

JANUARY 2004

Fri 2

As a result of an attempted vehicular suicide, by a national, eight British tourists have died in a fatal road crash. The accident occurred as the minibus; operated on behalf of the British firm Exodus Tours swerved in attempt to avoid an accident. However the trailer, containing the party's luggage became unstable. The fatalities occurred as the multi national clients were in the Bergvill area en route to the Drakensburg Mountains to complete their stay in the country.

Government figures put the annual slaughter on the roads in the year 2003 at 10, 000. Alternate figures, provided by the South African Medical Council estimates the 18, 000. In comparison; the UK, with a population one third larger, the number of fatalities on the roads at 3, 400 over the last 12 months.

Figures released, by the home affairs department in Pretoria, indicate that the number of Zimbabwean's trying to enter South Africa in the last nine years was 2m. During the period 1/03 to 9/03 41, 000 of those who fled the Mugabe regime have been forced to return by the authorities in Pretoria.

An alternate view, from the home affairs department, says that only 1, 471 people have formally applied for political asylum since 1994; it also concedes that only 11 have been granted political status.

Speaking to those who have fled across the Limpopo River it is alleged that border guards show little respect for those on the run; the use of whips to act as a deterrent is not uncommon. Another claim from those that have fled is that the authorities deal with applications on certain days for certain nationalities. In the case of Zimbabwe the day is Tuesday.

In some cases to appear on that day is to be at the receiving end of more abuse and violence. In the case of T Chimmombe, an assumed name, to protect those still in Zimbabwe a former captain in the Zimbabwe military, an opposition party supporter who suffered torture at the hands of his former colleagues, made 6 appearances at the refugee office to try and collect an asylum application form. To date no form has been supplied. As an alternative, if he had paid a bribe of R500/ £50 it is likely the relevant form would have been available.

Using the novel Country of My Skull by A Krog, published in 1999 (qv 28/1) as a base line the writer A Peacock along with director J Boorman and leading actors S Jackson and ? Binochet will turn the events, covered in the novel, the workings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, into a film. The film will be produced by R Chartoff and M Medavoy.

The two named characters are to play a Washington Post newspaper reporter who, after confronting personal and apartheid's horrors through listening to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's hearings, falls for the Afrikaner radio reporter; loosely based on the authors role at the Cape Town hearings in 4/96.

The next book 'A Change of Tongue' published by Random House; A Krog 's first full length work of non fiction in English traces the trauma and humour of a decade of change inside the country. It delves into the food, landscape and the memories through a mix of anecdotal and actual reportage.

Sat 3

Understanding the causes of the recent road traffic accident, which killed eight British tourists (qv 2/1), police have unearthed two relevant facts. Whilst the authorities agree that the initial cause was a swerve to avoid a pedestrian intent on suicide there are other facts to consider.

The trailer that was being towed by the mini – bus had no independent braking system. Also the driver, of the Mercedes, had no valid license to drive such a heavy vehicle. In the event the tour driver, and five other members of the tour group, escaped with their lives.

Sun 4

Exodus Travel's own inquiry into the recent road traffic accident, that killed 8 British tourists (qv), has revealed that when it arranged the trip it was with the belief that the driver, C Kampfert aged 24, had the correct license to drive the Mercedes Sprinter mini bus.

Other sources detailed the fact that the attempted suicide that all authorities, in Britain and South Africa agree was a contributory fact in the fatalities, was successful.

Tues 6

Such is Nelson Mandela an enthusiast for BBC2's The Kumars at 42; a spoof interview programme on which he will be asked daft questions, of the nonsensical variety as, "Did you stay in prison for 27 years because you knew that Winnie would be waiting for when you got out?" Or is there some other reason?

Some will ask is he addicted to the limelight, or is it more likely that he is bored with being a saint? Is the former South African president yearning to be taken less seriously? To be taken more as a 'regular guy' and not someone that presenters of every two bit show; the presenters of Ground Force in 1999 as an example, come for absolution.

Cartoon Nelson Mandela comes calling.

Sat 10

Long accepted – by Interpol and the record books – as the rape hotspot of the world things are, hopefully about to change. Going through the parliamentary process is the Sexually Offences Amendment Act, which redefines the interpretation of what constitutes rape.

Previously defined, as entry of the penis into the vagina rape will now encompass any sex act in which there is an element of coercion. This current legislation, when enshrined in law, will see male rape and vaginal penetration with a foreign object as rape. Up to now these offenses have been seen as 'indecent assault.' - **Big Issue page 5** –

Mon 12

With the third multi ethnic elections due, within a matter of weeks, the African National Council has launched its manifesto in the town of Pietermaritzburg in KwaZulu Natal. Before a crowd of 30, 000 supporters president Mbeki, who analysts expect to be sworn for a further term on the auspicious date of 27/4 promise more spending on those who were homeless or jobless at this time.

The main thrust of the ruling party's ongoing policy was to loosen its conservative policies by ramping up public spending. Mr Mbeki indicated that over the next 10 years £8.7bn would be spent on roads, rail and air transportation and telecommunications.

With the no show of the 'adored' Nelson Mandela, speculation of a rift with his successor was rife. Also in doubt, according to T Leon, the leader of the Democratic Alliance, were the ANC's claim that public spending was adequate to fulfill the promises made. In fact 1m jobs had been lost during the premiership of Mr Mbeki. – **GDN page 14, C 8** –

Tues 13

Moving on from the original estimate of 2 year contracts Netcare (qv 19/2); the privately owned, South African based, private medical care company is on the brink of signing a 5 year contract worth £40m with the National Health Service. The company is to provide mobile surgical units that will travel throughout England. The two units staffed entirely by non NHS staff will provide, through their 2 mobile units, cataract surgery to day care patients.

The units will visit hospitals in Devon and Cornwall, Dorset and Somerset, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, Surrey and Sussex, Kent and Medway, Thames Valley, Cheshire and Merseyside, Cumbria and Lancashire and Northumberland and Tyne and Wear strategic health authorities.

The cost of this eye operation, under the NHS, is £940. Netcare will be paid £840 for each procedure. Critics of the deal, among them the MP E Harris Liberal Democrat, say the NHS has artificially increased the cost of this corrective surgery to make the South

African firms costs look reasonable. He has asked the National Audit Office to investigate.

The monarch, in the land locked kingdom of Swaziland, King Mswati the Third, may have failed to persuade the treasury to buy him a £24m executive jet last year. Now his hopes are that a plea to provide new homes for his wives will be received in a more favorable light.

The cost of building these new palaces, for his eleven wives, is put at £8m, according to the Times of Swaziland. This at a time when the former British protectorate has according to a recent Unicef report (qv 27/11) the kingdom will face an ever increasing number of orphans because of parental deaths from the Aids virus.

Sat 17

Cape Town, once delineated as the 'must see venue of the world' has had its credibility damaged by greedy entrepreneurs. According to a report, commissioned by the Congress of South African Trade Unions, tourists are being well overcharged an alarming rate. In one instance, the provision of a fish based starter in a restaurant, charges range from £54 to £65. The cost price to the outlet was as little as £2.

Responding to unions findings representatives of Cape Towns business community indicated that tourists come to the area to experience South African prices. Another explanation offered is that initial exorbitant prices, at some venues, operated by greedy owners, will fall due to market forces.

Sun 18

As the 10th year of freedom from apartheid's rule beckons; an assessment 'on the ground' as to whether there is, in reality, a level playing field for the black and white members of the community.

In Football and Freedom, see SA Tape 60 a five year following of the aspiration of Seth and Thuso, from Johannesburg and Soweto respectively is chronicled.

Mon 19

Once again members of Inkatha and the African National Congress show their hostility towards each other, in regard to who will control the province of Kwa ZuluNatal after the impending election.

Most serious, so far is the death of a family of seven was reported to have been slaughtered in the town of Empangeni. This deadly attack mirrors similar occurrences during the low level war between the tow parties during the late 1980's and early 1990's. At this time the police are unsure whether this was a political act or for another reason.

At a recent Inkatha rally near Durban, 20, 000 supporters, dressed in traditional Zulu garb, party leader Chief Buthelezi pleaded with the crowd not to return to violence. Later he expressed concern at the levels of tension that exists between the two rival organisations.

Tues 20

A leading member of the judicial system, whilst attending a conference called by the World Social Forum, a gathering of delegates in Mumbai from 130 countries to debate human rights, has been charged with the rape of another delegate.

Judge S Desi aged 53 is being held by the Indian police after being accused of not taking note for an answer from S Isaacs, aged 24, when kissing and holding went to far. The alleged rape happened in the judge's hotel room after the victim; an Aids activist went to his room to discuss the conference.

The allegations came out through a radio interview the victim's husband gave back in South Africa. In high spirits the judge, when talking to the newspaper ThisDay, was confident that he could explain it all away when he had his day in court.

Wed 21

With the conclusion of the judicial inquiry, headed by retired Judge Hefer, into allegations that a senior member of the ANC government was an apartheid era spy ended attention can now be turned to winning the forthcoming general election.

The claim that the country's chief prosecutor, B Ngcuka, (qv 22/10) worked for the former regime has, after five months of investigation, have "not been established. They were ill conceived and entirely unsubstantiated," Mr Justice Hefer concluded. However there were concerns over the allegations of corruption leveled against J Zuma (qv 26/8).

The basis for the bad feeling against the former Robben Island detainee, turned legal expert, is put down to his department being in control of the Scorpion group that was set up to investigate alleged political corruption. These thoughts were highlighted in a newspaper article in the Johannesburg City Press, based on a briefing by, so the inquiry found, by Mark Maharaj; a former transport minister and 'graduate' of Robben Isle as was so many others in the post apartheid government. As a result of breach of etiquette the papers editor, V Mona, has resigned.

Despite of being cleared of being a spy Mr Ngcuka, and his department, has not escaped criticism. The report details numerous leaks of information to newspapers concerning the activities of numerous politicians and businessmen last year.

Fri 23

Speaking at a joint press conference, with the German chancellor G Schroeder, Mr Mbeki gave an indication that Zimbabwe's ruling Zanu – PF and the opposition Movement for Democratic Change would shortly be holding formal talks. The aim of such talks, which have been ongoing; at an informal level, would aim to end political repression and the countries economic decline. Both party spokesmen have denied any such formal talks are imminent.

It is thought that such an announcement, by the South African president, was intended to improve his image with the members of the European Union whose leaders are shortly to decide on the future of sanctions, imposed 12 months ago.

Sat 24

As to the purity of South African wines some British retailers are doubtful. According to the Surrey based Corkwise; analytical chemists several sauvignon blanc's have proved positive for excesses of the chemical pyrazine have been detected in the samples tested. Despite it occurring naturally, as a flavouring, tested samples indicate a higher than natural level.

Aware of the problem, since 11/03 after an article in the magazine Business Day suggested that the flavouring, tasting like green pepper and butterscotch were being added to cheap sauvignon's and chardonnay's respectively the industries ruling body had to make an announcement. The South African Wine and Spirit Board admitted they "were aware of the global practice of adding flavourants to wine."

To counter the excessive use, of this industrial flavourant, the industries watchdog has commissioned Stellenbosch University to establish typical profiles of the chemical pyrazine so that cheats can be detected. Results will be published within 7 days. There will also random testing of grape juice and the finished product to determine excessive use.

Thurs 29

With the abundance of landmines throughout the 'conflict zones' of Africa; Angola, Mozambique etc any help in locating them is helpful. Just as in Mozambique (qv 7/11) researchers, this time from a Danish biotech company has come to the aid of those attempting to locate this deadly cargo.

The Copenhagen based Aresa Biodetection has designed a special flower to detect landmines, using genetically modified Thale cress weed that changes colour when the plants roots come into contact with the nitrogen – dioxide given of by buried explosives. The rapid growing plant takes 3 to 6 weeks to grow, with its flowers turning red when it is growing close to a mine".

According to the Red Cross 26, 000 people are killed or injured by mines every year. The genetically modified plant is also designed to be infertile to stop the weed spreading.

The small town of Sutherland, in Northern Cape province with a population of 28, 000, is the nearest town to the site of an astronomical telescope that will look back in time 10bn light years and revive this 'one horse town.'

Chosen as the site, because of its position, on the edge of the Karoo desert, away from town sponsored light pollution; at an altitude of 1, 759 meters above sea level, for an 82 tonne telescope known as the South African Large Telescope or Salt for short. Funded by the USA, Poland, Germany, New Zealand, Britain and the host nation Salt is based on the HE Telescope at the McDonald Observatory in Texas.

South Africa is also in the running for a second astronomical feature; the Square Kilometer Array. This is a \$1bn project to build the biggest radio telescope 100 times more powerful than anything known at present. To be located in Northern Cape, this site will have to show it is more suited than the other contending sites – in the United States, Argentina, Brazil and Mexico. The choice will be made within the next 12 months.

Fri 30

Letter **J Potter** wonderful news about the Danish biotech company (qv 29/1) with the flowers able to detect landmines, but isn't the farmer sowing the seeds in the mine field more likely to discover their location first?"

Sat 31

The Amalgamated Bank of South Africa, who in 1995 (qv 17/11) repossessed the Soweto home of Winnie M Mandela, has angered another customer. Angry at the repossession of his vehicle, by of the Banks subsidiaries, the customer, A Manamela, arrived at the banks Johannesburg headquarters. On the pretext of taking documents out of his briefcase, a deadly python emerged.

In the resulting mayhem a member of staff was bitten, though not seriously. Police declined to arrest the disgruntled customer. Speaking to the Johannesburg Citizen newspaper Mr Manamela indicated that further actions would be taken if his problem were not sorted out to his satisfaction.

FEBRUARY 2004

Tues 3

With Mugabe 's nationalisation of land; under the Land Acquisition Act in the south east of Zimbabwe the president has set a dilemma for president Mbeki. By seizing the sugar producing Hippo Valley Estate, which is owned by the Pretoria based Anglo American Corporation, not only has affected the profits of one of South Africa's industrial giants he has put in jeopardy the thinking behind the presidents New Partnership for African Development plan. This whole concept is based on their being a predictable investment climate throughout Africa.

With this action Mugabe has put into question, once again, there ever being such a stable base to Africa's economic strategy, so that Mbeki's plans can come to fruition, for the benefit of the whole African continent.

Fri 6

The issues concerning the people, according to the newspapers and broadcasters, in Pretoria, centre on the forthcoming general election, the effect that the Aids virus was having on the economy and the whereabouts of a missing child and an evangelical minister.

Whilst Thabo Mbeki will announce the date of the general election on 11/2 the absolute slavish coverage, on television, of the launch of the ANC 's manifesto was all the talk in the papers. Leading politicians, writing in the Pretoria News, questioned this coverage, when it is the time for the Democratic Alliance; under Tony Leon the party will be lucky to gain 60 minuets coverage by the SABC network. Of those who endorse the governing party to stay in power, according to the same paper, is the former president F W de Klerk.

In the Mail and Guardian voter apathy was of more concern. According to their findings "In 10 years, arguably one of the most highly polticipised generations of youth has given way to one in which apathy is unprecedented and disenchantment with politics acute. Less than 50% of eligible voters under 24 have bothered to register.

A new written media outlet; This Day, owned by the same group that owned the same named Nigerian outlet, discloses that 40% of South African businesses have high prevalence of HIV and Aids is reducing their profits.

As to the three year old, missing after falling down a manhole in Soweto, despite candlelit vigils and prayers, the papers agreed that there was little hope of finding him alive. The missing minister, from the Evangelical Reform Church, was not abducted as speculation would have it. He was found at Gold Reef City, a gambling resort neat Johannesburg. Full of "intense remorse," the Reverend P Beyl has resigned.

Sat 7

In a joint investigation, involving archeologists from the University of Newcastle on Tyne and the University of Canberra, rock paintings; at first thought to be only 1,000 years old are in fact 3, 000 years old.

The paintings, 40, 000 of them, are located in 500 caves and rock shelters at the world heritage site of uKhahlamba Drakensburg, high in this mountainous region. According to Dr Amazel, of the University of Newcastle the paintings; in red orange, white and black pigments are “like a family [of the Sans people, who colonised the area 8,000 years ago] photograph album.”

Mon 9

Nelson Mandela has been honoured with a doctorate of letters, from Britain’s Open University at a ceremony hosted by the Universities chancellor – the former speaker of the House of Commons – Betty Boothroyd. – **YEP, People Column** –

Wed 11

Once, they were the Bang Bang Club, a group of four South African photographers who documented the worst of the late 80’s and early 90’s apartheid atrocities, and brought these horrors to the notice of the world, who disbanded; on the eve of the multi party elections in 1994, are ready to tell their story.

Of the four only two are still living. A stray bullet killed K Oosterbroek. K Carter committed suicide, within weeks of each other. Of the two photographic chroniclers, one J Silva is working in another conflict zone. The last of the quartet, G Marioovich, is living on his farm four hours drive from Johannesburg, as he prepares to travels to Sierra Leone.

High on the success of The Bang Bang Club, Snapshots from a Hidden War, published in 2000, a film is planned.

Thurs 12

“Dan Ndzabela, an 82 year old South African forced to leave the Cape Town suburb District Six during apartheid, holds a picture of his old home during a ceremony celebrating the return of former residents.” – *picture caption* –

Sat 14

“The South African government has promised six kiloliters of water free water per household, per month; but for poor families, that may number as many as eight people. This is simply not enough and paying for additional water is increasingly expensive. To make matters worse millions of poor people in rural areas, are still not receiving their free water.” **Big Issue, page 19** –

Thurs 19

It has been reported that Leeds City council is to enter the ‘Garden of the Year’ contest at the Chelsea Flower Show later in the year. The theme of the garden is to the struggles of Nelson Mandela – and the ANC – to overthrow the apartheid regime. **Yorkshire Evening Post,**

Sat 21

Andrew Borraine, better known as the vice-chairman of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, is now to take on a new challenge. As chairman of the Cape Town Partnership and City Central Improvement District of Cape Town; his previous ‘life’ will be of vast experience.

Born into a political family; his father was an MP for the Progressive Federal Party and throughout his childhood he mixed with the like of Helen Suzman (qv) and others on the emerging ‘liberal’ wing of 1970’s South African politics.

“It was natural that when I went to university in Cape Town in 1978 that I joined the National Union of South African Students. Joined the Students Representative Council. 1979 President of Nusas. I was very involved with the student movement through Nusas links with the Anzanian Students Organisation and we were lucking at how to bring black and white students together.

Campaigns; Free Mandela [1980], Anti Republic Day, 1981, despite being a ‘banned person’. Detained without trial in 1980 and ’81. Released from the order in 1983 served on the National Executive of the United Democratic Front (qv). At the end of the state of emergency, moved to Johannesburg to work for an NGO.

Post 1995, DDG Local Government Affairs, working within the Dept of Constitutional Affairs. 1999 and 2000 – Independent Electoral Commission. In the same year a presidential appointment to the Financial and Fiscal Commission. – with assistance from **The Big Issue South Africa, 12/03 page 14** –

Sun 21

“In Pretoria the UN’s special rapporteur on freedom of expression, A Ligoba, said his request to investigate rights violations in Zimbabwe, submitted a year ago, has been ignored by the Mugabe regime.” – **IOS page 19, C 5** –

“Around 13 million people in South Africa did not have access to clean drinking water in 1994, and though the government claims to have since provided water to almost nine million consumers research conducted by D McDonald and John Pape in 2001 for the Municipal Service Project in collaboration with the Human Science Research Council [HSRC] states that up to ten million South Africans have experienced water cut – offs since 1994, and that up to two million people have been evicted from their homes as a result of not paying water arrears in the same period. The World Health Organisation

cites 7% of monthly income as the maximum acceptable level of payment for water, but in South Africa poor families are using up 40% of their monthly income to pay for water and electricity”.

The cover image [*see over*] is an attempt to highlight the ways people from different economic strata see water. The background is a photograph of a canal leading out of Langa township in Cape Town, and the bathers superimposed over this background were photographed on the same day [in the middle of the week] on Clifton beach, also in Cape Town.

As numerous observers have pointed out, South Africa is now experiencing a new kind of apartheid in which there is a divide between poor and rich, rather than black and white. Whilst the majority of poor people are black, it is not the colour of their skin that is holding them back in the new South Africa, it is the fact that they are unable to pay for what they need to live.” – J Garner, *Big Issue [SA] 1 / 04*

Tues 24

According to the World Bank Botswana has 39% of its adult population infected with the HIV virus. – *graphic*, **GDN page 19 C 3** –

So soon, after end of year profits of the Old Mutual Group (qv 21/12) had to be used to support its South African banking arm – Nedcor during its loan crisis – that a new right issue has had to be offered to further secure the future of the bank.

The London listed financial services group has stepped in raise R5bn / £400m. The amount raised would be further boosted by a 37% stake in South Africa’s insurer Mutual and Financial would be financed from surplus cash in its Life Assurance business.

According to the companies London based financial director, J Roberts, these difficulties will not stop the company with its plans to invest in the British financial services market. The company has agreed to supply three quarters of the cash Nedcor needs. This brings Old Mutual ’s stake to 70%. The rest will come from Merrill Lynch and the Deuch Bank.

As to the end of year results 2003; operating profits, £650m down from £724m in 2002. The dividend to shareholders will remain at 4.8p.

Wed 25

Following on from the success, in partnership with the French luxury group M Henessy and their shop in London, the De Beers group is in negotiations with the United States to settle a long standing legal dispute. To do so would allow the South African conglomerate access to another lucrative market.

The origins of the dispute, between the two countries, is the USA’s allegations, made just after the end of the Second World War, was that the Johannesburg based company was

fixing the price of industrial diamonds. Despite a second attempt, in 1994 by the justice department in Washington, there was no settlement.

According to the Wall Street Journal, the two sides are in negotiations. It seems likely that De Beers will pay a fine as an admittance of guilt. In return the administration would allow the company to sell its wares once again there.

Wed 26

As one South African conglomerate heralds new initiatives (qv 25/2) Anglo-American, the Johannesburg based and London Stock Exchange listed monolith, announces a new direction. Because the diamond mining industry is now so precarious the company is to move into different sectors. Over the next 5 years more investment will be made in the mining of gold, platinum and coal sectors. Also, in a new venture, acquisitions in the paper and packaging sectors will be made. All told \$6bn / £3.5bn will be invested.

The companies headline earnings were reported as \$1.7bn 4% lower than in 2003. This substantial fall can be blamed on the high price of the Rand and the value of the Australian dollar against the value of that in the USA. These variations lowered Anglo American 's profits to the tune of \$578m. Other announcements; the diamond division posted profits of \$386m, 19% increase on 2002's figures. The strong rand and Australian dollar inflated Anglo 's costs and depressed earnings despite a 22% rise in revenue to \$24.9bn.

The forecast of a strong 2004, based on a surge in metal prices and the expected huge demand for the company's products in the emerging Chinese market, was given to shareholders.

Sat 28

A report, commissioned by the charity War on Want and carried out by academics at Greenwich University, has condemned the government's policy of tying foreign aid to the introduction of a policy of privatising essential services.

Under the spotlight is the Department for International Development. One of the privatisation projects was based in the southern African country of Mozambique. The case of improving the water supply to the population was highlighted by the charity. However the insistence of London that the project must be open to the private sector gave a disservice to the Mozambican people said the reports authors. According to Steve Tibbett, War on Wants director of campaign and policy, to open the provision of the infrastructure to the private sector gave a "poor quality work, lack of input and control by communities, with supply points built near water sources for the convenience of the contractors rather than the villagers.

MARCH 2004

Thurs 4

Taking a 'Gap Year' Prince Harry has ended up in the land locked kingdom of Lesotho. As one of his first encounters, lasting 8 weeks, he is to help build a fence at the Mants'ase children's home near Mohale's Hoek. The resident children, many, who have lost one or both parents to the HIV virus, were on hand to offer help.

Offering an explanation for his being there the Prince said that his presence there would further the cause that "recognition for Lesotho as a country that needs help", and that "they haven't got enough help yet. It's not exactly a country that everyone has heard of."

Fri 5

With the imminent legal moves, on 5/04, of a coalition of those who support the claims of the Sans people of Botswana, given 'notice to quit' in 2003 (qv 20/2), the conditions of those still living in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve in Botswana have not changed.

Giving reasons for the attempt to remove those are remaining a government minister, C Maribe offered. Their current way of life, whether it is hunting, farming or other commercial activity is inconsistent with the status of a game reserve. Another reason given was those that have moved out have been able to develop a life style more in keeping with the modern world. This is especially so for the children.

These arguments pull little weight with the various support groups behind the forthcoming court case. According to the London based Survival International. Chief among there criticisms is that the cost of the redeployment far outweighs the benefits to the people themselves. In fact the government is spending more money in moving the San than they ever spent on them when they were located in the game reserve. Secondly once the San are out of the reserve they are placed in large camps. One such settlement is New Xade, where there appears little to do but drink beer in the government provided Beer Hall.

The main thrust of the court case, supported by groups; First People of the Kalahari the Working Group for Indigenous People in Southern Africa and the Botswana Centre for Human Rights will argue in court that the Botswana government is obliged to restore the Sans to their traditional land.

Tues 9

Western Province is the first province to trial the concept of free anti retroviral drugs for all children who are suffering from the Aids virus. Since the programme began last year over 700 under 14 year old 's have been treated at Nazareth House Hospice in Cape Town. From 4/05 the medication would be available to all the provinces 2, 500 children in this age group. Behind this necessary intervention, because of the vicarious moods of

the president, was the medical charity Medicins Sans Frontieres. The British charity One to One Children 's Fund had paved the way for such a move having been treating children with HIV at Cape Town's Groote Schuur hospital for the last two years.

Initially sceptics were dismissive of the notion that the parents of such children, who were mainly poorly educated, could be expected to remember the strict dosage regime required to ensure effective treatment.

With the cost of the drugs set at £800 per child/year Western Cape will face costs of £2m a year. However it is expected that foreign donors will provide much of the funding.

Thurs 11

Caught up in mercenary escapade, at Harare airport in Zimbabwe, are 20 South Africans, 18 Namibians, 23 Angolans, who are accused of being part of a plan; London and Washington based to destabilise the government of Equatorial Guinea.

According to sources many of those held are former members of the apartheid era's Buffalo Battalion, which was based in Namibia. According to a foreign office minister in Pretoria there would be no inherent rush to offer government help to those held.

Fri 12

Whilst the mercenaries, held in Zimbabwe* a number of South African national held in Equatorial Guinea could face prosecution on their home ground. They would, unlike those held in Harare who will appear in court within 24 hours on aviation, firearms and immigration charges, be indicted on anti mercenary charges.

After meeting a delegation, from the west African country, Pretoria's home affairs minister, K Mohadi, said that according to information the motivation for the armed incursion was the offer of 1m pounds [English] for the oil wealth that would be at the disposal of the rebel leader S Moto after the overthrow of T O Ngeuma. * see Zimbabwe diary 4. 03. 04

"The people of Zimbabwe are our family through common ancestry and common history." Despite this now is the time to "rethink the whole concept of democracy in Zimbabwe. South Africa was complicit in legitimising the last election which kept President Robert Mugabe in power." This should not happen again, as the 2005 parliamentary elections will soon be here.

"We have to treat Zimbabwe as Africa and as the rest of the world treated South Africa under the regime of P W Botha and John Vorster. To do otherwise would imply that we don't expect black governments to comply to the same standards of democracy and human rights as a white government. " **Max du Preez the Star 11/3, The Editor, ditto page 20**

Sat 13

It has emerged that some of those involved in the coup attempt in Equatorial Guinea who were seized in Zimbabwe (qv) have links with Executive Outcomes (qv), who were utilised by the apartheid regime governments, in various theatres of war, prior to the establishment of a multi racial government in 1994.

During investigations, by the Zimbabwe intelligence services, the names of some of those detained have been released. The pilot of the Boeing was N Steyl. His co – pilot was H Hamman a Namibian. Both men had worked for Executive Outcomes previously.

“A lithograph of Nelson Mandela 's right hand, which appears to outline Africa in its palm, is among 25 limited editions on sale at the Belgravia Gallery in New York. The lithograph depict Mr Mandela 's thoughts during his 27 – year imprisonment on Robbin Island.” – *graphic, GDN page 24-*

Sun 14

Following up the success of art work the selling price of which has risen 10 fold since first going on the market – Nelson Mandela is going into the fashion market.

The former president, who is already exhibiting a lithograph of his right hand to encourage funding of his Aids charity (qv 13/3), is hopeful that top of the range designers will incorporate his Robbin Island painted designs in high fashion.

Tues 16

Obituary, Abdul Mohammed Omar 26/5/34 – 13/3/04 from humble beginnings he was responsible for the setting up, post 1994, the countries Constitutional court. He also was responsible for the police’s Scorpion investigation team.

An anti apartheid activist, human rights lawyer and former political prisoner was born in the Cape Town of Observatory, - an area of District Six (qv) - one of 11 children. Educated at a Muslim primary school, then onto Trafalgar high school, which was a known center of resistance to the ruling National Party. **1957** law degree from the local University. Legal practice opened in the town. **1960**, because of new race laws practice was forced to move to the suburb of Woodstock.

1982 called to the Bar, where he acted for the defense in many political trials that took place in the Eastern and Western Cape. Close contact with the imprisoned Nelson Mandela, and other members of the ANC, saw him acting as their legal spokesman.

In **1983**, as a key leader of the United Democratic Front, he was a high profile target for the security police, that he faced a banning order. Also his passport was withdrawn for 10 years. Such was his threat deemed that the notorious Civil Cooperation Bureau (qv) twice was ordered to assassinate him – these facts came out at the recent TRC hearings.

1994, Justice minister - piloting legislation to remove from the statute book a myriad of repressive laws – brought in by the defeated National Party – during the preceding 50

years. Instigated the Constitutional court, not without a little objection from members of the appeal court, who were concerned with the problem of overlapping jurisdiction, all of which were overcome after discussion and debate. It can be stated, that by setting up the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (qv), South Africa was spared the horrors of mass retribution by victims of the apartheid regime that would have done much to harm the emerging multi party democracy.

Among his other successes, at this time, was to withdraw the death penalty from the statute book. Setting up a FBI style police force – the Scorpion organization – did much to reduce the high levels of organized crime in the country. Most effective was the policy of stripping away the assets – cars, boats, houses or just cash – from those suspected and convicted of crime.

1999, with a new president, Thabo Mbeki came a new responsibility – the department of transport –, which had massive wrongs to right. Chief among these was the ‘taxi industry,’ an overburdened road system and the deteriorating commuter rail service, all of which were faced with the same hardworking determination that this key minister was known for.

2004 laid to rest, after a state funeral, in Rylands Estate, a victim of cancer, leaves a wife and 3 children.

Wed 17

The use of one of the most common drugs, used in the treatment of HIV infected pregnant women; Nevertheless (qv) has been called into question as to its effectiveness into preventing the death of the mother at a later time.

The Italian no Santiago presented these concerns at a press conference in the city of Johannesburg. Arguing that a single dose of the anti retroviral, given to a mother during labor and to the child within 72 hours of birth – which cut the number of newborns born HIV – by 50% was not the best way forward. Far better to give it with the other common Aids treatments 3TC and AZT, even if this combination treatment was more expensive.

Another concern was that the more mothers were given the single dose treatment ‘their’ strain of HIV would become immune to the effect of Nevertheless. Which would 15% of such women exposed to the virus. Leading experts were evenly divided over the arguments for and against. A pediatrician at a hospital in Cape Town expected this drug to be phased out within 2 years. At Witwatersrand Hospital, in Johannesburg, the opinion was that such a decision well meaning but naïve.

Sat 20

The decision, by the United States to contribute to the UN’s Global Fund to fight Aids in sub Saharan Africa in 2003 (qv 28/8), has brought intense pressure on the administration in Washington. These large pharmaceutical companies want the monies, promised by the

president, in his State of the Union Address, to be used to purchase their products. However bodies, such as the World Health Organisation, point out that the purchasing power would be far greater if the money was spent on generic drugs obtained from other sources.

In light of this, a conference, convened by the American department of health and human science, will take place in Botswana within the next 12 days. To be resolved is the question whether the generics; which cost £165 / patient per year are as effective as those from the USA. To agree with this argument will, according to the WHO, will reduce a hoped for 3m sufferers under treatment by 2005.

Mon 22

Later this year scientists, from London's Imperial College, the Medical Research Council, Oxford University and biotech companies in Germany, France, Belgium and South Africa are to trial a new method of controlling the Aids virus.

The new research, on 12, 000 women in five African countries, will not report their findings until 2007. Under evaluation will be two forms of microbicides. These new drugs are formulated as gels or creams applied vaginally or rectally to prevent infection.

The need for a new way to prevent HIV infection, it is said that up to 16, 000 people are infected daily, is paramount, as these figures from the United Nations show. Also, to use this method of prevention would give women just as much responsibility for protecting infection as he partner if he chose to use a condom.

President Mbeki inaugurated South Africa's new constitutional court yesterday in a rebuilt 100 year old prison where Nelson Mandela, Mahatma Gandhi and captured Boer war generals were all once detained.

The R492m /£40m edifice on the site of the former Fort prison, now renamed Constitutional Hill, is billed as South Africa's most ambitious public building project since white minority rule ended with elections in 1994. – AP [ADB] –

Wed 23

Letter **A Stone, International working group on Microbicides** a plea for all the previous works on microbicides, by a number of eminent European and British scientists, not to be downgraded at this time.

It is pointed out that this 'eve of trial' position could have not been reached, where a dozen novel microbicides will be tested in the field. Also ponder of the economic, health and demographic effects if only one is effective in stemming the spread of the HIV virus.

Wed 24

The personal promise, made by the British prime minister to foster a voluntary disclosure code for the oil industry, is seemingly inadequate. According to a report, by Global Witness, in Angola where a quarter of the countries oil revenues are still unaccounted for each year, the state oil company, Sonagal, continues to receive secret signature bonuses from western companies which are hidden in offshore bank accounts.

Further, a recent IMF transparency drive has confirmed accusations in a previous Global Witness report that \$1.7m a year from the state coffers between 1997 and 2001. Despite the government in Luanda making a promise to tighten up procedures the GW report details a new method of fiddling. There is a common use of so-called tax havens to move oil money around and pay overseas business partners. It found that only some of Sonagal's income touched Angolan soil. This is despite there being laws that require oil money to be managed by the central bank.

Wed 31

A, still unrated decision by the Angolan government, to ban the import GM modified food aid, could see almost 2 million of the countries population go hungry says the United Nations. Concerns are heightened as 19,000 tons of modified maize, – donated by the United States, is due in port within days.

The government in Luanda, along with the administrations in Zimbabwe, Malawi, Mozambique and Lesotho, has taken the decision to reject unmilled seeds. Zambia went even further and refused even milled seeds.

Although the civil war in Angola ended 2 years ago the 400,000 tonnes the UN's World Food Programme were expected to send over the next 2 years was to have come from GM crop producing farms from the USA.

“total population of Khayelitsha and Crossroads 5,000. Number of toilets 2” also” the company De Beers was named after the two brothers who owned the Kimberly land where diamonds were discovered.” – from **On Foot Through Africa** by **F Campbell**. Published by **Orion** – 1994 – page 9 and page 45 -

APRIL 2004

Fri 2

According to a graphic, produced by the United Nations, the life expectancy at birth of South African women is 51 years. A comparison; UK 81 years and Zimbabwe 33 years.

The South African international footballer, Lucas Radebe, who has played most of his football at Leeds United, is to fulfill a dream back in his homeland. Before talent scouts whisked him off to England the Soweto born player had visions of becoming a teacher.

Now with the help of the Elland Road based internet programme Learning with Lucas devised by Leeds United and Education Leeds, his early ambition will be realised. The programme is delivered by the LU learning centre and I M Manchu High School in Balfour, Mpumalanga.

The joint initiative was launched last year when the principal of IMHS, P Njobe, visited England. The scheme is an extension of the Playing for Success, which has been running at the football clubs Learning Centre for the past 5 years. – **YEP page 2, C 1** –

Sat 3

A report from Amnesty International it is stated “In South Africa in 2000 52,975 rapes were reported, with the 12 – 17 year group being the most vulnerable.” – **The Big Issue, page 6** –

Sun 4

News item, 80,000 ANC supporters, gathered in a stadium in Soweto, to hear president Mbeki promise further government action to lessen the spread of the HIV virus if the party is returned at the coming general election. At this, the last mass government rally the president also promised action on a wide spectrum of concerns. – **R4 news, 22. 00** -

Tues 6

The culmination of Operation Rolling Thunder, a joint police and army venture deep inside KwaZulu Natal, is according to whom you talk a mission with two aims. According to the security forces the incursion is only intent on the seizure of illegal weapons and substances from the criminal fraternity, prior to the general election. To this end, this three week sweep through the province has netted over 100 illegally held weapons and 3 to four tons of cannabis.

On the other hand, with the control of the province in the hands of the ANC 's bitter rivals, the Inkatha Freedom Party (qv), party members indicate that the sweep through the

politically divided province, is to ensure that the voters force a change the political balance at the end of polling day.

The robbery victim, who was dropping a fellow musician off at his home in Johannesburg, has been named as Gito Baloi aged 39. The bass guitarist, and one time member of the jazz Tanananas, was hit in the neck when two men fired three shots into the car in which the two were traveling back from an engagement in Pretoria.

Wed 7

Even after the US sponsored Botswana sponsored conference (qv 20/3) the pricing of medicines to combat the Aids virus are a cause for concern for those on low incomes. To this end the Global Fund and the Clinton Foundation (qv) have recently signed a deal that will see the price of generics fall within the price range of those whom most need them.

The deal, with five generic drug companies will bring the cost of Aids drugs down to \$140 / £76 per person per year. The deal will also cut the cost of testing equipment by 80%.

The done deal, a blow to president Bush in an election year, dismisses the assumption that these drugs, despite being cheaper, are no less effective that those produced by America's drug manufacturers.

According S Lewis, the UN's secretary general's special envoy for HIV/Aids in Africa said "This initiative, along with the WHO's '3 by '5; putting 3 million people into treatment by the end of 2005 could well spell the turnaround of the HIV/Aids pandemic in Africa."

Fri 9

However the people of South Africa view their president who leads a "government of the people, for the people, by the people" Thabo Mbeki is the head of that government. As such it is one that is led by a "president who doesn't like people."

Such a sobriquet of being a leader, but not being liked by the masses, comes from the time he was in exile in Britain, and a supporter of the, not very well liked, London football club Milwall.

Following from the decision, in 2002 (qv 4/10), by the government of Namibia to attempt to seize white owned farmland 'advisers' from Zimbabwe have arrived in the country. Since the inception of the plan only 1% of land has been taken into government control. This has allowed 37,100 people to be resettled.

Sat 10

An attempt “to try and understand how a country so rich in the most coveted sources of our time; oil can fall to the bottom of every scale of human development” leaves many questions.

How is it that in Angola, where almost 1m barrels of oil are pumped to the surface every day, 70% of Angolans live in poverty? The capital, Luanda, once known as the Paris of Africa, is still resplendent in 1960’s style concrete apartment blocks and has been abandoned by government ministers who now live away from the city. The city is now home to some 4 million people who come to the city looking for refuge from the recent civil war.

As to those who extract the oil, the foreign workers, they live in walled compounds on the outskirts of Luanda. “Most foreign workers earn more money in Angola than they would anywhere else due to extra ‘hardship payments. - D Eviatat, *The Nation*, 12/4 –

Sun 11

Days away from the 2004 general election the president has attacked the opposition parties and the Democratic Party specifically, with claims that they would like to see a degree of polarisation between the native groups that make up the multi racial South Africa.

Speaking as party leader Tony Leon attacked the ANC “ There is nothing so calculated to polarise the people of South Africa as the idea that anyone who disagrees with the ANC is seeking to divide the country and re – impose a system of apartheid on its people.”

Predicting a 75% majority vote for the incumbents – despite predictions of low voter turnout – the future of the New National Party, in power only in Cape Province with only 13% support, gives cause for concern as to their existence as a political party.

Of great concern is the number of HIV/Aids victims and the children left orphaned over the time of the next parliament. It is estimated that the virus is killing between 600 to 1000 people every day.

Something that the author will miss; no means of reception, at this time, is **The Orphans of Nkandla**, *BBC4*, 13/4 –

As an indicator of how well the South Africans are fairing, on the verge of the countries third multi racial election, look at two points. The advertising company Ogilvy and Mather has been chosen to run campaign for the ANC. Rejected was the company was Lascaris. The difference; in one, the wife of Nelson Mandela, Graca Mandela has an interest. As for the other where Cyril Ramaphosa (qv) has a large share holding too bad.

Tues 13

As the third general election approaches it can be seen that the black middle classes are now free, and economically able, to move into the former whites only suburbs of cities such as Johannesburg.

One such economic new migrant is Ms N Philiso aged 35, who is beginning to acquire all the trappings of a middle class existence. As a financial manager at the public broadcaster SABC she is well able to finance a residence move from Soweto to the white Johannesburg of Florida. To many of those left in the township Ms Philiso has also acquired the Black Man's Wish; the ownership of BMW 320I series, in exchange for her township vehicle a VW Golf, even though the cost was £23, 000.

As the trappings of black advancement spread, there is still evidence that there are two many blacks who remain trapped, as a group, below whites who are desperately clinging onto economic power. This 'banding' effect comes despite a government initiative to encourage the ceding controlling stakes to black firms.

According to research for the Black Economic Empowerment Scheme there are fewer than 30 of 450 organisations listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange that have significant black ownership. White males dominate the boardroom, with a 'cappuccino' effect attached to the few blacks in 'visible but powerless positions.' Exceptions to this rule are found in Cyril Ramaphosa and Tony Sexwale, both who were of high ANC standing.

Academics feel that this system cannot continue without alienating the masses, which may number as many as a third of the population. However hope is at hand. In a move in the township of Alexandria, 400, 000 shacks in one square mile, the benefits of a 'pay as you go funeral plan at £1, 7000 will be put towards the cost of purchasing equipment for hire at family wakes.

Wed 14

Opinion polls indicate that the African National Congress will once again, for the third time, hold the majority of the seats in the National Assembly. The real battle will be in the provinces. Of special interest will be the outcome in Western Cape, where the New National party is only able to rule with the support of the ANC, and KwaZulu Natal where the Inkatha Freedom Party holds sway.

Ten years on from South Africa's first free and fair elections, a look at the achievements of the ANC, and a missed opportunity. The return to of New Eersterus, the place of his birth, a journey of 45 minuets to the north of Pretoria, has shown J Malala, the editor of the New Day newspaper finds him musing on 15 years of majority rule.

Fifteen years ago, as on of the apartheid regimes 'dumping grounds' for those expelled from soon to be 'whites only suburbs', was one of corrugated shacks, with no running

water of electricity. During the intervening years brick houses, and schools have been built – in the early years by the residents themselves, then post 1994 by the government.

As to government successes, over the Mandela/Mbeki years, the budget deficit dropped from 9.5% of GDP [1993] to 1% [2003]. Public sector debt has fallen from 64% to less than 50%. Inflation stands at 4%.

The one ‘fly in the ointment’ to this success story is the government, especially from the Mbeki regime, is their response to the epidemic of the HIV infected people that is sweeping the nation. Here in his own village, from his mother block of 18 houses four young people have died in the last few months. Such is the crisis funerals have to be staggered over the weekends and to be in the funeral business is to be in one of the most profitable sectors of the economy.

Thurs 15

Despite the opinion polls predictions of voter apathy the lines of voters were still evident as the scheduled time of closure, 9pm, so much so that officials from the Electoral Commission stated that those in line would be able to make their cross for one of the 26 parties taking part.

All over the country there was little evidence of violence that had marred earlier times. So confident were officials in Pretoria that the elections would be free and fair that they rejected offers from the UN and EU to send impartial observers to any of the countries 17, 000 polling stations.

As to the final result; predictions were not would the ANC win, but what would their majority be. Some people expect the party to hold two thirds of the seats in the National Assembly, as well as win control of KwaZulu Natal from the Inkatha Freedom Party.

Fri 16

With just half of the votes counted the ANC has 69%, up from 66.3% in 1999. At the first multi national elections their share of the vote was only 63%. The outlook for the New Nation party had collapsed from 7% to 2%, despite this fall in support there was no thought of resignation by party leader M Schalwyk. The Democratic Alliance party increased its share of the vote from just below 10% to 14. 4%.

In the most keenly fought of the provinces, KwaZulu Natal, the state of the parties is such that there may be no party with an outright majority. This would lead to a coalition as at this time the status is ANC 43%, IFP 39% and the DA on 11%.

Seven million eligible voters did not do so, voter apathy after years of struggle and the battle for a fair deal for the unemployed, those suffering from poverty and the constant struggle against the HIV/Aids virus. The turn out among the 20m who did vote was 70%, as against 89% in 1999.

Still the African National Congress draws almost universal support from South African voters even after 10 years in power. Is there no alternative? No not in the eyes of this generation of the black population. Too fresh in the memory, still, are the hardships and deprivations of the last 40 odd years of the apartheid regime. However for a country to be fulfilled a democracy must have an alternative to offer the people.

Sat 17

Ten years on in South Africa it is notable that, unlike many other black African countries that have recently won their independence from the whites, there is little – if any evidence – of the country following the pattern that has been evident over the years.

To look at African countries, that gained there independence from the 1960's onwards there is a recurring theme. While those that won power, all those years ago are in the main still in control. There is evidence of corruption, manipulation of the people; the banning of an effective opposition and a government that is not open to question by the international or local community.

In the case of South Africa there is 'open government'- to be questioned and investigated by all. This was highlighted by the case of J Zuma, the deputy president (qv), who faced investigation over financial links with big business. It is also noted that demonstrations against government policy not only come from those politically opposed to the regime, but from members within the ruling party – note the change of tactics by the authorities in tackling the current HIV/Aids crisis.

It is felt that the biggest worry for the new government is the rising crime rate up 33% between 1994 and 2003. "As long as the government continues to be in denial about crime and as long as society turns a blind eye to white collar crime in the private sector, the great strides that South Africa has taken in establishing a tolerant and economically viable society risk being undermined." – **Z Mda, author and dramatist Market Theatre, Johannesburg –**

Sun 18

With 95% of the votes counted in the recent general election the support for the New National Party, it's post apartheid re – incarnation, has fallen to 1.7% [1994 20%, '99 7%]. In contrast the ANC has 69% of the vote. The Democratic Alliance has 13%.

Political analysts foretell the disbandment before the next national elections as their core supporters, among 3m Afrikaners, feel that the party is too besmirched by apartheid.

In Western Cape the party will now have to be a very junior partner in a coalition with the African National Congress.

Sat 24

A white couple, the M and E Gormley, who took the 'chicken run' in 1999, have been refused refugee status in the United States. Their application, based on the premise that they would become victims of the rampant crime wave that is endemic in their homeland, was turned down by the appeal court in San Francisco.

In denying the application Judge K McLain Wardlaw, said that the evidence offered; being mugged and the loss of mobile phones was only reverse discrimination and they were not especially vulnerable to crime because of their colour.

Despite polls showing optimism about the future, in South Africa, more than 16,000 people emigrated in 2003; a 50% rise on 2002, which in itself was the highest number since 1994, to places like the USA, Britain, Australia or New Zealand. So concerned are the authorities, in Pretoria, that a Come Back Campaign has been launched. Evidence, supplied by airlines and removal firms, show that the campaign; targeted at skilled workers is having some success.

Sun 25

The iconic status of Nelson Mandela leaves you to wonder if all his utterances are made in all honesty. Some answers, to questions that deserved a thoughtful reply, received one that could be said to be flippant.

"Why did you compromise with the apartheid regime?" NM "We wanted to inherit their road system in tact." To the question why he appears not to hate his former oppressors? came the reply. "They did a lot for me. They locked me up for 27 years, meaning that by the time I came out I was too old to be corruptible."

If the experience N Tsepe, proved HIV positive after two 'no shows' at a Botswana hospital, is an indication of the way that the government treats its Aids patients then their life expectancy can be assured.

Diagnosed in 8/2000, weighing 7st 7lbs, this patient has been accepted for a course of treatment, with anti retroviral drugs (qv), at the Princess Marina hospital in Gaborone the countries capital.

At the hospital, the final legacy from the British colonialists in 1966, the programme is run by Dr N Ndwapu the head of the infectious diseases clinic treats that 17, 500 patients. Despite the shortage of doctors the programme is expected, eventually, to take in 110,000 Aids sufferers. As of now the patient; the second holder of the title 'Miss Stigma Free HIV weighs 11st 9lbs and is back at work.

As is well known the HIV virus attacks the body's white blood cells. The key to the treatment being offered by the Princess Marina hospital is the point at which treatment is begun. In other African countries it seems that this is offered when the white blood cell

counts is above 350 wbc/mm. Those patients being treated in Gaborone are offered anti retrovirals when the wbc count stands at 200 or below. Some of the patients have had a cell count as low as zero and still survive. Evidence from the trial finds that providing drugs are given at least 6 weeks before a patient is expected to die, they can recover.

Having had 17,000 patients pass through the programme a success rate 90% of patients have lived. In Botswana the average white blood cell count of an HIV infected person is 86. – **Sunday Times** –

Mon 26

Following the recent general election the African National Councils 69% of the votes cast (qv 18/4) gives them 279 seats in the 400 seat National Assembly. – **S Graham, Business Day.**

The country is now a beacon of democracy in a region where it has previously failed to thrive. – **The Australian 19/4** –

As to the performance of the ANC – its ability to adapt and adapt in an ever changing political environment - has been incredible. The basis for this was the adoption of the Freedom Charter, adopted in the mid 1950's. – **Monitor, Uganda 20/4** -

In office the party has had an admiral record, in achieving what it has, however measured against its own promises of socioeconomic reform it has done less well. In the future much will be made of the governments ability to keep intact its alliance with the Communist party and the trade union movement COSATU. – **Canberra Times, 21/4** –

Observers believe for the ANC to have such a grip on the electorate is unhealthy, as far as the party deciding to become the only political party allowed. However to counter this fear of a one party state there is a large business infrastructure in the country – along with inquisitive journalists to prevent this. – **The Economist 17/4** –

The message of 14/4/04 for the authorities in Pretoria, and all South Africans, is that the old parties of opposition – NNP, and to some extent the DP and Inkatha – are doomed. For the time being there will be no other government than the African National Congress. That is until there is a credible government in waiting. – **S Friedman, Business Day 21/4** –

The future, one of democracy, is now the only way forward. With racial tension on the decline and the governments championing of the peoples self reliance and respect of human rights the country enjoys a new respect overseas. The only blip is the government's failure to create jobs. With an unemployment rate between 30 – 40% the authorities will have to make good their pledge to reduce the number by half. At the moment, taking into consideration global and local market conditions, their ability to do so may be limited. – **J Reed Financial Times 22/4** – **The Editor** –

With the perception, from non black businesses, that black empowerment is political correctness gone mad, a seminar was held in London – at the South African Embassy in Trafalgar Square organised by the emerging investment bank Bridgewall.

The message that South African investors and the government are trying to get across to the wider world is that the policy of Black Economic Empowerment is a positive step.

From Johannesburg to Cape Town a policy of having 33% of all board members and 25% of all executives will come from the black community in the banking, insurance and fund management sector is the only way forward.

Those opposed to the policy, which is spreading throughout all spheres of the economy, fear increases in business costs. Such is this fear on the London Stock Exchange that there is now a heavy discount on the value of companies with substantial exposure in the country.

Those who have signed up to the charter include Investec bank who have achieved 25% black representation on the board but only 10% of its management team are from the target work pool.

With the new insights these black managers are bringing to predominantly white employers new avenues of investment are opening. In the pre apartheid years, companies like Investec, and their associates were excluded from working for the state because they were not Afrikaners. In the wine production industry, one of the oldest wineries Boshendal, established in 1865, has announced plans to sell a 30% to Kovacs Investments 608, run by two former ANC politicians.

In 2003 the mining group Gold Fields sold a 15% shareholding to BEE group Mvelaphanda. Resources for more than £300m. Also the SA arm of the French oil firm Total handed over 25% of its voting rights to a black empowerment team.

Wed 28

As president Mbeki was sworn in for his second term as South African president the lawns and stage of the venue, Union Buildings, Pretoria, echoed to the sounds of cheers and boos.

As would be expected some of the adulation was saved for Nelson Mandela and, to a lesser extent, president Mugabe. This northern neighbour, reviled as a despot by some and by his supporters as an African nationalist by others, also made an appearance on this auspicious day.

Fri 30

Despite having lost control of KwaZulu Natal to the ANC the president Thabo Mbeki has offered the Inkatha Freedom Party two seats in his new cabinet. The positions offered were as number two in the ministries of public works and sport. As of this moment in time the positions were refused.

As with so much else that the newly emerged multi racial country of South Africa had to face in 1994 – the empowerment of black women – had to come to terms with the western fad for women to be thin and waif like has reared its ugly head. A fact – 10 years ago there were no reported cases of anorexia among black women. Since the end of apartheid the numbers of rural black women suffering ‘eating disorders’ has soared.

A scientific joint study, by the University of Zululand and Northumbria University, on how women perceive their bodies found, among the 40 British and 40 Zulu girls, found that more of the Zulu women appeared to suffer from eating problems than their British counterparts. The reason given was that the Zulu women wanted to look less like their mothers and more like western girls.

Highlighted by Professor C Szabo, principle psychiatrist in eating disorders clinic at the state run Tara hospital in Johannesburg, is the women 's perception of themselves. The giving of the ability of empowerment is all well and good. However if the women that are only shown to be this success are of the ‘waif, model type’ how else does the aspirant ‘empowered women’ reach this goal?

Other findings, from G Alexander, clinical psychologist in eating disorders at the private Crescent Clinic in Cape Town, sees white middle class anorexic and those suffering from bulimia. According to him they face other pressures – entry into university – will I get the required pass marks – and at the end will there be a job for me? Other eating disorder sufferers are white males. This may affect 10% of patients with eating disorders. The cause, affirmative action – negatively labelling them as bastions of the old ways.

MAY 2004

Sat 1

“Memphis in May chooses a country to honour each year as part of its month long celebration of bringing the world to Memphis. In 2004 Memphis in May International Festival is honoured to salute the great county of South Africa. Celebrating 10 years of democracy, in 2004 this country rich with heritage of struggle and ultimate victory is deserved of a grand salute. MIMIF is proud to present South Africa.”

Events include – a photographic exhibition, Kent Underwood and the artistic endeavors of A Badenhorst to showcase the nature and wildlife and nature of the country. An exhibition – South Africa’s Struggle for Democracy – a showcase for artists whose work deals struggles under apartheid. A moving collection of exhibits reflects recent examples of contemporary art. The exhibits cover the period of the struggles under apartheid and the human rights abuses and through to the post apartheid times.

Ngoma Drum and Dance, with a performance by the Watoto de Africa ensemble, who are a group of children - aged between 3 and 17 years. They perform a mixture of African and African American choral works dances and songs as a tribute to South Africa.

The wide culinary versatility of the country is not left out. The food writer, stylist and food editor of True Love Magazine – the countries most read woman's magazine - Chief D Sitole. The author of ‘Cooking from Cape to Cairo – A Taste of Africa’ will host some of the countries top chefs as they prepare unique dishes.

Open to 8 – 12 year old' s the AMACULO Mesmerising Songs of South Africa takes a journey through South Africa, through music and story telling. Principle conduit is the actress and choreographer T Dumakude. No stranger to the USA Ms Dumakdue, who has taken time away from Broadway Cares /Equity Fight Aids to promote awareness and prevention of Aids in South Africa is a diverse performer, as is seem when it is noted that she has sung at Nelson Mandela 's 75th birthday party and performed in the Lion King on the New York stage.

Musical notes – the performance of Jonny Clegg and his Band and the Soweto Strings (qv). From the Our World musical audiences will be entertained by a mix of jazz, reggae and traditional Afrikaans music. Drum Café, percussionists, Kumba House Dancers.

Also on show will be a representation of a Diamond mine where participants can experience the art of mining – an industry that is vital to the country’s economy. Also open will be a typical market place, for the purchase of arts and crafts. – **promotional literature, notes from Calendar of Events -**

Sun 2

According to the Saturday Star newspaper this current overseas visit to the Caribbean will be Nelson Mandela's final out of South Africa experience. He is in the area to try muster support, from other contending countries, to win the right for South Africa to host the 2010 World Cup.

With this trip completed the 85 year old will hand more of his engagements over to members of his charity to handle. The former president, who has made this trip against his doctor's orders, will then be able to spend his time in writing the second volume of his autobiography. That is the theory anyway.

Mon 3

Devoid of a cabinet position, for the first time since 1994; the leader of the Inkatha Freedom Party, Chief M Buthelezie, had recently to bury his son. Prince N B Buthelezie aged 53 was laid to rest on 28/4.

In his oration the former cabinet minister revealed that his son had died because of the Aids virus. With this death of his "son of Africa" he felt that he could feel what so many relatives of Aids infected parents felt at similar times.

Speaking of his release from cabinet duties the IFP leader indicated that his time would be better spent, now that he could speak out, without the restraints of cabinet confidentiality. As part of his funeral oration there was implied criticism of the president over the treatment of Aids victims.

At the same time that Nelson Mandela announced that he would cut down on his workload overseas notice was given that the former president's first wife had died on 30/4 at the age of 82.

The two married in 1944 and had four children, though two died. As he went into politics, she became a Jehovah's Witness, and they separated in 1955. She worked as a midwife, owned a successful grocery store, and did community work. In 1988 she married a retired Soweto businessman, who was also of the faith.

Wed 5

Obituary, Evelyn Rakepile born 1922 died 30/4/2004, as E Mase from Encogbo in the Transkei who lost her mother and mine working father before she was 12 went to live in Soweto with brother Sam – in the home of W Sisulu (qv). From high school to the medical life – a nurse.

Caught the eye of Nelson Mandela – a frequent visitor to Sisulu's home in the 1940's. Married in 1944, then – because of a shortage of house space – went to live with her brother in Orlando East. Later they moved on to her sister's home. Daughter number one

arrived in 1945. As she saw less and less of the leader of the ANC Evelyn took a course to train as a midwife in Durban. Rumours of Nelson's affairs with other women did not lead to a harmonious lifestyle between the two as is shown by her moving to Johannesburg. An attempt to return Nelson to his Xhosa aristocracy way of life in the Transkei, the loss of daughter number one and a second's birth – in 1954 – saw her turn more and more to the church.

With her failure to persuade her husband to choose her and the children over the ANC she moved out in 1958, to Cofimvaba in the Eastern Cape, where she opened a grocery store. Further tragedy occurred in 1969 saw the death of their son, Thembi Mandela, of which dad was not allowed to attend the funeral from his Robben Isle residence. They were divorced in 1998 to enable her to marry a fellow Jehovah's Witness – S Rakeepile, a retired Soweto businessman.

Thurs 6

The London listed SABMiller* has launched a hostile take over bid for the Chinese brewer Harbin. The shareholders in the countries fourth brewer had been offered HK\$4.30 per share. This would value the company at HK\$4.3bn, £310bn.* In what the author believes is a reference to South African Breweries

The move was initiated when Habin's management tore up an agreement with SABM after the provincial government arranged for its 29% holding in the brewing company fall into the hands of rival brewer Anheuser Busch, the worlds largest brewer, which produces Budwiser.

The building consortium BLB; US property firm Starwood Capital, Kerzner International and the casino developer Waterford Group have outbid the American firm, with a bid of £8. 60 per share, MGM Mirage to acquire control of the Wembley the slot machine and dog track operator.

Sol Kerzner (qv) owns Kerzner International the controversial Johannesburg businessman who during his time provided the 'entertainment facilities' for the apartheid regime, just across the border in the former homeland of Bophuthatswana.

Sat 8

Pretoria, only now emerging from the shadow of the apartheid era, has eventually shaken off its dour image as the "capital of apartheid". Home, for more than 40 years to the administrative centre of the brutalising regime, it now emerges; after three swearing ins of a black presidents as a city of culture.

In recent days the inauguration of president Mbeki which encompassed a concert, with performances from the likes of Hugh Masakala, Abdullah, Letta Mbula and Caiphus Semenya, performed before no fewer than 20 African heads of state and an audience of 40, 000.

Otherwise the city can boast the State Theatre which recently performed an Africanisation of the opera La Traviata, which according to sources did not exploit the opera's message to its full advantage. There has also been a performance of Handel's Messiah, in Afrikaans, English and Xhosa with an audience, seated in a shopping centre, of nearly 500 whites.

Tues 11

Consistent with moves to lighten his workload Nelson Mandela (qv 2/5) has made his last speech to a joint sitting of both houses of the National Assembly in Pretoria.

With praise for his successor "His achievements as president and national leader is the embodiment of what our nation is capable of," came with a warning that the spread of Aids/HIV threatened the existence of the country. "Nothing impairs the dignity of a person so much as not being able to find work ... HIV/AIDS continues to threaten our future in a particularly frightening manner."

Other nation leaders were in the sights of the former president. Speaking without naming Bush or Blair Mr Mandela lambasted the USA and Britain as "so called democracies" for launching a war in Iraq. "Historical enemies succeeded in negotiating a peaceful transition from apartheid to democracy exactly because we were prepared to accept the inherent capacity for goodness in the other."

This is the day – exactly – that the former Robben Island prisoner, leader of the African National Council was sworn in as the first leader of the new multi racial South Africa.

As an alternative centre for health care treatments the country welcomes more and more overseas visitors. In Cape Town the cosmetic procedures of Liposuction and a face-lift are the procedures favoured by British health tourists

A package, which includes the excess fat removal followed by a coastal tour, a 14 day altogether, will cost the equivalent of £3, 700. To have the same medical procedure carried out locally costs £2, 000 to £4, 4500.

To perform a facelift in Cape Town, with a tour of the wine lands, thrown in, as part of a 16-day trip will cost £5, 000 . In Britain the cost is £4, 000 - £6, 000 .

Fri 14

New research findings, by the Human Rights Research Council, released to the ThisDay newspaper, has shown that 5. 4% of children aged 2 years to 14 years were HIV positive. This compares 5.3% of the total population. Among two to nine year old 's the infection rate was 6.7%.

The survey also showed that 3.3% of children, between the ages of 2 to 18 years had lost one or both parents to Aids. The United Nations believes that the disease has orphaned 660, 000 children.

Sun 16

With a vote of 14 : 10, by the members of the board of the governing body of world football; Fifa South Africa has won the right to stage the 2010 finals of the World Cup. Their success, over rivals Morocco, was the more remarkable as the votes of the four countries from the African continent were not cast in Pretoria's favour.

The event, held in Zurich, was attended by high profile lobbyist, Nelson Mandela (qv 2/5); a fitting end to his overseas travels.

Mon 17

Arriving back in Johannesburg the executive members of the South African Football Association, on Flight 2010, heralded a joyous celebration. On an open top bus the members were fated through the streets of Soweto and Alexandria.

One concern, voiced by members of the South African Communist Party, was that the tournament should be open to all and the cost of seats should be kept low. Projected prices, at this early stage, put seats at a cost of R800, / £60 pounds.

News item, according to a survey, on behalf of the International Obesity Council, 25% of South African women are overweight. – **BBC Radio 2 14. 15 –**

To the question Why are Malawi's elections, which take place on 25/5, good for Africa Thabo Mbeki replied Mr Muluzi had completed his two terms as president and was stepping down as required by Malawi's constitution.

“This was an important sign to all around the continent.” This demonstrated the country had moved a “long distance from when Malawi had a president for life.” – **www. News24.com, South Africa 20/4, Editor GDN page 17 –**

Tues 18

Those concerned with the provision affordable medicines, for those who are HIV infected, have hailed the decision by the USA's administration's decision to allow purchase of cheap 'pirated' copies of Aids drugs.

This decision from Washington overturns one agreed in 2003 (qv 28/8) which protected those pharmaceutical companies that wished only their more expensive products were used.

The approval time of new drugs, which usually takes many weeks or months, will be cut to between two and six weeks. The usual cost of \$500, 000 will be waived.

Wed 19

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has told the South African National Parks authority it may take legal action to halt a cull of Himalayan goats, descendants of an escaped zoo pair, on Table Mountain, Cape Town. – *Reuters* -

Thurs 20

The percentage of women in the lower house of the national parliament is 32. 8%. By comparison in Mozambique the figure is 30% and in the UK it is 17. 9%. – **Source: IPU Electoral Commission of India, 2004.**

Sat 22

Such was the apartheid writ law that 'mixed race' climbing was not allowed, even though some of the best ascents were available in the Cedeberg Mountains says Ed February, who was denied a permit - in 1978 - to climb with his climbing partner D Chessemmond.

According to this disgruntled black climber "If the foremost people in this country had apologised then what is it for the mountain club to say they are sorry." – **Outside, 6/04, The Editor, GDN page 22** –

As seen by the close association with Leeds City Council and South Africa, a student from Makhumbuza School in Durban, along with the school's vice principal has made a flying visit to this inner city school.

Tholakele Ncobo, aged 19; known as Kelly to here friends, says that the buildings that the Leeds students are taught in dwarf her school, in Umlazi. However, the class sizes are much lower than the 40 – 50 students expected in her classes.

Mon 24

If the experiences of Gloria Bossman, aged 35, a hairdresser from the Johannesburg suburb of Yeoville, is common among black young; middle class women despite the setbacks, South Africans are full of hope and believe they can overcome the legacy of apartheid.

In a sunning up of the government record she finds that "the most important thing is I can vote, sit in any restaurant and drink from any tap. I'm stronger now: I can see women in parliament. I can tell my boyfriend to fuck off. Before there were places were I couldn't speak and places I couldn't to. Not now."

Despite the above there are still concerns; Aids Durban is running out of cemetery space: 7% of children are infected; and worst of all 77% of those HIV positive are South African women.

Other upward signs are the provision of 8.4m people who now have access to clean water. 3.8m homes with electricity. Government subsidies, for the needy are rising – a trebling of the numbers of child benefit being paid out. New homes have been provided for 1.46m people over the last 10 years.

Tues 25

During a presumed vehicle hijacking, M Visagle aged 19 was shot dead, by her father the former Springbok rugby player Rudi Visagle. The circumstances of the death, on 23/5, dad was woken as he slept in the family home, in Maggiesdal in Mpumalanga province, to hear his car being driven away. Reaching for his weapon he fired a shot through the window. On inspection he found his daughter, who was making an early 5am start to visit her boy friends home.

Police arrested Mr Vvisagale, who had been the victim of similar crimes in the recent past, as had others in this rural town, and then released him on bail. Whilst, under the old apartheid regime this type of crime could be classed as self defence the post 1995 constitution allows the use of a firearm when a life is threatened.

Official statistics show that violent crime is stabilising or decreasing. However the number of people killed every year is more than 20,000. An opinion poll on the peoples fear of crime, with 23% of those polled claimed to have been a victim of crime in the past year.

Showing in London's theatre land is a production of the Shakespeare play Othello, which features two of South Africa's leading actors, Anthony Sher and S Mka Ncube, who both bring features of the old apartheid regime into their characters, as they both on different sides of the racial divide.

News item, the Mandela Garden (qv 19/2) entered for the Garden of the Year at the Chelsea Flower Show has been awarded the Bronze Medal by the judges. **YTV Calendar News 18.00 – 18.30 –**

Mon 31

Namibia's ruling Swapo party has nominated Hikepunye, 70, the land minister who wants to speed up redistribution of white – owned farms to poor black people, for the presidential elections in 11/04.

His selection follows the planned retirement of President Sam Nujama. – *Reuters* -

JUNE 2004

Tues 1

Accusations of 'bully boy' tactics have been levied at the Department of Health by the chairman of the Oxford primary health care trust that has the private medicare company Netcare (qv).

Allegations, to be expounded upon within the next 24 hours, come from M Avis, the chairman of the South Oxfordshire PCT, to force a change in the vote by board members. They saw no need for the mobile cataract units that the DOH were, through Thames Valley strategic health authority, encouraging them to employ.

Hard on the heels that Nelson Mandela was cutting down on his overseas commitments (qv 2/5) comes further evidence of a slowing down of his pace of life. On the day that the former president opened the Rebatala Thuto secondary school in Free State, which was partly financed by the NM Foundation, a spokesman for the charitable body was set to announce that with his age; he will be 86 in 7/04 and his need to complete the second volume of his autobiography, he is to spend more time with his family.

Thurs 3

With characteristic aplomb the former president Nelson Mandela announced that the details (qv 1/6) simply mean that he is "retiring from retirement." However the local press would have its say.

Interviewed in the Mail and Guardian he said that "I'm confident that nobody present here today will accuse me of selfishness if I asked to spend time, whilst I'm still in good health, with my family, my friends and also with myself." Determined not to become a recluse he told reporters "Don't call me, I'll call you."

"Mr Mandela 's departure from public duties will rob South Africa and the world of a moral voice." Business Day. In the same paper A Mashiqui, a leading political analyst, told its readers that the former presidents greatest achievement had been the management of the country after the end of apartheid.

"As his long walk, slows to a shuffle, its time to say 'Thank you Tata.' Pretoria News

One dissenting voice, among the country's press, came from the Cape Times, which felt that at the "majestic age of 85" his retirement was long overdue. As for the president plea to be left alone by the press the paper said that "he had been extremely generous with his life, it is now time we gave it back to him."

Sat 5

With the foresight of monarch of Swaziland, Mswati the third, who pontificated on the desirability of democracy in 2003 (qv 21/4) the options are closing in. More used to the benefits of the Reed Dance, where he can choose a new bride from a 50, 000 strong crowd of women, the Commonwealth is urging him to “adopt a constitution leading to a full parliamentary democracy within 2 years.” This is in the light of the Kings preference to spend the equivalent of the annual health budget; £8m on the construction of a new palace.

In support of the Commonwealth the European Union ambassadors, to the landlocked kingdom, are to consider sanctions to “bring pressure to bear on the monarch” to do so. “In March, this year he forced out his parliamentary speaker, who publicly opposed the king’s request for £32m in public funds to buy two executive jets”.

Away from the palace a “quarter of the population of 1.1m population are impoverished and landless and the country has one of the highest HIV infection rates”. **B A Oohohe Africa Today, 6/04, The Editor -**

Thurs 10

Once the scourge of the anti apartheid establishment, until he was jailed, and lost his appeal in 1999 (qv 19/10), Eugene Terreblanche is spending his last hours in Rooigrond prison outside the town of Mafikeng.

Once the leader of the far right Afrikaner Resistance Movement, which could muster thousands of supporters, whenever their leader made an appearance, is now expected to be greeted by a relatively small crowd on his release.

Home, with his wife Marie, is not the farm, in the town of Ventersdorp, he left from. With the farm sold, to pay trial legal costs, he will live in a small bungalow in the town. Supporters have found him employment selling agricultural machinery and a few maize fields to plough.

As to the condition of the victims of the attack, for which he was jailed, P Moshabi aged 34 who lives in the Tshing township next to Ventersdorp, is considerably brain damaged. As a result of the beating given he is barely able to remember his name, talk or walk. The second victim, J Ndzima aged 44, attacked and injured by the AWB leader’s dog’s works at the local petrol station.

The high court, in Pretoria, has ruled that the 70 mercenaries, some of who are from South Africa, must be tried by whichever courts the governments of Zimbabwe and Equatorial Guinea decide.

Sat 12

The release of the AWB leader Eugene Terreblanche (qv 10/6) after his spell in jail was a low key affair. Fewer than 50 supporters of the leader of the racist white supremacist group were outside the parole office in the Potchefstroom to welcome him back after his five year jail term. Also in attendance was a much larger group of at least 100 blacks that were there to jeer and offer their hands to shake. They were refused.

The born again Christian, looking tanned from his time spent on the prison farm, has plans to buy back the farm he lost as a result of the expenses incurred during his trial.

Moving from the township of Alexandria to the plush suburbs of Johannesburg members of the Zulu nation have become the talk of the local radio stations and the letter pages of the newspapers.

It is the custom, when moving home, to offer a sacrifice to let it be known to the ancestors. As a recently moved R Sphiwe says "It is for the ancestors, you must let them know you have moved and to contact them you need to slaughter something". In this case it was a sheep. This was bought and brought to the high walled enclave, – out of view of neighbours, and via a VW Polo.

Thurs 17

A joint operation, by police in London and Durban, has uncovered a criminal plan that allows criminal elements to rake in thousands of pounds by providing bogus student visas for more than 1, 000 South Africans. Operation Taming, the result of 13 months police undercover work, saw 120 officers raid premises in London and Essex. There were 20 arrests. In Durban meanwhile police visited one property and made no arrests.

Those 'students' applying for a visa, for a 6 to 36 month stay in Britain would cost between £400 to £500 pounds. They could be renewed at further expense, would finance all manor of criminal activity; from drugs to prostitution and other organised crime projects indicated the head of the Maxim team. Set up 14 months ago, by Scotland Yard, to fight organised crime, team members said that any bogus students identified would be expelled. Those profiting from such schemes; the Mr Bigs' would have their assets seized under the 2002 Proceeds of Crime Act.

Pictorial evidence shows that Cape Town is positioning itself to become the service hub for the lucrative of the oil fields off the west coast of Africa, and hopes that capturing only 1% of this trade will create 12, 000 jobs in the Western Cape province.

Sat 19

With 'shock tactic' advertising the Johannes based Apartheid Museum hoped to attract visitors, until the advertising standards commission intervened. The offensive adverts designed by the advertising agency TWB /GR used a number of scenarios.

The first, of a series of three, a white man looks into the camera asks, “how do you stop a black man from drowning?” He answers: “You take your foot of his head.” Another features a black man with a different joke: “You’ve got two Afrikaners: one is fat and the other is thin. If they both jump of a cliff who will die first? The answer: “who cares? A third attempt, an Indian grins and asks, “What’s the difference between a Jew and a snake? One is a cold blooded creature of Satan and the other is a snake.”

To make the point that these ‘jokes’ are of a facetious nature the museums strap line “If you thought that was funny, we’ll show you why it was not ”. Such is the furore over these adverts that TWB/GR has offered to design new advertising material for the museum. Privately television networks; eTV and MTV have decided not to broadcast these controversial adverts. The state broadcaster SABC has yet to decide.

Tues 22

The ‘class action’ brought by victims of the apartheid regime in 2003 (qv 20/5) reaches another stage in the New York district court. Denied Pretoria’s assistance to seek financial compensation from named business conglomerates the eminent lawyer, E Fagan, will attempt to seek compensation for his clients from the ANC government itself.

The affidavits states that the post apartheid era administration; the African National Congress “acted in [the] same or similar fashion as they did during the apartheid era.” The Mandela government was named in the writ, but not Mr Mandela himself. Compensation of \$20bn to be paid into a ‘humanitarian fund’ is being claimed.

This decision to seek compensation in the above manor has forced has forced a group of claimants to back a rival ‘class action.’ In this instance a Johannes based lawyer, John Ngcebetsha, to concentrate legal moves against big business; those who profited because of pre 1995 policy. Among the corporations targeted are IBM, Anglo American, Gold Fields, Union Bank of Switzerland and Vatmeco.

The South African government will defend itself in court and are confident of winning.

Obituary, Aggrey Klaaste, 6. 1. 40 – 19. 6. 04, a lung infection have deprived the world of journalism, who fought of peace and reconciliation, the editor of the influential black newspaper The Sowetan.

Born to teacher parents, and one of eight children, in the town of Kimberly in the Northern Cape. 1943 the family moved to Sophiatown, the Harlemesque suburb of Johannesburg. After matriculating from Madibane high school, to the southwest of the capital, he gained a BA honours in journalism at University of Witwatersrand in 1960, just months before this seat of academia became a ‘whites only seat of learning.

First job as a cub reporter on Drum Magazine (qv). During the intervening years more work ensued on this magazine, the World and the Golden City Post. All his writings throughout the 60’s and 70’s would lead him to documenting the oppression of the

majority blacks. Following the 1976 Soweto Uprising and his writings for The World magazine saw him and the journal editor, Peter Quoboza, detained without trial. He was jailed for 9 months.

Upon his release, as well as his journalistic work, he worked on the committee of 10, which took over responsibility for the civic running of Soweto. He was appointed editor of the Sowetan in 1988. Following his retirement from that post, in 2002, he became an executive of New Africa Publications and the chairman of the Johannesburg Tourism Company. A wife and three children and an unfinished autobiography survive him.

Thurs 24

After years in exile, first in Britain and then, with the help of his wife Miriam Makeba, in New York, the musician Hugh Masekela has returned to live in the country he left in 1960.

His future plans include traveling through “central and southern Africa listening to its traditional music, learn some of it, and then put together spectacular shows that could tour the world.” By his thinking to ‘showcase’ the diversity of Africa to the world would bring its people more than the benefits gained from the game tourists, real business opportunities to a much needed peoples.

Fri 25

A campaign is urging Britons to buy South African goods and visit the country, 45 years after the start of the anti apartheid boycott.

Sat 26

Back in the 1990’s concerns about the stability of the country saw the work of futurists come to the fore. “An excellent example is the ‘Mount Fleur scenario project. This multi stakeholder process is credited with helping to dismantle apartheid by providing a shared and compelling positive vision of the future of South Africa in contrast to highly plausible scenarios of what could go very wrong”.

Mon 28

News item, a Briton, D Kempster, a merchandising executive of the hit show Lord of the Dance was killed in Johannesburg, as he returned from the musical’s performance which was being performed at the Nelson Mandela Theatre* in the city.

So affected were members of the cast by this incident that the future of the 6 week run in South Africa could be in jeopardy. The thief, according to Sergeant S Tskunke, hit the victim 3 times before making off with his laptop and shoulder bag. - Radio 2 news 15.00 -

JULY 2004

Sat 3

The lyrics to a song, made famous throughout the world by its inclusion in the musical The Lion King, was composed by a migrant Zulu named Soloman Linda who died in 1966. His resting-place is an unmarked grave.

Of all the songs sung in the Elton John musical, Mubarak, a 15 note melody which was written in 1939, was a 100, 000 seller when released in southern Africa and attracted adaptations from the likes of Pete Segre and the Weavers in 1952/3 as Widower. Success for 'The Tokens' in 1962 with the its now known title followed. When picked by the Disney Company for its animated tale of life in the jungle in 1994 the tune went global.

Using an archaic piece of colonial copyright law which states that all rights to a song reverts to a composers estate 25 years after his death the Johannesburg lawyer Dr Owen Dean, will pursue back royalties, estimated at £9000, 000 from the American corporation. Although some royalties have been paid to the composers remaining family, who still live in relative poverty, the high court in Pretoria will have the final say.

Mon 12

Pensioner, P Rabbinate, has entered the record books with a 100 meters dash in 30. 86 seconds. The previous best, for over 65's, of 36. 19 seconds was set by an Austrian.

Wed 14

The introduction of a non controversial attempt to stop crime seems to be working in Cape Town. Introduced from America, the method is simply one of mass staring at offenders.

Adopting the method from America a city councilor, J P Smith, and a group of like minded citizens have seen the crime levels tumble in the Green Point and Sea Point suburbs. Simply by staring at the unwanted; be it prostitutes, curb crawlers or drug dealers see them leave the area.

Thurs 15

As has already been seen Botswana is leading the way in the sub Saharan fight against Aids (qv 25/4). Encouraged by these results more hospitals in the capital, Gaborone, are using these methods to treat some of the 37% of the population who are infected.

Since these additional clinics have opened they have been overwhelmed with people seeking treatment says Dr E Dakota, the operations manager of the national drugs

programmer. Since the clinics started the median baseline for CD4 molecule's in patient's blood, the standard measure of their ability to fight viral infection, has increased from 50 to 84. The aim is to push CD4 counts up to 200.

Since its inception the clinics have seen 7,300 patients and enroll a further 20 each day.

Fri 16

The international development minister, G Thomas, has laid out the government's policy towards the prevention of the HIV/Aids virus. The minister was speaking at the biannual International Aids conference taking place in Bangkok.

The minister said that although the United States and his government were close allies there was a great difference in London's approach to curtailing the pandemic, than officials in Washington took. Whilst the American's would develop a strategy of abstinence from sexual contact, the British favour putting the onus on the women to protect their own reproductive rights, as the men in their lives are often unfaithful. To this end government money is used to pay for 49m of the 1bn condoms that are distributed in the developing world. To back up this stance there was an indication, from the minister that the government is on the verge of announcing its own £1.5bn Aids plan.

Seen as the most direct way, for women to prevent themselves being infected with the HIV virus, Microbicides (qv 22/3), are seen as the best way forward in sub Saharan societies where women have little say in how their bodies are used, and abused, by their men folk. Early trials of nonoxynol – 9, promulgated at the 2000 Durban conference, have been a failure as application to the cervix caused lesions, which allowed the virus to the body. At this time other microbicides have been identified that are not seen as detergents by the team working for the International Partnership for Microbicides.

Despite a second? 'retirement' Nelson Mandela (qv) made an unscheduled visit to the Thailand to make a plea, and for the world to do more, for those HIV patients that die from tuberculosis. This is the biggest killer of those suffering from the virus. This approach to a problem is typical of the former president. All can remember his appearance at the 2000 gathering, in Durban, which was – some say – the kick start that the international community needed to try and halt the spread of this devastating disease.

Tues 20

Obituary, Ethel de Keyser 4. 11. 26 – 16. 7. 04, born inside the country, to business owning Jewish owning parents, who furthered her education – English literature – back in England.

Becoming 'politically aware' herself, after the arrest of her brother, following the 1960 Sharpsville massacre, she returned home to emerge herself in the fledgling Anti Apartheid Movement. Perhaps her greatest coup was the behind the scenes organisation of the 'Stop

The Tour' campaign of 1969/70 of the South African rugby team, in which Peter Hain took all the media attention.

Then there was her work with The British Defence Aid Fund for South Africa - the British section of the International Defence Aid Fund For South Africa. Which led onto educational work with the Cannon Collins Educational Trust, which provided the much needed infrastructure for exiles from Namibia and then South Africa to train and then return to their homelands for the benefit of their country.

Post 1995, her emphasis turned to health care in this divided country through the Phelophepha Health Trust, which provided health care in the rural areas. There was also her work, still through the IDFSA, for the hearing impaired and those suffering HIV/Aids. In 2001 Ethel was awarded an OBE for her work for service to human rights.

Wed 21

As the fate of the mercenaries unfolds, in a Harare court, those with South African nationality have instructed their lawyers to appeal to the countries constitutional court to try and force the government to seek extradition for the 69 men held in Zimbabwe.

Whilst the government has already refused to intervene in the case it is considering to act if the men were to be found guilty and sent to Equatorial Guinea to face the death penalty. As the court reserved its judgment, lawyers for the accused said that the west African government had already made such a request.

Thurs 22

Nelson Mandela met all sides in the Brundi peace talks yesterday to find out how to protect minority Tutsis. – AP –

Sat 24

The rise and fall of the apartheid regime, as seen through the lens of photojournalist Ian Berry, has come to Leeds. The exhibition of his pictures “document massacres and riots, together with the daily life of all races”. – the author of this diary has taken a number of photographs – without flash – which are relevant to the time scale of his endeavors.

Sat 31

With reference to the above, see over; Soweto 2003, During a service at the Holy Cross Church in Orlando West Desmond Tu Tu dances to a hymn with his wife, Leah, at his side.

AUGUST 2004

Sun 1

Documenting the “ massacres and riots ... and every day life” (qv 27/7) Ventersdorp 1991 “for the first time policemen faced up to right wing AWB protesters in the western Transvaal town of Ventersdorp leaving two AWB members dead and some unfortunate blacks passing in a taxi who were shot by retreating AWB”. – catalogue notes from the Berry exhibition, Leeds Armouries Museum

“Meanwhile the country’s Premier League kicks off next week despite the arrest, in Operation Dribble, of 33 referees and officials for match – fixing. Nevertheless the 2010 World Cup is to be hosted by South Africa – where the murder rate is now eight times that of the US”. – an extract, Observatory -

Tues 3

A mob in the South African township of Tjokville, near Jeffreys Bay in the Eastern Cape, beat three men they accused of raping a girl, then covering them in petrol and tyres and setting them alight.

Police could not determine whether the three were alive when they were burned. One man will appear in court today on murder charges and more arrests are expected. – A Meldrum, Pretoria –

Obituary, Vella Pillay 8. 10. - 23 – 27. 7. 04 born in Johannesburg, one of six children, who used to help his mother hawk vegetables round the whites only suburbs, after attending the city school reserved for Indian Coloureds.

1948 while working, daytime as a bookkeeper for an Indian owned company, he spent his evenings – as a part time student at the University of the Witwatersrand- gaining his degree in this year.

Political education began here, joining the Federation of Progressive Students and worked with the Transvaal Indian Congress. One of his successes was to force the city council, under a campaign of non payment of water rates - for no supply – to reconnect those who had lost their water.

Another campaign success whilst at university, this time with the South African Communist Party and the South African Indian Congress, was in 1943 with the protests against Pegging Act. This limited the rights of Indians from owning property outside specific areas.

In June of his degree year he married a fellow member of the SACP – Patsy a woman of mixed European, Jewish and American origin – and moved to the Cape area. This was the only place that marriage across the race lines was allowed,

1949 January saw the newly weds leave for London for the politically active and formally poor lad from Johannesburg, to study at the London School of Economics for an honours degree in international economics on the evening shift. By day he took a job as a research officer in the city offices of the Bank of China.

1950 with both the SACP and ANC banned organisations in South Africa, this London ‘student’ became more involved in clandestine operations for the communistic elements of resistance. Because he managed the money, of the SACP, he was able to organise overseas military training – in the Soviet Union and China.

Because of the split in Sino Soviet relations, in the 1960’s, his influence was diminished with the SACP because of his links, through his employers, with China. However his links with the ANC, through the exiled Oliver Tambo were strong.

1960 founder member of the British Anti Apartheid Movement. Served as an executive committee member until the Movement’s usefulness was ended in 1994. Vice chair from 1980 – 1986. At other times he held the treasurer portfolio – being most effective when funds were low in the latter years of the 1980’s. Chair of the editorial committee of Anti Apartheid News, the organisation’s regular monthly update of news and views.

1992/3 returned home with the approach of a New South Africa, to work with other eminent economists of the Macroeconomic Research Group to produce the report Making Democracy Work, published in December 1993. This paper argued for a policy of coherent growth liberating the economic and social forces of the country to lift living standards of the masses. Under pressure, on all sides – western governments and international agencies – Pretoria abandoned the plan. Subsequent events have shown to shelve the report did a great wrong to the country. There are indications that this report and its recommendations may yet get the recognition it deserves.

For his work on Merge Vella Pillay was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Natal; Durban Westville.

Thurs 5

The journalist, A Meldrum based now, but still reporting on the Mugabe regime, in Pretoria, has been awarded a journalistic prize. According to the judges of the Kurt Skork award the Guardian reporter cited that his “work that instructs both politically and humanly by a reporter of remarkable courage, commitment and lucidity.”

The award, given by the University of Columbia in New York, is given in honour of the named freelance journalist, who was killed in a military ambush in Sierra Leone in 2000.

Sat 7

The hint that there is to be a book of the life of Nadine Gordimer, made on the occasion of the 2003 publication of her latest book (qv 22/5) has been completed. The authorised biography *No Cold Kitchens* to be published in South Africa in 2005.

At this moment in time there no plans for it to be made available in the United States or Britain, through the publishers of all the Nobel Prize winners books, in these countries Bloomsbury Publishing and Farrar, Straus and Giroux respectively. This is despite an exchange of letters between the book's author R Roberts, and the New York publishing editor indicating a favourable response as to content. In the end the final draft, which needed Ms Gordimer's approval, was withheld.

According to the author, which took 7 years of close co - operation with the author to produce a final draft of 7000 pages, the subject objected to inclusions that reported her feelings from fellow anti apartheid activists. " I keep thinking of how to score points of the silly bitch." The 'silly bitch' being Ruth First the assassinated wife of Albi Sachs who was killed in a letter bomb attack sent by the security forces.

Sun 8

The New Nation Party in South Africa, the rump of the party that introduced apartheid, is to merge with the African National Congress. – **OBS In Brief** –

Mon 9

President Thabo Mbeki yesterday hailed the disbandment of the South African political party that introduced apartheid after the New Nation said it is to merge with the ANC.
Reuters

Wed 11

Renewed pressure is being put on the German government for events that happened on this date in 1904. At that time Namibia, or South West Africa, was a German colony in need of more land space for those Europeans coming to southern Africa to make their fortune. In an encounter with the indigenous Herero peoples around Waterberg near Windhoek 60, 000 were massacred.

Descendant's of those killed, who have already instigated legal proceedings in a New York court, in 2003, (qv 23/10), will, on this anniversary day, demand an apology from the visiting German development minister H W Zeul. The minister will attend a commemorative ceremony in the town of Okakarare in the Otjozondjupa region of the country, where she will be met by thousands of those who were killed or were forcibly removed relocated.

One way out of the impasse, and claims of \$4bn from Deuce bank, mining company Terrell [Orenstein Koppel] and shipping company Deutsche Afrika Linie [Woermann Linie], is a reconciliation commission. It would be comprised of members from the Herero peoples and Germany. Its purpose, according to the law professor M Hinz, would be “to work out an appropriate form of apology and possible reparations and, hopefully, an out of court settlement.

Letter [1] **Nadine Gordimer Johannesburg** as to No Cold Kitchen (qv 7/8) being published outside South Africa to do so would breach the contractual agreement between R Roberts and myself.

A warning that a 2003 draft manuscript, containing the ‘unacceptable’ references to Ruth First has not been removed as requested, so to say it is my authorised biography would not be true. There are also other inaccuracies, and untrue statements, which cannot be addressed in the press.

[2] **Ronald Segal Walton on Thames** a defence of the Nobel laureate’s right to keep material she considers ‘private and irrelevant’ out of an authorised autobiography. Ms Gordimer is not seeking a wholesale ban on publication; it will be on bookshelves in South Africa in time. Here objection is that by ignoring contractual obligations the author has invaded her privacy.

News item, the General Medical Council say that there are 3, 000 doctors, from South Africa, working here. This is 6.3% of all the doctors working in the NHS. One example of this migration, which is denying health provisions in there country is that of a senior registrar who has upped his salary from £34, 000 pounds to £60, 000 simply by moving to London.

A senior theatre nurse, in Johannesburg, earning £7, 200 and assists in 600 births per month, is on the verge of moving to Britain. Here she will earn £23, 000.

News item, there are supposed to be government guidelines about poaching staff from the developing world. Theoretically only 2 year educational placements are offered in the NHS. What in fact happens is that private agencies offer these higher than home salaries to work in the private sector. Then 2 year placements are offered at the end of the contract. – ITN News 18. 30 –

Mon 16

Died, **Wilton Mkwayi 81**, anti apartheid fighter who served more than 20 years of a life sentence with Nelson Mandela in prison on Robben Island; in King Williams Town South Africa. Mkwayi helped found an armed resistance – movement called Spear of the Nation in the 1950’s. Convicted of treason in 1964 he was released as the apartheid system was being dismantled in 1989. – Time Magazine, Notebook, 8/8 –

Tues 17

Doreen Morris, daughter of a domestic worker now employs one herself. But with the new order of life, come new concerns about the treatment of employees; who are in all respect their 'sisters'.

Although there are some tasks the state broadcasters first black continuity announcer performs for herself, making her own bed or packing for her overseas trips, in her present capacity as an entrepreneur she still finds it helpful to employ Thulisile Ngwenya. A single mother who works from 8am – 5 30pm five days a week for £180 .

Some Black Madams find it difficult to cross their cultural history, of showing respect to their elders, as many of their domestic workers will be from this age group. In the 'old days' the madam servant relationship was well established; see SA Tape 3, Maids and Madams, 22.6.86. Each person knew his or her position in the hierarchy. As of this time the situation is more indistinct, as there is a possibility of motherly/sisterly role developing.

Speaking of the differences between a black and white employer, and how their domestics are treated, E Dhladhla secretary general of the South African Domestic Service and Allied Workers Union, says that "black are worse than whites' as employers. Even supposedly 'enlightened' ones; ANC MP's expect their workers to be on hand 90 hours a week and face unfair dismissal.

On the other side of the argument are the growing numbers of black domestics who refuse to work for a same colour employer. Reasons given are that they are unreliable; pay and conditions can change at a moment's notice. They, black bosses, regard themselves as above the law.

South African employers give jobs to 800, 000 domestics. About a 10th of the countries estimated employers are black. Within a decade thy are expected to be a majority.

Thurs 19

With a known HIV/Aids virus rate of 38. 6%, among pregnant women, in the southern African kingdom of Swaziland even the wives of the monarch are becoming concerned. Recently two of King Mswattie the Third's wives have left the Kings household.

Queen Putsoana, aged 30, is now living in South Africa, has left here three children with their father in 6/03. The Queen, one of the monarch's 11 companions is staying with her farther. Also Queen Delisa, known as Magwaza, traveled to London recently before returning home. It is thought that her return was a move to negotiate a discreet separation from her husband. In both cases the reason sited were the dangers to their health because of the Kings polygamist ways.

Despite the king's work to educate his people about the dangers of the Aids virus his critics are concerned that he is not setting the best of examples by his multiple marriages.

Sat 21

South African patients' groups have brought a case against GlaxoSmithKline before the competition court in Pretoria to try to get the price of its patented Aids drugs reduced.

Mon 23

Obituary, Peter M Brown 24. 12. 24 – 28. 6. 04 born into wealthy Natal family and educated at Michaekhouse School, in what is now the province of KwaZulu Natal. As a young man during World War Two he saw service in North Africa and Italy, as part of the Sixth South African Armoured Division. Moving to Jesus College Cambridge to study for a degree in Agriculture.

1948 having been influenced by the South African writer P Abraham he gave up his studies in England to enroll in a course of native law at the University of Cape Town. Upon graduation took employment with the Natal midlands health commission.

1953 co – founder of the Liberal Party of South Africa.

1960 following the Sharpsville massacre he was detained by the state for 98 days. This was an attempt to hinder his political energies, which was to try and prevent the Nationalist government's campaign of forced removal of the black community in rural areas.

1964 became a 'banned person' for the next 10 years.

1974 with the LPSA disbanded, because of internal strife and covert action by the governments intelligence bodies, and the emergence of the Progressive Liberal Party who, with Helen Suzman (qv), were prepared to adapt to the current situation a new political role had to be found. The next 30 years were spent editing the journal Reality; helped to finance legal defence in legal trials; and founded the Association of Rural Advancement.

1990's part of the 'notables' from Johannesburg who met with the exiled ANC National executive in Lusaka.

Tues 24

The South African right winger Eugene Terre' Blanche was released yesterday after spending a night in jail on charges of violating his parole. He was paroled in June after three years of a six year term for beating a farm worker. – *Reuters* –

Wed 25

News item, the son of former prime minister, M Thatcher, has appeared in a court in Cape Town. Sir Mark Thatcher, a long term resident of the city, has been linked – by association – with some of the people held in Equatorial Guinea on charges of trying to overthrow that countries government. – **BBC Radio 2, 14.00** –

Thurs 26

Not only was there shame of a court appearance for M Thatcher (qv 25/8), which was brought about by the high profile Scorpion police team, whilst he was being held in police cells some of his possessions were stolen by other criminals.

On the charge of helping to finance a failed attempt to overthrow the oil rich state of Equatorial Guinea, he pleaded not guilty. The son of the former British prime minister was bailed on a sum R2m, / £165, 000 until 25/11.

Sources indicate that the evidence, for his arrest, came from the ‘smuggled letters’, which were written by Simon Mann from his Harare prison cell to his wife; see authors Zimbabwe Diary, 21/7/04. The scrawled notes refer to ‘Scratcher’, now known to be Thatcher, to whom the imprisoned former employee of Executive Outcomes appealed for “a large splodge of wonga.” In the smuggled document the prisoner implies that it is now time for those who expected to benefit from a successful coup to support those detained. The expected ‘investment’ of \$200, 000 / £11, 000 was not detailed to expedite the coup but, the Thatcher defence will argue, was for the provision of a number of air ambulance helicopters for the west African country.

Other ‘notables’ of London’s establishment, mentioned in the Mann letter, was the disgraced peer Lord Jeffery Archer. It is alleged that under the name J H Archer a sum of \$134, 000, / £74, 000 was transferred to an account held by him.

After talks in South Africa the government has announced plans to close down the way that the National Health Service, in Britain, poach skilled workers away from the health service of developing countries. However to do this, according to the RCN, the poaching of these skilled worker s, will have to be prevented by private medical firms.

The minister, J Hutton, has to close the loophole that allows overseas workers to be employed on short term contracts and just renewing them as required. There was no comment on this announcement from the Pretoria administration. This may be due to the fact that Foundation hospitals – the health care way forward – according to the Labour government will be exempt from these changes. They will be ‘invited’ to behave ethically. This seems unlikely, as the founding principle of this type of hospital is a balance of public/private co – operation.

To further complicate matters, Britain will not put its name to a Commonwealth code of practice to limit staff poaching. Details of the code show that although no attempt to stop

the movement overseas of individuals, the 'poaching country' must compensate the nurse exporting country either financially or with technical assets.

In London the Nursing and Midwifery Council show that 2, 114 South African nurses registered to work in Britain in 2001/2.

Cartoon, [1] Two thoughts; from the Thatcher's "We are a Grandmother" Mrs T with "We are not a Godfather" from son Mark aka his 'link' to financing Equatorial Guinea coup.

[2] When a son needs his mothers help "Mummy Mummy" Mark Thatcher to Mrs Thatcher

Fri 27

In detailing their operations in the Cape Town suburb of Constantia, that led to the detention of Mark Thatcher, members of the Scorpion team came across evidence that the alleged financier of the Equatorial Guinea coup, to the tune of \$271, 000, was preparing to leave the country.

To the members of the South African Prosecution Authority such evidence will be a major part of the court case against him. To friends, who are more ready to believe an alternative explanation, the scattered cases, the putting on sale of his luxury home, with a price tag of R22m /£1.8m, have other meanings.

There was no sinister interpretation of the evidence, a change was being made either as a result of a downsizing of the home as his children were going to school in America, an attempt to save his marriage to an American heiress or that his business interests were now mainly based in there and it would be sensible to have a home in that country.

As to the legal moves the government of Equatorial Guinea have expressed an interest in extraditing the former prime ministers son. However a spokesman in Pretoria said that this was unlikely to happen, as the west African country still imposed the death penalty for this offence. According to M Nkosi, of the SAPA, South Africa is opposed to the death penalty and we wouldn't extradite someone to a country where they would face the danger of the death penalty."

Sun 29

With the end of the trial of Simon Mann, and the other alleged mercenaries; see Zimbabwe Diary page 28.8 04 **South** African police will attempt to charge those freed, to the north, with breaking Pretoria's laws. By becoming entangled in the movement of weapons – even if they did not, as claimed, know their destination – they breached South Africa's Foreign Military Assistance Act. This is the same piece of legislation that Cape Town resident 25/8) will be prosecuted under.

It has emerged that there was co – operation between the security forces of London and Pretoria prior to the arrest of Mark Thatcher aged 51.

Mon 30

Now back in the country H Carsle and L Horn who were freed from a Harare court (qv 28/8), accused of weapons buying, are to present themselves at the offices of the Scorpion investigation team. They are there to assist the police in there on going inquiries into the involvement of Mark Thatcher in the alleged overthrow of the government of Equatorial Guinea.

Within Cape Town Thatcher is still under house arrest as he has not been able to find the R2m bail set by the courts. Further evidence, gathered by the Scorpion team, has come from C Steyl, a pilot and J Kershaw, a computer expert. It is thought that their evidence has provided the police with a link between Thatcher and S Mann, something that has already been denied.

Tues 31

On the slopes of the Cederberg mountains, outside Cape Town grows the Rooibus plant which settlers have known for centuries for its health giving properties. Such is the interest that the South African Medical Research Council is to start a long term project to establish whether, as generations of users have claimed that an infusion of the leaves, drunk as a tea, can prevent the onset of cancer. According to the biochemist Dr J Marwenic, leading the MRC study extract of Roodibus, *Aspalathus linearis*, could one day be used in other products; sun creams or drinks.

First records of the brewed beverage came in 1772 from a botanist, but it was not till 1904 when B Ginsberg, a Russian immigrant decided to export it. More South African interest followed when, in 1974, its healing properties were extolled in a written form. Today 13, 000 hectares are under cultivation, which produces 8, 000 tonnes of the plant. Exports to Germany, Japan and the Netherlands take 50% of the product, with the rest for home consumption. In Britain, the fourth largest importer with 188 tonnes in 2003; 72 tonnes in 2001.

As to the taste, according to two ex pat Brits, “Wet socks in wellington boots, we don’t touch the stuff.”

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Thurs 2

Despite, according to the Sunday Times newspaper being valued at £60m, the bail seeking and under house arrest Mark Thatcher has seen his mother having to pay the £165, 000 demanded by the court in Cape Town (qv 26/8).

In Equatorial Guinea investigators are waiting for permission to be allowed to travel to interview him. The court, in the capital Malabo, has, under the attorney generals instructions, delayed the trial of the 14 suspected mercenaries held there. This will allow the investigation to gather together facts from several on going inquiries on “several fronts.”

Understanding of the Thatcher/Mann link, the transfer of money from Thatcher’s Triple A Aviation, then that payment went into the bank account of Logo; owned by the recently convicted former SAS soldier (qv 28/8).

Fri 3

To add to the near total control of the political system The African National Congress has benefited from a ruling by the constitutional court. This allowed town councilors, and other elected persons to change their political allegiance without having to face re election.

The ‘window for change’ is only open for 15 days. Already Cape Town metropolitan council, once controlled by the New National party, has thrown in its lot with the ANC. Nationally it is understood that at least 100 councilors have taken the opportunity to change their party support.

Sat 4

Sol Kerzner; an update with the liberalisation of Britain’s gambling laws due before the next general election the company owned by the initiator of Sun City that has expressed an interest in expanding in this country.

It is the intention of Kerzner International, which founded the ‘apartheid era’s recreational facility in the ‘homeland’ of Bophuthatswana to operate a casino in the northern city of Manchester.

Sun 5

As security officials, from Equatorial Guinea arrive in the country to question and possibly extradite the recently bailed Mark Thatcher, the difference in charges that he will face here or in the west African state, could determine his fate.

With certainty the alleged financial backer of the coup plot to overthrow president T O Nguema's regime will face charges under South Africa's Foreign Military Assistance Act. Conviction under this act would not lead to the death penalty. According to the attorney general of Equatorial Guinea his country's security forces will want answers to questions concerning the threat to the life of their president. Also charges could be laid before Thatcher, and the eight other South African nationals held in the capital. Of compromising the peace and independence of the west African state.

Also on the 'wanted for extradition list' are the British residents Greg Wales, a businessman and E Calil, an oil trader who is accused of masterminding the plot.

Mon 6

At a ceremony marking the centenary of the Herero people's uprising against their colonial occupiers, Germany's development aid minister, Heidemarie Wieczorek Zeul, offered her country's first apology for the crackdown, in which 65, 000 of the Hero nation were killed. – **World Watch 30/8,**

Wed 8

With an ever widening investigation those seeking the truth behind the attempted coup against the government Equatorial Guinea (qv) have called on the courts in Guernsey to make an order for financial details of one of the alleged plotters to be released.

The court has been asked, by lawyers acting for the head of state of the West African state, The company, owned by Simon Mann (qv), had already won a legal action in 4/04 to prevent such disclosure. This current case was to permanently stop disclosure

The Equatorial Guinea authorities say that transfers totaling \$230, 000/ £130, 000 were made by Systems Design to the bank account of Nick de Toit, one of 13 conspirators being held in the country. Investigators would also be interested in knowing the contents of safety boxes. If granted access, by the court, the information would be used in the high court in London to further its case against alleged backers E Cali, G Wales and the soon to be sentenced, in Zimbabwe, Simon Mann.

According to critics the ANC 's policy of Black Economic Empowerment Act of 2003 does not serve the 'greater good' of the black population to any great extent. The policy which was designed to transfer chunks of the economy to those "previously disadvantaged" by the white minority, has faced criticism from the brother of the president, who called the scheme which was designed to build bridges between the white and black community, a method of tying the benefits of the scheme to businessmen who

are loyal to the ruling party. A detailed look, of the 189 empowerment agreements reached in 2003, show that many have gone in that direction. 'Notables' who have seen their companies benefit include Tony Sexwala, Cyril Ramaphosa (qv) who have left government and become successful businessmen.

Obituary, Reverend Beyers Naude 10. 5. 15 – 7. 9. 04 Born in Roodiport, outside Johannesburg, to parents steeped in the Dutch Reform Church. With his father, Jozua Francois, being one to translate the bible into Afrikaans and become the first chairman of the Broederbond.

Following completion of an MA in languages at Stellenbouch University – the home of the Afrikaner intellectual – the son went on to study theology and socialise with such 'notables' as H Verwoed and J Vorster, both big in the repression of the majority blacks.

1940 married H Weder the daughter of a Monrovia missionary and he himself joined the secretive Broederbond. Following in Dads footsteps became a minister in the DRC in the town of Wellington outside Cape Town, holding the post till 1960.

1960 Horrified by the Sharpsville massacre (qv) rejecting the established National Party and moved to Porchefstroom where he mixed in the radical politics of this university town.

1961 founded the Christian Institute – a cross religious mix who questioned the ethics of apartheid. They were also working with the Institute of Race Relations.

1963 with an ever pressing burden of his political work he resigned as acting Moderator of the Southern Transvaal DRC Synod. For this act the Synod stripped him of his clerical role. This move was swiftly followed by a resignation from the Broederbond.

1973 working full time for the Church Institute, and suffering continual harassment from the police and security forces the organisation was subject to the Schlebusch commission parliamentary inquiry. Refusing to testify before them, in 1976, spent a night in jail after losing an appeal for non payment of a fine.

1977 a banned person for 12years. This severely restricted his movements and whom he could talk to. At this time he became ordained in the African Reform Church.

1985 served as general secretary of the South African Council of Churches for 12 years. Archbishop Desmond Tutu was the previous incumbent.

1990 part of the first ANC delegation to visit, with Nelson Mandela, the leaders of the apartheid regime.

Having suffered rejection by most of the 'apartheid era' elements of the Dutch Reform Church and at gatherings at their summer holiday enclave of Onrust, also a favourite

relaxation venue for National Party members, there were reunions all round, from the late 1980's as the apartheid regime realised its time was up.

1994 welcomed back as a member of the Dutch Reform Church.

Hard on the heels of the success the Soweto Gospel Choir achieved at the recent 46664 concert, they performed as backing singers for many of the performers at the Nelson Mandela sponsored Aids concert (qv), the choir has become open to a wider audience.

Formed, with a base in the Johannesburg suburb of Yeoville, 18 months ago the 26 strong group rehearse in the local community hall. Their overseas successes have been tours to Australasia, Singapore and Germany. There was also a sell out performance at the 2003 Edinburgh Festival.

Picked from the plethora of similar church choirs throughout South Africa and an idea from a Pop Idol style television programme the choir is now to perform in London, as well as their recording venture; Voices from Heaven CD.

Thurs 9

With a swipe at the authorities in Pretoria a report, from Refugees International, a researcher, A Lari, has condemned the way that those people fleeing from Zimbabwe are treated as they try to resettle south of the Limpopo.

Figures show that up to 50, 000 people are eligible for asylum. "Of the 5, 000 applications filed by the Zimbabweans, to date, fewer than 20 have actually received political asylum in South Africa." It is estimated that there are 2 million people who have fled from the Mugabe regime to try for a new life down south.

One of the problems, says the author, is the attitude of the refugee centre officials. There is evidence of these guards intimidating those who turn up with their application forms – the use of whips and dogs to drive away such people has been reported.

Also the United Nation's body, responsible for the care of refugees, the UNHCR, is accused of not taking the 'side' of those they are supposed to be an advocate for. The report says they down play the political crisis in the country, with a dismissive attitude to applications.

The authorities, in Pretoria, indicated that the immigration department could be more responsive to the floods of applicant. The director general of the department of home affairs, B Gilder, said steps were being taken to improve the system.

Fri 10

The investigation team, from the Scorpion police team, have been handed, presumably by Carsle and Horn (qv 30/8), a list of alleged backers of the failed coup in Equatorial Guinea. Referred to as the 'wonga list' (qv 21/7).

'Notables' named, E Cali \$750, 000 S Mann \$500, 000/ £281, 000 . Others named K Fallaha, an associate of E Cali, G Hershman D Tremain, who all contributed \$500, 000 to finance the abortive attempt to oust the west African president and his government.

In the London courts, the already under threat E Cali; from the government of Equatorial Guinea is considering legal action himself. He will demand damages, from the country's officials that accuse him of being the coup's financial backer.

Meanwhile in South Africa the on bail Mark Thatcher has been ordered to appear before a Cape Town magistrate and investigators from the west African state on 22/9. The son of a former British prime minister will then answer questions, as west African observers listen in. In Guernsey (qv 8/9) evidence hearings will continue, on 13/9, as the African government tries to uncover more financial wrongdoing. The court has already heard that £80, 000 had been moved from the account of a J H Archer to one of the companies owned by Simon Mann.

Sat 11

Passing a sentence of seven years in detention on Simon Mann, the 'principal' of the abortive coup against the government of Equatorial Guinea, the magistrate M Guvamombe said "the accused was the author of the whole transaction. He was caught while trying to take firearms out of the country." The sentence imposed was made up of two elements. For the purchase of dangerous weapons there would be a four year period in jail. For trying to purchase said weapons without a license a further three years in detention was called for.

As to his co accused the two flight crew, of the Boeing 727, which landed at Harare airport on 9/3 will be held for 16 months, on minor immigration and aviation charges. Convicted of the same offences the 66 mercenaries will serve 12 months detention.

Commenting on the sentence of S Mann defense lawyer, J Samkange said, "I think it was excessive and it induces a sense of shock." However there would be no appeal as to the length of the jail term.

Sun 12

Comments, from the lawyer acting for Mark Thatcher, on hearing of the jailing of his friend Simon Mann (qv), R Wheedlon, his Cape Town representative, said the outcome of the court case showed that the court found "no compelling evidence of a coup plot."

What evidence there was has come from Nick du Toit, a South African national, held and allegedly tortured whilst detained in the west African capital of Malabo.

As to any involvement of Thatcher, he is not named on statements given by Mann or du Toit nor is he named on a list of the investors of the coup plan. All the prosecution can rely on is evidence of the passing of \$275, 000 made to C Steyl, the pilot of the plane that flew from Spain to Mali carrying the exiled opposition leader in Equatorial Guinea, Dr Severo Moto. The defence will argue that this large amount of cash was for the purchase of an air ambulance enterprise in Sudan.

Mon 13

As the tour busses arrive in Soweto, to follow the area heritage safaris, some of the residents are not happy at these visitations from the wealthy overseas visitor. According to W Pumzili, 39, a street hawker selling fruit and sweets “they seldom step from their vehicles. After they take their photos, they run away.”

South Western Township, its original name, was settled 100 years ago after Johannesburg city council used an outbreak of bubonic plague to move blacks out of the city. They were moved to an area of countryside known as Klipsruit.

The modern day tourist has come to the modern day suburb to follow the trail; this they will do on a road constructed of bricks inscribed with the names of anti apartheid hero's. Of keen interest to those following the apartheid trail will be the Hector Peterson (qv) museum, Vilakazi Street, the site of the Mandela's marital [home and](#) the school where the children sparked off the Uprising of 1976.

Fri 17

With the permission of the home secretary British police, on behalf of the authorities in Equatorial Guinea, are to question the London based Ely Cali and his business associate Greg Wales (qv 5/8) as to their role, if any, in the discovered plot to overthrow the government of the west African state.

However the police will not be able to question the disgraced Tory peer Jeffery Archer, who was said to be the JH Archer (qv 28/8) named as having a financial interest in the outcome of the alleged coup. Nor would they be allowed to question Peter Mandelson. There could be no question of interviewing him on the spurious grounds of a meeting with E Cali.

In one legal respect Equatorial Guinea officials had a success. They were able to overthrow a temporary injunction, which prevented them proceeding with their conspiracy investigations against Cali, Mann and Wales.

Along with taking a ‘gap year’ Prince Harry in Lesotho (qv 4/3) took on the mantle of his mother. by showing concern for the child victims of the Aids virus.

Sat 18

Many of the 23 Angolans held in Zimbabwe's high security Chikurubi jail, after being detained at Harare airport; see Zimbabwe Diary 11. 3. 04 were former members of the notorious Battalion 32; active on behalf of the South African military in both Angola and Namibia in the 1980's.

From that time families of the Battalion were resettled at their former base of Pomfret, which is 100 miles away from any other civilisation. Since the heyday of the military men the area has been turned into asbestos mine, with all those inherent dangers for the families there.

Of the family members, prepared to speak out, it emerges that when S Mann came to recruit personnel the lime was that they would be employed as security guards in the emerging oil fields of Equatorial Guinea. For this they would be paid £4, 200 per month.

As for the nine men, from this desolate location, as well as the 12 months in a Zimbabwe jail they may face prosecution from the authorities in Pretoria. They could face similar charges to the ones that M Thatcher faces, namely the Foreign Military Assistance Act. If convicted they, like him, could face up to 15 years in jail.

Sun 19

Following on from the much publicised visit of Prince Harry to Lesotho (qv 4/3) there was a more extensive tour of the Aids ridden kingdom. As documented by ITN 's Tom Bradbury, see SA Tape 63, The Forgotten Kingdom – Prince Harry in Lesotho, the second in line to the British throne traveled extensively.

During his time there were visits to many village projects that endeavoured to teach of the dangers of the HIV/Aids virus. The prince was the guest of prince Setso; the son of the monarch in this land locked country.

As an initial benefit of the original publicity over the border farmers, from the Free State in South Africa, were able to offer assistance, something that they not aware was needed, in the maintenance of an orphanage in Maharsi that cares for children whose parents have died from the virus.

Then there was a trip into the mountains to visit the boys who are sent away to look after goats, which hopefully keeps them away from danger. Despite these measures of the 1m children in the country 20% of them are infected with HIV.

Finally a visit to a refuge for child victims of abuse situated outside the capital Maseru. One of the residents, looked after by Catholic nuns, was the 10 month old Liketsu. Staff explains to the prince, who first saw her 3/04 and was much moved by the experience, that the raping of a young child, as Liketsu was, can stop the Aids virus causing any more

damage to a sufferer. On his return to the orphanage, within the last 14 days, the child was a different person as to the one seen on the earlier visit.

Mon 20

After a 12 months investigation the Pharmaceutical Shareowners Group, which brings together the 14 big international investor groups together, will tell the industry that they have only just done enough to deflate criticism over the pricing of Aids drugs.

Despite the well documented price cuts, or the allowing of the use of generic drugs, during 2003 still more could be done. There was concern that the negative publicity, from the delays in finding a way for the companies to allow the production of cheaper Aids specific medicines would prevent their ability to make a higher charge for drugs in more affluent parts of the world.

News item, on the back of the recent disclosures about Prince Harry's visit to Lesotho (qv), the Red Cross Aids appeal for the kingdom has raised £50, 000. As to the well being of the 32 residents of the orphanage, including 4 year old Mutsu Ptsani, who all hold the prince in high regard all is going well. – ITN 18. 30 –

Wed 22

The pre – arranged interrogation of Mark Thatcher (qv 10/9), by investigators from Equatorial Guinea, has been put off for another eight weeks. The delay is due to concerns that if the under oath questions are asked there outcome may prejudice any charges that the alleged backer of the coup attempt may face under Pretoria's Foreign Military Assistance Act.

Fri 24

As the autobiography of the former president, Nelson Mandela, is a little light on detail for the period of 1969 – 1971 recent events could help. With the presentation of two notebooks to the Nelson Mandela Foundation there is the possibility that The Long Walk to Freedom will face an update.

The presentation, made by another disillusioned security policeman D Card, will go some way to expand the five pages that are spent covering this period of imprisonment of the leader of the ANC.

The details of these notebooks, in total 150 pages of closely written notes, detailed 79 letters; in draft form were unedited versions of scripts sent off Robben Island. Officials only allowed letters of 500 words or less to be posted out of the prison.

It was the job of this policeman to vet the correspondence of prisoner's mail for secret codes or other information that was going to ANC cells on the mainland. Dissatisfied with the apartheid system Card then shut away prisoner 46664 papers until these

“forgotten memories” were rekindled at the hand over ceremony at the Foundation’s office in Johannesburg. Here the private papers will stay, until the former president has read them, they will then be open to others.

At the same time as the notebooks came to light the Nelson Mandela File released a 1997 picture of the former president. The notes, of the time, say that the snap was taken on a day that the prisoners were open to inspection by the media. The picture, never seen in South Africa or elsewhere as his image was banned, shows him leaning on a spade with a scowl on his face. He resented the picture being taken.

After 18 years of exile Barclays Bank, forced out of the country by the worldwide actions of the Anti Apartheid Movement, is to return to the country. In financial circles there is talk of the bank taking a £2bn stake in Absa, the countries largest retail lending bank.

Sat 25

Pupils and staff of Brainwood High School have further enhanced the close links, between schools in Leeds and their counterparts in Kwazulu Natal, for Boys from the city.

Just returned from South Africa are teachers in Craft and Design Technology and five pupils from this school in the north of the city of Leeds. Whilst in the province they worked at the Sayanzinzela centre during their 14 day visit. This is the third year running that links have been forged with schools in the area.

On this visit to this training center for the South African teaching profession they were able to use Craft and Design techniques to build a new roof for the teaching, and community building.

During other visits the team visited Ixopo and Malezulu schools and daylong courses for school principals ICT teachers and pupils.

Mon 27

The out of court settlement of the compensation claims, of 7, 500 South African miners in 2003 (qv 28/6), it has now been revealed, was supposed to have been made at the expense of any other claims being made against Cape PLC.

According to the London based solicitors Leigh Day, the £7.5m compensation, hailed as a ‘landmark victory’, came at the expense of an agreement that the legal firm would be paid by the UK based firm to destroy three pages of relevant information uncovered during the high court hearing. In fact the firm did not shred the papers, rather it put them in storage.

Officials of the Equatorial Guinea government, looking into the events prior to the failed coup, which was supposed to take place on 19. 2. 04 have discovered a link to the United States and its military.

It is now known that an official, T Wheelan who looks after American affairs in the Pentagon, had a meeting with businessman Greg Wales more than once during a visit to Washington. During talks the Bush official was warned that 'there might be trouble brewing in Equatorial Guinea.'

By 11/03 there was an exchange of \$8, 000 between Mann (qv) and Wales who then appears at a dinner conference organised by a group of private military companies. The International Peace Operations Association hosted the event, the two men were told that the USA were keen for this group to work in Africa on behalf of the US military. It was foreseen that a company, MPRI, would be involved in assessing the military capability of the west African states army.

With contact made between Wheelan and Mann, at the IPOA, the Sherbourne Foundation, who employed G Wales, handed \$35, 000 over to the alleged coup plotters.

Tues 28

As scientists, in America, announce details of their ability to determine where elephant ivory has been sourced from, Namibia is to make a plea to Cites to be allowed to sell an agreed quota of raw ivory of two tonnes a year. By this measure they are once again gaining economically benefiting; as they did in 2002 (qv 13/11), when the convention allowed the country along with Botswana and South Africa to sell surplus ivory.

Obituary, Dolly Rathebe b 1928, the former beauty queen, actress and renowned township singer, of a stroke. Born to a mother from a farming family and her father, a migrant worker, with the name of Josephine Kedibone in the town of Randfontein near Johannesburg. Educated at Sophiatown's St Cyrian mission school, an area of the racially divided city where blacks and whites could mix socially, drink and listen to music together.

Becoming the family's main wage earner, at the age of 15, as her father was away working in the gold mines. Always with a musical disposition, and the ability to mix well with all races work was found in this racially mixed area. Here began her singing career. During this time, by now the country's first African female star, marriage to W B Nketele the local gangster she became a gangster's moll and the cause of many conflicts between the area's local gangs.

As to her international fame; 1949, Jim Comes To Jo'berg, produced by a British director, heralded the beginning of her international career. Although not as light skinned, as the directors wanted her rendition of the jazz classic Salt Lake Blues persuaded him to offer her the role of female lead.

1957 makes the front page of the influential Drum Magazine. This led the magazine's photographer, J Schandeburg, and the now acknowledged South Africa's Billy Holiday of Africa's Marilyn Monroe, to be arrested under the Immorality Act. As well as all this she found time to sing with the township bands the Harlem Swingsters and the Inkspots.

*it is the authors belief that images of Dolly can be found on SA Tape 62 "Storyville, Sophiatown BBC2 23. 50 – 01. 15 1. 5. 204

The ten year long career of Lucas Radebe (qv) with Leeds United Football Club is to be rewarded with a series of benefit events in the coming months. Events planned include a charity ball, a Radebe birthday party and a pro celebrity golf match. Probably the highlight of this testimonial year will be a soccer match. The 'invitation' side will be of the choosing of the former Banfana Banfana player.

As finality to this year of celebration it is expected that the pre season warm up games involving Leeds United, for the 2005/6 season, will be played in South Africa.

Thurs 30

The man, who at the time; 1989 who was convicted of the killing of the Swedish prime minister has himself died.

Olaf Palme, one of the 'true friends' of the worldwide movement to remove the apartheid regime from power in South Africa was gunned down Palme was shot by a single bullet on 28/2/86 as he walked home from the cinema in Stockholm with his wife.

At the time, the prime ministers 's wife identified C Pettersson, now aged 57 as the assassin. Cleared by a higher court after it had ruled that eyewitness accounts were unreliable, he returned to life as a petty criminal.

With no weapon and no other leads to go on the death of Pettersson, who was taken into hospital on 16/9, leaves one of the mysteries of the 'struggle' unsolved.

OCTOBER 2004

Mon 4

News item, at its meeting in Bangkok the environmental group Cities will allow Namibia, and other southern African countries, the right to allow the licensed killing of ten black rhino a year. - **Radio 2 15. 00** -

Tues 5

Noting that the crime annual statistics, published last month, show that crime, in most categories, have fallen the president has attacked the reporting of crime in the nations media.

In an open letter, on the African National Congress website, Mbeki targeted the white journalist Charlene Smith. As a victim of rape and sexual violence, in 1999, she has along with her contemporaries are being accused of giving the impression that crime is out of control in South Africa.

Although Ms Smith was not named the Citizen newspaper, which has mainly a white readership both paper and journalist were accused of purporting the fiction that ... "our cultures, traditions and religions as Africans inherently make every African man a rapist.... [a] view that defines African people as barbaric savages. "

Fri 15

With the promise of a new way to treat HIV and the Aids virus (qv 22/3) by the use of microbicides, has been reported in the journal Science. Although, only tested on monkeys, the leader of the researchers, M Lederman of Case Western Reserve University Ohio, says that women who use this vaginal cream will have a greater chance of not contracting the virus.

The key element that has been developed by the researchers in America and colleagues in Geneva is an agent that would block the HIV's CCR5 molecule. Having found one such, PSC Rantes the testing on the primates went ahead.

Children in southern Mozambique have been used to test a vaccination developed by scientists from the centre of international health at Barcelona University, which will prevent the deaths from malaria.

In the Lancet the researchers report on the use of the vaccine on about 2, 000 children between the ages of one and four years from the region where it is estimated that each person gets 38 bites a year from a malaria carrying mosquitoes.

The vaccine was 45% better in preventing the child being infected, and then being re – infected, than a child without such protection. Vaccinated children were also 58% less likely to develop severe malaria, which could kill them.

In the fallout, surrounding the 2003 corruption allegations surrounding British Aerospace Systems, the French arms manufacturer Thompson CFS, Schabir Shaik and the deputy president J Zuma (qv 26/8) the press are having a field day.

Without being present in the Durban courtroom the very future of Thabo Mbeki's deputy hangs in the balance. Dubbed by the Sunday Times as “the trial for South Africa's soul” the outcome will decide whether the Number two can become president in 2010.

The facts for the prosecution are; the former financial adviser to the deputy president is charged with receiving bribes totaling £200, 000 in order to have Zuma 's support in placing the weapons supply contract with the French. In his defence of the charges the apartheid era financier of the illegal ANC will say that the sum mentioned was only a loan to support the high living lifestyle of the deputy president.

There is another element to this case, discovered by the press, a financial gift of R 2m / £170, 00 from Nelson Mandela to deputy Zuma for educational and cultural activities in the Zulu community which a part of ended up with Shaik. Part of this money is unaccounted for; even now.

The theatrical element of this trial, with the Democratic Party likened to Shakespeare's Hamlet, has been intensified as in a separate case the court's have had to decide whether television should be allowed to follow proceedings. After bringing 80 year old Judge H Squires out of retirement the decision was made, only the closing arguments of the two sides would be seen by the nation.

Sat 16

Cooperation between Britain's National Crime Squad and the South African squad that arrested M Thatcher (qv) have led to multiple arrests of criminal elements involved in smuggling of precious metals.

In joint raids, each in their own country, 400 officers from the NCS and the Scorpion team have detained members of a smuggling ring that is alleged to have stolen £17m worth of precious metals.

The source of these precious metals, gold, silver, platinum, palladium and rhodium were hijacked from mines in South Africa. They were then mixed with scrap metal and exported to Britain using bogus invoices. Once separated from this scrap, at a plant in Cambridge, they were 'legitimised' and sold on the open market as respected precious metals. The proceeds from these sales were then channeled back into their country of origin. The funds were then used to finance crime and further thefts of precious metals.

Of the arrests made it was revealed that the owner of the Cambridge smelter was one of those held. In South Africa 12 people were detained. They face charges of money laundering and face up to 30 years in jail.

The United Nations awarded the president of Mozambique, Joaquim Chissano, an international honour recently. The Habitat Scroll of Honour was awarded to the president in recognition of his long term campaign on behalf of the poor in his own and other African countries.

Mon 18

Obituary, Rachel E Simons 31. 12. 13. – 12. 9. 04 author and life long fighter for woman's rights was born outside her adopted country- in Varaklani which is in present day Latvia.

1929 joined the Communist Party of South Africa; working as an information distributor and the formation of trade unions.

1930/40's helped set up many unions, non racial among the African and Coloured peoples of the Cape province. Noted especially for her work to unionise employees of the Food and Canning industry. This survives as of now as the Food and Canning Workers Union

1938 became a member of the CPSA politburo were she worked with Jack, her soon to be husband. They married in 1941.

1953 a banned person, as was the CPSA after the 1948 National Party election victory. Joined the underground South African Communist Party.

1954 by the use of a loophole in the law stood for parliament as the Western Cape's representative for the African voters. Though not allowed to take up her seat the ensuing publicity helped in the setting up of the Federation of South African Women.

1950/60's due to the limitations on her union work research began on the joint publication of 'Class and Colour in South Africa 1850 – 1950 published in 1969.

1964 forced into exile as Jack was 'banned,' and prevented from teaching at Cape Town University, they left for England.

1967 left the north of England to settle in Zambia. During there stay, at 250 Zambizi Road, the home became a meeting point for other exiles from apartheid.

1968 became number one and two white exiles to be welcomed into the exiled ANC.

1970's these two banned persons worked on the interpretation of the changes in South Africa for the also exiled ANC.

1985 the culmination of this work led to the formation of the Congress of South African Trade Unions.

1990 first exiles to return home to, a soon to be free, South Africa.

1992 relinquished her position on the central committee of the SACP.

2004 despite suffering an incapacitating stroke was awarded the African National Congress's highest honour – the Isithwalandwe medal.

Tues 19

Gold Fields South Africa, an industrial doyen of the apartheid era, faces the possibility of a take over from a mining company created after 1995. The Harmony company is offering GFSA shareholders a price that will see their shares rise in value by 30%. This puts a value on the company of \$8bn /£4.4m.

There is a feeling, among industry insiders, that for such a new company to make such a bid against this stalwart that encouragement has been offered from others. Experts say that such help may have come from the Russian oligarch V Potanin, as one of his business interests – Norilsk Nickel has a 20% share holding in GFSA.

In response Gold Field's board said that this bid was 'inadequate' and that they wanted to press ahead with an alternative bid from the Canadian company Iamgold.

As of now the price of gold stood at \$419. 10 per ounce.

Wed 20

In an effort to convince reluctant Gold Field South Africa shareholders of the benefits of a Harmony inspired take over (qv 19/10) management executives from the bidder have begun a campaign to put their case across to the major GFSA's investors.

From South Africa to Britain and the United States the claim was made that the tie in offered was a better one than one with \$2bn merger offered by Canadian firm Iamgold. Treated as a 'hostile' bid, by GFSA, who were offering an 11% share premium for Iamgold shares. Harmony is only offering a 7% premium. The difference between is an interpretation of the GFS's share price on 14/10 and 15/10 – pre and post take over offer.

Harmony share price; R76.7 [up 1.6%]. Gold Fields's R93.6 [up 1.8%].

Sat 23

The soon to released one time policeman turned security guard L van Schoor is soon to be released from Fort Glamorgan prison in the Eastern Cape on 29/10. Convicted, and sentenced* for the random killing of blacks as he worked as a security guard in a supermarket. * (qv 5. 4. 92)

What has now emerged is that Sabina Schoor, his daughter, is also imprisoned in Fort Glamorgan. Her crime was to hire a contract killer to slit the throat of her mother Beverly. The daughter said that the Quenstown prominent businesswomen had to die, as she was a racist.

What is more remarkable is that Beverly van Schoor would want her father to adopt her children and look after them until she herself is released.

Mon 25

In a poll of its readers, conducted by the New Nation newspaper, which is aimed at a mainly black readership, the most influential 'living' person named was Nelson Mandela.

Although the former South African president came in the fourth position, in the top one hundred, those preceding him were no longer alive. However all four, Jesus, Martin Luther King and Malcolm X can all be said to have fought injustice only to have their contribution curtailed by an untimely death seems to have enhanced their appeal.

Tues 26

After legal moves, both in the Durban and the Cape Town high courts, the state broadcaster; the South African Broadcasting Corporation will be allowed to televise the legal battle to stop investigators from Equatorial Guinea questioning Mark Thatcher.

As one of the principal backers of an alleged plot to overthrow the government of the west African state of Equatorial Guinea officials want to ask 43 questions to help them prosecute 19 co accused that are held in Malabo the countries capital.

As to their legal victory, over access to the proceedings, the broadcaster has been warned that any intrusive or unfair coverage will see the judge eject them.

During a parliamentary debate on the links between the extent of rape and its contribution to the spread of HIV, sponsored by the official opposition, the president renewed his attack on elements in the white community first aired in an open letter published on the ANC 's website (qv 5/10).

The theme of the attack on the governments HIV/Aids policy was attacked by the leader of the Democratic Alliance, Tony Leon, who with this attack on the alleged perception of the black man by the white man had ducked the main issue; was the president prepared to lead the fight against HIV/Aids?

With a down turn in profits, for the first quarter of 2004, it does not bode well for the Harmony group's bid to take over Consolidated Gold Fields of South Africa (qv 19/10). During this period the share price fell \$1. 10. This was better than the \$1.31 from the last period of 2003, but worse than the \$0. 60 anticipated by analysts. Never the less this is the sixth straight loss for company shareholders.

Last quarter's gold price of R83, 000 per kilogram 83% of production was profitable. Output rose 2% to 830, 192 ounces. Output of a possible 37, 000 ounces has been removed as five loss making shafts had been closed.

Wed 27

With the accused in attendance, some would say this was a public relations exercise, Cape Town high court began hearing legal arguments why the 'bank roller' for the alleged coup attempt in Equatorial Guinea should not face questions from officials of that country.

Lawyers for Mark Thatcher (qv 26/10) will argue that for him to answer questions there would be a breach of his rights to silence under South African law. Further, the agreement by the authorities in Pretoria, for officials from the west African state to put questions to their client was wrong, as there was the possibility that he would be extradited to a country that still used the death penalty.

Fri 29

Cross racial concerns, about the number of crimes committed in the affluent suburbs of Johannesburg, has seen the authorities having to step in and begin regulating the residents efforts to keep themselves safe.

Over the past 10 years in Sanderton, Midrand and Kensington have 'gated' 2, 584 streets in an effort to cut the number of property friendly crime that was threatening to engulf these parts of the city.

With the intervention of the mayor, A Masondo, the council has ruled that permission will have to be sought for these existing, and new barriers. As of this time the road agency has received 324 applications some involving multiple schemes for 309 existing schemes and 15 new ones. Of these 46 schemes covered 1, 266 households had been approved and 38 rejected.

Obituary, Freda Levson, 21. 11. 11. – 10. 9. 04 born in Pretoria to a doctor father. Educated in England from the age of 13, gained a geography degree from St Hughes college Oxford. During WW2 escorted evacuee children to a new life? in South Africa.

Political involvement began in 1946 working with one clergyman determined to bring the plight of the downtrodden Namibian and ethnic populations to the on of the world's concerns. This resulted in the book; In Face of Fear, M Scotts Challenge to South Africa published in 1950.

1952 involved with the launch of the African National Congress and South African Indian Congress's defiance campaign. The campaign, against the countries unjust laws manifested itself in, for her, detention in jail for 4 weeks after being part of a group of whites who entered African location of Germinston.

1956 the year of the treason trial of 156 members of the Congress Alliance Levson became part, the administrative secretary, South African Treason Trial Defence Fund. This led on to the International Defence Aid Fund.

1961 relinquished her position on the Defence and Aid Fund and moved to Malta because of the ill health of her husband, Leon whom she married in 1950'sh. However he died.

1962 moved to London, and served on the Council of the British Defence Aid Fund from 1980 – 1985. During his time illegally abroad, was the London host to Nelson Mandela, as she was heavily involved in the Anti Apartheid Movement.

1975 Author of South Africa: An Historical Introduction.

Sat 30

Convicted of killing 39 people in 1992 L van Schooner (qv 5/4) has earned early release from prison. All he wants now is to be able to settle down with his fiancé E Cornelious a Cape Town lawyer.

The 53 year old will not return to his former employment, as a security guard, but rather spend his time as a farmer. There is also the opportunity to look after his daughters child (qv 23/10).

Sun 31

Pertinent to the report, on the testing of a malaria vaccine in Mozambique (qv 15/10), the lead researcher Doctor P Alonso said that of the 2, 022 children in the study 30% of them were found to “be safe and well tolerated” during the trials.

“If further were successful, GlaxoSmithKline which developed the vaccine in partnership with the Malaria Vaccine Institute hoped to get a license for commercial production by 2010.

NOVEMBER 2004

Mon 1

President Festus Mogae's ruling Botswana Democratic party has won the southern African country's general election, taking 29 of the 57 seats with some results still to arrive. – *Reuters* –

Wed 3

The overweight and obese generation, so prevalent in the developed world is now emerging in the developing world. A conference in the Sun City complex, organised by the International Association for the Study of Obesity was told that the number of overweight black men and women in South Africa are on par with their opposite numbers in the USA.

There are a number of reasons for this to be so. To be of a thin and gaunt nature, in much of Africa, is generally thought; by others that he/she is suffering from HIV/Aids. Similarly a thin person is not thought of as a person with much wealth to his name. Why would you be you be thin if you had enough wealth to eat heavily?

A report from this gathering will be presented to the World Health Organisations meeting which takes place in 12/04, as is on a of a number of meetings to take place world wide prior to an international conference to tackle obesity. This will take place in 2007.

Sat 6

As the battle for control of the South African conglomerate Gold Fields South Africa (qv 19/10), continues a court battle looms. In a court in New York the management of GFSA have invoked the United States that countries security laws.

According to the under threat conglomerate the 'bidding company', Harmony, has not provided enough information for its shareholders to make an informed judgment as to any benefits that a take over would come to them.

At the same time Harmony has, as part of the take over conditions, set out its plans for changes if a take over is successful. The company's chief cost cutting exercise would be the loss of between 1, 000 and 1, 500 jobs. This number of job losses would represent only 1% of the workforce. Mainly they would come from the managerial level of the company.

As an overall strategy GFSA indicate that the Harmony group is loosing money. In its defence Harmony says any 'tie in' with the Canadian company Iamgold will result in a withdrawal of its bid for Consolidated Gold Fields South Africa.

Wed 10

Obituary, Gibson Kente, 7/32 – 7. 11. 04 as ‘the father of township drama’ playwright and songster first saw the light of day in Duncan Village the black township outside East London in the Eastern Cape.

At the age of 23 a career change, from social worker to a study of drama, saw him move to Johannesburg. Once there he produces play No 1; Manana, The Jazz Prophet in 1963. Number 2, Isikola; 1966 were well received in the townships. Here were the play’s themes; crime, alcoholism, love and soccer were portrayed with wit and humour.

During these times he worked with many of South African theatre and musical ‘notables’. These included M Makeba, L Mbulu and others, who were recipients of new songs or passed through his dance studio, the house garage, to improve their repertoire.

It was not until 1973 that he became noticed by the state police. At this time he began producing overtly political plays such as How Long, dealing with the pass laws. Also there was Sekunjalo. This, as he described it his piece de resistance, contained a warning to the black elite not to oppress the masses after liberation. From this time he had many of his plays banned and actors arrested, a fate that also befell him in 9/10 1976. As a further warning of the power of the state Soweto home was fire - bombed in 1989.

With the 3/03 announcement of an Aids/HIV infection there seemed an abandonment of all theatrical concerns to concentrate on the illness. There was always an element of ‘a fast life 'led to the full’; plenty of lady friends, many of them years younger than himself. What was not generally known was his bankrupt state; another indication of his lifestyle? In his last years living was only possible with the handouts given by close friends and cash from the Theatre Benevolent Fund.

Thurs 11

The supply, of a cheaper source of HIV/Aids effective drugs, has been called into question; just as the United States based pharmaceutical companies predicted by a recent report on generic drugs sent to the World Health Organisation in Geneva.

Specifically the report was concerned with the Indian manufacturer Ranbaxy, which was inspected by a team from the WHO, after pressure from the US. The team also inspected documents from another of India’s generic manufacturers; Cipla.

The premise for the inspection was a concern that the scientific tests carried out the ‘generics’ was flawed in a number of trials. In other words the effectiveness of the pill given for, in this case, the HIV virus would not have the same medicinal properties to combat the virus. As a result of the report the WHO has removed Cipla from its ‘recommended’ list as well as one other Aids drug.

Fri 12

With an ongoing court case in America, the gold mining conglomerate Harmony (6/11) has had a legal victory in the South African high court. A move, by Gold Fields to have any take over declared illegal has been rejected.

The basis of the case, put by the lawyers acting for Consolidated Gold Fields, was that Harmony's bid was illegal in nature, because the bid's chief backer Norlisk had a 20% holding in Consolidated Gold Fields, and would therefore benefit from any such takeover.

Sat 13

Under the auspices of the African Union (qv) the regime in Pretoria has taken on the roll of peacemaker in the west African state of Ivory Coast. The rebel group the New Forces, leadership said, through spokesman S Konate that they were only interested in talking peace when the country president L Gbagbo stepped down.

As of this time 400 Britons have been evacuated, by RAF Hercules transport planes, to neighbouring country of Ghana.

Tues 16

On the eve of the annual general meeting of shareholders of Gold Fields South Africa there are allegations of misdeeds by the under threat mining house. The Harmony group (qv) were said to be outraged that a senior executive of GFSa had approached a rival and induced him to act as a spy in matters concerning the on going take over bid.

In their defence a company spokesman said that their man, a security executive, was making a normal approach to his opposite number to discuss relevant operational issues. This type of approach was common practice in situations such as both companies find themselves in at this stage of negotiations.

The pressure group Treatment Action Concern (qv), who's leader Z Achmat, was in London recently, may have to return to the campaigning trail again. Giving the Sir John Foster memorial lecture at University College London Mr Achmat gave a derisory account of the availability of the drugs needed to fight the HIV/Aids virus.

This poor service by the government despite the ruling of the competition commission in 2002 (qv 17/10), could see them return to the courts to clarify the position.

Wed 17

At the resumed trial of those accused of plotting against the government of Equatorial Guinea a dramatic accusation by one of the 19 men on trial has emerged. The leading South African, Nick de Toit has claimed that he was tortured to elicit his confession.

In his evidence du Toit said that anything that indicated his plan to overthrow the government was said in the assurance that if he did not confess he would be killed.

Thurs 18

The two South African nationals freed by the courts in Zimbabwe (qv 30/8) and one other have been convicted by magistrates in Pretoria. After entering a plea bargain deal both C Steyl, H Carlse and L Horn pleaded guilty to breaching the foreign military assistance act.

Details of punishments; Steyl was found guilty of supplying the plotters with air transport and men to participate in the coup against the west African state of Equatorial Guinea. A fine of R200, 000 /£18, 000 was imposed. Failure to pay up will incur a 10 year spell in a South African jail. It is expected he will give evidence against Mark Thatcher, who is expected, in a Cape Town courtroom on 25/11.

As to the fate of Carsle and Horn, who were on the plane in Harare as part of the force en route to the county's capital, the magistrates imposed a R75, 000 fine. Failure to pay up would result in both spending 4 years in jail.

Claims that the Harmony bid for Gold Fields South Africa was to some extent 'financed' by monies illegally exported from Russia has emerged. The central bank in Moscow has called into question how the 20% Norilsk Nickel investment in Consolidated Gold Fields came about.

Officials of the central bank, in the Russian capital, say that the firm's owner; V Potanin broke rules, as he moved the cash overseas. The rule now, as opposed to then, is that cash leaving the country must be approved by the authorities.

As to events at the Gold Fields annual general meeting (qv 16/11) the company claims that only £100, 000 out of a total of £492m have been pledged to the Harmony group. As the takeover battle continues shares in both companies have fallen to the tune of \$900m.

Fri 19

Medical researchers report, in the Lancet, hopes that the number of child deaths from HIV/Aids can be significantly reduced if the symptoms are caught early on. Working with 5, 41 1 – 14 year old Zambian children scientists from London's Medical Research Council have developed the anti biotic co – trimoxazole.

The MRC 's study, funded by the Department for International Development, was shortened to only 19 months duration. This was because of the exceptional results seen in the health of the Zambian children.

Over this shortened time limit the number of children taking the new drug, as opposed to those taking a placebo, were not dying. 74 children / 28% as opposed to 112 / 42%. All those who took part are now on the co – trimoxazole.

Such were the results of the trial, led by Dr D Gibb, that both the World Health organisation and Unicef have changed their policy to recommend its supply to all HIV positive children.

Sat 20

London based businessman Greg Wales (qv 17/10) has been linked directly to the soon to be prosecuted Mark Thatcher. It is alleged that there was direct phone contact between the two prior to the attempted coup in Equatorial Guinea.

The information, gathered by the South African authorities, shows that on a specific day a contract, to supply a plane to transport the plotters, was signed between on 16/1. There was a second call on 17/1.

In his defence the lawyer acting for the Chiswick, west London, based entrepreneur indicated that her client could not ‘remember making any such call.’ Sarah Webb detailed the friendship as one of over 7 or 8 years, where they would meet at Christmas parties and speak over the phone six or seven times a month.

Mon 22

The man nominated by Namibia’s president Sam Nujombo as his successor Hifikepunye Pohamba, has won the presidency with 76.4% of the vote. – **Reuters** –

Wed 24

The HIV/Aids virus, scourge of much of Sub Saharan Africa is, new figures show, decimating the female population of Africa. Figures from the newly formed UNAids pressure group show how the virus in infecting a greater number of women as time passes.

In the year 2002 12. 8m women were HIV positive in the region. By the year 2004 13. 3m women were infected. In both years this number equates to 57% of the female population of Africa. As total of infection rate 2002 16. 4m, 2004 17.6m – 48% and 47% respectively.

During the second Mandela lecture, broadcast live on national television, the doyen of the anti apartheid years, Desmond Tutu, made a wide ranging attack on the Mbeki governments policy of Black Economic Empowerment.

His chief worry was that the 'rich black businessman' was getting more affluent at the expense of the masses. An example; the link up between a public workers pension fund and the state owned Telkom phone company.

As to the government published details of help, a grant of £9 per month for all those in poverty, the former Archbishop said this should be considered. Better still; prosperous South African families should 'adopt' a poor family. There could be an offer to pay £18 a month or the payment of school fees.

A new publishing venture, the Wisden Cricket magazine, is to launch in the country is to be edited by a former editor of SA Sports Illustrated, R Howing. To be included in its first issue is the coming controversial tour of Zimbabwe by England, the home series and England's just finished matches in Namibia.

Wed 25

A judge, sitting at the high court in Cape Town, has ruled that officials from Equatorial Guinea can put their questions to Mark Thatcher, the alleged financial backer of the recently discovered attempt to overthrow its government.

Speaking after the decision was made the son of a former British prime minister said that his ability to "do business again" was over.

Fri 24

The Dorchester hotel, in London, was host to 250 journalists and participants of the music event of 2003. All were gathered, along with the concert's inspiration; Nelson Mandela to launch the book of the event.

Titled, what else, "46664 The Concert". This photographic record of the event that took place in the Great Point Stadium in Cape Town in 2002 (qv 22/10) gave a financial boost to those programmes that have been set up; The Nelson Mandela Foundation to fight this pandemic.

The renowned photographer, D McCullin, has revisited Zambia and the townships of South Africa in his search to record an update, from 2000, of those suffering from the HIV/Aids virus.

The County Hall Gallery, London SE1, is the capitals venue to document the effects of the anti – retroviral treatments that are available.

Following the decision, by the high court in Cape Town, concerning the questioning of Mark Thatcher (qv 25/11), a decision that is almost certainly to be appealed, a magistrates court in the same city has granted a request from the authorities in Equatorial Guinea. They want a trial delay, until 4/05, in order to prepare more charges against him.

It has emerged that a recently deported 13 strong Cosatu delegation from Zimbabwe will return is to return to the country in 1/05, where it will attempt to complete its fact finding mission.

The delegation will be led by Z Vavi, secretary general and W Madisha the movement's president. Explaining there return, and Cosatu's joining with the western world in condemnation of Zanu PF 's rule and its rigging of elections he said that it was the duty of all South Africans to press the Mugabe government to hold free and fair elections in 3/05.

Sat 27

Emerging, at the end of the trial of Nick de Toit in Equatorial Guinea (qv 17/11) is more evidence of the involvement of Mark Thatcher in the plot to overthrow the government of the west African state. Seized, and used in evidence, were computer files of Simon Mann (qv) which alluded to an 'MT'; believed to be the same Cape Town resident who is to stand trial in 4/05. Various references are made to the need to keep MT's name out of the limelight.

As to the fate of the South African national and his co accused; the 'principal' was jailed for 34 years, four other nationals were jailed for 17 years, and three others were acquitted. The six Armenian aircrew will spend between 14 and 24 years behind bars.

Severo Moto, the supposed chief beneficiary; he was to become the new president was jailed, in absentia for a total of sixty four years.

Sun 28

With the implicit acknowledgment that the British government's foreign secretary was aware of the planned coup attempt in Equatorial Guinea* the government is planning to make a legal case against members of the Labour government. President T Obiang and his ministers will petition the International Court of Justice in The Hague to indict J Straw for failing to tell his regime about unfolding events. *see Zimbabwe Diary 15/11/04

Other legal moves; international arrest warrants have been issued in the names of E Calil, D Hart, millionaire former adviser to Mark Thatcher's mother, D Tremain and 'JH Archer, the name on a leaked list of contributors of one of S Mann's (qv) companies.

Mon 29

Following recent government revelations, concerning Equatorial Guinea (qv) the opposition Conservative party is to make further representations to the Labour government.

Shadow foreign secretary, M Ancram, will want to know if the relationship – he rented a flat from E Cali (qv) – with P Mandelson went any deeper than that association. The statement, from the soon to be European Commissioner, also denied having been questioned by the South African authorities over the alleged coup plot.

This intense interest of, Ancram comes after reading a report – based on interviews with some of the plotters. It was written by N Morgan, a former soldier, member of the Conservative's Center For Policy Studies think tank, Cape Town resident and friend of both S Mann and Mark Thatcher.

An initiative, by the South African author N Gordimer (qv) will see financial benefits flow into the coffers of the Treatment Action Concern organisation. Following the lead from musicians, who have lent their talents to provide funding for Famine relief, writers will now be asked to contribute to a slim book of short stories.

The Book, **Telling Tales**, has contributions from the likes of S Rushdie, M Atwood and nineteen others. The United Nations General secretary will launch the collection 24 hours before world Aids Day, on 30/11.

Tues 30

The mining company Harmony (qv) has increased the number of shares it holds in Gold Fields South Africa to 10.8%. This, along with the stake held by the Russian mining group Norilsk Nickel brings its share of the business up to 30.9%. This is the first shares move in the \$6.6bn battle in the ongoing takeover bid.

There has been a setback, or an ending, to the 2002 (qv 18/6) legal moves to have a number of multi national companies to pay reparations to those employees who worked for banking, oil and food industries, during the apartheid era.

In the New York court of district judge J Spirizzo, before the 'class action' lawyer Ed Fagin dismissed the case. According to the judge the plaintiffs did not prove that the companies broke international law.

“Although it is clear that the actions of the apartheid regime were repugnant and that the decision of the defendants to do business with that regime may have been morally suspect... it is this court's job to apply the law and not some normative moral ideal.”

DECEMBER 2004

Wed 1

Continuing the close association between Leeds city council, and its twin city Durban, the council has launched an appeal that it is hoped will be of benefit to those who are suffering from the HIV/Aids virus.

With the help of Lucas Radabe (qv), a South African born member of the Leeds United Football squad, it is hoped to buy a number of medically equipped backpacks. These will be used by trained personnel to offer palliative care to those who are loosing the battle against the virus.

In a city of 2.5m, it is estimated that 930, 000 people are HIV positive. The Leeds/Durban Aids Fund hopes to raise enough money to purchase 1,000 home care kits.

Thurs 2

According to report by, the human rights group Amnesty International the recent conviction of Nick de Toit, and 10 others in Equatorial Guinea (qv 27/11) the trial 'was flawed.'

With an observer placed in the Malabo, the capital of the west African state, it became apparent that much of the evidence was not 'actually material'. An example; the weapons seized in Harare (qv 7/3) were not the same as shown by the prosecution in the courtroom. They were only 'of a similar type' as those seized in Zimbabwe.

Fri 3

An ancient, but now lethal migration route foe elephants into Angola is to be cleared of mines, allowing herds in Botswana and Zambia to expand their feeding range, the UN environmental programme said yesterday. A fast growing elephant herd in northern Botswana, currently estimated at 120, 000, is laying waste to habitat and clashing with rural communities.

In co operation with the UNEP, Conservation International and the Californian based Roots of Peace Group the \$1m / £546, 000 scheme will go some way to a wider plan for the region – a trans frontier conservation area. Any such development will be a boom to the emerging Angolan fledgling eco – tourism industry.

A spokesman for Conservation International indicated that without such a project the government of Botswana would have to consider culling up to 60, 000 elephants over the next five years. Mine clearance will begin in the Luiane reserve in SE Angola. – **Reuters** [adb] –

Sat 4

Previously the South African Blood Donor service has, when choosing whom to take blood from, categorised its donors. Such a move as this was inevitable, say the management in light of the threat from the HIV virus, if non infected blood was to be collected.

In a move that has been labeled racist the stereotyping of the black donor as the highest risk, Category 3 and 4, were most at risk from hepatitis as well as the Aids virus, has been deemed to be wrong.

Cartoon, A mothers help for a beleaguered son

Mon 6

Blood donated by the South African president, Thabo Mbeki, was destroyed because he did not complete a questionnaire and his race placed him in a high risk category, press reports said.

The blood service has now agreed to stop racial profiling as a risk indicator. – *Reuters* –

Wed 8

As shareholders in Gold Fields South Africa expressed the option not to support a tie in with the Canadian mining company Iamgold the chief executive, Ian Cockerill, spoke as to this vote being an indication of any alternative action.

With this rejection, by 51.4%, the other on the table offer – a take over by the Harmony mining group (qv) – did not show the way to go. The bidding company now owns 11.8% of shares of GFSA.

Thurs 9

With accusations rife, that our National Health Service regularly ‘poaches’ staff (26/8) from South Africa and other developing countries, the British government has closed a loophole in the law that allowed this practice.

As has been seen companies such as Netcare (qv) much needed doctors and nurses are encouraged to leave the country to work overseas. Then as their contracts end they ‘jump ship’ to work in the NHS. This depletes resources in their home country.

From now on, with the agreement of the Independent Healthcare Forum, such moves will not be encouraged.

Sat 11

In the continuing efforts, of documenting the effects on children whose parents have contracted the HIV/Aids virus, noted in 2002 (qv 14/12), the emphasis has shifted to Mozambique.

Noted examples, from the work of photographer G Mendel, as some of the 200 orphans who daily come to the support centre in Dondo, in the Beira Corridor. Eliza 12 and Tomas aged 8 who live in the village of Penhalonga near the border with Zimbabwe. Her ambition for the two is just to go to school.

The United Mission of Mozambique Church in Chimoio supports more than 250 orphans; most stay with substitute families, except for 30 who live on site. At the UMMC they receive an education are fed and have counseling.

Many orphans live with their grandparents, who also care for other family members. In the Muroemba home there are 11 children in all. They have a 7km walk to school. In one documented case 76 year old Anis Alfredo cares for 22 grandchildren.

Tues 14

As a 2003 World Food Programme report states (qv 31/5) on the ability of the kingdom of Swaziland to feed its people, excess spending is taking place in the royal household. King Maswati the Third has ordered a German built Daimler Chrysler Maybach 62 at a basic cost of £280, 000. In addition to this expense a further £100, 000 will be spent on fitting the interior out with a 21 speaker sound system et al.

This is in a country where the average yearly income is put at \$1, 181, 80% of the poorest people survive on less than \$1, 52p, a day. For the first 6 months of 2005, according to the WFP, a third of the population will need emergency food aid.

Two of the culprits of adulterating wine from award winning vineyards in South Africa, (qv 24/1) have been named. Both employees of KWV, the countries second largest wine producer, G Theron and I Nieuwoudt have now been sacked from their posts. They both refused to take a lie detector test and now face criminal prosecution.

One of the two wines affected, Laborie Sauvignon is sold throughout Britain after being imported Edward Cavendish Ltd., at a price of between £5. 49p to £5. 69. Despite non of the affected wine, laced with pyrazine, 60, 000 litres of Sauvignon Blanc and Reserve Sauvignon Blanc will be destroyed. This will cost the company R1m, / £90, 000.

With the fear that the United Nation's target of treatment given to 3m HIV/Aids infected people by 2005 in danger a petition of 600 high level dignitaries has been presented to 'concerned bodies.'

They acknowledge that the numbers receiving free anti retroviral drugs is on the increase. However there are a number of hidden costs. These can range from having to pay for tests and consultations, to being asked to make a contribution to the cost of the medicine.

Thurs 16

As part of a cost cutting exercise the British government is to close a number of its smaller diplomatic outposts. Among those deemed superfluous are the 'little Britain's' in Lesotho and Swaziland. When the end of 2006 completes the closure, residents having need of help from British diplomats will find it in Pretoria.

Concluded, just in time for a major Sans people conference in Tanzania, is the business end of negotiations which began in 2003 (qv 4/1), that hopefully will see the financial security of the once nomadic indigenous residents of southern Africa.

Unilever, the Anglo – Dutch multinational has negotiated a deal to develop the potential of the Hoddia plant. A cactus, long known to the Sans as an appetite suppressant. From this there has been derived a drug that will treat the obesity of the western world.

With the British botanical firm Phytopharin a £20m deal has been struck, using Hoddia extract to produce a Slim Fast type foodstuff. On hearing of the development the firms share price rose 11% to 239p. This values the company at £100m.

Fri 17

Four Britons were killed on a family holiday in South Africa on Tuesday after a truck collided with their rental car. Jeremy and Catherine Monk, both 49, and their daughter Bryony, 21, and her boyfriend, all said to be from Mayfield, East Sussex, died in the crash 80 miles north of Cape Town.

With Reconciliation Day, on 16/12, the press were much concerned with this theme, as of late there has been much publicity of on going arguments between 'notables' who do not seem to be able to achieve this.

The one time 'man of the hour' Archbishop Desmond Tutu has been in a very public disagreement with his president. Mbeki has encountered the wrath of the former chairman of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (qv) for his governments dominated by the ANC; for its stance for stifling debate over corruption, the HIV/Aids treatment plan and the policy towards Zimbabwe.

The president, using the online ANC News replied, calling the former reverend a "charlatan" and a liar." The Archbishops response; to pray for Mr Mbeki, rather as he did for his old enemies of the apartheid regime.

As to the country, as a whole, this Rainbow Nation has "from a fractured divided country of just a decade ago has come a long way." To quote from Nelson Mandela's 1994,

Pretoria Buildings speech “build a society in which all South Africans, black and white, will be able to walk tall, without any fear in their hearts, assured of their inalienable right to human dignity – a Rainbow Nation at peace with itself and with the world.” – **Pretoria News** –

Even after 10 years there is a long way to go to stop racial disharmony. “Racism is still an issue, both white on black and black on white. The race card is played far too often” by authority. “But we have come this far and have achieved so much speaks volumes for the ability of the people of this country to forgive and forget.” - **Ditto** –

The former prime minister of Namibia, who left the post in, 2002, has gained his long sought after academic award from Leeds University. Hage Geingob, in a previous life a Swapo freedom fighter has gained his doctorate with his incisive study of the countries struggle for independence from South Africa.

Of his thesis Dr Geingob, the countries first prime minister in 1990, says that was a dilemma. and a rare insight into a political quandary; how much of an attempt should be made into reconciliation with the white minority population?

The newly elected member of parliament, in the recent election (qv 22/10), enjoyed his time in Leeds. His contact with tutors at the University was limited to E-mail and the occasional visit by them – on research trips to Namibia – and his visits here.

Mon 20

Not unfamiliar with using the ANC ’s online Newsletter, it is thought that president Mbeki has used its pages to attack the United States. With his long held belief that the HIV/Aids virus is man made (qv) he now attacks the use of the anti retroviral drug Neverapine (qv).

With much of sub Saharan Africa now dependent on the drug to prevent mother to baby transmission of the virus, at birth, the theory goes that the USA pharmaceutical industry and government health officials are using Africa as a ‘test bed’ as there is some evidence that the use of Neverapine will have adverse effects on those taking it.

Tues 21

De Beers, which controls half the global market in rough diamonds has agreed to slash by two thirds its agreed purchase of the stones from its nearest rival, Russian state owned Alrosa.

The European Commission, which launched an investigation into the deal, says De Beers would now cut its purchase from Alrosa from \$800m / £410m a year to just \$275m from 2010.

Obituary, Anthony T S Sampson 3. 8. 26 – 18. 12. 04, born into a professional family, his father was a research scientist for the British company ICI, Billingham County Durham. Childhood in Hampstead in north London and educated at Westminster School.

1944 – 1947 served in the Royal Navy raising to the rank of sub – lieutenant in the RNVN service.

Late 1940's read English at Christ Church College Oxford.

1951 called to Johannesburg to edit Drum Magazine, the foremost journalistic means of expression for the black majority and those who cared passionately about the crime of apartheid. During his time 'in the hot seat' there was a meeting with the emerging ANC leadership, especially Nelson Mandela – in a shebeen – that was sketchy in nature, due to the amount of alcohol consumed. Thus developed a long lasting friendship between the two, which say their two lives intertwined over the coming years.

1955 Now London based to write Drum: a Venture into the New Africa in 1956 to be followed, two years later – while working for the Observer newspaper with The Treason Cage; The Opposition on Trial in South Africa in 1958. Other publications concerning conditions in Africa – Commonsense about Africa; 1960. Also in that year, with help from S Pienaar South Africa: Two views of Separate Development.

1964 Back in the country of apartheid, to advise at the Rivoena Trial (qv) to advise on the ANC leaders anti – death penalty speech from the dock.

Mid 1980's establishing links between both the internal and exiled wings of the African National Congress.

1999 with a free Nelson Mandela, and a settled multi racial government, there was time for cooperation with the president on Mandela: the Authorised Biography

Honour gained Chairman of the Society of Authors 1992 –1994. Trustee of Guardian and Observer Newspaper Trust 1993 – 1996. Member of the international advisory board Independent Newspapers [South Africa] from 1996.

Thurs 23

The white farming community, who were the subject of a report in 2003 (qv 26/9), are as then still mainly worried about theft from their land. This stealing, chiefly of livestock, is put down to their own black labour force. The farmer's latest strategy, chiefly in KwaZulu Natal province is to turn their land into a game reserve.

The beauty of this scheme, to these farmers, some who are loathe to give up their apartheid tendencies, is that fewer blacks are needed on the land and the returns from eco tourism are greater. There is an influx of the rich tourist to spend freely. They are also learning all the time.

According to the experts 600, 000 hectares / 1.5m acres a year is fenced off and given over for hunting and conservation says T Eloff a wildlife economist and professor at North West University. Within KwaZulu Natal, since 1999, the number of game parks has doubled to 139. These cover 260, 957 hectares says S de Jaegar, hunting manager for the provincial authority.

As to the former black workers, many are going hungry as they are forced off their land. These forced evictions leads to resentment and the threat of further violence says their spokesman says M Kubheka, national organiser of the pressure group the Landless People's Movement. As a soon to be evictee, from a plot of land his family has farmed for three generations at Ingogo, can well understand.

As to the national position; after 10 years of government by the ANC whites still own 80% of the land. Pretoria's plan 30% of farmland to be in black ownership by 2014 is behind schedule. There is little talk of a Mugabe style 'land grab,' however the potential is there if the government does not provide the money to do so. Since 1994 only 4% of white owned land has been purchased and redistributed to the emerging black farmer.

Fri 24

As 'the year for Africa' approaches plans are being laid, down to help orphans of HIV/Aids parents from sub Saharan Africa, to receive financial aid from the European Union.

Former British foreign secretary, Robin Cook is to urge officials in Brussels, to take note of a petition, being signed by an increasing number of European residents, that would see the European Union's most productive farmers loose a small proportion of the subsidies they are entitled to under the Common Agricultural Policy.

Details; according to former home office ministers, G Stuart and M Wills the originators of the scheme, the CAP pays out over E10bn to 2% of the Europe 's farmers. They receive an average of E50, 000 each under this policy. To become an issue this petition has to collect 1m signatories before it even reaches the stage of debate by the 25 heads of government during 2005. Even then help for Africa 's orphans depends on the ratification of a new constitution, which is still under discussion.

The amount that would be gathered in would be E5bn / £3.5bn. This would come in Britain, according to Oxfam, from the 224 biggest farmers who received £47m in 2003.

Thurs 30

Despite the recent agreement, to end the poaching of qualified nurses from developing countries to work in Britain (qv 9/12), there is evidence that the rules are being flouted by private nursing agencies.

A letter, from the Recruitment Employment Federation which represents some 250 agencies, *and seen by this diarists source* was seen by the health minister 2 days before the code was presented as 'a done deal'. The objections, of the REF, are that the code in its present form prevents an individual medical person traveling to Britain and then seeking employment at the medical facility of his choice.

To make the code effective the Foundations managing director, G Osborne, would be to use employment measures that are already in place. These measures, the issuing of work permits or refusal to would be just as effective in limiting the number of medically qualified persons entering Britain.

According to the Royal College of Nursing the way the REF circumnavigates the code by placing individuals in smaller hospitals and nursing homes which are outside the code. After a short time the overseas employee is free to apply for work in the NHS.