

THE BIG ISSUE

N\$ 7,85

NAMIBIA

April 2004 Issue 4 Vol 3

N\$ 3,85 of the cover
price goes to the vendor

The bootleg battle
the impact of piracy
in Namibia

Soweto market:
One stop shopping

Housing for the future
sustainable shelter



The Hilarious Hypnotist:
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drops his guard!

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THE BIG ISSUE NAMIBIA

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THE CONCEPT

THE BIG ISSUE is sold by socially excluded people who buy the magazine for NS4 and sell it to the public for NS7.85. All vendors receive training, sign a code of conduct and can be identified by THE BIG ISSUE ID badges. While THE BIG ISSUE is a social initiative project, it is run on business principles. THE BIG ISSUE is funded through advertising and sponsorship. Profits go back into helping vendors. Projects have been developed to train, teach, empower and equip vendors to find permanent employment and accommodation.

THE BIG ISSUE

- Campaigns on behalf of the homeless;
- Highlights the social issues of the day;
- Gives vendors the opportunity to make an income;
- Increases the opportunity for vendors to take control of their lives; and
- Allows vendors to voice their views.

THE BIG ISSUE cannot reply to any correspondence unless it is accompanied by a SASE. We are not responsible for unsolicited articles, photos or artwork received. Articles may not represent THE BIG ISSUE philosophy.

IMPORTANT: If you are approached by anyone requesting donations for THE BIG ISSUE, please refuse. We do not collect cash from the streets, we only sell the magazine. If you have any complaints about vendors' behaviour, call our Vendor Support Coordinator on (061) 242 216.

A member of the International Network of Streetpapers (INSP)



April 2004

editor's letter



I am often inspired by projects set up through the interest and determination of a concerned individual for the benefit of his or her community. Every month I come into contact with a number of these initiatives and it is encouraging to see, as they are often indicative of much-needed development.

However, what really concerns me is how so many of these projects are almost entirely donor funded, in fact, I feel that the country is largely "donor funded" and this is not sustainable. What will happen when the donors move on to another project, another country? Just last month we wrote about the sad demise of Women's Solidarity, because funding had dried up.

We, too, as the *Big Issue Namibia*, are still re-

cipients of donor funding. We would never have been able to get going and survive this long without this support because we are not a commercial, profit-driven publication, but a social initiative. We have, however, since set up a publications unit, called the Big Squeeze to bring funds into the project and reduce our dependence on donors.

This is our initiative to become self-sufficient in future, and any profits will be put back into our project, for the upliftment of our vendors.

For so many other funded projects - be they NGO or Government - it is hoped that similar sustainability options are being investigated. An independent future should be the ultimate goal of every donor-supported project.

- Sarah Taylor

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Corporate social responsibility towards the nation
59000199 (Namaf)

... from around the world



The Big Issue Namibia is a member of the International Network of Street Papers (INSP), a collection of publications which exist to help homeless people help themselves. Stories in this section appear in other street newspapers and worldwide media.

Call for free education

United Nation's Children's Fund (Unicef) Goodwill Ambassador Harry Belafonte called on all developing countries to follow Kenya's example and permanently abolish primary school fees.

Since the first week of tuition-free school in Kenya in January 2003, more than 1.3 children have entered school for the first time, pushing national enrolment from 5.9 million to 7.2 million.

"These children and their parents know that getting an education is not only their right, but a passport to a better future – for the children and for the country," Belafonte said recently. "Kenya's decision to abolish school fees is a shining example of just what can be achieved in the developing world by sheer political will."

Before the passage of Kenya's Free Primary Education Policy, students had to pay school fees to attend primary school. For many children, particularly those orphaned by HIV/AIDS and girls, those fees made access to education an impossibility. When money is scarce, families are more likely to send boys to school than girls; across Africa more than half of the 45 million children currently not enrolled in primary school are girls. – *Unicef*

New weapon in obesity war

For many [British] children, it's the bane of their schooling. Vegetables are often over boiled, cold and soggy. But if the school dinner medley of vegetables is hard enough to stomach, pupils in several northern cities now have to contend with being confronted by a giant carrot outside the school gates. Primary schools in Stoke-on-Trent and Leeds have recently been visited by a giant carrot in a campaign organised by the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) aimed at reducing obesity and promoting vegetarianism.

The organisation's vegetable mascot, Chris P Carrot, handed out information and vegetarian starter packs to pupils and their parents at Headingley Primary School in Leeds and Grove Junior School in Stoke-on-Trent. The schools are in two of the five cities identified as Britain's "fattest" by Men's Health magazine. With clinical obesity affecting one in three British children, the organisers argue that a meat and dairy-free is the only way of effectively tackling the problem. – *The Big Issue in the North*

Bleak future for asylum-seekers

Amnesty International has slammed "the shockingly poor quality" of the [British] Government's initial decision-making on asylum claims after their research suggests that the Home Office are getting one in five wrong.

The human rights group has accused the Home Office of a "staggering" lack of knowledge concerning civil rights abuses in some of the countries that immigration officials are sending asylum-seekers back to.

Leader of the North West Green Party, Professor John Whitelegg, added: "Local people often face errors in their housing benefit claim or their council tax bill, which can be annoying. "But our local asylum-seekers could face torture or death because of administrative sloppiness."

"These mistakes are very convenient for the Government, which has given itself stiff targets for reducing the number of successful claims."

– *The Big Issue in the North.*

issues



Benefiting and giving back

Five Namibian artists spent a month in Marseilles, France, last year, through bursaries from the Franco Namibian Cultural Centre (FNCC) and the French Embassy. They are, pictured from left to right, Ismael Wallo Tjijenda (teacher in printmaking at the Juma Mufungejo Art Centre - JMAC), Nicky Marais (professional artist and art teacher), and University of Namibia (Unam) students Inatu Indongo and John Nampala (who has also been a *Big Issue* vendor and has recently started teaching ceramics at JMAC). Maria Caley, also from Unam, was not present for the picture. Upon their return, the artists donated some of their works for an auction, which raised N\$38 000 for the HIV/AIDS support organisation, Lufunga Epari.

Boost for training at Okakarara

The Women's Action for Development (WAD) Training Centre in Okakarara has received a new training hall, courtesy of its main sponsor, the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung.

"This is really great, both for the community and for the centre itself," says Jaynitha Tjiteere, a 23-year-old computer skills teacher at the centre (pictured right).

She believes that some people are just not meant for academics, and that she herself went to Eros Girls' School in Windhoek, because they concentrated more on the practical aspect of things.

"That's what I like about this centre," she says. "There are many people here who have dropped out of school, or are just more practical people. Now they don't have to be left out anymore, but can probably find their calling here."

One such person is Frank Kandovazu (24), who plans to start a barbershop and hair salon in town, along with five of his friends.

Kandovazu has lived in Okakarara with his mother Maria, since high school, and says that now, with the new building, he can learn more about hair styling and care.



The official handing-over of the additional training facility was attended by the German Ambassador, Dr Wolfgang Müssing, as well as by the traditional leader of the Kambazembi Royal House, Chief David Kambazembi.

Speaking at the event, the Women's Action for Development Executive Director, Veronica De Klerk, said that although development aid should be welcomed, "we must remember that it is but a way of helping us get to our feet, so that we can, at one point, walk on our own."

issues

Windhoek zoning to be re-evaluated

The Windhoek municipality is planning to launch a campaign dealing with illegal shebeens and home-based business activities in the capital's residential areas.

Speaking at an information workshop in February, the City's Chief Planner for Urban Policy, Barry Watson, revealed the "New Zoning Scheme for the Residential Suburbs of Windhoek", also known as "Amendment Scheme 65".

Under the new scheme, a letter will be issued to each household in Windhoek during the course of the year, advising residents on proposed rezoning in their areas. Residents, especially those living in the vicinity of illegal business enterprises, will then be invited to comment on these proposals.

Questions against which the City has received complaints will then be inspected, issued a notice to cease their illegal practices, have charges laid against

them and/or be summoned to appear in court.

Illegal enterprises that do not receive complaints, will still be inspected, and be given recommendations on the correct zone of such activities. If necessary, they might then be rezoned, and the owners required to pay a penalty betterment fee.

"At present, there are an estimated 3 000 illegal shebeens operating in Windhoek, and about 1 500 of these are situated in lower class areas," says Barry, noting that this scheme will allow the municipality to gain back some control over this sector.

He also says that it will help protect the interests of neighbours who might be adversely affected by these businesses, help reduce crime, ensure that property is taxed correctly, and will enable the municipality to involve the appropriate infrastructure for different sectors, be it business or residential.

Waking up!

A new centre opened this year in Tseiblaagte, Keetmanshoop, to promote income-generating activities through sewing and crafts, and to provide support and counselling for needy members of the community. Pictured right are a mother and her baby from the community at the opening. The Wake Centre is run by People in Need, a project funded by the Czech Republic government. People in Need to assist with the socio-economic stabilisation of families and communities affected by HIV/AIDS and opportunistic infections in the Karas region.



Photo: Hany Sevcikova

No easy road to 'dream-come-true'

Ever since she was 16, Maria Kazibu's dream has been to open her own kindergarten. After completing school, she worked as a domestic worker and helped raise her employers' children for eight years. Her work with them ended last year when the family moved to Australia, and Kazibu decided it was time to support herself.

Over the years, she has collected second-hand tables and chairs, and with the help of her three children she has painted these. She also started decorating the outside walls of her house with pictures of cartoon characters, bought some small tables and chairs from another preschool that had closed, and obtained some more through a donation from the Namibian Women's Association. After all this preparation, finally, in January 2003 she was able to open Maria's Pre-Primary School in Samuel Shikomba street.

At present, 25 children come to her every morning from 06h30 and leave after 17h00. She also has four

children who come to her after school, and sometimes she takes in children overnight if their parents have to go away because of work or other obligations.

However, her dream has to be lived on in reality, and unfortunately this is filled with obstacles.

"The municipality requires that there are 25 kids in a class at the most," she says, noting that in order for her to take in more children, she will need to expand her premises. She also wishes to build a wall around her property for security, but because she charges only N\$70 per child every month, and sometimes parents fall back on payments, she has not been able to do either.

The lack of blankets, mattresses and food add to her troubles, she says, and many times she finds herself using the porridge in her house to feed all these kids during the day.

• *Maria's Pre-Primary School welcomes any donations. Maria Kazibu can be contacted at cell: 081 281 8466*



Three of the Ehangano Bakery Project members: Aina Kanangole, Cecilia Petrus and Adelheid Nekwaya

Fresh bread from Arandis!

The Ehangano Bakery Project, based in Kokerboom Street in the small mining town of Arandis, 60 km from Swakopmund, is one of its kind in the Erongo region.

In February 1996 Teofilija Mandume, who had completed baking and sewing courses offered by the Rössing Foundation, found herself at home without a job. Then she came up with the idea of setting up the town's first and only bakery.

"Food brings money and people eat every day," she says. The American Embassy was quick to respond to her requests for financial assistance and the necessary equipment was bought, while the town council allocated a building for the project to rent. In June 1996, the bakery was officially launched and today it employs eight women and one man, most of whom were previously unemployed.

Apart from white and brown bread, the bakery also makes rolls, doughnuts and raisin breads, all of which are sold at reasonable prices to the town's residents, local restaurants, the school hostel, as well as employees of Rössing and the town council.

Aina Kangangole, the new project leader since April 2001, says that they bake and sell 420 loaves of bread a day, and when they make a profit at the end of each month, it is divided among the project members, who do not receive fixed salaries.

Kangangole said they are still looking for more funds to buy a larger building from which to operate, and more equipment so they can increase their output.

"Despite the difficulties we face, we are happy with the project and life goes on. At least we have something to call our own. We bake fresh breads right here in Arandis and we don't depend on Swakopmund anymore for fresh breads like in the past years," she says.

One customer, police reservist Eben Munyele is very complimentary about the bakery.

"The bread is fresh and the doughnuts too are very nice. Without a bakery in town we would have a tough time. Their bread is also cheaper than in other shops," he says.

• *Written by James Likanda, a participant on the NiZA Community Journalism Mentoring Course being run by The Big Issue Namibia*

This page is sponsored by



Art therapy trainer Fiety Meijer-Degen (right) and art instructor Helena Brandt pictured during discussions with the participants on their joint artwork, a detail of which is shown below.



SARAH TAYLOR learns about a new method for treating traumatised people

Art has the power to heal. This is the philosophy of Fiety Meijer-Degen from Holland who returned to Namibia last month after two-and-a-half years to conduct an art therapy training workshop.

Meijer-Degen was invited by PEACE (People's Education, Assistance and Counselling for Empowerment) to conduct a two-week course. She was joined by her partner, Jaap Meijer, a psychiatrist, who was also involved in the training. Their trip was sponsored by War Trauma Foundation International.

Says Meijer-Degen: "We have travelled to many countries in Europe, Asia and Africa conducting these workshops, especially where people are not familiar with psychiatry and art therapy, and where these services are not available.

"Art therapy uses painting, sculpturing and drawing to substitute verbal forms of communication, and the results can be very powerful, especially for adults and children for whom language is a barrier or who have had experiences so overwhelming that they initially have no words to express the events and feelings involved."

The students are also taught how to "read" the final artworks, and to get the patient to discuss his or her creation in a safe, open and non-judgemental way.

Meijer notes that people who have been struck by disaster can suffer in a variety of ways, including depression, post-traumatic stress disorder and addiction to alcohol, drugs or even prescribed



medicine.

"Through dialogue, role plays and studying cases, I try to make the students familiar with these consequences of trauma and the effect they can have on the body and mind of the patient," he says.

Sixteen people attended the workshops in February, including employees from partner organisations with PEACE: the ministries of Health and Social Services, and Prisons and Correctional Services, Catholic AIDS Action, Lifeline, and *The Big Issue Namibia*.

Says PEACE Director Gudrun Kober: "PEACE aims to provide training opportunities for people who are frontline workers working with those who have been traumatised. If they have the skills and are equipped with better knowledge, they can know how to deal with these people and when to refer them to professionals, like psychologists, psychiatrists and counsellors."

Two students from the couple's previous workshops in 2001 have returned to participate once more, and they hope to offer art therapy through PEACE in the near future.

They include Helena Brandt, *The Big Issue Namibia* art teacher, and Wilma Wilkinson, a lecturer in mental health nursing at the University of Namibia and member of the Lifeline trauma team.

Says Brandt: "I think this kind of therapy is definitely empowering, as there is so much freedom when it comes to expression. After attending the first workshop, I began to incorporate into my classes the techniques I had learnt. It's amazing how deep unconscious feelings can come out through art and I've had great results with the *Big Issue* vendors."

Gerhard Xogab, a volunteer at PEACE, was the only male student on the course this year.

"In the beginning I was very confused and frustrated. I had never 'done' art before, I didn't know what therapy was and I also felt very isolated and scared as the only man. My first drawing [of a tight spiral in the top left hand corner] shows this. A few days later, those feelings disappeared and this was reflected in my art, showing more openness and relaxation. I can see now how art therapy can help other people too."

Says Meijer-Degen: "Art therapy creates the opportunity to express what cannot be said [and] to release built-up tension. It offers a way to cope with loss and trauma, and activates and creates empowerment. It's not about creating art, but about helping the person involved to find his or her personal way of expression."

• For more information contact PEACE, tel: (061) 235 095

Creative healing

real deals

Real Deals is a column devoted to the promotion of street business, street art, street design and even street eats. These are people who are doing it for themselves.

Doing it with dolls

Josephine Kauluma has been making and selling dolls since 1999.

"I was taught how to make them from cloth in 1999, and last year I joined a group in Kilimanjaro, Katutura, where I am learning how to make another type of doll, using different techniques and patterns," says the mother of five children.

"I have been selling my own dolls mostly through Penduka to the tourist market, but I am trying to get a place in town from where I can sell every day to passersby."

Kauluma spends three mornings a week at the Matukondjo Doll Project, while she uses the rest of her time to make her dolls, which include reversible designs, in which the head and torso of one doll hides in the skirts of another, and vice versa.



"I like this work a lot because I don't have to do other work, like domestic work, and I like using my hands. Also, I get money when I've finished the dolls, and don't have to wait until the end of the month to get paid," she says.

• Josephine Kauluma can be contacted via Marjan van Amerom of the Matukondjo Doll Project at 081 277 9577 or (061) 247 972.

Eggs-ellent business!

Ndinelao Haimbodi sells hard-boiled eggs in Katutura's Kilimanjaro, Havana and Okuryangava residential areas to make a living.

She explains that she buys 12 layers of eggs at a bulk cost and after boiling them, sells each egg for NS1.

"I walk around to my customers, I live in Babylon, so I walk quite far each day. Sometimes I get tired and go home and sleep when it is too hot – at lunchtime – then from 3pm I start walking again," Haimbodi says, smiling, with her 18-month-old baby strapped to her back and a tray of eggs balanced on her head.

"I was born in northern Namibia and only finished Grade 7 at school because my mother didn't have any money. At the age of 17, in 1992, I came to Windhoek to find work. I did cleaning work in Eros for a few years but in 1995 the people went to Germany so I lost that work. In 2000 I started selling eggs and cake which I bake as well.

"I am happy that this work that I am doing means that my six-year-old child can go to school," says the single mother. "And, yes, I also like eating eggs!"



consumer issues

More technical chaos?

Someone please tell me. What is up with MTC? This company, previously known for its good service, is somehow now not in a position to ensure that when you call you actually get through. Sometimes you cannot make or receive a call for quite some time.

The other day, March 1 to be specific, I had to make a few very urgent calls. I tried each of the numbers over 10 times because I simply could not get through. Every time I tried the number, I could not even get an active divert. Forget smses. That was an impossible feat. This problem started at about 18h00 and continued until 23h00. I could not meet telephonic deadlines because I could not contact other cell numbers that I was frantically dialling.

Now I know that these things happen and that sometimes technical faults create these anomalies. But it is very important to communicate this issue to those who rely on their cell phones. Just imagine someone is seriously ill and cannot get through to their doctor because there is a problem with the network and no one can get through. Imagine someone is in danger and is trying to use their cell phone to get help, but there's a network problem.

Cell phones are an important part of anyone's existence these days because they are such an important form of communication. Adver-

tisements appear daily, the latest cell phone technology and the efficiency of providers of the service. But I can tell you, no matter how expensive your cell phone and what features you have, if you can't make a simple phone call and contact another cell number for hours, it's like a dog with no teeth. At times this communication runs down or does not function, leaving hundreds of users, without landlines in dire straits.

If this network problem is creating such difficulties, MTC should do something about it. Cell phone users rely on the efficiency of the network. If it can't be fixed, let the public know in advance so that alternative arrangements can be made. It's simple courtesy. The paying public is entitled to know what is going on. A company as reputable as MTC should have a PR person that can handle these announcements.

In the meantime, I'll keep trying to get through ... what else is a woman to do?

• If you have any gripes about a consumer issue, contact MaMaNam through *The Big Issue Namibia* at fax: (061) 242 232 or e-mail: edbigissue@iway.na. We'll investigate it and write about it. This is your forum to complain, use it!



By MaMaNam

talk it out

... promoting psychological well-being
through information and awareness raising

Trauma and relationships

The experience of a traumatic situation, be it war, refugee circumstances or an assault, is likely to impact on the interactions and relationships the traumatised person has with friends, colleagues and family. The impact on relationships hinges on the following.

Exposure to an overwhelming event may leave some people feeling guilty and/or ashamed. Thus, a father may feel guilty, that he did not do more to protect his family from disaster, even though objectively, he could not have done more. He may blame himself and question his worth as a father and husband. As his confidence dwindles, he may start to behave defensively. A person, who has been sexually abused, may feel deeply ashamed and worthless. Consequently, he/she wants to hide him/herself and thus may isolate him/herself from others.

Another reason that survivors of traumatic events may isolate themselves is that their basic trust in the world and/or others has been shattered. For them the world is no longer basically secure and safe. Thus, they may feel that it is too risky to get close to others. They feel frightened at the possibility of being hurt by others or of losing the people they get close to.

Survivors often have a sense that others do not really understand them and what they went through. Thus they feel distant and disconnected from others. An aspect of this disconnectedness is that survivors often feel emotionally numb, frozen. They find it difficult to express themselves, especially in positive ways. This

may become evident in sexual "coldness" and disinterest.

Family and friends, who are trying to understand and be emotionally close to the survivor, may experience the survivor's tendencies to isolate him/herself as frustrating and hurtful. In a kind of vicious circle, expressions of such hurt and frustration may induce more guilt in the survivor.

As explained in previous contributions, traumatised people often feel anger – at their own loss of control and helplessness. Consequently they may behave aggressively with others or attempt to control them. Alternatively the sense of helplessness may be associated with anxiety and over-dependence. The anger, anxiety or over-dependence sometimes gets too much for family and friends and they withdraw. This in turn exacerbates feelings of rejection and separateness in the survivor.

Not all of the above reactions are true of every person: the impact of an overwhelming event on interpersonal relationships depends on the individual, his/her significant others and the nature of the traumatic event.

• Written by Gudrun Kober (PhD), Director of P.E.A.C.E. (People's Education, Assistance and Counselling for Empowerment). Tel: (061) ...???

P.E.A.C.E.

little issues

BY SUSIE BEIGHT

I saw it first on Star Trek; when Dr Bones waved a cellphone-sized device over a stricken shipmate and got immediate vital statistics, chemical composition and whatever else the scriptwriters needed. Then a friend told me that she had been diagnosed and even partly healed by a device attached to her head, wrists and ankles, and to a laptop computer on the other. I had to know more! I found a health practitioner in Windhoek who has the technology and made an appointment.

The Quantum Xrroid Communication Interface (QXCI) is a multi-purpose device, which threatens Dr Bones' device with obsolescence. It uses a range of technologies including quantum physics, electro-acupuncture and rife treatment. The principle might be described as electronic kinesiography. The body is stimulated with electrical impulses or various frequencies, and its reactions are measured.

The accompanying software interprets the results and provides a dazzling array of graphs and tabular output. Many metrics are measured in purely numeric terms, without units. The QXCI is able to measure the patient's sensitivity to many thousands of substances, and delivers a medical history considerably longer than most people's arms. Every infection or illness leaves an electromagnetic trace in an organism's cells that the device is able to detect and identify by a "quantum

signature".

This is amazing: a diagnostic tool that can give a complete medical history in minutes. But it doesn't stop there. By adjusting certain frequencies in the body's electromagnetic response, the QXCI is also able to effect cure. This will not necessarily be immediate, but may require several treatments. The coup de grace is its ability to sense the suitability of substances - food and medication - for treatment of the organism wired up to the machine.

I went to experience the QXCI as a sceptical but interested observer, and not unprepared. I had a small and localised infection that I had already consulted my GP about, and wondered whether it would be swiftly identified. I was most interested early in the session when the software scanned me for disease. Out came a clever catch-all which handles sceptics like me quite adroitly: there was some kind of infection that was either just starting or just leaving my body. I shouldn't worry about it, my body was on top of it! Later in the treatment came the part that seemed to make even the medical practitioner cringe a little - the QXCI was correcting and reprogramming my DNA! Is this the future of plastic surgery?

"Well, doctor, could I have one of those aquiline, Ethiopian noses? And some lovely almond Pacific island eyes?"

namnature

BY AMY SCHOEMAN

Neither wolf, nor jackal

The aardwolf, *Proteles cristatus*, is one of those animals we know is out there but we seldom see it, because it is predominantly nocturnal, and is secretive and shy by nature, rarely providing an indication of its presence. There is also not much clarity about its origin, as its fossil history is relatively unknown.

One school of thought is that aardwolf are descended from the small hyaenas which existed alongside the huge hyaenas of the Pleistocene Epoch.

Indeed, with its outline higher at the shoulders than at the hindquarters, the aardwolf resembles a small but elegantly striped hyaena. Smaller than a jackal, it stands about 50 cm at the shoulder and measures some 90 cm from the tip of its nose to the end of its tail. The feature that distinguishes it from the hyaenas is that it has four digits on its hind feet and five on its front ones, while hyaenas have only four digits on each foot.

The aardwolf's body colour varies from pale buff to yellowish-white, with four or five distinct transverse black bands on the flanks running from the middle of the back and tailing out towards the under parts. The hairs of the dorsal crest, which runs from the back of the head to the base of the tail, are black tipped, long and wiry, ranging from 70 mm on the back of the head, increasing to 200 mm on the shoulders and decreasing to about 160 mm towards the base of the tail. Although true carnivores, aardwolves have weak teeth incapable of tearing meat or grinding bones. They feed mainly on insects, especially termites, which they sweep up with their sticky tongues with such efficiency that in three hours of feeding they are able to consume as many as 40 000 termites.

They also feed on carrion that is sufficiently rotten to rip apart, as well as the eggs and young of ground-nesting birds.

The aardwolf's English colloquial name comes from Afrikaans and means earth-wolf, a reference to aardwolf living in holes in the ground. These are either disused holes of antbears, or burrows of animals such as springhaas, which the aardwolf enlarges to suit its requirements. When angered or excited, the aardwolf raises its long dorsal hairs into a striking crest or mantle that makes it look twice its normal size, a phenomenon which no doubt gave rise to its Afrikaans name *maanhaarjakkals* (maned jackal). While descriptive as far as the mane is concerned, the names are misleading, as aardwolves are neither wolves nor jackals.



Artwork by
Mel Fuller

out & about



The Brandberg, nominated to become a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is renowned for its unique eco-system and many endemic species, and for being host to the famous 'White Lady' and other rock paintings. It is also the highest mountain in Namibia, offering avid hikers and climbers superb day-hikes and camping excursions.

The rock art sites have not been well protected in the past and some of the more accessible paintings have been vandalised over the years. The Däureb Mountain Guides have taken the initiative to act as custodians of the mountain's Tseeb Ravine and have established a guiding service. The guides, members of NACOBTA, help to protect the rock sites and also provide an enjoyable experience of local culture for many visitors.

What can we do at the Brandberg?

- White Lady tour (N\$25 - 1,5 hrs)
- Highlights tour (N\$30 - 2 hrs)
- Archaeology tour (N\$35 - 3 hrs)
- Geology tour (N\$35 - 3 hrs)
- Königstein tour (N\$200 per day)
- Tailor-made tours can also be arranged

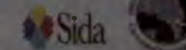
Where are the Däureb Mountain Guides based?

- At the Brandberg Mountain, 42km north-west from Uis.

How do I get there?

- From Uis take the Uis-Khorixas road (C35 gravel) for approximately 14km in a northerly direction. Then take the D2350 sign posted to Brandberg (White Lady) for about 28km in a westerly direction to the base of the mountain.

This page has been sponsored by



dear big tissue

I'm worried. I don't dream. Everyone tells me that dreams are your body's way of telling you know how things are in your subconscious self. I'm worried that I don't have a subconscious. Does this mean I don't have a soul? Please help.

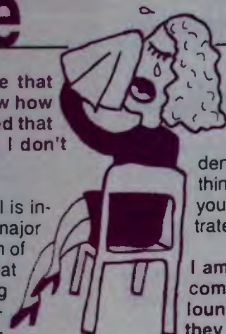
Dear Lost Soul

Now, now, don't fret. Ms T is pretty sure your soul is intact. However, the fact that you don't dream is a major problem. You see, your subconscious is a reflection of what is happening on a conscious level (for you, that is when you are awake), and how you are coping with it. Obviously in your case NOTHING is happening when you are awake. Are you perhaps semi-comatose? For goodness sake, get a life already! Your lifestyle is even boring the hell out of your subconscious, can you imagine what it is doing to those around you? Do something unusual! You might lose your soul, but at least you will have your nightmares to keep you company!

I'm very overweight and have recently started a diet, recommended by my doctor. So far so good but obviously I need to exercise as well. Any tips in this regard for someone who doesn't like to work up a sweat?

Dear Blubber

How did you get so fat in the first place? Surely stuffing your face for years must have worked up some kind of sweat? Then again waddling to the fridge is hardly considered strenuous exercise.



... the satirical side of agony

ercise. But I digress. Unfortunately Ms T does not hold out much hope for you, since sweating is generally considered an integral part of exercising. And from your current state one could confidently deduce that self-discipline is not really your thing. So, what to do? Just give up. Forget the diet, you are obviously meant to be fat. Instead, concentrate on working up a sweat.

I am a cat lover but also have fine tastes when it comes to decor, and my six cats are shredding my lounge suite, my curtains, my carpets ... anything they can get their little claws into. What can I do?

Dear Catnip

Ms T has serious doubts when it comes to your fine tastes in decor. Curtains darling?! How bourgeois. You have one of two options: declaw or redecorate. Personally, Ms T would go for the second option, slightly more expensive but infinitely more rewarding. Be novel, start a grunge trend, where it is imperative that all furniture must look as if it had just emerged from an Enron shredding machine. Should someone comment, just let drop how this is the latest rage in any developed nation and let the word spread. Soon you will be revered as a decor fundi, with a booming interior decorating business, at which point you may be able to afford a SCRATCH POLE!

• E-mail your problems to Ms Tissue at edbigissue@iway.na or fax: (061) 242 232



Letters to the Editor

Send your letters to: The Editor, PO Box 97140, Maerua Park, Windhoek, Namibia, Fax: (061) 242 232 or e-mail: edbigissue@iway.na

Dear Ms Taylor

My enjoyment of your magazine was spoilt when I read, in the February issue, an article headed 'No idle hands here!'

I quote from the first paragraph: "Sabina Ernsting ... provided them with crotchet needles and wool last year, so that they could crotchet blankets for charity."

A crotchet is a musical note. The word that should be used is 'crochet'. This is a French word and is pronounced 'erowshay' (there is no equivalent word in English, which is why the French word is used).

Those of us who have specialised in teaching English sometimes despair of achieving a reasonable standard of grammar, punctuation, pronunciation and vocabulary in the country's official's language.

Your sincerely, Mrs EJ Milton

Dear Ms Milton

Thank you for your letter and for your close reading of *The Big Issue Namibia* magazine. Our editorial 'team' is virtually a one-woman team, as we are operating on a very tight budget, and I do try to keep errors in *The Big Issue Namibia* to a *minim* (oops, *minimum*!). I hope you will continue to support the magazine and our vendors in future, and if you have any ideas for stories, please let me know! - Ed

media issues

BY PAULINA SHILONGO



Why we need media literacy skills

I'll be the first to admit it. In my house, more often than not, the television plays the role of babysitter, companion and educator to the children. For the toddler, breakfast goes down better with Teleubbies and the teenager seems to need a constant sound landscape to be able to concentrate on homework. This is the reality of many urban households with working parents. It is easier to buy a Dstv dish than time out with the kids.

Although not one to readily believe that television has horrible detrimental effects on children, recently I have been thinking about the cultivation theory that suggests that in the long-term, television viewers adjust their perception of the world to that of the distorted view transmitted via television. The father of the cultivation theory, George Gerbner has counted that by the time an average American child is 12 years old, he or she has seen more than 8 000 murders on television. This would not be likely to happen through direct sensory experience.

The cultivation theory has been criticised a lot but I find that its basic hypothesis; that

the accumulation of experiences transmitted through mass media can in the long run affect the reconstruction of reality by an individual, has relevance for Namibian media and its news coverage.

The Media Monitoring Project Namibia of MISA Namibia noted in its 2003 report that most Namibian media show a tendency to rely on figures of authority as the most regular and prominent sources. NBC radio uses the President as a source as frequently as it uses the category ordinary people, which comprises all members of the Namibian public not in positions of authority.

I have recently heard many young people say that their opinions on anything of importance to the society do not count. This might indicate that the constant hierarchy view of who is a newsmaker and whose comments are newsworthy enough to be transmitted by the media, seem to have made their way to the consciousness of many Namibians.

I find this worrying, especially ahead of elections, the most important landmark of democracy. If we, the ordinary people, think

that our views are not newsworthy, the media will continue to source views from those who are easy to access and in whose interest it is to publicise their views. Is the electorate then going to have a realistic view of the state of society, or do we get a mediated reality?

The editor of the French newspaper *Le Monde Diplomatique* Ignacio Ramonet calls this use of mediated reality "a democratic censorship". The role of this censorship is not only to make sure that certain issues are not covered, but that certain issues are covered very prominently.

While the news media themselves have a responsibility to inform the public in as honest, truthful and diverse manner as possible, it is important that the citizens learn and practice media literacy skills, which will allow them to read news critically and participate in the public arena as equal newsmakers.



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THE RAFFLE DRAW WILL TAKE PLACE THAT EVENING



The bootleg battle

Photos: PictureNET Africa

DENVER ISAACS probes the impact of piracy in Namibia, as the world marks Intellectual Property Day on April 26

Music and software piracy is a major problem internationally, and leads to loss of income for individual artists as well as companies. As the number of personal computers and Internet users grows, the incidence of piracy escalates accordingly, as people increasingly use these new technologies to access and distribute copyrighted goods illegally.

In England alone, British industry is estimated to lose nearly £10 billion every year through counterfeit audio-visual, retail, brand manufacturing, publishing, business and games software goods, according to the Alliance Against Counterfeiting and Piracy.

In Namibia, although there isn't a large, local software or music market, and the costs of piracy are not known, the effects are definitely being felt. It appears as if the existence of copyright protection laws do not help to remedy the situation, as local musical artist, Killa-B has discovered.

Although his debut album was only released officially in March this year, he found his music playing in jukeboxes around Oshakati when he visited northern Namibia during December, 2003.

"I have no idea how it happened. Somebody from the studio where we recorded must have leaked my tracks, and distributed them without my even knowing about it," he says.

While Killa-B may get more publicity this way, the piracy severely hampers his efforts to carve a professional career in the music industry and to make a living through his art.

"You might think, as a bootlegger, 'I'm gonna make money off this guy.' But if this guy [the musician] is not getting proper sales because of the bootlegging, he'll be washed up in a minute, and this does nothing to help the [music] industry get out of its current situation."

Gabriel Amugongo, a licensing officer at the Namibian Society of Composers and Authors of Music (NASCAM), says that the

problem is exacerbated by the fact that the organisation operates only from Windhoek. He says they are now holding talks with industry players to determine ways of intercepting piracy in the rest of the country.

"People know that we only visit these areas about once a year, so there is no real threat to their illegal trade," he says. "In other regions, those involved with music don't follow the right procedures. These musicians don't register with NASCAM, so there is no way of making sure that they receive royalties when their music gets played publicly."

Amugongo says that crooks in this business exploit this fact, telling new artists that they are going to promote them and make them stars. What they actually do is take their music, sell it themselves, play it in clubs and give the artist nothing but small change, if anything at all, he explains.

Killa-B agrees, saying that most of today's up and coming artists don't know and don't care about the business aspect of music.

"Right now, there are a lot of new guys coming out who would do anything just to get known, or to get on the market. They'll let anyone push them, without knowing themselves what's going on," he says.

Killa-B believes that artists should take an interest in their own careers and read up on the international industry, so that they can help steer the Namibian industry forward. He also believes that artists should be allowed to get involved in workshops, where they can learn more about music as a business.

"This might be what's been holding us back all along – the fact that we don't see music as business," he says.

So is it worthwhile for artists to register as members of NASCAM?

"Definitely," says Edison Hembapu, another local artist with the five-man band, Splendid. "They [NASCAM] make sure that artists registered with them receive money when their songs are played on the radio, get information on shows and performances, and they protect our songs."

"People could use your vocals, your instrumentals, or even just your bass-line, because they want to create an album, but don't want to struggle with coming up with



Killa-B: unimpressed that his songs made their way to jukeboxes even before they were officially released. Photo: Denver Isaacs

their own ideas."

Amugongo also says that, over the last two years, NASCAM has destroyed more than 30 000 copies of illegally copied CDs, most of which were found in Chinese shops in Windhoek, and most of which were of Zambian artists.

"We act on tip-offs," he explains. After receiving information from the public, NASCAM goes to the police, who obtain a search warrant which makes a licensing inspection possible.

The penalty for illegal copying of music or software CDs is N\$12 000, or up to three years in prison, for a first offence, and N\$20 000, or up to five years imprisonment, for subsequent convictions. However, Amugongo says that thus far, they have only destroyed illegal material and issued the culprits with warnings.

As far as computer software is concerned, Jaques Kruger, a computer technician at Creative Computer Connections in Windhoek, says that because the Namibian industry is small, the effects of piracy don't have a global impact. He says, however, that piracy is one of the reasons why software is becoming so expensive. Companies have to make a profit on their sales, and because people are buying CDs illegally, sales are declining.

Edward, a 19-year-old regular buyer of counterfeit software, says that he's not concerned with whether or not official products increase or decrease in price, as long as he can get the latest edition of, for example, Microsoft Windows Office for between N\$30 and N\$70 dollars.

He says, trying to prove his point: "When the economy was doing better just the other day, did we pay less? No. So am I going to wait for stores to one day reduce their prices from N\$600 to N\$500? Hell no!"

A Windhoek-based hacker, known as "theXhacker" in Internet chat-rooms and discussion forums, shares Edward's view.

As a self-taught, self-proclaimed 'computer expert', who is otherwise unemployed, he says that he spends about half of his day in front of his computer, downloading and copying files, and sharing information with others like him in chat-rooms.

He has only 10 regular customers, but says that he does favours for just about everybody he knows. Two computer hard-drives in his room are filled with over 9 000 musical tracks, a host of new movies, including *The Lord of the Rings: Return of the King*, and *Once upon a time in Mexico*, and he claims to have just about every video game ever created by the gaming industry giant, Neo-Geo.

"Most people come to me for R'nB and hip-hop, and a few of them want movies," he says adding that he hasn't come across any Namibian music on the internet, so he doesn't think that local artists have a problem in this regard yet.

"Everything can be copied," he says bluntly, adding that there are ways to beat any software protection device. "Some commercial programs require you to enter a registration code. But if you have contacts, you can get monthly files filled with serial numbers and program hacks over the Internet."

He says that he only makes about N\$800 a month from copying, but that this is because he sometimes settles for sharing programs instead of asking for money from his customers.

Edward says, however, that the person he buys from, probably makes about N\$500 a month from him alone, and goes to bed every night knowing that he has at least one person that will always come knocking on his door. **EN**

One stop shopping



There are few things that can't be found within the colourful walls of Windhoek's biggest and best-known market, situated on Independence Avenue in Katutura. Whether you want to add the latest fashion to your wardrobe, give that old television set a new life, phone a friend or have your CV professionally typed, this versatile market offers it all.

Since its inception in 1992 the market has given the informal business sector an undeniable boost. Small business owners and entrepreneurs can choose to rent one of the many luxury, semi-luxury, weekly or barbecue stalls.

Mary Sikaneta, a tenant at the market since 1996, owns a tailoring business called Situlu Textiles.

"It's better to start at home," she advises, adding that this is where she started in 1992 before moving to the market four years later. Today her company manufactures African clothing, school uniforms and uniforms for security personnel.

Frederika Gaweses and her husband have a similar business called FNF Enterprises, which makes and sells traditional outfits, school uniforms as well as natural health products like aloé vera. They have been in business since 1991 and secured a place at the market in 1998. Gaweses never received formal training but began working for herself with help from friends. Now she can be found in her shop doing what she loves most: making two-piece Namia dresses.

Situlu Textiles and FNF Enterprises are good examples of how people can turn talents and hobbies into viable businesses opportunities. Many of the market's tenants learned their trades as children and have acquired experi-

ence over a number of years. For some, especially those without formal education, it has been a roller-coaster ride. Through the years they have had to learn to do balance sheets and advertise their products. Those who have persevered can be seen at places like the Soweto Market still doing what they love.

Many customers come to the market on a daily basis. It is one of the few places which is open from 08h00 until 21h00, Monday to Sunday, offering a wide range of services and products, and good security.

"It's a open market," says Sikaneta. "Everyone can come and go."

The market's proximity to the long-distance bus terminal contributes a significant number of customers, especially at month-end when many people travel to northern Namibia. Long-distance commuters may pop into the market to get a cold drink for the trip but come out with new shirt!

The bus terminal, arguably, led to the market's inception. For years, the area has been a busy pick-up point for long-distance operators and because of the large numbers of people using the buses, businesses began to pop up. When the Soweto Market was built, the City of Windhoek did not discontinue the bus terminal but developed it.

"The response has been great and we can only expect business to grow," says the City of Windhoek's small, medium and micro enterprise co-ordinator, Kanara Hofni.

Another substantial drawcard to the market is, without question, the hair braiding business. On weekends, particularly on Saturday mornings, the Soweto Market becomes a giant beauty spa. Women can be seen sitting in awkward positions for an hour or more – all in the



One of the best-known places in Katutura attracts customers from all corners of the capital. The Soweto Market is a unique shopping and social experience, writes LEITAGO/NARIB



pursuit of beauty. Contrary to popular belief, says Debby, the owner of Debby's Beauty Salon, this is not to impress men, but to feel good.

At the moment it seems as though a feel-good virus has hit Windhoek because business is thriving. The success is ever more sweet because the idea of incorporating hair businesses was a later addition on the part of the municipality. According to the municipality's Hofni Kanara, the hair salons are growing ever more popular and currently represent a "vibrant business activity".

Some people come to the Soweto Market for good food at affordable prices. The 18 barbecue stalls offer delicious *vetkoek*, potato salad and ice cold orange juice – a great bargain for just under N\$5. And the good stories told by the cooks and their clients come at no extra charge! For those with a bigger appetite, there are two restaurants, offering rice, spaghetti and staple foods like maize porridge and meat, which are often full at lunchtime, as well as a number of other food outlets.

Most of the customers are from Katutura, but many people also come from the city's suburbs.

"It's easy to give directions," confirms Manfred Mbeunde who has a shoe repair store at the market.

The long lines at the Automatic Vending Machines (AVMs) are as much a part of the Soweto Market as the shops. Prepaid electricity (also known as *koopkrug*) has become increasingly popular with residents and because of the demand, the municipality established this pay-point in Katutura. At the end of last year a shop was also opened within the Soweto Market to help ease the surge of buyers. An

added advantage of this move is that people are not restricted to buying their power with N\$5 coins only.

You can also while away the time waiting for the AVM lines to shorten by playing a game of pool. Situated below the market's trademark red, yellow and green pyramid are a few pool tables which provide popular entertainment.

A few times a year, as a way of promoting the market, events such as musical performances are also held under the pyramid. While these events are rare, they are always well attended.

Every day, many people come to the market just to sit on the benches and relax.

"Soweto Market is the number one attraction for leisure time," says Lesly Present. He is among the youth who support the market at every opportunity and who spend their weekends there, chilling out and having fun.

The market has also had its fair share of problems in the last 12 years, the biggest of which is the closed gates on Hendrik Isaak Street.

According to the tenants who are renting shops near that entrance, the gates have been closed for five years and they are losing out on business because of this. They have petitioned for the reopening of the gates, even for half of the day but to no avail. The municipality claims that they do not have the funds to provide security at these gates.

In the case of the Soweto Market, the good overshadows the bad. It definitely proves that entrepreneurs can run successful businesses and make a contribution to the economy. And for both the tenants and their customers, the market has become more than a shopping market – it has become a shopping experience. **LEITAGO**



Left: Bricklayer Sakkie Rittmann puts the finishing touches to the outside paving. Behind him are gabions - wire baskets filled with rubble from the Petersen Flats. Far left strip: Old tyres used to make fireproof walls for the Habitat archives. Right: The office block under construction.

Housing for the Future

BY SARAH TAYLOR

An innovative building is rising on Claudius Kandovazu street in Katutura: the Habitat Research and Development Centre, a joint project of the Ministry of Local Government and Housing, the National Housing Enterprise (NHE) and the City of Windhoek.

The purpose of this centre is to conduct research into, and to promote, alternative and sustainable building approaches to low-cost housing and it is similarly being constructed using many sustainable building techniques. Office space at the centre will also be used by organisations such as R3E (the bureau of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency).

Director of the centre, Jacques Korrubel, says that it "represents a national commitment to global UN Habitat programmes aimed at effective and sustainable housing and urban development". The Windhoek municipality estimates that some 20 000 homes in Windhoek are "informal", ie. shacks. One of the first projects the centre will embark upon, with R3E, is a three-year refurbishment of two dwellings in Katutura, to make them more energy efficient.

Korrubel says that the municipality allocated the 14 000 sq m site, the NHE will supply personnel and expertise to the project, and the ministry is providing the funding.

"The entire Habitat project is a huge challenge," says Korrubel. "The biggest of which is getting alternative ideas into existing building regulations and town council by laws. It will take time to show them that alternative housing, ie. houses not built just with brick and mortar, is acceptable."

Architect Nina Maritz explains that phase one, which cost N\$10 million - comprising the administration and public component of the centre - will be completed by September this year, after which work is still planned on phase two and three - the training and lecture facilities, as well as a playground where children will help to generate electricity for streetlights, for example, through their play on special roundabouts.

In 2002 Maritz's design won first prize in the Habitat Research and Development Centre design competition, and thus the tender to design the complex.

Among the innovative building methods used are gabions, which are wire-mesh baskets filled with rubble, used to form one of the exterior walls around the centre's courtyard. Maritz explains that these are often used as an engineering technique for stabilising embankments, but have become popular in the construction of new buildings in South Africa, such as the Johannesburg Apartheid Museum.

The Petersen Flats of Khomasdal (which were demolished last year, amid controversy, by the municipality) have also been given a new lease on life, as the rubble from the concrete foundations was used to fill the baskets.

"By doing this we want to show that even when a building is demolished, you can still use the waste material in a new construction project," says Maritz, adding that over 4 000 bricks from the flats have also been recycled and used in the construction of the centre.

"Anything recycled saves 'embodied energy', the energy consumed in the life-cycle of a material from the mining process, its manufacture to the transport and eventual demolition. By saving energy, we reduce the greenhouse gases expelled into the atmosphere by powerstations, and hopefully help to slow down global warming."

Most of the offices have been built using Hydraform bricks, made from soil and six to eight per cent cement. The bricks are made by a machine which hydraulically compresses the soil and cement mixture into bricks on site. The concept was developed by Werner Schultz of Terrasol, Namibia.

"We wanted to reduce the use of cement in the construction, because during its manufacture, many toxic gases are released into the atmosphere. The Hydraform bricks are more environmentally friendly and highly labour intensive," notes Maritz. "The bricks are also thicker than normal bricks and this means a better insulated wall, so the building will be cooler in summer and warmer in winter. They also give a neat finish so plastering isn't necessary. For developers in the low-cost housing sector, it's an excellent idea."

The interior walls have been painted with timewash, which Maritz says is cheaper than standard PVC paint and less damaging to the environment.

The ceilings throughout the centre have been made from reeds, which tend to clog nearby riverbeds. The space between the ceiling and the corrugated iron roof has been insulated with old feedbags filled with cardboard boxes, unwashed and unspun wool, polystyrene waste and dried lavender, which works as an anti-moth agent.

Old tyres, obtained for free from dumpsites and tyre companies, have been used in unusual ways as well. They have been packed together with reinforcing rods and filled with a soil-cement mixture



to construct the half-metre-thick, fireproof exterior walls of the archives.

Says Maritz: "It costs N\$7 to dump one tyre at the municipal dumpsites, so this technique, devised in the United States, is an excellent way of getting rid of old tyres. Although many people don't know it, tyres are totally fireproof and the only way to burn them is to add flammable liquid. The thick tyre walls are also very cool. As far as I know, this is the only building in Namibia, which is built this way. Tyres have also been used for some of the site's retaining walls."

In terms of roofing, the architect has used mostly corrugated iron as it is much more environmentally friendly, cost-effective and durable in the long term than that from northern Namibia, or clay tiles imported from South Africa.

Evaporative coolers, run on rainwater, have largely been used in place of traditional, less healthy air conditioning, while the multi-purpose, open-plan office space uses open air flow techniques to maintain comfortable indoor working temperatures.

Renewable energy, such as solar, is also a priority at the centre and ultimately the roof of the multi-purpose lecture and conference space, as well as the roof overhangs, will be covered with photovoltaic solar panels to generate electricity for the centre's uses, and to provide shade.

For the first time in an urban area in Namibia, the centre will embark on a pilot project whereby an inverter will be used to feed any excess solar power generated at the centre back into the municipal grid.

"We are using many experimental techniques in this project, so we'll have to see how they work in Namibian conditions. Sustainable building projects are very hard work and labour intensive, but by using humans and not machines, more jobs are created and the site is less toxic," says Maritz.

The entire building, except for the cooling system towers, is accessible by wheelchair. All the toilets are "dry toilets" which don't use water, and are thus more environmentally friendly and sustainable. All waste will also be separated on site to teach people about division of types of rubbish to enable recycling.

Says Maritz: "The idea of the centre is to showcase innovative building methods and there will be space on the grounds to exhibit such techniques on site. There is also an amphitheatre for large gatherings, such as meetings of the National Housing Action Group or school groups and a catering area. An audio visual room, resource centre and study room, all focussing on sustainable building methods, will be open to the public. What would be great is to see some of the ideas we've used here, and others, taking off in a very practical way."



Above: Architect Nina Maritz points out the Hydraform bricks. Below: Ndinelao Mwehshinga and Helena Emvula have been employed on site to clean and paint. With them is Lilja Nangombe Mwatango, a 3rd year plumbing and sheetmetal work student from the Namibian Institute for Mining and Technology doing her practical. Above them are the reed ceilings.



The Big Issue Depot is Second Home

For most homeless people, who are forced to live on the street, the only shelter at night is under a bridge or in the surrounding hills. Unlike most cities in the world, Windhoek has no night shelter for adults.

Big Issue vendors come to our depot hungry in the morning and get a cup of coffee and breakfast. This is not just a meal, but the first step to starting a regular working day. They have a shower and can wash their clothes or change into clean second hand clothes, which they buy for the equivalent of one Big Issue magazine. Appearance is the first condition for good sales and for being treated as a human being. They can use the kitchen to cook pap, attend literacy and art classes, to bring their stories into The Big Issue magazine and we offer drug and other counselling services and financial start up.

All of this is limited to daytime depot opening hours. What we need is a

temporary shelter

for people forced to live on the street, a substitute home from where to grab the last chance they have. You can assist by assisting us. We'll take it from there. Contact Micha at The Big Step: (061) 242 216

Pictured: Lofty and his locker

nobody likes to beg



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The Chief Executive Officer of the National Housing Enterprise, Mr Mike Kavekatora, is pictured with a spadeful of soil during the ground-breaking ceremony of the Habitat Research and Development Centre in which NHE is one of the major players.

Looking on, are Honourable Minister of Regional and Local Government and Housing, Joël Kapaanda, right, and his Deputy, Professor Gerhard Töttemeyer.



Dolls for dollars

A doll-making project in Kilimanjaro is giving women the chance to learn new skills and earn a living. THE BIG ISSUE NAMIBIA reports

"Most anthroposophical [spiritual science] dolls are also made without mouths so that the child can give his or her own emotion to the doll, so the dolls are not always happy and laughing," explains Van Heerdt.

Magdalena Kuzai is one of the members of the Matukondjo Dolls Project: "A friend introduced me to this project and I find that I like this work, and would love to do it everyday. I still do domestic work three days a week, but I have six children to look after, so it's good to have another income."

Van Heerdt says she first learnt how to make these dolls more than 25 years ago, when her own children were still very young.

"My husband is a pilot and we've been living in Namibia for two years now. A friend put me in touch with the Waldorf School in Windhoek, and every year I have been producing dolls for their Martensmark to raise funds for the school. I was inspired by a friend in Holland to teach Namibians how to make these dolls too."

A friend put her in touch with community worker Jutta Rohwer and in next to no

time she had been introduced to Josephine Kauluma, who showed Van Heerdt the dolls she makes herself, but was having trouble marketing.

"I asked Josephine if she wanted to work with me, and she said 'yes' and brought some of her friends along. Jutta brought us to this former day-care centre and that's how our project came into being!"

I started this project because I like working with my hands and these ladies have the right to earn their own living. I am very glad to share this opportunity. I am very impressed that most of the ladies working with me know how to crochet and have skills in sewing by hand," she says.

Project member Olivia Mbango says she learnt how to sew through the 'U-do' sewing and cooking project in 1992.

"I used to sew dresses if I could borrow my friend's machine. Now I teach at a kindergarten in Hakahana, and come to make dolls just once or twice a week."

• *Marjan van Heerdt is appealing for help from one or two volunteers, who could keep the project going after she leaves Namibia. If you can help, or would like to buy one of these dolls, please call her on 081 277 9577 or (061) 247 972.*



It's 08h00 in Kilimanjaro, Katutura. The small radio is tuned to the Oshiwambo service and there is a peaceful chatter among the women as they bend earnestly over their work. Long plain, mutton-cloth 'sausages' are filled with stuffing; twisted around with thread; given pinpricks for eyes; then arms and clothes and even braids for hair, gradually appear. This is the Matukondjo Dolls Project (*matukondjo* means 'we are struggling to work' in Oshiwambo and Otjiherero).

The project is the brainchild of former pre-school teacher, Marjan van Heerdt from Holland. Since November last year she has been coming to the simple premises in Kilimanjaro, ironically the site of a now-defunct kindergarten. Three days a week, from 08h00 until 13h00, she teaches and supervises a group of 10 women in the art of making 'anthroposophical' dolls. Some of the women who work with Van Heerdt have part-time jobs, but most are unemployed.

The dolls are based on the philosophy of Rudolph Steiner, founder of the Waldorf schooling concept. Each style of doll is meant to follow a different development stage of a child. The dolls for babies are very simple – mainly just a head – but as the child develops so do the features on the dolls, with additions of eyes, hands, hair, legs and even removable clothing.

katutura community radio

106.2 fm

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repeats on Saturdays
noon to 5pm

broadcast schedule

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thursday	Choices + The World We Live In
friday	Art and Culture

youth issues in a fast changing society
gender issues + lifestyle programme
basic human rights & human interest
sexual and reproductive issues + environmental issues
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FRIEDRICH
EBERT
STIFTUNG

Cobalt:

deep blue metal



PHOTO:
JOZEF LAMPRECHT
STORY:
NATASHA UYS

Cobalt was formed by four funky young men in May 2003 and by November they had already bagged the Best Rock Song award at the Sanlam Namibia Music Awards for the song 'Like Blood'.

Each member of the group brings an individual quality to Cobalt's overall sound, which they describe as "alternative rock" and "funk-influenced", inspired by the heavy metal of Metallica and the classic rock of U2. They try to bring a unique sound to each song and avoid sticking to a tried-and-tested formula.

Golden-haired rhythm guitarist and lead vocalist Gerhard Bekker (24) refers to himself as "the sweetest guy you will ever meet". He is polite, soft-spoken and rather philosophical. He was born in Windhoek and became interested in music when he was at high school.

"A couple of friends and I formed a group together [and] over the years I've dabbled with different music groups," says Bekker, adding that he feels he has now found his niche in Cobalt. His day job is in sales for a wholesale company in Windhoek.

Sakkie van Niekerk (25) is the pony-tailed lead guitarist and backing vocalist. He was born into a very musical family, in the small town of Klein See, South Africa. He says that he had just a few lessons but learnt his skills mostly from experimenting with a few chords on the guitar and today he is teaching others how to play.

"I try always to set an example to the younger kids I teach, watching my language and encouraging them to express themselves and develop their talents," he says.

Drummer Anesh Morar (24) is also the band's resident comedian. He has also been in several bands before and learned to play the drums at the College of the Arts, where he received a few months training.

"I try not to think with the mindset that 'I am a drummer and that's what I do'. I try to look at things in broader terms, like, for example, a drummer can come up with a pretty cool guitar sound. We go beyond instruments and focus on the band as a whole," says Morar, who studied Sound Engineering and Management Business Marketing at Damelin in Windhoek and Allenby Campus in Cape Town. He is currently working in his family-run business, Chelsea Fashions.

As a band they apply a very democratic approach to writing and composing songs: they each contribute ideas and vote for what they think works. They don't see themselves as a formulated 'boy band' – they don't dress alike or sing artificially churned out lyrics and they each hold on fiercely to their individuality.

"We believe that the music must do the work, not the hype and publicity," said van Rooyen.

Morar, Van Niekerk and Bekker have known each other for years.

"We went overseas together a few years back," explains Bekker, adding that they did some serious manual labour working on silos in Germany.

Quinton van Rooyen (24) was the final member

to join the band. He met the other band members in March 2003 and by April they had begun rehearsals. The muso from Walvis Bay lends his skills on the bass guitar. He started becoming interested in rock music simply by listening to it, and took his fascination further by investing in guitar lessons at a Cape Town music school.

"I am still going through a never-ending process of learning," says the articulate guitarist. "My sound is all a result of trial and error."

Van Rooyen's day job is not too shabby either – he has been working as a Media Planner at DV8 Advertising, for a little over two years. His responsibilities include placing adverts in local magazines and newspapers.

The band's popularity has grown immensely in a relatively short period of time.

"We must have finally found the right balance when Van Rooyen joined the group," say the other three.

Cobalt has already performed at several high profile gigs such as the World Music Day celebrations, as a supporting act to the South African band Cheez on Muffin, and at the Halloween Rock Festival.

Friends and family of the band members are all incredibly supportive. Bekker's father bought him his very first guitar and amplifier.

"My dad is very cool, but he's kind of always waiting for me to start my real life!" laughs Bekker.

One of the most rewarding aspects of being in a rock group is the interaction from the audience. Though the guys say they are definitely not doing this for the money, recognition is an added bonus and they are very proud of their recent award.

"Seeing people actually singing along to our songs is incredible," says van Niekerk.

Whether or not they will be able to make a living out of music in the future, music will always be their main passion.

"Musical equipment is extremely expensive to buy and maintain, but I don't think any of us will ever stop jamming, regardless of whether we make it in the music industry or not," says Van Rooyen.

But the band is very serious about making the most of their opportunities in the music industry and they strive first and foremost, to enjoy what they do.

"Music is such an unpredictable means of making money but we just love to do it," said Bekker.

At the moment the band performs in English, but they don't rule out the possibility of doing some Afrikaans songs in future and they admire South African artists like Koos Kombuis and Buckfever Underground.

As a band they encourage fellow artists as much as they can, by lending equipment and giving advice. Mostly they advise groups starting out to write their own lyrics, adding that cover versions of songs are easy and can be fun to perform, but it is always better to be original.

Although there are no immediate plans to release an album, one thing is for sure: these talented friends will still be playing music, 10, 20 or even 30 years from now. **31**

Tipp-Ex & coffee

Mixed-media artist Imke Rust has experienced some dramatic highs and lows in her 29 years. SARAH TAYLOR reports

There is no doubt about it: Imke Rust is a determined artist. Her dedication to artistic creation really began to pay off when she won first prize in the painting category of the Standard Bank Namibia Biennale in 2001.

After completing matric in Swakopmund in 1992, her parents encouraged her to follow a 'proper' career, instead of art, so she opted to study tourism, and later worked as an air travel consultant in Namibia and Germany.

Art has not been her only passion, though. For four-and-a-half years she was also a dedicated paraglider, taking off from the dunes near her home town and soaring above the Namib desert for hours on end. But this ended abruptly when she broke her back in a bad landing, at the age of 21.

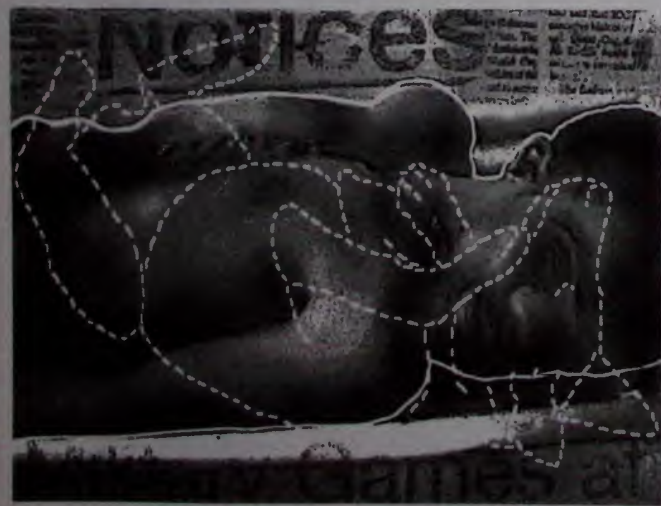
"It's a great sport and I love flying ... but after the accident, I considered changing my life and saving enough money so I could study art. I probably replaced paragliding

with art," she says.

In 1999, when she had sufficient money, Rust began to pursue her real passion and started studying visual arts part-time through the correspondence-based University of South Africa (Unisa). She is now completing her final year thesis on art history and has been working as curator at The National Art Gallery since March 2003.

"My parents have been very encouraging about my art – they were just concerned at first about it not being 'serious' enough as a career move," she says. "My mom is a watercolour painter who sells her work to the tourist market at the coast. My dad is an engineer and a farmer, and through the years he has begun to understand my art better and become more interested in it."

During her studies, when she was living in Oshakati, Rust wasn't perturbed by the lack of paint and made do with what she could get, even experimenting 'virtually' with computer graphics software like Adobe



Above: Artist Imke Rust. Below left: Rust's work titled *Leader of the Pack* and, left, the award-winning *Bitumen Dogs*.

Photoshop. On another occasion, she was unable to find black paint for her artworks inspired by the street dogs of the northern Namibian town, and instead bought bitumen from a hardware store. This led to the creation of the award-winning and aptly titled *Bitumen Dogs* – a graphic and somewhat shocking depiction of three skulking, underfed dogs.

"There are so many street dogs in Oshakati – some of them so sick. It's horrible. And there is no SPCA there. These dogs made a real impact on me and it got me thinking about humans' relationship to dogs. Some see dogs as security, even food, and don't care for them as much; others accept them as part of the family. But later, coming back to Windhoek and walking past all those dogs barking behind fences, I realised both attitudes are equally selfish ... I used to think you could judge a society by people's relationship to dogs, but I reworked that. There will always be a servant-master relationship between dogs and humans."

Rust's obsession with dogs has continued and she has since exhibited works as part of group exhibitions in Swakopmund, Cape Town, Windhoek and Turin, Italy, with 'man's best friend' as a central motif.

"In 2002, my works focussed on themes of power and submission, between humans and animals, but last year I began to look

more generally at themes of power and aggression versus vulnerability and submission, where dogs largely being used as a metaphor for humans."

Her 2002 work, 'Where do we go from here', was inspired by the simultaneous farm takeovers in Zimbabwe and the farm murders in Namibia. It shows Doberman dogs, normally a symbol of aggression and strength, fleeing a power figure, with the dogs representing the white farmers.

"That theme has a personal meaning for me, because my dad is a farmer, close to Okavango, and I am concerned about his safety," she says.

One of her offerings at last year's Biennale, 'Mugabylon', was inspired by this previous work. The work is a digitally combined collage of newspaper images – one of a man piling dogs onto a heap, the other, set below it, of a pile of human bodies, casualties of the Iraq war. This collage was later worked over by hand.

"In Zimbabwe, 140 dogs were put down in one town as a result of the farmers being forced to flee their farms and security companies closing because of lack of business. Linking this with the Iraq war made me realise how universal power struggles are. Humans will always strive for power, until it collapses like the tower of Babylon. And this battle for supremacy always has a human

cost. I also want to show that as humans we all have that power and vulnerability factor in us. We can be the victim or the oppressor."

While continuing to work with these same themes, Rust has begun to incorporate the human figure more in her work. Another 2003 Biennale offering, 'Contemplation' was a portrait of her father, showing his vulnerable side – an indication of her concern for him now that she is an adult, compared to how she saw him as perfect and invincible when she was a girl. The image of her father has been painted over pages from a cheap novel, with some of the words crossed out, except those expressing violence.

Rust uses many different media to create her works – from computer graphics, to pastels, acrylics, kokis, even Tipp-Ex and coffee!

"The great thing about Unisa is that they encourage you to experiment. I started 'Contemplation' while in Oshakati and I had run out of paper, so I tore up an old book and used that as the base. Once, not having oils, I even painted with coffee and Nesquik but then a friend's dog licked half of that painting away before my lecturer had even seen it!"

She has been invited as one of eight African artists, and the only one from Namibia, to exhibit works at a GTZ exhibition in Germany later this year. **BT**



The Hilarious hypnotist

TANYA MENGES meets André in broad daylight to avoid falling under his spell

Behind the mask of the often witty entertainer, André the Hilarious Hypnotist is a rather determined man who is very serious about his work.

According to André, he has always wanted to be an entertainer, so after finishing school he went on to study drama. After obtaining his degree he had to do his compulsory two-year stint at the South African Defence Force, where quite fittingly, he was placed in the Entertainment Unit.

This is where the magic started, literally. Performing for the troops he did magic shows, which he started doing as a student to support his university studies. The magic shows continued after he had finished in the army until he attended a show by Max Collie, renowned hypnotist in the late '80s that changed his life.

André was hooked and Max became his mentor. Though they never performed together, he attended most of Max's shows and also did some training courses in the United Kingdom. Initially he started performing at schools and as the word spread he became more and



Members of the public fall under the spell of hypnotist André.

ing of doing less of it and perhaps in a few years time to start promoting other shows and work more behind the scenes. But first there is his new television show to concentrate on.

A television show for KykNet is on the cards for August this year. Entitled "Skaterlag", it will show celebrities interacting with people, who unbeknownst to them, are hypnotized.

The pilot programme was aired on January 1 this year. In one sketch a hypnotised man is the cashier at a supermarket. The problem is that it has been suggested to him that he must eat all the products that he is supposed to ring up, with hilarious results. Imagine going to pay for a chicken and the cashier rips off the packaging and starts munching away.

In another, a man is sitting at a restaurant with two friends. He, however, has been hypnotized to believe that everything he tastes is disgusting. With the result that he eventually goes through every item on the menu, sending it back after one taste. Meanwhile his friends are happily enjoying their food, while he is getting hungrier and hungrier and the restaurant staff is getting edgier and edgier.

Asked if he has ever encountered any legal difficulties as a result of his shows, André admitted that a woman sued him once for N\$22 000. "She was not even on stage. One of the volunteers, reacting to a suggestion, went into the audience to hug people and in her attempt to get away she twisted her ankle. Needless to say she lost the case," he said.

If you have never attended any of his shows, do yourself a favour and stay tuned to KykNet, as a good laugh is guaranteed. **21**

more well-known.

He first performed in Namibia in 1994 to packed audiences and has since returned every two years. Apart from touring South Africa and Namibia, he also performs in Swaziland on a regular basis. In 1997 he entertained South African expatriates in Australia.

Over the past twelve years, André has hypnotized thousands of people, but has only ever received hypnosis for medical reasons.

Anyone who has ever attended one of his shows, will know how incredibly fast the process of hypnotising the volunteers is. Although not wanting to give away any of his trade secrets, he noted that there are tell-tale signs of who reacts to the suggestion.

"It is very easy to spot someone that is faking. Also younger people are generally easier to hypnotise than older people. And by older I mean anyone above the age of 20," he divulged.

Asked if there has ever been a time when not one of the volunteers would react to hypnosis, André said that this has in fact happened, but more at corporate functions when the people

are often already drunk. "Then you just pack-up and leave".

He pointed out that even under hypnosis, people would not do anything that goes against their moral grain. So even when hypnotised, people will instinctively recoil from doing anything they do not find morally acceptable.

Another interesting tidbit, is that men are apparently more willing to embarrass themselves, which explains why there are always more male than female volunteers.

André has a strict policy of not taking his work home. "I have never hypnotized any of my friends, even as a favour. I don't ask them to work for me and this works quite well," he explained.

When he is not touring, which he does for nine months of the year, he relaxes at his farm near the Sterkfontein caves in the Johannesburg area. This is where he indulges in his other passion, that of cave exploration. "I have always loved caves, and exploring them relaxes me," he reflected.

Since the touring is very draining, he is think-

uncovered

Book reviews by Theres Schiow, Nadia Manning, Chris Longden and Matthew Gowaseb



Conversing with Africa: Politics of Change by Mukoma wa Ngugi

In *Conversing with Africa*, Mukoma wa Ngugi attempts to communicate the need of activists to restore a much-needed radical dialogue. The author traces the growth of an activist to a revolutionary.

He argues that Africans have become satisfied with carving spaces within governing historical oppressive laws and agitating from them. His focus is on a new generation of activists who are trying to answer Fanon's call of 'Each generation must out of relative obscurity find its mission - fulfil it, or betray it'.

Wa Ngugi argues that what we have lost is our ability to dream, to project ourselves onto the future informed by a history of oppression and resistance. He looks at past attempts at change in Africa and elsewhere as a way to say this is where we went wrong.

The underlying question is the meaning of independence or democracy if the people continue to live in the same conditions before the advent of the vote, or if freedom can be achieved in liberal African governments that are neo-colonial. Wa Ngugi is trying to communicate the need for a dialogue that is at once radical, honest, and most importantly a dialogue that wants to project itself onto the future by way of continued and renewed resistance. - MG



the Book Den

PLEASURE IN THE PAGES!

TO WIN COPIES OF THE 'BOOK DEN' BOOKS REVIEWED BELOW, SEE COMPETITIONS ON PAGE 28

Today it's your family, tomorrow it's you ... essays by young Namibians on the social impact of HIV and AIDS

Edited by Reimer Gronemeyer and Matthias Rompel

'When Edna hanged herself' is the first story in this newly launched book, which is the result of an essay competition for young Namibians held in 2001 on 'AIDS in our community'.

The editors, German sociologists from the JL University in Giessen say that they chose these essays from the 139 entries because 'we found [them] to be the most beautiful, the most moving and the most informed'.

Over 116 pages, these young Namibians share their personal experiences, their thoughts and feelings, and air their opinion about causes of the epidemic, contributing factors, behaviour change, spiritual influences and many other aspects.

It is wonderfully illustrated, mostly with drawings by eight to 16-year-old learners from around Namibia. It is an inspiring book that enriches our understanding of Namibia's infection rate and gives us some insight into the way people perceive the epidemic and find their own solutions. I can warmly recommend it to everyone. It is sponsored by GTZ. - TS



Every Meal a Banquet, Every Night a Honeymoon by Peter L Younghusband

This book is a collection of true tales viewed through the eyes of a award-winning African correspondent. Peter Younghusband. It is a wickedly funny, dramatic and often poignant testament to the thrill-seeking, story-hunting and beer-swilling way of life which Younghusband and his journalist contemporaries led.

He skilfully meshes memories and personal experiences to illustrate the rich history and humanity of Africa's often bloody and turbulent past.

The book gallops along at a cracking pace - from the horrific violence of Soweto gangs, to wars in steamy jungles, journalistic sexual encounters, friendships between blacks and whites under apartheid and the death of the author's own son in a terrorist bomb attack. Younghusband is one of those rare writers who can alternately make you laugh out loud, pull out your hair in anger and then reach for your handkerchief. Treat yourself. - CL



Wild Flowers of the Central Namib by Antje Burke

Complementing her earlier work - *Flowers of the Southern Namib* - this book extends the range of species to include the area from the Kuiseb to the Huab river systems.

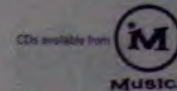
Despite the highly arid nature of this area, we are informed that "just over 400 species - making up nearly 10 per cent of the flora of the country - occur in the central Namib".

Before delving into the flowers, Burke provides an introductory section on environment and habitat, plant diversity and endemism, ecology, conservation, threats and environmental management. Flowers are organised by groups of trees, shrubs, stem and leaf succulents, bulbs, herbs, multi-seasonals and grasses. The book is enhanced with colour photos and delightful illustrations by the author herself. It is interesting and engaging, urging one to set off into the Central Namib in search of its vast and diverse array of wild flowers. - NM



listen up

CD reviews by Leitago /Narib, Dudley Viall and Natasha Uys



Nora Jones, Feels like Home ★★☆☆

The daughter of renowned Indian musician Ravi Shankar, Nora Jones exploded onto the popular music scene in February 2003 when she took home eight Grammy awards including Album of the Year, Best New Artist and Song of the Year. Her first album, *Come Away with Me*, was so exceptionally fresh and original that it sold 18 million copies worldwide.

Her sound has undergone a small but noticeable change, leaning quite heavily away from jazz toward country and folk. Her lyrics are simple, her voice is deeply melodic. Jones is a classic singer, who although just starting out, will undoubtedly be around for a long time.

This album is the kind you play on a rainy day, while snuggling up with a good book. The first track on the album, 'Sunrise', is upbeat and her vocals are typically smooth. She collaborates with country great Dolly Parton on the track 'Creepin' in', and fearlessly adds vocals to a Duke Ellington track on the song 'Don't miss you at all'. The undeniable talent of the jazz-influenced Jones shines through. Her voice is emotional and dreamy, her sound authentic. A beautiful woman, with an absolutely beautiful voice. - NU

Travis, 12 Memories: ★★☆☆

After an absence of two years, Scottish band Travis return with their fourth studio album, *12 Memories*. On an album which is probably their best to date, Travis explore lyrically darker themes, without losing their laid-back commercial appeal.

The music is lush and gorgeous, drenched with strings and piano, giving it a dreamlike quality. Travis sing of abusive relationships ('Re-Offender') and pleading anti-war songs ('Peace the F*** Out' and 'Beautiful Occupation'). There is an undercurrent of real-world frustration and paranoia running throughout the album. Each song is beautiful in its own way. If you like the Black Rebel Motorcycle Club, Dido, REM, the Black-Eyed Peas or even Radiohead, you will like this album. Travis won the Brit award for the best band in England a few years ago and haven't disappointed the fans with their latest release.

This is Travis' first album which they have personally overseen, and was also the album that



nearly 'never was'. Their drummer sustained a spinal injury and was told he would never walk again. Thankfully he recovered and soon the band had written 11 new tracks. Pick of the bunch are probably 'Re-Offender' and 'Paperclips'.

12 Memories is a good, solid album and should be part of your collection. It just grows and grows on you. - DV

Mafikizolo, Kwela: ★★☆☆

Kwela is the last album by Mafikizolo as we know them. Since the death two months ago of Tebogo Madingoane, who was shot and killed in Orlando East, Johannesburg, there have been doubts about the group's future. To us, as music lovers and critics, Tebogo lives on in his musical offerings, of which *Kwela* is a priceless addition.

Ignore the CD cover which shows the three band members dressed as rich, classy, jazz artists lounging over a grand piano. Well, I don't think any of their fans come from that background and fortunately the album is not as superficial as the cover. These are sounds for the people ... this is Saturday evening at the shebeen.

Mafikizolo are a breath of fresh air. The music is an original fusion of traditional songs, kwaito, township jazz and the captivating soft boom of house music. Muffsies off to the voice of the group, Nhlanhla Mafu. Soulful and elevating, this sister's singing is inspiring.

Udakwa Njalo is the song that has already



made its way onto the airwaves, nationwide, and there's an impressive collaboration with jazz legend Hugh Masekela on the title track. So many of the tracks stand out, especially *Ndizollia* and *Soka Lami*. My only criticism is that the last five of the 15 tracks sounded quite repetitive. But otherwise, *Kwela* is where South African music is at - get yourself a copy! - LN

TO WIN THIS CD, TURN TO PAGE 28!



win with the big issue namibia!

This month you can win ...



• Mafikizolo's latest release **Kwela** by naming one of the songs on this CD;



• A pair of cinema tickets by explaining what a hypnotist does.

Send your answers with your name, address and telephone number to The Big Issue Namibia, PO Box 97140, Maerua Park, Windhoek; fax: (061) 242 232 or e-mail: edbigissue@iway.na by April 30.

• Wild Flowers of the Central Namib by Antje Burke by telling us which desert is said to be the oldest on earth;



• Every Meal a Banquet, Every Night a Honeymoon by Peter L. Younghusband by identifying this author's profession; and

NOTE: April winners will be announced in the June edition. As before, only one prize per entrant. No staff members, relatives of staff members or Big Issue vendors are eligible to enter.

winner ... WINNER ... winner

Our February winner is Ricky Shipping who wins Arno Carstens' CD *Another Universe*. Well done!

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the big chill

SHOWS

• **NATIONAL ART GALLERY OF NAMIBIA**, Robert Mugabe Avenue, Windhoek, Tel: 231 160

• Namibian artist and Shiya Karuseb displays installations and graphics from April 20.

• **OMBA GALLERY**, Namibia Crafts Centre, Tal Street, Windhoek, Tel: 242 222

• Quilts by Ekwatho Quilt Craft - co-orientated by Maggi Kukler Contact: 264220

Opening on 14 April and runs until 30 April.

• **WAREHOUSE THEATRE**, Tal Street, Windhoek, Tel: 374 400

• Latin Evening on April 9.

• Concert by Regis Gizavo and Louis Mhlanga, Friday, April 16, at 20:30.

Fees are N\$40 in advance, and N\$50 at the door. However, price may change.

• Spanish jazz on April 17

• Jerardo Fashion Show on April 24.

• April 30, reggae artist, Steve Hanana's CD launch.

• **FRANCO NAMIBIAN CULTURE CENTER**, Robert Mugabe Avenue, Windhoek, Tel: 222 122

• 4x4 Too Much Power, Friday, April 2, at 20:00. N\$25.

• **NATIONAL THEATER OF NAMIBIA**, Robert Mugabe

Avenue, Windhoek, Tel: 374 400

• Hot Mikado, from April 20-30.

FILMS

• **FRANCO NAMIBIAN CULTURE CENTER**, Robert Mugabe Avenue, Windhoek, Tel: 222 122

• Cinema for children

• Princess Monoke, Tuesday, April 6, 17:00

• Les Triplettes de Belleville, Tuesday, April 13, 17:00

• Shrek, Tuesday, April 20, 17:00

• Cinema for adults

• Les Mystere de la chambre jaune (Mystery of the Yellow Room) (comedy), Tuesday, April 6, 19:30

• Swimming Pool (suspense), Tuesday, April 13, 19:30

• L'appat (the lure) (suspense), Tuesday, April 27, 19:30

• Mosso Mosso - Jean Rouf as if (portrait - documentary of the filmmaker), Thursday, April 1, 19:30

• Chronicle of a summer (documentary), Thursday, April 8, 19:30

• Brise Glace (Ice Breaker) (documentary), Thursday, April 29, 19:30

• Six in Paris (fiction), Thursday, April 29, 19:30

• Angonia Angona - Novels from Madagascar (documentary), Thursday, April 15, 19:30

Cultural cuisine

Situated in a turn-of-the-century, colonial-style building along side the modern glass-and-metal Franco Namibian Cultural Centre in Robert Mugabe Avenue, Windhoek, is the Café des Artes.

It's an ideal place to visit for a first-thing-in-the-morning croissant and coffee, a healthy midday meal with continental flair or even a sundowner. The high ceilings, verandah and open windows make it a cool and breezy setting, and new photographs, paintings and drawings by local artists are also regularly on display on the walls inside.

Managed for the past year by Nathalie Calonne, who has many years' experience in the tourism and hospitality industry, patrons can expect a new special dish each day of the week, as well as a variety of salads and sandwiches, burgers and omelettes. Prices for main dishes are normally between N\$25 and N\$35.

"I like to use a lot of fresh herbs in the food we offer. All our food is very fresh and we also bake our own breads and burger buns. I change the menu often, depending on my mood and

what's in the shops," she explains.

The French-born Calonne says that she studied catering in Belgium before she first came to work in Africa 13 years ago.

"After that I said to myself that I never wanted to run a restaurant because it's very tiring work and you have so many responsibilities. But I am really enjoying this! I got experience running the

restaurant at The Cardboard Box backpackers hostel before I started running this café."

She has also brought two of her former kitchen staff with her, who have learnt how to prepare French- and cosmopolitan-style cuisine. She also takes interns from the Polytechnic of Namibia Hospitality School, to give them a few months of practical on-the-job experience.

• The Café des Artes is open from 08h00 until 19h00, Monday to Friday. Please note that it may undergo a name-change in the near future, but it will still operate from the same venue.



Hot Spot review



These pages are given to our vendors to express themselves in writing, poetry and art. Some of the art featured may be for sale with the vendor's permission. Phone Mlcha or Emily at tel: (061) 242 216.

Imagine being the President

on my first day of reign I would:

- Stanley Snyders:

I will make sure all the people of my country can come and talk to me and tell me what they need and about their problems. The next day I will continue.

- Lofty Lottering:

I would go to the homeless people on the streets and tell them, that I will build a house for them, so they can live in and not come back to the street. The next day I will start building.

- Josef Awaseb:

On my first day I will have a party with all people. Everybody gets the day off from work and school and everybody is invited. Next day we all go back and work hard.

- Willem Fredricks:

I would arrest all whites for just one day, and I would not argue with them about my own white blood. Next day I would let them go and tell them to live their life in peace.

- Carlos Nowaseb:

I would also have a party - so that they know I am the present. Next day I would walk around everywhere and talk to my people



Alfred Van Wyk W 149



Willem Fredericks W 084

Josef Awaseb W 059 & Oscar Locke W 140



Star vendor of the month

Gottlieb Hakaye (W281)



Gottlieb Hakaye started selling *The Big Issue* in February and achieved star vendor status within the first 2 weeks of registering with us. He sells in front of the Windhoek Municipality on the parking area.

Gottlieb Hakaye was born in Okalongo some 45 years ago and is happily married in Windhoek. The Hakaye family raises 7 children, the eldest a 17 year old daughter and the youngest 2 year old is just about to start Kindergarten, as soon as the family's finances are sorted out.

Gottlieb was working for years in the hotel industry, last at the Windhoek Country Club. He resigned there 2 years ago for an interesting offer in the insurance business - but the new employment did not work out for him, as he was expected to travel intensively to the North and was not prepared to leave his family behind. For two years now he has not managed to get back into the formal employment market, surviving with temporary jobs.

Gottlieb Hakaye wants to encourage all Namibians to support *The Big Issue*. He appreciates the support of people already doing so and wants to thank them. He wishes his customers all the best and says he will also do his best to please them.

READERS! Send us your nominations for Vendor of the Month with reasons. Phone us at (061) 242 216, fax: 242 232 or e-mail: edbigissue@iway.na The chosen vendor will receive N\$50 from *The Big Issue Namibia* and a free pizza from Pizza Pie in the Sky (tel: 239 010/551).



street update

Soccer team warms up for Sweden

Having spent a long time just surviving, socially excluded and homeless people often have no expectation of there being any more to life. The Big Issue wants to give them their confidence back, to give them a sense of purpose and add meaning to their lives. One of the best ways of doing that is through team activities like soccer.

Team sports like soccer inspire people to become more positive about their lives. It is a non-verbal, across cultures, teambuilding exercise, provides people with social skills and personal growth and even works effectively for drug rehabilitation: strict team rules force even frequent drug users into abstaining under threat of being banned from games and temporary exclusion from the team. These measures become effective disciplinary tools as soon as people have regained a sense of pride and achievement.

Our Big Issue soccer team has been established by volunteers and runs as an independent vendor project. A volunteer from Project Trust



in the UK, Christine Granger is currently coaching our team, with assistance from Bethuel Uirab, a local coach. They have training sessions three times a week, are participants in the 7-a-side Top Score Soccer Tournament and in that process, building up the team for participation in the Homeless World Cup 2004.

Homeless World Cup 2004

The International Network of Street Papers' (INSP) Homeless World Cup 2004 will take place in Gothenburg, Sweden in July. The preliminary list of participants shows an increase from 18 teams up to 32 teams from around the world. Newcomers include amongst others Argentina, Cameroon, Namibia, Nigeria, Peru, Portugal, Ukraine, Uruguay and possibly Iraq. This international event is a great opportunity for homeless people around the world to meet and participate in a very positive experience. The organizers hope, "that an event like this will encourage people to reflect upon serious social issues and discuss social exclusion and homelessness from a new perspective."

Football is an international language in which anyone can participate and the notion of homeless people representing their country in an international football tournament seemed straightforward and exciting. An international soccer event like this, is a not to be missed opportunity for local businesses to link their name and services to a social responsibility project. So far Commercial Bank of Namibia's financial support for The Big Step has enabled us to establish, equip, feed and enrol the team for their first local tournament. Now we are looking for sponsors to take the team to Sweden. If you can help, call Micha on 24 2216.



Do you know your HIV status?

New Start Centres now in Windhoek, Oshakati, Rundu, Katima Mulilo and Walvis Bay



For more information call the Social Marketing Association (SMA) Tel: (061) 244 936



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APPEALS

- Please contact us about any old or even broken furniture or offcuts of wood for the depot. We especially need lockers or shelves.
- A sewing machine is needed for the depot and the art classes.
- A hot water urn or functioning water kettle.
- We need rubber tubes from old tyres to make drums

STREET DIARY

Willem Fredricks (W084)

Mornings I stand up at 7h00 and I come to The Big Issue Depot. I get coffee. I go to sell my issues. 9h00 I go to my place at the post office. At 1h00 I come back for lunchtime and I get some food. I eat it with my coffee. 2h00 after lunch I go back to my pitch selling more. Or I have art or writing classes. People come bother me at my pitch. They make trouble. Around 3h00 maybe I start selling. 4h00 I go and practice soccer up to 6h00. 7h00 I go home to sleep in Eros. I don't want trouble.

ROLL OF HONOUR

- Birgit and Uda Nakamhela for donating clothes
- Lilian Breil from International Women's Association Ricky Bamm
- Commercial Bank of Namibia for their continuous support for The Big Step
- Lizastair's Dance Studio sponsoring The Big Step Shelter Campaign
- Tharina Bird for donation of shoes and clothes
- Tanja Terblanch for donating a baby cot for Ricky Bamm
- Commercial Bank of Namibia for their continuous support for The Big Step
- Lizastair's Dance Sport Studio for offering Break Dance classes to our vendors and sponsoring The Big Step Shelter Campaign

big stars

BY LINDA SHAW



ARIES 21 March – 19 April

The communication planet has moved into reverse, leaving in its wake conflicts, misunderstandings, mislaid messages, communication breakdowns. Cover your back and double-check every move, and remember that no-one is necessarily to blame either. It's a cosmic thing.



TAURUS 20 April – 20 May

So you thought your love life was in peak condition? Perhaps, but how much of your past still haunts you? While you're looking at that, book a weekend away with the sweetheart. Lovers aren't mind-readers you know. They need to know you care.



GEMINI 21 May – 20 June

Family hassles are bugging you – certainly until the 19th at least. And since you appear to be the focus of the problem, it's up to you to get to the bottom of it. Some gentle honesty is needed. There's no point putting other peoples' feelings before your own. But be careful. You'll need your family's support in the next few weeks.



CANCER 21 June – 22 July

It's so easy for you to push yourself beyond your limits. So how about this for an alternative? Set yourself specific tasks and focus on staying in one piece throughout the festive season. That way you can enjoy your holiday instead of using it as an excuse to recover.



LEO 23 July – 22 August

You're in one of those playful moods the kids love so much, so find some kids to play with. It'll keep you out of trouble until you've remembered how old you are. Also, watch the signals you're sending the lover. You don't want to be accused of making promises you have no intention of keeping.



VIRGO 23 August – 22 September

Tetchiness at work can be resolved with a teaspoon of your creative genius and some good humour. But money is another problem. All your Virgoan caution and stubbornness will be needed to help you stay solvent. No new investments this month either. Spare money will be spent on unexpected breakages.



LIBRA 23 September – 22 October

The thinking planet has gone dilly again, so no point relying on your brain to bail you out. It's instinct time. For the next few weeks, you'll have to open your mouth and trust that whatever emerges will be worth hearing. If the very idea brings on an anxiety attack, focus instead on your love life.



SCORPIO 23 October – 21 November

Watch your mouth this month. You sometimes forget how devastating that razor-sharp intellect can be. And since communications are dodgy at the moment, you can rest assured that anything you say will be misunderstood. Keep an eye on your money. It has a habit of wandering.



SAGITTARIUS 22 November – 21 December

Deals in progress need a second look. Because when you signed them, you were so busy being obliging you neglected to read the small print. Check again to see what you're really in for. If you've blown it, forgive yourself and move on. This is not a good time to start plotting your revenge.



CAPRICORN 22 December – 19 January

Even though messages are reaching the wrong ears and secrets are being leaked, you're making great progress. As long as you make sure your contributions meet their deadlines, you'd be wise to back off from the rest. If the love life's still hopeless, look out for someone fascinating. And be polite, for a while.



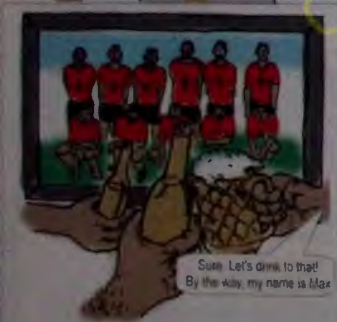
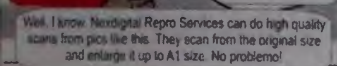
AQUARIUS 20 January – 18 February

Perhaps because your communication skills are so good, you're one of the few who escapes widespread turmoil during the next few weeks. You might even have mastered the art of unconditional love. You'll have a chance to demonstrate your feelings during the Full Moon on the 6th. With flowers. For starters.



PISCES 19 February – 20 March

It's not easy to keep track of work and play – not to mention relationships. At the best of times, fish are clueless about schedules. You're going to have to make an extra special effort this week if you want to avoid an array of screaming matches. Make daily lists of tasks. Watch the clock. And concentrate. **B1**



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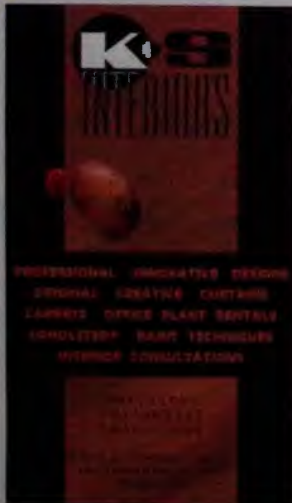
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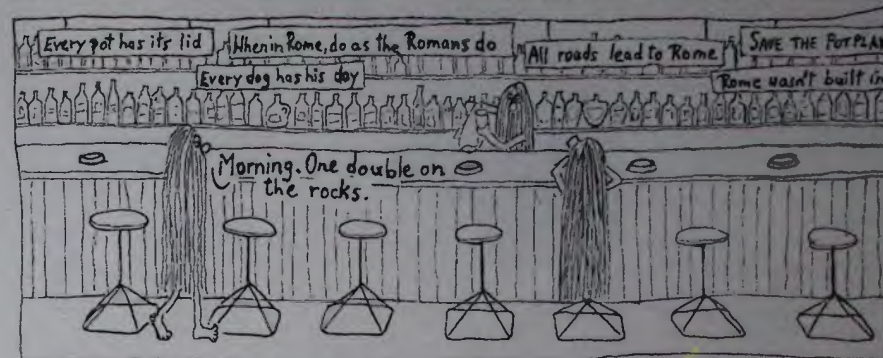


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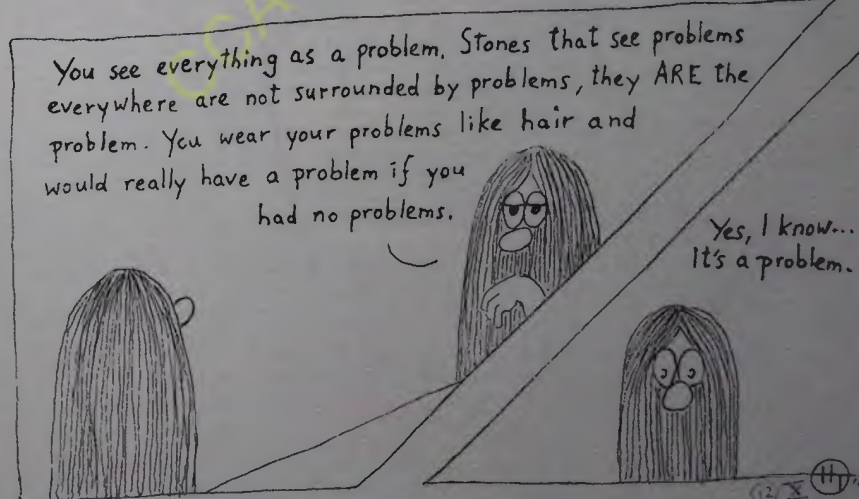
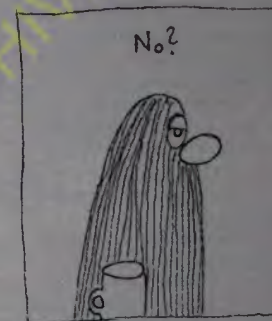
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You know what's wrong with stones like you?



Yes, I know... It's a problem.

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hats off



“Your feelings never change for the animals ... ven after all these years, you still want to take them all home with you.”

These are the words of chairperson of the Windhoek branch of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA). Waltraut Bierbach, who has held the position for three years. This SPCA is one of six in Namibia, each of which operate independently and are usually set up through interest from the community.

Since 1957, the non-profit organisation has been dedicated to the welfare of animals, funded largely by donations and boarding facility fees. They also receive a grant from the City of Windhoek for operating the municipal pound.

“About 100 dogs and 70 to 80 cats are brought in each month. These are mostly animals which members of the public inform us are stray, or which the municipality brings in, but also animals which owners bring in when they decide they don't want them anymore. We put down the sick animals with contagious diseases, since we cannot rehome them or put them in the kennels. Otherwise we keep them for eight weeks and try to find homes for them in that time,” she says.

Bierbach says the success of rehoming varies tremendously.

“Just before December we hardly rehome any animals and have to put them to sleep,



SPCA staff Barbara Lesar and Eliezer Goseb scan a dog brought in off the streets.

It's raining cats and dogs ...

THE BIG ISSUE NAMIBIA pays tribute to an organisation dedicated to the welfare of animals

but from February rehoming picks up again, although it is never 100 per cent.”

The SPCA has very strict rehoming conditions, to ensure that the animal will get the best possible future with its adoptive owners. Home checks are done beforehand to ensure that the animal will have sufficient space and that the prospective owner has the right attitude. If the applicant has had animals previously, checks are also done with the veterinarian to see if vaccination regimes have been adhered to.

“Prospective owners also need to accept that the animal they wish to adopt will be sterilised and this is not negotiable. By doing this we are also trying to decrease the large numbers of unwanted animals on the streets. Adoption fees are N\$450 for dogs and N\$250 for cats. This includes vaccination and sterilisation, which are done on our premises by our own vet, as well as micro-chipping,” says Bierbach.

Micro-chips - containing information about the owner, the animal and its vet - are injected into the animals and can subsequently be scanned to access the information. It is a simple procedure, which can help reunite animals with their owners if they are

brought in as strays to the SPCA or veterinary surgeries. Members of the public are also welcome to bring their dogs to be micro-chipped at a cost of N\$70.

The chairperson explains that the monthly running costs of the Windhoek SPCA are between N\$60 000 and N\$80 000. This includes salaries for two office staff, a driver/inspector, vet, part-time assistant and five cleaners, as well as animal food, petrol, electricity and water, and property tax.

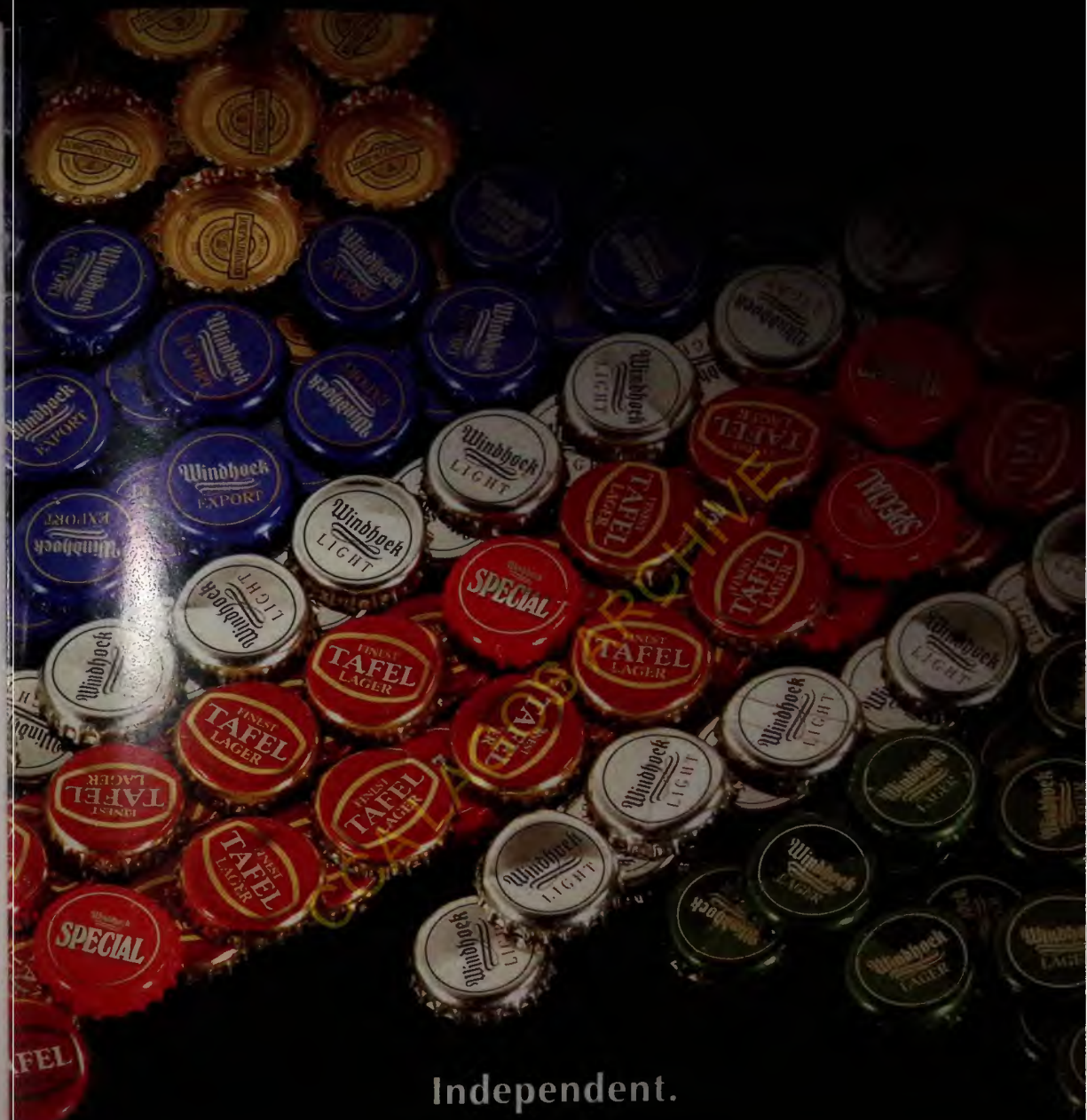
“Fortunately there are many volunteers who help us as well - committee and co-opted members come in to do regular work and help with fundraising, and there are many ladies who help with walking the dogs regularly. School children also come in to do voluntary work.”

On April 3, winners will be drawn in the SPCA's raffle competition, which includes enticing prizes, such as flights to Germany and accommodation at Namibian lodges. Last year N\$120 000 was raised for the organisation in a similar raffle. The draw will be made at the SV Club Grounds in Olympia, at a reunion for former SPCA dogs.

• For more information or if you would like to assist, contact the SPCA at (061) 238 654.



This young dog was lucky to be adopted from the SPCA by a kind woman.



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