

October 2004
Vol 8 #2

BRAAI NEWS

#1 Newsletter for the South African Community of Tampa Bay

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



Kom Speel Saam

by Sharon Bond

April 2004 drew an awesome crowd of South Africans and friends for the bi-annual Braai in Safety Harbor. And what a great time it was. The braai was a huge success with everyone getting involved, mingling, networking and making new friends. Brando Pistorius and Pieter Steinmann did an awe-

some job of rounding everyone up for a variety of good ol' fashioned races that included a sack race, egg and spoon race and a three-legged race. This time we can all look forward to some more of this hellacious fun with the added bonus of tug-o'-war. Help is always welcome, so if you'd like to assist in setting up the games, please call Pieter 727-364-9268, or Brando at 813-917-9205.



Above: Pieter Steinmann and Brando Pistorius organized the games and gave out some cool prizes too.



Above: Vance and Wynne Jorisson setting up a pinata amid some of their most anxious fans.



Left: Peter Nesbitt, Gabe and Brenda Riontino, Joan and Tim O'Toole. Tim was one of the lucky winners of a bottle of S.A. wine.

*Seek First to Understand,
Then to be Understood*

Stephen R. Covey

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A Note From Noleen...

It's been a long journey since April 2002 when my youngest son Chris found his dad J.J. dead on the floor of our sitting room. I have walked these past two and a half years, holding the hand of the big guy upstairs, knowing that if I tried to get through this alone, I would probably not be in the same place that I am now. And what I mean by that is, you know that private place that one goes to where no else is allowed? That safe place in ones very own private universe in your head. What a blessing it was for me the day that Anton de Wet knocked on my front door the day after J.J. died and asked what he could do to help me.

About six months ago, I started to feel like someone who had been enclosed in a cocoon for over two years and for the first time, saw an opening at the tip of the cocoon which I felt I could climb out of. I have felt very alone out there at times, especially since all three of my boys will be leaving home by the end of this year. But, on a good deal of reflection, I have realized that one of the most important facts about life is **your** attitude. Not someone else's toward you, but **your** attitude to others. After all, you are in charge of **your** attitude and by realizing that fact, you can take control of your life and start moving forward with far more certainty. An attitude can change a

continued on page 5

a reminder

Next Braai
SUNDAY
October 31st
2004
10am -

Phillipe Park, Safety Harbor, Shelter #2.

Editorial

If this past hurricane season has you hurrying for the cane, mel- low out, my fellow compatriots! Forecasters are predicting this as just the beginning of the most intense hurricane cycle that we have experienced yet. Just what we needed to hear, right? Wrong! As a resident in a mobile home community, this 2004 season has definitely got my attention. Yet, while hundreds of thousands of people have been affected either directly or indirectly, we do have to keep a perspective on this thing. The media are quite famous for blowing all things out of proportion, no pun intended.

Simple preventative efforts such as pruning trees prior to Hurri- cane Season, could help prevent a lot of the power outages that so many experienced, disrupting lives, and the all important economy. Many of the small businesses in the Tampa Bay area that were *indirectly* affected, seem to have an uphill battle on their hands, with many having to close their doors.

The days ahead will remain to be seen, as to just how much red tape these folks will be faced with in their attempt to qualify for state assistance, particularly if their businesses are located in the areas considered "non-disaster".

Please remember to support our local small businesses and the Mom and Pop operations... they are, after all the backbone of our economy. See you at the Braai!

Sharon
Editor



Wouldn't it be nice if whenever we messed up our life! we could simply press 'Ctrl Alt Delete' and start all over?

Petersen Finds His Promised Land in Ocala

When South African Derek Petersen arrived in the United States in the late 1980's, he'd left everything behind, carry- ing only his dreams and the promise of a better life in a new country. On March 14, Petersen, rode his aptly named Prom- ised Land to the blue ribbon in the richest grand prix in the Ocala Winter Circuit, the \$100,000 King Shavings Grand Prix Finale.

When Petersen returned to the ring with his 10-year-old German-bred warmblood for the awards ceremony, his home- town crowd cheered wildly, including his wife, Anita, and sons Jared, 12, and Joel, 10. He grinned and pointed up to the heavens. "That's where my help comes from", he said simply.

Riding in the \$200,000 Budweiser American Invita- tional was a dream come true for Derek Petersen. Earn- ing seventh on Promised Land was more than he could have imagined. His parents flew from South Africa to watch. The pressure to qualify was on as soon as they booked the tickets. Petersen competed for the first two weeks at the WEF in Wellington, then spent the rest of the circuit at the HITS Ocala circuit, winning the final grand prix, the \$100,000 King Shavings Grand Prix. He then returned to the WEF in Tampa, claiming second in the \$75,000 Grand Prix of Tampa on March 28 to clinch his invitational qualification.

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Call in your order NOW and I can bring your shirts and caps to the Braai.

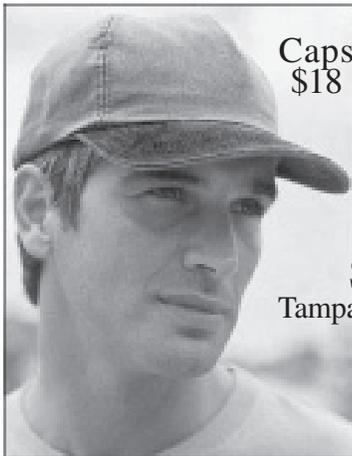
Sharon

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S.A. Braai
2004
Tampa Bay,
Florida, USA

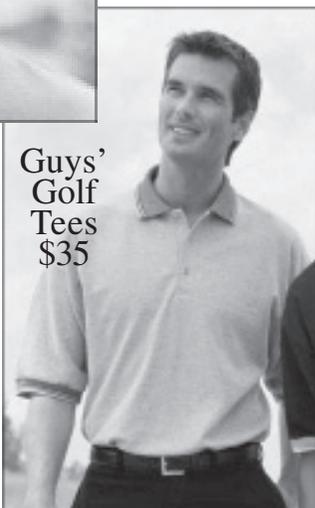


Caps \$18

S.A. Braai
Tampa Bay, Florida, USA



Guys' Golf Tees \$35



Ladies Perry Ellis \$39





Congratulations to
NICO NAUDE
on receiving his
American Citizenship

Congratulations to
TAMMY KNUTH
on receiving her
American
Citizenship

"Here's champagne to our real friends, And real pain to our sham friends."

"Here's health to those I love and wealth to those who love me."



A good friend will come and bail you out of jail...but, a true friend will be sitting next to you saying, "Damn..that was fun!"



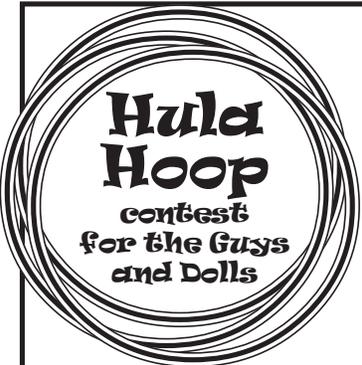
You Go Girl!

Happy 80th Birthday Boo! You certainly are an inspiration to us all. May we all be as good as you are by the time we reach octogenarian status!

Lots of love, from all the Coffee Evening Girls and the whole South African Community of friends and family. *Here's to the next 25 years!*

Condolences

Our deepest condolences go out to Penny and Peter Khaled and family on the recent passing of her mother, Betty.



Braai

Sun. 31st Oct., '04

from 10:00am till...

- Kids Treasure Hunt
- Adults Hula Hoop
- Everyone Dessert Table
- Kids Pinata
- Everyone Draw
- Kids Sack Race
- Adults Egg and Spoon Race
- Adults Sack Race
- Adults Tug O' War



DOOR PRIZES GALORE...

- 3 bottles of S A Wine,
- 8 Tickets to Mosi
- 2 Tickets to Fla Aquarium
- 1 Slow Cooker

Surprise Wedding Ceremony



Guess Who's Getting Married at the Braai at 3:30pm!

50/50

Be sure to get your tickets from Steph.
Just \$1 each or 6 for \$5
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- Defense
- Motions to Reopen
- Appeals to the Board of
- Immigration Appeals

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- Through Employer Petition
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Immigration Attorney

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Before you decide ask the lawyer to send you free written information about their qualifications and experience.*

Noleen's Letter from page 1

person, situation or an incident from bad to good. And to think that it all depends on how **you** chose to handle it. On many occasions, the last thing that I have felt like doing is smiling and putting one foot in front of the other, but doing it anyhow, has made the difference between retreating or going forward, no matter how small a step that might be.

It has been interesting to me to discover that, after thinking I was through and past all this grief in my life, to find that when I attended a young colleague's funeral a little while ago, I found myself crawling right back into that cocoon. Somehow, that was the safest place I could find when I saw and experienced the hurt in the eyes of my friend's family. I understood exactly what they were experiencing. I re-experienced the loss of my husband but also the loss of my one and only beautiful sister, who died three months after he did.

I have found long walks on the Clearwater beach to be very soul healing. Somehow, the beauty, the space, the openness, and the tranquility are all strokes of goodness from the Supreme Being. I made a decision once, while walking on that beach, that from that day forward I was going to live my life with a definite goal. And that goal is that: whoever happens to be in my life, and that might be for just a moment, it might be someone passing me in the street, a friend, a family member or even perhaps someone I did not particularly like, that my goal would be to enhance that person's life, to better it in some way, even if all I could contribute was a simple smile or a nod of ones head in acknowledgment. After all don't we all want to be acknowledged?

And if you have given someone something that they are very grateful for and they ask you what they can do in return for you, tell them to give instead, to someone else, to pass it forward. After all, life should be joyful, and it is our responsibility to see to it that joy is handed out and not back.

Indulge in the joy of life; it is so very good and precious for the soul. With love...

*Noleen
Organizer*

Current Exchange Rates as at 10-11-04

\$1 = R6.06 • £1 = R11.86 • \$1 = £1.80

Stable exchange rates? Good grief, they've barely changed in the last 6 months.

Prime Rate... 11.00%

Gold: ZAR 2760.12 (\$US 418.20) per fine ounce

Important!

Please note that the people who make food up especially for everyone at the Braai, eg. Koeksusters, Melk Tert, Boerewors, Biltong, etc., would really like to have your orders ahead of time whenever possible.

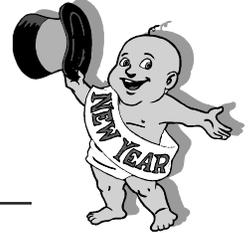
This helps them in deciding how much to make and to take with them to the Braai, so that you can enjoy the freshest food possible. Please look for their ads throughout the newsletter, and please also remember to support our advertisers. They help make this newsletter possible.

Thank you.

*Sharon
Editor*

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY
You're Invited

Join us once again, to ring in the New Year at Chris and Steph's place in Tampa. Bring a covered dish and party on to welcome 2005 with fellow South Africans.



Reunite with old friends

Liewe Familie en vriende,

Daar is 'n website www.SAReunited.com waar jy jou naam intik en die jaar wat jy matrikuleer het, dan kom 'n databasis van ou skoolmaats op. Kyk gerus, dis baie interessant om te sien waar almal hul nou bevind!
Sanet Blignaut

Just remember...if The world didn't suck, we'd all fall off.

Sarasota Braai

Saturday November 6, 2004, 5-9pm

Turtle Beach shelter, Midnight Pass Road, Siesta Key.

Travel for about 2/3 miles south on Midnight Pass, from intersection with Stickney Point Road, the shelter is on your right. Take ALL you need, food and drink, only fires are provided. Please bring all else you need for braaiing, tongs and drink. PLEASE, we would appreciate your ideas for music, fun, games etc., to make this a fun event. \$2.00 per adult (kids free) contribution to costs, includes ticket for wine draw.

PLEASE NOTE COUNTY REGULATION "Glass containers (of any kind) are prohibited in county parks". Please also take note of the "Reservation Form and License Agreement" that will be posted on one of the pillars in to shelter, for use of shelter terms and conditions.

Zelda (941) 922-8855 or Colin (941) 921-9359.

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Hurricane Preparedness Guide

According to Dave Barry

Since the hurricane season got started, every time we turn on the TV, we see a weatherperson pointing to some radar blob out in the Atlantic and making two basic meteorological points:

1. There is no need to panic. 2. We could all be killed.

Yes, hurricane season is an exciting time to be in Florida. If you're new to the area, you're probably wondering what you need to do to prepare for the possibility that we'll get hit by "the big one." The best way to get information on this topic is to ask people who were here during Hurricane Andrew (we're easy to recognize, because we still smell faintly of b.o. mixed with gasoline). Based on our experiences, we recommend that you follow this simple three-step hurricane preparedness plan:

STEP 1. Buy enough food and bottled water to last your family for at least three days.

STEP 2. Put these supplies into your car.

STEP 3. Drive to Nebraska and remain there until Halloween.

Unfortunately, statistics show that most people will not follow this sensible plan. Most people will foolishly stay here in Florida. If you're one of those people, you'll want to clip out the following useful hurricane information and tuck it away in a safe place so that later on, when a storm is brewing, you will not be able to locate it.

We'll start with one of the most important hurricane preparedness items: **HOMEOWNERS' INSURANCE:** If you own a home, you must have hurricane insurance. Fortunately, this insurance is cheap and easy to get, as long as your home meets two basic requirements: (1) It is reasonably well built, and (2) It is located in Nebraska. Unfortunately, if your home is located in Florida, or any other area that might actually be hit by a hurricane, most

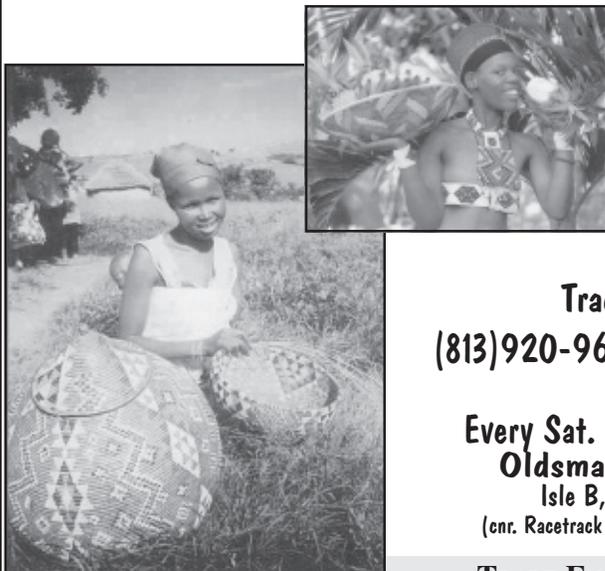
insurance companies would prefer not to sell you hurricane insurance, because then they might be required to pay YOU money, and that is certainly not why they got into the insurance business in the first place. So you'll have to scrounge around for an insurance company,

continued on page 9



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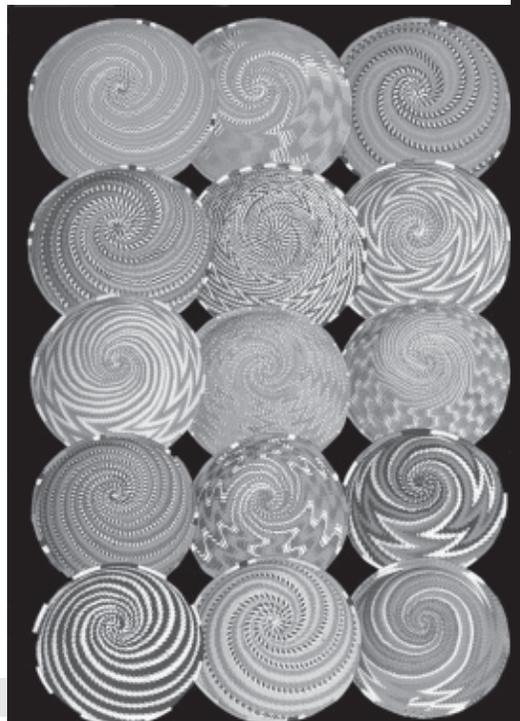


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Hurricane Preparedness *from page 7*

which will charge you an annual premium roughly equal to the replacement value of your house. At any moment, this company can drop you like used dental floss. Since Hurricane Andrew, I have had an estimated 27 different home-insurance companies. This week, I'm covered by the Bob and Big Stan Insurance Company, under a policy which states that, in addition to my premium, both Bob and Big Stan are entitled, on demand, to my kidneys. **SHUTTERS:** Your house should have hurricane shutters on all the windows, all the doors, and — if it's a major hurricane — all the toilets. There are several types of shutters, with advantages and disadvantages: **Plywood shutters:** The advantage is that, because you make them yourself, they're cheap. The disadvantage is that, because you make them yourself, they will fall off. **Sheet-metal shutters:** The advantage is that these work well, once you get them all up. The disadvantage is that once you get them all up, your hands will be useless bleeding stumps, and it will be December. **Roll-down shutters:** The advantages are that they're very easy to use, and will definitely protect your house. The disadvantage is that you will have to sell your house to pay for them. **"Hurricane-proof" windows:** These are the newest wrinkle in hurricane protection: They look like ordinary windows, but they can withstand hurricane winds! You can be sure of this, because the salesman says so. He lives in Nebraska.

EVACUATION ROUTE — If you live in a low-lying area, you should have an evacuation route planned out. (To determine whether you live in a low-lying area, look at your driver's license; if it says "Florida," you live in a low-lying area.) The purpose of having an evacuation route is to avoid being trapped in your home when a major storm hits. Instead, you will be trapped in a gigantic traffic jam several miles from your home, along with two million other evacuees. So, as a bonus, you will not be lonely. **SUPPLIES:** If you don't evacuate, you will need a mess of supplies. Do not buy them now! Florida tradition requires that you wait until the last possible minute, then go to the supermarket and get into vicious fights with strangers over who gets the last can of Spam. *In addition to food and water, you will need the following supplies:* 23 Flashlights, at least \$167 worth of batteries that turn out, when the power goes out, to be the wrong size for the flashlights, Bleach. (No, I don't know what the bleach is for. NOBODY knows what the bleach is for. But it's traditional, so GET some, dammit!), a 55-gallon drum of underarm deodorant, a big knife that you can strap to your leg. (This will be useless in a hurricane, but it looks cool.), \$35,000 in cash or diamonds so that, after the hurricane passes, you can buy a generator from a man with no discernible teeth.

Of course these are just basic precautions. As the hurricane draws near, it is vitally important that you keep abreast of the situation by turning on your television and watching TV reporters in rain slickers stand right next to the ocean and tell you over and over again how vitally important it for everybody to stay the hell away from the ocean.

At that point, if you've prepared all you can, there's frankly nothing left to for you to do but pray. I mean for a really BIG wave.

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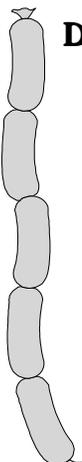
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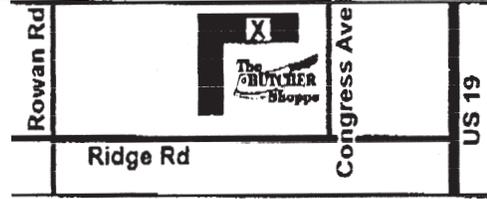
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You know how they say a boat is referred to as “she” and classified as female? Well, I believe everything in this world actually does have a gender and here are some of them:
SHOES are male, because they are usually unpolished, with their tongues hanging out.
PHOTOCOPIERS are female, because once turned off, they take a while to warm up.
TYRES are male, because they go bald and are often over-inflated.
HOT AIR BALLOONS are male, because to get them to go anywhere you have to light a fire under them and, of course, there’s the hot air part.
SPONGES are female, because! they are soft, squeezable and retain water.
THE SUBWAY is male, because it uses the same old lines to pick people up.
AN HOURGLASS is female, because over time, the weight shifts to the bottom.
HAMMERS are male, because they haven’t evolved much over the last 5,000 years, but they are handy to have around.
A REMOTE CONTROL is female ... Ha! You thought it would be male”. But consider this: it gives men pleasure, they’d be lost without it, and while they don’t always know the right buttons to push, they keep on trying.

Why did the Jelly Tot go to School? So he could become a Smartie!!

Gatiep en Gammat are sitting on a bus in Cape Town when this lady gets on with a face made up to kill: bloodshot red lips, seven layers of base and such massive eye-lashes that she can barely keep her eyes open. There’s no vacant seats, so she stands, hanging onto the leather strap. “Hei Gammat,” says Gatiep, “why don’t you offer the lady your seat?” “Nei,” says Gammat, “a painting moet mos hang.”



Boksburg Thesaurus Of Computer Terminology

- Log On** - Make the braai hotter • **Log Off** - The braai is too hot
- Monitor** - Keeping an eye on the braai
- Download** - Get the firewood off the bakkie
- Hard drive** - Trip back home without any cold beer
- Keyboard** - Where you hang the bakkie and bike keys
- Window** - What you shut when it’s cold
- Byte** - What mosquitoes do • **Bit** - What mosquitoes did
- Mega Byte** - What mosquitoes at the lake do
- Chip** - A bar snack
- Micro Chip** - What’s left in the bag after you have eaten the chips
- Dot Matrix** - Old Jan Matrix’s wife
- Laptop** - Where the cat sleeps
- Mouse** - What eats the grain in the shed
- Mainframe** - What holds the shed up
- Web** - What spiders make
- Web Site** - The shed or under the verandah
- Cursor** - The old bloke who swears a lot
- Search Engine** - What you do when the bakkie won’t go
- Yahoo** - What you say when the bakkie does go
- Mail Server** - The bloke at the pub that brings out the lunch
- Internet** - Complicated fish net repair method
- Netscape** - When fish manoeuvres out of reach of net
- Online** - When you get the laundry hung out
- Off Line** - When the pegs don’t hold the washing up





BARRY HILTON ON STUPIDITY

Dof people should have to wear signs that just say, "I'M DOF." That way you wouldn't rely on them, would you? You wouldn't ask them anything.

It would be like, "Excuse me... oops, never mind. Didn't see your sign." It's like before my boeta and I moved. Our house was full of boxes and there was a Pickfords truck in our driveway. My neighbor comes over and choons, "Hey, you moving?" "Nooit bru. We just pack our stuff up once or twice a week to see how many boxes it takes. Here's your sign!"

A couple of months ago I went fishing with a mate of mine, we pulled his boat onto the ramp, I lifted up this big whiting and this idiot on the ramp goes, "Hey, you catch all those fish?" "Nooit cuzzi. Talked 'em into giving up. Here's your sign."

I was watching one of those animal shows on the Discovery Channel. There was a guy inventing a shark bite suit. And there's only one way to test it. "Alright Jimmy, you got that shark suit on, it looks good... They want you to jump into this pool of sharks, and you tell us if it hurts when they bite you." "Well, all right, but hold my sign. I don't wanna lose it".

Last time I had a flat tyre, I pulled my car into a petrol station.

The 'pomp jockey' walks out, looks at my car, looks at me, and I SWEAR he choons, "Tyre go flat?" I couldn't resist. I said, "Nooit Baba. I was driving around and those other three just swelled up on me. Here's your sign."

I was trying to sell my 'jammie' about a year ago. A guy came over to the house and drove the car around for about 45 minutes. We get back to the house, he gets out of the car, reaches down and grabs the exhaust pipe, then says, "Jislaaik, that's hot!" See? If he'd been wearing his sign, I could have stopped him!

I learned to drive an 18-wheeler in my days in the 'mag'. Wouldn't you know I misjudged the height of a bridge. The truck got stuck, and I couldn't get it out no matter how I tried. I radioed in for help and eventually a local cop showed up to take the report. He went through his basic questioning... ok.. no problem. I thought for sure he was clear of needing a sign...until he asked "So, is your truck stuck?" I couldn't help myself. I looked at him, looked back at the rig and then back to him took my sign off and chooned, "No. I'm delivering a bridge. Here's your sign."

I stayed late at work one night and a co-worker looked at me and chooned, "Are you still here?" I replied, "No. I left about 10 minutes ago. Here's your sign."

Anybody you know, need a sign today? Send this to all your chinas! The next time someone says something dof, you can ask them: Where's your sign?

Check out Barry the Cuz, at www.thecousin.com

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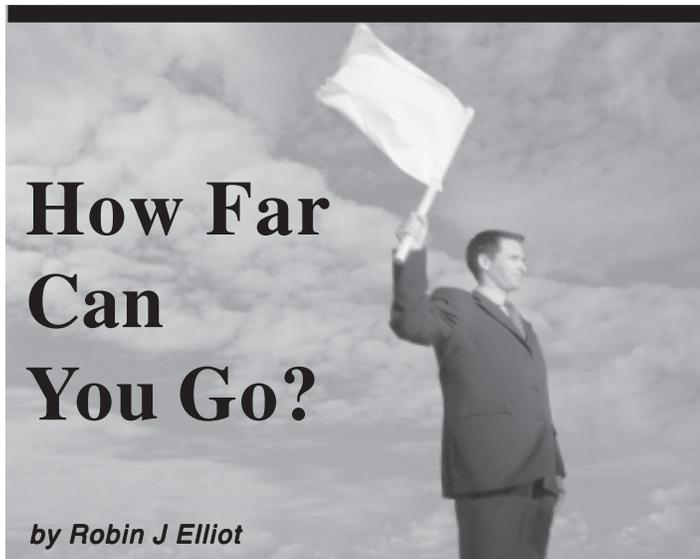
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How Far Can You Go?

by Robin J Elliot

A few weeks ago, my wife Rika and I decided to walk around beautiful Buntzen Lake near our home in Vancouver. Rika prepared a picnic basket, and off we went. We had heard that it would take about two hours to walk around the lake and that at about the half-way mark, there was a beach to rest. It turned out a lot warmer than we expected it to be, but the beauty of the forest and the lake offset our fatigue. We stopped along the way to look at the beautiful nature, mushrooms, moss, water and streams, and we talked to some people on horses. We watched kayakers

going past. But it was a long haul. It took a full two hours to get to the beach, where we ate our picnic lunch while watching a child get very excited about her pet ant's swimming expertise. We watched dogs swimming out in the icy water to fetch sticks, and then resumed our trek after thirty minutes. It took us another hour to reach our car. So, after three and a half hours, we finally got back to our starting point. We were real tired. It was a great day and we loved the walk, but we agreed that we weren't prepared for such a long hike, and, had we had the opportunity, we would certainly have stopped half-way. And therein lies the lesson.

It's been said that a task expands to fill the time allotted to it. And it's been suggested that we only earn what we need to earn. It's amazing how much more one can accomplish when one has no way out, no other options and no escape route or back door. When we honestly evaluate our life performances and productivity, we have to admit that we do what we have to do and slack off considerably after that.

When you absolutely have to earn a certain amount of money in a certain amount of time or face the prospect of getting into serious trouble with creditors, it's amazing how much more one is miraculously able to accomplish, isn't it? When push comes to shove, we realize that we have been using very little of our potential. That's why we need to set exceedingly specific goals with action plans to back them up. We need to be accountable and responsible for our talents.

"To whom much has been given, from him much will be demanded". Excuses are easy, but we know, deep down, that we're worth more than that. When we are truly in "Whatever it takes" mode, when we get desperate and committed enough, suddenly all sorts of circumstances arise and doors open, as though we have pressed a magic button somewhere that allows secret forces to assist us in reaching our objectives.

It's actually not all that mystical. People are drawn to committed and successful people. They like to hitch their stars to winners. And when the mind is open and brave, when it is courageous, outrageous and determined, the silly little obstacles that were previously stumbling blocks to our slothful attitude melt away before our laser like focus and resolute single-mindedness.

People who achieve great things are simply average people with an unwavering, dogged and indomitable attitude and clear focus. People who don't allow themselves distractions, but discipline themselves to smash through obstacles and steadfastly refuse to allow other people to dilute their passion, are unstoppable. It's not only about talent and ability; it's about choices and perceptions. It's also about the team you're on. Rika is a courageous and determined lady, as those who know her will agree. It would have been a lot more difficult for us to have achieved what we have achieved together in the past 18 years had she been a whiner or a loser. Together, we're a formidable force. And we strive to surround ourselves with others who share our values and aspirations. How far can you go? As far as you want to. It has little to do with outward circumstances; it has everything to do with you. How badly do you want to achieve your goals?

Robin J. Elliott is an expat South African, living in Canada. Visit his website at www.dollarmakers.com for further information, or to subscribe to their free weekly newsletter via email. Robin is included in the International Who's Who of Entrepreneurs in 2002.

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6/10/04

The Ambassador,
South African Embassy
3051 Massachusetts Ave NW
Washington.

Dear Ambassador,

I am writing to compliment you on the outstanding service that I received from one of your staff members.

My son is traveling from Tampa Florida to South Africa today (Thursday). Last Sunday, to my horror, I discovered that his passport had expired. On Monday morning, in desperation I called your office for help expecting to be confronted by insurmountable bureaucracy in my effort to arrange a miracle.

Instead, the phone was politely answered by a friendly voice that told me exactly who I was to speak to, asking me to leave a message for Nikwazi.

Only an hour later I received a call from Nikwazi Hlubi who was out of this world, wonderful! She was friendly, efficient and helpful and above all, demonstrated a great attitude and a willingness to help.

Nikwazi told me that she would immediately (Monday) Fedex me the forms and fingerprint cards to apply for emergency travel documents, explained to me exactly how I should go about completing them and obtaining fingerprints, photos etc. before return Fedexing them back to her the next day (Tuesday). She told me that she would rush the application through on Wednesday and Fedex the documents back to me the same day to be received in time for my son's flight the next morning (Thurs-



day). And that is exactly how it happened except that although we paid extra, Fedex failed to deliver the completed documents by 9.30 am on the Wednesday. Instead I got a call from Nikwazi at 3.00 pm to tell me that she had only just received the package and that it would be almost impossible to process the application in such short time but that she was going to try. Thirty minutes later she called to say that she had been successful and that Fedex was collecting the documents. She also told me that the check that I had sent for the courier fee was short but not to worry because she had paid the difference from her own pocket. We received the travel documents in time for my son to catch the plane to South Africa.

What fantastic service! Try getting that kind of service from the United States embassy in SA or any other government office anywhere. !!!!! What a contrast!

Thank you for your outstanding assistance to fellow South Africans and most of all to Nizwazi Hlubi for her exceptional effort and help.

I have posted this letter on all the "South Africans in the USA" websites and will publish it in our local South African newspaper.

Yours faithfully,
Marius Smook

Editor's note: What a shining example of our Embassy! Perhaps the BCIS could pick up some tips. If you've had a bureaucratic encounter worth mentioning, now's the time to share it! Send it to: shaz@tampabay.tr.com

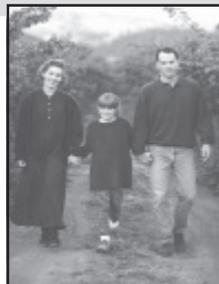
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Oxtail Potjie

- 6 pounds Oxtails cut 2 ½ inches thick pieces
- 10 slices Bacon cut in 1 inch pieces
- 1/2 cup Flour seasoned with salt and pepper
- 1 litre Beef stock
- 1 can Hunt's tomato sauce
- 1 Bay leaf · 6 Black Peppercorns
- 1 Bouquet Garni
- 6 large Leeks, chopped coarsely
- 2 large Onions, chopped coarsely
- 6 large Carrots, chopped coarsely
- 20 Button mushrooms
- 1 cup Red Wine · 1/2 cup Sherry
- 1/2 cup Cream · 2 tablespoons Butter
- 2 tablespoons Olive Oil · 2 tablespoons Crushed garlic

Dry oxtails with paper towel. Put seasoned flour in a Ziplock bag, then add the Oxtail and shake to coat with flour. Heat butter and olive oil and saute bacon pieces. Remove bacon and brown Oxtail in resulting fat, remove and drain.

Finely dice 4 of the carrots. Coarsely chop the onions and the leeks. Add the finely diced carrots, leeks, onions and saute until softened. Add Oxtail, bacon, bouquet garni, bay leaf, peppercorns, garlic, tomato sauce, red wine, sherry.

Bring slowly to a boil and cook slowly for 3 - 4 hours. 1 hour before serving cut the remaining carrots into 1 inch pieces, add them and mushrooms and continue cooking slowly. Just prior to serving, add cream and stir in.

If you want to thicken the sauce mix some cornstarch with the cream before adding.

Heard live on Radio 702!

by Sharon Bond

Working away at my computer one evening, while listening to one of my favorite DJs, Dave B, a fella called in to the station from Norwood, in Jo'burg. Next thing you know, a series of gunshots went off in the background. This must have been around 2 in the morning, S.A. time. I guess the caller decided to play it safe, and not venture outside to see what had happened, so we're still pretty much in the dark about it all. But everyone agreed that something must have been going down that night!

Listening to 702 I do sense a definite spirit of commitment, cooperation and dialogue taking place in South Africa at the moment. It is just so very sad that it has to be tempered with a chronic crime rate. The news reports are peppered with incidents of car-jackings, murders, robberies and so forth. Yet, it is refreshing to hear the new-found freedom of the South African press. These very skilled journalists don't allow anyone to get off lightly. Forthright questions are asked loud and clear on a regular basis.

By the way, Dave B does a great job of keeping insomniacs and worldwide expats entertained with his friendly voice, and welcome attitude. Every so often he'll spin a disk and sometimes drop a few surprises. One night he played a cover of Bob Dylan's famous "Knocking on Heaven's Door" performed by none other than Dolly Parton together with Ladysmith Black Mambazo! And what a combination that was. LBM brought a definite African feel to this classic rock tune, while Ms. Parton belted out her incredible vocal range. That CD, is a definite on my wish list this Christmas!

Catch up-to-the-minute news and views in SA, by tuning in live to 702 Talk Radio at www.702.co.za

Monkey Gland Steak ~ serves 8

- Cube steaks (1 per serving)
- oil for frying
- 1 large onion diced
- 1/2 cup water
- 2 large tomatoes diced
(canned tomatoes work just as well)
- 1 cup of ketchup
- 1/2 cup of Worcestershire sauce
- 2 cloves of garlic finely chopped
- 3/4 - 1 cup of chutney
- 1/2 cup of brown sugar
- 2 Tbsp. vinegar
- 1 tsp. Tabasco sauce

In a heavy skillet, heat oil. Sauté onions and garlic until soft. Add remaining ingredients, mix well and simmer for a few minutes. Fry or grill the steaks separately. When done frying spoon the sauce over the steaks. Serve with rice.

Remember to put the name of your hometown on your name tag when you get to the Braai!

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TULA TULA

Tula Tu Tula baba Tula sana; Tul'umam 'uzobuya ekuseni
Tula Tu Tula baba Tula sana; Tul'umam 'uzobuya ekuseni
(be silent baby keep silent mama will be back in the morning).
Hush my baby close your eyes; Time to fly to paradise
Till the sunlight brings you home
You must dream your dreams alone
Tula Tu Tula baba Tula sana
Tul'umam 'uzobuya ekuseni
Tula Tu Tula baba Tula sana
Tul'umam 'uzobuya ekuseni
(be silent baby keep silent mama will be back in the morning).
Hush my baby go to sleep; I'll be with you counting sheep
Dreams will take you far away; Sleep until the break of day
Tula Tu Tula baba Tula sana; Tul'umam 'uzobuya ekuseni
(be silent baby keep silent mama will be back in the morning).



HAVA NAGILA

Hava nagila, hava nagila
Hava nagila venis' mecha
Repeat
Hava neranena, hava neranena
Hava neranena venis' mecha
Uru, uru achim
Uru achim belev same'ach



LET US REJOICE & BE GLAD

Let us rejoice and be glad
Repeat
Let us sing
Awaken brethren
With a cheerful heart.



MAIRZY DOATS

Mairzy doats and dozy doats
And liddle lamzy divey,
A kiddley divey too,
wouldn't you?
Mairzy doats and dozy doats
And liddle lamzy divey,
A kiddley divey too, wouldn't
you?
A kiddley divey too,
wouldn't you?

BOBBEJAAN KLIM DIE BERG,

Bobbejaan klim die berg,
so haastig en so lastig;
bobbejaan klim die berg,
so haastig en so lastig;
bobbejaan klim die berg
om die boere te vererg.
Hoera vir die jollie bobbejaan!
O moenie huil nie,
o moenie treur nie,
die Stellenbosse boys
kom weer.
O moenie huil nie,
o moenie treur nie, die Stellenbosse boys kom weer.



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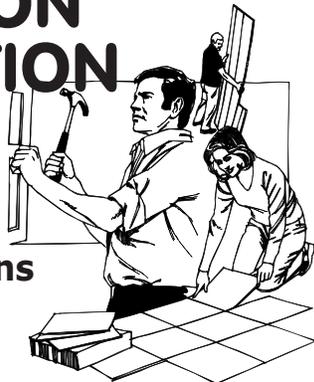
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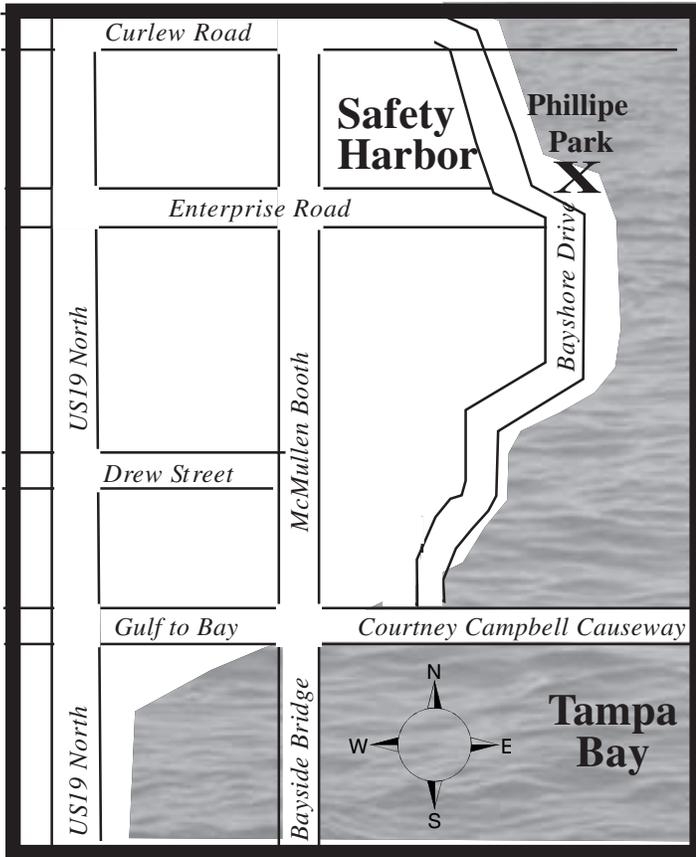


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GETTING TO PHILLIPE PARK

A Few Guide Lines

For those of you who haven't been to Phillippe 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 koeksusters, biltong, 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!

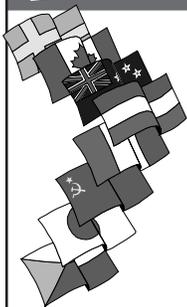
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Rogue's Gallery

Anyone remember the **Stander Gang** of the '80s? They were the ones who gained a reputation for being polite to their victims and were often referred to as "the gentlemen robbers".

Andre Stander, Allan Heyl and **Patrick Lee McCall** were masters of disguise. In the pile of dockets that remain in the police archives it is almost impossible to recognize them. This talent enabled the gang to move freely around the country and overseas.

Over a period of five months, they robbed 27 banks and stole almost R700 000 in cars and cash. Using false passports Stander came to the United States to await the arrival of a yacht that would enable him to flee once again. On the 13th of February 1984 he was shot dead by police in Fort Lauderdale, right here in Florida. His true identity was finally revealed when fingerprint records confirmed that it was indeed him. Another accomplice, McCall, was killed when police stormed the gang's hideout in Houghton. Heyl escaped from Zonderwater prison in October 1983 while serving a 15-year sentence for robbery. During this time, he joined Stander and McCall.

He fled to England in 1984, where he was sentenced in 1985 to nine years' imprisonment for crimes committed there.

In 1991, Heyl was deported to South Africa to stand trial for his Stander gang offences. He was sentenced in effect to 33 years in jail, which he is currently serving at the Krugersdorp prison, where he teaches Biology, Afrikaans and Life Skills to other prisoners. In June of this year, Heyl appeared before a parole board, in the hope of getting his sentence reduced. However, it was decided that Heyl serve at least two thirds of his 33-year sentence, and so this latest bid for freedom, was again turned down.

His attorney called in late one evening, to *Talk Radio 702* sounding rather intoxicated. He went on to say how much he wants to help Heil and how he's doing his very best to get him out early. If Heil is to get any kind of reduced sentence, perhaps he should begin with a new attorney.

Eugene Terblanche was released on parole in June 2004, having served 5 years for attempted murder. He will serve his parole under the supervision of the Potchefstroom Community Corrections Office. His sentence expires in December 2005.

A rather **disturbing trend** is emerging in SA... and that is **kidnapping!** Seems that the criminals get a quick cash turnaround, just like in South America. They case out a family, grab the child, or teenager in the morning, make the demands for ransom, and get their ransom money on the same day. Many cases do not make it to the press or the police for that matter, simply out of fear. A few months ago a young woman by the name of **Leigh Matthews** was abducted from the Bond University in Sandton. Her parents paid the ransom, and then waited in vain for word on their daughter. They waited for 2 weeks and I am very sad to say that her body later turned up on a vacant plot out in Muldersdrift.

THE MIND

I cdnuolt blveiee taht I cluod aulacly uesdnatnrd waht I was rdanieg The phaonmneal pweor of the hmuan mnid Aoccdrnig to a rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn't mtttaer inwaht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoatnt tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteer be in the rghit pclae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can sitll raed it wouthit a porbelm. Tihis is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe. Amzanig huh? yaeh and I awlyas thought slpeling was ipmorantt!

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May your salary, your housing subsidy, the contents of your house and all your shares increase in value, and may your blood pressure, weight, house loan, tax and cholesterol all decrease.

May all your friends remember you and may the taxman forget you exist. May hijackers, thieves and tsotsis overlook you and may your loved ones always see you.

May your walls be too high for the neighbourhood's thieves but low enough for you to hop over when you have forgotten your keys.

May you have an honest government and a dishonest beauty therapist.

May you have an intelligent President and a fool for a TV licence checker.

And everything of the best for 2005.

a reminder

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of every
APRIL & OCTOBER...

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mark those dates on
your calendar for the
next 10 years or so!

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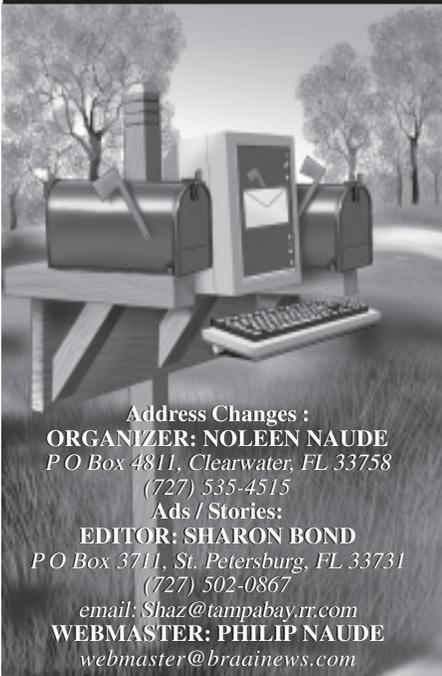


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