

October 2005  
Vol 9 #2

# BRAAI NEWS

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

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

## Some Famous S.A. Inventions

by Sharon Bond compiled with info from www.southafrica.info/

The next time someone asks you which country in South Africa you're from... try a little name dropping. Ernie Els or Gary Player ought to do it, but if that doesn't work, and they don't look old enough to remember the first heart transplant, they might have, or perhaps know someone, with a pool, in which case they may have heard about a Kreepy Krauly [or Barracuda]. And by the way, did you know that Pratlley's Putty is the only South African Invention to have made it to the moon? And did you know that dolosse are now being used, and manufactured onsite, in an effort to hold back the breakwaters in Venice, Italy? And during 1986, 42-ton dolosse were used in Crescent City, CA, for breakwater rehabilitation. Here are a few more such facts. Some you will know about, perhaps all...

### Dolosse

Dolosse are large, unusually shaped concrete blocks weighing up to 20 tons. The structures are designed to break up wave action and protect harbour walls and coastal installations.

Designed by Eric Merrifield and first installed in East London harbour, they are now used all over the world. The Coega Project, comprising an industrial development complex and deepwater port 20 kilometres east of the city of Port Elizabeth, recently made history with the casting of the biggest dolosse on the African continent.

According to Deon Retief, the partner responsible for the Nqura breakwater design at Prestedge Retief Dresner Wijnberg, the dolosse will form the top layer of the main breakwater which, at 2.5 kilometres long, is the "largest by far" in Africa.



Witchdoctor bones were the inspiration for this design that today forms harbor walls and artificial reefs.

### CAT Scan

The computed axial tomography scan, or CAT scan, was developed at Tufts University in the UK by South African physicist Allan Cormack and Godfrey Hounsfield of EMI Laboratories. Their achievement

continued on page 20

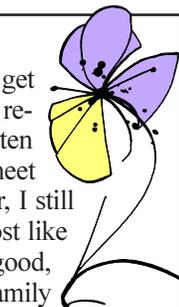
### A Note from Noleen...

How great it is that we are all able to once again get together and enjoy seeing those that we have learnt to regard as our friends. When we started these Braai's ten years ago, I felt so excited and thankful that we could meet and get to know one another. And all these years later, I still feel that way. Of course, now so many of us are almost like family to one another. We have together experienced good, bad and sad times. And the amazing thing about this family here in the States, is that we actually got to *choose* them ourselves!!!!

I feel so blessed having been given the privilege of getting to know so many of you. All of this would not have happened had I not come to the United States of America, had I not felt very sorry for myself and then had I not decided to change my ATTITUDE. What a wonderful life changing experience these past thirteen years have been for me. And I know for sure that the South Africans in my life have made all the difference to my adventure in America.

Thank you all for being such special people to me and thank you for making my life so much richer because you are part of it.

With love,



Noleen  
Organizer



**Freedom:**  
to ask for  
nothing,  
to expect  
nothing,  
to depend  
on nothing.

– Ayn Rand

### WHAT'S UP IN THIS ISSUE

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## a reminder

Next  
Tampa  
Braai  
SUNDAY  
October 30<sup>th</sup>

2005

10am till

about 4/5pm

Phillipe Park,  
Safety Harbor,  
Shelter #2

www.braainews.com

# Tampa Bay Braai

## April 2005

Photos by John Taylor

April 2005 marked the 10th anniversary of Braais in the Tampa Bay area.



Our next Braai takes place on October 30th, from 10am till... whenever! Come along and have some fun and games, and maybe even win a prize. See you there!



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 subscribers and advertisers.

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# Good Things Are Happening

## New Venue for New Year's Eve

Chris and Steph Van Rensburg have bought a new house... yes, that's right! No more parties in the back of Brake and Clutch... They now have a HOUSE, and a big one at that, with *plenty* of parking too.

Come on over and ring in the New Year with your fellow South Africans. Let's celebrate with the Van Rensburg's at their new home, 1808 Burke Street, Tampa, FL 33604. You can get directions at [www.mapquest.com](http://www.mapquest.com) or call Steph (813-870-9522).



Remember to bring a covered dish for the pot luck dinner and your own poison, whatever that may be.



*The Blignaut family (finally) got their green cards in August, 2005. Well done guys! Pictured above l-r: Salome, Danie, Daniel, Sanet and Magriet Blignaut*



## Sarasota Braai ... with a difference

*The folks down south decided to do things a little different this time 'round, so they had Spit Braai .*

*A comfortable group of people showed up at the home of Greg and Mauritza Beck, who graciously hosted the affair on September 26th. If you'd like to find out when the next Sarasota*

*Braai is, please call Colin or Zelda at (941) 921-9359 or (941) 922-8855 respectively, or email [rsabraai@yahoo.com](mailto:rsabraai@yahoo.com).*



## In the news...



## DODGING RITA

*Cary Schoeman left the Tampa Bay area about a year ago, and bought himself a lovely home right on the Gulf of Mexico just outside of Galveston, Texas.*

*When Hurricane Rita cast her eye on Cary's new abode, he was sitting in a truck in Louisiana, on FEMA's dime in the aftermath of Katrina. Rita proceeded to barrel on down towards the Texas coastline, when lo and behold, her attention was diverted for just a moment, and Cary's home was spared, helping him dodge the bullet. Well done, and good luck to you Cary! Sure you don't want to come back to Tampa Bay, though?*



## Sun. 30th October, '05

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 or Pieter if you can help out with some of the organizing of the games. (813) 917-9205.



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# Please Keep These Folk in Your Thoughts and Prayers...

With  
Deepest  
Sympathy



*Kay North, wife of Chris North and mother of Tracey North, passed away recently in Homosassa, Fla. after a long battle with cancer. We have you all in our thoughts and prayers.*

*Oscar Pistorius, (Brando's dad) recently had a stroke. Lots of love and support goes out to his wife Marietjie, and the whole family. Get well soon Oscar! Our thoughts and prayers are there with you for a speedy recovery.*

*Get Well  
Soon*



## Exchange Rates as at 10-12-05

0.15 Dollar (USD) = 6.53 ZA Rand

0.08 Pound Sterling (GBP) = 11.42 (ZA Rand)

Gold price: ZAR 3124.605 (\$US 478.50 ) per fine ounce

# 2005 Green Card Lottery (DV-2007)

## Registration is now open

Every year the US government issues 50,000 permanent Green Cards through the Diversity Immigrant Visa Program; the Green Card Lottery. Applicants are selected randomly by a computer generated drawing. If you are selected, you and your family will be authorized to live and work permanently in the United States. Registration for the 2005 Green Card Lottery is open until December 03, 2005.

Visit the US Citizenship and Immigration Services website at <http://uscis.gov/graphics/howdoi/divlott.htm>

## 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*

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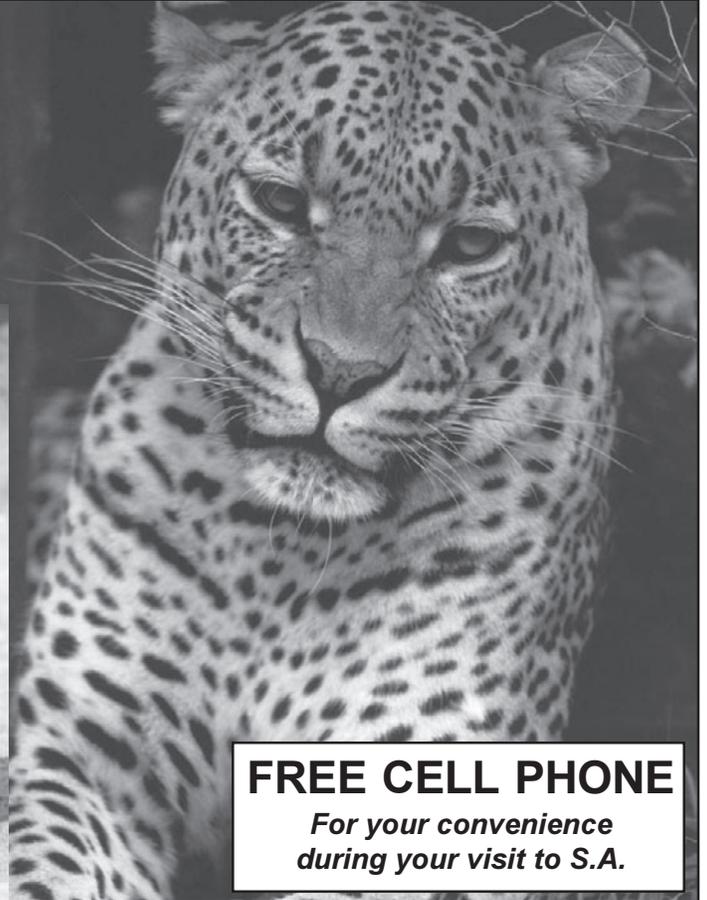
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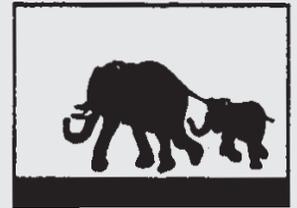
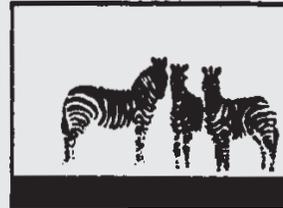


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# Attention World Travellers

## Important information about South African Dual Citizenship

Given recent developments around the issue of the Citizenship Amendment Act and in response to media enquiries on this matter, the Department of Home Affairs wishes to set out to the public a clear and comprehensive picture of the situation in this regard.

Government recently repealed section 9 of the South African Citizenship Act of 1995, which regulated the use of the citizenship or nationality of another country by a major South African who has dual citizenship. In essence, the act repealed the provision which allowed the Minister of Home Affairs to deprive a citizen of his or her citizenship for having used the citizenship of a foreign country.

Consequently, the previous requirement for exemptions or letters of permission from the Minister to make use of a foreign passport has now been terminated. The issue of deprivation of citizenship was inconsistent with the Constitutional right to citizenship. In terms of the South African Citizenship Amendment Act of 2004 which came into effect on 15 September 2004, it is now an offence for a major South African citizen to enter the Republic or depart making use of the passport of another country.

Furthermore, it is also now an offence for such a citizen, while in South Africa, to use his or her foreign citizenship or nationality to gain advantage or avoid a responsibility or duty. Essentially, the Amendment Act provides that a South African citizen, who has dual citizenship or nationality, can freely use his or her foreign passport outside South Africa.

However, they must use their South African passport to depart from or enter South Africa. The Department has received a number of enquiries from our ports of entry on whether or not South Africans who arrive at border posts with foreign passports may be refused to enter or depart from the Republic.

The Department is obliged to implement the Citizenship Amendment Act. However, they acknowledge that many affected South Africans may not yet be aware of the amendments to the Citizenship Act and the implications for themselves, and therefore have decided that affected South Africans departing or arriving through our ports of entry, attempting to use a foreign passport, will be issued with a warning giving them three months to obtain a South African passport. They will be allowed to depart or enter South Africa.

The South African Consulate advises all South Africans who have a dual citizenship and do not have South African passports to apply for their South African passports at their earliest opportunity. S.A. passports are distributed by the Department of Foreign Affairs on behalf of the Department of Home Affairs.

Should you have any questions in this regard, feel free to contact the South African Consulate, Mrs. Argie Garcia @ (212) 692 2403 or Mr. Johannes Tiba at (212) 692 2401.

***"Any intelligent fool can make things bigger, more complex, and more violent. It takes a touch of genius — and a lot of courage — to move in the opposite direction."***  
*Albert Einstein*

**Old age ain't no place for sissies**

*-Bette Davis-*

## Crossing the USA/CA border?

So apparently if you're crossing the border from Canada to our fair land at one of three crossings and don't actually happen to be of Canadian origin, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has stepped up the requirements for entry, which now includes a stipulation that those crossing not only carry with them RFID tags with their identification and biometric info, but that those tags be readable from 40 feet. (RFID tags are basically vehicle tracking devices.) Some whistleblowers are calling out the US-VISIT program and its apparent privacy invasion even despite government claims that after they've entered, foreign nationals can't (and wouldn't) be tracked. But as it is, we have no reason to believe that once you've crossed the border you need to carry this ID with you at all times—or that (so long as you have a passport or other ID) it's somehow illegal to just lock it in a Faraday cage and be done with it until you leave the country.

In the meantime, the UK Department for Transport just gave the go-ahead for a trial of new, RFID-enabled license plates aimed to make vehicles trackable in Britain. Unlike passive RFID which only transmits over short distances, the e-Plate licenses use active RFID technology to transmit vehicle identification numbers and other data to readers over 300 feet away. Not surprisingly, US officials will be monitoring the trial closely with an eye toward bringing mandatory RFID-tagged plates to the States. Active RFID is currently in limited usage on US roadways, where the Department of Homeland Security is issuing RFID tags to foreign freight and passenger vehicles as they enter the country. Privacy advocates cringe in horror at the thought of RFID license plates being used as backdoor surveillance tools, while proponents argue, predictably, that active RFID will help save the world from terrorism.

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# My First Airplane Experience

by Noleen Naude

I decided when I was about six or seven that what I wanted most of all in all the whole world was to experience flying in an airplane.

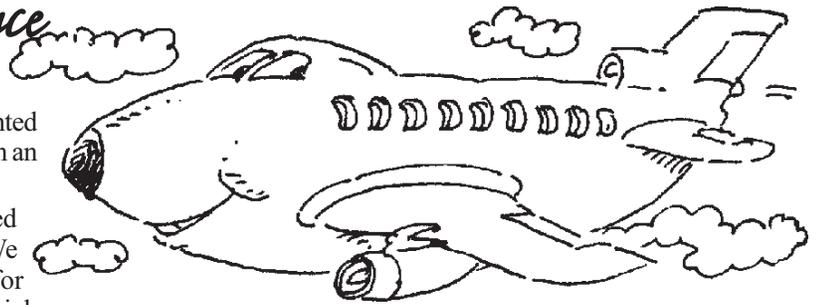
My family and I lived in a little village called Colindale located about five miles outside of East London in South Africa. We lived there till I was seven years old. This village was built for the soldiers that came back from the Second World War, which meant that my father qualified. They were small little houses but that was my home and I loved that little house.

Now Colindale was also where the airport was located. And I have to tell you that you would be most generous if you calling it an airport, but that was East London's Airport. It consisted of one very large hanger and a tiny little office for purchasing tickets.

I recall too, us children using the runway as a place to have bicycle races. There was usually only one plane that flew in on a Monday, Tuesday and Friday, which made the runway a pretty safe place to play on.

I remember riding my bicycle to the airport to go and watch the plane taking off on its journey to (in my mind) wonderful and exciting places. I would admire the ladies, who were all dressed up in their Sunday best, which of course meant high-heeled shoes usually topped off with gloves to match the handbag. It was while standing there watching all this excitement that I decided that I too wanted to experience the adventure of flying.

And so it was many years later at the ripe old age of sixteen,



after saving for a long, long time to get the twenty six Rand together for the ticket that I stood on the tarmac in front of a Dakota airplane at the East London Airport! I was on my way to visit my sister who lived in George. **I was going to fly in an airplane.**

I remember having to be at the airport by 7.30am (all dressed up, with high heeled shoes on!) in order for us to get a head start on the long flight ahead.

And would you believe it, I was the only passenger in the plane! The air hostess greeted me at the door with a handshake and a 'welcome aboard, you may sit anywhere you wish'. I buckled up, the propellers starting, first one and then the other, and then joy of all joys the plane began to move and this time, I was sitting **inside** the plane. We taxied to the very end of the runway and my exiting flying adventure begun.

During the first section of our flight the air hostess came to me and said that the pilot had invited me up to the cockpit to see all the instruments and to sit in the co-pilots seat, would that be something I would like to do? I thought I was going to explode



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and the rest of the world...**

with excitement. I was going to sit in the co-pilots seat! I thought I had died and gone to heaven.

The view was amazingly beautiful and I beheld the wonder of this remarkable earth. I saw the fields, I saw tiny little ants crawling on roads (could they really be cars), I saw the horizon; and then wonder of wonder, I was actually flying in the clouds. There could be no doubt that I was in heaven.

Our first stop was in Queenstown. We had been flying for approximately two hours which meant that it was about 10am and that meant it was tea time. So in Queenstown, after taxiing to a stop on the grass runway, we were all asked to disembark (the word deplane had not yet been discovered) the plane and gather in the hanger some yards away.

And would you believe it, in the hanger was a long table set with a white table cloth, tea cups, teapot, sugar bowl, milk jug, cookies, cakes and small sandwiches. The pilot, co-pilot, airhostess and all the new passengers who would be joining us on the plane were all invited to sit down around the table for tea. We all introduced ourselves, found out what the reason for everyone's trip was, before boarding the plane on our second phase of the journey.

It was on this phase of the trip that we flew along the coast of the most southern part of Africa. The day could not have been more beautiful. The sea was so blue, different shades of blue and then again perhaps it was turquoise blue and in some areas almost green. The sand dunes were white and the waves, oh the beautiful waves, crashing down on the rocks and sand. And way, way out to sea a ship sailing to who knew where. And once again I knew without any doubt in my mind that I was experiencing paradise.

In Port Elizabeth, we landed on a runway that had been paved, no grass runway here, and this airport had an actual building with a shop and toilets! You were on your own for lunch and once everyone had been gathered together that was flying on to (for me) the last leg of the journey we were off again flying in that beautiful sky.

We arrived in George, close to 3pm in the afternoon which meant that the adventure of my trip to visit my sister had taken almost 7 hours. Those seven hours have lived in my memory so vividly all these years and the wonder is that I am able to enjoy that remarkably amazing experience, any time I choose.

See you at the Braai...

Lots of love,

*Noleen  
Organizer*

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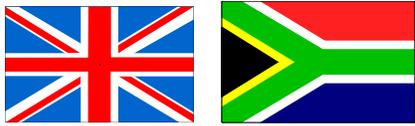
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## Gatiep's Brother in Court

The magistrate was scolding the accused: 'This is the seventh time in three years that you are appearing in front of me. What do you have to say for yourself?

To which the accused replied, "Your honour, jy kan mos nie vir my blame as jy nie a promotion kan kry nie!"

## Ek Se Broer...

A rather drunk Gatiep, was walking past a river when he noticed a priest baptizing some of the people. So Gatiep decided it was time for himself to get baptised. Now the priest baptizes the people by dunking their heads into the water, and then asks them, "Have you seen Jesus?" to which the people respond "Yes, I've seen Jesus".

So when it was Gatiepies turn, the priest dunked his head into the water and pulled him out and asked him. "Have you seen Jesus?" To which he replied, "No," so the priest put his head back into the water for a few more seconds and again asked "Have you seen Jesus?"

Again, Gatiepie replied "No, old man. Ek het hom nooit nie gesien nie."

Angrily, the priest dunked his head again, but for a much longer time and when he pulled Gatiep's head out he asked him yet again "Have you seen Jesus?"

Gatiep replied, "Ek se my broer, are you sure he fell into this river?"

## Bar Nuns? *Sistahs check those cute bar stools!*



Three old ladies named Gertrude, Maude and Tilley were sitting on a park bench having a quiet conversation when "Ed the Flasher" approached from across the park. The flasher came up to the ladies, stood right in front of them opened his trench coat.

Gertrude immediately had a stroke. Then Maude also had a stroke, but Tilley, being older and feebler, couldn't reach that far.

*Doin' the Email Rounds...*

## TO MY FAVOURITE FRIENDS

If you receive this message, it means you are one of my favourite friends. If you send it back it means I am yours too.

If you don't I will send your name to my Taliban friend to sort you out.

His name is Onsalmasien Hoekakjydan.

## Van Die Ou Land

I phoned a colleague in Cape Town and wanted to leave a message. "Please ask him to phone me in Polokwane," I said.

"Where?" his secretary asked sounding as if she had bitten into a lemon, "Polokwane, where's that?"

"Between Mokopane and Makhado in Limpopo," I said.

"Where is that?" she asked patiently.

I could tell, she thought she had a joker on the line.

"Well," I explained, "you drive from Tshwane past Bela-Bela and Modimolle through the tollgate.

Continue past Mokopane but watch your speed as speed traps make lots of money from those travelling too fast.

Polokwane is just after Mokopane but if you reach Makahado you have gone too far."

I was not sure how we'd ended up on the road route when all I wanted was a telephone call.

"Just hold it right there sir," she interrupted. "Where is Makhado?"

"Between Polokwane and Musina," I said trying to be helpful.

"Excuse me, sir, but where is Musina?"

"Musina is between Makhado and Harare."

"Do you live in Harare?" she asked as if she'd suddenly seen the light.

"No," I said, "I am trying to explain where Polokwane is."

"In Zimbabwe?" she asked hopefully.

"No, in Limpopo," I corrected her. She gave a helpless sigh and said:

"Please can we start again?"

I thought at this stage she might be thinking she was live on air with Leon Schuster and she became a bit wary.

"Where is Tshwane?" "That's easy," I said ... "between Bela-Bela and Egoli."

No sir, I mean the town."

"So do I," said I, figuring she was now into soapies

while I was still on the road so to speak.

"Egoli is on the other side of Tshwane when coming from the direction of Bela-Bela," I said.

"Excuse me, have you perhaps had too much to drink?"

"No," I said, "I am not drunk. They changed the name."

"Do you mean someone has changed your name?"

"Not my name, the town's name." "What town's name?" "Pietersburg."

"You live in Pietersburg!" she cried with delight.

I could detect the dawn of understanding.

"No," I said, "I live in Polokwane, formerly known as Pietersburg."

"No s\*\*t?" she blurted.

"No s\*\*t!" I confirmed.

"So you're phoning from Polokwane previously know as Pietersburg?"

"Exactly." "Now what were all the other names you mentioned?"

I realized the poor lass needed a lesson in the geography of our country pretty quickly so I explained: "Egoli is Johannesburg. Tshwane is Pretoria. If you travel north you pass Bela-Bela, formerly Warmbaths, after that Modimolle that was Nylstroom and Potgietersrust that is Mokopane now. After Mokopane you get Polokwane that was Pietersburg then Louis Trichardt that became Makhado. After you have passed Makhado you get Musina that was originally Messina."

"And Musina is by the Limpopo!" she exclaimed triumphantly.

"Yes," I said, "but the Limpopo I was speaking of is the province."

"What do you call the river then?"

"Limpopo," I said.

"Blooming hell!"



## Ooops



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### [Some] Men Never Learn

A husband and wife were getting ready for bed, and the wife was standing in front of a full-length mirror taking a long hard look at herself.

"You know, dear," she said, "I look in the mirror, and I see an old woman. My face is all wrinkled, my boobs are barely above my waist, and my butt is hanging out a mile. I've got fat legs, and my arms are all flabby." She turns to her husband and says, "Tell me something positive to make me feel better about myself."

He studied hard for a moment thinking about it and then said in a soft, thoughtful voice, "Well, there's nothing wrong with your eyesight."

Services for the husband will be held Saturday morning at 10:30 at St. Anselm's Memorial Chapel.

### THE LONELY BILTONG

*At a conference "English in Africa" held in Grahamstown in September 1997, this poem was read out to thunderous applause.*

*The author is unknown. It truly celebrates being a South African.*

The sun shone out of the heavens,  
The birds they were all still,  
And only the song of the koppies  
And the donga's bark so shrill  
Broke the silence and heat of the noonday;  
While under the summer sun  
Two little mosbolletjies wandered  
And laughed in childish fun.  
Still were the tall maasbankers  
And even the wild konfyt  
Slept in the shade of the voorslags  
Although the hour was late.  
Herds of beautiful voetsaks  
Ate the succulent short green kloof;  
While a couple of drunken disselbooms  
Slept on the farmhouse roof.  
Krantzes and veldskoens in hundreds  
Scented the summer air;  
The spruits were laden with berries,  
Truly the world looked fair.  
Over the gravelled naartjies,  
A lonely biltong ran.  
I gazed at it all in wonder,  
And murmured "Ag, sis tog man!"

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**Leon Versfeld, Esq.**

*Admitted:* 1999, Bar of Advocates, South Africa; 2003, Missouri, U.S. District Court, Western District of Missouri and U.S. District Court, District of Kansas

*Law School:* University of Pretoria, LL.B., 1998; University of Pretoria, B.L.C., 1996

*College:* Transvaal Lawyer's Association Practical Training School, 1999

*Member:* American Bar Association; American Immigration Lawyers Association; The Association of Trial Lawyers of America; Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association (Member, Inns of Court, 2004-2005); Member of 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Greater Kansas City Bar Leadership Academy 2005-2006; Missouri Association of Trial Attorneys; The Missouri Bar.

*Biography:* Faculty Member of the University of Phoenix, 2005 - present; Listed in 2005-2006 Edition of Marquis Who's Who in American Law; Listed on the Missouri Bar's Honor Roll of MSPD Volunteers; President of L & H Professional Business Services, LLC, 2004 - present; Chairman of Kansas City Rugby Football Club's Foreign Player Committee, 2002 - present; Associate with The Wirken Law Group, P.C., 2000 - present; Law Clerk: Hon. Deputy Judge President for the Transvaal Provincial High Court, P.J. van der Walt DJP, 1998-1999; Hon. Acting Judge, N.G. Maritz SC.

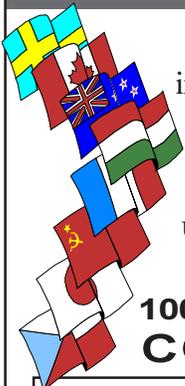


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# Copyright and Trademark Challenges in the New SA

Mail and Guardian Online

## Telkom lets Hellkom live another day

Elvira van Noort and I-Net Bridge, JHB, South Africa  
06 September 2005

The trade union Solidarity recently welcomed Telkom's decision not to bring a R5-million claim against Gregg Stirton's website *Hellkom.co.za*. The website claims that Telkom's bandwidth charges are crippling the South African economy. It also provides links to surveys revealing that the incumbent is the most expensive fixed-line licensee in the world. "I am slightly relieved," Stirton told the *Mail & Guardian Online*. "One would wonder what [would have happened] if the case went ahead. I wasn't worried about it at all; it did not keep me awake at night." Stirton wasn't surprised Telkom decided not to pursue the claim. "I think they decided to not go through with it since the site hasn't done any major damage; it is not worth all the bad publicity [for Telkom]," he said. Telkom's turnabout came after the Constitutional Court's recent finding in a similar case that the T-shirt manufacturer Laugh It Off was entitled to use parody in order to criticise South African Breweries, Solidarity noted in a statement. According to the union, the site was one of the first opinion-shapers to start criticising Telkom in 2004, when the telecommunications group wanted to lay off 4 000 workers in spite of having made a R4,5-billion profit and management having received bonuses of R48-million. The union said it had discouraged Telkom from taking action against *Hellkom.co.za*, recommending that the listed company should rather use criticism on the satirist website to improve its tariffs and services. "A win-win situation would have been for the public to be allowed to register their frustrations on the *Hellkom* website and for Telkom, in turn, actively to attend to these problems in order to improve client service," Solidarity deputy secretary Dirk Herman said. Stirton told the *M&G Online* he has other campaigns planned to inform people in poor communities that the government is partly to blame for Telkom's high prices. "I have a couple of campaigns in the pipeline. In the next two months, we [together with the Freedom of Expression Institute] will spread flyers around in poor communities in Johannesburg and Cape Town. "We want to explain that the government is one of the reasons behind the high prices." Stirton added: "The poor people are forced to use prepaid cells [cellphones], which are expensive. It should be the other way around: the poor people should get the cheap communication." The Democratic Alliance's Dene Smuts also welcomed Telkom's decision to abandon legal action against Stirton's site, especially in the light of the Constitutional Court judgement on the Laugh It Off issue. Smuts added: "I think it was a miscalculation [for Telkom] to have even tried to have the site closed down." Herman believes the appointment of Papi Molotsane as the new Telkom CEO, replacing Sizwe Nxasana, has "brought in a clean-sweeping new broom." "The trade union would like an early meeting with Molotsane to discuss with him the findings of Solidarity's 2004 commission of inquiry. These findings included a recommendation that tele-density in South Africa should be increased and that the company should follow a strategy of active growth," he continued. South Africa's tele-density has been stagnating at about 10% or about 4,5-million telephone lines. The government estimates that in rural areas the figure drops to one telephone line per 100 households.

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## Freedom of Speech is Challenged in the New SA

In April 2003, The Cape of Good Hope Provincial Division of the High Court was asked to grant an order restraining Laugh It Off Promotions from selling a T-shirt bearing the mark BLACK LABOUR, WHITE GUILT, AFRICA'S LUSTY LIVELY EXPLOITATION SINCE 1652, as shown above. This was one of many T-shirts made and sold by Laugh It Off bearing disparaging representations of well-known trade marks. The owner of Laugh It Off claimed that his intention in selling the T-shirts was to undermine the value and impact of brands and to use them to make political and other statements. However, most of the T-shirts had no political message and were simply based on sexual innuendo of one sort or another. The BLACK LABOUR T-shirt was one of the few that had a political message.

Laugh it Off won the case, but you may have to search high and low for one of these Tees. They are currently out of production! Visit [www.laughitoff.co.za](http://www.laughitoff.co.za)

## A European Pilgrimage

Some of you will remember Tracey North, famous for those beautiful Zulu Baskets that she imported and sold at the Oldsmar Flea Market. After recently losing her beloved mother to cancer, (see page 5) Tracey, left the USA together with her grandmother and an uncle bound for England. After receiving a good physical checkup over there, (she is still a British subject), Tracey decided to go on a Pilgrimage from LePuy France walking all the way into Santiago, Spain. There are many different routes, but the one she has chosen is approximately 1000 miles long and the folk travel an average of 20 miles a day. This particular route is called Camino DeSantiago, The Way of St. James.



You can read up more about these types of pilgrimages at [www.americanpilgrims.com](http://www.americanpilgrims.com) and also [www.bellefrance.co.uk/holidays/compostella1.html](http://www.bellefrance.co.uk/holidays/compostella1.html)

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# WATCH TV YOUR WAY

by Philip Naudé — phil@naude.us

No one can doubt the huge impact computers have had on our lives. They're in our cars, phones, planes, radios; the list goes on and on. Our lives would be quite different without them. Now computers have come to inhabit your TV, or at least assist in how you watch TV. What I'm talking about is Digital Video Recording, also known as Personal Video Recording (PVR). Basically, a video capture card records the incoming video signal from a video source (like your cable TV) and stores it on a hard drive for later viewing.

Sony makes a very popular commercially available PVR called Tivo ([www.tivo.com](http://www.tivo.com)). Most cable and satellite companies now offer a PVR as part of their TV service. There is no doubt that these PVRs are popular. However, they have one huge drawback that prevents the average person from purchasing or renting one; monthly programming fees. You have to pay a monthly fee for the PVR to download the latest TV listings so it knows when to record your favorite shows. Tivo does offer a version that has no monthly programming fee called Tivo Basic. It offers only 3 days of programming and will only record manually programmed times and dates.

The home computer based PVR; also called a Home Theater Personal Computer (HTPC) does not have this drawback. Some of the most popular PVR software packages include playback of music and MPEG-4 (compressed) video files. Two of the best software packages available are Sage TV ([www.sagetv.com](http://www.sagetv.com)) and Beyond TV ([www.snapstream.com](http://www.snapstream.com)). I have tested both and I found Sage TV to be superior in performance, stability, features and overall value. You also have Microsoft's version of a PVR, the Media Center Edition, which is an expensive add-on to your existing Windows XP operating system. Unfortunately, it records in a proprietary format which cannot be edited by software like VideoRedo.

A huge advantage that PC based PVRs have is that you can add multiple capture cards to allow recording of up to 6 TV shows at once. Once you have recorded your shows, you can then edit out the commercials using a MPEG-2 editor like VideoRedo ([www.videoredo.com](http://www.videoredo.com)). Trust me, this one is the best, it's fast, quick, easy, and accurate. It's by far the best of any MPEG-2 editors I've tried.

Let's talk hardware. There are many companies offering PVR services and hardware, I have sorted through and tested most of them in a quest to find the best. One outshines the rest because of its high picture quality and low CPU usage. Hauppauge, (pronounced high-pah) makes the industry standard MPEG-2 on-board encoding video capture cards ([www.hauppauge.com](http://www.hauppauge.com)). All other video capture cards are measured by the Win-TV performance benchmark. Even the

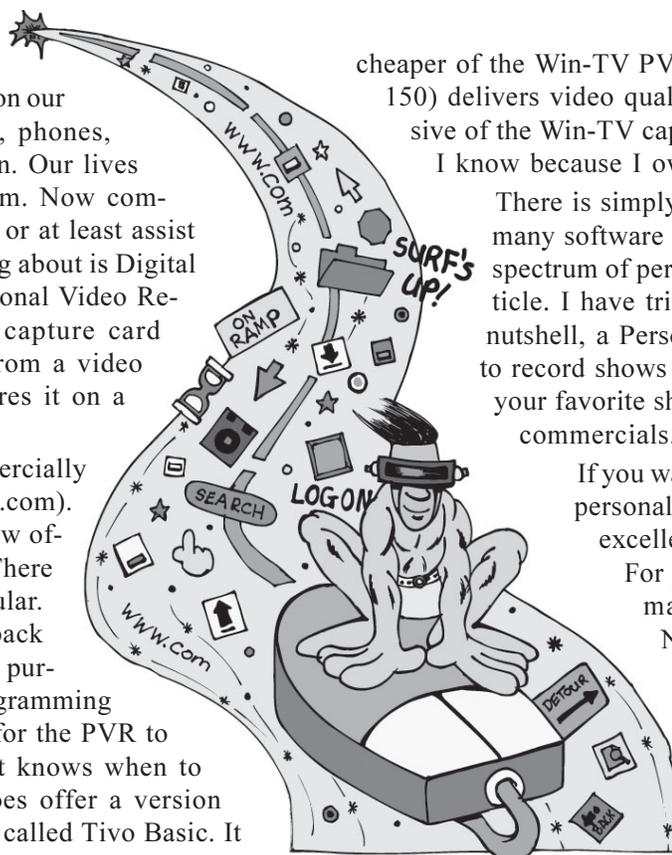
cheaper of the Win-TV PVR capture cards (Win-TV PVR 150) delivers video quality as good as the most expensive of the Win-TV capture cards (Win-TV PVR 350). I know because I own both.

There is simply too much information and too many software applications to cover the whole spectrum of personal video recording in one article. I have tried to cover the essentials. In a nutshell, a Personal Video Reorder allows you to record shows to watch at your leisure, watch your favorite shows when you want, minus the commercials.

If you want to explore building your own personal video recorder, there is a lot of excellent information available online.

For general interest and more information visit Home Theater PC News ([www.htpcnews.com](http://www.htpcnews.com)).

If you're ready to build your own PVR, visit the one stop HTPC store ([www.pcalchemy.com](http://www.pcalchemy.com)). Or search Google for PVR or HTPC.



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# Lunch with The Queen— What an Experience!!

by Boo Cumming

My first exciting event was to attend the unveiling of the Monument for Women of World War II. It was a very moving and exciting experience, and I remembered many of my friends who had given their lives. Unfortunately, I had to be in a wheelchair, and it was the day after we had the terrible bombings in London. My grandson, Dylan, was in the Kings X Tube but got out and was very traumatized. However, he was there to meet me off my train.

It was very uncanny, as the train was completely empty, and on a Saturday it's usually packed! There was not much transport in London, so Dylan shoved me across Chairing X Bridge, through Trafalgar Square and along Whitehall, just past St. James Palace where the ceremony took place.

The next day was even more exciting: lunch at Buckingham Palace, given by The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Philip. After an hour, we were told to take our seats. Everyone at my table was very highly decorated: two or three rows of medals. I had only my "F.A.N.Y." badge and my husband's Royal Air Force Wings!

The Queen's Table was right next to me, so I saw everything. It was thrilling. There were exotic flowers in very tall glasses on all the hundreds of tables. The chandeliers were extensive and beautiful.

There was an empty seat next to me. The glasses were beautiful, and we had champagne and wine. After everyone was seated, the Royal Family entered and no more photos could be taken. To my utter amazement and joy, H.R.H. The Duke of Kent sat down beside me! He was just delightful and charming, and so easy to talk to.

By the way, the lady on his other side was speechless ever since he arrived at our table! So I more or less had him all to myself, and the others were a bit deep in thought.

As I thought we would, we had salmon. I guess most of the people were 80 or 90 and they had to think about their "teeth!" There were no steaks! There were gooseberries out of the garden, shortbread and salad of course. The Duke did not finish his. I nearly said, "Naughty, naughty," but thought I should not be so familiar, even if consuming salad is very important to me (and should be to everyone else, too)! However, I still and always maintain "Each to his own—live and let live!" Amen.

The Queen made a wonderful speech thanking us all for our war efforts. Actually, I was given two badges (not medals). If you would like to learn more about the F.A.N.Y.'s, please visit the website at [www.fany.org.uk](http://www.fany.org.uk).

When the Royal Family left, we could do as we liked. So we stayed to see the old planes fly over and all the thousands of fireworks being shot off from the Palace roof. Eventually, the Royal Family came out on the balcony. It was a wonderful sight. Thousands and thousands of people were there to cheer them. It was terrific! I did not get the chance to tell H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh that we spend the night together in June 1941. I'd better explain that! Anyway, there was no "hanky panky" in those days! (Too bad?!) There were four of us "gals," and four guys came off their ship to join us for the evening. We danced nearly all night! The air raids were very bad that night, and it was impossible to get back to our quarters. So we stayed. The men went

back to their ship in the early hours of the morning, I think. Of course, he was just Prince Philip then.

I had two letters from The Queen. The first one was thanking me profusely for the photos I'd sent her which evoked happy memories. In her second letter, she thanked me again for enclosing a photo of The Duke of Kent's late father, with a message from The Duke to say he much enjoyed meeting me and was delighted to get a photo of his father. His father was killed in action in 1942 when The Duke was only 6 years old.

So, you see from those two days I had up in London Town, I have many happy memories. I was lucky enough to get some photos.

I was there, thanks to the F.A.N.Y.'s.

*"Ardius Invictus" — "I'll cope."*

*I Did—I Do—and I Will.*

*Boo Cumming, 17762, F.A.N.Y.*



## A Few Guide Lines

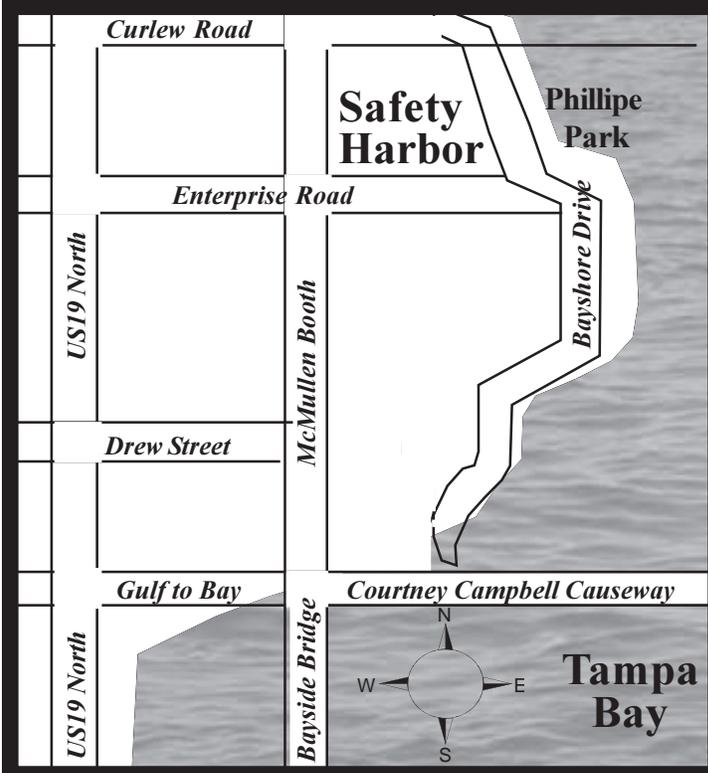
For those of you who haven't been to Philippe Park, here is a map for directions on how to get there. You can also visit our website at [www.braainews.com](http://www.braainews.com) where you will find a link to Mapquest. They will have more comprehensive directions.

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 \$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.

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## South African Inventions *from page 1*

secured them the 1979 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.

Allan Cormack provided the mathematical technique for the CAT scan, in which an X-ray source and electronic detectors are rotated about the body and the resulting data is analysed by a computer to produce a sharp map of the tissues within a cross-section of the body.

*Source: Britannica.com*

## Pratley's Putty

Pratley's famous glue is the only South African invention that has been to the moon. In 1969 the putty was used to hold bits of the Apollo XI mission's Eagle landing craft together.

Krugersdorp engineer George Pratley invented his famous sticky stuff in the 1960s while looking for a glue that would hold components in an electrical box.

Pratley died in 1983 and today the company is run by his son, Kim. Hundreds of tons of Pratley putty have been exported all over the world, and the company has diversified into other products.

## Kreepy Krauly

The swimming pool vacuum cleaner was invented by Ferdinand Chauvier, a hydraulics engineer who went to South Africa from the Belgian Congo in 1951.

Chauvier quickly realised that there was a huge market for taking the hassle out of cleaning swimming pools, and went about inventing a machine that would do the job automatically, efficiently powered by the ordinary operation of the pool's filter.

But it wasn't until 1974 that the first Kreepy Krauly was born in Chauvier's Springs home.

He died in 1985, but Kreepy Kraulys continue to keep thousands of pools clean in South Africa and the world over.

## Oil From Coal

Sasol is the world's first and largest oil-from-coal refinery. Situated in Sasolburg it provides 40% of the country's fuel. The history of Sasol began in 1927 when a White Paper was tabled in Parliament to investigate the establishment of a South African oil-from-coal industry.

It was realised then that, because South Africa did not have crude oil reserves, the country's balance of payments had to be protected against increasing crude oil imports. After many years of research and international negotiations, the South African Coal Oil and Gas Corporation was formed in 1950.

Major milestones include the first automotive fuel (1955), the construction of the National Petroleum Refiners of South Africa (1967) and the establishment in 1990 of its first international marketing company, Sasol Chemicals Europe.

Sasol has developed world-leading technology for the conversion of low-grade coal into value-added synfuels and chemicals.

## Heart transplant

The world's first heart transplant was performed by Dr Chris Barnard in Cape Town on 3 December 1967.

Barnard was born in the town of Beaufort West in 1922. The seeds of his future career were sown when one of his patients delivered a baby boy with a heart defect which could not be remedied. The baby died, causing him to think deeply about the need for remedial surgery and the replacement of heart valves.

A turning point came when Barnard was offered a chance to work in Minneapolis in the US under Professor Wagensteen, a great teacher of experimental surgery. The heart-lung machine was per-

fected, and this turned out to be the gateway to cardiac surgery.

The idea of transplanting occurred to Barnard. If it was possible with kidneys, why not the heart? After more years of study in the US, he returned to South Africa with a parting gift from Prof Wagensteen – a heart-lung machine.

Groote Schuur hospital was waiting his return in 1958 to start the first heart unit to perform a cardiac bypass operation.

After performing the first successful kidney transplant on Edith Black, in October 1967 Barnard informed Professor Val Schrire, who had built up the cardiac clinic: "Everything is ready for a heart transplant. We have the team and we know how to do it."

In November 1967, Schrire called Barnard and told him that there was a suitable patient for a heart transplant. Louis Washkansky was suffering from heart failure and was prepared to take the chance. The rest is history.

Barnard passed away in Cyprus, Greece on 2 September 2001 from an acute asthma attack.

*Source: Groote Schuur hospital*

## Speed Gun

The South African-made speed gun, developed by Somerset West inventor Henri Johnson, was formally launched at The Oval in England during the 1999 Cricket World Cup.

In 1992 Johnson invented the Speedball which was manufactured by South African firm Electronic Development House. The device accurately measures the speed and angles of speeding objects such as cricket and tennis balls.

Generally referred to as a "speed gun", Johnson's gizmo is sold in cricketing countries and in the US and Europe.

## APS therapy

Gervan Lubbe was flicking through an American medical journal one day when he stumbled across an article about pain relief. After reading all he could on the topic, he wondered whether it would be possible to electronically stimulate the body's natural nerve impulses to relieve pain.

Lubbe, had always had a keen interest in medicine, but never thought he was clever enough to be a doctor. So in his spare time he studied human anatomy and physiology until he thought he knew enough about the causes of arthritic pain. Then he set out inventing a device that would alleviate the problem.

After building the first prototypes and obtaining approval from the health department and the Food and Drug Administration in the United States, Lubbe formed the company Tech Pulse in 1993 to produce, market and distribute the Action Potential Stimulation device.

Today, Lubbe's devices are sold in 41 countries, including the US, Europe and the Middle East. In South Africa alone, over 40 000 people use the little machines to relieve pain.

## Looking for work:

Rose Bester, has just arrived in the States, and is a qualified secretary who worked for the Managing Director of Nampak, SA (the largest packaging company in SA) for 17 years. She also worked for the Plant Manager of Ford Motor Co. of SA for 14 years. Included in her position at Nampak was catering for Executive functions. She then had her own Industrial & Commercial Cleaning company for 10 years with a staff of 10 who cleaned 2 factories for Nampak. This lady has excellent computer skills, is proficient in English, and is willing to do any work here in the USA.

Please contact either Rose or her daughter Lynn, at home (813) 584-0281 or via cell at (813) 679-2037.

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# We Need to Breathe "LIFE" Back into Immigration Law

When it comes to immigration matters, don't assume anything. Just because some of your family members are Citizens or otherwise legally present in the United States, do not suppose that you are too! Many times this fatal presumption is made, and then people are dumbfounded discovering that they are in fact out of legal status, faced with deportation or a bar to reentry after travel abroad.

Many immigrant families who come to the United States are honest and hardworking people seeking to realize the "American Dream". These aspirations are stifled and often completely obliterated by the harsh, unpractical and far-reaching immigration laws.

According to the United States Census Bureau, 11.8% of the total population for Lee County, Florida is foreign born. *United States Census Bureau, 2004 American Community Survey for Lee County, Florida*. I am certain that each and every one of you who are reading this article can trace back your family line to an immigrant or two! Immigration to the United States whether legal or illegal is real and needs to be addressed.

On December 21, 2000 President Clinton signed into law the Legal Immigration Family Unity Act, (the "LIFE" Act). Among the provisions of the Act, a person who qualifies for permanent residency, for example through a petition by a relative, but who is ineligible to adjust status in the United States because of an immigration violation, can pay a \$1,000 penalty to continue processing in the United States. In order to be eligible, however, a person has to be the beneficiary of an immigrant petition, have a visa number immediately available at the time the petition was filed, and have filed the petition on or before April 30, 2001.

What about all the thousands of people who do not satisfy the eligibility criteria of the Act? The only persons who would have a visa number immediately available to them at the time the petition was filed are "immediate relatives". Immediate relatives are minor children, spouses, and parents of a United States citizen, except with respect to parents the US Citizen must be over 21 years of age. What about adult sons and daughters, or siblings of US Citizens and those of lawful permanent residents? Should these people not count as

immediate family members? Further, does it not fly in the face of common sense and morality that there is no provision for US Citizens who are minors to petition for permanent residency of their parents! Then you have the cut-off date, which leads one to ask what happens to the people who file their petitions after this date.

The consequences of the restrictions placed on the use of this amnesty legislation are devastating. Families who no longer have any relatives in their country of origin find themselves being forced to return to a country which they no longer call home. Often times these family members may be minor children who are not "immediate relatives", or adult children who are mentally handicapped, not capable of surviving on their own; to illustrate but a few. These ramifications can hardly be excused as an inevitable outgrowth of immigration law and policy. The name of the act speaks for itself: It is called the Legal Immigration Family Unity Act. It needs to encompass all immediate relatives, minor or adult, parent or sibling. And, more importantly the Act needs to become a permanent part of immigration law, not with an arbitrary cut-off date.

These periodic waves of "quick fix" provisions are not the answer. This country's very foundation was built by the concepts of family unity and family values. How then can our laws go contra to this very basic premise? We need to breathe "LIFE" back into the laws of immigration, providing family unity to all, not just those who happen to meet the rigid criteria of piece-meal legislation. Furthermore, the inequities of current immigration laws ironically have a direct impact on US Citizens, wrenched from their loved ones by arcane and unrealistic legislation. We need to remember the declarations made in the very documents that carved out this nation's values. Let us not forget how it all began. The Declaration of Independence states that "all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness". Congress needs to be reminded of this when its members vote upon the passage of legislation that affect the very people the founding fathers sought to protect.

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*8 C.F.R. §§ 1.1(f), 292.1, 1001.1(f), and 1292.1 allow an attorney admitted in any state or territory to practice before the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), including but not limited to the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services of DHS, in United States immigration matters.*





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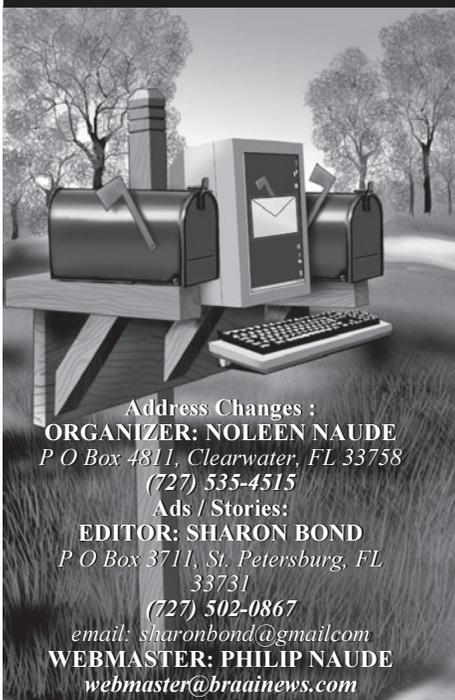
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