

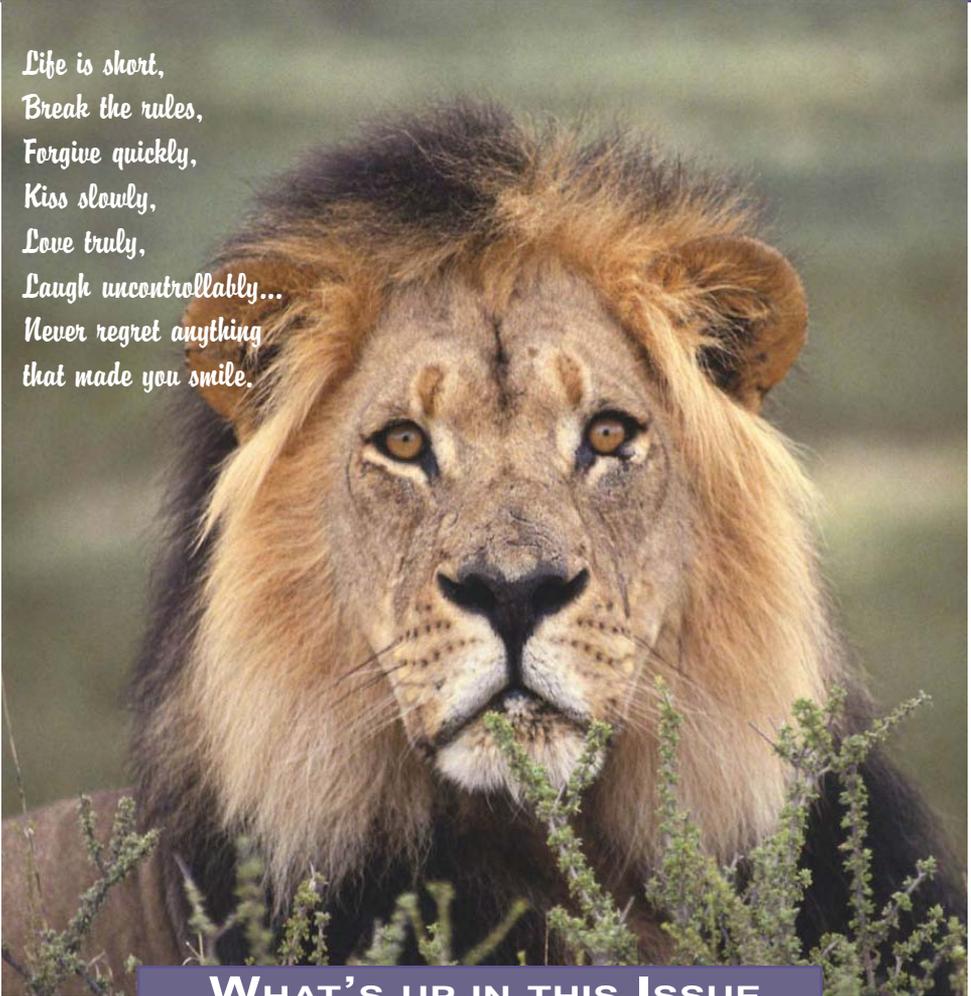
# BRAAI NEWS

*Serving the South African Community of Tampa Bay & Beyond*

April 2008

Vol 12 #1

Life is short,  
Break the rules,  
Forgive quickly,  
Kiss slowly,  
Love truly,  
Laugh uncontrollably...  
Never regret anything  
that made you smile.



## WHAT'S UP IN THIS ISSUE

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**NEW**

**GUESS WHO!**

PAGES 10 & 11

*A brand new feature that'll get you guessing... and perhaps winning too!*

# ICE

A great idea!

We all carry our mobile phones with names & numbers stored in its memory but nobody, else knows which of these numbers belong to our closest family or friends.

If we were involved in an accident or took ill, the people attending us would have our mobile phone but wouldn't know who to call. Hence this "ICE" (In Case of Emergency) Campaign

The concept of "ICE" is catching on quickly. It is a method of contact during emergency situations. As cell phones are carried by the majority of the population, including most school children, all you need to do is store the number of a contact person or persons who should be contacted during emergency under the name "ICE" ( In Case Of Emergency).

The idea was thought up by a paramedic who found that when he went to the scenes of accidents, there were always mobile phones with patients, but they didn't know which number to call. He then thought it a good idea if there was a nationally recognized name for this purpose.

For more than one contact name simply enter ICE1, ICE2 and ICE3 etc. Let's spread the concept of ICE by storing ICE number's in our Mobile phones today!

ICE will speak for you when you are not able to.

# and SNOW



## ...in The Van Heerden's New Backyard!

Hi everyone,

At long last we are back on line, even though we have to start a fire under the tower to get the internet started. We are back to the good old land line system and it sucks. We cannot wait till we can get the faster internet system, but that will take some time as we are just outside Durham County and that's where the faster system stops. Even our neighbour who works for Verizon cannot get the faster system. The joys of living in the country side, which we love.

Peter has settled down well at work and is very happy that we made the move. Meegan and I are still busy unpacking boxes and at the weekend we noted that we only have another 10 to go.

On Thursday 14th Feb, we woke up to about 2" of snow. Peter was upset that he had to go to work as he wanted to go out and play in it. Our dogs were not to happy about it when they had to go out to do their thing.

Although we have not seen any buck on our property, we have seen their droppings, so maybe when it gets a bit warmer they might venture further out of the wooded area behind us.

Love to all  
Lin and the family

**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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 from 10:00am till...



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**CNA Pencil Box Found  
 in Shipment from SA**

When they delivered my furniture that was shipped from South Africa they included a tin CNA pencil box with what seems to be very sentimental stuff.

It belongs to either someone who has a daughter by the name of Christine, or it might be Christine herself. She likes Winnie the Pooh and has some connection with Rhodesia.

Please contact *Braai News* if you know who this might be so that I can return it to its rightful owner.

*Thanks, Rene Fuhrer*

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# Load Shedding for Another 5 Years?

by Sharon Bond

South Africans have been left in the dark while Eskom flicked the switch daily in an attempt to relieve its overstretched power generation plants. As a result, commerce and industry have been experiencing major losses, unemployment is on the rise, the frail and elderly are suffering and there is chaos on the roadways due to blacked-out traffic lights.

The idea is that everybody gets their turn since it is carried out on a rotational basis.

The national grid is divided into six regions and load-shedding is currently limited to two hours, plus a half an hour to enable electricity to be restored. Sometimes it can take a while, as equipment had to warm up again.

And if that isn't bad enough, Eskom has cautioned that Load Shedding could be a part of life in South Africa for the next 5 years because of its dwindling supplies.

Electricity providers, usually have a minimum of 15 percent reserve power for emergencies. Eskom has just 7 percent. Even though consumers are forking out more for electricity, there are few signs that the situation will improve in the short term.

According to Eskom, the power shortages are a result of problems with generating plants, negative weather conditions, distribution network problems and voltage instability on the transmission network.

Despite these problems, Eskom has said that the 2010 World Cup would be hosted without major power problems because a number of projects to boost capacity will be completed by then to ensure adequate bulk supply of electricity to the host cities.

These included generation, transmission and distribution projects.

In the meantime, while blackouts continue to roll out across the country, the South African sense of humor is alive and well as usual, with email jokes doing the rounds on an almost daily basis. We have included a few of them in this issue of *Braai News*. And be sure to read *Your Stars*

*Foretell*: By S. Com (The Future Made Clear — dark, but clear-ish), on page 18.

Oh, and one more thing, do you know what South Africa had before candles? Why electricity of course :)

## And the solution is...

South Africans can save electricity by going to sleep earlier and boiling less water, Buyelwa Sonjica told Parliament while unveiling a 10-point plan to encourage South Africans to change their electricity-usage habits.

"Go to sleep earlier so that you can grow and be cleverer. Boil less water; use the microwave rather than the stove; take a shower and not a shallow bath," she told a special sitting of Parliament to discuss the power crisis.

She was loudly jeered when she thanked the ANC for the leadership "it has provided in helping us deal with this emergency".

Sonjica said South Africa's power crisis is due to the country being part of the "global village". There is a "high demand" of energy globally. "China, in 13 of its provinces, has the same problem. The growth of India and China has had an impact."

She said energy markets in Ontario, Canada, have collapsed. There have been blackouts in the United States and Europe, and Brazil has gone "through the same experience".

Sonjica said the situation can be turned around. "We are confident that we have the ability to turn around the situation. We reassure the South African community and the world at large that all our projects will be on course and that the 2010 Fifa World Cup is not under threat."

In the news



Satan visits Cape Town and meets Gatiep.

"Do you know who I am?"

"Nay", says Gatiep, "gie my a hint"

Satan says, "I am the prince of darkness"

"F\*%&kit" says Gatiep, "djy's mos die CEO van Eskom"





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# Your Credit Score and How it is Made Up

by Noleen Naude

First of all, why is your credit score so important? Well, should you wish to loan money from an institution the first thing they will look at is your credit score. If you want to rent a unit, buy a property, shopping for a car, all of these things, will result in someone wanting to know your credit score. And the reason is because your credit score is an indication of how well you pay your debts or how likely you are to repay. First and foremost the company allowing you the credit, want to know for sure that you WILL repay and preferably within 90 days.

Your score will also determine the interest rate you will be charged. So if you are loaning a large amount of money, say a mortgage, you want the lowest rate you can possibly get.

So let's begin the story of the credit score and how it is made up.

A credit score can range from between a really low score of 300 or a high score of 900. Most consumers have a score anywhere between 400 and 800. And by the way there are only 1300 people in the United States of America that have a score above 800.

There are FIVE factors involved in your credit score that make up 100 points and it begins with the payments.

35% of your score is made up of your bills being paid on time. Late payments have a negative impact on your score. Missing a high payment will have a very damaging influence on the score and on the other hand paying on time and not missing a payment will have positive consequences.

30% of the score relates to the outstanding balances still owing on the credit limit you have been given. The ideal situation is when the remaining balances are 30% and below and of course the closer to zero the balance is the better.

The third impact on your credit score is your credit history and that counts for 15%. What kind of record do you have of paying your debt? Very important.

Who would have thought that the TYPE of credit counts, but it counts towards 10% of your score?

So if you have three or four credit cards, perhaps an auto loan and a mortgage loan you would be in the ideal TYPE of credit area. This mix of credit is for instance better for your score than only having credit card debt.

And the fifth and last part of the credit score that counts, the last 10%, are the inquiries made about your credit within the last six months. Each hard inquiry can cost you from 2 to 25 points on a credit score, but the maximum amount of inquiries that will count against you is 10. A soft credit report on yourself, will have no affect on your score.

In June of 2004 the US Public Interest Research Group published the results of a survey they conducted that involved 200 adults in 30 states to see how accurate the credit reporting was. Their findings are a little scary.

25% of the credit reports contained errors serious enough that credit was denied because of it.

79% of the report contained mistakes of some kind or another.

54% contained personal information that belonged to a stranger, was long outdated or was otherwise incorrect and 30% of the report contained credit accounts that had been closed by the consumer but incorrectly remained listed as open.

Experts say that it is best to have two to five credit cards and no more than that. You should keep your balances as low as possible, and if you have a credit account with a zero balance, do not close the account, because your ratio of available credit increases which works in your favor. Do not close the account, just keep it at zero.

I strongly suggest that you keep a very close watch on your credit report. Since 2003 every American is entitled to a free credit report once a year. Get it. Make sure that what appears on the report is accurate. By keeping an eye on your report could mean the difference between riding a bicycle or a car.



# How Gullible Have We Become?

by Sharon Bond

Somehow, we've allowed ourselves to believe that if it's on the internet it must be true

Like many of us, you probably check your email on a daily basis. You read through the articles forwarded to you by friend and family and as you read them, feelings of shock, glee or I wonder how true this can be, often pass through your mind.

Have we truly become so gullible that we believe that if it's on the internet it must be true? Folks, I get everything from Obama-bashing containing some of the most unfounded and deplorable rumors to pleas for help, claims and promises of luck and money if I just forward this email to 10 of my friends. Then there are those insidious emails that tell me that if I don't forward it to at least 10 people, I will either die, be cursed forever or never win the lottery. G\*d forbid. How shallow have we become? Sometimes these emails are inspiring, in which case, please have the courtesy to delete the threats and just pass

on the good stuff to someone who you think might enjoy it or benefit from it. The latest one came regarding the South African government. And then I started re-searching to check the "facts." Turns out that this particular email has been doing the rounds for more than 5 years and every country under the sun has adopted it as their very own. It goes like this:

*Can you imagine working for a company that has a little more than 500 employees and has the following statistics: 29 have been accused of spousal abuse; 7 have been arrested for fraud; 19 have been accused of writing bad cheques; 117 have directly or indirectly bankrupted at least 2 businesses; 3 have done time for assault; 71 cannot get a credit card due to bad credit; 14 have been arrested on drug-related charges; 8 have been arrested for shoplifting; 21 are currently defendants in lawsuits; 84 have been arrested for drunk driving in the last year; 373 in total or approximately 70%. Can you guess which organization this is? It's the 535 members of the SOUTH AFRICAN PARLIAMENT. (The same group that cranks out hundreds of new laws each year designed to keep the rest of us in line!) You gotta pass this one on! Far and wide!*

Don't you just love the "gotta pass this on" bit at the end? This is what I'm talking about. Bottom line is that there is so much crap on the internet. It is the biggest rumor mill under the sun and people just love to believe it all!

Thanks for sharing this one anyway. From an entertainment point of view I suppose it has some value. By the way, there is an excellent website called [www.snopes.com](http://www.snopes.com) If you have an urge for discretion, please check it out first, otherwise you're just another cog in the rumor mill.

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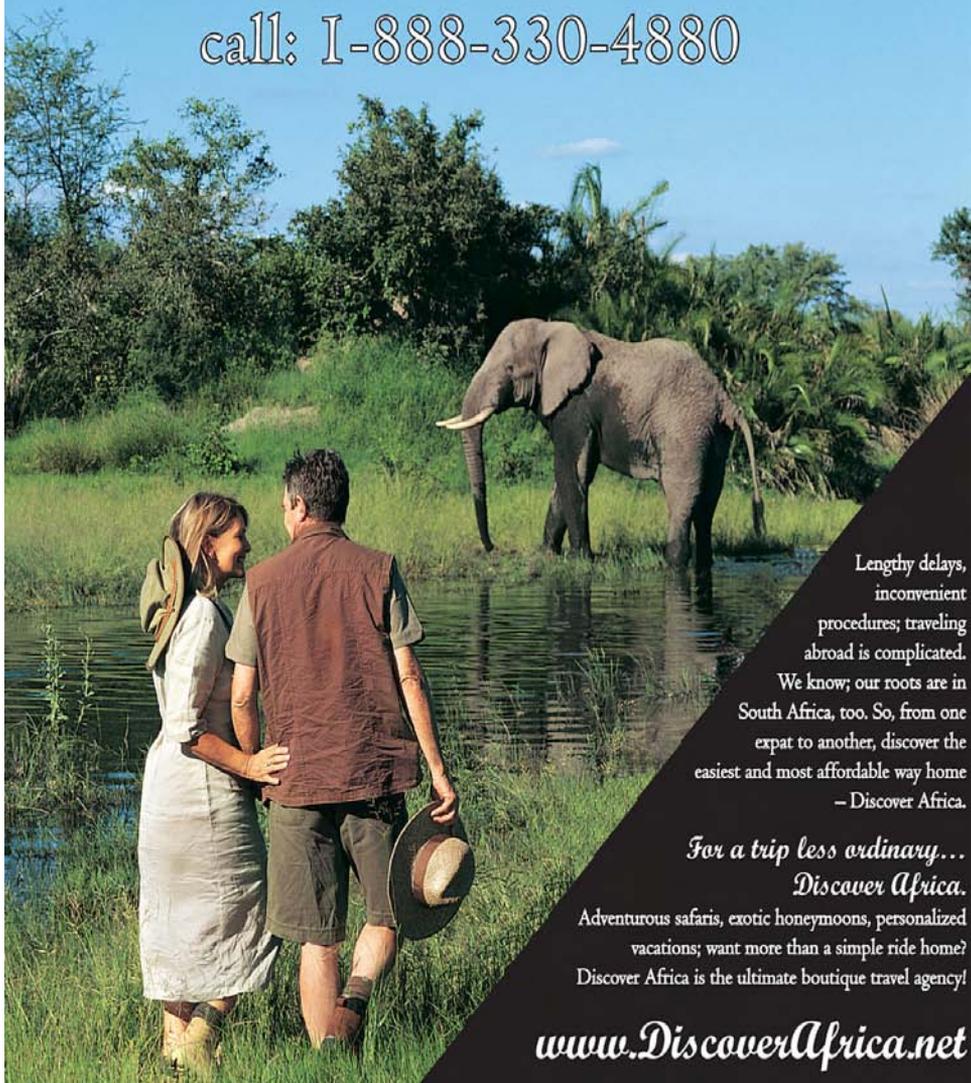
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# Guess Who...

## Guess Who...

Match the list below with the people featured and win a prize. Answers and winners will be announced at the next Braai.

- 1) I sailed from San Francisco to London, via the Panama Canal, aboard a freight ship that had only 12 passengers. It took a month to get there.
- 2) I got married on the Island of Cabbage Key where all 50 wedding guests arrived by boat (no road access) and the only hotel and cabins on the island were full with our wedding party.
- 3) I am an undiscovered Poet & Artist, waiting to be discovered.
- 4) I have been in the same job since I was 19 years old.
- 5) I was an occasional assistant train driver with my dad. on a steam train called Griet that used to pull the Trans Karoo out of Jo'burg on Fridays
- 6) I worked for the Daily Dispatch as a reporter. Donald Woods recruited me and interviewed me for the job!
- 7) I was a hooker.
- 8) I raised a male deer until he was over a year old. It was just like having a baby. I had a bed for him next to mine and fed him goats milk every 2 hours. I also had a cat at the time, and they got along famously. They would both get up in my bed during the day and sleep together. It was a great experience.



NAME: Merry Naude  
HOMETOWN: Bradenton, Florida  
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN FLORIDA: all my life except for 4 years in Atlanta, Ga for work and play.  
OCCUPATION: Registered Nurse



NAME: Joanne Elizabeth Grim Pistorius  
HOMETOWN: Born & raised in Tampa  
OCCUPATION: Property Manager (at this time)  
ADDITIONAL INFO: Turning 50 in May (born May 28, 1958). 2 daughters and 2 granddaughters.



NAME: Tony Tanner  
HOMETOWN: Born in East London. Last lived in Durban for 15 years.  
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN THE STATES: Since Jan 1997  
OCCUPATION: Businessman importing and exporting mainly Military type equipment.



**NAME:** Brenda Smith Riontino  
**HOMETOWN:** Cape Town—  
 Sea Point, then Plumstead  
**HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN FLORIDA:** since Oct. 1995 ( we first retired to Cape Cod, Mass in 1982 from NY)  
**WHAT IS YOUR OCCUPATION:** Retired Librarian in Public Library on 3 continents (Cape Town, London, mostly in NY). Can recommend it!! Started at the Cape Provincial Library Service and our district included Robben Island (when it was a naval base) and Simonstown, Fish Hoek, Parow, etc...



**NAME:** Chris Van Rensburg  
**HOMETOWN:** Pretoria  
**HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN THE STATES?** 14 years  
**OCCUPATION:** Motor Technician

**NAME:**  
 Brian Rocklin  
**WHERE DID YOU GROW UP:**  
 United Kingdom  
**HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN FLORIDA:**  
 15 years  
**OCCUPATION:**  
 Sales & Marketing (Retired)



## Guess Who...

**NAME:** Rene Fuhrer  
**HOMETOWN:** Centurion, S. A.  
**HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN THE STATES:** Since December 2004  
**OCCUPATION:** Sales Executive for Nielsen Media Research (in S.A.)



**NAME:** Anton DeWet  
**HOMETOWN:** Grew up in Rhodesia—lived in Pretoria for 20 years  
**HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN THE STATES:** Since 1993  
**OCCUPATION:** Minister

Match these names to the numbers and find out if you're a winner by bringing your answers to the Braai. Winners will be announced on April 27th 2008.

Anton DeWet _____	Joanne Pistorius _____
Brenda Riontino _____	Merry Naude _____
Brian Rocklin _____	Rene Fuhrer _____
Chris Van Rensburg _____	Tony Tanner _____

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

## 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](http://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 \$7 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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# I Am a Gadget Guy

## An iPhone Review

by Nico Naude

I recently switched from a Blackberry Curve 8300 to an iPhone. My wife finally got so tired of hearing my complaints that she decided to surprise me for Christmas and buy me the "wunderkind". The difference was night and day, out of the box everything on the iPhone just worked. I had spent weeks trying to configure my Blackberry for internet access, emails etc. via Cingular, and never had a seamless and easy experience. Apple's insistence on controlling the user experience really does pay off, versus the fragmented, approach by most of the phone hardware manufacturers.

My experience of activating the iPhone and porting my cell numbers from one phone to another was simple and flawless. The self-service online approach was fast, easy to understand and elegant. Part of the magic of the iPhone comes from the way Apple has managed the brand experience.

This phone is the best gadget I have ever

owned; as I am a gadget guy. I certainly appreciate the phone's ease of use, intuitive interface and great set of built-in applications. It's very hard to resist. People who have not yet seen it think that it's over-hyped and not a big deal. Well, I'm here to say that it is a big deal.

People who own other intelligent devices from Motorola, Blackberry or Sony Ericsson have pointed out that the features found in the iPhone have been around and on the market for a while now. That is true, the iPhone certainly is not the first touch screen device and not the first smart phone ever made. But it is likely the best executed one to date. It packs a punch across the board, but it also excels in little details that make a big difference.

My most favored feature has to be the web browser. Fitting the web, the real web and not a stripped-down mobile version onto a handheld device is a real accomplishment. The whole experience feels quite natural even though it is very different from the browsing experience on laptop and desktop.

Kudos to Apple, you had me at hello...



# BRITAN'S



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19-24	\$1,169	\$1,905	\$1,005	\$1,795	\$781	\$1,291	\$688	\$1,144	\$563	\$940
25-29	\$1,276	\$2,110	\$1,114	\$1,983	\$862	\$1,428	\$758	\$1,263	\$622	\$1,031
30-34	\$1,335	\$2,359	\$1,174	\$2,199	\$912	\$1,638	\$808	\$1,451	\$661	\$1,190
35-39	\$1,460	\$2,595	\$1,298	\$2,368	\$1,003	\$1,813	\$888	\$1,603	\$724	\$1,285
40-44	\$1,633	\$2,125	\$1,443	\$1,898	\$1,116	\$1,472	\$990	\$1,308	\$805	\$1,044
45-49	\$1,843	\$2,227	\$1,641	\$2,010	\$1,270	\$1,561	\$1,125	\$1,382	\$917	\$1,064
50-54	\$2,240	\$2,417	\$2,013	\$2,197	\$1,564	\$1,715	\$1,424	\$1,557	\$1,165	\$1,271
55-59	\$2,800	\$2,755	\$2,600	\$2,527	\$2,000	\$1,974	\$1,786	\$1,791	\$1,503	\$1,463
60-64	\$3,960	\$3,733	\$3,662	\$3,435	\$3,066	\$2,839	\$2,798	\$2,588	\$2,321	\$2,053
65-69	\$8,180	\$7,134	\$7,882	\$6,835	\$7,287	\$6,237	\$5,666	\$4,715	\$4,915	\$4,150
70	\$9,645	\$8,339	\$9,343	\$8,046	\$8,739	\$7,443	\$6,891	\$5,594	\$5,977	\$4,835
71	\$10,097	\$8,738	\$9,795	\$8,438	\$9,192	\$7,834	\$7,257	\$5,898	\$6,295	\$5,098
72	\$10,484	\$9,070	\$10,185	\$8,771	\$9,588	\$8,174	\$7,573	\$6,160	\$6,569	\$5,324
73	\$10,882	\$9,404	\$10,586	\$9,108	\$9,994	\$8,517	\$7,900	\$6,421	\$6,853	\$5,550
74	\$11,412	\$9,854	\$11,115	\$9,558	\$10,524	\$8,966	\$8,321	\$6,762	\$7,218	\$5,845

\*First 2 children age 14 days to 9 are free only when both parents are insured under the Platinum Plan. The Dependent Child rate is only available when parent (guardian) is insured under the Platinum Plan. Dependent children alone must pay the age 19 to 24 Male rate.

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## Why I Fired My Secretary

Last week was my birthday and I didn't feel very well waking up that morning. I went downstairs for breakfast hoping my wife would be pleasant and say, "Happy Birthday", and possibly have a present for me. As it turned out, she barely said good morning, let alone Happy Birthday. I thought... well, that's marriage for you, but the kids will remember. My kids came into breakfast and didn't say a word. So when I left for the office, I was feeling pretty low and somewhat despondent. As I walked into my office, my secretary Jane said, "Good morning, Boss, Happy Birthday!"

It felt a little better that at least someone had remembered. I worked until one o'clock and then Jane knocked on my door and said, "You know, it's such a beautiful day outside, and it's your birthday, let's go out to lunch, just you and me."

I said, "Thanks Jane, that's the greatest thing I've heard all day. Let's go!"

We went to lunch. But we didn't go where we normally would go.

We dined instead at a little place with a private table. We had two Martinis each and I enjoyed the meal tremendously on the way back to the office, Jane said, "You know, it's such a beautiful day... We don't need to go back to the office, do we?"

I responded, "I guess not. What do you have in mind?" She said, "Let's go to my apartment." After arriving at her apartment Jane turned to me and said, "Boss, if you don't mind, I'm going to step into the bedroom for a moment. I'll be right back." "Ok." I nervously replied.

She went into the bedroom and, after a couple of minutes; she came out carrying a huge birthday cake followed by my wife, kids, and dozens of my friends and co-workers, all singing happy birthday."

And I just sat there on the couch... *kalgat!*

## Tips For "Boer Maak 'n Plan" Manne

Remember, you only need two tools in life: WD-40 and duct tape. If it doesn't move and should, use the WD-40. If it shouldn't move and does, use the duct tape. *NB... very important: I don't suggest this for your wife or girlfriend. That would put you in the doghouse where not even a reel of duct tape will help you feel better.* And finally if you can't fix it with a hammer, you've got an electrical problem.

# Wat My Ma My Geleer Het

## Ma het my geleer hoe om te bid:

Elke aand, nadat sy my in die bed gesit het, het sy gesê: "Dankie Here hy is in die bed" "Jy moet bid dat daardie kol op die mat uit is as ek vanaand by die huis kom"

## Sy het my geleer van "time travel":

*Ek sal jou tot in volgende week in klap!*

**Sy het my geleer pa's is slimmer en ryker as ma's:**

Gaan vra jou pa!

## Sy het my geleer oor fotosintese:

Lyk dit vir jou of geld op my rug groei?

**Sy het my geleer om altyd nederig en Klein te wees:**

*Mannetjie !!!*

## Sy het my van die weer geleer:

*Dit lyk of 'n dekselse orkaan jou kamer getref het*

## Sy het my geleer van fauna en flora:

*Moenie vir my vertel pèrredrolle is vye nie!*

## Sy het my geleer om myself te ontdek:

*Hou op om jou soos jou pa te gedra!*

**Sy het my die wetenskap van osmose geleer:**

*Hou jou mond en eet jou kos!*

## Sy het my geleer van uithouvermoë:

*Jy sal by daardie tafel sit totdat jy jou spinasie opgeet het!*

## Sy het my geleer van sintuie:

Kinners word gesien en nie gehoor nie!

## Sy het my geleer van humor:

*Hou aan lag, Dan gee ek jou iets om oor te huil ook!*

## Sy het my van jaloesie geleer:

*Daar is duisende arm kinnertjies wat ouers soos joune bekeer!*

**Sy het geleer dat daar 'n plek en 'n tyd vir alles is:**

*As julle mekaar wil vermoor, gaan doen dit buite! Ek't nounet hier skoongemaak!*

## Sy het my wiskunde geleer:

Sit jy alweer en tanne Tel!

## Sy het my logika geleer:

*Want ek sê so, dis hoekom!*

**Sy het my geleer dat wonderwerke nog kan gebeur:**

*Ek sal jou klap dat jy jou antie vir 'n eendvoël aansien as jy my weer terug antwoord!*

## My Next Life

By George Carlin

I want to live my next life backwards. You start out dead and get that out of the way. Then you wake up in a nursing home feeling better every day. Then you get kicked out for being too healthy. Enjoy your retirement and collect your pension. Then when you start work, you get a gold watch on your first day, you work 40 years until you're too young to work.

You get ready for High School. Drink alcohol, party, and you're generally promiscuous. Then you go to primary school, you become a kid, you play, and you have no responsibilities.

Then you become a baby, and then... you spend your last 9 months floating peacefully in luxury, in Spa-like conditions — central heating, room service on tap, and then...you finish off as an orgasm.

I rest my case.

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# Your Stars Foretell : By S. Com

(The Future Made Clear -- dark, but clear-eish)

**Aries** (Mar 21 - Apr 21) : Things will be pretty dark for you today, unless you remember to buy new torch batteries.

**Taurus** (Apr 21 - May 21): You'll probably eat cold, raw food again today. Try to remember to get that gas cylinder filled! Be cheerful, though, and remember that your ancestors lived like this and survived - 25,000 years ago.

**Gemini** (May 21 - Jun 22) :There will be a programme on TV tonight that you'll love. Bummer that you can't watch it 'cause it's on during your allotted "block" in the Eskom disco derby.

**Cancer** (Jun 22 - Jul 23): Thought you were smart buying that generator? But we know you're going to run out of fuel tonight and the nearest working petrol station is 20km away. As you get there, we'll cut their power. Sorry.

**Leo** (Jul 23 - Aug 24): Another morning without that essential cup of coffee awaits you. If you make it to 10am we'll reward you with enough power to make some, but by then you'll probably have killed 3 people and severely injured a 4th. (Don't worry, though. This is the New SA - you'll probably get away with it.)

**Virgo** (Aug 24- Sep 23): Not for very much longer... what else is there to do after dark?

**Libra** (Sep 23 - Oct 23): Your star-sign stands for fairness and justice. That's why we're going to hit your area with three 2-hr outages a day, while the area where your local MP stays will enjoy uninterrupted power throughout.

**Scorpio** (Oct 23 - Nov 23): Your area's assigned outage "block" is from 10:00 to 12:30. Expect the power to go off any time before or after that. And don't think it will only be out for two-and-a-half hours, either.

**Sagittarius** (Nov 23- Dec 22): Today you'll buy some food that is apparently within its sell-by date. What you won't realize is that the sell-by date is for food that has been stored in a constantly operating fridge. Although you'll get severe food poisoning, we think you may survive if you can find an emergency ward that has back-up generators. Good luck!

**Capricorn** (Dec 22 - Jan 21): Don't bother to go to work today. During the hours when you actually will have electricity, your network provider will not, so you won't be able to do anything anyway. Stay home, and well, there's not much to do there either, is there?

**Aquarius** (Jan 21 - Feb 20): Today you'll get so fed up with our incompetence that you'll decide to emigrate. We regret to inform you that this is no longer possible. The airports have all shut down... because... well think about it... they need electricity to run the place! *You ain't going nowhere!*

**Pisces** (Feb 20 - Mar 21): Today all your hopes and dreams will come true. You'll have power during "Days of Our Lives".

**If today is your birthday:** Use lots and lots of candles on that cake - even if they don't reflect your age. How else are you going to see to open the presents? You will receive the ideal gift — your very own miner's helmet!

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