

TEARGAS DIARIES: TEMBISA ■ ANC CONFERENCE SEASON ■ AL AWLAKI ■ THE AGE OF THE CELEBRITY CHEF

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BETA

MALEMA TIMES

Another week, another freshly-picked bunch of enemies

By STEPHEN GROOTES

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President Sarkozy, The Unpopular One (Reuters)

POLITICS

ISRAEL

In case your Bleeding Obvious subscription has run out, Pentagon chief Leon Panetta warned that Israel is becoming isolated in the Middle East. The evidence Panetta had to go on was Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayipp Erdogan, once an Israel ally, marching around the world telling everyone that Turkey now backs Palestine's bid for sovereignty, Egypt's former president Hosni Mubarak, who brokered peace with Israel, now being tried in a cage and Palestine having a good diplomatic run at the UN.

FRANCE

Nicolas Sarkozy does not hold

the confidence of the French public, according to a poll by ViaVoice, a left-leaning (opposition to Sarkozy) publication. The results of the survey indicate two-thirds of the population don't believe the current president will win the vote in April 2012, but, more shockingly, 54% of his own party's supporters don't believe it either and would prefer the current foreign minister, Alain Juppe, to run in his place. Sarkozy's super low approval ratings may indeed begin rumblings within his own party, but we'll probably see a lot more smoke before that fire burns publicly.

EGYPT

Political bodies have retracted their threat to storm out of Egyptian elections after

concessions from the ruling military interim government. The bodies, including the Muslim Brotherhood, made some noise about boycotting the elections, largely due to parties not being able to take up seats reserved for individuals – Joe Public and his hopeful representatives don't like this as it may keep deposed president Hosni Mubarak's allies in the leadership structure.

BUSINESS

GREECE

You're probably soon going to be able to get cheap flights to Greece. Parliament has approved a plan to begin retrenching 30,000 public workers. Since the Mediterranean nation began implementing austerity

measures, the public has been quite happy to let the government know just how much they disagree, so expect a fair portion of those workers, now with nothing to fill up their day, to express their opinions via the medium of passionate protest. Greece will miss the debt-reduction targets it set for this financial year and next year, but will push through with further financial reforms anyway, the bulk of which will go through parliament tomorrow.

JAPAN

Tokyo stocks opened 1.5% lower on Monday morning and saw that number plummet to nearly 2% in the first quarter-hour of trading. This is despite a Bank of Japan report which indicated consumer confidence was back up – its highest point before being smashed to hell by an earthquake and tsunami. The Greece/Europe debacle hasn't helped matters either.

SPORT

RUSSIA

Football, Russian Premier League: Spartak Moscow fans confirmed that football thuggery is indeed an



Steve McLaren, The Fired One (Reuters)

international commodity when their home 2-2 draw with Zenit St Petersburg was overshadowed by the visiting fans' bus being pelted with stones. In case scaring the daylights out of them and wrecking a bus wasn't quite enough, they attacked the St Petersburg visitors with bats too.

UK

Football, Premier League: In case the previous story didn't raise your hackles, Arsenal fans visiting White Hart Lane received a bollocking from Tottenham Hotspur manager Harry Redknapp. Their chants were directed at striker Emmanuel Adebayor, and mocked the gun attack on a bus in which he was involved last year while travelling to the African Cup of Nations with the Togolese team. Three people were killed in the

shootings. The fans chanted "It should have been you". Keepin' it classy, boys.

In news from the same fixture, Arsenal defender Bacary Sagna broke his leg in the match and will be out for three months with a chance of surgery. This also means he will miss France's last two Euro 2012 qualifiers.

Championship: ex-England manager Steve McClaren has parted ways with relegation-threatened Championship team Nottingham Forest, after only three months in charge. He resigned after a 3-0 loss against Birmingham City, in pretty much a "go, or be pushed" scenario. The chairman, Nigel Doughty, who also owns the club, has also stepped down, taking responsibility for hiring McClaren in the first place.



Emanuel Adebayor, The Harassed One (Reuters)

AFRICA

Football, Champions League: Esperance beat Al-Hilal 0-1 on Sunday in Omduram, Sudan, to take a decisive advantage to the second leg of the semi-final, provisionally booking themselves a likely spot in a second consecutive Champions League final. Wydad Casablanca beat Enyimba 1-0 at home in the other semi.

ITALY

Football, Serie A: Juventus beat AC Milan 2-0 in Turin to go top of Serie A on goals-for (not only are they equal on points with Udinese, but goal difference too). The deadlock was only broken in the 86th minute, but Claudio Marchisio doubled his effort four minutes

later. AC Milan dwindle in 15th position after a disastrous start to the season, with the sole redeeming factor of this season being that they remain above rivals Inter who have had an even worse beginning.

SPAIN

Football, La Liga: Barcelona and Real Madrid both won away from home with the Catalans holding on to an 11th-minute Adriano goal against Sporting Gijon and a real thumping for Espanyol 0-4, courtesy of a Higuain hat-trick. The results keep Barcelona atop La Liga alongside Levante on 14 points, with Real Madrid, Malaga and Valencia a point back.

FRANCE

Football, Ligue 1: Paris Saint-Germain sits atop Ligue 1 after a 2-0 victory over Lyon. New signing Javier Pastore broke the deadlock with a 64th-minute strike in a great display of counter-attacking football. PSG are three points ahead of Montpellier, Lyon and Toulouse.

USA

Kevin Na won the Las Vegas Open to beat Nick Watney by two shots. The South Korean's putting did most of the work, including a monster 43-footer on the 17th and a par on the last hole to secure the title. Watney and Na were level coming into the 15th before the South Korean sealed the win with three consecutive birdies.



Amanda Knox (Reuters)

LIFE
SOUTH AFRICA

A tornado ripped through Duduza township, east of Johannesburg, which killed one person and destroyed more than 1,000 homes. Tornadoes also killed a young boy and injured 42 others in Ficksburg. Forecasts predict more big winds again on Monday.

POLAND

Tired of the famed piece of toast and places like heaven or nirvana, Jesus has moved to a communion wafer in the thriving metropolis of Sokolka, Poland. Church officials in the town claim that a brown spot which appeared on the wafer when it was dropped on the

ground is actually a piece of the heart of Jesus. And they reckon this has been verified by doctors. The Vatican is yet to officially decide whether this is a miracle or not.

ALGERIA

Ten people have died and hundreds of homes have been destroyed as annual heavy rains have struck, according to Algerian authorities. Eight of the bodies have been recovered from the town of El Bayadh in the north of the country.

NIGERIA

Nineteen people died in an attack on the village of Lingyado by an armed gang. Six others were wounded. A police chief said the group of armed attackers consisted of about 150 people and “the gang

of armed robbers moved door-to-door, shooting or hacking their victims to death”.

Although Lingyado is located in northern Nigeria, there is no evidence to link this attack to Boko Haram.

USA

“The Lion King 3D” was knocked off the top box-office perch on Sunday and replaced by “Dolphin Tale”, which grossed \$14.1 million and is about a dolphin with a prosthetic tail. “The Lion King 3D”, which has earned its owners nearly an extra \$100 million on its re-release, dropped to third overall; it was also overtaken by “Moneyball”, a baseball flick starring Brad Pitt.

ITALY

Amanda Knox will find out today whether her appeal against a conviction for murdering Meredith Kercher is successful. In last-day deliberations, her lawyer will make a statement in court and be followed by the accused herself, and, most likely, her boyfriend who faces the same charges. Knox is expected to address the court in Italian. Jurors are not permitted to leave the court until a decision is made, so she will know by bedtime in which bed she will be spending the night.

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THE TEARGAS DIARIES - TEMBISA



Tembisa turns up the volume, again

The last time Tembisa went to the streets to demand cheaper electricity, most groups were fairly peaceful – but were dealt with harshly. At the time we reported on the mutterings about petrol bombs at the next protest. That time came on Friday, and so did the petrol bombs. Here's another prediction: Tembisa isn't done yet.

All photos by Phillip de Wet for iMaverick.

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Police started arresting people gathering on the streets before sunrise, temporarily bringing the planned protest to a halt. That allowed some residents to go to work and reduced the eventual crowd numbers. But, as it turned out, it was a protest delayed rather than denied.



By 6am streets in at least five sections of the township were being blockaded and neighbourhoods were arming themselves for battle. Most – but not all – did so playfully.



While keeping the main arterial roads open to traffic, police ceded internal township roads to the crowds. Some remained impassable throughout the day. On others, passing cars were stoned and, in one instance, a beverage truck was looted later in the afternoon.



The Metrorail service in the township was also periodically disrupted. Foot patrols on the line helped, but it only takes one burning tyre to bring an entire line to a standstill.



Police armour, plenty of rubber bullets and the occasional teargas canister soon dispersed big groups, but only temporarily.



Rocks versus rubber bullets can be an uneven affair, and the one that can rapidly escalate. Petrol bombs, however, are another matter altogether. On one corner, at least two police vans were petrol bombed. Many protesters were arrested in that area, but the actual bombers managed to escape.



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Bricks stacked at a police station under construction in Tembisa made their way onto the road, joining other makeshift barricades. Later the same road was cleared by residents, at first unwillingly by suspects under arrest and heavy police guard.



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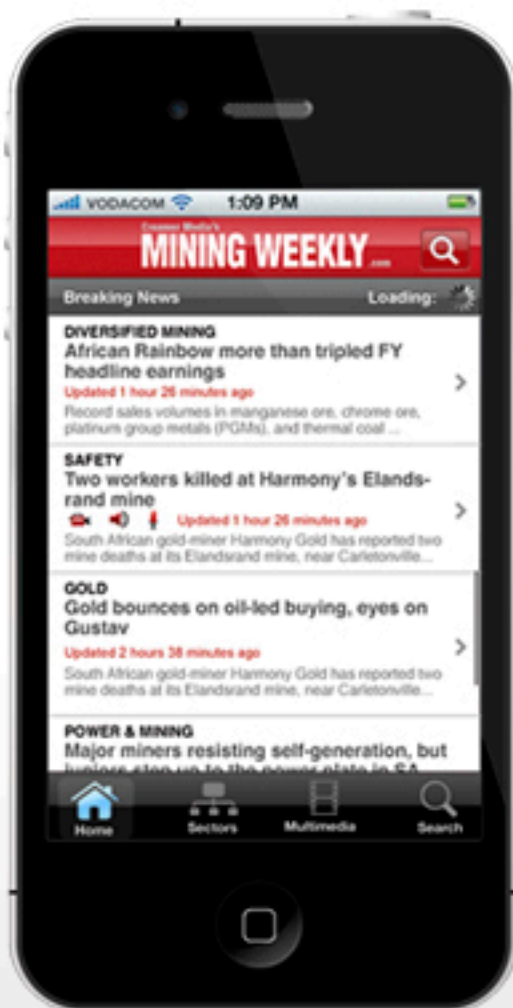
"It wasn't me," one arrested suspect, collared from a back garden told police. "No, it's never you," a policeman retorted. Around 100 people were detained before the end of the day.

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DALAI LAMA VISA “UNLIKELY”

The Dalai Lama is unlikely to get a visa to enter South Africa to attend Desmond Tutu’s 80th birthday celebrations, according to a senior government source quoted by City Press. A response on the application is expected tomorrow, when civil society organisations plan to protest outside Parliament. A petition is also doing the rounds.

HAWKS TAPPED JOURNALIST’S PHONE

Weekend reports citing the Inspector-General of Intelligence, Faith Radebe, confirmed that the Hawks had tapped journalist Mzilikazi wa Afrika’s phone. The tap was reportedly approved by a judge and was in terms of the Rica Act. Wa Afrika was arrested in July and detained for two days over his possession of a resignation letter allegedly penned by Mpumalanga Premier David Mabuza. The prosecutor subsequently declined to proceed with the matter as it had no merit. The arrest came two days after Wa Afrika had written about the R500 million police deal.



Dalai Lama (Reuters)

NO NEWS IS GOOD NEWS FOR CELE ON SUSPENSION ALLEGATIONS

Beleaguered police chief Bheki Cele told the Sunday Independent that there is much work still left for him to do and he is not leaving the South African Police Service until it is done. Cele was responding to last week’s rumours that he would be suspended or fired. The report quoted Cele as saying, “The SAPS hasn’t said a word [on the matter] and I haven’t said a word, and that’s how I want to keep it.”

DEWANI APPEALS EXTRADITION

Murder accused Shiren Dewani has appealed his extradition order, which was approved by British home

secretary Theresa May last week. It is unclear at this stage on what grounds Dewani is making his appeal. However several analysts have said that he is unlikely to succeed and should be in the country in time to face trial with his co-accused, who are scheduled to appear in the Cape Town High Court in February.

GAUTENG ANC DENIES TALKING SUCCESSION DEBATE

According to a Sunday Times report, the Johannesburg and Tshwane branches of the ANC have begun informal discussions on the party’s leadership debate. The two regions are reported to have voiced support for Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe to succeed President Jacob Zuma. Provincial spokesman



Mzilikazi wa Afrika (Reuters)

Nkenke Kekana denied the reports. The party had said previously that the succession debate was closed and only the national executive committee could open the nomination process.

FACEBOOK RAPIST ESCALATES TO MURDER

A serial rapist, posing as a casting agent on Facebook and luring women with money and offers of jobs, is now operating in the Cape Town area, according to a weekend report. Operating under several aliases, the man has reportedly set up appointments with at

least three women – one in Parow and another at the One & Only hotel – but was a no-show in both instances. The rapist’s activities are believed to be escalating following the discovery of dead woman at a bed and breakfast in Sunset Beach, near Cape Town. Police have been monitoring his Facebook account and have urged anyone with information to come forward.

MADIKIZELA-MANDELA LASHES OUT AT MADIBA FUNERAL DRESS REHEARSALS

Winnie Madikizela-Mandela is outraged at reports that the

SABC, which allegedly paid for the rights to broadcast Nelson Mandela’s funeral, has been holding “rehearsals” in Auckland Park under code name M-Project. Accepting the National Heritage Council’s ubuntu award, Madikizela-Mandela said that the dress rehearsals are causing the family pain. The SABC has denied the existence of the M-Project.

MANYI RESPONDS TO MADONSELA REPORT

Jimmy Manyi has responded to Public Protector Thuli Madonsela’s report on him with a strongly worded letter. Manyi accused Madonsela of suppressing transformation, damaging the country’s reputation and acting in a manner that is grossly unfair and unconstitutional, according to a City Press report. Madonsela had found that Manyi’s two roles when he was director-general of labour and BMF president created a conflict of interest. She recommended that Manyi move away from his involvement at the BMF.



ANC CONFERENCE SEASON UPON US AGAIN

Provinces slugging it out among themselves, newspaper headlines on battle strategies and a President showing his face around small and far-flung communities to check on his government's service delivery – these are all early symptoms of the ANC's elective conference. By CARIEN DU PLESSIS.

Newspaper front pages over the weekend said it all: “Zuma alliance attacks” (Mail & Guardian) and “Zuma challenged” ([Sunday Times](#)), with the latter reporting on an unofficial briefing note being circulated in ANC Gauteng ranks touting Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe as Zuma's possible challenger.

Housing minister Tokyo Sexwale or defence minister Lindiwe Sisulu are mentioned as

possible deputies, while arts and culture minister Paul Mashatile's name was touted as a candidate for party chairman.

The province has denied that such a document officially exists, but this is the same province that has in the past called for a more open debate around leadership succession as

Photo: ANC's top six in Polokwane. (iMaverick)

The wrangling ahead of next year's conference – set to take place in December in Mangaung – seems to have started a lot earlier than it did the last time around, and it seems to be even fiercer – perhaps in part because the ANC's alliance partners, Cosatu and the SACP, will be choosing new leaders too. The new leaders of these two organisations will be pointers towards what will happen in the ANC's conference later.

well as a more transparent nominations process, and it is likely that at least a few individuals are talking in this direction.

Although their power certainly isn't in numbers, ANC members and leaders from Gauteng consider themselves the “brains” province of the party with the power to persuade others to follow their stance.

The Sunday Times front page reminded of a similar one in the same paper almost five years ago, in [January 2007](#), saying that Sexwale was planning to project himself as a compromise candidate in the battle between Zuma and former president Thabo Mbeki.

A few months later, Sexwale came out, announcing his availability, but withdrew when it became clear that he might only serve to split the vote against Mbeki.

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new leaders too. The new leaders of these two organisations will be pointers towards what will happen in the ANC's conference later.

Another important battleground is the provinces. The Mail & Guardian this weekend reported on interesting manoeuvres by Zuma's camp in the North West, Limpopo and the Free State to strengthen the President's support by various means, including a disciplinary hearing, the delay of a provincial conference and the fight for at least two premiers to stay in power.

Both Limpopo and the Free State are scheduled to have elections for new provincial ANC leaders before the ANC's national conference in December 2012, and fights can be expected as Zuma and his possible challengers move to secure their power bases. It's also important for both camps to make sure the support in other provinces swing in their favour because the secret to success in ANC conferences lies here (and more specifically in the support of those who lead the delegates from the provinces to the national gathering).

Clashes are taking place in KwaZulu-Natal

Meanwhile Zuma had been back from his overseas trip for over a week now and has still failed to act against allegedly dodgy appointees like police chief General Bheki Cele (for misadministration in the awarding of police leases worth more than R1.7 billion). He also seems to be taking his time devising the terms of reference for the arms deal inquiry he announced two-and-a-half weeks back.

and the Western Cape too in the form of the party's youth wing disbanding its pro-Zuma structures in the coastal province in the east and trying to resurrect the disbanded structures in the west. Obviously the plan by the ANC Youth League's national leadership is to find someone who is as pro-Julius Malema as possible, or at least anti-Zuma, but the provincial faction fighting seems to drown out the national battles.

Meanwhile Zuma had been back from his overseas trip for over a week now and has still failed to act against allegedly dodgy appointees like police chief General Bheki Cele (for misadministration in the awarding of police leases worth more than R1.7 billion). He also seems to be taking his time devising the terms of reference for the arms deal inquiry he announced two-and-a-half weeks back.


But mindful of the value of the provinces, Zuma has visited the Eastern Cape last week, where he went to the barely functional King Sabata Dalindyebo Municipality (better known as Mthatha) with an army of ministers to report back on the work done since 2009 to get the municipality functional.

One could argue that simply doing the job would have done the job, but the visit was also important strategically as this is one of the areas where Zuma's support in the ANC is still strong, and he would presumably like to keep it like that.

He also went to [Port Elizabeth](#) to speak to automotive bosses and workers there. This is the same Nelson Mandela Bay Metro where his party barely managed to scrape through the last election with a majority (it had 51%), and where tensions between the ANC's regional leaders are at an [all-time high](#).

This week Zuma will be going to Qwaqwa in the Free State to "assess the efficacy of rural development programmes" as part of the presidency's programme of performance management. (Interestingly the focus is now on performance monitoring, but in Mbeki's time imbizos were all the rage. These were large community gatherings where ministers would listen to problems in order to effect service delivery.)

He will be flanked by provincial Premier Ace Magashule, as well as various ministers and MECs.

In these turbulent times, he'd want to be seen to have others by his side. 

READ MORE:

1. SA streets want Kgalema Motlanthe in [Daily Maverick](#)

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MALEMA TIMES: ANOTHER WEEK, ANOTHER FRESHLY-PICKED BUNCH OF ENEMIES

Julius Malema. Yes, him. It's difficult to think of someone who has made as many enemies as he has in such a short time. Okay, maybe Jimmy Manyi. Or perhaps, going back a bit, Butana Khompela. But when it comes to the sheer speed of creating enemies, and thus friends of your earlier enemies but not necessarily friends of your own, Malema is in a class of his own. By STEPHEN GROOTES.

The enemies, it would seem, are getting louder, sensing perhaps, that there is blood in the water. And at the same time, some of his friends are themselves turning up the volume. Over the weekend Malema formally disbanded the provincial executive committee of the KwaZulu-Natal league. [It was expected](#), but it's more evidence of Malema's enemy-making ability. Quite a way to start the week in which his

disciplinary hearing resumes – and his political career could end.

Mthandeni Dlungwana is not a name most of us will have heard before last week. He is, or was, depending on your political allegiance and how you interpret the ANC's constitution, the chair of the KZN ANC Youth League. But he

Photo: REUTERS

If Mantashe acts in Dlungwana's favour, he's going to look conflicted. If he doesn't, he'll lose another province to his dear young comrade, Julius.

sounds like Lindiwe Mazibuko when he says “Young people in South Africa are fed up with how Julius and his crew have been running the African National Congress Youth League”. But wait, there's more, “It is high time that young people in South Africa rise up and reject Julius Malema and his people”. It's a great sound bite. But it's not rehearsed, it's a symptom of the very real anger that Dlungwana and, presumably, the people around him are feeling towards Malema at the moment.

This is to be expected from a political leader whose provincial leadership has just been disbanded. But it's also the most fiery and direct response we've had to Malema from any of the youngsters he's put out. When Lehlogonolo Masoga was done out of the [chairmanship of the League in Limpopo](#), there was plenty of anger, but nothing quite that direct.

The difference of course is that Dlungwana will have a hotline to the leaders of the senior ANC in KZN, and they are sitting pretty at the moment as they lead the biggest province in the party. And what's more, they have a hotline to one of the best speakers of formal “high” Zulu there is. The other reason is that this, to most observers, is an open and shut case. Everyone knows why Malema is doing this. It's because the League in KZN, like its elders in that province, is going to support Jacob Zuma at that little shindig

in Mangaung next year. Malema is not.

Dlungwana says he's written a letter to Gwede Mantashe, the incumbent of the office bearing the temporary sign “secretary-general” in Luthuli house. As its renovations continue, he is likely to have looked at it and sighed. And smiled. And then sighed again. If Mantashe acts in Dlungwana's favour, he's going to look conflicted. If he doesn't, he'll lose another province to his dear young comrade, Julius.

When this happened with Limpopo's Masoga, it was kicked to Kgalema Motlanthe to deal with. Mantashe probably won't make that mistake again. Somehow, in the same way that a ball pops up on the Springbok side of the ruck along with that winning smile of Heinrich Brussow, Malema will be seen to win if Motlanthe is allowed to control the process. But Mantashe is nothing if not a master of the dark arts of the political scrum, he'll come up with something. And he'll have plenty of help, as KZN provincial leaders are unlikely to take this lying down. A glance at [voting numbers](#) will show you that KZN is currently first and foremost in the ANC. Limpopo, from where Malema hails, is nowhere close.

But then over the weekend, we had the re-emergence of that well-known mutual appreciation society involving Malema and Winnie Madikizela-Mandela. Madikizela-

But what's really unclear here is what Sexwale will bring to the process. What does he know that no one else does?


Mandela received the Ubuntu Award from the National Heritage Council on Friday and the League gushed thusly: "... honouring Mama Winnie Madikizela-Mandela confirms her status as a revolutionary, freedom fighter and a humanist... indeed Mama Winnie Mandela deservedly joins heroes like Nelson Mandela, Kenneth Kaunda and Fidel Castro". At the awards dinner, she returned the raw emotion saying publicly to Malema, "No other leader of the youth has gone through what you have". Firstly, if you're a veteran of the '76 riots, I apologise that you had to read that. Clearly two whole disciplinary hearings is the worst possible thing that a young person has gone through in the history of the world ever.

But never mind all of that, obviously there's a temptation to label this as Madikizela-Mandela slamming the ANC. And we have more reports – but no confirmation as yet – that Tokyo Sexwale is going to be Malema's "ace" in his disciplinary hearing. Mantashe will not be alarmed. It's well known that Madikizela-Mandela was really responsible for Malema's upbringing, politically at any rate. When she talks to him, she's talking about her son, and mothers tend to lament any

ill-treatment their children suffer. And when he returns the favour, well, who wouldn't want to compare their mom to Fidel Castro?

Sexwale is a slightly different matter. It's been open secret for ages that he's been backing, possibly even bankrolling, Malema. But these reports could be difficult for him, because he's being publicly outed as a Malema supporter. And the investors he still bumps into from time to time may have a few issues to discuss with him somewhere between the 13th and the 14th holes. But what's really unclear here is what Sexwale will bring to the process. What does he know that no one else does? Surely, not much. He can talk about the history of the ANC, but he's certainly not as expert on that subject as say, Zuma or Thabo Mbeki before him. And he's never really been a big player in the League's politics either. So it's really just a gesture of support.

When the disciplinary process against Malema started, it seemed the political power balance was against him. He simply didn't have the numbers in the national executive committee to stay in the party. Nothing much has changed since then; it still looks bleak for the Young Lion. And while it seemed at first that prolonging the agony was going to work in his favour, now so many other people in the League and elsewhere are spotting their chance, that it seems to just be getting worse for him. And that pushes him into making mistakes. He's young, disbanding the KZN League no doubt seemed like the right decision at the time.

But it could well rebound on him. And Mthandeni Dlungwana will be waiting. 

Grootes is an [EWN](#) reporter.



WHILE BASSON GETS GRILLED, DR SHOCK FACES TRIAL IN CANADA

Wouter Basson is currently getting headlines for his role in waging chemical warfare for the apartheid military. But less well known is the case of apartheid doctor Aubrey Levin, who is alive and well and, until last year, was still practicing psychiatry in Canada. By REBECCA DAVIS.

They called him 'Dr Shock'. Levin, chief psychiatrist in the apartheid-era military, earned the nickname for his belief that homosexuality could be cured by electric shock treatment. Levin's involvement in this line of work began in the late 1960s. In 1967 the UK passed its Sexual Offences Act, which decriminalised certain homosexual acts, and the apartheid government mooted the possibility of doing the same. But into the breach stepped Levin, who wrote to the parliamentary committee in charge of considering the idea, to inform them that there was no need to take this legislative route because he could "cure" gayness.

Accordingly, Levin was appointed to Ward 22 at the Voortrekkerhoogte military hospital

in 1969. The ward was notorious because it was set aside for the treatment of "deviants", a category which included not just homosexuals of both genders, but also conscientious objectors. Homosexuals were treated by Levin with electroconvulsive aversion therapy. Here Levin would strap electrodes to the arms of his subjects, and show them pictures of naked men (if they were men) or naked women (if they were women).

Levin encouraged the subjects to fantasise about the images, and then subjected them to increasingly painful shocks. They were then shown heterosexually appropriate pornographic

Photo: Calgary Herald.

The plaintiff secretly filmed the psychiatrist making sexual advances on him. By July 2010 a further 20 counts of sexual assault had been laid against Levin by other male patients who came forward with similar allegations.


material, without any shocks administered. We know all this largely thanks to the testimony of a brave intern who worked with Levin, who took the name of Trudi Grobler to give evidence. She had witnessed Levin shock a woman being treated for lesbianism so hard that her shoes flew off her feet. Grobler was so horrified that she reported Levin to her superiors. For this act, Levin had her removed from the ward. And those gay soldiers who suffered the electric shocks may have been the lucky ones. The TRC heard from investigators that more than one gay soldier had been chemically castrated by Levin.

Levin's activities were not confined to homosexuals. He also worked with men who objected to serving in the military on moral grounds. In these cases he administered the patients the so-called "truth drug": sodium pentathol, known to lower inhibitions. Author Terry Bell, who wrote a book on the TRC called "Unfinished Business", interviewed a man who underwent this procedure. He revealed how Levin would strap down the subject and drip feed them the drug, proceeding then to psychologically goad them until their "thoughts, fantasies and fears were laid bare". All of this was

taped and later played back to the patient, who in this case heard himself "howling like an animal".

Levin refused to appear before the TRC, who heard that he was guilty of "gross human rights abuses". News of this appears not to have reached Canada, who welcomed him as an émigré in 1995. In an interview with *The Guardian* in 2000, Levin said he'd left South Africa "because of the high crime rate". Levin is believed to have suppressed the truth about his past in Canada by threatening lawsuits against media agencies who tried to discuss it. He did this with so much success that he was able to work as a psychiatrist at the University of Calgary's medical school for 15 years.

That is, until March 2010, when he was arrested – but not for any offence connected with his apartheid past. The doctor who had tried to cure homosexuality with torture was arrested for sexually abusing a male patient. The plaintiff secretly filmed the psychiatrist making sexual advances on him. By July 2010 a further 20 counts of sexual assault had been laid against Levin by other male patients who came forward with similar allegations. Levin pleaded not guilty to all charges at the first hearing two weeks ago, and the judge has now set the two-week trial by jury to begin in October 2012.

What is truly astonishing, however, is that the Canadian press appears still ignorant of Levin's past. The *Calgary Herald* concluded their account of the initial hearing with the neutral words: "He previously practised psychiatry in South Africa". 

READ MORE:

1. 'Doctor Shock' charged with sexually abusing male patient, in [The Guardian](#)

SIPHO HLONGWANE

A black and white close-up portrait of Sipho Hlongwane, a Black man with short hair, looking slightly to the left of the camera with a neutral expression. He is wearing a patterned shirt.

ANC MUST THROW SUCCESSION DEBATE WIDE OPEN

Gwede Mantashe's dusty-grey goatee is going to turn snow-white one of these days. He worries a lot about where the ANC is going, but some of his solutions to guide the party back to the narrow way are woefully outdated. The ANC, and the times, have changed – it's time its rules changed as well.

When I was studying economics at the University of Cape Town, we were told about cycles of boom and bust. Countries will go through bear and bull phases. It's all very natural. The problems start when you introduce anomalies into the market that accentuate crests and troughs. Apparently you don't want an economy of extreme highs and lows. (I didn't pay much attention during Economics 102, to be honest.)

But the ANC learnt other things at Polokwane. Members learnt to exploit factional groupings within the party. The beast of populism was unleashed (though to hear the talk these days, people regret how Zuma was elected). These new habits in the party are like economic bubbles – they'll heighten booms and deepen busts.

The secret to managing these cycles is to reduce the effects of bubbles while keeping growth on an upward path.

This, in essence, is the challenge ANC secretary general Gwede Mantashe faces. Instead of managing economic tokens of value like central bank governors do, he manages a political party. And instead of bull and bear runs in a market, the ANC has election cycles. Think of the elective conferences that roll around every five years as being the crests of a boom run, and the years in-between as the troughs.

Mantashe would probably disagree with my analogy. He still wants us to believe the ANC is a homogenous body that acts very predictably. He wants us to believe the myth of political cohesion within the party.

This is patently not the case.

The election of new ANC leaders isn't as neat as Mantashe wants us to believe. The

transition from Nelson Mandela to Thabo Mbeki was smooth, but wouldn't have been so if Madiba had had any interest in running the ANC. The old man wanted to enjoy the trappings that came with being an international hero and statesman, not do battle with Mbeki. The transition between Mbeki and Zuma, via Motlanthe, was fraught, despite the informal agreement in the ANC being that the deputy president becomes the president. Political tradition eventually prevailed at Polokwane.

But the ANC learnt other things at Polokwane. Members learnt to exploit factional groupings within the party. The beast of populism was unleashed (though to hear the talk these days, people regret how Zuma was elected). These new habits in the party are like economic bubbles – they'll heighten booms and deepen busts.

The ANC cannot continue to pretend leadership battles are fiercely and cynically contested these days. The party can't pretend it doesn't go through political cycles.

Mantashe himself hinted at this change when he wrote to the national executive committee in his regular organisational report. "Comrades boldly boast that the abnormal situation and the divisions that characterised the 52nd conference must now be accepted as a tradition of the ANC," he wrote. "Kingmakers and bookmakers can only survive when the NEC is divided. Politics of blackmail get stronger when factions are growing stronger than the organisational structures."

Another absolutely critical factor is the [sheer size of the ANC](#). Mix together ambition, hunger for power, money and one-million members, and the idea that the party can be controlled flies out

I don't believe there is merit in disciplining Malema for comparing Mbeki to Zuma. We all do that. But if the NEC honestly believes by slapping Malema on the hand for engaging in "divisive behaviour" (the leadership debate), they will make the issue go away, then they are going to have to be prepared to bring charges against hundreds of other leaders.

of the window. In the struggle days when the party was of necessity run like a Soviet politburo, it didn't have so many people to manage. Plus the ANC had a common goal. It doesn't now. Power is the only glue that holds it together.


This does not mean that this situation can't be exploited by Mantashe and the ANC leadership for the long-term benefit of the party.

The ban on the succession debate hasn't stopped the debate about leadership in the party. Lobbyists in the party are being forced underground where they can make mischief and later deny it. If the ANC stopped pretending it always speaks with one voice, and permanently lifted the ban on the succession debate, it certainly wouldn't bring everyone closer together. But it would make it easier for the top leadership to control the extent to which factional battles are fought. People like ANC Youth League president Julius Malema – who is strongly suspected of trying to push the Zuma/Mantashe axis out by next year – would find themselves speaking openly, but also being

publicly held responsible for what they say.

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Initially, members would go into overdrive with factional fighting, but the situation would eventually normalise.

As children we used to play pranks anyone foolish enough to bring a fizzy drink to school by shaking it up when they weren't watching, and then falling about in fits of laughter when the can's contents would explode into the owner's face. The ANC factional lobbying under the current system is like that can of pent-up pressure. Sooner or later, it will explode in ways Mantashe never intended. It's best to relieve the pressure long before by opening the leadership debate now. 

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RED CROSS ENTERS SIRTE AS SHELLING CONTINUES

The Red Cross is in Muammar Gaddafi's hometown of Sirte amid fears of a humanitarian crisis in the city after weeks of being under siege by national transitional council forces, Reuters reported. Some of the 100,000 people who have been trapped in the city have begun to stream out in recent days. The Red Cross entered the city to deliver medical supplies on Saturday; however NTC forces continued shelling the city.

NATO: MISSING LIBYAN MISSILES A THREAT TO CIVILIAN AVIATION

According to German newspaper Der Spiegel, Admiral Giampaolo di Paola, chair of Nato's military chiefs committee, held a secret meeting for German MPs on Monday where he expressed fears that at least 10,000 missiles were unaccounted for in Libya. He said the missing missiles would represent a threat to civilian aviation should they end up in the wrong hands.



Civilians fleeing Gaddafi's hometown of Sirte (Reuters)

NIGERIA INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS SUBDUED BY TERROR THREATS

Following last week's bomb threats from the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta, Independence Day celebrations Nigeria were fairly subdued. Reuters reported that there was none of the usual decorations and revelry in the capital's Eagle Square. In his speech on the day, President Goodluck Jonathan assured the nation that tackling the recent upsurge of terrorist attacks was top of his government's priorities.

VIOLENT ATTACKS MAR NIGERIA'S INDEPENDENCE DAY

Two incidents of violence rocked northern Nigeria amid Independence Day celebrations. In the first,

a gang of 150 raided a village in the north of the country, killing 18 people and wounding six others. In another, blamed on Boko Haram militants, a police patrol team was attacked with bombs and gunfire in Maiduguri in the north, leaving two people dead.

RIOT POLICE CLEAR EGYPT'S TAHRIR SQUARE

Riot police on Saturday cleared Egypt's Tahrir Square of around 100 protestors who had camped out there after demonstrations on Friday, according to a Reuters report. Ten protestors were arrested, apparently after throwing stones at the police. The protestors were demanding an end to emergency laws imposed by the military council, which has said the laws could be in place up to 2013.



Egypt's military (Reuters)

MILITARY RULING COUNCIL SET OUT TIMETABLE FOR DEPARTURE FROM POWER

Still in Egypt, the ruling military council has set out a timetable for its departure from power. Under the timetable, presidential elections could be held late in 2012 or early 2013, following elections for the houses of parliament. The military council has faced criticism for its failure to return the country to civilian rule within the six months, which was promised following the toppling of Mubarak's government. They have also been criticised for election laws and for dealing with protestors with the same heavy-handedness of the erstwhile government.

SUDAN WILL NOT WITHDRAW FROM DISPUTED ABYEI

Despite having previously having committed to the UN that it would do so, Sudan said it would not withdraw its army from the disputed Abyei region, according to Reuters. Army spokesman Sawarmi Khaled Saad said that the withdrawal would only happen once Ethiopian troops were fully deployed in the region. Withdrawal before that would disrupt the area's administration, he said. The UN urged Sudan to adhere to the agreement, which would see thousands of displaced people returned to the area. South Sudan, meanwhile, has accused Sudan of having no intention to withdraw from Abyei.

MEMBERS OF SEPARATIST GROUP ARRESTED IN PROTESTS

Members of a separatist group in Cameroon were arrested in Buea for protesting without authorisation and disturbing public order, according to a Reuters report. The members of the Southern Cameroon National Council are part of the country's English-speaking minority, some of whom say they have been marginalised and are seeking independence from Francophone Cameroon.

OUATTRA TRIES TO COAX GBAGBO'S PARTY BACK INTO ELECTION RACE

Ivory Coast President Alassane Ouattara met members of former rival Laurent Gbagbo's party in a bid to convince them not to boycott the 11 December parliamentary elections. Following the meeting, acting president of Gbagbo's Ivorian Popular Front, Miaka Oureto, said that he hoped the meeting would mark the beginning of a new dialogue with Ouattara. The Ivorian Popular Front had withdrawn from the electoral commission in protest against the composition of the commission. Much hangs on the December elections being credible, including peace and funding from the International Monetary Fund.



MUGABE'S MYSTERIOUS MEDICAL HOLIDAYS

Robert Mugabe has a very conscientious eye doctor. The old man apparently has cataracts and must travel all the way to Singapore to have them, er, seen to. Not just once, or even twice - since January, he's been there six times, and he was there for a seventh this weekend. Cataracts don't usually require such thorough attention. By SIMON ALLISON.

Photo: REUTERS

A relatively simple procedure, cataracts are usually removed with a little local anaesthetic and patients rarely stay overnight in hospital. Whatever Robert Mugabe's going to Singapore for (at a cost of R21 million a trip), it's not just his cataracts.

A more likely explanation for his frequent need for international medical attention is the theory that Mugabe is suffering from pancreatic

cancer which has spread into other parts of his body. This was corroborated by recently leaked WikiLeaks cables in which in 2008 high-level sources told the US ambassador Mugabe had only between three and five years left to live, putting his likely death anytime between now and 2013.

But while Mugabe's away, his potential successors get to play. Joyce Mujuru and Emmerson Mnangagwa are the likely candidates. It won't be easy for either of them. Not only do they have their own issues to sort out (such as how exactly how Mujuru's husband Solomon died earlier this year), but there are plenty of bigwigs who might have their own eye on the prize.

Such as Jonathan Moyo, perhaps the only high level politician to desert Zanu-PF and then be welcomed back into the fold, who issued a veiled warning on Friday to the people looking to take Mugabe's place: "We know who they are, but we do not know what they stand for, their policy or ideology... Mugabe remains the only person who talks to the people and who talks the indigenous talk. We are better off with him than the others," he said. **IMV**

READ MORE:

1. Mugabe in Singapore for medical attention in [The Standard](#)



SOMALI PROBLEMS MAKE KENYA DANGEROUS FOR TOURISTS

Another tourist snatched off a Kenyan resort and spirited into Somalia; what started as a bizarre, isolated incident is becoming a potentially crippling trend for Kenya's tourist industry. By SIMON ALLISON.

Marie Dedieu is 66 years old and a paraplegic. She was fast asleep in her bed early Saturday morning when six gunmen entered her house on Manda Island, a small Kenyan resort just opposite the much larger resort of Lamu Island. The Frenchwoman had only returned home two days before from a trip to Paris with her Kenyan partner.

The gunmen rounded up all the staff and ordered them to lie down before dragging Dedieu from her bed. "We pleaded with them not to take her away and said we were ready to give them money, but they refused," her partner said. "As they dragged her I tried

to wrestle the man who was guarding me. I managed to jump out of the window as he fired two shots, but missed."

Dedieu was rushed to a waiting boat. It didn't make a clean getaway. Alerted by the commotion, the Kenyan security forces swung into action, and two coastguard vessels followed the boat as it headed in the direction of – where else? – Somalia. But despite a shootout during which several of Dedieu's abductors were injured, the boat evaded capture and made it safely to Ras Kamboni, the southernmost tip of Somalia.

Photo: Lamu Island (REUTERS)

Dedieu is not the only person in Somalia to have been abducted from a tourist resort in Kenya. Just three weeks ago, a similar operation left one British holidaymaker dead while his wife was spirited into Somalia. Clearly, a trend is emerging.


Blame focussed first on Al Shabaab, the Islamic militant group which is in control of large swathes of Somalia including the southern region. Destabilising the Kenyan tourist industry would certainly not go against its principles, but it is peripheral to its main objective which is to establish an Islamic state in Somalia. The group denied involvement in the first incident and is yet to say anything about the second. Al Shabaab is usually happy to claim credit for atrocities committed in its name (such as the twin bombings in Kampala during the 2010 World Cup final), so this is perhaps an indication it's not to blame. Moreover, abductions are not its usual modus operandi. Hostages tend to be more trouble than they're worth.

The second obvious culprits are, of course, the Somali pirates. They have plenty of experience with hostage-taking; currently nearly 700 victims are being held in Somalia along with their vessels, including two South Africans. And the way the kidnappings were executed was not dissimilar to a pirate raid: a mother ship brings a boarding party to the target, which gets what it wants and then disappears back to sea. But pirates tend to go after the really valuable targets. Lives are cheap, but really big machines like container ships or oil tankers are worth millions and millions, and insurance companies usually pay up. Humans require constant attention and maintenance, and come with the glare of international publicity. It doesn't seem

likely pirates would bother with kidnapping a person on her own.

More likely is that the twin abductions in prime Kenyan tourist territory are neither the established pirates nor Al Shabaab, but some renegade, informal militia that wants to raise a bit of cash. There are plenty of guns in Somalia and people who can use them. Knowing there's nobody in Somalia who can keep them in check and jealous of the huge sums of cash that are flowing into pirate coffers, someone has hit upon their own money-making scheme which involves just a short hop across the sea and a midnight raid on vulnerable Kenyan resort towns.

Whether it works remains to be seen – so far, there's been no public talk of ransoms, although the Kenyan government has dispatched mediators to try to negotiate with the perpetrators.

But in the long-term, the most serious implications of all this (barring the consequences for the victims themselves) are for Kenya's vital, economy-driving tourist industry, which, given the parlous state of Kenya's currency, can't afford a downturn. But the Indian Ocean coastline is one of the country's major drawcards, and for many Europeans it will already be off-limits after travel advisories were issued by both the British and the French governments. Kenya has declared it will dramatically increase security in the affected areas, but its coast guard will be ruing the missed opportunity it had to stop the kidnap in its tracks. The damage has already been done. 

READ MORE:

1. Kenya bungles rescue mission for kidnapped Frenchwoman on [Kenya's Daily Nation](#)
2. Somali pirates kidnap disabled Frenchwomen on Kenyan island on the [Independent](#)

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AFRICA'S BEST BATTLEFIELD AGAINST THE PIRATES: LAND

With the South African counter-piracy task force under “Operation Copper” cycling through our shiny frigates at an alarming rate, the Southern African community is beginning to understand that piracy off the Horn of Africa is not a localised phenomenon. The thought of Somali piracy encroaching upon Southern African waters is a new one, but with a successful attack occurring last year, maritime security is back on the agenda in a big way. By JOHN STUPART.

The Eastern littoral states suffer an embarrassingly acute shortage in naval capability. From Mozambique upwards, there are simply not enough seaworthy vessels capable of venturing the hundreds of nautical miles out to sea to interdict and capture pirates,

let alone the legal frameworks necessary to prosecute them. Operation Copper is admirable,

Photo: Somalis, suspected of being pirates, are held at the Shimo La Tewa Prison in the coastal town of Mombasa June 24, 2010. The Somalis, who were captured in the Indian Ocean, were being held in the facility as they await trial. The E.U. has built a courthouse within the compound so that the suspected pirates can be put on trial. REUTERS/Joseph Okanga

... Utilising the principles of netwar would involve the creating of intelligence nexuses on land, capable of reporting impending and occurring pirate attacks so that our single frigate can do more than just find a needle in a haystack.

and our Navy and SANDF contingent are doing us proud, but it will not be enough if pirate attacks increase in Mozambican waters. Put simply, our strategic planners need to think out the box when it comes to counter-piracy.

At the moment, the pirates are almost exclusively Somali, meaning the source of this problem originates from the world's number one failed state, three years running according to Foreign Policy. As such, the global defense and political community have repeatedly and gravely warned that piracy will not disappear until Somalia's chronic civil war and societal ills are fixed permanently. All well and good. Except the last time this was attempted, it resulted in the 3 October 1993 Blackhawk Down incident, where 18 elite US soldiers were killed while trying to nab some high-ranking warlord types. Somalia is a tough nut to crack, and trying to patch up that mess of a country would require a global intervention as yet unseen. So where does that leave the fight against pirates?

For Southern Africa, the biggest military asset on the seas is the South African Navy. With a single frigate operational at any one time, we represent the collective might of our regional maritime domain. Namibia is making great strides in forming its own smaller navy

capable of patrolling its coastal waters, but by and large the SADC region is beholden to our own boys in blue. That is not going to be enough when (and it is important to stress it again: when) piracy spreads to our shores. But on land, there is a lot more our soldiers can do.


In Afghanistan General McChrystal refined the art of intelligence warfare through the use of "networks" or "netwar", and this is a lesson the SANDF would do well to learn. Utilising the principles of netwar would involve the creating of intelligence nexuses on land, capable of reporting impending and occurring pirate attacks so that our single frigate can do more than just find a needle in a haystack. The principle behind this is the use of an established human intelligence network which can quickly send information through to officials who are in a position to inform naval or military units capable of detaining pirates as they leave their ports. We are deluding ourselves as southern Africans if we truly believe that piracy will remain a Somali-based threat. It's only a matter of time before a local Mozambican or Tanzanian fishing community get it in their heads that taking to the seas to capture or steal some vessel's valuables is preferable to scratching out a meagre subsistence fishing

... Even if some villages decide that the phone is better used calling local girlfriends, the net-effect is a map of information along our coastline which can be exploited far more effectively than if a single frigate sent some troops around the coastline to ask questions.

the Indian Ocean. Instead, the piracy threat for the southern African maritime domain would be from southern Africans, not Somalis. To combat this we need an intelligence picture of the threats in our region before they become an act. If a neighbouring Mozambican village can inform the navy of some suspicious speedboats which passed their area, intercepting them at sea (or even finding them on land later) becomes a lot easier.

This is where netwar can save SADC states a lot of headaches in chasing the wakes of fast-disappearing skiffs and speedboats. Creating an intelligence map that can quickly and easily inform military and police assets in the area (i.e. our navy and Mozambican authorities) of locals who have set out to sea with more AK47s than fishing nets will have a natural strategic

benefit. The bonus of netwar in Southern Africa is that it would not be particularly difficult to implement. We are talking about a handful of SANDF and Mozambican officials trained in intelligence, travelling the length of the coastline in a few 4x4s, giving community leaders a Nokia 1100 mobile phone with a pre-programmed number to dial when they hear of neighbours going about their piratical ways. Even if some villages decide that the phone is better used calling local girlfriends, the net-effect is a map of information along our coastline which can be exploited far more effectively than if a single frigate sent some troops around the coastline to ask questions. In Somalia this approach is impossible, given the complex clan-based system and hostility to foreigners, but in Mozambique and even Tanzania, the implementation of a basic intelligence framework is easily achieved, and can yield very positive results.

SADC states need to look away from grey-painted warships and naval build-ups to combat piracy. Such measures are costly and take years to implement. If we are to take piracy seriously in the short-term current land-based solutions must be used. We have a competent and effective infantry force that is well-versed in the Special Forces tactics necessary in intelligence-gathering, and they would be wasted if they weren't implemented in netwar strategy. To fight piracy outside of the Gulf of Aden, SADC nations must be creative in their strategies. Following the traditional, maritime approach is unfeasible and will not be productive. Using the assets we already have in place is leagues ahead of anything we can dream up of in the procurement boardroom. 

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ISRAEL

Israel on Sunday said they welcomed the Middle Eastern Quartet's call for peace talks between Israel and Palestine. The quartet of mediators – the US, the EU, the UN and Russia – submitted their proposal a week ago. The statement from Benjamin Netanyahu's office called on Palestine to "enter direct negotiations without delay". Yesterday Netanyahu's office also denied that Israel's plans to build 1,100 new housing units in East Jerusalem had sparked a diplomatic row with Germany. Chancellor Angela Merkel phoned Netanyahu on Friday to demand an explanation for the expansion. Merkel is said to be particularly cheesed-off because Germany has indicated that it will support Israel against Palestine's bid for UN membership.

GREECE

Greece is to announce deeply unpopular plans to give state workers the boot in order to qualify for an EU bailout. A fifth of the Greek workforce is



Greek crisis deepening (Reuters)

employed by the state – and the reason why the unions are so unhappy is because they are virtually guaranteed jobs for life. The plans would see 30,000 workers put in reserve by the end of the year and paid 60% worth of their salaries for a year, before their dismissal. It's unclear whether the moves would affect all workers equally, or focus on older workers who are close to retirement anyway.

USA

The ongoing Occupy Wall Street protests in New York saw over 700 people arrested

on the Brooklyn Bridge. The march on Saturday was ostensibly headed towards a Brooklyn park, but groups of protestors sat down on the bridge and walked in the road rather than on the pedestrian pathway, whereupon they were arrested. One of the marchers said that getting arrested was "sort of the idea", but others claimed that the protestors were deliberately blocked off by police. Exactly what the protestors' demands are is a little unclear, but they are drawing increasing numbers. It didn't hurt that last week both Susan Sarandon and Michael Moore arrived to pledge their support.



Burmese President Thein Sein (Reuters)

LIBYA

The head of the US command in Africa, the hilariously named Carter Ham, has said that the military mission in Libya is pretty much done. He said Nato's involvement in the country could even wrap up this week. That decision would be made in spite of the fact that Gaddafi is still winning his game of Hide 'n Seek, and the rebels have yet to fully take control of Sirte and Bani Walid. The practical result of the Nato pull-out would be that air strikes would end, but the US would keep military surveillance in the region. Ultimately there will be no more than

24 troops left behind, largely in order to guard the US embassy, Ham said.

BURMA

Burma's President bowing to the will of his people? It sounds like science fiction, but it's true. Burmese President Thein Sein has called a halt to the construction of a £2.4 billion dam, a joint project between Burma and China, in the face of public opposition to the project. Environmentalists had warned that the dam, on the Irrawaddy River, would cause huge damage to the region. Aung San Suu Kyi was also a vocal critic, saying that

the dam would force 1,200 people from their homes. Beijing is, of course, not happy. A spokesman for the foreign ministry urged Burma this weekend to protect the rights of Chinese companies.

USA

Republican presidential hopeful Rick Perry has said that were he to be appointed, he would consider sending troops to Mexico to help wage war against drug cartels. Perry made the comments in a campaign speech in New Hampshire, suggesting that the key to the Mexican drug situation was to take a similar line as followed with Colombia – where the US military has stationed advisers to help with training and logistics for the Colombian armed forces. The remarks are unlikely to win him any friends in the Mexican government, since they are strongly opposed to US intervention.

USA

The US State Department has issued a worldwide alert, urging travellers to be aware of the possibility that there may be retaliation against

US "citizens and interests" following the killing of al-Qaeda cleric Anwar Al-Awlaki on Friday in Yemen. The FBI and the Department of Homeland Security have issued similar warnings that Al-Awlaki may be portrayed as a martyr whose death could provide motivation for terror attacks. Al-Awlaki was the face of al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, and was a top terrorist recruiter due to his fluency in English and technological proficiency.

CHINA

If you're Chinese, you might want to think twice before entering a romantic relationship with a political dissident: Liu Xia has been under house arrest for almost a year. Her crime is to be married to Nobel Peace Prize winner Liu Xiaobo. The 51-year-old poet was awarded the peace prize in October last year, but is currently serving an 11-year jail-term as a result of a manifesto he wrote in 2008 calling for an end to single-party rule. Since he was awarded the prize, his wife had been prevented from using a phone or the internet, and is prohibited from seeing anyone except for a few family members. The Nobel committee said they believed the situation was unprecedented in the history of the award.



Troy Davis (Reuters)

USA

The funeral of executed Georgian Troy Davis attracted more than 1,000 mourners on Saturday. The occasion seemed more political than personal, with the crowd chanting "I am Troy Davis" – the slogan supporters used to oppose Davis's execution. The pastor who gave the eulogy said of Davis that he "transformed a prison sentence into a pulpit". The funeral saw performances by gospel singers and activist-comedian Dick Gregory, who apparently had them rolling in the aisles with the following joke: Gregory said he needed to apologise to Davis' family after the way he handled a recent phone call from a bill collector. "He said, 'Are you Dick Gregory?' And I said, 'I am Troy Davis!'"

SYRIA

Something that appears to look a lot like a civil war has begun in Homs, Syria's third largest city. There are reports of gun battles erupting every few hours and a decisive shift in the climate of the protests. Many in the opposition are nervous of violence, however, because they say it will serve as a pretext for the government's crackdown on dissent. Over the past week the opposition has assassinated almost a dozen professors, doctors and informers believed to be government supporters or informers. The total Syrian death toll so far is estimated by the UN to be at 2,700.

USA

Today sees the opening of the new session of the US Supreme Court, with 50 cases already on the table. Topping the bill, however, is Obama's proposed health care reform, which would extend coverage to an extra 32 million people and cause the Republicans sleepless nights. The issue of whether the legislation is constitutional is likely to be only resolved by the court by June next year. Other cases on their agenda include the definition of "indecent" on TV, in a case concerning bare bottoms and swearing

on a TV series. That sounds like light relief compared to the health care headaches.

YEMEN

It's not terribly good PR for a national army when they mistakenly bomb their own troops. That's the mess that Yemen is trying to clean up, after an airstrike on Saturday killed 30 of their own soldiers and injured many more. The question of whether it was truly a "mistake" is very much up in the air, however, since sceptics have pointed out that the troops that were hit had sided against President Ali Saleh in the current political disputes. There's no doubting that it would be an effective way to make a point.

AFGHANISTAN

First the US indicated that they were prepared to play hardball with Islamabad if Pakistan didn't start cooperating with them to crack down on the Taliban insurgency. Now Afghanistan has added their



Afghan President Hamid Karzai (Reuters)

voice to America's, urging Pakistan this weekend to take help facilitate negotiations with the Taliban leadership to bring about Afghan reconciliation. Afghan President Hamid Karzai said this weekend that he was finished with talking to the Taliban directly and that the only remaining hope was mediation involving Pakistan. Both US and Afghan officials have recently accused of Pakistan of not just being obstructionist but actively involved with supporting terrorist attacks in Afghanistan.

CHINA

There's little love lost between Beijing and Washington these days. Following the frostiness between the two parties after

the US agreed to upgrade Taiwan's military, China has now criticised the US for saying that China undervalues its currency. The comments were made in an editorial by the country's official news agency, Xinhua. "Whenever the US economy is slow, whenever an election is nearing, voices in the United States pressing for the rise of the renminbi [yuan] are all over," they wrote. US lawmakers say that China undervalues its currency by up to 40%, giving their products an unfair advantage in global markets.

USA

President Obama was greeted with rapturous applause at a dinner held for him by gay-rights organisation the



Chris Christie is still not deciding on the White House run (Reuters)

Human Rights Campaign this weekend. Obama got plenty of props for the repealing of Don't Ask Don't Tell, and also used the platform to make a dig at Republican presidential candidates. Obama noted that none of the candidates protested at a recent debate when members of the audience booed a gay soldier. Obama said: "You want to be commander in chief, you can start by standing up for the men and women who wear the

uniform of the United States, even when it's not politically convenient."

USA

The Democratic Party is pushing for tax hikes to be the first item on the deficit-reduction agenda. The question of how to cut debt is being considered by a 12-member congressional panel tasked with cutting \$1.2

trillion over ten years. (And you thought your job sucked?) The Republicans want to talk about spending cuts instead, because they strongly oppose tax hikes, but the Democrats are holding firm. If the panel can't agree on the matter, the consequences could be painful: it could lead to the US's credit rating being downgraded further and this in turn would send ripples through the global economy.


USA

It's a little like groundhog day in the US, where Americans repeatedly wake up to the news that Chris Christie may or may not be entering the Republican presidential race. His team said this weekend that he was conducting "due diligence" to see whether he would have time to mount a proper presidential race at this late stage. Christie, the New Jersey governor, is considered an exciting prospect, with a no-nonsense style and skill at public speaking. Liberal columnists have suggested that Christie is too fat to run for office, which seems to be scraping the barrel a bit.

By forming a national council, the Syrian opposition has taken a leaf out of the Libyan rebels' book. The Libyan rebels formed a National Transitional Council during the uprising that ousted Muammar Gaddafi, which won international recognition and has gone on to become the country's de facto government.

The Syrian National Council, which was announced in Istanbul on Sunday, has a general assembly, a general secretariat and an executive committee, whose members will chair the council through a rotation process. The diversity of the Syrian factions opposing Al-Assad is emphasised in the make-up of the council: an Islamist outlook vested in the Syrian Muslim Brotherhood is joined by secular groups, Kurdish factions, the pro-democracy Damascus Declaration and the Local Coordination Committees, which led Syrian street protests. Until Sunday, it had been impossible to unify the varying opposition factions under one umbrella group. The council's credibility will be tested in its ability to overlook divergent views and remain cohesive in the face of Al-Assad's brutal crackdown against anti-government protesters.

The Syrian uprising has until recently been described as a peaceful one. Recent reports however indicate that factions of the opposition have begun to fire against government forces, exemplifying the threat of an impending civil war. Syrian armed forces have continued to stamp out dissidents in various parts of the country and the United Nations indicates that the death toll continues to rise.

The formation of the council is seen as a preamble to an invitation to military intervention in the ongoing crisis in Syria. The council is yet to overtly request that a no-fly zone a-la-Libya be enforced over Syria, but has already implored the world to help the embattled Syrian people. In a statement released on Sunday, it said: "The Council demands international governments and organisations meet their responsibility to support the Syrian people, protect them and stop the crimes and gross human rights violations being committed by the illegitimate current regime." 

SYRIAN OPPOSITION GROUPS FORM NATIONAL COUNCIL

In mounting pressure against Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, Syria's main opposition groups agreed on Sunday to join a newly formed national council. For the Syrian opposition, this is the first step towards overthrowing al-Assad but the Syrian President, for now, remains unimpressed. By KHADIJA PATEL

READ MORE:

1. Syria opposition launches national council in [Associated Press](#)
2. Syria opposition formally announces leadership council, warns of civil war in [The Washington Post](#)
3. Syrian opposition launches joint National Council in [BBC News](#)



SEE TEODORIN'S NICE CARS - SEE SARKOZY GRAB 'EM

In a suspiciously-timed, headline-grabbing swoop, French authorities have seized 11 supercars belonging to the son of Equatorial Guinea's President. It's a nice collection valued at R65 million, including two Bugatti Veyrons. Sarkozy will be hoping the vehicles are shiny enough to divert attention from his own problems with African corruption. By SIMON ALLISON.

Photo: REUTERS

The son of President Teodoro Obiang Nguema of Equatorial Guinea and current chairman of the African Union, is a renowned playboy who uses his access to state resources to fund his lavish lifestyle. Teodorin's just following in papa's footsteps, of course. Obiang is accused by the US of secreting some \$2 billion of Equatorial Guinea's money in the coffers of a shady bank in Washington, DC, and he's being sued in France by Transparency International (along with the late Omar Bongo of Gabon and Denis Sassou

Ngusso of the Republic of Congo) for using state resources to fund personal luxury purchases in France.

His son supercars were seized allegedly as part of the Transparency International case, which has been mired for years in the French judicial system while lawyers argue over jurisdictional issues.

This sudden enthusiasm on the part of French investigators might just have something to do with the cash-for-influence scandal rocking France at the moment. A series of exposés (denied by those implicated) allege that French political figures including former president Jacques Chirac, former foreign minister Domenic Villepin, far right leader Jean-Marie Le Pen and current President Nicolas Sarkozy have all been recipients of dirty money from some of Africa's worst dictators. Stories of millions of euros stuffed into briefcases have captured the public's imagination and shown exactly how much it costs to ignore oppression and human rights abuses.

It's a good time, therefore, for Sarkozy to show he's tough on African dictators and their spendthrift progeny - a well-publicised raid on some very expensive cars is an excellent smokescreen. **FTI**

READ MORE:

1. France seizes supercars from dictators son on [TimesLIVE](#)
2. The cosy relations between France and Africa on [BBC News](#)



EURO TROIKA TO GREECE: FIRE PUBLIC SERVANTS, OR FACE UTTER RUIN

What Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou wouldn't give to be allowed to sack a lot of public servants without consequence. That's what he's been told by the euro overlords charged with putting the Hellenic Republic back on the financial straight-and-narrow – and exactly what the Greek public unions told him they won't tolerate. So who is going to give in? By SIPHO HLONGWANE

Photo: Greek PM Papandreou (REUTERS)


This will sound familiar – the International Monetary Fund, European Union and European Central Bank (the troika) have said that in order for Greece to receive new financial injections so as to prevent a collapse of the state's finances sometime in October, the country's notoriously inefficient and bloated public wage bill will need to be reduced.

Over the past four days, the Greek government has been in talks with the troika to get more funding, after the European bosses walked

out of talks at the beginning of September. A deal has now been struck – in return for €8 billion in new funding, Greece will institute new taxes, will cut state wages by an average of 20% and reduce the number of public sector workers by a fifth by 2015. It's a massive ask, given that one in five Greeks are employed by the government, and the Hellenic constitution makes it all but impossible to fire state workers. Their labour dispensation makes our government's relations with Cosatu seem like a pleasant evening of milk and biscuits.

The austerity measures are deeply hated by Greek civil servants (for obvious reasons). On Sunday, the Greek government will meet to discuss a "labour reserve", where 30,000 workers would be put in the reserve by the end of this year paid 60% of their salaries for a year, and then sacked.

Unions have responded by promising mass strikes designed to unnerve the Papandreou administration's reserve.

At a time when Greece needs sober heads and steely hearts, none seem to be available anywhere. 

READ MORE:

1. Greece due to unveil state plan to sack state workers in [Reuters](#)
2. Greece agrees to cut civil service in [Sydney Morning Herald](#)

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AS DRONES TERMINATE AL-QAEDA'S AL-AWLAKI, A DEBATE ON EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS RAGES IN THE US

American citizen, Anwar Al-Awlaki was assassinated in a drone strike in Yemen on Friday. The United States government had labelled Al-Awlaki a radical cleric and had placed him on a targeted-killing list. Al-Awlaki is believed to have been at the helm of al-Qaeda operations in the Arabian Peninsula. While the Obama administration is being feted for dealing a fatal blow against the terrorist organisation, the killing has dredged up tired concerns about extrajudicial killings in the name of fighting terrorism. By KHADIJA PATEL

Anwar Al-Awlaki was alleged to have been a moderate who turned radical, a cleric who drummed the call to arms against the much-reviled Americans. Yet, Al-Awlaki was himself an American citizen. He was born in 1971 in New Mexico where his father was studying

agricultural economics. He lived in the US until the age of seven, and then returned with his family to Yemen. After pursuing Islamic studies as a teenager, he returned to the US to read for

Photo: Al-Awlaki (REUTERS)

a civil engineering degree from Colorado State University and later, a master's in education at San Diego State. It was religious leadership, however, that earned him a substantial following in the United States. After the September 11 terror attacks, Al-Awlaki was interviewed several times about his ties with three of the hijackers – he had met at least two of them, Khalid al-Midhar and Nawaf al-Hazmi, at a San Diego mosque in 2000. The “September 11 Commission” report further revealed that Al-Awlaki was investigated by the FBI in 1999 and 2000. None of the investigations led to criminal charges against him and Al-Awlaki was actually invited to the [Pentagon in 2001](#) as part of the American military's outreach program to the Muslim community. In 2004, however, as Al-Awlaki began to grow increasingly hostile to the US, he returned to his ancestral home in Yemen.

Al-Awlaki was billed by [GQ magazine](#) as “the next Bin Laden” but he never quite succeeded in surpassing the threat of Bin Laden in the conscience of the American public. Successive American governments though have grown increasingly wary of him. Al-Awlaki was fingered as the brain behind a number of terror plots.

In August 2006, Al-Awlaki was detained by the Yemeni authorities, reportedly on charges relating to a plot to kidnap a US military attache. He claimed to have been interviewed by FBI agents during his subsequent 18 months in prison, and believed the US had asked the Yemeni authorities to prolong his detention. Following an intercession by his tribe, Al-Awlaki was released by Yemeni authorities, only for his repertoire for terror to escalate. He was directly linked to two terror attacks on the US in 2009. Email exchanges between Al-Awlaki

and the accused Fort Hood shooter gunman, Nidal Hasan, confirmed that it was Al-Awlaki in his position as an al-Qaeda leader who was the inspiration for the massacre at a Texas army base that left 13 people dead.

In a May 2010 video, Al-Awlaki described the Fort Hood shooting as a “heroic and wonderful act”. Just one month before the release of that video, the Obama administration had placed al-Awlaki on the CIA's target list. His was the dubious honour of being the first American on the target list. Compounding the American government's stand against Al-Awlaki, the US treasury department named Al-Awlaki as “[specially designated global terrorist](#)” and blocked his assets. It became a crime for Americans to do business with him. Civil rights groups condemned the US government for targeting an American citizen without due processes. Al-Awlaki's family was similarly outraged, but their plans to launch legal action against the US military was scuppered by the US Treasury which refused to allow the family to raise funds for the legal action as it would ultimately benefit Al-Awlaki.

Al-Awlaki, meanwhile, proved elusive. He escaped several assassination attempts by the US unmanned drone campaign and the Yemeni army. His luck ran out last Friday. According to the [Sunday Telegraph](#), Al-Awlaki met his end, “as he and his comrades chewed dates and drank traditional Yemeni tea”. The drone had found its mark this time.

Al-Awlaki's death is described to be a huge blow against al-Qaeda operations in the Arabian Peninsula. The terror organisation has suffered the loss of several key members this year. US President Barack Obama has emerged triumphant.


In South Africa ... many Muslims refuse to comment on Al-Awlaki's death for fear of being marked as terrorist supporters...

Civil rights activists, however, have been enraged. They argue that Al-Awlaki, as an American citizen, was entitled to a fair trial before being summarily assassinated. No less than presidential hopeful Ron Paul launched a bitter diatribe against Obama for the killing. Writing in the *New York Daily News*, the outspoken Republican politician said Obama was acting outside “the Constitution or the rule of law” when he ordered Friday's drone strike on Al-Awlaki. “Awlaki was a US citizen. Under our Constitution, American citizens, even those living abroad, must be charged with a crime before being sentenced,” [he wrote](#).

The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) has also raised concerns about the way in which Al-Awlaki was pursued. “The American Muslim community firmly repudiated Anwar al-Awlaki's incitement to violence, which occurred after he left the United States. While a voice of hate has been eliminated, we urge our nation's leaders to address the constitutional issues raised by the assassination of American citizens without due process of law,” CAIR said in [a statement](#) on Friday. Writing in [The New York Times on Sunday](#), prominent American Muslim cleric Yasir Qadhi

said, “The accusations against him were very serious, but as a citizen, he deserved a fair trial and the chance to face his accusers in a court of law. Whether he deserved any punishment for his speech was a decision that a jury should have made, not the executive branch of our government. The killing of this American citizen is not only unconstitutional, but hypocritical and counterproductive.”

In South Africa, where Al-Awlaki has enjoyed some measure of popularity for his eloquent narrations of Islamic history on the internet as well as community radio, many Muslims refuse to comment on Al-Awlaki's death for fear of being marked as terrorist supporters. Some South African Muslims remain doubtful about Al-Awlaki's reputation as a terrorist, claiming that there has been no evidence to demonstrate Al-Awlaki's actual participation in terror plots against his countrymen.

US government officials continue to insist that Al-Awlaki played a significant operational role in a number of terrorist plots against the United States and called for violence against American men, women and children. Under pressure from civil rights activists to reveal its proof of Al-Awlaki's role in terror plots, the US government has indicated that it will not present its evidence against Al-Awlaki in public. The debate about the legality of his killing is however set to rage on for some time yet. 

READ MORE:

1. Anwar al-Awlaki: al-Qaeda mouthpiece who espoused a “just do it” brand of terrorism in [The Telegraph](#)
2. Shabwa: Blood feuds and hospitality in al-Qaeda's Yemen outpost in [The Guardian](#)
3. The due-process-free assassination of US citizens is now reality in [Salon](#)

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SOUTH AFRICA

The JSE All Share Index ended flat on Friday to close at 29,674, ending the quarter down 6.9%. AngloGold Ashanti, the continent's largest producer of gold, gained 4.3% after the rand also recorded its worst quarterly slump that boosted the local rand value of gold exports. BHP Billiton the world's largest miner, lost 1.3% after commodity prices fell, also driving Anglo American PLC down 2.5%. Luxury goods retailer, Richemont, fell 5.6% to its lowest close since November, after German retail sales fell more than expected.

The rand came under pressure in afternoon trade on Friday, off nearly 2% at its intraday worst figure of 8.15 against the greenback, before making a slight recovery.

UK

The FTSE 100 ended down 1.3% as it closed at 5,128 and posted the biggest quarterly drop since 2002. Financial shares once again lost ground, with those exposed to Asian markets heavily hurt. Standard



Alibaba chairman, Jack Ma (Reuters)

Chartered lost 5.2% as reports on Chinese manufacturing data indicated the powerhouse economy was slowing.

Shares in BP PLC fell 0.8% as rumours that the \$7 billion deal to sell Pan American Energy was set to collapse. BP is negotiating a 60% sale of its holding in the company to Bidas Copr, a company owned by a Chinese oil producer and Argentina's Bulgheroni family.

Prime Minister David Cameron says his government is determined to do everything possible within its deficit-reduction rules to restore growth, and hope, to a

flagging British economy. Cameron cited proposed changes to planning rules and the concessions to property developers as actions the government was now considering.

After a torrid quarter for stocks, investors look to the year's final three months – traditionally the best period for equities – to repair portfolios and find ways to deliver returns in a slowing economy and deepening eurozone debt crisis. There are plenty of reasons to keep investors nervous in the coming week. Eurozone finance ministers meet in

Luxembourg on Monday but they are unlikely to decide on the next Greek aid tranche or plans to bolster the bloc's rescue fund. The closely watched US non-farm employment report on 7 October could reinforce expectations that the economy is slowing down.

EUROPE

French President Nicolas Sarkozy will meet German Chancellor Angela Merkel on 9 October to make further plans to prevent a Greek default. Sarkozy has openly backed further bailout action, saying there is “no credible alternative” to channelling aid to Greece.

If European banks thought about going cap in hand to Warren Buffet in the hope of securing bailout money, they will be disappointed to know that the Sage of Omaha isn't interested in assisting them. Berkshire Hathaway has now sold all its European sovereign debt positions, even as the guru investor claims that many banks are in dire need of a balance sheet cash injection.

US

The Dow Jones Industrial Index fell 2.2% to close at 10,913. Hewlett-Packard fell 5.6% as financial stocks also felt the pain with JP Morgan



David Cameron (Reuters)

Chase falling 4%, closely followed by American Express, down 3.9% Weak economic data out of Germany and China dowsed any chance the market had of ending the week on a positive note.

Reports have surfaced that General Motors proposed a merger with Ford, one year before its 2008 bankruptcy filing. CEO Rick Wagoner had secretly proposed the merger to Ford Chairman Bill Ford, and CEO Allan Mulally, before they turned down the offer.

Kodak, the 131-year-old camera maker, is weighing up options that include a bankruptcy filing amid concerns over its patent portfolio. Prospective

buyers of the patents are worried that a purchase may be deemed fraudulent if the company sells the assets whilst technically insolvent.

The Federal Reserve is set to buy \$44 billion of longer-term treasury bonds, as part of its October “Operation Twist” plan. The plan aims to move out of shorter-dated treasuries and into longer-dated positions as part of a stimulus plan.

CHINA

Alibaba chairman, Jack Ma, said he is “very interested” in buying the struggling US web portal, Yahoo! Yahoo! has seen its market share decrease and share price fall steadily as it loses out to larger rivals like Google and Microsoft. Having ousted CEO Carol Bartz in a rather messy affair, the company is now seeking a new chief executive whilst courting prospective new owners.

The Chinese government told its 500 million internet users to stop spreading “malignant tumours” online or face the wrath of a draconian government. The statement follows on the shutting down of a so-called prostitute blog that was allegedly written by a 31-year-old man, who made up stories posing as a 22-year-old female prostitute. The blog attracted more than 250,000 users.



APPLE WANTS SWEEPING MUSIC RIGHTS FOR ICLOUD

Apple is currently in talks with record labels and music publishers to obtain international music rights for its new iCloud service, which would make sharing music on the service via Apple as easy as downloading it from iTunes.
By SIPHO HLONGWANE

Photo: Apple Chairman, Steve Jobs (REUTERS)


“Sources familiar with the discussions between Apple, record companies, and music publishers, say Apple is seeking international music

licenses for its iCloud service,” CNet said. “The licenses would be similar to those the company has already obtained for US operations, the sources said.”

Nothing has been put on paper yet, but expectations are that Apple will make some sort of announcement when it unveils the iPhone 5 on Tuesday.

Only music bought from iTunes will be permitted onto iCloud, Apple said. This could put a serious dent in their plans, but they are also going to be launching “iTunes Match”, which for \$24,99 a year, will allow users to save music obtained via other means onto iCloud.

The iTunes Match service will be open to users in France, the UK and Germany, just as soon as Apple finalises deals with music right owners.

In June, Apple announced iCloud which made the wireless sharing of music, email, photos, calendars, and other data between mobile devices, tablets and desktop computers possible. 

READ MORE:

1. Apple seeks worldwide iCloud music rights in [CNet](#)
2. Apple wants its music rights to span the globe in [The Atlantic Wire](#)



SHELL'S LARGEST REFINERY COULD BE OUT FOR ONE MONTH

A gigantic oil refinery in Singapore could be out for more than a month following a fire that burnt from Wednesday to Friday. Dutch Shell, the company that owns the refinery, notified some of its clients that it could possibly fail to meet some of its obligations due to the blaze. Tanker berthing operations have already resumed though, so impact on global oil prices is likely not to be felt. By SIPHO HLONGWANE

Photo: Smoke billows from Royal Dutch Shell's Pulau Bukom offshore petroleum complex in Singapore in the evening September 29, 2011. REUTERS

A fire that raged for two days at Pulau Bukom, Dutch Shell's largest oil refinery, was finally put out on Friday. Dutch Shell said in a statement that "there are traces of fuel vapor. We are prepared to shut down all refinery units if this is considered necessary from a safety perspective, with the exception of utilities."

Pulau Bukom is Shell's largest refinery and can process up to 500,000 barrels a day of crude oil per day.

On Sunday, an insider told Reuters that tanker berthing had resumed on Sunday.

On Friday, at least two clients of Shell said that they received notice of possible interruption of business operations. "In the circumstances, we have no alternative but to formally declare that our ability to supply the product under the contract has been adversely affected by an event beyond our control," Shell reportedly said.

The refinery is expected to be out of operation for a month.

No explanation for the fire has been forthcoming as yet. **IMI**

READ MORE:

1. Shell shuts refinery as two-day Singapore fire is put out in [Bloomberg BusinessWeek](#)
2. Shell Singapore plant resumes berthing operations in [Reuters](#)

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THE RAND DOWN: A GOOD THING, RIGHT?

Our economic sages have long hoped that the rand would depreciate. So why aren't they celebrating now that it's in freefall? By GREG NICOLSON

You can't please economists. In July when the rand was trading at 6.70 to the dollar, they were reading the last rites to South Africa's manufacturing sector. Our overvalued currency was crippling the country's global competitiveness. Exports were struggling. The uncompetitive rand would sacrifice any chance the government had of creating five million jobs by 2020, they said. So in the last three months, as the rand depreciated 16% against the dollar and 11% against the euro, they'd be cheering, right?

Wrong. Manufacturers are celebrating their instant increase in competitiveness (without having to search and slash their way to increases in productivity), but analysts remain cautious. The rand fell because foreign investors fear that Europe is lost in its quagmire of debt and the United States won't be able to escape its economic malaise. In case there's another global recession, they have


Photo: REUTERS

So while we watch the slow decline of the global economy, as though watching the sad demise of Amy Winehouse without the ability to prevent the calamity, it seems that a lower rand isn't that much help.

ditched risky assets from developing countries, selling R4.6 billion in South African bonds and R7.6 billion in South African equities. It has allowed the rand to fall into competitiveness, but raises concerns over growth.

For the Africanists among us, it might be nice to see our leaders offering advice and support to the West, but contagion is the sad reality of financial crises and South Africa is already feeling the symptoms. The benefits of a more competitive rand have been reduced by plummeting mineral prices and the flight of foreign investors has raised local bond yields, meaning the government has to pay more to borrow money, leaving less in the kitty for health, education and infrastructure. "It is now widely recognised that the world is in a danger zone from which it is going to be difficult to escape," wrote Reserve Bank governor Gill Marcus in the Financial Mail this week. "[T]here needs to be the recognition that we are living through difficult times and uncharted territory."

The rand, it seems, is adding to these difficulties. The Reserve Bank has lowered its 2011 growth forecast from 3.7% to 3.2%, which might normally prompt Marcus to drop the interest rate so that those of you who are considering borrowing will go ahead. But when the rand falls, we pay more for imports such as oil and food, causing prices to rise. And as the Reserve Bank is committed to its target inflation rate like Frodo was committed to his ring, Marcus will resist lowering interest rates when inflation may rise.

So while we watch the slow decline of the global economy, as though watching the sad demise of Amy Winehouse without the ability to prevent the calamity, it seems that a lower rand isn't that much help. Some analysts have called for the Reserve Bank to follow the Swiss and set a target range for the currency that will reduce volatility. Marcus isn't convinced, but she's surprisingly optimistic for an economist: "We should be looking for positive opportunities arising from these events, with both external and internal dimensions. With growth in the US and Europe likely to remain anaemic for some time, South Africa would do well to diversify its trade ties, particularly in Africa, Asia and the BRIC countries, and reduce its dependencies on European export markets." She will surely welcome the recent announcement that China will invest an extra R2.5 billion in South Africa. 

READ MORE:

1. Rand ends third quarter with fresh fall in [Reuters](#)
2. Rand eyes 1.6% versus dollar, eyes 8.25 in [Business Day](#)



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Das Auto.



NOKIA FORGETS NOT THE LOW-END SMARTPHONES

In the heady days of the Apple iPhone, the Samsung Galaxy S II and the other super-smart mobile phones on the market, it is easy to forget that the majority of cellphones out there don't run on nectar and can't start world wars. They're simple, elegant and unassuming. Nokia hasn't forgotten that. Their software innovations for "lower-end" smartphones demonstrates that. By SIPHO HLONGWANE

The term "lower-end" smartphone is a misnomer. That is, if you define a smartphone as a mobile phone that combines the functionality of a personal digital assistant with a phone. In which case, any phone that can handle emails, has a decent camera and can run some apps is a smartphone.

These days, for a phone to qualify as a smartphone, it needs to have a properly powerful camera, enough memory to run multiple apps on a sophisticated operating system, a touch-screen, GPS navigation and wi-fi connectivity.

While the global market share of smartphones is growing rapidly, it still doesn't

come close to anything resembling a massive share. Most people still make do with run-of-the-mill phones that call, sms and not much else.

It often doesn't seem so. Not with the attention devoted to the killer smartphones like the iPhone 4 or the Samsung Galaxy S II. This focus isn't blindness though – some of the most interesting tech innovations are happening in that space, and without the success of high-end smartphones, tablets wouldn't exist. This however, isn't where the serious money is made.

By some [estimates](#), smartphones only make up 0,2% of the mobile phones sold in 2010.

Photo: Nokia chief executive Stephen Elop. (REUTERS)

By some estimates, smartphones only make up 0,2% of the mobile phones sold in 2010.

Nokia is also still top of the pile when it comes to the entire mobile phone market. They are estimated to have a 36% global market share. The market share figures hold a similar pattern in [South Africa](#) as well.

As such, Nokia is continuing to produce newer software products to retain its market share of lower-end mobile devices.

Earlier this year, Nokia announced that its top-end smartphones would run on Windows 7, but obviously most of its products wouldn't be able to handle such a big operating system.

For the cheaper smartphone-esque phones, Nokia is developing a Linux-based operating system codenamed "Meltemi".

"Meltemi will major on having a simple user interface and working with low end hardware and connectivity, but according to the Boy Genius Report blog, it will go well beyond its S40 predecessor in functionality, as users in emerging markets increasingly turn to the web," Rethink Wireless said.

Prior to using the Windows Mobile operating system, Nokia smartphones ran on the Symbian OS, which was a mere shadow of Android-based systems and the OS devised by Apple for its mobile phones.

Nokia has discontinued its range of tailored

Linux-based operating systems, and has sold Symbian to global consulting firm Accenture.

Nokia hasn't commented officially on Meltemi yet.

One anomaly with Meltemi is that it isn't based on MeeGo at all, a Linux OS built by Nokia, Intel and Novel. Possibly, Nokia wanted to go it alone this time around. "It is not really clear why Nokia did not adapt MeeGo, which remains an open source project within the company, for this effort, though possibly this would have been too politically complex given Intel's involvement," RT Wireless said.

"Meltemi could, instead, be a fully controlled platform to act as an heir to S40 and to run against low end Android and also Samsung's bada. Bada is targeted somewhat higher up the food chain, at midrange smartphones, but has the potential to be pushed out to featurephones, where the Korean vendor is also strong."

With the launch of the N9, Nokia has shown a willingness to take on the leaders of the smartphone market. However, their bottom-line (much cheaper phones) hasn't been forgotten in the process, and it is surprising that manufacturers like Apple haven't responded to the demand in that segment of the market.

At any rate, if Apple and Samsung start making smartphones that cost less than R1,000 a unit, Nokia will have something to worry about then. For the moment, the field is pretty much all theirs. 

READ MORE:

1. Nokia continues to develop Meltemi OS for featurephones in [The Australian](#)
2. Nokia readies Linux OS for low-end smartphones in [PC World](#)
3. Nokia creates yet another mobile Linux OS in [Rethink Wireless](#)

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Herman Cain and Rick Perry (Reuters)

USA

What's a presidential race without a racial dimension? In the one corner we have businessman candidate Herman Cain, who happens to be black. In the other corner we have Texas governor Rick Perry. In what must have been solid gold for Cain's team, it has emerged that Perry's family used to rent a hunting camp with a name that involves the N word. In their defence, Perry's campaign has said that the name – which was painted on to a rock outside the entrance – was painted

over after the family started using the camp. Cain is doing his best to work some political mileage out of it. Nobody seems remotely disturbed by the fact that everyone was merrily going hunting.

UK

It's a fairytale romance. Australian cricketer and love-rat Shane Warne has popped the question to British "actress" Liz Hurley. Warne reportedly proposed to Hurley at a hotel in St Andrews in Scotland. It is all too beautiful: Warne allegedly

broke up Hurley's marriage to Indian businessman Arun Nayar, and Hurley's wonderful influence on Warne's life has supposedly been the cause of Warne's drastic weight-loss. Any bets on how long this lasts? Warne is not known for his fidelity, and Hurley appears to bore easily.

VENEZUELA

It's almost like Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez has been taking lessons from South Africa's foreign policy. Chavez said this weekend that



Kanye West, now a fashion designer (Reuters)

he was praying for Muammar Gaddafi, saying that he "asks God to protect the life of our brother Muammar Gaddafi". He also sent a message of solidarity to Syrian despot Bashar Assad, commending him for "resisting imperial aggression", which we can only translate as "wantonly slaughtering his own people".

FRANCE

Rapper Kanye West on Saturday launched his new sideline as a fashion designer. West unveiled his collection at Paris Fashion Week, and won rapturous applause from

the audience for its colour-blocking, fur and strong, sexy attitude, or something like that. The message from fashion critics, however, was "I'ma let you finish, Kanye, but leave the clothes to the real designers". The Telegraph suggested that his fashion debut was "like being subjected to an hour-long MRI scan, but not as much fun". Ouch.

USA

Skip this item if you are remotely myrmecophobic (afraid of ants. You're welcome.) Hordes of hairy crazy ants – and that is their

technical name – are on the move in Florida, Texas, Mississippi and Louisiana. They are much faster than average ants and when they move in packs, they can shut down industrial production by shorting equipment. They will eat anything, and poison will only deter them for a day. If one of them gets electrocuted, its death releases a chemical cue to the colony to attack the threat. They are basically terrifying, and our advice to anyone in the affected states is to emigrate immediately.

DENMARK

Denmark is introducing a "fat tax". From 1 October, the prices of products high in saturated fats will increase. Butter, oil and high-fat dairy products will be taxed highest. It's surprising that Denmark has decided on this step, because the obesity rate in Denmark is lower than the European average, and saturated fats only account for 4% of deaths. Naturally the UK and the US are going to be watching this development like a hawk, since both countries are chock-a-block with fatties.



Wall Street wannabe occupiers refuse to go away. (Reuters)

USA

The organisers of the "Occupy Wall Street" protests in New York had egg on their face after telling Twitter that Radiohead was popping down to play an intimate gig of support for the protestors. They retracted the news in the following Tweet: "Radiohead is not coming, we were hoaxed. Please accept our apologies." Since Radiohead frontman Thom Yorke lives in Oxford, it would have been quite a long trip for him. The protestors had to make do with the much less cool Michael Moore.

MEXICO

Mexico may soon be the place to go if you kinda want to get married but aren't convinced

it'll last. Leftie lawmakers in Mexico are proposing that marriage contracts should only be applicable for two years. A spokesman for the proposal said when the two-year period is up, if the relationship is not stable or harmonious, the contract simply ends. The idea is really quite logical, considering that almost half of marriages in Mexico City end in divorce within the first two years.

USA

The US Centre for Disease Control and Prevention released a report last week finally answering that question that's been on all our lips for years: which professions smoke the most? Turns out miners love a puff (which explains why

it was one of the first requests from the trapped Chileans), with 30% of them lighting up. Food service workers are also mad for the tar, sitting at 30% too. The other industry packed with smokers is construction, which sort of makes sense because they're outdoors a lot.

USA

Bankers stealing our money is so passé. There are loads of cooler things being stolen during this recession. As we pointed out last week, pig-stealing is at an all time high in the US, but you can also add dog-napping, which is experiencing a sharp spike, brass (from fire hydrants and cemeteries), coupons – either from newspapers or out of people's mailboxes – and, finally, human hair. Yes, beauty salons in Chicago and elsewhere have been hit by a spate of hair theft. Human hair, used for extensions and wigs, is damn expensive – in one such heist, the thieves made off with an estimated \$80,000 of hair.

TOO OLD TO PARENT?


When Zsa Zsa Gabor's husband announced his intention for the Hungarian actress to bear his child earlier this year, the public response was one of horror: Gabor is 94. But the sight of older parents with young children is something we should all get used to.

By REBECCA DAVIS.

In the west, the age of first motherhood keeps rising. In Italy, Germany and the UK, the average age at which women first give birth is now 30. In the US, it's now 25. In South Africa statistics seem to suggest that the median age of first pregnancy is 21.

But particularly in the west, it's now also increasingly common for women older than 50 to give birth. New York Magazine reported this weekend that in 2008, the year for which we have the most recent detailed statistics in the US, 8,000 babies were born to women 45 or older, and 541 were born to women older than 50. Two impregnation techniques are generally used: women may choose to freeze their own eggs while they are still fertile, for later use. Alternatively, a donor egg is procured from a younger woman, fertilised with a male partner's sperm, and implanted in the womb.

The practice is highly controversial. In addition to the social stigma older parents face, they must also fend off accusations that the act is selfish. According to life expectancy estimates, a child born to two 50-year-old Americans will lose her father when she's 25 and her mother when she's 30. There are also health risks for the child which age amplifies: after 40, chances of having a child with autism increase by 30%.

Although moot, many argue that parents who have children later are likely to be wealthier – and this alone may give their offspring better opportunities than those born to younger parents. 

READ MORE:

1. Parents of a certain age, in [NY Magazine](#)



WHO'S THE IGNOBLEST OF THEM ALL?


The Ig Nobel prize is awarded each year in 10 categories to honour researchers who “first make people laugh, and then make them think”. We're not so sure about the thinking bit, but the winners definitely made us laugh. By THERESA MALLINSON.

Photo: Harold Camping (REUTERS)

The actual prize is a board showing the periodic table, with tiny legs attached. (Periodic table, geddit?) You may be sighing at the weak joke, but have you ever thought about what's behind the average sigh? Norway's Karl Halvor Teigen did, and won the 2011 Ig Nobel psychology prize for his paper “Is a Sigh 'Just a Sigh'? Sighs as Emotional Signals and Responses to a Difficult Task”.

John Perry's research on procrastination, which won the literature prize, has more practical implica-

tions. His theory, in a nutshell, is this: “To be a high achiever, always work on something important, using it as a way to avoid doing something that's even more important.” Perhaps this is the approach used by Andre Geim – after winning the (real) Nobel prize for physics last year, he's the only person ever to have [picked up both awards](#); the Nobel for his experiments with 2D graphene, the Ig Nobel for making a frog levitate.

It's a fair bet that the motley crew who won the Ig Nobel mathematics prize this year won't be following in his footsteps. That prize went to six people who have all – unsuccessfully – predicted the end of the world. Now they've been honoured “for teaching the world to be careful when making mathematical assumptions and calculations”. One of the six, none other than [Harold Camping](#), hasn't learnt to take more care though; earlier this year he declared judgement day to be on 21 October 2011, after his two previous stabs at a date passed by ignominiously. We don't know if anyone's done any research on the validity of the phrase, third time lucky. 

READ MORE:

1. Read the full list of 2011 Ig Nobel winners, on the Annals of [Improbable Research](#)



HOW THE LEADING TORIES SPENT THEIR YOUTH

Three of the men who run Britain are alumni of Oxford University's notorious drinking society, the Bullingdon Club. A profile of chancellor George Osborne published this weekend has given more details of the Bullingdon's secretive world of debauchery. By REBECCA DAVIS.

Osborne, Prime Minister David Cameron and London mayor Boris Johnson were all members of the Bullingdon during their time at Oxford. All three have attempted to play down their links with the society because in a period of austerity, it doesn't look good to be bragging about the time you smashed up a restaurant with your pals just for laughs and then wrote out a cheque to cover the damage. But this is precisely the kind of behaviour for which the Bullingdon is known.

What happens in the Bullingdon stays in the Bullingdon, but a profile of George Osborne published in this weekend's *Observer* blows the lid on some of it. Interviews with former Bullingdon members reveal that the initiation ritual was to down a bottle of tequila while standing on a table. One source told of a party attended by Osborne at the home of the mega-rich Rothschild family which turned into a full-on brawl. The same source also recalled being at a party with Osborne on an open-top bus and witnessing another Bullingdon member attempting to snort lines of cocaine despite the fact that they kept blowing away. David Cameron is said to have been present at a 1987 Bullingdon event where a restaurant window was smashed.

In an interview on British TV last month, Cameron was asked if he saw any similarities between the behaviour of the London rioters and the members of the Bullingdon Club. The embarrassed Prime Minister replied: "I think we all do stupid things when we are young and we should learn the lessons." **iM**

READ MORE:

1. George Osborne and the Bullingdon Club, in the [Observer](#)

Photo: George Osborne and David Cameron (Reuters)



AGENT ORANGE STILL CODE RED FOR VIETNAMESE

This month marks 50 years since the use of Agent Orange in Vietnam. Its effects linger on for the Vietnamese, but the US is still dragging its heels on compensation – despite the fact that US army veterans who claim they were affected by the herbicide have received payouts totalling billions of dollars. By REBECCA DAVIS.

Photo: Agent Orange victim Nguyen Thi Van Long, 25 years old, learns to make paper flowers at the Friendship village, a hospice for Agent Orange victims outside Hanoi August 9, 2011. REUTERS

It's estimated that the use of Agent Orange to destroy the Vietnamese countryside resulted in the deaths of more than 400,000 Vietnamese, and caused another 500,000 children to be born with birth defects.

The US government has to date paid out around \$2, 2 billion in compensation to about 89,000 veterans of the US military who filed Agent Orange-related

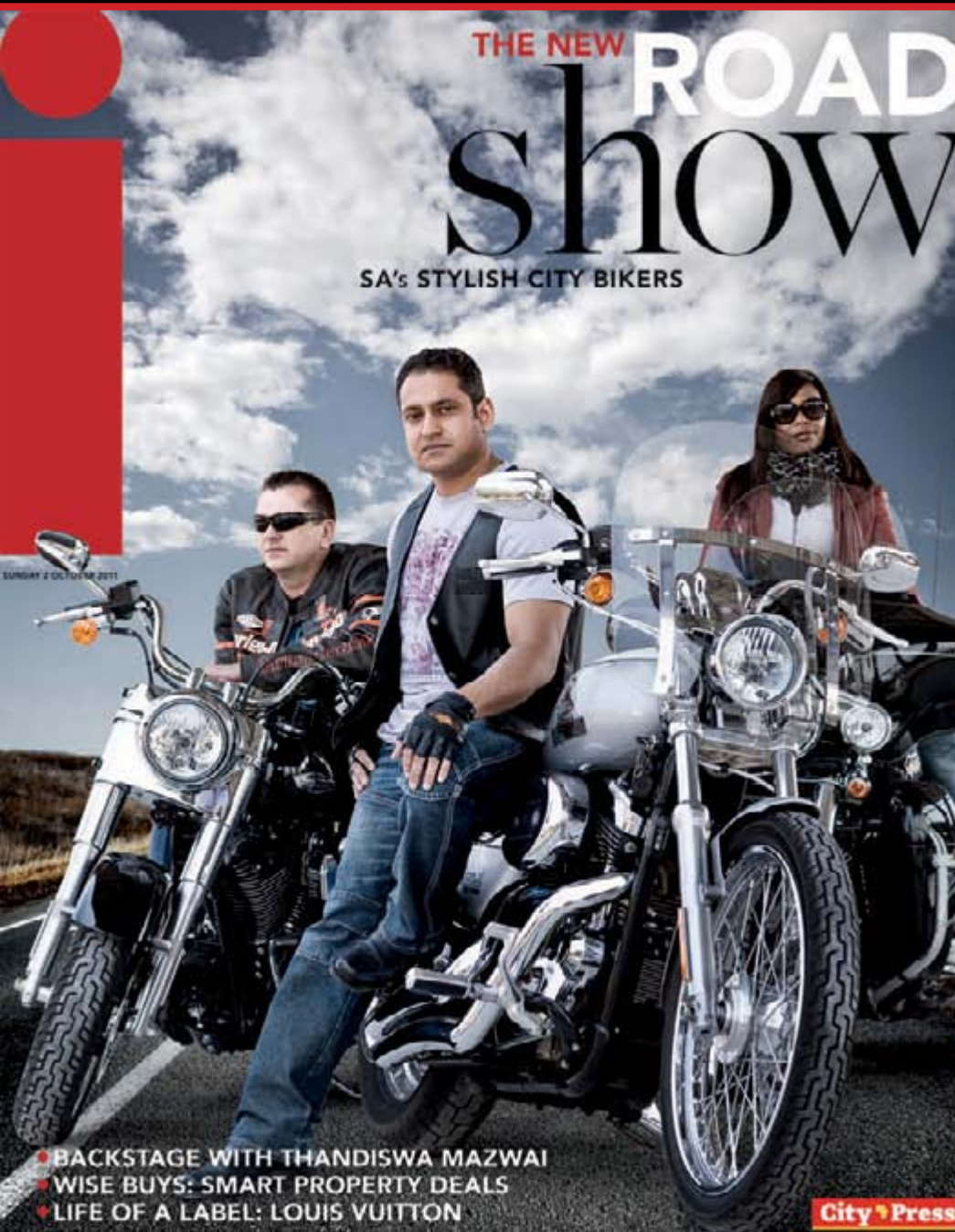
claims. Vets who suffer health problems like prostate cancer and diabetes believe their health problems are linked to the fact that they were stationed at bases in Vietnam close to where Agent Orange was sprayed.

Yet this is in stark contrast to that government's approach towards the Vietnamese affected by the defoliant and herbicide. In 2004 a group called the Vietnam Association for Victims of Agent Orange filed a lawsuit against several chemical companies which produced the defoliant for the military. The US government itself could not be sued, due to sovereign immunity. The case was dismissed. In 2007 the Second Circuit Court of Appeals heard the appeal, and upheld the original judge's ruling. They said that although Agent Orange contained a known poison, a variant of tetrachlorodibenzodioxin, it was not intended to be used as a poison on humans, and could not therefore be considered a chemical weapon. As a result, its use did not constitute a violation of international law.

Last year the US-Vietnam Dialogue Group on Agent Orange/Dioxin released a report calling for the US government to provide \$300 million to expand services to people with Agent Orange-related disabilities. In the current economic climate, it's highly unlikely they'll get their way. 

READ MORE:

1. Children of Agent Orange, on [Al Jazeera](#)



CITY PRESS'S BIG, GLOSSY BID TO EXPAND MARKET SHARE

Media24 is opening their cheque book in a big way for City Press's new magazine which premiered as a supplement to the newspaper this past Sunday. Big on luxurious eye-candy and sporting good writers, i magazine has potential, but is it distinctive enough to make readers want to hang on to it past Monday morning? By MANDY DE WAAL.

In most neighbourhoods Mondays are trash days. Those municipal garbage trucks come round and harvest the waste. For those people who can't be bothered with recycling, this means the Sunday Times or City Press hits the bin almost immediately after the read is done.

City Press's Ferial Haffajee hopes to change

that by emulating offshore markets where newspaper magazines have added staying power to Sunday reads and made them last a lot longer than just one day.

"The motivation is that the best Sunday newspapers around the world have good quality

Photo: i magazine cover & the editor clare o'donoghue

magazines which have worked incredibly well to enhance those newspapers' value. We're hoping that by adding the magazine that City Press will now have a longer shelf life," says Haffajee, who's been at the head of Media24's English Sunday title for just over two years now. She came in with a strong mandate to turn the paper around and grow market share.

There have been a number of changes at the paper since the former Mail & Guardian editor arrived. The first was the major design overhaul overseen by Peter Ong, a global press design guru who's redesigned some of the world's top papers. The next step was beefing up the investigative capacity of the paper which was done by bringing in Adriaan Basson (former Mail & Guardian investigative journalist and author of *Finish & Klaar: Selebi's fall from Interpol to the Underworld*) as assistant editor.

The smartest move was one made by Media24 and feeds all newspapers in the group. That was to invest in an ace investigative unit that includes the likes of Andrew Trench, Jacques Pauw, Julian Rademeyer and Anna-Maria Lombard. What this has done is to reposition City Press as an agenda-setting title, which in the last six months has been more than true. By breaking big stories, City Press has become an often quoted news source.

But repositioning the newspaper hasn't come without some pain. "The drop in circulation we have experienced was an anticipated drop," says Haffajee. "We did lose a certain amount of readers, but the experience of the Mail & Guardian and other

well performing weekly papers show that if you continue to break news, use quality writers, and invest in investigative journalism you can protect and grow your market share."

Media24 has opened the cheque book wide for the newest salvo, a luxurious, big format glossy called "i" magazine which Haffajee hopes build the newspaper's brand, introduce the title to new audiences and enhance the value offered by City Press.

The newspaper's magazine is outsourced to New Media Publishing which is run by strong magazine veterans, and which Media24 own a 58% share in. From that perspective, the Naspers-owned company is spreading the love (and money) within the group. The magazine will have a 120,000 print run initially and will be distributed in Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal, but Haffajee hopes to expand this footprint nationally which will see the print run rise to 250,000.

Haffajee maintains though that getting outsourcing to New Media will still be cheaper than a DIY job. "Newspaper people aren't good at making beautiful magazines and Media24's magazine people do it beautifully, they are the undisputed champions. It would cost us much more to buy all the expertise in from a culture and design perspective, and we're focussing on building strong links so that it doesn't feel like a foreign product," she says.

The launch team that put the magazine together is headed by Clare O' Donoghue (who was editor at Marie Claire, Style, Femina and Top Billing magazines), Tracy Hawthorne (whose written or sub-edited for just about every magazine in this country), and Bididi Rorke (who is another name familiar to locals who love magazines).

i Magazine has certainly got the style aspect of the magazine spot on.

“I have always been first and foremost a journalist trained in old newspaper style of journalism,” says O’ Donoghue who is the content director for the City Press magazine. “I’ve always thought of magazines as being a bit ‘powder puff’ but have enjoyed bringing a harder edge and a gravitas to the magazine work I’ve done. I think it is crucial to get the balance of style and substance right.”

i Magazine has certainly got the style aspect of the magazine spot on. The read is large and lavish because of the size of the magazine, and the articles are crisp and tightly written. The style is strongly visual, with striking layout and excellent photography but what the magazine still needs to accomplish is the creation of a distinctive voice.


“We still need to do a lot of refining on this magazine. It is a launch edition and we have yet to put a full time editor in place. We’re hoping that this editor will bring a distinctive voice to the publication. That said, we basically had 16 days to turn around a magazine from the word ‘go’. Sixteen days is not a lot of time to turn around a magazine,” O’ Donoghue says.

“City Press believes that the Sunday market is wide open, and that there are a lot of cynical readers who have left newspapers, or people who aren’t engaging with Sundays that could be brought in. City Press told us they wanted a hybrid magazine, which is an interesting

combination of a traditional magazine that would fit right in with the paper. So it is not like a pamphlet that you flick through before your coffee’s cold. We do want to introduce some good long reads into the magazine in the future.”

Writers for the debut issue include Media24’s Sam Wilson, and iMaverick’s own Siphon Hlongwane. While the magazine is aspirational, with eye-candy indulgence, it somehow lacks the distinctiveness and the gravitas that O’Donoghue says she wants it to have.

As one media pundit put it via Twitter: “Slick design, but very slim on content! Just listicles and modular copy. Not a patch on Sunday Times’ Lifestyle.”

The publication has massive potential but if it wants to avoid the Monday trash collections, it will need to expand beyond lists, eye-candy and luxuriousness as a reason for people to hang onto the magazine. In the local market where so many magazines in general, and woman’s magazines in particular, have for the most part become homogeneously droll, City Press’s big glossy would do well to be a little different instead of being more of the same. 

READ MORE:

1. Newspaper magazines: saviours of newspapers and magazines? at INMA’s [research blog](#).
2. Newspaper magazines still matter; they deliver women readers in [The Guardian](#).

NEWSPAPERS

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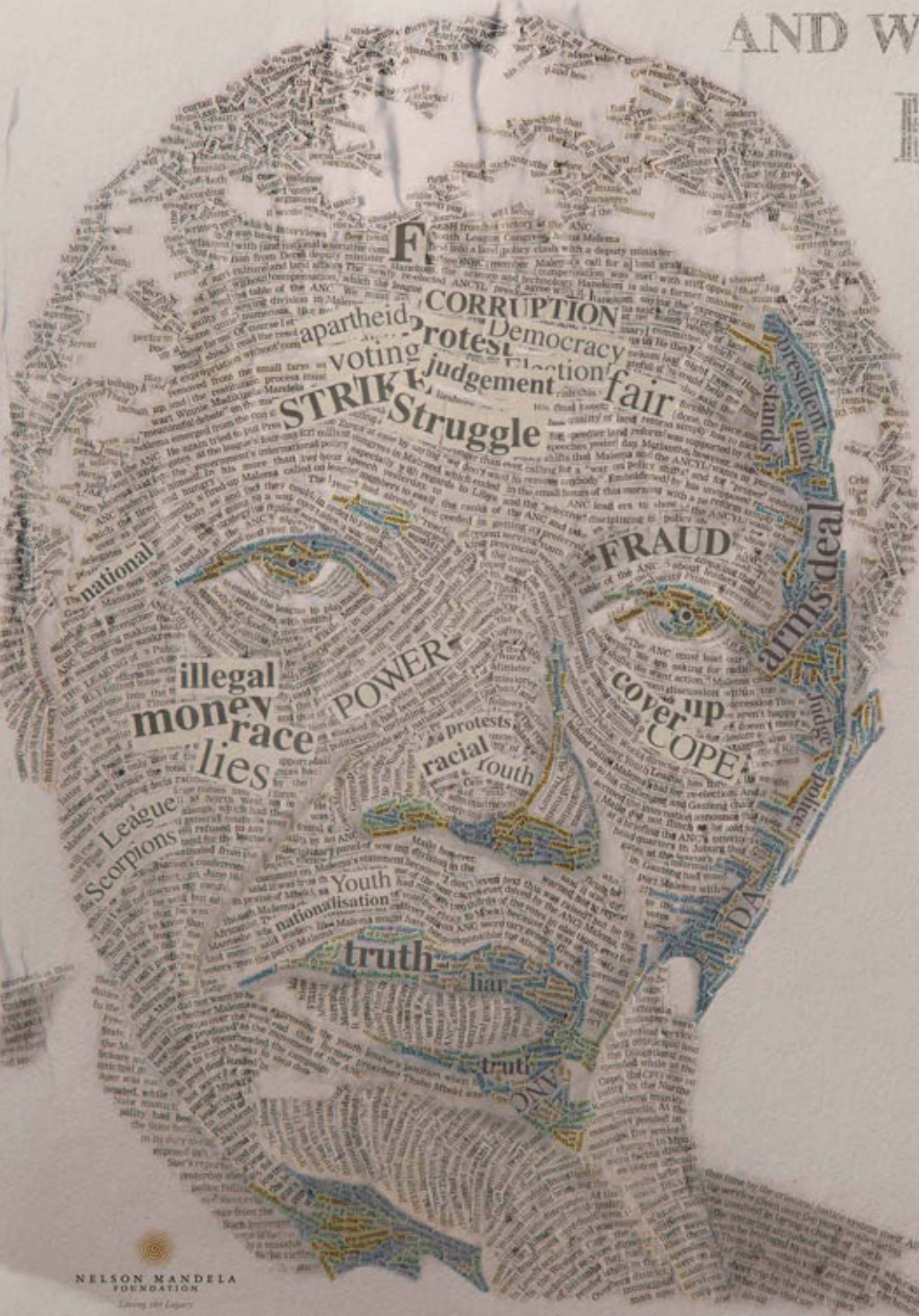
ENOUGH

TO LOOK

SQUARELY

AT THE

REFLECTION



From a message to the Congress of the World Association of Newspapers, Fourteenth Congress of the World Editors Forum, Castle of Good Hope, Cape Town, South Africa, 3 June 2007



HAIL TO THE CHEF

HOW WE
ARE RULED
BY CELEBRITY
KITCHENS

An iMaverick correspondent muses on an earlier career as a cook, and how the Foodie has risen in a culture obsessed with eating.
By RICHARD POPLAK.

I don't need to watch Gordon Ramsay on "Hell's Kitchen". I lived it. When I first started cooking during my three years at university in Montreal, I worked for a martinet named Tony, a tall, balding Italian gentleman bitterly at odds with humanity and circumstance. Tony had a vocabulary that related almost exclusively to homosexual encounters—specifically my homosexual encounters—and how such activities were anathema to crafting good pizza. I was 18 years old, newly arrived from Johannesburg, and Tony had a filthy mouth even by my hometown's high standards. On the odd occasion when I tried to remind him that I was indeed straight, Tony would double the verbal barrage, insisting that anyone who made Euro Deli's signature thin crust pizza as badly as I did could only be indulging in late-night, meth-fuelled orgies in bars with names like Zippers.

My time at the Euro Deli coincided with the Rise of the Foodie, a Western trend that has turned food into a type of religion, and elevated the chef to the status of a god, or at least

Photo: Chef Gordon Ramsay, star of the new program "Gordon Ramsay: Cookalong Live", whips egg whites as he makes Baked Alaska at the Fox Summer Television Critics Association press tour in Pasadena, California August 6, 2009. REUTERS/Fred Prouser



Photo: British celebrity chef Jamie Oliver (L) talks with Britain's Prime Minister Tony Blair in Downing Street in London, March 30, 2005. Blair promised more money for British school lunches on the day Oliver presented him with a plea signed by 271,000 people to stop feeding children junk. REUTERS/Russell Boyce

an A-list celebrity. Food is an emotional subject, inherently dramatic (will the recipe work, or will the soufflé end up a pancake?). Where once law firms provided the messy microcosm for all our specie's foibles, it is now the kitchen—with its inviolable hierarchies, vicious politicking and long history of foul-mouthed Tonys—that has become reality television drama's go-to locale.

Obsession with food isn't a new phenomenon. There were master chefs long before Jamie Oliver lisped his way through a dozen television shows. The first recorded encomium to a meal can be found a mere 20-minute's drive from Sandton, in the Cradle of Mankind. By immortalising kudu and springbok on cave walls, our ancestors were praising the value of a good braai. After all,

buck are intrinsically nothing at which to marvel. They became wall painting-worthy when cooked over an open flame.

The Sumerians developed writing to list the ingredients of their dinner: sheep, grain, milk, cooking oil. Classic literature describes vast repasts; the Bible tells us of legendary feasts. The Romans developed the vomitorium; the Puritans praised the bounty of the New World and deep fried chicken in celebration of it. As long as we've written, we've written about food and the eating thereof.

But it was perhaps the American fascination with France in the late 50s that sparked Food Inc's rise into mainstream culture. Ernest Hemingway, Saul Bellow and their peers haunted the Montparnasse in search of fine

But it was Julia Childs, in 1961, who introduced Americans to cuisine, via “Mastering the Art of French Cooking”, her seminal work on, well, mastering French cooking. Childs used more butter in one dish than most Americans had used in their lives, and she was proud of it.

cuisine, and sent back their dispatches via teletype. Bellow, after a decent Parisian meal, noted the flash of light refracting from rainwater in a sluice, and assembled the legendary opening line to “The Adventures of Augie March” in his head. “New Yorker” correspondent AJ Liebling, perhaps American literature’s greatest gourmand, ate and drank himself to death in France, but left perhaps the greatest paragraph ever written about food by way of an epitaph:

“The Proust madeleine phenomenon is now as firmly established in folklore as Newton’s apple or Watt’s steam kettle. The man ate a tea biscuit, the taste evoked memories, he wrote a book ... In the light of what Proust wrote with so mild a stimulus, it is the world’s loss that he did not have a heartier appetite. On a dozen Gardiners Island oysters, a bowl of clam chowder, a peck of steamers, some bay scallops, three sautéed soft-shelled crabs, a few ears of fresh-picked corn, a thin swordfish steak of generous area, a pair of lobsters, and a Long Island duck, he might have written a masterpiece.”

But it was Julia Childs, in 1961, who introduced Americans to cuisine, via “Mastering the Art of French Cooking”, her seminal work on, well, mastering French cooking. Childs used more butter in one dish than most Americans had used in their lives, and she was proud of it. Like surfing and the hula-hoop, French cuisine became a craze, then a fad, then a surprisingly durable part of the American cultural landscape, bubbling under the surface of apple-pie-and-ice-cream eras like the 70s and early 80s. Trends came and never fully disappeared—sushi, Asian fusion, the George Forman Grill, and so on. The American culinary landscape was becoming remarkably catholic.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the pond, Britain was undergoing something of a renaissance. If you read your Graham Greene, you know that an overcooked steak, well-aged potatoes and a glass of pungent claret (by all means, pronounce the “t”) were the best one could expect from London in the decade-and-a-half after the War. Bad teeth and bad food—that was the lot of the Englishman. But restaurants like La Gavroche, ran by Michel Roux as if it were the inner circle of Dante’s Hades, were bringing French style food to the damaged English palate. No more toast and drippings—this was classic stuff, made with flair, and by the time Michel Roux Jr had completed his culinary peregrinations and come to work at his papa’s keep, La Gavroche had sparked a London-wide revolution.

This is not to say Roux Jr was the only chef in London, but many, many young men and women passed through his kitchen, and a reasonable percentage of them lived through the experience. Gordon Ramsay, shorthand for the ill-tempered

kitchen Führer, has modelled his personality at least in part on the Roux famille. During my year-and-a-half cooking in London in the late 90s, I worked in a kitchen owned by Bob Geldof, and the chef was an irascible Cockney who made Tony seem like an altar boy. His creative use of the C-word rivalled anything he concocted over a stove, and what he lacked in homosexual slurs he made up for in small penis comments. His kitchen was extraordinarily abusive, a place where grown men were reduced to tears and grown women screamed and threw things. In short, it was a literary space, full of outsized emotions and raw enmity. He had worked for Roux for a decade, and was as damaged a soul as you could ever meet.

I had always mused about collecting my experiences in a volume called something like “Kitchen Confidential”. Then “Kitchen Confidential” came out. Published in 2001, subtitled “Adventures in the Culinary Underbelly”, New York chef Anthony Bourdain nailed it on the head. Cocaine, sex, mental breakdowns and steak pomme frites avec framboise jus—now there’s a menu. The book blew open the upstairs/downstairs idea of a kitchen, revealing it to be as vital as the food that emerged from it. Bourdain wrote in “Kitchenese”, the language Tony wielded with such mastery. His intention was not to change the cooking business, although inadvertently, he brought it from the 16th century into the



Photo: The one who started it all: America's most famous home cook Julia Child.

19th—he simply wanted to flay it bare, like a well-skinned rabbit.


In many respects, “Kitchen Confidential” was a response to the rise of the celebrity chef, which Bourdain considers “a remarkable and admittedly annoying phenomenon”. The advent of cable television brought a slew of specialist channels before American and European audiences, thousands of hours of dead air that needed to be filled. Mostly, it was filled with cooking shows. The Food Network became a staple, borrowing programmes such as “Iron Chef” from Japan to astonishing (for cable) ratings. Julia Childs had proved it decades before, as had old stalwarts like Britain’s “Two Fat Ladies” and other early chef-lebrities—folks liked watching cooking on the telly. More and more chefs took to the airways to enhance their “brand”. Star chefs like LA’s Wolfgang Puck, once a restaurateur so exclusive that even the biggest actors weren’t guaranteed a meal at his table, became an upmarket McDonalds, smearing his name on any product that could be legally consumed by Americans.

The television menu was jammed with chefs, all owning a small corner of the market. Boyish Jamie Oliver became a TV star, and then a food activist, berating Britons for their lousy diets, insisting that celery and olives were not only meant for garnishing drinks at the pub, but could also be foundational comestibles in something called a “salad”. These days, it is not impossible to eat a crap meal in London, but you shall not eat a cheap one. Gastro pubs line the streets where once a bag of crisps sufficed. Everything is infused instead of salted, basted instead of dipped, sautéed instead of fried. When a culinary subject such as the Scotch egg, which qualifies as suicide, goes posh, you know

that life on earth has changed.

The Foodie phenomenon is now an established part of a middlebrow existence. Great eating is no longer the exclusive keep of the aristocracy. Manhattan, and now Brooklyn, are vast, open-air food courts. Obesity, once the ague of kings, is now both a sign of the developed world middle-classes and a marker of poverty. (Bad calories are cheaper than good calories.) We are obsessed with food because we have never had so much of it: AJ Liebling’s ode to bounty has clogged our cultural lines as surely as arterial plaque shuts down a heart.

Nice things are nicer than nasty things, as Kingsley Amis once put it. Ipso facto, good food is better than bad food. Nick Dawes, editor of the Mail & Guardian, met the rage of his fellow citizenry when he correctly described Johannesburg as a Foodie “wasteland”. He has a point—we still think creamed spinach is an acceptable side dish for a steak. But it is also nice to live in a city that isn’t ruled by restaurants opening and closing, and doesn’t fete its chefs as it once did its painters and writers. (Or, in Johannesburg’s case, its mining magnates.)

Balance. We need balance. But that is impossible when it comes to food. Said Christopher Hitchens, who is dying of a lifetime of excess, “Only a fool expects smoking and drinking to bring happiness, just as only a dolt expects money to do so. Like money, booze and fags are happiness, and people cannot expect to pursue happiness in moderation.” Extrapolate that to food and you get the picture. The Foodie as acolyte and the chef as high priest—this is Western culture in its current iteration. I wonder what Tony would have had to say about all this. No—hold that thought. 



LET'S TALK ABOUT SEXPO

In a world where people constantly bemoan the sexualisation of, well, pretty much everything, this weekend's expo at Gallagher Estate failed to rise to the occasion. THERESA MALLINSON finally lost her Sexpo virginity, and wonders what all the fuss is about.

Sex sells, right? Ergo, at a sex show, you'd be expect to be sold sex. Well, not like, actual sex – for one thing, that's illegal – but, you know, the toys and the porn, and, especially, the fantasy. Granted, the toys and the porn were there (the fantasy not so much); that said, the

most disconcerting thing about Sexpo was the number of people trying to sell me things that were in no way sex-related, unless you have a very creative mind indeed.

Photo: Theresa Mallinson for iMaverick

No one seemed to be paying the dancers much attention; they were just a backdrop for sitting around having a chat and a beer with your mates. To be fair, this was early in the evening, and things may have got a little more provocative as the night wore on.

There were stands selling hair clips, orthopedic pillows, perfume, cheese, nuts, olives, tequila-flavoured beer, jewellery, something called neotan (that would be tanning without the sun, or even a sunbed), hypnotism, and – most incongruous of all – digital vehicle tracking. Mission Rhino was also there, trying to solicit donations. At least they had a hook. “We’re bunch of horny old men,” Pierre Vermeulen, one of the organisation's trustees, told iMaverick, before elaborating on the link between poaching and the belief in certain south-east Asian nations that rhino horn is an aphrodisiac.

To escape the low-level sexual entendre from people trying to sell me products that more rightly belonged in a deli or hair salon (“Want a Brazilian... blow wave?” some McSales dude asked me), I decamped to the Lollipop Lounge. There was a stage, with girls, and poles, and dancing, but it was all curiously unsexy. It probably didn't help that the soundtrack was generic rock. The line-up was formulaic – each girl danced one song in scanty attire; at the beginning of her second song she'd take her top off, writhe around the pole a bit more, and then exit the stage to let

the next dancer get to it. No one seemed to be paying the dancers much attention; they were just a backdrop for sitting around having a chat and a beer with your mates. To be fair, this was early in the evening, and things may have got a little more provocative as the night wore on.

The Lollipop Lounge was “for gents”, so I thought a visit to the Ladies Lounge was in order. The atmosphere was certainly livelier, with the women in the audience more attentive towards the performers, and clearly enjoying the show. It was one of those Chippendales-wannabe outfits though: rippling muscles, cheesy moves, bad hair, etcetera. Sexy? Not so much.

So I went in search of a little adventure. First up was a visit to the stand of Tim Patch, aka Pricasso, – he's guy who paints with his penis, if the name wasn't already a giveaway. “He paints with his penis, like in front of everybody?” a friend asked, incredulously, after the event. “Yup, he's Australian,” I explained. “Are his paintings any good?” he asked. “No, not really,” I replied, but sex sells, even if it's a flaccid penis making bad art.

Which pretty much sums up the overall Sexpo experience. Sure, there were the stands



Photo: Theresa Mallinson for iMaverick

selling pornos (Does anyone actually buy porn on DVD these days, instead of downloading it from the internet? It would seem the answer is yes), and sex shops selling toys, but most of these were merely naughty, rather than truly kinky.

For a more out-there perspective, I chatted to “Miss B” the co-owner of Different Strokes – a one-stop shop for BDSM. “We’re probably one of the most extreme shops, and at least half of our stuff caters for vanilla,” Miss B said. But she did point out that she found “the most unlikely couples” buying things from her stand, and said that they’d been getting

a little more busy as the day drew to a close. “The audience participation really works,” Miss B said, explaining how they’d entice people to the stand. “When we say: ‘He’s been naughty, let’s give him a spank’, most of them are quite happy with it. When we give them spanks and do bondage on them, they like it. It’s not something that they would’ve been exposed to up until now.”

It’s impossible to write about a sex show these days without referencing David Foster Wallace’s seminal 1998 essay, [“The Big Red Son”](#), about the Adult Video News Awards. He

And there's no doubt that Sexpo is big, big business. According to the organisers, there were more than 12,000 visitors on Thursday alone, and that was only the opening day. They've clearly hit the bull's eye when it comes to their target market: there's plenty of bad taste, some lewdness, but little really dirty, which perhaps tells us what South Africans are comfortable about popularising.

writes: “The adult industry is vulgar. Would anyone disagree? ... But of course we should keep in mind that vulgar has many dictionary definitions and that only a couple of these have to do w/ lewdness or bad taste. At root, vulgar just means popular on a mass scale. It is the semantic opposite of pretentious or snobby. It is humility with a comb-over. It is Nielsen ratings and Barnum’s axiom and the real bottom line. It is big, big business.”


And there's no doubt that Sexpo is big, big business. According to the organisers, there were more than 12,000 visitors on Thursday alone, and that was only the opening day. They've clearly hit the bull's eye when it comes to their target market: there's plenty of bad taste, some lewdness, but little really dirty, which perhaps tells us what South Africans are comfortable about popularising.

Strangely, and this wasn't what I expected to come away with, my feeling is that there wasn't enough of the truly “vulgar”. Where was the porn on giant screens; where were the starlets tottering about wearing only high heels; where

were the sex toys I had absolutely no idea how to use? “Am I missing something?” I texted a friend who's a Sexpo regular. “All seems pretty vanilla to me...”

“No, that sounds about right,” he replied. “I usually just enjoy and make fun of the cheap, smutty, sleazy atmosphere.”

Indubitably, Sexpo is a show for adults (you certainly wouldn't want to take your kids there) but the smut and the sleaze all seems of the schoolyard variety; there's nothing remotely grown-up about it. This was best represented by the giant stuffed animals wondering around – half dinosaur, half genitals. WTF, I thought, have I entered some kind of parallel universe where our sexual fantasies end up producing Barney the Dinosaur?

Maybe I'm too demanding, but I was expecting something more. I wanted to emerge from the experience challenged; a little shocked, even; and definitely more curious. Yes, dear reader, I may as well say it: what I wanted was a mind-fuck. And Sexpo certainly didn't deliver on that one. 

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New Zealand's Sonny Bill Williams (Reuters)

RUGBY

Ireland captain Brian O'Driscoll was delighted with his charges after they claimed top spot in Pool C with a 36-6 victory over Italy on Sunday. O'Driscoll was one of three try-scorers for the Irish, who completely outplayed the Azzurri in the second-half at a packed Otago Stadium.

Wales captain Sam Warburton expressed his delight that his side reached their goal of making the play-offs after their 66-0 win over Fiji. In showery conditions more suited to the Red Dragons, the

Welsh needed only a point to finish runner-up in Pool D, and earned it with a bonus-point fourth try right before the interval.

New Zealand routed Canada 79-15 as new first choice flyhalf Colin Slade stepped up to fill the berth vacated by an injured Daniel Carter, who's tournament was ended after suffering a groin tear during practice. Coach Graham Henry gave Piri Weepu a run in the 51st minute at flyhalf, but reconfirmed his support for the Highlander man after the match. New Zealanders will be holding their breath that the ankle injury that

forced Slade to leave the field after 60 minutes was merely precautionary.

Argentina laboured to a 25-7 win over Georgia at Arena Manawatu in Palmerston North on Sunday, to book their place in the World Cup quarterfinals. Any hope Scotland may have had of sneaking into the last eight through the back door was shut in their face following the Pumas' three tries to one victory in Pool B.

Despite picking up a bonus-point win, Australia produced a Jekyll & Hyde showing in their 68-22 Pool victory over



Chelsea manager Andre Villas-Boas (Reuters)

Russia in Nelson on Saturday. Russia ran in three tries – through Vladimir Ostroushko, Denis Simplikevich and Konstantin Rachkov – but the Golds hit double figures.

Samoa centre Eliota Fuimaono-Sapolu has been charged with misconduct after he accused Welsh referee Nigel Owens of bias and racism via social media network Twitter. Tournament officials have charged Fuimaono-Sapolu with a "breach of the World Cup disciplinary programme and for alleged infractions of the terms of participation".

The quarterfinals of the Rugby World Cup have been decided. The line-ups are as follows:
08 October: Ireland v Wales
08 October: England v France

09 October: SA v Australia
09 October: NZ v Argentina

The Lions booked a place in the semi-finals of the Currie Cup after producing a come-from-behind performance to tie 25-25 with the Cheetahs in Bloemfontein. Western Province snatched a last gasp victory over the Sharks to win 15-10 in Durban and keep their semi-final hopes alive. WP now lie in fourth place on 36 points, just three ahead of the Blue Bulls.

FOOTBALL

Sir Alex Ferguson has revealed he could be at the Manchester United helm for another four years before finally stepping down as manager.

The Scot has been at Old Trafford for 25 years and has enjoyed phenomenal success throughout his tenure. Despite closing in on his 70th birthday, he still has the fire in the belly to extend his stay.

Chelsea manager Andre Villas-Boas has no doubt striker Didier Drogba will extend his stay at Stamford Bridge in the near future. The Ivorian's current deal ends at the end of this season but Villas-Boas has refused to be rushed into negotiations over a renewal.

Former Manchester United midfielder Paul Scholes believes the fierce club rivalries in England are stymieing the national team's success. The 36-year-old retired from international football in 2004 and has revealed that there has always been friction between England players from rival clubs, which hinders the progress of the team as a whole.

Results from the weekend:
 Everton 0-2 Liverpool
 Aston Villa 2-0 Wigan
 Blackburn 0-4 Man City



Robert Kubica (Reuters)

Man United 2-0 Norwich
 Sunderland 2-2 West Brom
 Wolves 1-2 Newcastle
 Bolton 1-5 Chelsea
 Fulham 6-0 QPR
 Swansea 2-0 Stoke
 Spurs 2-1 Arsenal

FORMULA ONE

Robert Kubica's manager says the Pole will let Renault know by "early November" as to whether or not he can race next season. Although Dr Riccardo Ceccarelli, who has been overseeing Kubica's rehabilitation, sees no reason why Kubica cannot return next season, the F1 driver has yet to even get behind the wheel.

CRICKET

A 73-run partnership between Steven Smith and Ben Rohrer dug New South Wales out of a deep hole and took them to a five-wicket victory over Mumbai on Sunday. The pair came together with the Blues deep in the mire at 28 for five in response to Mumbai's 100 for seven, but safely navigated New South Wales home with three overs to spare.

South Africa Test captain Graeme Smith has returned to competitive cricket for the first time since injuring his knee during the Indian Premier League in April. Smith incurred the injury

when he collided with Pune Warriors teammate Rahul Sharma whilst fielding against the Kochi Tuskers Kerala, and underwent surgery in July. He was subsequently ruled out of the Cape Cobras' Champions League Twenty20 campaign, leaving him short on preparation ahead of the visit of Australia this month.

TENNIS

Andy Murray dispensed with Donald Young, 6-2, 6-0 in the final of the Bangkok Tennis Open. Both players saw off tough French challenges in the semi-finals, overcoming Giles Simon and Gael Monfils, in three setters respectively. The win was Murray's 19th career win on the ATP tour.

Agnieszka Radwanska claimed her third straight victory over Vera Zvonareva to win the Toray Pan Pacific Open crown on Saturday. The ninth seed got off to a slow start, losing the opening two games at the Ariake Colosseum and facing a point for 0-3. However, she came back, winning eight of the next nine games to build a 6-3 2-0 lead.



CARTER OUT OF WORLD CUP

Rugby World Cup hosts New Zealand will be without star flyhalf Dan Carter for the rest of the tournament because of a groin injury. By PLANETRUGBY.COM

Photo: Dan Carter (REUTERS)

The 29-year-old sustained a "torn adductor longus tendon" during kicking practice on Saturday and was withdrawn from the team to play Canada on Sunday.

The team's doctor

Deb Robinson confirmed on Sunday morning that the All Blacks will be without their hugely talented playmaker for the remainder of the event.

New Zealand are desperate for a first World Cup success since 1987 but the loss of Carter is a huge blow to their hopes.

"The scan confirmed our worst fears, that the tendon has torn, which means he is out of the tournament," said Robinson.

"He will see a specialist early next week to determine the next course of treatment for him, with surgery a possibility."

Manawatu back Aaron Cruden has been called into the squad by coach Graham Henry, who said: "This is devastating for Daniel. He's one of the best players ever produced by this country and this was going to be his pinnacle.

"The group is shattered by this news but they are also a resilient group. We need to move on and play the cards we've got." **ITV**



MAN CITY DISH OUT FOOTBALL LESSON

Manchester City thrashed a poor Blackburn Rovers side 4-0 at Ewood Park on Saturday to round off a difficult week in style. By FOOTBALL365.COM

Photo: Manchester City's Samir Nasri (L) shoots to score against Blackburn Rovers during their English League Cup soccer match in Blackburn, northern England October 1, 2011. REUTERS/Nigel Roddis REUTERS

The first half started with City looking solid in possession but lacking creativity in the final third, with Blackburn defending in numbers throughout the opening 45 minutes.

Mario Balotelli saw a couple of decent chances fly wide of the target just before the break, but City had to wait until the second half before their dominance turned into goals.

Adam Johnson opened the scoring after 56 minutes with the winger curling a left-footed shot into the back of the net from range, and the away side had to wait just three minutes before adding their second through a toe-poked Balotelli effort.

The third goal for City brought the home fans to their feet in a mixture of disbelief and pure anger as Blackburn sat back and allowed the visitors to break forward in numbers before Samir Nasri sent a deflected shot into the back of the net.

With chants starting to ring around Ewood Park calling for the sacking of Steve Kean, Stefan Savic added a deserved gloss to the scoreline in the dying minutes of the game, rising unmarked in the box to power a bullet header past the helpless Paul Robinson.

The match may mark Kean's last game in charge of Blackburn, but City won't care too much about that after a result that leaves them level on points with Manchester United at the top of the table. **iM**

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**WEEKEND
OF WONDER
AT RUGBY
WORLD CUP**

With South Africa cementing their place in the quarter finals of RWC 2011, Bok fans could afford to sit back and watch rugby drama unfold as the biggest upset in World Cup history played out and the favourites all suffered heavy injury setbacks. By STYLI CHARALAMBOUS.

After a bruising battle against the Samoans that confirmed the Boks as the second team in the quarterfinals, the nation held its collective breath as several key players limped off the North Harbour field under a cloud of injury concerns. JP Pietersen, Bryan Habana, Danie Rossouw, Francois Steyn and Francois Hougaard would have all given the Bok management team something to fret over as the medic team assessed the cost of the Samoan victory.

As it transpired, the cost was significant. Francois Steyn, South Africa's long-range penalty specialist and reformed midfield maestro, has damaged his shoulder to the extent that it is tournament ending. Since deputising for regular inside centre, Jean de Villiers, as he did in the 2007 tournament, Steyn had combined superbly with Jacque Fourie, making the number 12 jersey his own.

In calling for a replacement, the Bok coaching staff opted for Blue Bulls fullback Zane Kirchner, a player who has achieved nothing more than mediocre performances at international level.

Photo: France's Aurelien Rougerie passes the ball as he tackled by Tonga's Paino Hehea (C) during their Rugby World Cup Pool A match at Wellington Regional Stadium in Wellington October 1, 2011. REUTERS/Anthony Phelps



Photo: South Africa Springboks' Frans Steyn greets fans at a training session in Taupo September 26, 2011.

Counting in his favour was most likely past experiences of having trained with the Bok team and knowing the structures better than any newcomer would. The World Cup, as we know, is not a tournament for untested variables, with experience usually coming up trumps.

For South Africa, the best centres are already at the tournament, with additional cover in the form of Pat Lambie and Butch James, so a fullback was probably the right call by the Bok team.

The silver lining is that the rest of the team appear only to have light niggles, that should allow Peter de Villiers to choose from a full fit squad come next weekend against Australia in Wellington. Francois Steyn and his prodigious boot will be sorely missed.

If South Africa felt they had injury woes, spare a thought for Australia (okay, don't) who have had the depth of their squad tested as they seemingly picked up serious injuries in each game played. The latest casualty is wing Drew Mitchell, whose Rugby World Cup is over, exacerbating the casualty count on the wing that saw eighthman, Radike Samo, start out wide against Russia. The Aussies have endured injuries at hooker, flank centre and wing that could yet unsettle or deplete their line-up against South Africa.

But the talking point of the weekend – trumping even Tonga's victory over France – was the groin injury that has ruled New Zealand's golden boot, Daniel Carter, out of the World Cup. The 29 year old suffered a

The French, Rugby's equivalent of the Pakistan national cricket team, now have the accolade of the being just the second side in history to qualify for the quarterfinals after losing two pool games. Not since Fiji progressed in the inaugural competition has this been achieved.

tear of his groin muscle, during kicking drills ahead of what was to be his first start as All Blacks captain against Canada.

News of the injury shook New Zealand like another earthquake as captain Richie McCaw himself struggled with an ankle problem that kept him out of the Canada match as well. The hosts, and their opponents, will know how huge this setback is, as the island nation attempts to lift the trophy for the first time since their only win back in 1987. Although Carter struggled to reach personal heights of seasons past, with dazzling displays on defence and attack, much of the All Blacks hopes of winning this tournament resided on the shoulders of the Test match points record holder.

Compounding the problem for the All Blacks is the issue of who the best substitute will be to fill the rather big boots of Carter. In the same announcement confirming the devastating news of Carter's withdrawal, coach Graham Henry publicly backed understudy Colin Slade, to step up and lead the Kiwi

backline henceforth. But such has been the underwhelming nature of the international performances of the Highlanders flyhalf, that scrumhalf Piri Weepu could be picked to start ahead of Slade.

Such has been the dominance of Carter over the last eight years - no other flyhalf has had the opportunity to develop at international level and leaving talented hopefuls to head for economic pastures in the British and French club leagues.

With Carter out the picture, not only will the Kiwi backline be without their general, but the team will be also be without their first choice kicker, at a juncture when games are likely to be decided by three pointers. As the tournament enters playoff mode, margins will be tighter and tries will be harder to come by, only placing more emphasis on place kicking that has been erratic for most teams during this tournament.

Special mention should also be made of the Tongan victory over the unpredictable French on Saturday. In producing the 19-14 win over the Tricolours, the South Pacific islanders capped off a tournament that showed just far the game of rugby has progressed. The lower-ranked sides cast off the "whipping boy" tags to produce some inspiring displays and never-say-die spirit to justify the game's status as a truly global one.

The French, Rugby's equivalent of the Pakistan national cricket team, now have the accolade of the being just the second side in history to qualify for the quarterfinals after losing two pool games. Not since Fiji progressed in the inaugural competition has this been achieved.

With the match-ups now decided, the competition has evolved into an even geographical split of the hemispheres of rugby.



Fiji's Viliame Veikoso attempts to tackle Wales' George North (R) during their RWC Pool D match at Waikato Stadium in Hamilton October 2, 2011. REUTERS/Bogdan Cristel

All four Southern Hemisphere teams will challenge for a final berth in the same half of the draw, leaving the home unions and France to contest the other, in what will be the 6th time out of seven, that the final will be decided in a North vs South affair.

Ireland will play Wales in the first quarterfinal match on 8 October followed by two teams that can count themselves lucky to be in the knockout phases, England v France. In a tough encounter, Ireland will be looking to progress past the quarterfinals for the first time against a Welsh team looking very impressive,

with a squad oozing with talent and confidence.

South Africa face-off against Australia in arguably the most anticipated match while hosts, New Zealand square up against Argentina. Much has been made of the challenge ahead for the Boks, now that Australia lies in wait, as opposed to previously expected Irish challenge. No match can be taken for granted in the World Cup and with the Irish shrugging off some poor pre-tournament form to play some superb rugby, it may just be a blessing that the Boks now take on a familiar adversary. **IM**



BOKS BRUISE THEIR WAY TO WIN OVER SAMOA

In the build-up to the Rugby World Cup, we dubbed Pool D the “Physio’s Pool of Pain”. On Friday, the Boks and Samoans proved us right as the South Africans battled to a 13-5 win at Auckland’s North Harbour stadium. By STYLI CHARALAMBOUS.

When Test matches are tough and tight, they tend to disappoint on the entertainment front, often characterised by dull tactics. But an enthusiastic Auckland crowd was treated to a match of the tournament that at one stage mimicked a Libyan warzone, with medics dodging incoming fire.

Past results between these two teams, in six previous encounters, showed how easily the

Boks have dominated Samoa. At an average score of 53-12, with Chester Williams and Bryan Habana both having scored four tries in a RWC match against them, the Samoans would be looking to rewrite the history books. However, one element they never looked to change was their physical approach to the game.

Photo: REUTERS

The try was set up by a lineout close to the Samoan line that saw the ball moved quickly through the line, courtesy of slick skills by Schalk Burger, for Bismarck du Plessis to offload to Habana, who dived over.

South Pacific Islanders, and Samoa in particular, seem to have a predisposition in their game plans when playing South Africa to try to really rough the Boks up in the hopes of provoking yellow-card offences. Given the Boks well-documented history of ill discipline, it's hardly a surprising tactic, but if the Samoans backed their skills instead of their underhanded tactics, the score could have been very different.

In a match from which the Samoans needed a bonus point to stay in the hunt in the quarterfinals, the game started off at a frenetic pace that never seemed to wane. The Boks dominated the opening encounters earning a penalty in the fifth minute that saw a Francois Steyn penalty attempt from 55m hit the crossbar. The South Africans looked comfortable with ball in hand and will be pleased with the return to form of several under-fire players. Fourie du Preez played like he did when he had a full head of hair and Bryan Habana's hard work paid off with the Bok's only try of the match, after just eight minutes.

The try was set up by a lineout close to the Samoan line that saw the ball moved quickly through the line, courtesy of slick skills by Schalk Burger, for Bismarck du Plessis to offload to Habana, who dived over. Morné Steyn landed a difficult conversion to put the Boks 7-0 and

importantly, in a position of ascendancy early on.

The Boks played with the wind behind them in the first half, and dictated much of the play. The scrum set-piece needle gauge leant towards the Boks, even as the Samoan pack heavily outweighed the Africans. The dominance led to a monster penalty kick, landed by Francois Steyn, 5m in from touch and just under 60m out. Steyn has turned the miracles of long-distance penalty kicks into somewhat of an art form that crowds have come to appreciate. A Morné Steyn penalty two minutes later saw the Boks looking comfortable at 13 – 0 up, after 25mins played.

While the Samoans managed to put together a few attacking moves of their own, they never quite looked like breaking the solid Bok defence that had gone 100 minutes of World Cup rugby without conceding a point. The only time the men in Pacific blue jerseys threatened the line was seconds before the half-time whistle with a break by scrumhalf Kahn Fotuali'i that ended when the ball bounced off referee Nigel Owens' foot that signalled a scrum and the halftime whistle, with South Africa 13 – 0 to the good.

Following their performance in the first half, most Bok fans would have been expecting the Samoan efforts to taper off, given their previous match against Wales was played just four days



Photo: Samoa's George Stowers (L) and David Lemi tackle South Africa Springboks' Bryan Habana during their Rugby World Cup Pool D match at North Harbour Stadium in Auckland September 30, 2011. REUTERS/Mike Hutchings

ago. If anything it was the Boks that looked slightly fatigued as the first 20 minutes of the second half maintained the rapid tempo that enthralled viewers.

Morné Steyn, in particular seemed to have left his rugby nous in the change room, as the Samoans challenge gained impetus with the wind and the crowd now behind them. The Boks were forced to make tackle after tackle, and Samoan winger David Lemi dancing through the Bok defensive line like a modern-day Fred Astaire.

As the body count rose and the physicality of the match caught up with both sides, the coaches looked to the bench to substitute tired and/or damaged legs. The most concerning injuries were suffered by Francois Hougaard

(knocked cold in an accidental knee to the temple) and Danie Rossouw (though his was merely a blood bin and he later returned). Habana's thigh injury had brought Hougaard onto the field, and Jean du Plessis replaced "Hougie" for the remainder of the game.

The Samoans got just reward for their efforts when eighthman George Stowers, crashed over the line, after a fine midfield wrap-around move that caused the Boks' rush defence to leave a hole the size of which only residents of Kimberley see.


As the match drew closer to the end, the Samoans physicality that struggled to stay the right side of the legal Rubicon, spilled over into a face-shove that saw Nigel Owens, on the advice of the assistant referee, produce

the first red card of the tournament. Samoan fullback, Paul Williams was engaged in a game of handbags with Heinrich Brüssow and was justly awarded the red card.

Two minutes later John Smit, who had subbed for Bismarck du Plessis, was given his yellow card marching orders, as the standard of the game deteriorated. The Samoans were throwing everything into attack and the Boks did well to absorb their efforts in a half that saw only five points, but would have aged many a Springbok fan by the same amount in years. Schalk Burger was monumental in defence and carried the ball forward as he finally ceased with the strange technique of running with his back into the opposition. For his efforts he was awarded Man of the Match.

The loss means that short of a miracle the boys in blue are going home. One wonders what the state of this game and Samoan rugby in general would be if the New Zealanders stopped poaching promising players from the islands. Samoa as rugby nation have certainly improved and won't be long before they too start calling for a place in the expanded version of the Tri-Nations.

If the Bok injury concerns do not materialise and a fully-fit squad is available for the knockout stages, South Africa will be pleased with their pool performances. Ending top of the ladder in this quarter is no mean feat and will only hold the Boks in good stead ahead of their next match, no matter who their opponents are. The Boks are looking like the real deal and quietly mounting a serious challenge that could see them defend their title, and write some more rugby history.

We can't wait! 

THE SCORERS

For South Africa:

Try: Habana

Con: M Steyn

Pens: F Steyn, M Steyn

For Samoa:

Try: Stowers

Red card: Paul Williams, 67 mins
(Samoa, punching)

Yellow card: John Smit, 70 mins (SA,
killing the ball)

THE TEAMS

Samoa: 15 Paul Williams, 14 David Lemi, 13 Seilala Mapusua, 12 Eliota Fuimaono-Sapolu, 11 Alesana Tuilagi, 10 Tusi Pisi, 9 Kahn Fotuali'i, 8 George Stowers, 7 Maurie Faasavalu, 6 Taiasina Tuifua, 5 Kane Thompson, 4 Daniel Leo, 3 Census Johnston, 2 Mahonri Schwalger (c), 1 Sakaria Taulafo.

Replacements: 16 Ole Avei, 17 Anthony Perenise, 18 Logovi'i Mulipola, 19 Ofisa Treviranus, 20 Filipino Lavea Levi, 21 Junior Poluleuligaga, 22 George Pisi.

South Africa: 15 Pat Lambie, 14 JP Pietersen, 13 Jaque Fourie, 12 Frans Steyn, 11 Bryan Habana, 10 Morné Steyn, 9 Fourie du Preez, 8 Pierre Spies, 7 Schalk Burger, 6 Heinrich Brüssow, 5 Victor Matfield (c), 4 Danie Rossouw, 3 Jannie du Plessis, 2 Bismarck du Plessis, 1 Tendai Mtawarira.

Replacements: 16 John Smit, 17 Gurthrö Steenkamp, 18 CJ van der Linde, 19 Willem Alberts, 20 Francois Louw, 21 Francois Hougaard, 22 Jean de Villiers.

Referee: Nigel Owens.



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