week, a month, three months or else ignored. In July 2009 Bruning told Ronald she wanted out. He told her she could not exit until three years was up.

In March 2010 her friend Elspeth Thompson committed suicide. She had long suffered from depression and Bruning says she was highly stressed about her financial state.

Bruning then decided that Sphere was a Ponzi scam and determined to get out as fast as she could.

Ronald repeatedly promised to pay out her money, but shortly before it was due in July 2010 Sphere announced that, "to avoid a garage sale of assets and protect existing investors", all exits from the scheme were frozen.

Three years later, having received nothing back, Bruning is still fighting for



her money. She says she's been verbally abused by Ronald and his wife, Sarah, who sent her SMSes telling her she was stupid, didn't know how to manage her finances and deserved her penury. In an SMS on January 8, 2011, Sarah Ronald claimed her husband was just an agent for Sphere and Bruning's problems had nothing to do with him personally. In future, Bruning should "deal with the Offshore Managers and not Peter".

She later sent another SMS saying: "You really don't understand, Anna, and your lack of fundamental knowledge of where your money is invested is embarrassing. Read the paperwork you signed and talk to the offshore managers. Maybe they can explain things that will eventually sink in."

James Delingpole has a similar tale.

In 2007 Elspeth Thompson also introduced him and his wife to Ronald. "We knew nothing about finance and were worried about our future. We told him our priorities were to pay off our mortgage as quickly as possible, ensure enough funds for our children's education and have a secure retirement.

"Ronald has a charming, plausible manner and makes you feel good about yourself. He made promises and we felt like he could grant all our wishes. After our meetings we were on cloud nine.

"Looking back, I can't believe I let this guy do what he did. He actually got me to cash in my two pensions and transfer the money into new funds he recom-

mended. I thought, 'that's what happens when you take on a financial advisor – you take his advice'. He suggested we invest in Sphere and, though he was associated with it, he gave the impression it was all administered from Switzerland and above board.

Delingpole's reservations about the shaky property market were met with the reassurance "No, no, you don't understand, these are special huge opportunities".

"He then went into a long schpiel, saying he had special access to developments in Dubai, Spain, Hungary and Northern Cyprus... He spoke of returns of between 20%-30%, then persuaded us to put our pensions and the rest of our life savings into Sipps (Self Invested Personal Pensions). We didn't have any paperwork at first and when it did arrive, it turned out that our pensions, too, were going into Sphere. I thought 'Well, Peter wouldn't do this without a reason. It must make financial sense, present some sort of tax advantage'.

"He was always sketchy with the paperwork – which we can't stand anyway – and we trusted him. Having looked through the very limited paperwork he sent us, we realised how very careful he was to cover his tracks.

"Also, in the reports he sent us, he misrepresented what was said at the meeting. For instance, that we'd opted for a high-risk strategy to pay the school fees. That's not what we said. Peter told us it wasn't high risk! We've lost £250,000 and had to sell our house. I rang him up and he started ranting that I was impatient and stupid and had ridiculous expectations of him."

Bruning, tired of broken promises, has – along with other investors – lodged complaints with the Financial Services Board and the Fraud Squad but things are moving slowly because of the Marshall Islands registration.

She says acquaintances and ex-employees of Ronald have told her that he's been beaten up at least once and in about 2010 had bulletproof glass fitted to his £2 million home.

Ronald told *Noseweek* he cannot disclose the names of Sphere's directors and that the business card naming him as a director, "must be an old card".

Asked about the freeze on exits for those who want to get what's left of their money out, he replied that only 15 of the 60 investors wanted to leave.

"We froze Sphere in 2010 to protect the members' interests and cut overheads," he says. "It was decided by member con-

sensus in 2012 to let the unhappy ones go and we're working on exit figures for them, based on what we can sell the stock for in the market at the moment, but they have to take up the overhead costs of selling the stock short, so there's no problem with that.

"They'll have their final figures by tomorrow or, worst case, Friday. There are only a handful of members trying to force things – the rest are happy to wait till the market recovers.

"I feel for what people are going through, but we have no choice. We had no intention of owning the stock – the properties were supposed to have been sold out by the developers within six or 12 months of being signed, but most of the developers have reneged on those and sold their own stock to survive."

Most of this is part and parcel of high-risk property investment, but what about the ethics of a registered personal finance advisor recommending rather than dissuading clients from selling their pensions and mortgaging their homes to speculate for such high stakes with a shadowy company of which he was a director?

"They didn't get that advice from me," he says.

If that is so, why did he go along with such a risky proposition?

"It wasn't at the time," he says. "I didn't advise them to take their pensions. They decided to do so. These few members don't want to sell their own assets, they want out of Sphere and they don't care about the other members. They're angry because they've had to change their lifestyles.

"Sphere has cost me my marriage and put me in a most illiquid position. Unfortunately I do not control the market."

Finally, *Noseweek* asks him about a South African company called Proximitas 106. Does he own that? He does. And the Blueberry Hill wine estate near Franschoek? Is that owned by Proximitas 106? It is.

It transpires Ronald isn't hurting nearly as badly as some of his unsuitable, naïve investors. At about the time he was dragging them into the high-stakes war zone of dodgy off-shore deals, he was building up a nice little portfolio of properties for himself in South Africa; the Blueberry Hill wine estate with its guest cottages, a house in Franschoek itself, a prime Atlantic Seaboard property at 333 Ocean View Drive, Fresnaye, besides his luxury flat in London. His mansion in the English countryside is on the market at a discounted £1.65 million. ■



James Delingpole

20 years

noseweek



Lindiwe Mazibuko, parliamentary leader of the DA:

Noseweek has provided anyone brave enough to read it with witty, painfully forensic, dry, irreverent, and well-informed stories for 20 years. The best compliment that I can pay is that **Noseweek must be one of the few publications in which politicians (all of them!) pray they will not feature** or even get just a mention. Happy 20th Birthday, Noseweek.

Anton Harber, Caxton Professor of Journalism at Wits:

Noseweek is an eccentric and essential part of our journalistic landscape. It is **bold, unpredictable and maverick, determinedly taking on all and sundry** and getting up the noses of a lot of people. Sometimes it gets up my nose, and that is not a bad thing. South Africa would be a lot poorer and a lot duller without Noseweek. May we look forward to another 20 years of the unexpected obsessions and probing questions of editor Martin Welz.



Raenette Taljaard, senior lecturer in politics at UCT:

When I was an MP Noseweek was **an essential companion to the oversight work we had to do** – critically so during SCOPA's ill-fated arms probe. Viva Noseweek!



William Gumede, author and political commentator:

Noseweek has set **a tradition in South Africa of breaking stories which are followed up a few weeks, months or even years later by the other media.**

With the apartheid-era new information bill, with declarations of private homes as national key points and while the real national key points such as Air Force Base Waterkloof are being used for private purposes, South Africa needs, now more than ever, an investigative magazine like Noseweek.

As corruption and lying increase in the corridors of power, we need a brave and gutsy publication like yours. Congratulations.

Justin Nurse, Founder of Laugh it Off:

Congratulations to Martin Welz and his team at Noseweek on their 20th anniversary. I will forever be grateful to Noseweek for their support in my case against SABMiller, and for the example they continue to set for independent media in SA. They kowtow to no one and believe there are no sacred cows. If the media is the watchdog of society, then **Noseweek is surely the bull terrier with the bit between its teeth.** I mix my animal metaphors intentionally, for Noseweek is indeed a curious beast.



Beezy Bailey, artist:

Noseweek successfully tackles the massive shit storm of corporate and political corruption that engulfs us, as a beacon of intelligence, hope, insight, moral fortitude and, most importantly, fantastic humour. Viva a free press in our young democracy. One hundred more years to you, Martin Welz and the team.



20

noseweek

years



TAKE COVER!

It's 20 years, since Noseweek was launched. But where did it come from and where's it going? By Martin Welz

NOSEWEEK OWES A LOT OF IT'S original inspiration to the British magazine, *Private Eye* – but not as much as its long-defunct garage-produced predecessor called *Nose* once did.

Nose operated more-or-less undercover in the early 1980s as a “newsletter” sent to the 800-or-so paid-up “members” of The Paper Club – a device to avoid having to register as a newspaper (with all the nasty legal and political leverage that gave the apartheid government). It was produced as a weekend hobby by myself and (the late) fellow *Sunday Express* journalist Wilmar Utting with contributions from colleagues and friends.

At the *Express*, our investigations enjoyed the enthusiastic support of the editor, Ken Owen. But we had come to the conclusion that readers found investigative reporting heavy going, if not impenetrable, because of the formal, worthy reporting style editors and newspaper tradition prescribed. Much of the really exciting, interesting stuff couldn't be published, forbidden by one or other law, or because it would offend the newspaper's politics, its shareholders, or its advertisers. Or simply because it did not fit the convention of what constituted a news report.

We also rebelled against the prevailing newspaper convention that required doctors, lawyers and bank managers – the professional and the powerful – to be quoted with awe and reverence as authorities not to be questioned. It not only made for dull copy; it was frequently misguided and inevitably undemocratic.

Using the satirical style employed by *Private Eye* was one way of livening things up, and levelling the social playing field – but that's not journal-

ism. *Private Eye* offered another option. Thanks to the chance intervention of the gifted Irish journalist Claud Cockburn half a century ago – who caused a sensation with both his content and style when he stood in as editor at the last moment so the founders could go on holiday. To this day the first few pages of *Private Eye* contain entirely factual “insider” reporting – written in an irreverent, confiding style. That worked for us.



South Africa in the 1980s was effectively a security state at war. Journalists could not report on riots or many other events without the prior permission of the police. They could not report on issues ranging from conditions in prisons to the nuclear programme. Reporting critically on what went down in the so-called Commissioner's Courts that enforced the Pass Laws was regarded as treason by the security police. No journalist even thought to write about behind-the-scenes goings-on at the Reserve Bank, or at any bank for that matter. God resided there.

It was the decade after the Soweto Riots and detention without trial was the order of the day. In that general atmosphere of fear many found security in unquestioning obedience.

Newspapers were in decline, the *Sunday Express* was about to close, followed shortly by the *Rand Daily Mail*. The government banned a few more. Oppression was everywhere. We saw it as a challenge, believing – as have others over the centuries – that you can tell a great deal of uncomfortable truth and get away with it by clothing it in humour. Writers and story tellers have devised a remarkable number of

ingenious ways of conveying a message without actually saying it; you can more safely ridicule those in power if you first make yourself ridiculous.

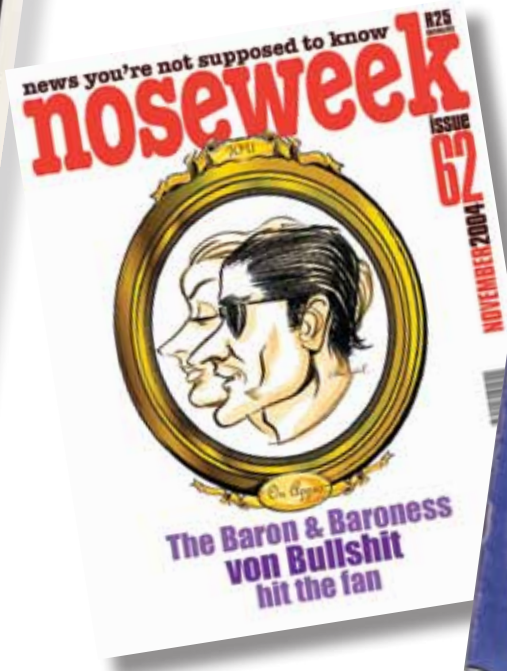
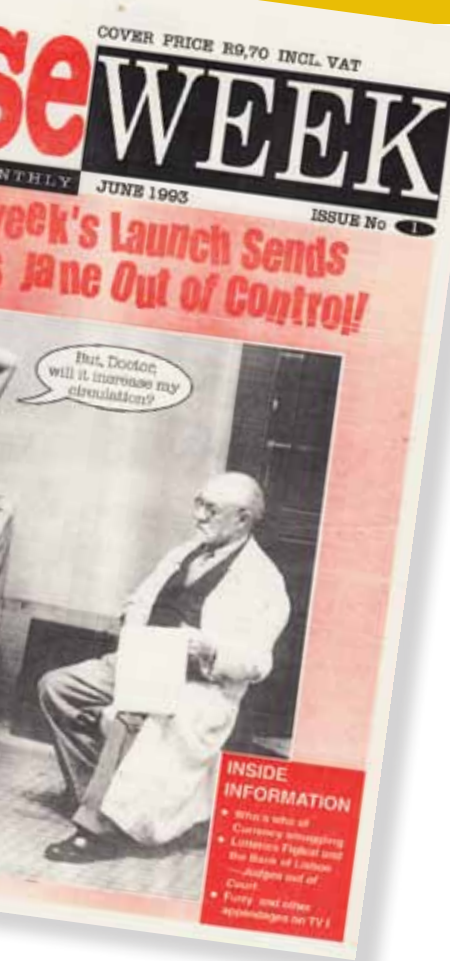
We envisaged a magazine in which we could tell news stories – in the voice of a story teller who entertained intelligent readers and led them to read between the lines and draw the obvious conclusions.

We learnt two important lessons in the course of producing the 10 issues we managed to bring out of *Nose* magazine: you don't need satire to make a point about South African business and politics. Just report forthrightly, and South Africans respond – first with shock, then with the laughter of recognition. Our reality is often so outrageous it doesn't need to be caricatured.

Also, we soon enough discovered that tweaking the beards of authority by telling the truth remained a risky game. *Nose* magazine came to a sticky end when the Minister of Law and Order, Louis le Grange, had me charged with criminal libel after we reported – based on an illicit tip-off from within the Revenue Office – that he was being investigated for tax fraud and had tried to use political leverage to suppress the investigation.

I was rescued from a dismal fate by the Receiver, a Mr du Plessis, who deserves to be remembered. Although he had not been our source, he bravely





stepped forward to testify in my defence. I was found not guilty, but the trial effectively bankrupted me.

Down, but not out. I and others like me – Max du Preez and Jacques Pauw who founded *VryeWeekblad* and the refugees from the *RDM* who started the *Weekly Mail* (now the *Mail & Guardian*) had tasted freedom. When, 10 years later, the new democratic era had dawned and I had no job, the thought of reviving *Nose* as a commercial venture became irresistible.

Three friends, varsity pal (now Judge) Eberhard Bertelsmann, schoolmate (by then top dog at Arthur Anderson) Pierre du Toit and Mary Slack (teach her father not to give her a directorship!) funded the first print bill, and in June 1993, *Nose* was reborn as *Noseweek*. My partner in the new venture, Maureen Barnes, found the title *Nose* “too physical” and suggested adding the “week” bit. Never mind that the plan was to produce a monthly magazine, and, besides, the play on the better-known *Newsweek* might give us some borrowed status.

In fact, the joke earned us an amused mention in the international edition of *Noseweek*. So much for making ourselves look ridiculous.

The first issue of *Noseweek* contained what would become our

characteristic mix of serious reporting leavened with tongue-in-cheek irreverence. Our first cover launched a full-frontal attack on what would become one of our standard targets: hypocrisy in the mainstream media.

South African *Cosmopolitan* editor Jane Raphaely had decided to feature an effectively nude Madonna in leather harness on the cover of her magazine to attract male readers. (It was a great success.) To justify this commercial exploitation of female nudity she argued that Madonna was in control of her situation and not a victim.

For our first cover, we found a famous historical photograph of the French impressionist painter Matisse, sketchbook in hand, sitting back to sceptically survey his shapely nude model. Thanks to Photoshop, we could perch Raphaely's head and pearls on the nude's shoulders, declaring in a bubble, “but, doctor, will it increase my circulation?”

If it makes her feel any better, I reckon that cover increased our sales by 40% – from 600 copies to 1,000 – in one fell swoop! And my pious editorial justification: “How better for a woman to assert her unique, individual femininity than to take off her clothes?” made it into the *South African Book of Quotable Quotes*.

Inside, straight out of the starting blocks, we took on the South African Reserve Bank and the country's two largest law firms, Webber Wentzel (now Webbers) and Sonnenberg, Hoffmann and Galombik (now Edward Na-

than Sonnenbergs or ENS.) All three regularly inhabit our pages to this day.

The story signalled to readers that *Noseweek* was willing to take on the biggest targets – usually avoided for fear of litigation and of losing advertising revenue. Banks, note, are probably the biggest single litigators and the biggest advertisers in the world.

Our story told how wealthy Sea Point property speculator Norman Benjamin had used the services of these two major law firms to devise a scheme to smuggle several millions offshore to his daughter, Rosemary, in Texas, by fraud, and in contravention of various currency control laws.

It told of how, despite having these legal heavyweights as his co-conspirators, the scheme had gone horribly wrong, ending in Benjamin himself being defrauded of all his money. The moral of the piece: just because major law firms are prepared to devise schemes to assist wealthy clients in breaking the law, doesn't necessarily mean they are good at it.

Perhaps even more telling: the judge hearing Benjamin's case took no note of the role played by these law firms in a fraudulent scheme. No mention was made of reporting them to the Law Society. Even the Reserve Bank chose to ignore the case, which raised the question: Does the legal system serve justice, or does it exist to control the lower classes while serving the interests of the rich and powerful? That is

a question posed time and again by *Noseweek* stories – except that by now the answer is more crudely evident.

That first issue of *Noseweek* also contained the first cartoon by Gus Ferguson (See illustration, page 26). It sweetly defused an obnoxious crudity that confronts us whenever we use a public subway, with a gentle humour that was lost on the likes of the SA Reserve Bank – who used it as an excuse to cancel their subscription.

The Reserve Bank has stayed away, and Gus is with us still. He was joined, from *Nose26* onwards, by columnist Harold Strachan who continues to have the Last Word. Harold also drew the cover cartoon for *Nose42*!

After 40 issues *Noseweek's* satirical covers were abandoned when some readers began to take them literally, then accused us of fraud, saying they appeared to herald a news story that invariably wasn't there.

Gone, but many of those old covers can hardly be forgotten. One (*Nose20*) featured Madiba in friendly conversation with one of the Spice Girls who, like thousands of others, had been lined up by her publicist to borrow shine from the great man's aura. To his kindly question, "You don't have a clue who I am, do you?" the sweet, ever smiling girl replies, "Well, not exactly, no."

The cover of *Nose28* has former Judge Willem Heath explaining his cop-out report on the Reserve Bank's shady Absa lifeboat in one cruelly satirical line, "They put the electrodes about here". The lifeboat story, first floated in *Nose3*, has become the ghost ship that still regularly haunts the Reserve Bank and Absa's horizon. It's most recent appearance was recorded in *Nose160*.

The cover of *Nose34*, heralding yet another round in the Arms Deal, featured then-ANC Chief Whip Tony Yengeni – a recipient of one of the "discount" Mercedes Benz 4x4s given to a host of officials and politicians to ease the way of the Arms Deal – on a joyride with Armscor chief executive Lou Swan in a Merc driven by Daimler Chrysler boss Christoph Kopke, whose speech bubble declares: "Ve are taking zem for ze ride." As, off corse, zay ver... as you'll see in the news pages of this anniversary issue.



And then some scandal! On the cover *Nose35*, in August/September 2001, we publicly revealed what had been long known in the inner circles of politics and business: that then-Finance Minister Trevor Manuel and the head of Treasury, Maria Ramos, (pictured in a loving embrace in a sparkling swimming pool) were having an affair. That raised several issues of propriety, not least a serious conflict/confluence of interest.

Noseweek was headed for its 40th issue when we eventually decided to address the problem casual readers had with our satirical covers. The solution: use drawn cartoons rather than photographs – South Africans accept that drawn cartoons are a joke or a sendup. For the following 30 covers we experimented with various cartoonists, in search of a style that suited us – and one who could handle us. He arrived in the form of Dr Jack, whose first *Noseweek* cover appeared on *Nose69*. He has done three out of every four covers since, his cover drawings effectively becoming part of our identity. It comes as no surprise to us that he has been chosen Africa's Cartoonist of the Year. (See Page 11)

For variety – or when the subject calls for a different style, Colin Daniel or Dov Fedler do perfectly – as Dov has done for these celebratory pages.

Cartoons can also be drawn to reflect a particular character and context – aptly demonstrated on the cover of *Nose62* announcing our exposure of Constantia's Baron and Baroness von Maltzahn, as the Baron and Baroness von Bullshit, the umpteenth foreign scoundrels to have come to the Cape to hide their ill-gotten gains, while managing (with embarrassing ease)

to present themselves to gullible, fawning locals as aristocrats or "retired" bankers. (Remember the thieving Harksens, beloved mega-patrons of the legal profession, featured on the cover of *Nose40*?)

Another brilliant example is Colin Daniel's iconic portrait of Brett Kebble as "Fat of the Land" (apologies to Aubrey Beardsley) illustrating another *Noseweek* theme: how celebrity status is too easily granted to the very rich and influential.

Top businessmen, such as Pepkor boss Christo Wiese; fertiliser and rugby millionaire Louis Luyt; FNB boss Basil Hersov; electronics magnate Bill Venter; and Mutual and Federal's Douw Steyn – oh, and even Mr Corporate Governance Mervyn King (King Pong on the cover of *Nose45*) did not look all that good after a typical *Noseweek* once-over.

In the case of Brett Kebble, he – and we – took the exercise to levels not easily equalled. When *Noseweek* first cast its jaundiced eye on his fat paunch and gibbering jowls, he was still revered as national patron of the arts, a brilliant businessman and a progressive sponsor of black empowerment. A number of important people in politics and business had to have known that all was not what it seemed. Even the directors of Investec Bank knew, but chose to secretly exploit their knowledge of his criminal vulnerability for their own massive profit. No-one was saying anything. Only *Noseweek* dared take him on, revealing to the world that he was in fact a thief, a fraud and a brazen tax evader on a spectacular scale (possibly exceeded – if recently published figures are to be believed – only by ponzi operator and international money launderer Barry Tannenbaum, who made the cover of *Nose117*).



So strongly was *Noseweek* associated with Kebble's ultimate downfall, that at 2am one day, I received a call on my home phone from an anonymous caller informing me of his assassination only hours earlier.

It was, however, Kebble's corruption of pretty well the entire younger generation of ANC leadership, plus

a fair number of their seniors, that caused the most serious and lasting damage. The youth he corrupted have proceeded to perpetuate his corrupt lifestyle, prompting a *Noseweek* cover that many perceived to be bizarre if not in bad taste: "Kebble isn't Dead", declared *Nose*72, the fourth cover to feature him.

And only recently, one of his early recruits in business, Sekunjalo's Iqbal Survé graced the cover of *Nose*156 – related to his involvement in some fishy business with the Minister of Fisheries. Currently Survé is dodging questions about the source of funds with which he is to buy control of the Independent newspaper group.

Finally, lest it (and he) be forgotten: One of *Noseweek's* best was the debunking story in *Nose*9 about millionaire US tax fugitive and con-artist Dr Robert Hall – yet another who had set himself up on an old Cape wine farm. He all but got us closed down, when he sued for defamation and dragged us through a seven-week high court trial. We won, but the costs and effort silenced us for more than a year – until our loyal readers came to the rescue with sufficient funds to get *Noseweek* to the printers again.

While *Noseweek* is better-known for debunking false celebrities, it has on occasion done the reverse: reinstating and celebrating those unfairly denigrated or others who have since redeemed themselves – among them the late Philip Frame (posthumously); currency smuggler and fall-guy

Michael Addinall (*Nose*56); Jimmy de Lange who got a long jail term – after a questionable trial – but used the time to get a university education (*Nose*92); and sports coach and administrator Laraine Lane (in this issue).

Next in ranking – after the rich and infamous – came the financially powerful and falsely caring institutions such as banks and insurance companies. FNB took the full-frontal, back in *Nose*3, with a headline: "Would you buy a second-hand car from this bank?" It has since been the subject of another 38 articles and three covers. Investec has been the subject of 35 stories, got a mention in many, many more, and scored four covers. Absa stars in 50-odd stories, gets many more mentions and scores three covers.

Nedbank has been the subject of 26 stories and three covers. Search our website and read just the headlines for a treat!

So much for talking to the powerful about themselves. Even more important has been our commitment to serving the interests of the "small guy" who's been abused by his boss or his bank, or been left behind by arrogant or neglectful officialdom. Most of our days are spent on such stories. You will find them in every one of *Noseweek's* 165 issues.

Many come from whistleblowers near the heart of the wrongdoing, for whom *Noseweek* is the trusted destination of choice.

Two examples come instantly to mind: the 500 impoverished road accident victims whose RAF awards were stolen by their attorneys, H Mohamed and Co. Alerted by a brave whistleblower, Mark Hess, *Noseweek* took up their cause, the lawyers were jailed and the victims got their money.

Then there's avid *Noseweek* reader Sydney Nkatsha who called from the



Eastern Cape to tell us how his neighbour, Arrie Johannes, had lost his home in what was clearly a property scam. It took us just over three months to plough through the paperwork, two more of dealing and demanding answers, before we were ready to write the story. It continued over four issues (97, 98, 99 & 109). The fraudulent sale in execution was eventually reversed by the high court in Grahamstown in a precedent-setting judgment.

Issue 4 saw a change in *Noseweek's* masthead with the introduction of the strapline "News you're not supposed to know". There is much that government, big business and other habitual criminals don't wish their voters, their customers, their investors and their robbed victims to know.

There's an argument for every claim to secrecy: in the Reserve Bank Act; the Income Tax Act; the Divorce Act; the Children's Act; the Police Act; the Companies Act – even for "client confidentiality", "proprietary information" and National Key Points.

But we should be as frightened of secrecy as we are of the dark. What human beings will do if they think they can't be seen!

To *Noseweek*, it has always been, and remains, a provocation. We... [*That's enough.* – Ed] ■



1993

Banker's reserve

I ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF THE FIRST issue of *Noseweek*. For obvious reasons, eg cover page and page 9 [see cartoon below], I cannot associate myself with your publication. Kindly remove my name from the circulation list.

CF Swanepoel
General Manager
SA Reserve Bank
Pretoria

Obviously you are so obsessed with sex (cover page) and rude jokes (page 9) that you failed to notice pages 3,4,5,6,7 and 8, which should have concerned you more. Your much-appreciated letter, together with the Reserve Bank's failure to stop the illegal flight of billions of rands from South Africa, lends support to the long-held theory that the wankles at the Reserve Bank generally look at the wrong pages. Regarding your request to dissociate yourself from our publication, regrettably, with things being as they are at the Reserve Bank, we are unable to promise anything. – Ed

Frank's taste

Re: Cape Town's mayor, Frank van der Velde (Nose1).

I'M NOT SURPRISED HE SWIMS SO HAPPILY off Green Point in a sea polluted with municipal sewerage – he talks so much shit, he's used to the flavour.

CJE
Claremont

Break-in at No 10

THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS is still in a quiet sweat about a most unfortunate break-in at 10 Hamilton Street, Pretoria, in mid-March. Minister Pik Botha shares the President's

Through the years, *Noseweek* has relied heavily on its readers for their support, their criticism and their story ideas. Nowhere is this better reflected than in the vibrant letters pages. From the outset, readers have shared our trials, tribulations and even our joys. Twenty years on, we use this birthday to celebrate historically with a selection of letters which appeared in the 20 issues produced in the difficult first five years.

offices at the Union Buildings, from where statements are regularly issued denying involvement with Angola's Unita movement. Less well-known is the "Angola section" of Foreign Affairs which is installed in rented accommodation – at 10 Hamilton Street.

M
Johannesburg

Bullion on banks of the Buffalo

WHAT A RELIEF IT IS TO READ OF GOOD, clean, old-fashioned dirt, instead of the new South African politics.

Are you going to do something about the foreign millionaires who are buying up properties around the country? There's one in East London that becomes curiouser and curiouser. Is there bullion on the banks of the Buffalo?

JDL
Cathcart

Under the bedclothes

I ENJOYED *Nose1*, ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT what I expected. I was looking forward

to something humorous, but found that it reports on various acts of skullduggery in a very serious way.

As for your humour: surely you could find some way to score off Jane, other than by putting her nude on the cover? I live among old-fashioned, harmless old folk. It's a pity I have to read the modern equivalent of the *Police Gazette* under the bedclothes, for fear of being thought a voyeur.

I wish you every success. Let us get some of these pirates behind bars.

SG Appel
Vereeniging

Dr Zackyl & Mr Take-you-for-a-ride

After Sharpeville, Anglo subsidiary LTA won the contract to build the multi-million-rand, riot-proof new headquarters for the Department of Bantu Administration, nerve centre of the apartheid system in Pretoria. There to hand over the keys at the opening ceremony was LTA chairman Zac de Beer – better known as leader of the opposition Progressive Party. The Anglo-controlled press obligingly did not record the event. Noseweek was less obliging, prompting this reader's response:

DE BEERS WERE COSIER WITH THE REGIME than you can imagine. On the road out of Kimberley lies the De Beers game farm Rooipoort. On it, is a historical building known as the Shooting Box.

Here, Harry and the Boys from Anglo and De Beers do some shooting and relaxing. Here, too, were invited (in the '70s and '80s) most of the military and Nationalist top brass to relax, shoot and talk. Invitations came from Harry himself.

Most guests behaved, except for Magnus and a few of his cronies: often at night they would creep in on a sleeping comrade and douse him with a bucket of water. Ha, ha.

One wonders, of course, what was



The offensive Gus cartoon: see "Banker's reserve" above

discussed between the brass and their hosts, staunch supporters of the old Progressive Party.

Roamer
Cape

Fear and trembling at NAT press?

I TRIED TO BUY YOUR MAGAZINE IN [Nasionale Pers's] Leisure Books, Cape Town and was advised that they were "not permitted to sell it". Is this in the spirit of the free flow of information?

Cameron Gray
Cape Town

■ *Just prior to publication of Nose3 (August 1993) the directors of CNA-Gallo, owners of 90% of the book and magazine outlets in South Africa, including CNA and Exclusive Books, heard a malicious rumour that Noseweek was causing strop and would be sued for millions. They panicked, and banned it from their stores. This was conveyed to our readers in the Nose3 editorial. Noseweek and its loyal and influential readers immediately went on the campaign trail.*

Free pass for struggle folk?

AS A FOUNDER SUBSCRIBER TO THE original *Nose* that ceased publication in 1984, I looked forward to your re-entry into the national sewers. Three issues on and so far OK. The hatchet jobs on the Van der Veldes and Zac de Beer were a bit contrived, but, what the hell.

But wait, something is missing. Not a word about the struggle folk. No frauds, lechers, bullies or rogues in the liberation constituency? Can it be that Welz has lost his balls and joined the ranks of the politically correct?

Robin Carlisle, MP
Cape Town

Why, Mr Carlisle, how nice to find you floating down our sewer. The Van der Veldes were a bit of a bad joke, but De Beers? We note you carefully side-step the problem of Zac's secret (business) dealings in Pretoria. Like friend Tony, do you fear losing Anglo's pocket money? The "liberation constituency" has yet to acquire the power and money sufficient to justify our closer attention. But each dog will have his day. Meanwhile, to show we are not altogether unaccommodating, this month's DP

scoundrel, Johannesburg city councillor Clive Gilbert – who for years enjoyed the protection of party big nobs Uncle Zac and Gubby Gibson – is hoping to join the ANC. Maybe that way he plans to speed their progress to perfidy. – Ed

■ *The anti-CNA campaign continued: Readers will note that, while they eagerly market smut, bookshops controlled by CNA/The Literary Group – which include all branches of Exclusive Books, Bookworm and Pilgrims – still banish Noseweek from their shelves "for business reasons". Many reputable, independent bookshops and newspapers do, however, stock us. Call us for your nearest supplier – and remember this when you are shopping for books. Support independent booksellers and support freedom of speech. – Ed*

The FNB story

WE ARE AN AGGRIEVED CREDITOR OF KPL-Etsa in liquidation and commend your bravery in publishing an unabridged version (*Nose3*) of the events culminating in that company's demise.

The absence of advertising in your publication, welcome as it is, is always going to make its future precarious and expensive. Our decision to subscribe is made in an attempt to enhance your ability to publish the truth and be damned – a dangerous course and probably, alas, a recipe for trouble. Government, big business – the establishment – do not suffer lightly fools who rush in where angels fear to tread!

We, for our part, have publicly pledged our company to a code of ethics and honesty. We wish you every success for the future.

ED Hinton
Company Secretary
O-Line Support Systems (Pty) Ltd,
Johannesburg

Worthy objective

I AM GETTING LONG IN THE TOOTH, OUT OF touch and losing my sense of smell, therefore I was stimulated and revived when I came across issues 2 and 3 of *Noseweek*. These have provided me with a great deal of entertainment, following the activities of some of our major African stars, gyrating amid their concomitant constellations viz: Zac, FNB, LTA, Stals, Basil Hersov and his

royals, Kultural Chris and the lovely Lorna. Our orbits have all collided in the past. Any research into the habits of the denizens of the deep must be a worthy objective. Herewith an investment for one year's subscription – with good wishes for increasing success.

Kenneth Birch
Northlands

Date for a laugh

AT LEAST I KNOW FOR DEFINITE THAT THERE is one day each month that I will smile in the new South Africa – the day that I receive my edition of *Noseweek*!

F Michael Judin
Sandton

No-bell for our Fanny

RE: THE ATTACK ON FRANCES KENDALL (wife of Leon Louw) concerning the publicity given to her nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize. When you say *Noseweek* is "banned" from bookshops controlled by the CNA/Literary Group, surely you mean the CNA *et al* choose not to stock it? Presumably they are simply showing their good business sense and good taste.

Gavin Weiman
Chairman, Groundswell
Norwood

Readers may write to the Louws, their publishers, Amagi Books, and their support group, Groundswell, all at the same address. Unlike Noseweek, their various books on The Solution for SA, the Sex-Y Factor and other important matters are available at all branches of CNA and Exclusive Books. – Ed

R1,000 for us, good word for Zac

THANK YOU FOR FORWARDING THE issues I was unable to obtain at the CNA. Although I must congratulate you on having the guts to expose wrongdoing, I strongly disapprove of the article on Dr Zac de Beer. To imply that he was involved in assisting the Pass Laws Act in any way is ludicrous. Add the enormous contribution he has made to social change in this country, and I feel you owe him an apology.

There is no doubt the time is right for a publication like *Noseweek* which exposes the many wrongs in this country. *The Investors' Guide* has tried sev-

GUS



eral times to do the same, but nobody wants to “get involved in a scandal”.

Consequently I enclose my cheque for R1,000 to assist you with your aims and express the hope that a more accurate balance between good and bad will be forthcoming.

Taco Kuiper
M D, *The Investors' Guide*
Johannesburg

Thank you! For R1,000 we are prepared to strongly disapprove of that article about Zac and the new HQ his company built for the Department of Bantu Administration. We agree that it is preposterous merely to imply that he assisted the government's efforts to carry out the Pass laws, when it's a fact that he did so – but only to boost his company's profits. – Ed

Hustlers

GUESS WHO THE FUNDERS AND CO-OWNERS are of *Hustler*, the magazine that's been offending respectable ladies by asking them to expose their fannies? Likewise the major shareholders in TIM Marketing, previous operators of the 087 sex lines? None other than the respectable gentlemen at Syfrets, the trust company controlled by Nedbank.

Financial Advisor
Meadowridge

Off colour

I HAVE BEEN TASKED TO MONITOR YOU. YOU failed to use the window of opportunity to move the goalposts or level the playing field. You are also reported still to be taking medicine (under doctor's orders, of course) while all the sports

stars and criminals have moved up to medication. Address the problem and work through your relationships.

Rudi Benecke
Johannesburg

1994

Blind Trust

I WAS SAD TO NOTE THE FRANKLY CRUEL manner in which your November editorial referred to the fact that Viva Trust chairman Dr William Roland is blind. Regrettably I cannot ask you to cancel my subscription, as I do not have one.

Julia Nicol
Observatory, Cape Town

Dr Roland is not only blind, he is also grown up and quite capable of giving as good as he (occasionally) deserves to get. He does not need pity. You do – you don't have a subscription to Noseweek. (Dr Roland does.) – Ed

Poison and lies

HOW RIGHT YOU ARE THAT THE APPEAL Court appears to have got it entirely wrong about SA Police Gen Lothar Neethling. I certainly have reason to believe Captain Coetzee when he says that Neethling supplied poison to be used by a police hit-squad. In 1975 when I visited the police forensic laboratories in Pretoria on official business, Neethling, under the most bizarre circumstances, boasted to me that he had developed a poison which would precipitate a heart attack and then be untraceable in the corpse.

Neethling was also not such a trust-

worthy witness. He made a statement to the police when he collided with another vehicle while driving under the influence of alcohol. He was persuaded to withdraw the statement and pay a hastily arranged admission-of-guilt fine when it was explained to him that a lying witness had no career as an expert police witness. I am prepared to testify to this under oath.

Ex-Justice official
Cape Town

Pricking consciences

YOUR OCTOBER 1993 ISSUE CERTAINLY woke me up. We are becoming increasingly disinterested in the why of things, simply accepting them as given. Is it in case we regret what we might find, or because we may feel obliged to do something about it?

Peter Hall
Parkhurst

An Open Letter to Exclusive Books

I HAVE ALWAYS ENJOYED SHOPPING AT Exclusive Books. I also regularly order books from overseas through your bookshop. Thus I read with horror that you are prepared to stock porn magazines but not *Noseweek*. I can only assume the reasons given in *Noseweek* are true, since it is difficult to account for this absurd censorship in any logical manner. I shall accordingly boycott your bookshop until I am able to buy my *Noseweek* there.

Wendy Powell
Rondebosch

Show the way

COULD YOU PLEASE PROVIDE ME WITH A LIST of independent bookshops in the Cape Town area?

John Cartwright
Department of English
University of Cape Town

CNA censorship

I REFER TO COMMENT MADE IN *NOSE7* concerning the CNA's position with regard to your publication. Our policy is to keep an open mind in matters such as these. You should accordingly feel free to submit copies of your future editions to us for consideration,

and you have my assurance that any such submission will be carefully and objectively reviewed by us. Advance copies for consideration should be submitted to Butch Courtney, Director of our News-stand Division.

G D O Cooper
Merchandise Director
CNA Ltd, Johannesburg

In view of your history in this matter, how open can your mind possibly be? You speak of "matters such as these". Such as what, for instance? It is not clear to what you are referring. You banned Noseweek from your shelves without having had a copy "submitted" to you "for consideration". In fact you appear to have done so without having "carefully and objectively" reviewed the issues of Noseweek that had been published at all. If you had done so, you would have been able to show what you found that was factually wrong or so offensive that the public deserved to be protected from us.

Why should we submit to censorship by Mr Butch Courtney, and what makes him so specially qualified and informed that he is able to judge the truth or otherwise of our reports and decide what is suitable for South Africans to read – and what not?

What other publications are submitted to Mr Courtney for him to decide who should be able to buy them? Surely then it would be better for CNA to openly declare its support for a Board of Censors? Or is CNA promoting "privatised", corporate fascism to replace the fascist state we have only just seen on its way?

Please feel free to call us whenever you decide to stick to your usual business of distributing and selling books and publications – of all kinds and to all tastes. For spiritual and legal advice we go elsewhere. – Ed

Helderberg's deadly cargo

NOW THAT THE AIRFORCE'S CCB-TYPE "privatised" operations, code-named "Pasload" and "Gauntlett" have become public knowledge – thanks to *Noseweek* – perhaps it is time the public was also told that one of the four pallets loaded in the combi section of the Helderberg, the SAA flight from Taipei that went down in flames over the Indian Ocean killing all its passengers and crew, held a cargo ad-

dressed to Pasload.

In certain informed Air Force circles it is said the pallet contained no triggering devices and components being smuggled from America for SA's rocket programme, in a desperate bid to stop what at the time was thought to be an otherwise unstoppable Cuban advance in Angola. No wonder there was no turning back.

The fact that the Helderberg enquiry was chaired by a judge with long-standing ties to the SA and Israeli military establishment could be significant.

Put the Helderberg on the agenda of the Truth Commission and see who complains.

Your Air Correspondent
Cape Town

De Beers's Russian connection

MY LETTER IS PROMPTED BY THE ANECDOTE you quoted on radio regarding Harry Oppenheimer's son-in-law Gordon Waddell being seen by a British journalist in Moscow attending the Bolshoi Ballet during the 1970s – and its implications. Less well-known is the remainder of the story: South Africa's "Cold War" with the Soviet Union led to a professor of geology called Smirnoff being posted to Lesotho in those years. His interpreter was a man called Levchenko, who was accompanied by a beautiful wife called, as in all good spy stories, Ludmilla.

At that time, proving that ultra Marxism could co-exist with ultra capitalism, there was much pondering in Moscow and the [De Beers] Central Selling Organisation (CSO) on how to bridge the political gap, keeping their fairly natural association apart.

Diamonds in the old USSR were a strategic mineral and, as such, fell under the old GRU (military intelligence). British intelligence had already identified the interpreter, Levchenko, as a Soviet military intelligence officer during his service in India years earlier. Truth being stranger than fiction, Ludmilla was, in fact, a ranking colonel in the same Soviet service and ran the entire Smirnoff operation in Lesotho.

The project involved Smirnoff's being permitted to travel each month with Levchenko and Ludmilla to

Mafeking, the travel visa having been obtained via De Beers's contacts in the immigration department and in the Bureau of State Security (Boss). The excuse? To have samples of Lesotho material assayed by the scientifically well-equipped De Beers laboratory. In this way the contact was set up for Waddell and, later, Oppenheimer himself, to obtain reciprocal visas to visit Russia, ostensibly to examine, at first hand, Russian diamond mining operations. In reality it was, as you stated, to come to an agreement suiting both the Soviets and De Beers; all related to the international marketing of diamonds.

Levchenko and wife Ludmilla suddenly disappeared from Lesotho, with no trace of their having left through normal diplomatic or immigration channels.

Mike Bowery
Petersvale

■ *Our readers' campaign had been a success: we were back in CNA and Exclusive Books and were rapidly becoming one of South Africa's top-selling magazines.*

More Forex frolics

I READ WITH INTEREST YOUR REFERENCES to that mysterious off-shore entity called Stonehage (Forex Frolics, *Noses* 8 & 9). Coincidentally, Basil Hersov's Hermanus holiday house is called... Stonehage!

Jones
London

You talk coincidence! Read the following extract from Private Eye:

"Rupert Agnew, Consolidated Goldfields chairman, testifying to US enquiry into Minorco's takeover bid: 'Mr Ogilvie Thompson told me there was a company – Central Holdings – established by the Oppenheimers in Luxembourg [and which] would from time to time take the initiative in new investments, some of which were later followed by investments by Anglo American and/or De Beers... he indicated that key Oppenheimer executives derived benefit from the family company'."

Private Eye comments:

"But the Central Holdings trail in fact begins 20 years ago when it was set up to receive a \$40 million port-

folio of unidentified investments from Hagstone Investments, a South African company whose address was given as the Joburg Stock Exchange. Hagstone owned all the Luxembourg company's shares. Which, in turn, owned Hagstone. What was in that portfolio is hard to discover as the company was dissolved and its records seem to have been misplaced"

"One suggestion is that this transaction may have been related to a wish to create a vehicle outside the grip of South Africa's tight currency/taxation regulations."

Analysis strikes a chord

ON BEHALF OF THE PICK N PAY WORKERS who are members of the SA Commercial Catering and Allied Workers Union, I wish to thank you for Maureen Barnes's objective analytical essay on the recent strike – especially with regard to the so-called anti-Semitism allegations of the Pick n Pay bosses.

We look forward to future editions.

Tommy Bangani
Regional Secretary, SACCAWU
Cape Town

1995

Gem of a scandal

AM I TO UNDERSTAND THAT HANSIE CRONJE has been smuggling Winnie Mandela's friend's diamonds to Julian Askin, for him to finance Absa's grovelling for Gauteng's provincial account? Or am I suffering from information overload?

Andrew Cross
Kenilworth

A wee mistake?

A BUSINESS SECTION SMALLS AD (NOSE11) says "Elephants pass wines" from the beautiful Franschhoek Valley – to be released soon. I have always wondered where some of the stuff came from.

Phil Freeman
Simon's Town

Shades of authenticity

IN DESCRIBING VERGELEGEN (NOSE11), your food correspondent comments

that the buildings have been painted a kacky yellow called Naples yellow "by someone's favourite decorator". I was the decorator. I wish to put an end to the often-repeated inaccuracy that I was responsible for choosing this shade.

The decision to paint Vergelegen ochre was taken by the architects and their clients. It was based on a scrape which suggested that at some stage the house was painted that colour, as were many other Cape buildings.

There are no rigid rights and wrongs in restoring a house that has changed over 250 years. My view was that since great efforts were being made – correctly I felt – to preserve Vergelegen as it was in the Phillips' era, the house should be white, reflecting the Arts and Crafts passion shared by Cecil Rhodes, Lady Phillips, Herbert Baker, and other cognoscenti of the day.

Graham Viney
Bantry Bay

The traditional ochre would have been a limewash that quickly assumed a powdery, faded look – with little resemblance to the crass plastic colour chosen by the architects responsible for the restoration. It is nice to know that you are not to blame, and that your good taste can always be relied upon. – Ed

1996

Lawyers' delight

LET ME ASSURE YOU THAT YOUR EXPOSE [nose13] of the Law Society and its coverups has been met with delight by the bulk of the legal practitioners in the Cape Province. I have been in practice for over 30 years and am glad at long last to have found an ally who has the guts to stand up to the Law Society and its mafia-style behaviour.

J Ince
Kleinmond

Eye openers

NOSE13 WAS AN ABSOLUTE JOY TO READ! Your article on Christo Wiese was astonishing and the piece on Woolworths really knocks its own responsibility programme.

At the Open Society Foundation's annual lecture on 17 August, the Speaker of Parliament, Dr Frene Ginwala, referred to your article on that important firm of attorneys, Sonnenbergs. She remarked particularly on the professions – like the Law Society – hiding behind their own colleagues, and your uncovering of the facts.

Pam Herr
Fish Hoek

■ *There was a 14-month gap between the appearance of Nose14 and Nose15 as a result of the all-consuming libel action brought against Noseweek and its editor by millionaire US tax fugitive Dr Robert Hall, following our exposé of his dubious past in Nose9. We eventually won the case, but the cost of a seven-week high court trial would have closed us down nevertheless, had it not been for the scores of readers who came to our rescue with sufficient funds to get us up and running again.*

1997

Press on with civil rights

MY WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR having successfully defended the defamation action brought against you by Dr Robert Hall. You have struck a major blow for civil rights in South Africa.

Christopher Merrett
Librarian, University of Natal, PMB

Big business versus Marxists

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR COURT victory. We might differ on political and economic philosophy but such clashes are irrelevant in the search for truth, which seems to be *Noseweek's* main aim. I happen to be a free marketeer, but having worked for big companies, I recognise that big business managers are as obnoxious as Marxists, hate free competition as much, and even worse, speak jargon-ridden drivel.

Andrew Kenny
Noordhoek

I Nose what I likes

WELL, WELL, JUST WHAT HAVE YOU CREATED here? A South-African crotch-kicker like *Private Eye*. It's long overdue.

We live in a time in which the gravy train has taken on the appearance of a blubber cauldron, and you must give every VIP the benefit of doubting him.

So we need frequent sanity checks on all big business and government.

Matthew Loxton
Centurion

High price to save Absa

WHY, IF SOUTH AFRICAN TAXPAYERS HAVE paid so high a price to help save the Absa banking group, were we not given a substantial share in it which would now compensate for our investment and the risk? Why do the then-shareholders benefit so handsomely, when it was they who put the bank in so precarious a position?

A C Gillett
Claremont

A healthy diet

I APPLAUD YOUR PLAN TO SEND COPIES TO parliamentarians, but suspect they'd not be used for reading. The new lot of Orwellian pigs are already showing an alarming tendency to keep things quiet. Ergo, more power to your elbow.

Mike Young
Sedgefield

No, not all, Mr Young... – Ed

■ THANK YOU FOR THE COMPLIMENTARY copy of Noseweek, which, as always, I found most interesting – particularly the editorial in *Nose16*. Wishing you best of luck.

Gill Marcus, MP
Deputy Minister of Finance

Ms Marcus is one of many parliamentarians who have received complimentary subscriptions to Noseweek, sponsored by our readers as part of our relaunch fundraising effort. Letter-writers Kenny and Young are among those who generously contributed. – Ed

Sleeping plant?

THE REFERENCE TO PHILIPPE LE ROUX raises some curiosity for those UCT students in the early 1970s who remember him as a Nusas leader and a so-called radical student who, when sought by the security police for a relatively minor offence, dramatically skipped over the Botswana border.

The later role he played as a sanctions-busting agent of apartheid South Africa, the company he has kept and his other nefarious activities [*while MD of UK motorbike manufacturer, Norton*] of course raise questions about his *bona fides* as a student leader. Could his dramatic flight (on a motorbike *nogal*) have been rigged? Was he an elaborately set up, long-term “sleeping” plant of the state security agencies?

Student
Johannesburg

Resignations and disappearances

WITH THE RECENT RESIGNATION FROM Denel of Mr Johan Alberts in order for him to devote more quality time to his family, instead of to the boring daily routine of flogging old stocks of AK47s, RPGs etc, it crosses my mind that we have not heard a peep at the TRC from or about his predecessor, Mr Tielman de Waal, despite his having played an important role in the Total Onslaught.

Vra Net
Paarden Eiland

'B' for Ball's Olympic effort

HOW DARE YOU PUBLISH AN INFORMATIVE, well-worded, concise and hard-hitting magazine, as in this country, we have an enviable record of centrally mediated “Manufactured Consent”.

If you carry on there will be no more



*“This is either profound,
or a mass of typos”*

fig fronds of misinformation to hide behind.

I would like to thank Mr Chris Ball for masterminding the Olympic bid. Without his dedication and expertise it could all have been very different.

V Grate-full
Cape Town

Parliament takes note

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR ARTICLE ON Amway. I raised this matter in Parliament in August, saying: “The scheme looks like a pyramid one... In an Amway pamphlet it is stated that one’s annual income can be R400,000... But the US Federal Trade Commission demands that it be clearly stated on labels of Amway products that 54% of distributors each get nothing, and for the rest, the average payout is \$65 (R325) per month.”

Any readers who have had their fingers burnt in this regard are welcome to contact me.

David Graaff MP
National Assembly

■ I WAS VERY DISTURBED TO SEE YOUR response to Amway. It is clear you are not fully informed about the workings of this fine corporation. Amway has been cleared by the highest courts in the world and has been set as the standard by which all other multi-level marketing organisations are judged. As with any franchise, there is no guarantee you will be successful. Amway gives you the opportunity and teaches you how to do it. If you fail, don’t blame Amway! I speak from my own experience in the few months I’ve been involved with this opportunity.

Peter D Joffe
Amway Distributor
Parklands, Johannesburg

Wrath of Muhammad

WE NEED NOT DESPAIR BECAUSE TEXANS have chosen to maintain sanctions against South Africa! By God, The Prophets and CNN, El Nino is going to flood Texas by New Year’s Day, and I will rejoice in the justice of the Laws of God and physics.

Muhammad Jadwat
La Mercy Beach, KZN

20 years

noseweek



George Mazarakis, Executive Producer: Carte Blanche:

Heartiest congratulations on having reached this milestone! Noseweek has in many ways **defined fearless investigative journalism in South Africa** and we all salute your efforts.

Pieter van Dalen, DA MP and spokesman on Fisheries:

As a Member of Parliament who likes to expose corruption and injustice, it is heartening to find media willing to do the same, no matter the personal cost. **You are the WikiLeaks of South Africa.** I pray that you will long be around to defend our independence. That we may look forward to thousands of exposing and well-researched articles for many more years.



Jane Raphaely, chairman of Associated Media Publishing:

Happy 20th birthday, Noseweek, and many more. **Please rake the muck here until it manures the mealies.** So much better than publishing New Age pulp fiction.



Murray Hunter, R2K:

A magazine like Noseweek will always have at least as many enemies as it has friends. This is a sign that it's doing its job. But on its 20th birthday those of us who are counted among Noseweek's friends are grateful for all you've done to expose uncomfortable truths, ask tough questions, and provide **a home for some of the most fearless investigative journalism on the continent.** May you still be nosing about in other people's dodgy business 20 years from now!



Mariette Liefferink, environmental activist:

Noseweek, unfettered by the advantages obtained from big business or the state, has never been diverted from publishing inconvenient and uncomfortable truths. **It will be most lamentable when corruption ceases to meet with opprobrium,** and when abuses are no longer regarded as dishonourable. I salute Noseweek and thank its editor and its well-informed journalists for being controversial and shaking the powers while others look quietly on.

Prof Robin Palmer, director of the Institute for Professional Legal Training, UKZN, Durban:

All real human progress is due to single-minded mavericks, and Martin Welz – or his alter ego, Noseweek – is **a single-minded maverick with a powerful sense of justice.** The debt South African society owes to this courageous and indefatigable investigative magazine will only become apparent with hindsight.



The Death Squad that wasn't

The State's case in the Cato Manor scandal is likely to be as comical as the attempts to deny the officers bail

THE AWARD-WINNING SUNDAY TIMES exposé of an alleged police “death squad” of officers based at Cato Manor in KwaZulu-Natal looks like it's falling apart.

On 16 June *City Press* reported that the trial on racketeering charges of “Death Squad” commander Major-General Johan Booyesen was on shaky ground.

“The National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) has missed a court deadline to file papers opposing Booyesen's legal challenge to his case, and the Independent Police Investigative Directorate (Ipid), which investigated Booyesen, is of the view that there is ‘no case against him’.”

Booyesen was arrested in August last year and 27 members of the Cato Manor unit, which fell under his command, were charged with a series of alleged murders and other crimes.

City Press reporter Paddy Harper wrote: “The high-profile arrests sparked a cold war between the Hawks and Ipid. According to a source with intimate knowledge of the investigation, Ipid wanted a quieter, less aggressive surrender process [instead of the show arrests staged for the benefit of SATV and the Sunday Times].

“We had never intended to charge Booyesen from the beginning. There was no case against him,” *City Press's* Ipid source said, adding: “We wanted to investigate first and take our time, and make arrests much later. They (the Hawks) wanted to arrest, believing that there would be a lot of evidence against Booyesen. The impression we had was that they were under pressure from higher up.”

The *City Press* report came a few weeks after Booyesen had filed papers asking the KwaZulu-Natal High Court to rule that charges of racketeering against him were invalid, as the National Director of Public Prosecutions (NDPP) could not possibly

have properly considered the case against him, Booyesen, before ordering his prosecution.

When Booyesen and members of the Durban Organised Crime Unit were arrested and paraded in front of assembled television cameras and media, the spokesperson for Ipid announced that Booyesen and his men had murdered suspects in criminal cases in order to gain merit certificates, promotions and incentive rewards.

Subsequent attempts to deny the men bail collapsed in ridicule when it emerged in court that none of the policemen had been promoted, very few had ever been given merit certificates, and only one had ever received an incentive reward.

After claiming to the media that explosives had been found during searches of the policemen's homes, Ipid and Hawks investigators had to admit they had mistaken police-issue teargas for hand grenades and that alleged counterfeit money was not counterfeit.

All the search warrants used against Booyesen and his men were subsequently declared illegal – as were all the searches (see box).

In his court papers Booyesen makes it clear that the State's case is likely to be as comical as its attempt to deny him and his men bail.

For a start, he said, the State claimed to have had 309 witness statements against him and his men, whereas there were 290, and Booyesen himself was mentioned in only three – of which none of the accusations could amount to “involvement in racketeering”. All three simply pointed out that, some time after the incidents, Booyesen had arrived at the scene where suspects and his men had been involved in shoot-outs.

Hawks boss Anwar Dramat is listed as the fifth respondent in Booyesen's



Major-General Johan Booyesen

application to have the case against him dismissed; the sixth respondent being KZN provincial police commissioner Lieutenant General Betty Mmamonye Ngobeni.

The Mercury broke the news that corruption-accused Thoshan Panday had made a number of seemingly corrupt payments to Ngobeni and her husband, including paying for the husband's birthday party and air travel. Panday is a business partner

Why the Minister of Police backed down

FORMER CATO MANOR DETECTIVE BRUCE MacInnes, the man who helped expose the disappearance of nearly 150 guns from the Durban Metro Police armoury and who was responsible for the arrest and conviction of several of South Africa's worst cash heist gangsters, has laid a complaint of crimen injuria against Colonel Frans Khola of the Hawks.

Khola, who supervised the Cato Manor arrests, allegedly verbally abused and threatened MacInnes when the retired policeman asked for the return of property that had been seized with illegally obtained search warrants.

When the Cato Manor policemen launched a high court application to have the search warrants declared invalid, the Minister of Police Nathi Mthethwa backed down at the last minute: he conceded that the search warrants had all been dodgy and offered to pay all legal costs.

After the illegal searches, the Hawks had put out press releases claiming that counterfeit cash, and illegal guns and explosives had been seized.

It transpires that, by conceding to the court application in advance, the Police Minister had saved the

Hawks' investigators from serious public humiliation.

Said one of the Cato Manor accused: "We had wanted to force the people who wrote the press release to explain that the illegal gun was actually a licensed firearm that belonged to the very recently deceased father of one of the accused – who was his father's executor and heir.

"We wanted the prosecutor who stood up in court and made claims about explosives to tell the courts that he was present during the search when the object was identified by the commander of the explosives unit as a relatively harmless police-issue tear gas canister.

"We wanted him to explain why he lied to the Regional Court Deputy President by proceeding with his explosives claims when he knew they were false.

"Finally we wanted the prosecution to explain that the counterfeit money was actually found at a home they did not have a warrant to search and that the money was part of a numismatic collection and was not counterfeit, but were rare examples of currency that went into circulation with manufacturing errors."

"After my appointment as head of the Hawks in KwaZulu-Natal during March 2010, an investigation commenced under my direction into certain procurement irregularities within the SAPS ('the investigation').

"Initial investigations by the investigating officer (a colonel) revealed possible corruption involving senior SAPS officers and a private individual.

"Thereafter, the investigation took some unusual turns:

- On 10 May 2010, the Sixth Respondent (Ngobeni) orally instructed me to stop the investigation;

- On 19 May 2010, the Fifth Respondent (Hawks Boss Anwar Dramat) orally informed me that I should continue with the investigation, but under the supervision of a Brigadier from Pretoria;

- On 31 May 2010, I handed a copy of a preliminary report into the investigation to the Sixth Respondent (Ngobeni). A copy of that report will be made available to this Court, should it become necessary;

- On 15 June 2010, I was summoned to the office of the Sixth Respondent, where I was introduced to one of the suspects at the time and his legal representatives. The Sixth Respondent then instructed me to have the investigating officer in the case investigated;

- On 28 June 2010, I received a call from the [then] National Commissioner of Police (General Bheki Cele). He instructed me to continue with the investigation, and not to entertain any interference. He further informed me that the investigators would report to me directly and not via the Brigadier in Pretoria."

of Edward Zuma, son of President Jacob Zuma.

And that's the investigation that Booyesen believes led to his being charged.

(Dramat controversially gave the order to stop the investigations into Arms Deal corruption, claiming a lack of evidence and lack of budget.)

Booyesen states in his court papers:



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Booyesen continues: "The investigation then continued. One of the suspects in the investigation, a colonel in the SAPS, subsequently tried to bribe and pressurise me to compromise the investigation.

"The said colonel showed me some photographs (which came from the SAPS database) which he claimed would cause me some difficulties. I was not interested in his efforts and was not perturbed by the photographs.

"On 8 August 2011, I caused him to be arrested for attempting to bribe me with a R2 million payment – the said colonel was subsequently suspended."

These were the photographs used by the *Sunday Times* to support their exposé of an alleged police "death squad" operating in Cato Manor.

Ironically most of the photos show crime scenes which had been investigated by Cato Manor detectives and not scenes where Cato Manor cops had shot suspects. One photo published by the *Sunday Times* to prove their claims showed suspected robbers who had been shot dead by the Durban Dog Unit. Another photo used by the *Sunday Times* showed alleged drug dealers who had been gunned down by a rival drug-dealing gang.

Booyesen's affidavit continues:

"Thereafter, another suspect (a businessman) was arrested in connection with the [bribery] investigation. On 11 December 2011, an article appeared in the *Sunday Times*, which stated that the Cato Manor Serious and Violent Crimes (SVC) section was 'a death squad'. The article also accused me of being complicit in their alleged actions. The photographs accompanying the article were the same photographs shown to me by the [unnamed] colonel prior to his arrest."

[On 11 February this year, six months after the arrest of Booyesen and members of the Cato Manor violent crimes unit, the charges against both the colonel fingered by Booyesen and his co-accused, the allegedly corrupt but well-connected businessman were "provisionally" withdrawn by the prosecuting authorities. – Ed]

Booyesen argues in his court papers that this points to the case against him having been set up to cover up corruption.

"The only explanation... I can conceive of is that the investigation re-

ferred to earlier was sufficiently sensitive to cause me to tread on higher-ranking or 'connected' toes. Hence the conflicting orders to cease/continue with the investigation. I believe and contend that the earlier attempts to suspend me were part of attempts to get me out of the way and I respectfully submit that the facts set out here bear that out."

He then asks the court to halt his trial on racketeering charges, arguing that whatever made the NDPP decide to bring the charges, it "could not have been based upon the information contained in the dockets. Any reasonable decision-maker (having read anything truthfully based on the information in the dockets) could and would not have authorised my prosecution."

Booyesen then argues in the court papers that whoever misled whom in the prosecuting chain of command (whether it was the Third Respondent, a Colonel Ncube of the Hawks and the man in charge of the docket against Booyesen, who had misled the Second Respondent – named as the Public Prosecutor, – or whether the latter had misled the First Respondent, the acting head of the NPA, or any number of mathematical permutations of the chain) the court should order that racketeering charges against Booyesen be set aside, as the decision to prosecute him was – whichever way you looked at it – irrational and possibly malicious.

He also points out something that *Noseweek's* investigations have suggested: some of the alleged murder cases against Booyesen and his men have already been examined by inquest courts and, based on the evidence in those inquest files, were ruled to have been legitimate acts of self-defence.

Both the evidence and those earlier court findings are not disproved, they are simply ignored by those who drafted the charges against the Cato Manor police officers.

No internal disciplinary charges have been brought against Booyesen or any of his subordinates although the prescribed period for such hearings has long passed.

Repeated requests by the accused Cato Manor cops for their disciplinary trials to start so they can prove their innocence have been denied. ■

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ASA run-around drags on

Laraine Lane brings High Court application to order Sascoc to set aside suspension

WITH THE SA FOOTBALL Association in the red (the proceeds of the World Cup seem to have paid for luxury cars rather than football pitches) and with Swimming SA apparently wanting our competitors to swim to the world championships in Barcelona, while Athletics SA is in meltdown, the administration of the country's sport is much like the administration of South African anything. Especially after recent revelations that the big daddy of the governing bodies – the South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee (Sascoc) – paid 11 of its board members around R2 million each (some more, some less) for the financial year ending 31 March 2012.

Meanwhile, ASA board member Laraine Lane, who suffered collateral damage in the 2009 Caster Semenya sex-testing controversy, has remained suspended despite official inquiries having exonerated her of any financial wrongdoing and having found that she acted correctly over Semenya.

The suspension imposed on Lane, who has had a long and distinguished career in athletics coaching, administration and counselling, means she is barred from working in any sport. In desperation she has brought a high court application to order Sascoc to set aside her suspension.

In her court papers, Lane explains how her suspension arrived in the form of a letter dated 5 November 2009 from Sascoc president, Gideon Sam. It said the suspension was “pending the outcome of a disciplinary inquiry on [a charge of] bringing ASA, the sport of athletics, Sascoc and sport into disrepute”. Sam had followed this up with a letter saying the disciplinary hearing would be convened during the first quarter of 2010 by the same advocate who had handled the commission of inquiry, Michael Collins.

She had responded: “I am happy that Adv Michael Collins will lead your disciplinary investigations as when I ap-

peared before your Legal and Arbitration Commission, he assured me on several occasions that I had done nothing wrong.”

She says in the court papers that the Deloitte report on their inquiry into ASA's financial affairs was quite clear that those board members not involved in the fraud were not accountable. And that James Evans – vying for the position of ASA president at the time – had said to her in an email that he thought her continued suspension was “unconscionable” and that there was “no doubt that some people acted in a manner which clearly makes them liable to disciplinary action, but to summarily suspend everyone and then delay taking action is wrong... Many politicians wanted to bury Leonard (Chuene) and don't really care about the consequences... we really have a bunch of incompetent fools running the show now and everyone just accepts it”.

Evans had suggested that the end was in sight in August 2010 when he wrote in an email: “As far as I am aware they are planning to serve the charges next week against those implicated. It seems there are serious charges against them. What I have been told is that against everyone else they will withdraw any suspensions.”

The following month, when Lane congratulated Evans on becoming ASA president, he assured her he'd try to sort out the indefinite suspensions. But that did not happen.

Next, Lane used President Jacob Zuma's hotline, which referred the matter to the Minister of Sport and Recreation (but especially recreation) who promised to take the matter up with Sascoc – but on 12 September 2012 he decided he had no jurisdiction to intervene.

Lane also went to the Public Protector and the Human Rights Commission but neither could sort the matter out.

Sascoc had been singularly unhelpful, she said. On 19 August last year Lane asked Sascoc to convene a disciplinary

and tell her what charges she faced. Nothing was forthcoming. At one point Sascoc suggested that all the unpleasantness was unnecessary because it had revoked its decision to bring disciplinary proceedings – and had declared it would only re-invoke the action if Lane ever stood for office in a sports body. Lane has not received any notification of a decision to scrap disciplinary proceedings against her.

She said in an email to Sascoc: “I've recently been informed that Sascoc decided to revoke its decision compelling me to face a disciplinary inquiry... Sascoc never conveyed this decision to me...implicit in their many emails is that Sascoc's *de facto* suspension continues... The only media comment is a statement by Tubby Reddy (Sascoc CEO) on Sascoc's website (2 November 2010) [which] can only be interpreted as a life-time ban from all sport.”

Sascoc has also refused Lane's request for a copy of the report of the Collins Commission, notwithstanding a Promotion of Access to Information Act (Paia) request. On 30 January this year Sascoc's lawyer Jay Reddy told Lane's lawyer there was no basis on which to refer the matter to arbitration, and said Sascoc would raise issues of jurisdiction if court proceedings were brought. Which, no doubt, will be one of the defences raised to Lane's application, in which she claims Sascoc did not apply its mind to her matter, failed to act in accordance with the Promotion of Access to Justice Act, and failed to observe the *audi alteram partem* (hear the other side) principle.

Nosweek asked Sascoc's attorney for comment on the likely defence, but nothing was forthcoming.

Lane would like to have the option of going back into sport, be it in the capacity of an administrator, coach or counsellor. As a 69-year-old, time is of the essence.

And she wants the opportunity to clear her name. ■

Arms Deal secrets

From page 14



an action by Yengeni after 19 February 1999 [to be able to prosecute]. But by then Yengeni seems no longer to have been in a position to influence the South African decision on the corvette contract.” [But subsequently, as ANC Chief Whip and head of Parliament’s Standing Committee on Public Accounts (Scopa) he was still in a position to subvert any South African investigation that might have exposed the bribes and contracts to cancellation. – Ed]

“Nevertheless the facts of the Yengeni case show that employees of TRT, contrary to their defence statements, did have direct contact, and themselves arranged bribery agreements with South African officials. Before the change of legislation [which subsequently made it a criminal offence for a German citizen to bribe a foreign national], TRT would have been able to deduct the bribe for Yengeni from their company’s tax obligations.

“This explains why they did not disguise the provision and why the agreement was made directly with Yengeni without camouflage.

“Yengeni claimed in front of Hoenings that he had been responsible for the cancellation of the first tender in 1995 [where Spain was the preferred bidder]. As chairman of the Joint Standing Committee on Defence and Chief Whip of the ANC, he could exercise strong influence on decisions relevant for the German Frigate Consortium.

“Hoenings obviously gained information in August/September 1995 that Yengeni had been named as a possible successor to Modise in the course of an expected cabinet reshuffle, which explains why, 10 days later, the agreement was signed.

“We also seized correspondence between Hoenings and Georgiadis about travel costs for Yengeni for a flight from South Africa to Germany, Switzerland and London.

“These documents reveal that Georgiadis booked a flight for Yengeni in October 1996 for 30 October 1996. According to the booking confirmation,

Yengeni visited Hamburg (seat of B+V), Zurich and/or Geneva and London on 1 November 1996.

“The booking confirmation is addressed to Tony Georgiadis and was sent to the fax number of Alandis Ltd.

“Attached to the letterhead of Alandis, on 4 November 1996, Georgiadis sent the invoice issued by World Wide Travel to Hoenings with the remark: ‘The attached for your “confidential” file (in case he ever denies having come!).’

“On 5 November 1996 Georgiadis sent another fax on the letterhead of Alandis Ltd to Hoenings. This fax contained an invoice from Mallar Inc, dated 5 November 1996, for US\$16,574.00 ‘comprising Progress Air re Cape Town-Lanseria-Cape Town and TY’s airfares of last week’.

“Yengeni’s flight had cost R16,944, so the total sum reflected in the invoice obviously also included payments for other services by Progress Air.

“The invoice asks for telegraphic transfer:

To: Credit Suisse, New York
Account Credit Suisse, London
For credit: MALLAR Inc.

acc no. 2006411
Attn: J. Defoe-Banton with telex advice to recipient bank, Credit Suisse, London Telex No. 887322 CREDSU G, Attn: J Defoe-Banton

“Payment was made on 8 November 1996.

“Hoenings’s claims for travel expenses indicated that he had met Yengeni and Georgiadis at least seven times between November 1995 and November 1997, in Hamburg, Zurich and Cape Town.

“The meetings in Zurich were of particular interest to the German police. They explain: ‘Hoenings describes in his book [manuscript] *Das Geschäft* how his protagonist (who appears to be modelled on himself) meets a corrupt Peruvian cabinet member in Zurich in order to arrange a bribery agreement and deposit the signed contract with a Swiss trust company called World Business Trust.’” ■

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Abused children suffer the law's delays

Fallout from magistrates' row obstructs justice, says judge

CHILDLINE HAS APPLIED TO THE Northern Cape High Court for an order reinstating Regional Court magistrate Pumelele Hole for long enough to allow him to complete his part-heard matters. In an affidavit by the non-profit organisation's Northern Cape director, Naomi Dube, she makes it clear that neither she nor Childline has an opinion on the alleged misconduct of Hole but that they are very concerned that his suspension will have adverse consequences for a number of children.

Hole's "misconduct" relates to his managing to get on the wrong side of Khandilizwe Nqadala, who not only has powerful connections in the Northern Cape police and with local ANC supremo John Block, but who is also President of the Regional Court of the Northern Cape, and therefore Hole's boss.

So bad did things get for Hole that he lodged a complaint about Nqadala with the Magistrates Commission, in which, *inter alia*, he claimed he feared for his life. His main grievance concerned Nqadala's alleged interventions

in cases being heard by Hole's junior magistrates, generally to further the interests of his influential friends. Matters came to a head when Hole subpoenaed Nqadala to appear as a witness before him in a criminal trial to explain – under oath and in open court – to the accused why he, Nqadala, had compromised the trial by privately giving Hole damaging information about the accused. (See *nos*-es130, 131, 146, 163.)

Childline's case makes reference to the Promotion of Access to Justice Act (Paja) and the "principle of legality". But

the scary bit is that, of the 23 part-heard criminal cases that Hole had at the time of his suspension, 21 involve rape or sexual assault and of those 21, 13, involving 18 children, concern complainants aged between seven and 17.

One case involves the rape of an eight-year-old boy and a 16-year-old girl (now 19), with the accused being the uncle of the boy. The boy was allegedly raped when he stayed at his uncle's house – and the medical evidence suggested he had been abused over a long period.

In the case of the girl, the accused allegedly grabbed her from behind when she was walking near his house and raped her while holding a knife to her throat. The accused's family apparently offered to give the girl the accused's AllPay card (entitling her to collect the accused's social grant) if she withdrew the complaint. She refused the offer. The boy has given evidence but he found the experience very difficult and he is still to be cross-examined. The girl has also given evidence but has yet to be cross-examined. The case has been postponed seven times.

A second case involves five child-complainants, two girls and three boys, with the accused being charged with rape in the case of the girls, and sexual violation in the case of the boys.

At the time of the alleged offences both girls were aged seven, and the boys six, nine and 10.

One of the girls was raped at the house of the accused, where she had gone to play with his daughter (the daughter



John Block



was present), and the accused allegedly told her she would be killed if she ever spoke of her ordeal.

In the case of the boys, the accused allegedly masturbated them in return for 50 cents. The girls gave evidence through intermediaries and they found the process very difficult. The case has been postponed nine times.

In a third case, an eight-year-old girl was raped (with both vaginal and anal penetration having occurred), then she was given R10. She has given evidence and she has been cross-examined.

What Hole's boss, Regional Court President Khandilizwe Nqadala now wants to do (and the Magistrate's Commission agrees), is to have the three cases that are at the sentencing stage finalised by other magistrates and the other 20 cases started again from scratch.

Nqadala has made it very clear in correspondence that he does not want his arch-enemy Hole back to finalise the cases, claiming that a number of accused have said that they don't want Hole back.

Nqadala has also said he fears that if Hole returns, anyone convicted by him will use that as an excuse to lodge an appeal.

Childline argues that the interests of the children should be considered above all others, and points out that a number of the children who have given evidence have received therapy and even "certificates of bravery" from the NPA.

The organisation argues that it will be very traumatic for the children if they have to relive their ordeals yet again. Incidentally, the court papers make it clear that it's not just children who are affected; there is mention of a 69-year-old female complainant who is ill and frail.

Childline also argues that starting the cases afresh may give the accused an opportunity to amend their evidence.

Childline goes into the practicalities, pointing out that only two courts in the Northern Cape are geared to handle cases like this in terms of equipment and intermediaries. It argues that there is no reason why Hole could not finalise these cases, as the misconduct charge against him relates to his allegedly bringing his boss into disrepute, rather than any lack of competence.

It suggests that Nqadala's strong opposition can be explained by what has happened in the past, and that Nqadala seems to have prejudged the miscon-

duct case that Hole is facing.

The Director of Public Prosecution and the Legal Aid Board – both of whom are respondents in the matter brought by Childline – have made it clear that they will abide by the court's decision.

The Magistrates Commission, Regional Court President Nqadala, and Minister of Justice Jeff Radebe, however, all indicated that they would oppose Childline's application.

But maybe someone wiser whispered

in their ears just what an unfortunate demonstration of where their true priorities lay that would be – as all three recently withdrew their notices of intention to oppose Childline's application.

The Speaker of the National Assembly and the Chairperson of the Council of Provinces, recently joined as parties by Childline, have yet to indicate whether they will be opposing or not.

The matter was set down for hearing in the high court on 25 June. ■

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PREPARE FOR AN EMOTIONAL ROLLERCOASTER ride. *She Left Me the Gun* is horrifying, witty, charming – and deeply moving. The villain is a violent, alcoholic, incestuous father, the hero is his spirited eldest daughter. And it's all true.

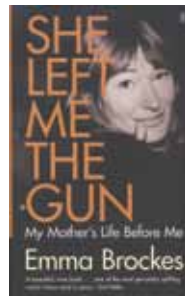
The hero's journalist daughter Emma proves that – with faultless professionalism and gutsy application.

British writer Emma Brockes has done a remarkable thing. She has exorcised the ghoul who tortured her mother's young life. Applying formidable journalistic talents in a diligently researched investigation, she comes up with startling insights into the life and times of a blighted generation of South African poor whites. It's heart-breaking stuff. And it's a triumph.

Brockes (sometime British Press Awards winner for Young Journalist of the Year and Feature Writer of the Year), took the Philip Geddes Memorial Prize for Journalism while at Oxford and now writes for *The Guardian's* weekend magazine, *The New York Times*, *Vogue* and much else beside. One previous book, *What Would Barbara Do?* tells of her love of musicals. She lives in New York.

Which is an impressive CV for the daughter of the brave, frightened and impoverished young woman who fled South Africa in 1960 after confronting her evil father in lurid court proceedings. Emma's mum had been the eldest of seven half-siblings, eight if you include a boy who died and 10 if you count the rumour of twins. In England she eventually found love, married a lawyer and produced Emma.

Brockes dedicates the book to her father John-



SHE LEFT ME THE GUN
by Emma Brockes
(Faber and Faber)



Emma Brockes

ny, which, given the intense focus on her quirky mother, is only fair. Father is clearly a good and patient man, who indulged his fiercely protective wife in her eccentricities.

Considering her background, the mildly odd behaviour was entirely excusable. Not that she exploited the past for sympathy. On the contrary; apart from the occasional hints of drama back in South Africa, Mum remained silent about her childhood sufferings until very nearly the end of her life.

Then, confident in the love of her daughter and husband, she permitted herself some discreet revelations. Emma the journalist realised that she owed it to Mum, and to herself, to pursue the clues. And so she did, thoroughly and professionally, as behoves a senior journalist. In Pretoria the archives revealed that Emma's vicious grandfather had – surprise! – been a murderer, in addition to his known wicked proclivities.

Brockes's encounters with Mum's scattered siblings, painstakingly traced from Joburg to distant outposts, provide a lively gallery of character studies. They all remember Mum with love and respect. After all, she had taken the drastic step of having her father arrested on behalf of all of them.

Mum found succour among the English, but clearly had her reservations about that tribe.

"She was imperiously English to her friends and erstwhile family in South Africa, but to me, at home, she was caustic about the English." She said darkly that the English cooked their fruit, and feared that, if both parents should die in some catastrophe, little Emma would be dragged off to some English institution where she would be forced to eat a stewed prune. This from a woman who had borne more misery than the vast majority suffer in a lifetime.

Above all, she complained that the English never talked about anything. "Not like us," Emma writes wryly. "We talked about everything. We talked a blue streak about the things we didn't talk about."

Emma has no hesitation in identifying herself as Home Counties English, tennis whites and all. But then, she lives in New York now. What would Mum have said?

The gun of the title? That would be telling. ■



Sport or religion? Praying or playing, it's all the same to us

WHY IS SPORT A RELIGION IN South Africa? The poet TS Eliot said it best. *We shall not cease from exploration and the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started...* and to be broke, because the Rand is at record lows. Or something along those lines. That's the thing about short trips abroad: they allow your mind to wander, to forget old quotes but to notice new truths.

Eliot, of course, reckoned that upon our return from exploration we would "know the place for the first time". Clearly he never spent any time waiting to board a Lufthansa flight to Johannesburg: it turns out, to know South Africa, you only have to spend an hour in a Frankfurt departures lounge, listening to cretins in flip-flops, and sporting the only six un-ironic moustaches in Europe, explain to each other why Yoorip is so much more advanced than Efrica, before farting audibly and going to sleep, face down, across four seats, while elderly passengers are left to stand.

Having come from Berlin, a city which radiates calm humanity, the barbarism of these members of the Master Race struck me like a slap. This is what travel does. It takes the sting out of many of the failings you thought were unique to your country. But it also exposes you afresh to the uglier parts of your home, and makes you wonder how you had become so inured to them before you left.

The meaty creatures talked about all sorts of things, most of them unprintable. But their favourite topic of shouted conversation was something called Rukh-bee. It was then that I realised that I hadn't heard people talking socially about sport for the entire duration of my holiday. Certainly,

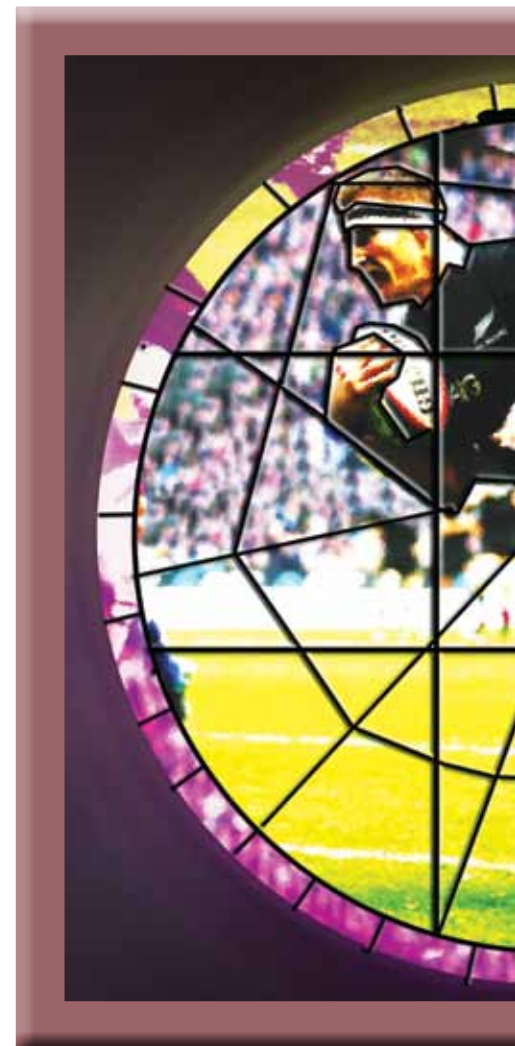
there had been football on television in Italy and Germany – Italians seem particularly fond of football-related chatshows hosted by cougarish Sophia Loren lookalikes – but this personal obsession with sport simply hadn't featured.

When we walked into OR Tambo International's arrivals hall, what struck me wasn't the wonderful light, or appalling service, or the openness of the faces, or the total absence of newsstands selling anything that wasn't a Scratch-And-Sniff Pink Princess Adventure For Morons. What hit me, like a warm wave filling up the whole airport, was Sport. In Prague, I had watched carved apostles parade, on the hour, from the face of the famous Astronomical Clock. They had slowly wheeled overhead, peering down at crowds of tourists with accusing, doleful eyes, as the clock chimed.

Here in Johannesburg, I was seeing exactly the same thing; but instead of being judged by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, I was now being peered at by Chad, Jacques, Bryan and Siphwiwe. From every billboard, storefront, television screen and urinal advertisement, sportsmen stared at me. I had always known that South Africans love their sport, but until that moment I had not realised that sport is a religion in this country. This is what it feels like to arrive in Iran or Saudi Arabia or Mississippi, I thought: the same pressure to believe, the same fear of being revealed as an agnostic, the same endless reinforcement of dogma.

Everywhere, it seemed, adults were wearing Springbok jerseys, almost as if they were actual clothing instead of garishly coloured bits of overpriced crap. But nobody pointed and giggled. Nobody blushed, or wondered about

the wisdom of stretching "athletic wear" over morbidly obese stomachs. Indeed, at any moment I expected to



being handed a yellow rubber bracelet engraved with WWBD. It was a fair question: What Would Bryan Do? If Bryan Habana walked into a nation of nutters, how would he react? Give 110 percent? Take the gap and run? Turn the other cheek and hope the footage at the tribunal was conclusive in his favour?

My suspicion that I had returned to a nation of sporting religious fundamentalist was only strengthened a day or two later when I opened a copy of this magazine, and found a letter to the editor, taking me to task for writing a critical article about golf. It delighted me – it's not every day you

get called a bleeding heart Marxist – but it also seemed to reinforce the devotional zeitgeist I had felt since my return. The author was angry, but his painstaking defence of the game he loves spoke of a deeper response: he felt persecuted. There was a sad charity in his words, a yearning to explain the Gospel of Golf to me (he even capitalised it). There was even a sense that he forgave me all the same, for I knew not what I did. This was not someone who plays for fun. This was a true believer, for whom golf, and perhaps other sports, offers contact with the sublime. In short, someone for whom sport is a kind of religion.

So why are we like this? Where does this new religion come from? One answer might be that religions offer us immortality, and sport might promise the same thing. Its endless cycle seems to hint at posterity and permanence. Indeed, it seems significant that the Kaizer Chiefs football club is now selling a funeral plan trading heavily on the fact that it has been a constant in the lives of its clients. If ever there was a case of sport and the afterlife mixing, this is it.

Another possibility is that sport offers us the same sense of belonging that many believers get from their faith; a place to commune with people who share similar values, hopes and fears. In South Africa, these might be particularly strong. The memory of Ellis Park in 1995 is still treasured by many, partly because it was a grand piece of drama, but also because those people – many of whom still had homemade bunkers under the Porta-Pool stocked up with tinned food from 1993 – could feel that they belonged in the country they had begun to fear.

Of course, it's possible that other more earthly factors have contributed to our being particularly ardent believers in sport. For one thing, there's not much to do in South Africa. We don't read, we don't occupy our public spaces or live on our pavements. Millions of us can't afford to; the rest choose not to. Why not, then, retreat into caves dimly lit by the blue of SuperSport, and lose ourselves in dreams of sporting glory? Perhaps all faiths have their roots in the SuperSport phenomenon, where people living unpleasant lives in unforgiving places dream of something better, greener, lusher, better-paid, better-fed. (It cannot be a coincidence that three of the world's most popular religions came from an almost uninhabitable wasteland, in which there is nothing to do but herd goats and resent your neighbours.)

But perhaps these dreams are not all bad. After all, there are worse things to worship than sport. Like Justin Bieber. And besides, it must be lovely to believe, to congregate in the great cathedrals of sport, to take the sacrament of boerewors rolls and beer, and to sing the old hymns – *olé olé! Shosholoza! Prooovince...* But alas, faith has eluded me. I remain a doubting Thomas. ■



**It must be lovely
to believe, to
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great cathedrals
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boerewors rolls and
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the old hymns –
olé olé! Shosholoza!
Prooovince...**



Hope springs. Despite the rain falling mainly on my parade

TALK ABOUT RAINING ON MY PARADE. No wonder I sometimes hate the rainy season in this here Mzansi – and I’m supposed to be an emerging farmer! What gives? Well that’s because it makes a muddy mess of my farm access road.

Anyway, back to my *joie de vivre* before it just got so heavily rained upon. And I do not mean the English, British that is, use of the phrase *joie de vivre*, but rather the real thing, you know the thing that sends the red stuff pumping through your veins. (And you thought I didn’t know my biology.)

My month of June started out with a pleasant light spring rain. Who would hate that?

First, I nailed a fantastic scoop when one of my sources tipped me off about a fraudster who had finally been dismissed by our Mpumalanga Department of Public Works. It was none other than that “idiot fraudster” that I told *Noseweek* readers about in an earlier edition; the one who built a multi-million-rand mansion for all to see while everyone knew he earned a salary of just R9,000 per month.

What made this scoop was that the decision to dismiss him was made on a Thursday following a disciplinary hearing and I was publishing the next day. So by getting the info that Thursday night meant my mighty *Guardian* would announce his dismissal before he was officially informed. Now that is an editor’s dream: hit them before they know it, the slimy, arrogant, thieving, nation-destroying bastards.

I left my edition material for printing that Friday morning singing “I’m walking on sunshine and man it feels good”.

However a challenge lay ahead of me just up the road from the printers in the form of everyone’s favourite government institution, the one Julius Malema would describe as a persecu-

tor. Yes, you got it, SARS.

What I needed from SARS was a tax clearance certificate for my holding company BMD Media. And hey, this is a serious matter, without the certificate no government advertising for the *Guardian*. I kept saying to myself, damn it, these insensitive, heartless government “agents” would Malema my black ass if given just half a chance.

But being the sensible and understanding, patriotic son of the Mzansi soil that I am, I also said to myself, well, you recently filed your returns from 2007 to 2012, so what do you expect. So, I did not fear being Malema-ed as much as I dreaded the inevitable torture of having to wait in line for hours.

And what do you know, my sunshine kept me aloft even at this hell-on-earth government institution. I waited for no more than an hour and to my surprise my tax clearance was approved without question or any late-administration fines. I walked out humming *Nkosi Sikelele* – I think it’s the first time I’ve ever sung Mzansi’s national anthem. Yes I was on cloud nine, I was winning, and I had seized the day.

For the next few days, unbeknownst to many, I was the most patriotic person in this here Mzansi, even praising the leadership of Zuma – hey, somebody must have made the SARS operation more efficient. Even Malema would have to agree with me on that efficiency thing, poor bastard.

Needless to say the edition was a hit and I was looking forward to some handsome government advertising. Man I was chilling like Bob Dylan.

I’d forgotten: this is still Mzansi. Three weeks later, I got to my office at roughly 9:30pm nice and tipsy. Had my two cups of green tea to help me detox overnight and went to what I thought would be a lovely well-deserved sleep.

It was not to be. At around midnight I hear rumbling about in the office and when I investigate with my sleepy eyes and my feeling-good, nicely tipsy body, I confront two of Mzansi’s law abiding citizens helping themselves to my computers – and everything from the fridge. The office is my second home.

Normally in a situation like that one would be wise to back off and plead for your life. But I was not having it. I’ve had enough of being robbed. Call it beer muscles or stupidity but I took them on, I screamed, “No way, you are not taking my stuff. Get the f*** out”. I fought, while yelling for our complex’s security guard who is usually asleep on the other side in one of the panel beater’s cars.

Well, I succeeded and they ran like the wild dogs they are.

I used a knife to secure the door they’d come through after breaking the lock, and went back to sleep.

When I woke up in the morning I had a gash on my left arm that was as wide as the River Nile, an obvious defensive wound. Blood was everywhere. My goods left behind had been wrapped in cloth. Looking at their cloth packages, these guys were intent on cleaning me out.

Should I have taken such a dangerous and risky chance or just stayed under the covers and played asleep?

No way. Beer muscles or not, I am glad I fought to protect my property. The barbarians of Mzansi have proven that they could just as easily have stabbed me, probably for the pleasure of it, while I played asleep.

I am also very glad I live to tell the tale. Have I lost my faith in Mzansi? Hell no, not as long as we have an efficient SARS that can nail the Malemas, and I can be surprised by a government department firing an idiot of a fraudster.

There is a lot of hope for Mzansi. ■



Past perfect. Times they are a-changin'

WHEN YOU BECAME SEXUALLY active in Pietermaritzburg there were two things you had to do to display your musth. First you signed on for lessons in ballroom dancing at the Fred and Ginger Academy run by a certain Miss Sybil Weatherdon who did also Bolshoi ballet, tap dancing and something called gymnastical eurythmics, a kind of pole dancing done on the floor. Then when you'd become noticed, you would borrow somebody's car, take a chance about the driver's licence and chug up to World's View at midnight and there declare your profound esteem for another party who also had been F & G processed. World's View is that great spur that sticks straight and naked into the valley belly of PMB, with the ancient rocky Voortrekker Road running straight down the middle of the prepuce, so to speak, very sentimental in an historical sort of way. It is about 2,000 feet altitude above the rest of Maritzburg, this is no mean spur I tell you comrades, and what a symbol ek sê.

After a bit when you'd got emotionally mature and really fit from all the foxtrots, quicksteps, waltzes and tangoes, you could get together a whole lot of lightweight Drakensberg gear plus the estimable personage and hike up the Voortrekker road head on, what a challenge. Pitch your small two-place tent at the top, and on a clear night, in between rounds of unspeakable animality, you could romantically watch the glow of the Durban lighthouse sixty miles away. Three short flashes, one long one. Hell, man, suddenly you were a salty young mariner out in the dread swell of the Agulhas current, the same that had swallowed whole the 10,000-ton *Waratah* leaving nothing afloat, not the merest matchstick. And now distantly and dimly you'd espied the Port Natal light. Three short, one long. There was the warmth and the lights and the pretty girls and the foxtrots

and waltzes and things and the safety of terra firma. It was said of the Agulhas: the more firma the less terra. You and your lusty paramour might now have a cosy giggle in your little tent.



There was the warmth and the lights and the pretty girls and the foxtrots and waltzes

Well the lighthouse disappeared when I wasn't looking. I think I was in some other country for a bit, and months after I came back I happened to glance at the bluff. I mean nobody had told me it was going to vanish, snap, just like that. I had a sense of vandalism, theft even. The insipid explanation said the lighthouse was sinking in the sea sand of the bluff and one of these days it was going to fall on somebody because it was leaning over something unnatural. Nu? Everest is leaning over too, and it's getting higher by 5cm per year and bits fall off it all the time. If you don't want to get squashed by rocks or falling lighthouses the secret is not to stand below them. But they knocked down the dear old thing and declared the bluff a military Sperrgebiet, now no lovers are allowed to go there, so why not just call our lighthouse a historical heritage monument place and stick up a notice

telling soldier-boys not to stand where it might fall on them?

Of course they suddenly found the bluff is not sea sand after all, it's sandstone, so they could build on it a thing the height of a thirty-storey building but it's not going to sink out of sight nor fall on any hypothetical passer-by so that's okay. It has a proper red light on top for passing airliners, otherwise no lights. A pre-recorded voice says good evening to passing sailors and tells them to beware, they are about to run aground at the bathing beach. But one must not be old and stuffy, keep up with the times, and anyway at the front end of the bluff there's that mighty breakwater, the South Pier, on this stood a double set of railway lines and on these rails stood a mighty steam gantry crane of Edwardian design, which with ease could lift a 20-ton concrete block and place it where best it could defy the Agulhas. So we still had a fine working, chuffing, smoking, clanking dear old historical heritage monument to symbolise our dear old Port Natal.

And lo, one morning I am down there with a bunch of barracuda-anglers when the crane driver blows his whistle to show his steam is up and he's ready to roll, only today he's not handling the 20-ton blocks, he's handling the new-type concrete dolosse which interlock randomly. They're only 12 tons each so he takes two at a time which makes a total of 24 tons, of course, and as the gantry swings over the water he reels the dolosse to the very end and the whole huge crane tips gently over into the water. The driver is trapped, they call in a SAAF Alouette helicopter to rescue him. It takes a whole year to cut up the crane with oxy-acetylene and sell it for scrap. So now I've shifted my sentiments and my dedications to my dear old Air Force. Our City Council is turning the whole bluff and harbour entrance into another bloody Waterfront Feature for tourists, like Cape Town and Sydney and Copenhagen, you name it and they can keep it.

Pity about the barracuda angling though. I tell you, comrades, there's no water in the world like the Agulhas for game fishing, that's for sure. ■

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FRANCES LEAVEY

25 May 1972 – 13 May 2013

Fran Leavey, an avid *Noseweek* reader since 1998, advertised her music services in our smalls pages. A helicopter engineer by profession, she was also an accomplished musician and music teacher, with degrees from both UCT and Stellenbosch. She played the flute, saxophone and piccolo and was a Royal College of Music examiner.



A cystic fibrosis sufferer, she was an inspiration to all who met her. She died in Cape Town while on an extended visit home. She will be sorely missed.

cluding watercolour, ink, lino and black and white line drawing. Meg: 021 788 5974 or 082 926 7666; megjordi@gmail.com

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