

BILTONG BULLETIN

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Greetings to all readers!

As usual, we start with the formalities: To subscribe or unsubscribe to this newsletter, send your comments or a contribution, contact us at alana@solidariteit.co.za. This free newsletter for South Africans living abroad appears on a monthly basis in both Afrikaans and English. New subscribers are always most welcome. Remember that even though we select our advertisers with great care, we cannot guarantee their services and cannot be held responsible for their actions.

This month we have a load of news in nearly all of the usual categories. There are name changes, something for the literary and literal appetite, as well as a reader's request. Enjoy!

BOOKWORM'S CORNER



South African music and Afrikaans books can now be delivered to your doorstep! Kalahari.net is South Africa's leading online retailer, offering a world of books, CDs, DVDs, games, electronic products, health products and more. It also makes gift buying for friends and family in South Africa hassle-free – send a voucher or let kalahari.net deliver a gift to their doorsteps– wrapped and with a personal note. Five different payment options, door-to-door delivery, wish list facilities, gift-wrapping, e-vouchers and printed vouchers, free local delivery on orders over R350 and 24 hour delivery on top products make kalahari.net the only option for convenient shopping.

WEB SITES



If you are tired of thinking up menus for tonight, this week or even this month, then www.whatsfordinner.co.za is the web site for you! Easy, nutritious, delicious recipes, a clear indication of how much preparation time will be required and help with planning makes this site a dream for lazy cooks. There is even a section with recipes for children. Knorr

ingredients are required for recipes, but can be replaced easily if you use your imagination. Try this site tonight!

CAUSE OF THE MONTH: PRESS FREEDOM IN SOUTH AFRICA

In *Biltong Bulletin* of April 2007 we reported on the proposed Films and Publications Amendment Bill currently table in Parliament and which may have a huge influence on press freedom in South Africa in future. The following article was recently published by the Free Market Foundation:

Press freedom under threat - Langa Bodlani

The proposed Films and Publications Amendment Bill, recently tabled in Parliament by the Minister of Home Affairs, is a threat to our constitutionally guaranteed freedom of expression, which includes the freedom of the press and other media. Our courts have long recognised the centrality of these freedoms for the success and sustenance of our democratic order.

The proposed amendments seek to bring print and broadcast media, which were previously exempted, under the jurisdiction of the Films and Publications Act. Fortunately the enactment of this bill into law has been stalled.

In a recent pronouncement Justice O'Reagan held that, "freedom of expression is integral to a democratic society for many reasons. It is constitutive of the dignity and autonomy of human beings. Moreover, without it, the ability of citizens to make responsible political decisions and to participate effectively in public life would be stifled. The print, broadcast and electronic media have a particular role in the protection of freedom of expression."

The bill, which has the intention of protecting our children from pornographic and other unsuitable material, requires pre-publication permission from the Film and Publications Board for the printing or broadcasting of anything that is considered to be pornographic or covers prohibited acts such as may degrade persons or constitute incitement to cause harm. The Publications Board will be appointed by and therefore accountable to the minister. However, good legislative intentions are not enough, the practical implementation and the ramifications of the legislation are what matters.

This bill will prove very costly for our media. Given the volume of both print and broadcast media in our country it is impossible to see how this will be applied without tampering with the freedom of our press. This is reminiscent of the apartheid era censorship.

Sanef, FXI and Misa-Sa have rightly pointed out that, "Media will probably be forced to expunge large amounts of their news coverage from their pages or broadcasts and submit to procedures that will prevent papers from being distributed on a daily or weekly basis and result in broadcasters having to delay news broadcasts".

Unnecessary complexity in the law governing freedom of expression will follow if this bill should be adopted. Our constitution already has in-built limitations to these freedoms, including the limitations clause contained in section 36 of the constitution. It is hard to see how the limitations imposed by the proposed amendments to the Films and Publications Act will be found to be 'reasonable and justifiable in an open and democratic society'.

There are already adequate institutions and measures to deal with media transgressions, which increases the undesirability of the proposed amendments. We have the Press Ombudsman, The Independent Broadcasting Authority and the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA). These institutions were established with a view to having media morals adjudicated by independent bodies. Compare this much-desired independent adjudication with the fact that the Films and Publications Board will be accountable to a cabinet minister who is part of the executive branch of government and therefore not independent.

One cannot decipher the true intention of the government in introducing these amendments. There is an assumption in law that all legislation is intended to remedy a particular situation and there is no clear indication as to what situation these new proposed laws seek to remedy.

Any average follower of the print and broadcast media in South Africa will attest to the fact that our children are not exposed to the ills mentioned by the bill in materials emanating from the print and broadcast media. What then is the true intention of the government? What the bill will do is to subject the media to the constant uncertainty they endured under the apartheid government, a situation the government surely does not wish to recreate.

About the author: Langa Bodlani is a researcher with the Law Review Project. This article may be republished without prior consent but with acknowledgement to the author. The views expressed in the article are the author's and are not necessarily shared by the members of the Free Market Foundation.

NATURE CONSERVATION

The Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs proposes future levies on vehicles calculated according to the vehicles' kilowatt capacity by means of license fees in order to encourage energy efficiency. The aim of the Department is to decrease energy use in the transport sector with 9% by 2015. The proposal is currently being debated.

Game auctions are doing very well at present. Ezemvelo, the nature conservation service of KwaZulu-Natal auctioned off 1 516 animals in May 2007 at a total cost of R9,04 million. Dassies (a.k.a. rock-rabbits) were sold at prices up to R450 each and a white rhino reached a price of R320 000.

DNA tests have proven that there are 5 elephant cows in the Knysna Forest which no-one knew about. Evidence was also found which indicates that an elephant calf has been born there recently.

SOUTH AFRICAN NEWS SNIPPETS — MAY / JUNE 2007

- Have you subscribed to **Biltong Bites**, our daily free email with a summary of the main articles of the day as published in *Beeld*, *Pretoria News*, *Business Day* and *Citizen* yet? Not? Well, subscribe now by sending an e-mail with the subject "Bites" to alana@solidariteit.co.za.
- Competition in the South African cheap flight sector is getting tougher by the day. This month friends of mine are flying return to Cape Town at less than R600-00 per person. Visit the web sites of Mango, 1Time and Kulula for similar bargains.
- When the contract to build the Mercedes-Benz W204 for the foreign market was awarded to the South African plant, DaimlerChrysler sent 100 of its local workers to Bremen, Germany to be trained there. They lived and worked in Bremen for 3 months – quite an experience for these Eastern Capetonians of whom many had not been beyond their province before. They say that they especially missed the South African weather and food, but obtained wonderful experience which they plan on sharing with their colleagues back home.
- The Minister of Home Affairs has announced that a new system will be implemented soon which will enable the Department to issue ID books much faster. The same system allegedly is being used for passport applications already. Forgive me for not seeming more excited ... the Come Home Campaign received a few complaints about passports again in May 2007. But we will hold thumbs!
- New South African awards have seen the light – the SA Comedy Awards. The first award ceremony will be held this year on the 17th of September in Cape Town. More information can be found at www.sacomedyawards.com.

- Talking about awards – in May 2007, Radio 702 was awarded the prize as Africa's best radio station by the BBC.
- Two boys of respectively 7 and 12 years shocked the country when they killed an 8-year old fellow-pupil in Klaver with an axe. Apparently the victim owed one of the other boys R5-00. The children are in custody and are getting psychological help. Their school has also announced that it will introduce a moral regeneration programme for all pupils.
- The Department of Education has received the green light to recruit a thousand teachers abroad.
- Composer, actor and accompanist Blake Toerien died a week ago. He was only 46.
- South African Richard Sterne has just won the Welsh Open Golf Tournament.
- South Africans' confidence in their provincial governments is decreasing sharply. Markinor's latest research indicates that the national government enjoys 62% confidence, but provincial authorities 41% only.
- As of June 2007, motorists at the coast will for the first time be paying more than R7-00 per liter petrol too. Fuel prices have just been increased again as a result of the oil price and the rand-dollar exchange rate.
- In 2006, the Western Cape exported R77 million's worth of copper to China, even though there are no copper mines in the province! The origin of the copper is now being investigated because it might have been obtained through cable theft. Such theft cost Capetonians more than R22 million in the same period.
- Advocate Percy Sonn, president of the International Cricket Board, passed away in May 2007 as a result of complications after a colon operation.
- If the new Child Act will be passed in its present form, parents will no longer be allowed to spank their children.
- Consumer inflation increased to 6,3% in April 2007. The Reserve Bank has just increased the interest rate with 0,5% to 13% and buyers will therefore have an even harder time to get enough money for their first home.

FROM THE ARCHIVES ...

The ATKV's magazine *Taalgenoot* (henceforth known as **TG**) this month includes an article on interesting inventions by South Africans. This includes:

- Appletiser, Grapetiser and now Peartiser;
- Jetmaster (inventor Glynn Jones);
- Policansky fishing rods (inventor Hymie Policansky);
- Cobb mini-oven (inventor Ken Hall);
- Plastiek shopping trolleys (inventors Martin Deale en Michael Wolfe);
- Kreepy Krauly (inventor Ferdinand Chauvier);
- Cricket / tennis ball speed gun (inventor Henri Johnson);
- Pratley Putty (inventor George Pratley);
- CAT-scanner (inventor Allan MacLeod-Cormack).

By the way, Pratley Putty was invented in Krugersdorp in 1948 by George Pratley and was even used in 1969 to affix parts of the Eagle landing craft with which Neil Armstrong and colleagues landed on the moon!

To subscribe to **TG**, write to taalgenoot@atkv.org.za.

WELFARE

We received the following press release from **Abraham Kriel Kindersorg / Abraham Kriel Childcare** on 31 May 2007:



Abraham Kriel Maria Kloppers Children's Home Becomes Abraham Kriel Child Care

Tonight Paul Momsen, Chief Executive of AKMK will announce that this institution will change its name to Abraham Kriel Childcare after 105 year of existence.

Langlaagte Children's home was established in 1902 to address the plight of more than 12 000 children orphaned by the South African War. Upon the death of the founder in 1928, the institution was named for him. And so it stayed until 1994, when Maria Kloppers Children's Haven, founded in 1908, amalgamated with the Abraham Kriel Children's Home.

Since then change and expansion of our services was the order of the day. In 1995 Emdeni Children's Home became part of the group and the first satellite house was opened. By 2002, with the celebration of the organisation's centenary, five satellite houses were in operation.

2003 marked great change with the launch, in partnership with Steinhoff Africa, of a home-based care programme for Aids orphans; Johanna Malan Early Childhood Development Centre was incorporated and a sixth satellite house began operating. A seventh satellite house has been run, in partnership with Siemens, since 2006.

Increasingly it became clear that South Africa's children faced new crises in the new century. Violence against children has taken on horrific proportions and our mission to equip them as contributing members of society now requires greater specialisation of services. At the same time, thousands of children are being orphaned by the HIV/Aids pandemic. We have had to find solutions urgently to reach more of these children, to give them the chance to become the doctors, drivers, engineers, hairdressers, and social workers of the future, rather than yet another lost generation. The world does not treat these children well. It is our dream to change their sad and hopeless worlds and, through them, also the circumstances of those they come in contact with in the future.

Since 2005, we have been working on a strategic repositioning plan to attain the following goals:

1. To provide intensive therapeutic programmes for severely traumatised children in order to give them a chance at a normal life.
2. To place children in foster care or in satellite homes wherever possible, in order to avoid the adverse effects of institutionalisation.
3. To reach more children who are left hungry, vulnerable and without hope as a result of the HIV/Aids pandemic, by means of home-based care programmes.
4. To prevent the disintegration of families and to make early childhood development possible for pre-school children.

As a result, our services have expanded to such an extent that we can no longer describe them as being solely the running of children's homes. We offer a broad spectrum of services to the most vulnerable children in our areas of operation. The children's home portion of the name had to go, because it led to misunderstanding. Besides that, the name was long and awkward. Various options for a new name were considered. The public was widely consulted and eventually "**Abraham Kriel Childcare**" was chosen as the name that conveyed our dreams for the future, while retaining the best of our past.

Another name that was popular with the public was "Anchor of Hope". Our slogan was therefore changed from "I Can" to "My Anchor of Hope". The anchor refers not so much to the organisation, but rather to a personal rootedness that is made possible by the creation of

opportunities for children to develop their own potential on the one hand and to realise their worth as valuable spiritual beings on the other.

More than 13 000 children benefited from the organisation in the first 100 years of its existence. Many spent their entire childhood here. Both the sheer numbers of children in need of help and the potential problems that can arise from an extended stay in an institution demand new solutions. Abraham Kriel Childcare is pioneering the way to a better world for children in need.

For more information please contact **Hilda du Toit**, Marketing Manager, Abraham Kriel Childcare at tel: 0027-11-8393058, fax: 0027-86-6126895 or hdt@abrahamkriel.org. Also visit www.abrahamkriel.org

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Apple Chutney



1 kg Granny Smith or other green apples
375 ml brown sugar
125 ml orange juice
5 ml finely chopped ginger
3 bruised cloves of garlic

1 chopped onion (large)
375 ml white vinegar
3 finely chopped chillies
salt to taste

Peel, core and grate the apples. Mix all the ingredients well. Simmer for approximately 40 minutes till thick and juicy. Spoon into hot, sterilized jars and make sure that you trap no air in the jars with the chutney. Seal tightly. Store the jars in a cool place such as your fridge.

LETTERS, MARKET SQUARE AND REQUESTS

Melissa Groom writes from Durban: Thank you for your monthly newsletter. I am an American, married to a South African in Durban. When we decided to move to South Africa with our two boys a few years ago I had many concerns. Your information was always a wonderful thing to read. We had always planned moving back to the States after a few years here. I didn't think the decision to move back to MY home country would be a hard one but we have been so fortunate to meet wonderful people here, my husband loves his job and best of all, be close to his family that our heart strings are torn. We will, however, be moving back at the end of the year. Just wondering if you have any contacts for people organizing a crate headed to the States? I remember reading a few times that people have gotten together to share the cost. Our dates are flexible, but toward the end of the year. Thank you in advance! Keep up the good work! Your newsletter reassured me that a move to South Africa could be a rewarding experience, and it has been! Why isn't the world smaller?!?! Melissa Groom - moyamuhle@hotmail.com.

Thank you to all of you for your support. You are making a huge difference in our lives – and we know that you will do the same for Melissa, the kids of Abraham Kriel, or whoever crosses paths with you this month. Please keep on writing to us and enjoy the month ahead!

Alana & colleagues
AfriForum

[www.comehome.co.za / alana@solidariteit.co.za]