



AfriForum

'n Inisiatief van Solidariteit
An Initiative of Solidarity



BILTONG BULLETIN

Number 22 - June 2007

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.

Now for our jam-packed June issue!

BOOKWORM'S CORNER

Which are the 30 South African books which you have to read in your lifetime? The Centre of the Book asked this question and subsequently compiled the following list of books by South African authors:

1. 'n Ander tongval / A Change of Tongue – Antjie Krog;
2. African Salad. A Portrait of South Africans at home – Tamsen de Beer & Stan Engelbrecht;
3. Agaat – Marlene van Niekerk;
4. Coldsleep Lullaby – Andrew Brown;
5. Confessions of a Gambler – Rayda Jacobs;
6. Die aandag van jou oë: Gedigte vir die liefde – Petra Muller;
7. Disgrace – JM Coetzee;
8. Dog Eat Dog – Niq Mhlongo;
9. Green-Eyed Thieves – Imraan Coovadia;
10. I Remember King Kong (The Boxer) – Denis Hirson;
11. Jamela's Dress – Nicky Daly;
12. Karoo Boy – Troy Blacklaws;
13. Orion – Deon Meyer;
14. People Who Have Stolen from– David Cohen;
15. Portrait with Keys – Ivan Vladislavic;
16. Seasonal Fires – Ingrid de Kok;
17. Shirley, Goodness and Mercy – Chris van Wyk;
18. Skyline – Patricia Schonstein Pinnock;
19. Some Afrikaners Revisited – David Goldblatt;
20. Song Trials – Mxolisi Nyezwa;
21. Spud – John van der Ruit;
22. The Abundant Herd – Marguerite Poland en Leigh Voight;
23. Verkeerdespruit / The Children's Day – Michiel Heyns;
24. The Good Cemetery Guide – Consuelo Roland;
25. The Native Commissioner – Shaun Johnson;
26. The Quiet Violence of Dreams – K Sello Duiker;
27. The Whale Caller – Zakes Mda;
28. Touch my Blood – Fred Khumalo;
29. Welcome to my Hillbrow – Phaswane Mpe;
30. Zapiro se The Zuma Code.

WEB SITES

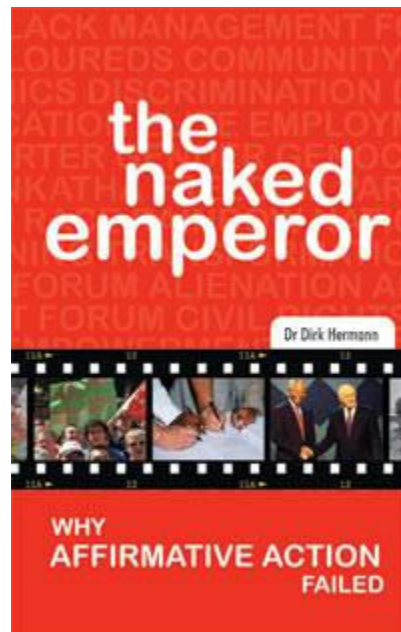
In the past we referred to the web site www.arrivealive.co.za, which provides extremely useful information about the traffic situation in South Africa. There are also interesting discussions and ideas, for example read webmaster Adv. Jonckie Joncker's entry of 2007-06-24:

South Africans helping South Africans out

Do you remember the television commercial stating that South Africa is alive with possibility? This inspirational clip featured South Africans who have overcome adversity and excelled in different fields of sport and industry. The past week I had time to reflect on how companies and individuals are assisting other South Africans to better their lives. On television there was an interview with the 2 endurance athletes who ran across the Great Wall of China, raising money for Operation Smile. **Operation Smile** is a non-profit volunteer medical organisation that provides free reconstructive surgery to children and young adults suffering from facial deformities such as cleft lips and palates. Outsurance, one of the corporate sponsors who enabled me to develop the **Arrive Alive road safety website**, informed me that they will assist in raising further funds through a "Gun Run" in Cape Town. These funds will be used to enable medical personnel to change the lives of more children with cleft palates. I thought of the "Possibilities in South Africa" and how many of these we actually manage to convert to life-changing results. Nobel Prize winner Bishop Desmond Tutu recently stated at a road safety conference in Cape Town that God did not create a perfect world as he wanted us all to be part of making it perfect. Are we doing our utmost to be part of this process? Many corporates in South Africa acknowledge the importance of social responsibility and they budget for spending on worthy causes. Should it however only be the responsibility of big companies to improve the lives of those in need, and can we sit back as taxpayers and expect government to address all the needs of our people? A few years ago there was a movie named *Pay it forward*. This movie had the powerful message that much can be achieved if each person tries to touch the life of just one other person. I will never forget this message and believe that we all need to include this message in our lives. I would like to imagine a South Africa where each person is involved in at least one worthy cause –whether that is road safety; the elderly, orphans, disabled people, cancer, tuberculosis, Operation Hunger or any other worthy cause. Francis Hesselbein once said: "The secret of life is doing good work, being with good people, and learning to give and receive love". May South Africans continue to amaze the world by assisting one another across boundaries of language, race, age or religion! Then we can indeed be proudly South African, fulfill our potential and live a life of meaning by not just living for ourselves ... What drives me? - a quote I gathered from the movie *Emperors Club* - my interpretation- "No matter how much you might have conquered - if you have not left behind a contribution - it is all meaningless ..."

Remember to visit this site if you need any road advice. By the way, would you like to comment on Jonckie's ideas?

CAUSE OF THE MONTH: AFFIRMATIVE ACTION



The publication *The Naked Emperor – why affirmative action failed*, has just been published and stimulates the debate regarding this issue anew. The book tackles affirmative action head-on and takes a frank, non-politically correct, look at the widely discussed affirmative action legislation. The book assumes the role of the little boy who was brave enough to say, in the story about the emperor's new clothes: "The emperor has no clothes". In the book, Dirk Hermann draws a meaningful international comparison and considers questions whether South Africa's affirmative action programme accords with international best practices. He comes to the conclusion that affirmative action has been a failure, both internationally and in South Africa. Hermann ends his book by providing a number of ideas on what good affirmative action clothes would look like. Although the book is critical of the current South African affirmative action model, it ends on a positive note with a few lessons on ways in which South Africa's attempts to correct imbalances should be tailored to make ours a country for all who live in it, both black and white. The book is the culmination of Hermann's many years of experience of affirmative action as deputy general secretary of Solidarity and a doctoral thesis dealing with the effects of affirmative action on the alienation of the non-designated group.

The Naked Emperor – why affirmative action has failed is published by Protea Publishers. It costs R120-00 (excluding postage) and is available from major booksellers and Protea Boekhuis in Hatfield. A comprehensive electronic library on affirmative action and online order form can also be found at www.thenakedemperor.co.za

NATURE CONSERVATION

- South Africa's 22nd national park, Mokala National Park, opened in June 2007, about 80 km south of Kimberley. It replaces the deproclaimed Vaalbos National Park. Buffalo, white and black rhinos, tsessebe, eland, gemsbok and kudu are some of the species which can be seen there. The cloudless and less polluted sky in that area also ensures great opportunities for stargazing.



- Within 3 weeks, 3 of the Kruger Game Reserve's large tuskers died. They were Mambrr, Mashaghadzi and Massunguine, and all died as the result of injuries sustained in fights with other male elephants. Massunguine was the most recent victim. He was approximately 40 years old. Mambrr was about 55 and Mashaghadzi 50. Their tusks were removed and will be kept in a safe place until it can be displayed in the Kruger.
- Last week the annual culling of seals started in Namibia in spite of several protest actions against it in Namibia, South Africa and elsewhere. Several thousands of seals will be shot or beaten to death during the next weeks in a so-called effort to protect Namibia's dwindling fishing resources.

SOUTH AFRICAN NEWS SNIPPETS — JUNE / JULY 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.
- During 2005/2006 the Department of Home Affairs refused more than 10 000 tourists entry into South Africa as they did not have sufficient open pages in their passports. Immigration regulations requires one to have at least 1 open visa page in your passport before you are allowed into the country.
- On 23 June 2007 South African Arno Carstens and his rock group New Porn appeared as supporting act for the legendary Rolling Stones in Spain.
- UNICEF reacted severely to the announcement by SA Statistics that 61 461 children of 4 years and younger died in 2005 in South Africa. 827 Babies younger than 1 year died as a result of malnutrition and in total 1 463 died as a result of abnormal circumstances such as car accidents and violence. UNICEF states that this is a worse result than ever before in the history of South Africa.
- Peppadews, pickled red chilli peppers originating from Limpopo, are a truly South African product. "Peppadew" has also been registered as a trademark. It is already being sold in 22 countries (see recipe below).
- Two participants in the Comrades Marathon which took place on 17 June 2007 died during the marathon as a result of heart failure.
- Plans for building South Africa's first pebble-bed nuclear reactor are still going ahead.
- Ingrid Winterbach is this year's winner of the M-Net prize for Afrikaans literature and of the W.A. Hofmeyr prize as well. She won both for her novel *Die boek van toeval en toeverlaat*. Sean Johnson won the M-Net prize for English literature with his novel *The Native Commissioner*. Marlene van Niekerk won the Sunday Times prize for fiction with the English translation of her novel *Agaat*. The Sunday Times non-fiction prize was awarded to Ivan Vladislavic.
- A new South African drama for teenagers which will be broadcasted via the internet and cell phones is currently being produced. It is called *J-Bay* and will be situated in Jeffrey's Bay.
- Award-winning South African director Darrell Roodt has just completed his first Afrikaans movie. It is called *Meisie*. The story takes place in the Kalahari and is about a girl whose father forbids her to attend school.
- An International study has shown that the costs levied by South African commercial banks on cheque accounts are more than 2 times more than the international average.
- A total of 35 companies were listed on the JSE since September 2006. Seven of these are active in construction.
- The SABS has compiled a safety code for toys and nurseries. This will ensure the safety of children at home or in nurseries. The code addresses issues such as the materials used to stuff toys, the current used by electrical toys and the chemical contents in paints used in toys and nurseries. Parents who would like to have a look at the code, may contact the SABS.
- The documentation of the Rivonia Trial (during which former President Nelson Mandela was sentenced in 1963) has been declared to be a part of UNESCO's "Memory of the World Register". This register of international intellectual treasures was established by

UNESCO a decade ago and currently comprises 158 collections. The only other South African collection included, is the Bleek collection of journals, family records, etc.

- The South African Navy is currently losing such a high number of skilled personnel that the use of the newly acquired frigates and submarines are in jeopardy.
- Residents of Johannesburg have to submit comments to www.joburg.org.za re a proposed new residential taxation system. This proposal is based on the taxation of the value of the property and features, and not the suburb in which it is located or the size, as it is done currently. If this new system is implemented, one will be taxed on all improvements made to your home.
- Consumer expenditure in South Africa increased with 5,4% in April 2007 compared to 10,2% in April 2006.
- People who lay trumped up charges of racism against colleagues in future, may be fired on grounds of misconduct if the charges are proven to be false.
- South African-born violinist David Juritz regularly appears as guest principal violinist of the London Philharmonic Orchestra. During the next 4½ months he is going to visit 25 countries all over the world on no budget. He will pay for the trip by busking. He will visit Cape Town and Johannesburg in July 2007, but will only play in the streets. His wife and daughter supports his unconventional plans but his daughter requires of him not to stop shaving or bathing! David studies Music at the University of Cape Town before moving abroad.
- The Western Cape considers levying a tourism tax on the use of public transport by tourists in future. The tourism sector is violently opposed to this suggestion.

WELFARE

Under Web Sites (above) Adv. Jonckie Joncker mentioned the **Smile Foundation**. This foundation was established in 2000 and is supported by the newspaper *The Star*. They describe their aims as follows:

“Our aim is to offer the disadvantaged community access to the same medical care available to the private sector, and within this, help the hospitals clear their backlog. Our goal is to offer these children quality of life, bringing smiles to the young faces of our Rainbow Nation.

The Smile Fund is now hoping to motivate a Smile Week programme where children will be operated on using the skills of both international and local doctors from both the private and public sectors. The aim of this programme is to help in clearing the national backlog of children suffering from Cleft Palate and other problems in what will be the first of its kind internationally. A considerable number of children will be operated on at no charge to them for the surgery.

The Foundation will continue to work closely with its existing team but will also engage at deeper levels within the children’s environments. For example, Smile has teamed up with the Department of Health to create awareness campaigns, as well as specialist secondary caregivers and professionals, who will provide services above and beyond the internal support departments available through the hospitals.”

Read more about their work or get involved by visiting www.thestarsmilefund.co.za.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Peppadew spicy chilli pepper tortilla soup

[From: *Beeld*, 23 June 2007 – also see www.peppadew.com]



1 kg large tomatoes, diced	4 tablespoons olive/sunflower oil
1,5 litres chicken stock	1 tablespoon ground cumin
150 grams whole Peppadew chilli peppers	2 tablespoons chilli powder
1 cup king tortilla strips	1 chopped onion
1 tablespoon chopped garlic	1 tablespoon chopped coriander
1 cup grated cheddar cheese	1 avocado pear, diced

Method:

1. Fry the onion in a large pan till transparent.
2. Add tomatoes and chilli peppers, fry till tender, stir continuously.
3. Leave to cool down and puree.
4. Return to the pan and add all ingredients except for the tortilla strips, cheese and avo.
5. Simmer for 30 minutes.
6. Add tortilla strips and heat for another 10 minutes.
7. Serve with avo.

LETTERS, MARKET SQUARE AND REQUESTS

Leslee, formerly from the USA, now in Johannesburg, asks: Is there any interest in a support group for foreign spouses of South Africans living in South Africa? If there is, then let me know. I will be happy to help with the organization of such a group!

If you think this is a good idea, contact us at alana@afriforum.co.za please.

Remember to write to us and enjoy the month ahead!

Alana & colleagues
AfriForum

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