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BRAAI NEWS

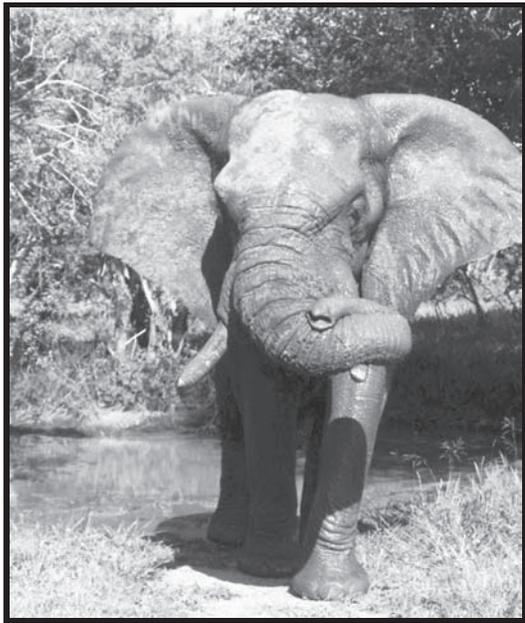
#1 Newsletter for the South African Community of Tampa Bay & Beyond

P.O.Box 3711, St. Petersburg, FL 33731 • www.braainews.com

New [Phillipe] Park Rule Enforced

We have been informed by the rangers of Phillipe Park that we are no longer allowed to sell **anything** at the shelter. Apparently, this is a new rule. The only alternative would be to buy a permit, at the astronomical fee of \$300 for the day, per vendor! (Please note that the koeksusters and melktert will still be available as usual, see classifieds on page 18). Soooo, in the meantime, you can order your South African groceries direct from Tanya at Britan's. Please call her at the shop with your order and credit card number. (See page 9 for an order form) They will then bring your ready made-up parcel to the Braai's for you. Call (813) 968-5373, Sunday to Thursday 12noon - 9:30pm or Friday and Saturday between 12noon and 10pm. Boerewors is available, but you need to call in ahead of time to place your order and pay for it.

Their email address is trubrit94@msn.com or visit www.britans.com where you can also download an order form and then either fax or [snail] mail it out to them.



If the world should
blow itself up, the
last audible voice
would be that of an
expert saying it
can't be done.
- Peter Ustinov

WHAT'S UP IN THIS ISSUE

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A Note From Noleen...

We had our first braai in May 1995 and here we are in April 2006 still going strong. Thanks to all of you who regularly come to the braai's, I always look forward to seeing you. I want to personally thank you for making these braai's happen. I am so very fortunate having known you all and for having you be part of my life.

I realize that we are all so busy trying to find that elusive 'buck' that we don't always have the time to visit and catch up with news of what has been happening in the lives of our friends. I hope that you do take the time or rather make the time for your family and your friends. I have reached the stage in my life when all three of my boys have their own families, which is as it should be, and I'm on my own. No regrets, it's just that you then realize how very important friends are. Think on that for a moment...

I would dearly like to make this braai of ours a thank you one. We really do have so much to be thankful for. We live in a beautiful part of the country. We know people who will *totally* understand when we tell them of an unusual incident that happened to us or we tell them about a stupid question asked about SA. It's always so nice to be among our own kind, those who really understand.

Please extend a hand of welcome to our 'new' people at the braai. When you look at their name tag and see a green dot, it means that this is their first time at the braai. Say "hello", please. Some people are a little shy to be the first to extend a hand of hello. All the "Coffee Evening Girls" are requested to act as ambassadors for our first time visitors.

People, please see to it that you do not leave the braai without meeting at the very least, two new people. Someone you didn't know before. There is always someone out there who needs that kind word, that thoughtful smile, and especially that welcoming hand.

From my own personal point of view, I want to thank my family for helping with the organizing of the braai's. I doubt I would be able to get it together without them.

May God Bless you, keep you safe, and may your children have *VERY WEALTHY PARENTS!*

Love,
Noleen, Organizer

*Noleen
Organizer*



a reminder

Come to the next
*Tampa
Braai*
SUNDAY
April 30th
2006

10am till about 4/5pm
Phillipe Park, Safety
Harbor, Shelter #2
www.braainews.com

Tribute to Noleen

by Mari Cilliers

I met Noleen at the first RSA braai in 1995 [I think]. I missed the first RSA Ladies Coffee Evening which I believe preceded the first braai. Anyway, Noleen stepped up to the plate right from the beginning and was one of the original organizers. She soon became the sole organizer. She has done a marvelous job for 11 years. She has been the "go to" person, the one whose phone number we give to anyone with questions and to all RSA newcomers that we meet. Noleen helps each one of them with such graciousness and love and open arms. She opens her home to them, tells them where to go, who to call etc. She has hosted the Ladies Coffee Evenings at her home for all these years, never grumbling about the mess that we leave in her house, while always providing the good RSA tea, milk, sugar, etc.

She organizes the braais and tries so hard to make everyone happy and is always anxious and hopes they (us) will come. There are so many other things she does and has done for so many in our community. Each one can testify on their own behalf. Yet, there is so much more that she does behind the scenes that we are unaware of. She continues to give selflessly. Who else would want this thankless job? We all need to give her a big hug at the braai, or write her a thank-you note for all she has meant to us.

Thanks Noleen! — you are appreciated!

I Heard it Through The Grapevine...

Dawn Grover is back in South Africa for some medical treatments. Hurry on home, **Dawn**...and get well soon! You are in our prayers.

Get your fill of Afrikaans music by **Amanda Luyt** -- a music performer in SA. Enjoy snippets of her music by visiting her website at www.amandaluyt.blogspot.com.

Look out for a brand new restaurant on 4th Steet, downtown St. Pete (between Central and 1st Ave. N) -- **Primi Urban Cafe**, soon to be opened by **Arno and Irene**, a new SA family in our midst.

Advertising Pays (727) 324-3939

Braai News © is a bi-annual, non-political and non-religious publication produced for the South African community residing in the U.S.A. The Tampa Bay Braais are held on the last Sunday of April and October every year. Support for this newsletter comes from the Braai goers and advertisers.

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Yard Sale to Benefit Students



Pictured above is what is expected to be the first of many fundraising activities planned by Brando and Joanne Pistorius to create a scholarship fund for South African students who plan to attend college in Florida. This photo is of a recent yard sale they had at their company, Transflor Realty in Tampa.

The next fundraiser will offer Braai T-Shirts and License Tags with the old S.A. flag for a small donation, also provided by the Pistorius'.

If you would like to donate money, goods and/or services to the S.A. Student Scholarship Fund, please contact Brando Pistorius at 813-880-9580 or via email at brando@transflor.com.

Sarasota Braai — April 22, 06 at 6pm Sanderling Club, Siesta Key

GREAT NEWS... Keith & Jennie Green have generously arranged for the Sarasota Braai to take place at their community clubhouse on the beach at Sanderling Club.

This is an incredible venue. There is a beach and secluded playground for the kids and a beautiful braai facility overlooking the Gulf. As in the past, bring all you need for the braai, including tools, and drink, **ONLY** fires and a beautiful venue is supplied.

To get there, go over the Stickney Point Bridge. Turn left at the T-junction, on Midnight Pass (as if you are going towards Turtle Beach). About 1 mile down the road is the entrance to Sanderling Club on the right hand side of the road. Go through the guard gate and continue straight on that road all the way down to the parking area. The club house will be on your right with the row of cabanas in front of the parking area. Meet up at the club house area.

Donation is \$2 per adult, children are free and there will be a wine raffle. For further info, send an email to Zelda and Colin at ccjkh@comcast.net.

Rugby Games Broadcast Live in Sarasota

For a full schedule of all the Springboks upcoming games for this spring/summer, contact Ron Simon at the Badda Bing Bar located at 6528 Superior Ave., Sarasota. Tel (941) 921-5109.

Condolences to the Van Rensburgs

Our deepest condolences go out to Chris and Steph Van Rensburg who lost their son, Pinky on February 20th, 2006. Our heartfelt wishes go out to you both. You are all in our thoughts and prayers. Lotsa love.

Good Things Are Happening



Congratulations & Celebrations

Above: Merry and Nico Naude were married on March 18, 2006 in Plant City, Florida.

Below: The wedding party included (l-r) Andre (who flew in from California), Amanda and Chris, Nico and Merry, Noleen, and Philip and Susan.



Sun. 30th April, '06

from 10:00am till...

Games begin at 1pm sharp... join in the fun. Are you a Capie, 'n Vrystaater, 'n Vaalie or a Banana Boy? C'mon guys, rise to the challenge... and be there!

Kids Halloween Costume Contest

Adults Hula Hoop

Everyone Dessert Table

Everyone Draw

Kids Sack Race

Adults Egg and Spoon Race, Sack Race and Tug O' War

PS: please call Brando, Joanne or Pieter if you can help out with some of the organizing of the games. (813) 917-9205.



Congratulations Scott and Sharon

and welcome Bryce Deater Clark
Scott and Sharon Clark (nee van Heerden), had a baby boy Bryce Deater Clark who was born on his mother's birthday Feb. 15th, 2006.

They are all doing well. Lin and Peter van Heerden are very happy grandparents and Meegan is very excited about being an Aunty.

Congratulations, Ouma! and Chris and Amanda

Chris Naude and Amanda Taylor recently made Noleen one proud Ouma for the very first time. Naomi Joy Ann Naude was welcomed into the family amidst great jubilation and celebrations. She was proudly named after Joy, Amanda's grandmother, and Ann, who was Chris's grandmother.



The Dessert Table

Ladies, please bring that special tart or pudding along. We'll even give you a nametag to stick on your dish so that we know who brought them. Let's get to know each other better. Maybe a dessert table will be the place to meet a new friend. Isn't that what the braai's are all about?



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SA Solar Research Eclipses Rest of The World

by Willem Steenkamp February 11, 2006

In a scientific breakthrough that has stunned the world, a team of South African scientists has developed a revolutionary new, highly efficient solar power technology that will enable homes to obtain all their electricity from the sun. This means high electricity bills and frequent power failures could soon be a thing of the past. The unique South African-developed solar panels will make it possible for houses to become completely self-sufficient for energy supplies. The panels are able to generate enough energy to run stoves, geysers, lights, TVs, fridges, computers - in short all the mod-cons of the modern house.

The new technology should be available in South Africa within a year and through a special converter, energy can be fed directly into the wiring of existing houses. New powerful storage units will allow energy storage to meet demands even in winter. The panels are so efficient they can operate through a Cape Town winter, while direct sunlight is ideal for high-energy generation, other daytime light also generates energy via the panels.

A team of scientists led by University of Johannesburg (formerly Rand Afrikaans University) scientist Professor Vivian Alberts achieved the breakthrough after 10 years of research. The South African technology has now been patented across the world.

One of the world leaders in solar energy, German company IFE Solar Systems, has invested more than R500-million in the South African invention and is set to manufacture 500 000 of the panels before the end of the year at a new plant in Germany.

Production will start next month and the factory will run 24 hours a day, producing more than 1 000 panels a day to meet expected demand.

Another large German solar company is negotiating with the South African inventors for rights to the technology, while a South African consortium of businesses are keen to build local factories.

The new, highly efficient and cheap alloy solar panel is much

more efficient than the costly old silicone solar panels.

International experts have admitted that nothing else comes close to the effectiveness of the South African invention.

The South African solar panels consist of a thin layer of a unique metal alloy that converts light into energy. The photo-responsive alloy can operate on virtually all flexible surfaces, which means it could in future find a host of other applications.

Alberts said the new panels are approximately five microns thick (a human hair is 20 microns thick) while the older silicon panels are 350 microns thick. The cost of the South African technology is a fraction of the less effective silicone solar panels.

Alberts said in Switzerland it was already compulsory for all new houses to include solar technology to lessen energy demands on national grids.

“And that was the older, less effective technology. With our hours of sunlight, we will on average generate twice as much energy than, for instance, European countries.”

While South African scientists developed and patented the new, super-effective alloy solar panels, other companies have developed new, super-efficient storage batteries and special converters to change the energy into the power source of a particular country (220 volts in South Africa).

Eskom spokesperson Carin de Villiers said any new power supply that lessened the load on Eskom was to be welcomed.

She said Eskom was also doing its own research on solar energy. “In fact, we are currently investigating building what will probably be the largest solar power plant, in the Northern Cape - a 100-megawatt facility.”

She added that Eskom was also researching wind and fuel-cell technology as alternative energy sources.

This article was originally published on page 1 of Saturday Argus on February 11, 2006.

Drive Through ATM instructions

For our MALE customers:

1. Drive up to the ATM machine
2. Open your car window
3. Insert card into machine and enter PIN
4. Enter amount of cash required
5. Retrieve card, cash and receipt
6. Close window
7. Drive off

For our FEMALE customers:

1. Drive up to ATM machine
2. Reverse back the required amount to align car window with machine
3. Restart stalled engine
4. Open the car window
5. Find handbag, remove all contents on to passenger seat to locate card
6. Turn the radio down
7. Attempt to insert card into machine
8. Open car door to allow easier access to ATM machine, due to its excessive distance from car
9. Insert card



10. After “Invalid card” is displayed, remove the Edgars credit card, and insert correct ATM card

11. Remove ATM card

12. Re-insert card right way up

13. Re-enter handbag to find diary with your PIN written on the inside back page

14. Enter PIN

15. Press “cancel” and re-enter correct PIN

16. Enter amount of cash required

17. Check make-up in rearview mirror

18. Retrieve card

19. Empty handbag again to locate card holder and place card inside

20. Place receipt in back of cheque book

21. Re-check make-up

22. Drive forward 2metres

23. Reverse back to ATM machine

24. Retrieve cash

25. Re-empty handbag, locate purse and place cash inside

26. Restart stalled engine and pull off

27. Drive for 2 to 3 kilometres

28. Release handbrake

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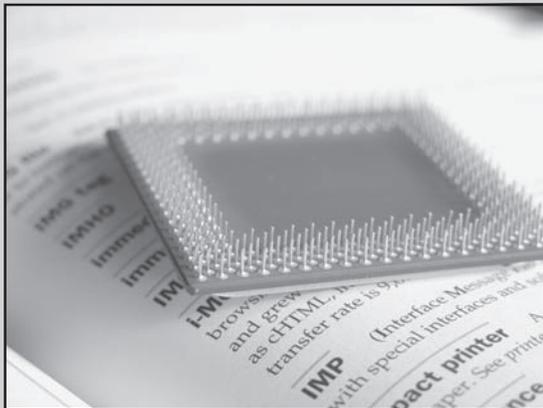
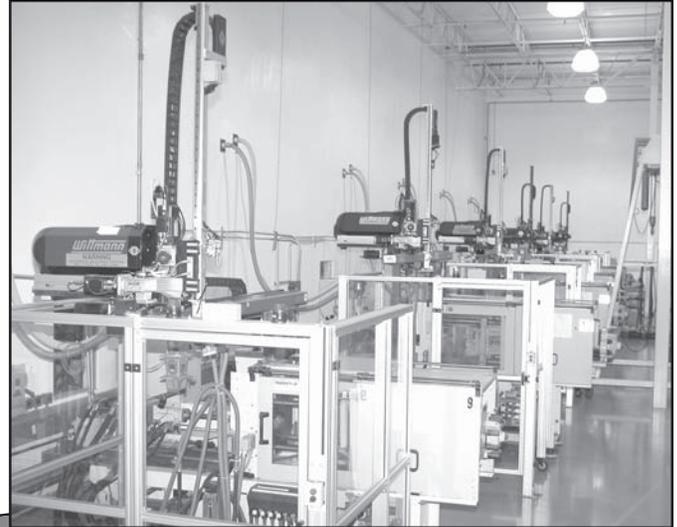
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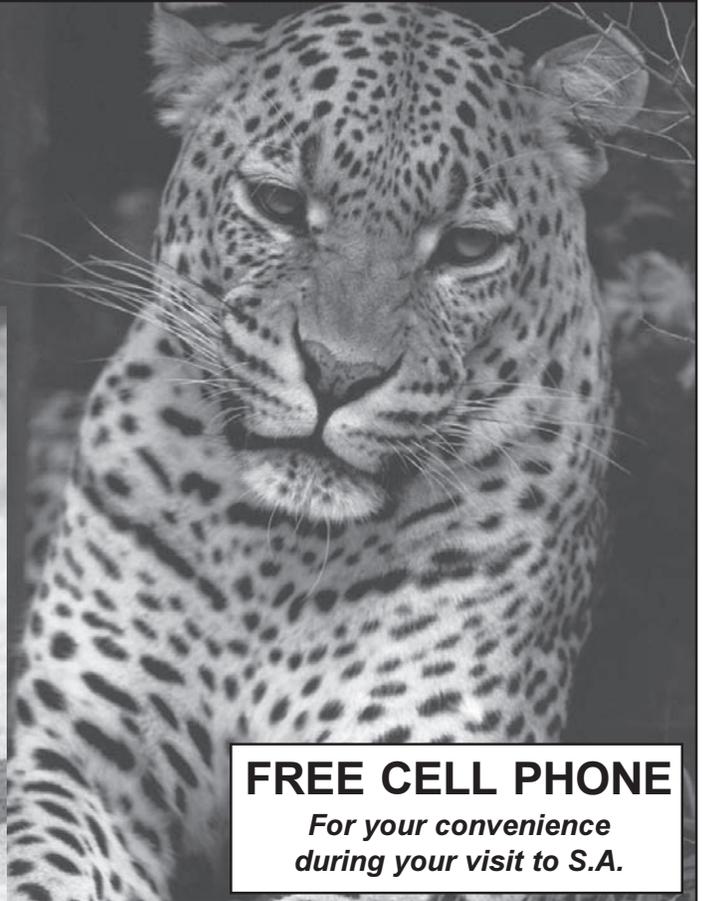
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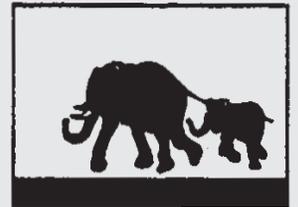
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Chocolate Log	\$2.05	_____	
Cadbury Chomp	\$0.85	_____	
Cadbury Dipped Flake	\$1.75	_____	
Cadbury Flake	\$1.50	_____	
Cadbury Rum and Rasin	\$3.25	_____	
Aero Mint Chunky	\$2.25	_____	
Aero Mint	\$2.35	_____	
Bar One	\$1.95	_____	
Nougat	\$2.50	_____	
Rowntree's Fruit Pastilles	\$1.35	_____	
Fig Jam	\$4.85	_____	
Tomato and Onion Mix	\$3.45	_____	
Chaka Laka <i>Mild</i>	\$4.85	_____	
Guava Halves	\$2.95	_____	
Vegetable Curry	\$2.75	_____	
Marie Biscuits	\$2.50	_____	
Eat-Sum-More	\$3.25	_____	
Ice Zoo's	\$3.75	_____	
Nuttikrust	\$3.75	_____	
Lemon Creams	\$2.75	_____	
Romany Creams	\$4.10	_____	
Chockits	\$4.10	_____	
Tennis Biscuits	\$3.00	_____	
Appetizer	\$2.60	_____	
Ginger Beer	\$1.85	_____	
Grenadilla	\$1.85	_____	
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Aromat Cannister	\$2.95	_____	
Freshpak Rooibos	\$6.35	_____	
Eno Regular Fruit Salt	\$8.35	_____	
ProVita	\$3.75	_____	
Mrs. Balls <i>Hot</i> Chutney	\$5.50	_____	
Mrs. Balls <i>Peach</i> Chutney	\$5.50	_____	
Mrs. Balls <i>Regular</i> Chutney	\$5.50	_____	
Walnut Cape Malay Curry	\$5.50	_____	
Walnut Durban Curry	\$5.50	_____	
Walnut Apricot Curry	\$5.50	_____	
C&B Mayo Large	\$8.95	_____	
C&B Mayo Small	\$4.50	_____	
Zulu Zulu Garlic Peri	\$4.95	_____	
Zulu Zulu Medium Peri	\$4.95	_____	
Zulu Zulu Hot Peri	\$4.95	_____	
Maltabella	\$6.25	_____	
Pronutro <i>Original</i>	\$5.50	_____	
Anchovette	\$3.35	_____	
Marmite	\$6.50	_____	
Cartwrights <i>Hot Curry</i>	\$4.25	_____	
Robertson B.B.Q.	\$4.05	_____	
Robertson Mixed Herbs	\$4.25	_____	
Robertson Peri Peri	\$4.05	_____	
Five Roses <i>100 Tagless</i>	\$6.95	_____	
Bisto Gravy	\$3.50	_____	
Knorr Ox Tail Soup	\$1.75	_____	
Bovril	\$6.35	_____	
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Boerevors	\$7.95	_____	
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White Grape Juice	\$4.50	_____	
Roses Lime Juice	\$6.25	_____	
TOTAL			

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A World of Beer

At a world brewing convention in the States, the CEOs of various brewing organizations retire to the bar at the end of the day.

Bruce, CEO of Fosters, shouts to the barman: "In Australia, we make the best bloody beer in the world, so pour me a Fosters, mate."

Bob, CEO of Budweiser, calls out next: "In the States, we brew the king of them all - gimme a Bud."

Hans steps up next: "In Germany we invented beer. Give me un Helles, ze REAL King of beers."

Jan, chief executive of Grolsch, follows by stating that Grolsch is the ultimate beer and asks for one with two fingers of foam on top.

Norman, chairman of SAB (South African Brewery), is next: "Barman, give me a diet Coke with ice and lemon please."

The other four stare at him in stunned silence, then Bruce asks: "Aren't you going to have a Castle, Norm?"

Norman replies "Well, if you guys aren't drinking beer, then neither am I."

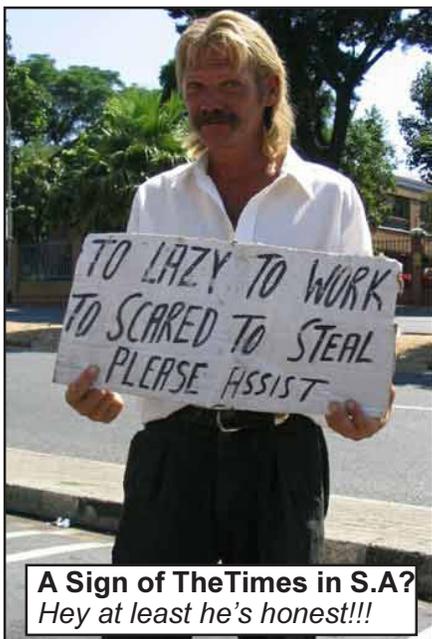
This True Story Happened in Soweto About a Month Ago...

A man was hitch hiking on a very dark night in the middle of a storm. The night was rolling by and there was hardly a car on the road. The storm was so strong that he could hardly see his feet in front of him.

Suddenly a car came towards him and stopped. Without thinking, he got in and closed the door, just to realize that there was nobody behind the steering wheel. The car moved off slowly. He looked ahead and saw a curve in the road. Scared, he started praying, begging for his life. He was terrified. Just before hitting the curve a hand appeared through the window and turned the steering wheel.

The man, now paralysed with fear, watched how the hand kept appearing every time they got to a curve. Gathering all his courage, he jumped out and ran to the nearest lights he could see. Wet and in shock, he went into a shebeen and asked for a double brandy. After drinking it, he told everyone of the horrible experience he just had.

Everyone was silent when they realized he was crying. About a half an hour later, two men came walking into the shebeen and, on seeing the terrified man, the one said to the other, "Look, Mfowetu, that's the idiot that got into the car when we were pushing."



A Sign of TheTimes in S.A?
Hey at least he's honest!!!

Gewig en Masse

Gatiepie sit in die skool klas en die juffrou sê hy moet verduidelik wat is die verskil tussen "gewig" en "massa".

Gatiepie antwoord: "Daai's mos maklik djuffrou, my pa sê vir my ma: Djy moet *gewig* verloor, djou vetgat". My ma antwoord: "Djou *massa* moer".

Sad News

With all the sadness and trauma going on in the world at the moment, it is worth reflecting on the death of a very important person, which almost went unnoticed last week.

Larry LaPrise, the man that wrote "The Hokey Pokey" died peacefully at the age of 93. The most traumatic part for his family was getting him into the coffin. They put his left leg in. And then the trouble started.

Shut up. *You know it's funny!*

The Benefits of Cruising

About 2 years ago my wife and I were on a cruise through the western Mediterranean waiters, busboys, etc., all seemed very familiar with this aboard a Princess liner. At dinner we noticed an elderly lady sitting alone along the rail of the grand stairway in the main dining room. I also noticed that all the staff, ships officers, lady. I asked our waiter who the lady was, expecting to be told that she owned the line, but he said he only knew that she had been on board for the last four cruises, back to back.

As we left the dining room one evening I caught her eye and stopped to say hello. We chatted and I said, "I understand you've been on this ship for the last four cruises." She replied, "Yes, that's true." I stated, "I don't understand" and she replied, without a pause, "It's cheaper than a nursing home."

So, there will be no nursing home in my future. When I get old and feeble, I am going to get on a Princess Cruise Ship. The average cost for a nursing home is \$200 per day. I have checked on reservations at Princess and I can get a long term discount and senior discount price of \$135 per day. That leaves \$65 a day for:

1. Gratuities which will only be \$10 per day.
2. I will have as many as 10 meals a day if I can waddle to the restaurant, or I can have room service (which means I can have breakfast in bed every day of the week).
3. Princess has as many as three swimming pools, a workout room, free washers and dryers, and shows every night.
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7. T.V. broken? Light bulb need changing? Need to have the mattress replaced? No Problem! They will fix everything and apologize for your inconvenience.

8. Clean sheets and towels every day, and you don't even have to ask for them.

9. If you fall in the nursing home and break a hip you are on Medicare; if you fall and break a hip on the Princess ship they will upgrade you to a suite for the rest of your life.

Now hold on for the best! Do you want to see South America, the Panama Canal, Tahiti, Australia, New Zealand, Asia, or name where you want to go? Princess will have a ship ready to go. So don't look for me in a nursing home, just call shore to ship.

P.S. And don't forget, when you die, they just dump you over the side at no charge.

Green power

SPENDING fever has reached all walks of South African life. Here's a fellow who lives in a squatter camp beyond Somerset West in Western Cape who now wants a television set — a new one, mind, not that second-hand thing in the pawn-shop window — so he buys one from the High Street furniture retailer.

But he's back next day, saying the thing keeps switching off just at the crucial moment. The shop checks it out and can find nothing wrong, but soon enough he's back with the same complaint.

This time the shop sends out a technician to pop round to see what the problem is. When the technician gets there, he discovers our guy's shack draws its electricity from a nearby traffic light, and that the TV only works when the light is green.

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My Journey to Great Britain

[The Little Red Bag]

by Boo Cumming

The first 12 hours were not so good. But no one is responsible for the weather. I was stuck at Tampa airport for nearly 8 hours. An interesting but chaotic experience, that started with Continental Airlines, who succeeded in sending my luggage to Paris.



However after changing flights in New York which was hectic, I stepped onto Virgin Atlantic and everything suddenly became magical. A steward came up to me and said "Oh, you've got one of *those* bags," referring to the little red bag that was on my lap. I told her that it had been given to me on the very first flight over the Atlantic and I that was the **only** passenger on board, since all the rest were staff. A few minutes later the head stewardess came up and asked, "What are you doing there?"

"Trying to get to England," I thought to myself. She said, "follow me." I did, and she took me straight into First Class. I couldn't believe my luck. There was a whole bed, a chair, closet, phone, everything I could possible want. Then she asked if I would like some champagne. (My first thought was how much is this going to cost) However, my answer was far more diplomatic, as I said "do I pay in Dollars or Pounds?" She said that everything was "on the house". Then she asked if I wanted to dine in bed or at the bar, "definitely the bar," I replied. There was some interesting company at the bar, where incidentally I was the only female among 30 or so first classers.

Later on that evening I was tucked up in bed with a duvet, hot chocolate, a glass of brandy and *The Times* newspaper. It was bliss to stretch out. In the morning I was woken with a healthy breakfast brought to me in bed.

The steward reminded me that I'd be the first to get off the flight, and the crew wanted to shake my hand, even the Captain. I guess I was considered an antique, their very first passenger from over 20 years ago. I think I'll write to Richard Branson and introduce myself. It might be worth a ticket around the world, though he'll have to hurry up, "Tempus Fugit."

All because of that little red bag that I happened to be carrying with me.

"Want to borrow one?"

"It"

There is so much on television and in the papers right now about cancer. Yes I can say the word now. I strongly believe that one can do so much to help oneself more than any pills or medicine. The doctors would not agree with me, of course. Yet, this is not always the case. However I'd like to put the importance of certain foods first followed by deep breathing, as cancer hates fresh air. Just 5 minutes a day, surely that is possible. Next, skin rubbing all over to get rid of the toxins.

Females — well maybe males too these days — no nail polish as a great deal of toxins come out through the nails. And lots of positive thinking, meditation and yoga.

Cancer does not always have to be a death sentence. Personally I chose not have chemo or radiation, so I did it all myself, and I'm still here. I have had many operations for tumors and got rid of lymphocytic leukemia only 4 ½ years ago.

I am lucky, very lucky. I'd love to help anyone on a one-to-one basis. My reward is your well-being. It would make me feel so great if I were able to help you, even in a very small way.

Please feel free to call anytime.

Boo Cumming
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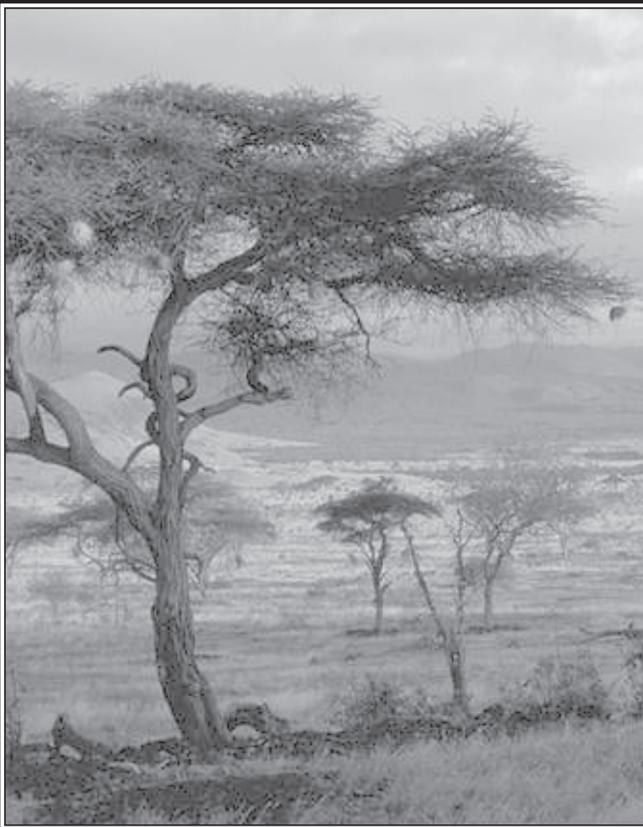
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10 to 18*	\$ 333	\$ 333	\$ 2%	\$ 296	\$ 245	\$ 245	\$ 228	\$ 228	\$ 214	\$ 214
19-24	\$ 716	\$1,178	\$ 620	\$1,082	\$ 483	\$ 837	\$ 421	\$ 729	\$ 350	\$ 570
25-29	\$ 798	\$1,315	\$ 697	\$1,215	\$ 541	\$ 939	\$ 473	\$ 821	\$ 380	\$ 640
30-34	\$ 847	\$1,425	\$ 728	\$1,306	\$ 564	\$1,010	\$ 495	\$ 881	\$ 407	\$ 688
35-39	\$1,001	\$1,642	\$ 810	\$1,451	\$ 628	\$1,121	\$ 549	\$ 978	\$ 445	\$ 764
40-44	\$1,097	\$1,325	\$ 891	\$1,118	\$ 691	\$ 866	\$ 602	\$ 755	\$ 495	\$ 629
45-49	\$1,222	\$1,474	\$1,002	\$1,254	\$ 776	\$ 909	\$ 677	\$ 845	\$ 552	\$ 700
50-54	\$1,493	\$1,640	\$1,266	\$1,413	\$ 978	\$1,096	\$ 854	\$ 975	\$ 724	\$ 809
55-59	\$1,804	\$1,804	\$1,568	\$1,568	\$1,214	\$1,212	\$1,058	\$1,058	\$ 891	\$ 898
60-64	\$2,656	\$2,499	\$2,420	\$2,264	\$2,040	\$1,801	\$1,848	\$1,658	\$1,543	\$1,371
65-69	\$5,545	\$4,839	\$5,307	\$4,602	\$4,965	\$4,191	\$3,817	\$3,114	\$3,337	\$2,989
70	\$6,654	\$5,806	\$6,369	\$5,522	\$5,958	\$5,029	\$4,580	\$3,737	\$4,005	\$3,587
71	\$6,987	\$6,097	\$6,687	\$5,798	\$6,256	\$5,281	\$4,809	\$3,924	\$4,205	\$3,766
72	\$7,336	\$6,402	\$7,022	\$6,088	\$6,569	\$5,545	\$5,050	\$4,120	\$4,415	\$3,954
73	\$7,703	\$6,722	\$7,373	\$6,393	\$6,897	\$5,822	\$5,302	\$4,326	\$4,636	\$4,152
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ECHOES OF THE PAST — in CHINA

by Brenda Riontino



Tianjin World Trade Center

“This tour is going to Tsingtao!”

At that moment, we knew that we would be going with it! At age 18 yrs., Gabe had been based in Tsingtao (China) 1945-6 with the US Marines, helping with the repatriation of the Japanese. For the thirty-plus years of our marriage, I had heard of this experience. Now the 60th Anniversary tour was being planned by Military Historical Tours in Va., and advertised in the Marine's magazine.

So it was that in October ('05) we were part of a small group (7 plus 2 tour directors) that visited Tsingtao (now called Qingdao). Gabe returned to the very spots he recalled so vividly - the University where they had been based (now called Ocean University, with its focus on marine science), as well as such places as the pier with a pagoda at the end. He was pleased to see no signs of the former grinding poverty, after those awful years of Japanese Occupation, and he was amazed at the new glass skyscrapers downtown.

Cranes were much in evidence at building sites in Beijing and Shanghai but less so in coastal Beidahe and historic Xian. The latter draws tourists to its famed discovery (when a farmer was simply digging a well) of the Terra Cotta Warriors. Now considered by UNESCO and others as one of the cultural wonders of the world.

Our tour started in Tientsin (now Tianjin), where one of our group had been based as a young Marine and only now was permitted to enter the former Officers' Club, and see its once elegant ballroom. We stayed at the Astor Hotel which dates back to the era of the British "Concession" beside the Haihe River (early 1800s). Those hotel walls have seen people who's names live on in history books —Herbert Hoover, Sun Yat Sen, the Last Emperor (Pu Yi), Richard Nixon and many more.

Behind the Hotel, is Victoria Park, opened 1888 in celebration of Queen Victoria's 50th year of her reign, where I joined one of the several informal tai chi groups before breakfast. Nice slow-paced exercise, as I mimicked the moves made by those around me.

Speaking of breakfast, the buffet East-West breakfasts at all the hotels were scrumptuous, as were our family-style (or "lazy susan") meals.

So, while we took in the usual famed sights, our trip had special meaning to us.

The local children didn't let us dwell on the past too much.

They would practice their English vocabulary on us —sometimes just with "Hello" followed by shy smiles, other times with their entire breathless repertoire of "What time is it? How old are you? What day is it?..."

We already had a personal friend in Beijing who'd visited us here in Florida in 2002, and this trip allowed us not only time with her, but to meet her parents and sister, and to see the family's new condo, and ride in the new family car (their first).

Altogether, the China experience was memorable and our wish was fulfilled to see Tsingtao—known to some for its German beer, and to be better known during the 2008 Olympics when the sailing races are slated for those seas.

So now you know why we missed the BRAAI last Fall!!

Brenda and Gabe Riontino

A Few Guide Lines

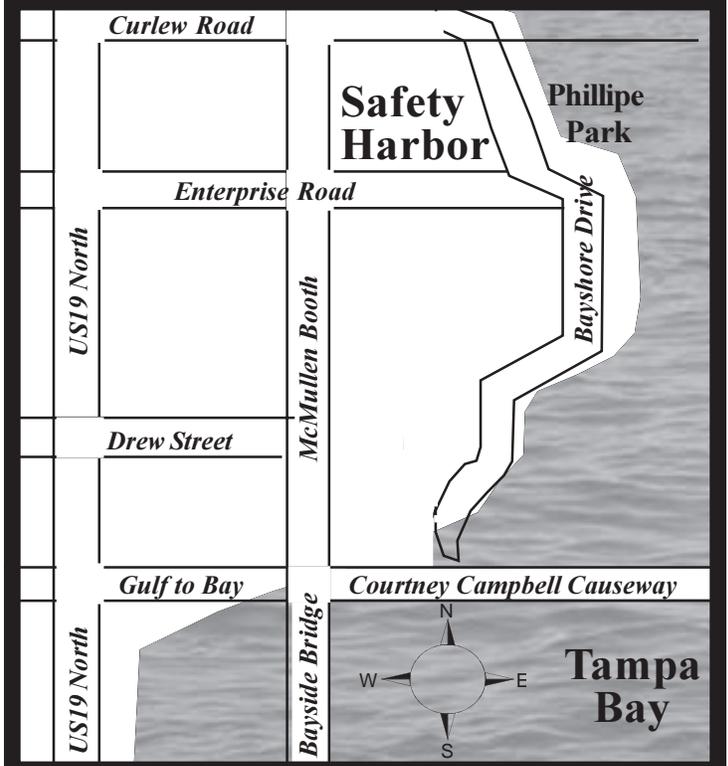
For those of you who haven't been to Philippe Park, here is a map for directions on how to get there. You can also visit our website at www.braainews.com where you will find a link to Mapquest. They will have more comprehensive directions.

Please remember to bring your own food, cozzies (bathing suits) and drinks — and remember the Florida Parks law is no alcohol allowed. There will be biltong and melktert, and of course Britans will be there with all kinds of South African goodies that you can stock up on.

A donation of \$5 per person over 18 years of age goes towards paying for this newsletter, the postcards, the stamps, the rent of the bakkie (for the coal, chairs, etc.) the charcoal, the tables, the paper, the telephone calls, the post box, the name tags, the pens, and so on.

Thank you for your support, and see you at the braai!

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Tipsy Tart

submitted by Lin van Heerden

1. Preheat the oven to 180c (350f). Keep two 220mm pie dishes or a large oven dish at hand
2. Cut the dates into pieces. Place half the fruit in a bowl and add the bicarbonate of soda and boiling water. Stir and cool
3. Cream the butter and sugar and add the eggs. Blend well
4. Sift the dry ingredients together and fold into the creamed mixture
5. Add the dry dates and nuts and then the date and bicarbonate of soda mixture. Mix until well blended
6. Spoon the batter into the two pie dishes or oven dish
7. Bake for 30 to 40 minutes
8. Meanwhile, prepare the syrup. Boil the sugar, butter and water together for 5 minutes.

9. Remove from the heat and add the essence, salt and brandy. Stir well.
10. Pour the hot syrup over the tarts as soon as they have been removed from the oven.

Serve hot or cold with cream or custard.

Okay Manne, you'd like to get poeggai at the braai but the rules say you can't? Then you might want to give this one a try! Heck... try it anyway, I think you'll love it!



250g dates
5 ml (1 teaspoon) bicarbonate of soda
250 ml (1 cup) boiling water
125 ml (1/2 cup) butter or margarine
250 ml (1 cup) sugar
2 eggs, beaten
500 ml (2 cups) cake flour
5 ml (1 teaspoon) baking powder
2.5 ml (1/2 teaspoon) salt
250 ml (1 cup) chopped walnuts

Syrup
310 ml (1 1/4 cup) sugar
15 ml (1 Tablespoon) butter
190 ml (3/4 cup) water
5 ml (1 teaspoon) vanilla essence
pinch salt
125 ml (1/2 cup) brandy

This Needed To Be Said!

Sorry I have to complain, but ... it has been bothering me for some years now and I am only speaking to the culprits, not all the nice good people who also come to the braais.

Years ago, at one of the braais, I arrived with my melkterts to sell and someone said "hier kom die smouse" (solicitors). It really hurt me because it's a lot of work and many hours to bake 24 milktarts that you hope you will sell. Nobody pays you for your hours or electricity, or the broken ones, transport etc. I do it to help make the braai more inviting and to make people happy. So do all the others that bring stuff to sell, koeksisters, boerewors, biltong and Britains.

People complain that Britains is expensive. Do you know what they pay for imports and who pays them for their loss of the stuff that doesn't sell? Everyone who runs a business is entitled to a profit. We should thank them for being able to buy stuff that we sorely miss. Nobody is forced to buy anything and many don't. People complain about the \$5.00 they pay at the braai. What organization do you know of that asks for \$10.00 a year in dues? Even the smallest asks for at least \$35.00 a year and all you get is a monthly or quarterly newsletter.

People complain that no one talks to them. You have to talk to people yourself. Find someone else that is sitting quietly by themselves and talk to them, reach out to others and they will respond. It is not Noleen's duty to make your braai enjoyable. Vance and Wynne Jorissen have for years unselfishly given their

time and lots of their own time and money to make your children's braai more enjoyable. They used to do games for the adults too but when a call went out to participate nobody responded. It's very disappointing when you try and nothing happens. Parents are not helping when they do the games, don't even say thanks. Brando has to beg people to participate in his games that he works hard on to get prizes from vendors, equipment for the games and his time. I have taken liberty to talk about these friends because I see it and it hurts. Come on guys, we were all taught by our parents to say thank you, to be polite and to offer help instead of complain.

Thanks to all those lovely friendly souls who make it all worthwhile. Despite what I said, I enjoy the braais immensely and I will keep on coming and helping where I can. Also, please don't forget to thank Steph for taking it upon herself to do a 50/50 each time, for us. A couple of lucky winners go home with a nice little cash bonus... *nothing wrong with that!* And that's just another thing that helps to make the Braais the success that they are, everytime.

Liefde, Mari Cilliers.

Editors Note:

Thanks Mari for spelling this out so well. It is something that has needed to be said for a long time now. Hopefully this will put things into perspective for us.

U.S. Immigration: Walk Before You Stumble

Immigrating to the States is not as easy as going to the U.S. Consulate in Jo-burg, getting a visitors visa, packing up and flying to “greener pastures”, in the hope that you will “figure things out” when you get here! Clients have told me stories of people saying “well the U.S. Consulate gave me a 10 year visitor visa, so this must mean that I can remain in the States for 10 years!!!” Guys, please. There is a humongous difference between the expiration date on your visa and the authorized stay on the infamous little white card you get to slip into your passport when you arrive at the airport. Let me elaborate. If you are granted a visitor visa for 10 years, all that means is that you can travel to the U.S. **as a visitor** over that ten year period until the visa expires. The crucial question to ask is: What date the immigration official stamped on the white arrival card? The immigration officials generally will grant a six-month stay when visiting for pleasure; however, I have seen clients being stamped with as little as two weeks!

There are families who are fully aware of the distinction I outlined above and choose to ignore it, or try and “find a way to stay.” When considering immigrating to the U.S. you need to do just that; **consider**: Take small steps at a time to build the foundation upon which you will immigrate, rather than fleeing South Africa like a thief in the night and then regretting it in your leisure when you return to S.A. after getting deported!

Linked to this is another biggie: The infamous 3/10 year bar. If you have been unlawfully present in the U.S. for more than 180 days and you exit you are barred from reentering for three years. If you have been unlawfully present in the U.S. for more than 1 year you are barred from reentry for 10 years. Don’t think that if you have to return to S.A. for a family emergency or for any reason for that matter, that you can just say: “Ag I’ll just go home

and come back. Ag nothing! Good luck my friend. See you in three or ten year’s time. Now put that in your pipe and smoke it!

Also, under a visitor visa you are very restricted as to what you are permitted to do while in the U.S. For starters you cannot enroll in a course of study or take up employment. And for heavens sake please do not even entertain the thought of “just doing a little work on the side”. NO, NO, NO! Where there is a will there is a way; a way to do things right. Believe it or not there is a system in place, as mangled as it is, to assist individuals wishing to immigrate to the U.S. Remember the great America is not running away, it will always be here for those who have patience and resilience. Don’t do things in desperation. It only comes back to haunt you.

Generally, there are two ways a person can legally immigrate to the U.S.: Through work or a family member. There are many hoops to jump through. This is not just filling out a form and getting a piece of paper saying “yes you are allowed to stay here and work, welcome to America!” Navigating the U.S. immigration waters is fraught with uncertainty. Nevertheless, please don’t mistake my cautions with being the bearer of doom. I am not saying that it is impossible; I am just saying that it will entail navigating rough seas to get to land, literally. This brings me to another point. Make sure that whoever it is you employ to assist you with the immigration process is a licensed United States attorney and not some crook. Don’t be shy to ask for someone’s credentials and to check them out.

While I have tried to hold your attention by using a little humor, or so I hope; on a more serious note I conclude by imploring you to please go slow, tread firmly and learn to walk rather than stumble down the rocky road of U.S. immigration.

LARA ALLEM-ROMANELLO, PL

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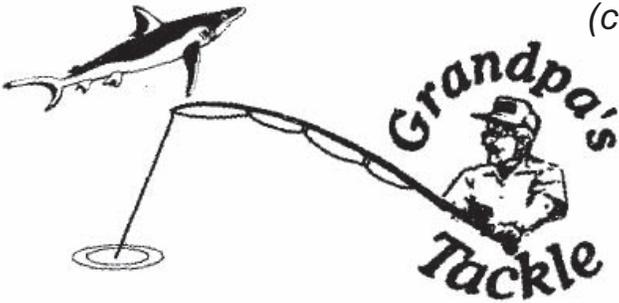
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