

JANUARY 2006

Sun 1

London based diplomats, attached to the Angolan and South African embassies have been guilty of refusing to pay the environmentally friendly congestion charges imposed by the local authority. The amounts outstanding are, in the case of Angola £392, 750. Revenue lost to London, by the non payment from the South Africans, is put at £122, 550.

Whilst, in the scheme of things, the amounts owned are not a vast amount; the diplomats from United Arab Emirates owe in excess of £452, 000 swift payment would seem conducive to good diplomatic relations.

Thurs 5

Even with the backing of the majority of Skadia's shareholders those opposed to a take over, by South African insurer Old Mutual (qv 21/12), are demanding a number of seats on the newly taken over Swedish insurance company.

With the backing of AP2, Sweden's state pension fund, this 'significant majority' say that they should occupy three seats on the newly constituted board. The current board refuses to recommend that the company become part of the South African firm, they have until 12/1 to make their decision.

Located in the countries northwest, in Mpummalanga province, 32, 000 coal miners on average earn R3, 000/ £275 per month. Safety records show that there are less than 6 fatalities per year over the last four years. Despite these low wages the country is the second lowest cost producer after Indonesia. In the world; as of 2003 it stands in 6th position producing 204m tons*. It is also the world's second largest exporter of coal, sending 60% of its exports to the European market. The rate of HIV infection among workers is 25%.

*In comparison the country that produced most coal in 2003 was China. Their miners extracted 1,459m tons from underground. Britain, standing 20th in the table of coal exporters, dug 28m tons up.

Tues 10

As the number of road traffic accidents increase, and by association fatalities, conspire to damage the countries driving abilities three more people died in the latest crash.

A tourist bus carrying visitors from New Zealand, Italy and the Netherlands who were in transit in the Free State, 300 south west of Johannesburg, when the accident occurred. In addition to the deaths, which were all nationals, 21 people were injured.

Fri 13

An anthropologist, working at the main university in Johannesburg, believes, after reviewing a paper from a colleague in the United States, that our human ancestors were once hunted by birds over 2m years ago.

On closer examination the skull of 'Taung child' showed signs of cuts behind the eye sockets of the Taung fossil.

Concerns, over the costs of second line Aids drugs (qv 24/12) has been addressed by the Clinton Foundation (qv). Working with the generic manufacturers Cipla, Rambaxy and Aspen the foundation has worked to drive down the costs of two named drugs.

In the future efavirenz would cost per patient/year \$240; a saving of \$127. A second much needed drug abacavir will cost per patient/year \$427, a potential saving of at least of \$278.

In a second breakthrough, the cost of a rapid test for the HIV virus, which only needs a spot of blood and a 20 minuet wait will fall in price by 50%, down to between 49c and 69c.

Wed 18

Fresh in the mind the alleged corruption, by Jacob Zuma (qv), the authorities in Pretoria have come to the defence his replacement as vice president. The current allegation concerns Ms P M Ngcuka's recent trip to the United Arab Emirates.

The 'corruption' element emerges as the vice president used a military jet to travel, in what was essentially a private visit, to the area. In mitigation a government spokesman indicated that while in the country Ms Ngcuka carried out a programme of visits that it is believed would benefit South Africa.

Thurs 19

In, what some may say is what he deserves, P W Botha, has been denied the ability to give his first interview since the 1990's broadcast to the nation. After agreeing a one to one interview with a journalist from the television Production Company Thuthuka Productions. This finished programme was then offered for airing by the state broadcasting company.

A spokesman for the South African Broadcasting Corporation said the interview with the arch defender of apartheid, recorded to celebrate P W Botha's 90th birthday, had been shot outside its guidelines and editorial control.

The decision not to broadcast the interview, which was recorded in 2005 by Cliff Saunders, a former employee of the SABC, was deemed to be censorship and that the management had given into the wishes of the ANC dominated government.

Fri 20

Such is the plight, in their own country, that Zimbabwean nationals are prepared to risk fording the River Limpopo, with all its inherent dangers, to settle illegally in South Africa.

In the latest incident it is feared that as many as 60 would be migrants have drowned as they attempted to cross the crocodile infested and swollen, after excess rain, border between the two countries.

On a general rule the South African immigration authorities returned 97,000 would be residents in 2005. There are believed to be some 2 – 3 million Zimbabweans living without authority inside the country.

Sat 21

As a side bar in an article that discusses the life expectancy of the residents of a Glasgow suburb, the Carlton, it emerges that on average the population of Swaziland can expect to live to the age of 32. 5 years.

In what, some may see as an allegory of life in Zimbabwe a film production company has portrayed the struggle of a black Christ versus an oppressive black regime. With the aid of Dimpho Di Kopane Theatre Company and Spier Films Jesus is portrayed as a jeans and T - shirt revolutionary. In the film, shot in the Eastern Cape and the Cape Town township of Khyayelitia the 'Son of Man' is billed as a political activist who rallies a township.

Already seen, in rough cut, by an audience in South Africa, it is to receive international status as it is presented at the Sundance International Film Festival in the immediate future.

Mon 23

Hard as it was for Barclay 's Bank to return (qv 25/10) those who suffered under apartheid are attempting to sue the Bank, and other supporters of the pre 1994 National Party government.

In the court of appeal in New York, USA, 87 South Africans are claiming financial compensation from the recent returnee along with BP and other large companies. The eighty seven claim that they suffered human rights abuses. As Jubilee South Africa not only are they up against large corporations, they are also fighting the authorities in Pretoria who have sided with the defendants.

Fri 27

A significant area of Table Mountain, one of the world's most recognised geological features was engulfed in flames overnight. The fire was so severe that the plush suburb of Bantry Bay was at one time thought to be in danger.

The fire, which has claimed the life of a British tourist, and hospitalised two other British nationals, has been blamed on a fellow Briton. There was better news about three German tourists, missing on the mountainside, who were later discovered unharmed.

Sat 28

Following the blaze and death of a British tourist on the slopes of Table Mountain a British man A Cooper aged 36 a salesman from Brighton appeared in a Cape Town Court. He has been charged with culpable homicide of the yet unnamed 65 year old woman, who died from smoke inhalation.

The court granted the accused bail of R3000/ £276 . Mr Cooper will appear in court again on 31/3.

FEBRUARY 2006

Fri 3

Figures from the United Nations, UNAids, indicates that there are 5, 100, 000 Adults that carry the HIV virus. There are also 230, 000 children potential Aids victims. In Mozambique there are 1.2m and 99, 000 adults/children who had developed the symptoms of Aids in 2003.

Sat 4

Unusual as it was for former president Mandela to miss the state opening of parliament there was a good reason. Determined to overcome his increased frailty the 87 year old has recently embarked on a new exercise regime.

In recent months this regime, which must be adhered to rigorously, has seen the ANC veteran dispense with his walking stick.

Attending the first parliamentary session was his wife Graca Machel and the out of favour Jacob Zuma.

Mon 6

Highlighting Nonzuzo Swartbool and daughter Angel DOB 2.6.05 (qv 21/6) who are living in Khayelitsha township. Since the birth of her daughter, whose life will be subject to scrutiny over the next decade, her mother speaks about life in the township.

‘Life in Khayelitsha township in the Cape is better, with more houses available. Crime is a problem. Food is expensive and jobs are hard to find.’

‘Notables’ from the Israeli/ apartheid era South Africa express the long assumed links between the two; at the time pariah states. “The Jews took Israel from the Arabs after the Arabs had lived there for a thousand years. Israel, like South Africa is an apartheid state.”
H Verwoerd

“If you take the magnitude of the injustice done to the Palestinians by the state of Israel, there is a basis for comparison with apartheid.” – **A Liel, former Israeli ambassador to Pretoria**

Tues 7

Extended thoughts of ‘notables,’ both Israeli and South African, on the links between the two, then, pariah states (qv 6/2).

[South African] Jews didn't fear that there would be a Holocaust but they did fear there might be Nuremberg style laws, the kind that prevented them practising their profession.
Dame H Suzman, politician

“We created the South African arms industry. After 1976 there was a love affair between the security establishments of the two countries and their armies”. – **A Liel**

“Israelis claim they are the elect of God and find a biblical justification for their Zionist exclusivity. This is just like the Afrikaners of apartheid.” – **R Kasrils, South Africa's intelligence minister**

Sat 11

Fear of crime has led to the development of 'gated communities' throughout the country. One such development, by G Hazeldon, in Cape Town is worthy of note. The former British resident and member of the National Front is developing such a community in the Somerset West suburb of the city.

With initial 650 homes two churches and several factories the development is ringed by security features; including 34 guards and a steel fence electrified with 35, 000 volts. Outside the fence there is a development, for 200 families from the black and coloured community. It is hoped that they will be employed inside the fence, but leave when the day is done, after completing the tasks that the 1, 495 whites and five non-white residents require.

Sun 12

News item, the long established America's Cup; the world's premier race in the sailing world is facing a new crew challenge, and one not made up from the elite of society as is the usual case.

With their boat Shosholasa a crew of experience crew are working alongside 'township boys'. Already having won races against stiff competition from Europe this mixed race crew are well on their way towards the ultimate prize;— a head to head series against the holders. - **ITN 18.40** –

Mon 13

A long time haven for the emerging black culture of the native South African, cleared of its residents and its buildings flattened in 1955, is to be resurrected as a suburb of Johannesburg.

With such famous residents as Miriam Makaba, singer and actor and Hugh Masekela a renowned jazz trumpet player, Sophiatown; known locally as Harlem was wiped from the face of the earth to make way for the whites only suburb Triomf.

The world of astronomy is looking towards the clear cloudless sky of the Karoo region as they hope that their Southern African Large Telescope [Salt] is of such prominence that it will be considered to house an international telescope; the Square Kilometre Array [SKA] ahead of a stiff challenge from other areas of the world.

With a decision expected in 9/06, it is felt that as this site has already been chosen for a smaller version of the SKA project to be completed in 2009, it will boost the country's chances.

Tues 14

Near riot conditions, as three thousand supporters of Jacob Zuma surrounded the high court in Johannesburg, on the first day of the former deputy presidents trial on a rape charge (qv 22/11).

In a move of high drama the presiding judge, Bernard Ngoepe, declared that he must stand down from this position. This move was made after the lawyers acting for Mr Zuma claimed that there was a conflict of interest between the two. During the investigation, that will culminate in the 7/06 corruption trial of the ANC MP, judge Ngoepe signed search warrants that allowed the police to search his and his lawyers office.

Thurs 16

A team of German scientists from the Berlin zoo has located the national emblem of Angola; the giant Sable antelope, long thought to be extinct. Using trip wire to activate hidden cameras and analysing the DNA from excreta to compare with held samples from the sable, that antelope was located in one of Angola's national parks.

Thought to have been wiped out in 1982 the scientists from the Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research in the German capital located the majestic animal, it has horns that can grow to 1.5m long, in the Luanda Integral Nature Reserve Canganda National Park.

To think that the animal, a pregnant female, has survived the recent civil war and the guns of hunters who would pay £575, 000 /\$1m for a pair of horns. is remarkable.

With one judicial positioned questioned at the start of Jacob Zuma's rape trial (qv 14/2) the appointment of that judges replacement has been questioned by the defence team. With the MP 's defence team questioning whether it is right to let judge Jeremiah Shongwe preside, when it is alleged that judge's sister Minah had an affair with the defendant 30 years ago. The liaison resulted in a child – Edward aged 29. The trial was delayed until 6/3.

Tues 21

The author of Country of My Skull, the inside tale of all those that took part in the Truth and Reconciliation (qv), Antjie Krog, has been accused plagiarism of works by Ted

Hughes and two 19th century linguists in the writing of the award winning; and now in film format account.

The accusation surfaced in the review magazine New Contrasts, a literary review by S Watson a poet at the University of Cape Town. In evidence he said that there was several instances – similarities between his 1976 essay Myth and Education and the published 1998 work by the Afrikaner writer.

Defending the book, and the author, who claims the academics attack was personal, – E Gray of the publisher Random House admitted that there were similarities between two of the phrases used in both writings the book ‘was radically different in thinking and philosophy.’

Wed 22

As a microcosm of the countries township dwellers those who reside in Khutsong, forty miles outside Johannesburg, show that throughout the country those who live there are unhappy with the way the majority ANC administration has run the country over the last 10 plus years.

With national council elections due on 1/3, where up to 8, 000 seats; in 284 municipalities are up for re election there is evidence that many local party councillors have resigned their seats. They will then stand as Independents. It must be said that some of these resignations have come in the face of intimidation from those they represent.

Party strategists fear that after the local elections the ANC will lose control of Cape Town city council to the Democratic Alliance. They also expect to loose support in five other large cities.

On the whole the economy of South Africa is on the up. Annual growth is touching 6%. The country’ s credit rating has been upgraded. A budget deficit of just 0.5% of GDP, the lowest for 25 years and sales of pricey consumer goods such as vehicle sale, especially to the growing black middle classes are on the up.

Despite the growing outlook of economic development 12m people live in tin shacks, 25% of the population, a 50% rise over the last 10 years. 1% live below the international poverty line of \$1/day. 26% is the official employment rate but trade unions claim the 40%. Yet 658, 000 jobs were created in the last 12 months. 80% of homes are connected the national grid and 68% of poor people receive a free water ration.

Fri 24

The German born vitamin salesman M Rath, who had gone a long way to convincing many South Africans; including the minister of health and even the president, that HIV infection can be cured by the taking of vitamin supplements (qv 14/5), has himself closed down a legal challenge from Treatment Action Concern.

Along with TAC the 'vitarianist' had taken E Goemar of Medecins sans Frontier's to civil court in an attempt to win a libel action against the three. The defendants would claim that the proposed regime of M Rath would endanger the lives of patients infected with the Aids virus.

However there is still the chance that Rath will have his say in court. It is still claimed that a former education minister K Asmai had libelled him.

MARCH 2006

Thurs 2

From a high of 16, 000, in 1998, the number of car jackings had fallen to 12, 434 in 2005. During that time the stealing of high powered vehicles from the urban areas of Gauteng province; which include Johannesburg has fallen by 34%.

Such is, or was, the prevalence of this form of crime during the pre and post era of apartheid that the emerging South African film industry has used vehicle theft as a basis for a film and shown in America in the hope of winning an Oscar for the film Tsotsi.

Nominated for the 'best foreign language film' the film tells the tale of a Soweto born thug who steals a car and kills the unborn child of the driver. The question posed was the baby killed on the orders of the wife's husband as he believed the child was not his?

According to cultural commentator, G Willoughby, Tsotsi is only one of a number of outlets for the exploration of one of the most evocative outlets of criminal activity in South Africa. On the back of the threat of this type of crime any number of security firms have set up in business to teach the preventative measures that just, may, foil such crimes.

The Leeds City Council's Bronze medal winner at the 2004 Chelsea flower Show (qv 25/5) is to be recreated in the centre of the city. Work has already started on the From Freedom to the Future Garden.

Inspired by the struggle of Nelson Mandela, and the other inmates incarcerated on Robben Island, will use as a main feature Portland limestone; firstly as a representation of the limestone quarries on the prison island, and secondly as a link between South Africa and Leeds civic hall. Also included in the design will be footprints of a number of school children from the city's schools and their counterparts from Durban schools.

Sat 4

In the new world diplomacy the view the British government holds about its links with South Africa are best expressed as 'a historical one but it is seen that Pretoria is an ideal base for keeping tabs on southern Africa, not least on the developments in Zimbabwe.'

Tues 7

At the resumed trial of Jacob Zuma (qv 14/2), where more than 2, 000 ANC supporters ringed the courthouse in Johannesburg, the alleged victim was able to give her account of the 2. 11. 05 incident. In evidence the woman said that the former deputy president, aged 63, entered her bedroom to 'tuck her in.' On opening her eyes she saw that Zuma was naked. He then is alleged to have held her head while he carried out the sex act. He was not wearing a condom.

Giving his evidence, the former deputy president, agreed that there had been sexual

intercourse between the two of them, of a consensual nature, he maintained. It was also offered, in evidence, that this woman had on other occasions claimed rape against unknown persons.

The film *Totsi*, the story of a Soweto car jacking resident with a conscience, (qv 4/3) has won the Oscar it was nominated for at the star studded event in Hollywood.

Sat 11

In his own words the film director, of *Totsi* the Oscar winner (qv 7/3), explains that the existence of the film is to show that crime in South Africa is not just black on white. There is now the element of wrongdoing of the black criminal against the black middle class who now live – as their white counterparts do – in suburbs with all the security devices that are available as of this time.

“I deliberately made the family *Tsotsi* target black and well off because it’s about the gap between the rich and poor.” “It’s important to realise white people complain about crime, but black people suffer equally from it and poor people suffer more.”

Mon 13

Such is the length of time that HIV positive patients have been using the first anti retroviral drugs concerns are growing at their effectiveness. There are available, in the ‘first world’ a second generation that are more able to combat the Aids virus, now that the bodies of those infected have built up an immunity to these ‘first wave’ anti retrovirals.

Writing in the medical journal the *Lancet* a MSF spokesman indicates that the preferred drug of choice now would be Tenofovir if it were available, and at a reasonable cost, in the shanty towns of South Africa.

Available in western countries, and now placed on the World Health Organisation’s first choice list for first and second line treatment for Aids victims, the stumbling block is firstly the drugs licensing and then the price charges to the charity and its patients.

Detailing the procedure that would enable Tenofovir, manufactured by the Gilead Company,. Agreement was reached that the drug would be offered at a reduced price in 68 developing countries. In 3/05 this was raised to 97 countries. By 10/05 applications for registration had been made in 10 of the 97. By 2/06 Gilead had applied for registration in 11 of 53 African countries.

In what is seen as a more significant move the pharmaceutical company Abbot has further developed, and had licensed the USA, its Kaletra drug. The number of pills taken daily has been reduced from 6 to 4. However this new product does not need to be kept in the fridge, which is not an essential part of the shanty town kitchen, to be effective.

Wed 15

A survey, by the British firm Direct Line Insurance, has identified South Africa as the foreign destination of choice for an overseas wedding. Of those questioned 6% indicated this preference over places like As Vegas (4%), Hawaii (3%) or Barbados (2%).

The main reasons offered for choosing such far flung places was the honeymoon destination was already 'on site, guaranteed sunshine and the ability to avoid irritating relatives.

The ineptitude of the police service has again been called into question with their inability to locate the body of a murdered child in a house in Leasing a town south of Johannesburg.

Details came to light after three men appeared in court charged with the murder of M Matador aged 4, the grand daughter of the prominent judge B Nope, and the rape of the child's nanny during a robbery

The nature of the crime, and the police not finding the body of Makable until 24 hours; and a second search of the house, is the talk on the streets and on the talk radio shows throughout the country.

Official response, from the police commissioner, Jackie Selenite, openly criticised his force for its "unprecedented levels of incompetence." Outside the court women's rights activists mounted a demonstration to highlight the question of women and child abuse.

The four accused have been remanded in jail until their next court appearance on 23/3, where an application for bail will be addressed.

Caught with 1, 067, baby crocodiles in his car the owner has been charged with the possession and transport of the reptiles without the necessary permits.

The charges come after recent estimates that the global trade in illegal flora and fauna accounts for £17bn a year. The country is seen as one of the world's hotspots for biodiversity crimes.

Thurs 16

British Sugar group Associated British Foods is in talks with South African sugar producing company Illogic Sugar from who they hope to purchase 51% of the company. The company, the countries largest producer of sugar is to consider a rival bid from the Paris based Stereos who also have other commercial agricultural interests. The British company is offering only simple cash offer whereas the French owned company would swap its holdings in Mozambique and South America. Thus it would end up owning about 75% of Illogic Sugar.

Fri 17

Having failed in 2005 (qv 19/11), to limit the powers of British companies, in this case BAE Systems, to pay bribes to 'agents' to secure lucrative foreign contracts, the rules have been tightened by the Department of Trade.

As of now, the trade minister Ian Pearson, told the House of Commons that BAE and all other exporters would be required to provide all names and addresses of agents they were paying for their assistance in securing work from abroad.

A spokesman for Corner House, the anti corruption campaign group, said that the moves were a "genuine and important step in the right direction and will help go some way to restoring the Export Credit Guarantee Department's and the government's

reputation in fighting corruption.

Mon 20

The British charity Save the Children, in its report Missing on Mothers Day, details the effects HIV and Aids is having on the women and children of the country.

South Africa's female population is put at 24.1m, of these 2.9m are HIV positive. The number of children who have lost a mother to Aids in 2005 is put at 878, 000. It is expected that by the year 2010 the number of children who have lost a mother to this disease will be 1.4m.

By contrast, with a female population of 30.5m in the UK there are 17, 700. There are no figures available HIV positive women nor a 2010 forecast figure.

Sat 25

Highlighting the controversy over the treatment of Aids, criticism has been made of a British television programme that seemed to advocate a naturally grown sutherlandia which is native to South Africa.

Because of the programme, Alternative Medicine, first broadcast in 1/06, one company is promoting the use of the plant with words from the programme used as promotional material.

“In South Africa, BBC2 presenter Professor Kathy Sykes learnt of the herb sutherlandia, which is being touted as a new weapon in the fight against HIV and Aids. It is with thanks to programmes such as Alternative Medicine, shown on BBC2 on 7/2 and the work carried out by Professor Kathy Sykes that medicinal herbs can receive the acknowledgement they truly deserve, and this knowledge be passed on to the general public.”

A comment from Professor D Colquhoun, of University College London, says that the claims are dangerous because there has been no clinical trials on sufferers. The comments made were irresponsible and potentially dangerous. Even though there was no claim in the programme that this herb cured the disease the impression was left that suthutherlandia was ‘good stuff.’

Thurs 30

APRIL 2006

Mon 3

In a move to encourage people to have an HIV test a television station in Botswana has devised programme to do just that. Recently the finalists, in the Mr HIV Positive Living 2006 pageant, had their 'fifteen minuets of fame.'

Wed 5

Giving evidence, in his own defence, in the Johannesburg court, Jacob Zuma (qv) detailed the happenings that led up to the accusation of rape being levied against him. Arriving at the former vice presidents home the alleged victim was wearing a knee length skirt, and as Mr Zuma saw it, that she was looking for a sexual encounter.

As to the non wearing of a condom, with a known HIV positive women, Zuma claimed, as a former head of the countries Aids Council, that the transmission of the virus from the female to male was harder than the reverse.

Fri 7

The much hyped London statue of Nelson Mandela, refused a plinth outside the National Gallery in Trafalgar Square in London, may have been found a new plinth.

Following talks, between, members of the Nelson Mandela Foundation and officials of Westminster council, a site for the much wanted statue may be offered in Parliament Square.

Sat 8

Relationships, at the best of times, are a difficult issue. With the prevalence of HIV in a country such as South Africa the difficulties are more so.

In recent times, within this country G Dlamini as been stoned to death by his neighbours in Durban for disclosing his HIV status. Two years later, in 2000, M Motloung was shot dead by her husband in Soweto after testing positive for the virus. Even in more enlightened times the deaths continued because of the main body of the people were in deep denial of the HIV virus.

With this in mind that Positive Connection, an Internet dating service for HIV positive people was set up by B Sassmn in 9/2003. At the present time there are 354 members who have registered, some from as far afield as the USA.

The thinking behind this service is to overcome the reaction that is most common - one of instant rejection - once the subject of virus is mentioned vis a vis sexual relations between a non infected and infected partner.

Within the country there has been a variety of reactions. Policy Co - ordinator N Geffen, of Treatment Action Concern dismisses concern that the service is 'separatist' as claimed by the National Association of People with HIV/Aids, with the words "Those who join do so for a variety of reasons .. It is a personal choice. I can't see how such a service is harmful."

Mon 10

In furtherance, of the communal pledge by the G8 leaders in 2005 to spend £14.3bn/\$25bn by 2010 on child education in Africa, Gordon Brown was in at the launch of the United Nations Education for All campaign in Maputo Mozambique.

As well as backing the UN 's plan Mr Brown was able to announce that Britain would give £8.5bn over the next 10 years. This amount is four times the \$3.5bn spent on education in the previous decade. The United States gave \$3.4bn aid to Africa in 2004.

The amount pledged by Britain, as an industrialised nation, is double what should be expected. The aid agencies would see \$3.9bn from the USA, \$1.5bn from Japan and \$800m from Germany, as the correct contribution.

Wed 12

The Durban suburb of KwaMashu, the South African town with cultural and commercial links with Leeds city council (qv), has been invited to send the KPAC theatre group to the city. An unusual element of the groups make up is that a number of the players are former convicts - who have served 'time' in the towns prisons.

The twinned cities of Leeds and Durban are not dissimilar in their social/economic make up both have their criminal element and a high level of unemployment in their younger residents; in the case of KwaMashu 80%.

During their time in Leeds the group, some of who have spent up to 10 years in jail, will be visiting schools and churches to perform the play Crime Doesn't Pay which touches on elements of life that are common to the young people in both cities. The group, which has been sponsored by Leeds city council and Christian Aid, will also perform at a young offenders institute in the region.

Sat 15

News item, banished to the small town of Pomfret disgraced members of Battalion 32, most recently involved in the abortive coup in Equatorial Guinea face the prospect for the small community of being dispersed.

Sent there in 2004 (qv 18/9) by the South African government with the full knowledge that they were settled on a former asbestos mine, Pretoria has now decided to act, which naturally this small band of 'rebels' are incensed about.

Government ministers claim the movement order is for the good of their health. However others fear an ulterior motive. Parliament is in the process of pushing through parliament amendments to the Foreign Military Assistance Act, whose aim is to outlaw the employment of mercenaries anywhere in a field of military conflict.

Those opposed to this bill, management teams from, for example, Executive Outcome (qv), who send armed guards to many of the world's conflict zones see this piece of legislation as a limit to their operations. - **World Service, R 4 0400 – 04. 30 -**

Mon 17

Heralded as the crime centre of South Africa, not too many years ago, Johannesburg is facing something of a rebirth. Ten years ago to live there was to do so at your peril. The crime rate soured, muggings and car jackings were the norm. Today life is very different.

According to urban consultant N Fox says that the authorities have followed other municipalities from around the world. In places such as Seattle, Washington and Atlanta in the USA, the urban crime rate was reduced Investment followed, which led to prosperity. As of this time property prices in Johannesburg for a loft apartment now stand at £50, 000 - £200, 000.

As to future prosperity - previously one square metre of real estate was valued at £10 in 2000. At this time that same piece of land costs £350. In the future, says G Holthausen of Circlevst Properties, indicates that a charge of £3, 500 will be the going rate.

Leader Comment, **A case that could change a country**, that is the future of Jacob Zuma (qv) who is in the middle of one trial - rape - and is to face a second - fraud - at a later date. During this current trial the accused is falling back on his Zulu background and tribal grievance's by bussing in thousands of supporters who chant "100% Zulu boy"and claim that he has been framed by the Xhosa dominated ANC.

These are not the reactions expected of someone who is 'likely to make a comeback' in 2009, as president, or even in 2007 as the party leader when Mr Mbeki stands down from the top job.

"For the man who once headed the moral regeneration campaign and the national Aids council to say [as a Zulu man once aroused - as he was a the accuser wore a knee length skirt - then it was right that the sex act occurred]. The hypocrisy is bad enough but to discount the transmission risk and advocate showering as a form of safe sex is ... ludicrous and dangerous in a country where more than 5 million people with HIV and a daily death toll exceeding 600. Mr Zuma has betrayed those who look to him for leadership.

Thurs 20

Improving air links to the country the national air carrier - South African Airways - has joined the Star Alliance of airlines that will "bring the world to Africa and Africa to the world."

Joining with the national air carriers from countries as diverse as Austria, New Zealand, the United States, Finland, Germany and through to South Korea, Thailand and Japan among others hence does South Africa promote further to the international world.

Sun 23

With the 'notorious' prisoners gone from Robben Island, the former home of Nelson Mandela and his ANC buddies, there are moves afoot to remove another set of 'prisoners' that have made the island there home, who were introduced there in the 1960's.

Facing their 'marching orders;' by order of the marksman's bullet are 70 wild cats that threaten the lives of penguin chicks and the eggs of the Black Oyster Catcher who are among the 130 bird species who live on what is now a protected nature reserve.

The chosen method of ridding the island of the alleged culprits, the employment of a sharp

shooter, has angered members of the local branch Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has criticised this method as they were given to understand that the society would be allowed to trap, sterilise and return the cats to their habitat.

There are also claims, from the Cape of Good Hope branch of the SPCA, that the introduced cats are not the only killers on site. There is some evidence, from other islands, that mice; three times normal size or rabbits 'running round like packs of rats' might have turned carnivore.

Mon 24

Obituary Ellen Kuzwayo 29. 6. 14 - 19. 4. 06 born into a business class family, her father owned a store in Soweto, came from Thabo Nachu of the then Orange Free State. Many of her kin were politically active, with associations with both the ANC and its predecessor the South African National Native Congress.

Educated at St Francis' College then to Lovedale College, Fort Hare University to graduate as a teacher in 1936. Forced out of her profession, because of the Bantu Education Act in 1952 she retrained as a social worker at the Jan Hofmeyr School. There she rubbed shoulders with Winnie Mandela.

Her first real clash with the white authorities - despite seeing her parents farm seized early in her childhood - was in 1976 following the Soweto Uprising of that year. Politically motivated enough to find herself the only woman on the 10 strong Committee of 10 who ran township affairs during the remaining years of the apartheid struggle. For her troubles she was detained for five months under the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

The author of Sit Down and Listen an attempt to keep alive the African tradition of oral storytelling, published in 1990, was her second book. Number one book had won the countries CNA literature prize.

Kuzwayo was honoured by the Johannesburg city council and, in in the 1980's, became the first black women to receive an honorary degree from the University of the Witwatersrand. From 1994 - 1999 she was a member of parliament. On retiring President Mandela honoured her with an Order of Meritorious Service.

Tues 25

Police have been criticised over their handling of a racially motivated case in Vereeinging. The magistrate, in this small town south of Johannesburg, called their investigation of the killing of three laundry workers as a 'debacle'.

The killings of the three; Lesito, 24, Moeletsi and Ndweni aged 30 - on behalf of C Colyn, 53, his daughter Isabel, 22, son in law J Smit 25 and family friend R Swanepol was carried out by gardeners to the accused.

The motive for the deaths, according to one of the gardeners, was because one of the deceased was actively recruiting employees into a union.

Fri 28

Some may believe that the central tenant of the Oscar winning film Tsotsi, which is available to view in British cinemas, of a criminal being overcome with remorse enough to return an infant from the back of a hijacked car, is too far fetched must think again.

As in the foreign language class winner Presley Cheweneyagae, an unknown thug took advantage of Pretoria resident Olga Botha's move to open her driveways gates to park the car on her drive. This unknown tsotsi took his chance and drove off with baby JP still strapped in the vehicles back seat.

Quick thinking police phoned the mobile of Ms Botha that was still with the baby. Answered by thief an arrangement was made to return the infant outside a local school. This was successfully accomplished. What has not, yet, been adhered to, is the car jackers promise to return the vehicle within forty eight hours.

Renewing his association with the landlocked kingdom of Lesotho, Prince Harry once again has met orphans created by the Aids epidemic that affects the kingdom. The royal was there to inaugurate a charity in memory of his mother, Diana Princess of Wales. Named Sentabate, which has the meaning forget me not was named after his mother. By naming the charity, in such a way it is hoped that neither the plight of the orphans of Lesotho or his mother will be forgotten.

Leader Comment, **Caring Harry**, "It is clear that the beaming 21 year old has a genuine affinity for the people he first met on a visit two years ago. His easy going manner and his natural charisma, along with his real desire to assist those most in need, echo the best qualities of Diana herself. Mum would be proud of him.

Sat 29

To set the opera Carmen outside its Servile based cigarette factory is the issue being debated as husband and wife team move the 'action' to South Africa.

MAY 2006

Mon 1

Tight security is in place in Namibia's Erongo district, especially so round the Burning Shore Beach Lodge resort near the sea side hamlet of Langstrand. This, until now, Atlantic coastal resort is the chosen place for the birth of the Jolie/Pitt child.

The authorities, in the guise of the governor Samule Nujoma, has imposed a virtual exclusion zone around the American actors chosen birthplace. So far police have mounted a high profile security operation, which has seen a ban on flying aircraft - which could include photographers eager for the first shot of the newborn, worth \$1m say those who know - the expulsion of a South African and a French journalist.

In a response, to earlier remarks from the former head of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Archbishop Desmond Tutu, F W de Klerk has asked that the black community to recognise the sacrifices made by the white people in embracing all race democracy

In the newspaper article the former president once again apologised to the victims of white rule. Once again, speaking of the apartheid regime, called it "morally indefensible", but denied his government was a "criminal regime."

Sun 7

Taking on the seemingly impossible task of participating in the America's Cup, by Team Shosholosa and a crew which is made up - in part - by boys from the townships, is coming on 'a pace'. In recent weeks members of the crew, which include a former member of the navy S Dipree from Simon's Town in the Western Cape and M Burricks a mixed race youth with a criminal past from Cape Flats of the Cape, furthered their love of the sea after joining a sailing club.

Under the influence of S Sarno, an Italian business man based in the country, their sailing ambitions grew as they formed part of the crew of his Durban based yacht.

As of this time Team Shosholasa has won through to the knock out stage of competition to identify the ultimate challenger to the American holders of the Cup. After making no impact against the French in which they were seen a curiosities and a team to be looked down on, races with boats from Sweden and China were beaten. The next series of events, in Sicily saw the team placed fifth out of 12 competitors.

Mon 8

On the eve of the judgement, which Judge Merwe will take six hours to deliver, into the allegation of rape against Jacob Zuma (qv) there were supportive rallies in Johannesburg and Durban.

At the rally, in his home town, the former deputy president was on stage accompanied by church ministers; this day was a Sunday for singing and dancing to Zulu anthems.

Whatever the outcome of the trial the verdict will be judged as showing the calibre of leadership of the nation. Other questions resting on the verdict; do we want our government to be at the forefront of the fight against the Aids virus? How should the nation view the risks of violence and rape as a crime against women?

It is felt that whatever the verdict, which will also be broadcast live on state television, the alleged victim, will have to leave the country for her own protection.

Tues 9

With a crowd of at least 4, 000 supporters surrounding the courthouse, and a rebuke from the judge, for not wearing a condom, Jacob Zuma was acquitted of the rape of a HIV positive Treatment Action Concern employee.

Despite having to attend a second trial on corruption charges (qv), it was this trial that was seen as this verdict that was the most important if Zuma was to renew his political fight to ascend to the post of president in 2009.

As for the how the world, and its citizens - especially women - see their government as a result of this trial, time will tell. Some say it will expose the 'closed nature' of the ruling ANC government. There is bound to be much pressure on the leadership to reinstate the acquitted Zuma as vice president.

The role of men's attitude to women, especially those infected with the Aids virus, may be changed because of remarks made during the case. Most damaging is the belief - and this came from one who is head of the national Aids council that the chance of female to male transmission of the virus was low. In any case Zuma indicated that he had showered after intercourse anyway.

Wed 10

During a post trial interview, where he was acquitted of raping a 31 year old women, Jacob Zuma (qv 9/5) castigated his supporters for their continued vilification of her. The freed man extended the 'hand of friendship' to the anti rape activists who demonstrated in her support throughout the trial.

There was also a second apology, this time for his remarks on the not wearing of the condom during a sex act. "I unconditionally apologise to all people of our nation and I pledge to continue the struggle against HIV and Aids and the struggle against gender based violence. I erred in having unprotected sex. I should have known better and acted more cautiously."

Despite having to stand before a jury again, in 6/06 on corruption charges, Zuma indicated that he would stand for the position of president in 2009.

this day 1877 the British government, through the British Commissioner had given notice four weeks ago, to the independent Boer republic of the Transvaal, that unless it put its house in order then the British Empire would annex the Republic to incorporate it into South Africa. With no such moves taken the British flag now flies over the Republic's capital Pretoria.

The reasons for the annexation were that our demands were not met. There were no measures taken, by Pretoria, which the authorities considered essential for the peace and prosperity in both the Republic and indeed the region of Southern Africa. It is feared that the Portuguese will invade, and the Empire's move stopped a deteriorating situation becoming any worse.

Murders go unchecked, the Aids menace is denied and the violence against women and children in endemic. Former vice president Jacob Zuma may have been cleared of rape this week, but South Africa remains in the dock.

Detailing the pro and anti Zuma demonstrations outside the Johannesburg courthouse sees pro women support group People Opposing Women Abuse protected by police. With their 'One in Nine campaign' they were highlighting the 1: 9 rapes reported to the police and that it is thought that the rape of a women or child occurs every 26 seconds.

Then there is the age old issue of tribalism that infects many African countries. In this case Xhosa and Zulu/ , Mbeki/ Zuma and the accession to the vacant president's position in 2009.

Thurs 11

Long known as the producer of generic drugs, for the treatment of the Aids virus, India has begun to consider a request from the multinational drug companies that they should receive a fee for granting a license to the Indian producer.

Well known for the production of the anti retroviral Tenofovir [Viread] and Combivir the Californian based Gilead and Briatin 's GlaxoSmith Kline, the 'first world' producers are seeking patent payments through the Indian courts. These are only the first two, of more than 8, 000, cases due for a hearing.

Naturally the Indian manufactures that supply these generics, along with the non government agencies, MSF, that distribute low cost medicines to the needy are in opposition to any such payments. They argue that any increase in cost - \$15, 000/£800 per patient/year 10 years ago don to £200 p/p/y will have a deferential effect on patients lives.

Mon 15

Ten years plus after the death of apartheid South Africa is beginning to recognise the artistic merit of the black artist Gerald Sekoto, who was the first, in 1940, black artist to have a picture accepted by the Johannesburg Art Gallery. Even in those pre National Party government times he artist had to sneak into the 'whites only' building to view The Yellow House. The subject matter of the picture a bright street scene showing urban life in a divided country.

Disillusioned with the way his country was headed he went into voluntary exile in 1947 and died in Paris in 1993. Never returning home he was still able to produce paintings of life in District Six and Sophiatown. In these paintings he was able to capture the struggle for freedom that lasted many years. Not being able to earn enough to live, by painting alone, he turned to jazz as the way to provide him with a living - an album of his music

was released back in South Africa 12 months ago.

Now, with a number of his paintings hanging in the Constitutional Court building - the Old Fort in Cape Town - and the recent sale of a self portrait in London [£117, 600] - it can be said that G Sekoto has received his recognition

Tues 16

Freed after his acquittal on a rape charge Jacob Zuma (qv) has eased his way back into the vice presidents post from which he was honourably released in 2005 (qv 15/6). Despite this resumption of normality there is still the issue of his forthcoming trial on corruption charges in 7/06. An opinion poll in the Sunday Times has suggested that 64% of those questioned do not him to be president.

Media writers, Karim Brown, political editor of Business Day "Zuna is on the comeback trail but has huge hurdles - the corruption trial and the opposition of many civic groups. He has opened a wide rift within the ANC over who should succeed Mbeki.

Sat 20

As of this date with the current rise in the value of shares, on the New York and London Stock Exchange, the price of a troy ounce of gold is \$720. This is a 26 year high and could, some analysts believe, signal trouble ahead in the global economy.

Sun 21

Bono, a leading member of the 'notables' who are calling for the rescheduling of foreign debt for third world nations has recently been in Lesotho. The tour, as a part of a six nation tour of Africa, was welcomed by the kingdoms prime minister B P Mosisili, who was also ready to take part, by subjecting himself as a way of encouraging people, to have an HIV test.

Whilst they were in the kingdom the visitors toured a textile factory which was, until recently, in danger of closing because of the trade barriers imposed by the developed world. The situation was saved when an order was placed by the U2 band to sell the manufactured T shirts at the Irish groups concerts.

According to, the factory owner in the town of Butha Butha, with the ability to work and earn wages his workers were encouraged to go for the Aids test. Doing so will, it is hoped go some way to combat the high HIV infection rate throughout the kingdom.

Mon 22

An academic study, of the life of the Zulu warrior Shaka, has ruled out the myth that the 19th century warrior was all he was made out be. The myth of his lust for blood, and his many military campaigns, was perpetrated by authors Isacs and Flyn. In the book Travels and Adventures in Eastern Africa written in 1836 the two Victorian writers exaggerated the cruelty and lust for power, of one who had murdered his half brother in 1828 to assist his rise to power, so that the two could benefit as the British military rode into the heart of the Zulu nation to crush his expansionist tendencies.

In the latest analysis of the life of Shaka, Myth of Iron: Shaka in History written by the academic D Wylie from his base at Rhodes University, it is said that the earlier reports were written using only oral history. This current book, described by the author as an 'anti biography' shows that the earlier book was used for the purpose stated.

Tues 23

Much as Zimbabwe has felt the benefit of investment by the Chinese government, in a concerted effort to spread their influence widely in Africa so the Angolan government has agreed to accept help from Beijing. With this coming together of business and government 3/06 saw the beginning of project to overhaul Angola's Benguela railway which had been devastated after years of civil war.

The range of involvement will see the spending of \$500m by Beijing building many bridges and stations. The hope is that Angola will end up with a functioning transport system. There will be on offer a further \$1.5bn to aid rebuilding the infrastructure in this war torn and oil rich country.

Once again an African inspired garden flourishes at the Chelsea Flower Show as a Zimbabwean; Soweto living J Nzira and a charity come together and design a garden.

Named GardenAfrica, after the charity, the garden features plants that are used in southern African community gardens to help people with HIV/Aids. The cost of this exhibit was put at £10, 000. Commenting on a nearby exhibit, an empire gazebo with real South African fumigated thatch at £14, 280 Mr Nzira indicated that this amount would train more than 1,000 families how to grow food and medical plants.

Wed 24

Reminiscent of the worst time of anti apartheid violence, the countries railways are once again being used as a vehicle of violence. In the mid 1980's the rail line from the - then black township - Soweto and Johannesburg was the target for attacks on commuters.

With the level of attacks rising in recent weeks, with a number of travellers being pitched from the moving train to their deaths, the authorities are considering bringing the military to contain the violence.

Some officials have linked the attacks with a continuing strike by Metrolink security guards union. This has been denied.

Thurs 25

Such is the interest in the imminent birth in Namibia (qv 1/5) that there are moves for the government to call a public holiday. The pressure, on the authorities in Namibia has been stoked by listeners to a phone in radio show in the country.

Regional Military Statistics

COUNTRY	ACTIVE	RESERVE	POSITION	BUDGET /\$BN
Angola	108, 400	10,000	40	1.2
Botswana	9,000	1, 500	127	0.4

Lesotho	2,000	2,000	150	0
Mozambique	11,200	11,200	116	0.1
Namibia	5,300	9,900	126	0.2
South Africa	55,750	60,000	61	3.8
Zimbabwe	29,000	21,800	83	0.3
Britain	216,890	241,520	2	50.2

World's number of soldiers 19, 954, 934, Defence Budget \$1, 097, 115, 610, 000

Source: International Institute of Strategic Studies

Fri 26

Long has it been debated the origins of the disease that has become the scourge, of both the developed and under developed world, and caused a pandemic crisis affecting 40 million people. Recently scientists from the University of Nottingham, and other centres believe they can answer the question where did the Aids virus come from?

The scientists first began a study of chimpanzees in a heavily forested area of Cameroon. With ten years data Paul Sharp professor of genetics from the English centre with colleagues from Alabama, USA and Montpellier in France located two sub species of the primate deep in the jungle. Each group lived on either side of the natural boundary of the north/south divide River Sanagar.

On the northern bank of this river the chimps had no sign of the simian immunodeficiency virus, which bears a striking similarity to the HIV virus in humans. On the southern bank there was evidence of this virus. Searching for other sources, of infected animals, led the team south east into the Democratic Republic of Congo where they found further evidence of SIV. On the banks of the River Sangha chimpanzees once again had the tell tail virus excreted in their faeces.

The theory goes when man began travelling deep into the African forest SIV positive animals were butchered on the spot for food. With great blood loss from the animal and a splattering on the butchers some of the blood would enter open wounds of the hunter and so would the virus spread from human to human.

The death of Nozipho Bhengu aged 32 from an Aids related illness highlights once again the two concepts of treating the HIV virus. Having listened to the argument's of the likes of the minister of health and even the president the former member of parliament chose to follow a nutritional way to combat the disease. Eating garlic, olive oil and lemon and herbs. This route for her treatment, against medical opinion, to utilise anti retroviral drugs resulted in her premature death.

Speaking of this apparently untimely death M Heywood, a spokesman for Treatment Action Campaign (TAC), her decision "created confusion around medicine and created direct pressure on many individuals not to take drugs."

Sun 28

With the exclusion of a French and South African photographer from Namibia it would seem that the privacy of the 'notables' is assured (qv 25/5) as the Windhoek government

approve a request all foreign journalists from the country.

The authorities, led by the prime minister Nahas Angula, are in a cooperative mood at this time. They feel that such interest, both internally and world wide, will have a beneficial effect on tourism to the venue of the birth of Pitt/Jolie infant.

Mon 29

It has been announced that in the 'protected enclave' of the Burning Shore Beach Lodge near the beach resort Langstrand, Namibia, the birth of a daughter to Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt. Shiloh Nouvel Jolie - Pitt was born on 27/1 at the pairs hideaway on the Atlantic coast line. Her first 'given name' - from the Hebrew - translates as "the peaceful one." To Christians a translation of 'the Messiah' would not be out of order.

One year on from a joint venture, between South Africa's citrus farmers and the British supermarket group Waitrose , farm workers have seen mutual benefits for all concerned. With a special encouragement to purchase South African fruit products the company, part of the John Lewis group, has reinvested £330, 000 back into their communities.

There has been an expansion of the growing number of education and literacy classes. These skills the farm labourer will use to a living once the fruit growing season, of six months, comes to an end.

JUNE 2006

Fri 2

The latest figures, for 2005, released by the United Nations UNAids Global fund, show that in South Africa the number of adults that carry the HIV virus has risen to 5, 5000, 000. The prevalence was 18. 8%. The number of deaths was 320, 000.

The figures were released at a time when the heavily influential Christian right wing element in the Bush administration is in the ascendancy. So opposed are they to the UN 's methods of combating the spread of the virus, through the use of the condom and the education programme, that they are opposed to an increase in funding from the £4.4bn per year till 2010 to £12bn/year over that time span.

The main argument of the Washington administration is to have those at risk from contracting the virus is abstinence.

Wed 7

Long gone, from the Burning Shores enclave in Namibia (qv 29/5) the 'notable couple' have donated \$300, 000 to the countries health service. Of a more benefit to the local community will be the donated \$15, 000 that has been given to a school and community centre in Swakopmund.

The above donations comes hard on the heels of the selling of the birth pictures of Shiloh Novel. The world wide distribution rights have been bought by the Getty Images agency for a rumoured £3.7m/\$7m. The child herself weighed in at 3.2kg/7lbs.

Thurs 8

Even with the picture exclusivity, offered to Getty Images, images Shiloh Novel Pitt, born in Namibia (qv 29/5), have reached a wider public after appearing on the Internet. Both companies say legal action will be taken against those who are responsible for this action.

Getty Images and Hello magazine have begun operations to find who leaked the pictures. Both companies say legal action will be taken those who are responsible for this action.

Sun 11

With the loss of the planning inquiry into the site of the proposed statue to Nelson Mandela (qv 7/4) those backing the £400, 000 venture are somewhat nearer finding a location which is not far away from the original sight.

With the new location named as Parliament Square the only wrangle is where to place a statue of; in the words of Chris Smith the former culture secretary "one of the greatest figures of the last century."

London mayor Ken Livingstone, the instigator of the Mandela statue project would like to see the plinth placed in the centre of the square. On the other hand Westminster Council feel that the site should be on its western edge.

In their first game, in the 2006 World Cup campaign, Angola, playing in Group D, lost to their former colonial masters 1: 0. To progress further in this tournament the need to win against Mexico, on 16/ 6, and Iran, twenty four hours later is paramount.

Wed 14

A large majority of public service workers in South Africa believe that HIV/Aids can be cured. The findings come from a survey of 20 focus groups and a questionnaire of 1, 680 health service workers.

This comes at a time when the virus has infected 5 million South Africans and kills 600 of the population daily.

Thirty years on from the schools boycott in Soweto - which was immortalised by the picture of the father of Hector Peterson carrying his dying child through the streets of the township.

Thurs 15

Independent film makers Cashdan Direko, making a one of series of programmes under the title Unauthorised has had the 30 minuet 'controversial' profile of Thabo Mbeki pulled from the schedules.

Those elements of the South African nation, anti ANC in their stance, blame the decision on the pressure put on the executive of the South African Broadcasting Corporation who do not want to upset the present government.

The broadcast was 'pulled' due to the fact that in the opinion of the SABC 's board of governors 'Unauthorised Mbeki' was dropped because it was unbalanced and defamed the president. The decision was taken after consultation with legal experts.

Fri 16

Both implicitly involved in the 1976 Soweto Uprising the lives of Oupa Moloto and Robert Zondo have taken a different path in the time South Africa has enjoyed a multi racial society.

The 50 year old Moloto, now a successful businessman; party member and organiser of the 30th commemoration of the school uprising was along with his contemporary a student at the Morris Isacson secondary school.

During the struggle Moloto worked as a member of the ANC 's armed wing, was captured by the security forces, jailed for 22 years, and continues to support as he worked as a taxi cab owner. Come 1994 and use of his connections with the new government was able to acquire a bank loan to expand his fleet of cabs to five. Thus the revenue from these will, or has, funded his daughter through to obtaining a marketing degree

Of the other school student, R Zondo aged 38, the new South Africa has not been kind to. As an eight year old he completed his secondary education. However the post '76 turmoil prevented the gaining of a business degree. He voted ANC in 1994, but has not voted since after becoming disillusioned. Now he stands outside the building that Mr Moloto occupies to plan

Wed 21

A comment from a government minister has angered victims of crime, just as a high profile criminal case comes before the courts.

Earlier the comments of the minister of safety and security, C Nqokula, who were, the minister says, were addressed to members of the Opposition, caused the relatives and friends of the victim of the five men on trial, much anguish.

The minister was reported to have said that people who continue to complain and whinge at the number of reported rapes and murders; 51 and 151 respectively could leave South Africa “so that all peace loving South Africans, good South African people who want to make this a successful country can continue with their work.”

Government figures show that the annual murder rate reached 20, 000 before beginning to fall. A United Nations report says that the country has the third highest murder rate behind Columbia and Swaziland.

Sat 24

A group of prisoners with HIV/Aids from Westville prison, outside Durban, have won a high court battle that forces the prison service to begin the treatment that will hopefully prolong their lives.

The court order states that treatment for the fifteen must begin receiving anti retroviral drugs within a two week period. In the last year there as been 110 Aids related deaths of prisoners. The legal fight, by the 15, was submitted to the court because the prison authorities were only allowing one inmate a day counselling.

Sun 25

Nick du Toit, an associate of the S Mann (qv), himself jailed in Zimbabwe in 2004 for attempting a coup against the government in Equatorial Guinea, was jailed for 34 years at is trial in Malabo the countries capital.

Further more the exploits of the mercenaries have been turned into a book and a television film. The book, The Wonga Coup written by A Roberts and published by Profile @ £9. 99 is now on sale.

It would seem that the television programme, Coup written by J Fortune, is half satire and half a dramatised depiction of the events that occurred two years ago. This half and half programme will be broadcast on BBC2 at 21. 30 on 30/6.

Tues 27

The death of eight gang members and four policemen in a South African shoot out raised fresh fears of unchecked violence, despite a government commitment to reduce crime. Crime weary nationals will, if of the ‘whingeing persuasion,’ are aware of the recent remarks of the safety and security minister (qv 21/6), who has admitted that crime was a concern.

JULY 2006

Tues 4

A decision by the British government, that has been to the benefit of many of the nursing staff from South Africa and other former Commonwealth countries, is to come to an end, From 7/8 the NHS will no longer be allowed to recruit from outside the European Economic Union. This announcement, which saw 12, 670 overseas nursing staff come here in 2005, is not to benefit the health services in South Africa and other African nations. The reason is that there are no jobs available for the recently qualified here in Britain.

Notwithstanding the research into the use of microbicides in the treatment of the Aids virus, initiated in 2004 (qv 15/10), ongoing research; using the controversial growing method on GM research in London is ongoing. In a technique, known as pharming, cells of the tobacco plant; *Nicotina tabacum* have microscopic holes punched in them are then are soaked in a genetically modified bacterium. The plant then produces cyanovirin N. This is the chemical that will go into the vaginal cream that it is hoped will be tested in Uganda and South Africa within three years.

The £8m project, overseen by Professor J Ma at the Centre for Infection at St Georges Hospital in London, has its field work, the growing of the tobacco plants at the high security facility run at the East Malling Research Facility in Kent, says that each plant could produce 20 doses of HIV effective medicine.

On a world scale the treatment of the pandemic would need 5, 000kg of cyanovirin to treat an estimated 10m women. In order to increase the team's next step is to investigate the growing

Thurs 6

Hot, from his recent judicial victory Jacob Zuma (qv), is to sue a number of media outlets for their portrayal of him during the recent rape trial.

In the sights of his lawyers is the Hiveld radio station who are being asked for damages of £4.8m /R63m for the playing of a comic song "I am Zuma." Another source of income are newspaper cartoonists. One such is leading lampooner J Shapiro, of the Independent Group, in their newspapers three of his cartoons were used, For this usage lawyers for the reinstated deputy president are demanding compensation of R15m.

Comment from the editor of one of the affected newspapers, M Williams of the Johannesburg Star, indicated "I am not loosing any sleep over this. We have freedom of speech in this country and satirists will not be made to shut up.

Sat 8

Much as the supermarket chain Waitrose sources much of its fruit from the Cape region it would seem that the Tesco group do like likewise. Whilst the fruit pickers, who pick the farmers produce or the Waitrose group, may be happy with their remuneration the Tesco employee, by default, is not.

The concerns of Gertruida Baartman aged 38, who is paid only 38p an hour and works sorting apples and pears for only four months of the year, expressed her concerns to the annual general

meeting of the supermarket chain in London.

With the help of the anti poverty group Action Aid the single mother of three was able to confront D Reid, Tesco 's chairman and challenge the findings of a recent supermarket report, from Action Aid, that working conditions were not all that they could be.

By speaking out Ms Baartman, who not only risks losing her job but also her home, was assured that the company would look into her grievances

Wed 12

Working to improve the lot of some of the street children of South Africa, looked after by the Dianne Lang Foundation, children of Leeds have facilitated Middleburg children to improve their football skills with a donation 60 pairs of soccer boots and £1, 000.

The Morley High School pupils were inspired to help after tales from one of their own teachers. Wesley Bush, the schools PE teacher, was told himself about the work of the Foundation by an employee of the Leeds based financial services company Keypoint; a main supporter of the Foundation.

It is now the aim of the school to raise a further £3, 000. This will be used to educate 300 deprivs South African living children.

Fri 14

Using the up and coming 88th birthday of Nelson Mandela, on 18/7, a novel way has been found to raise finance for a hospital unit. Up for grabs, from 11/06, to the highest bidder will be afternoon tea with the former president. The money raised by this forthcoming on - line auction will go to help the Walter Sisulu paediatric centre in Johannesburg.

Other items to be auctioned, all to raise funds for the same cause, are a singing lesson from Miriam Makeba and a business session with P Motsepe, the countries best known black millionaire.

The announcement was made as Bill Clinton, who pledged R200, 000 /£15, 000 to the centre, and the Nobel prize winner toured the facility.

Sun 16

With the aim of reaching of the young people, who are most likely to come into contact with the HIV virus, Nelson Mandela has agreed to introduce a short film on the Aids crisis as part of the MTV twenty fifth anniversary celebrations.

As a break from voters being asked to choose the worlds sleaziest and most controversial pop music video viewers will be able to view Meeting Mandela where school children tell their stories to the former president. Also there will be film of former American president Bill Clinton as he speaks at the 2002 International Aids Conference in Barcelona.

Tues 18

According to reports, from friends and former political colleagues, the 88th birthday of Nelson Mandela will be family orientated. There are those who take some pleasure from the fact that the former president has 'withdrawn' from political life.

Comments from friends, "He's a talkative guy and I'm sure he would like to give his opinion on key issues" says A Cachalia his friend will come as music to the ears of today's political leaders who are of the opinion that Mandela's thoughts are not welcome. Even more telling, from M Gevisser the author of a new biography "Mandela was treated like a bothersome old man who should go away.

The Cape Argus newspaper has reported that now available is a new ringtone for your mobile phone, which the premier of the Western Cape describes as 'criminal.' The essence of the tone is a lyric that exhorts the killing of a black man by dragging him behind a moving vehicle. A technical expert says that finding the originator of the tone will be difficult as 'its possible for anyone with a computer to make any type of ring tone.

Thurs 20

Three British scientific explorations to, find a vaccine that is effective against the HIV/Aids virus, will be among those to benefit from a cash injection from the Bill and Melinda Gaits Foundation. The stepping aside, in 2008, owner of Microsoft and his wife has donated \$287m/£156m to the world wide scientific community who are intent on finding a cure to this virus.

The donated money is shared between 16 projects in 19 countries. In a unique move all the scientists involved have signed a collaboration agreement and will openly share their data and results in the hope of getting the most promising vaccine candidate quickly into clinical trials in humans.

In a move that challenges Bill Gates and his wife promise to tackle poverty and disease in the planets poorest continents they both visit the township of Khayelitsh on the outskirts of Cape Town. How do they rise to the challenge of face to face meeting with residents?

Then there is a visit to Lesotho, where it is thought that between 23% - 31% of young adults are infected with the virus, along with Bill Clinton and other members of his Foundation.

Sat 22

Well aware that the supermarket chain Tesco, based in Britain (qv 8/7), employs workers like G Baartman; on £3. 41 an hour to pick fruit for sale in this country those backing here campaign for better treatment have another agenda.

Facilitated by the South African group Women on Farms and an official of the designated trade union Growing Together, whose aim is to influence a piece of legislation that is progressing through the system.

This joint campaign, allied with the Right Corporate Wrongs Campaign, hopes to change the Company Law Reform Bill. As of this present time whilst British companies with an overseas workforce 'may be aware' of conditions they are not responsible for them. This new legislation, if passed, will make company directors responsible in law for the working conditions of their overseas workforce.

Fri 28

The continuing policy, of Africanisation of towns and cities throughout the country, is still controversial. The latest town to fall is the predominantly Afrikaner community of Lydenburg who will soon be living in Mashishing, named after a nearby black township. Critics of this policy say the policy is being pushed through, without the consultation of the residents, by the ANC government.

Whilst there is broad agreement that towns named after Boer or British men who slaughtered blacks or have demeaning and racial names should be renamed critics say that Pretoria has moved on from that policy. Over the last 12 months the ANC government have instigated name changes on places that are for ever linked to the legacy of colonialism and apartheid.

Other political groups also make the complaint that name changes occur only to be replaced by ANC supporter names; Johannesburg International Airport/ Oliver Tambo International Airport being one example.

The birth Shiloh Nouvel in Namibia (qv) has been celebrated in wax. The child, along with its parents has appeared, at the Madame Tussauds exhibition in New York.

Mon 31

Would be president Jacob Zuma was given a hero 's welcome by thousands of supporters on the eve of corruption trial. With a enhanced feeling of the nations support, after his acquittal on a rape charge (qv) the former South African number two is ready to face the Pietermaritzbrg high court.

AUGUST 2006

Tues 1

Dubbed Travelgate, by the media the 2005 investigation by the police (qv 24/1), the final approaches were being made in a Cape Town Court. Before the legals were twenty three law makers and six travel agents. Their crime, it is alleged, was to defraud parliament of up to R24m/£1.8m. They were able to do this by using official travel vouchers for luxury holidays.

At the same time the trial of J Zuma (qv 31/7), with a crowd that was estimated to be 5, 000 strong began.

Fri 4

Noted killer of those who opposed the apartheid regime, and was released from prison in 2004 (qv 23/10), Louis van Schoor still shows little remorse for the deaths attributed to him; 39 and for which he was jailed in 1992.

Living in the environs of Port Elizabeth and working as a cattle farmer as he prepares to marry wife number five, the former security guard, along with his daughter - who herself has served a jail sentence for a related killing are the subject of a book.

Written by Heidi Holland The Colour of Murder takes as its subject matter the inability of South African whites who still, after many years of multi racial government, will not say sorry for the hardships and the deaths that the black community suffered under the apartheid regime.

With a murder rate at 50 times more than in Europe the perception of how the world will see the country with the footballing world arriving in 2010 for the World Cup finals is of concern to the authorities in Pretoria. The 'blame game' is endemic, farmers blame the ANC, rich blame the poor and the whites blame the blacks.

The recreation of the garden, promised (qv 1/3), that won Leeds the bronze medal at the Chelsea Flower show, in 2004 has been completed. Situated in front of the city's civic hall the From Freedom to the Future Garden represents the links between the city and South Africa.

The design of the garden features a path of Portland limestone; a link between the façade of the municipal building and the stone quarry on Mr Mandela's prison island. Also incorporated are casts of footprints of real time school children from Leeds and the port city of Durban, a symbol of South Africa's path to freedom.

Thurs 10

In recreating one, of the many, defining moments of the struggle against apartheid, the women of South Africa are still able to concentrate the minds of their fellow citizens the inequalities that the female race still face in this modern day country.

On the 50th anniversary of the day, in 1956, that the Union Building's, the seat of the government, in Pretoria were surrounded by women protesting at the hardships caused by the

Pass Laws this event occurred.

Whether they were 'received' in 1956 by the then ruler J G Strijdom whose government had a fearsome reputation for its suppression of protest, is not known to this author, their reception was of a different calibre this time.

Greeting the marchers president Mbeki told them "Together as a nation we must uphold the perspective that non of us is free unless the women of our country are free. Free from racial and gender discrimination, free from poverty, free from fear and violence."

As of this time there are 12, out of twenty eight, women cabinet ministers in government.

Fri 18

An interim assessment, of the promise of G8 money, to finance the work of the Global Fund for Aids TB and Malaria, is well short of its requirements delegates in Toronto were told. According to the UN 's special envoy, S Lewis, the delegates were told that only 75% of the cash had been made available for research.

The fund was \$500m /£264m short of the money it needed even to fulfil its obligations for this current year. In total the world is spending around \$8.3bn on Aids this year, short of the UN estimate that \$15bn is needed in 2006, rising to \$22bn in 2008.

The on going dispute, that prevents a bronze statue of Nelson Mandela being erected in central London, sculpted by the renown Ian Walters in 2005 (qv 24/9), will not allow the 76 year old to be around at an unveiling ceremony. It has just been announced that the artist has succumbed to cancer.

Obituary Anthony Holiday 6. 11. 40 - 10. 7. 06 brought up in a Catholic family living in Cape Town. Schooled at the Marist Brother's College, Rondebosh where he was influenced by a M Vesterfield of Cape Town University at a weekly meeting of Catholic intellectual 's.

1965 joins the Cape Times as a junior reporter, then moving to the crusading Johannesburg Rand Daily Mail as a specialist political reporter. Following work overseas, London as a sub editor on the Times newspaper, he returns to the paper. **1976**, July, arrested and four later charged under the Terrorism Act for receiving money for the ANC and the SACP and an underground cell, with three others, and printing propaganda leaflets and other subversive activities. For this he was jailed six years.

1971 returns to London to be befriended by the Pahad brothers, both now serving in the Mbeki administration. Gained a Ph.D. in the theories of Wittgenstein.

1994 Returned to Cape Town and abandoning the Communist Party and active politics to devote himself to journalism and the academic life.

Sat 19

A representative of Treatment Action Campaign (TAC) has spoken out against the South African president. Speaking at the Toronto conference sponsored by the UN's Global Fund for Aids (q.v. 18/8) Mark Heywood has called into question president Mbeki's 'silence' that is causing the death of, according to this academic at the University of the Witwatersrand, 800 people infected with the Aids virus a day.

According to Heywood, who works at the Universities Aids Law Project, the 'notables' in the international community are reluctant to speak out about the low number, 17%, of HIV positive South Africans that are being treated on a regular basis.

"The crisis has to be broken somehow. The African Union and the G8 and the EU have to speak out about it. The British government, who are silent on this question have to find a way to intervene."

Figures show that the number of people receiving anti retroviral drugs is 200, 000 with the majority, 130, 000, being treated in the public sector. However it is claimed that at least the number of South Africans that need these medicines is 700, 000.

Mon 21

From one of the same team that brought the Oscar winning film Tootsie to the South African screen (q.v.) a theatre company has brought a depiction of township life to the Edinburgh Festival. Township Stories at the Traverse Theatre from 22/8 to 2/9 depicts various scenes common in life.

Presented by the Johannesburg Theatre Company and uses Presley Chweneyagae; the Oscar winner as co writer and Zenzo Ngqobe who plays Butch in the film. The show was created by Paul Groobom, who has already earned praise for his theatre work

Tues 22

An education facility, facilitated by an American media 'notable,' is nearing completion to the south of the city of Johannesburg. The Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy, in Meyerton south of Johannesburg and is spread over a 22 acre site.

The academy has drawn its students from the deprived areas of the country and will offer education to students 11 years and upwards. There were at least 3, 000 applications for the initial 73 places, which is expected to rise to 450, when the Academy is fully up and running.

The reasoning behind this project, financed - in some part - by the talk show host herself, is to give hope and encouragement to children like herself who was brought up in a deprived part of Chicago.

Wed 23

One of ways scientists are hoping that the spread of the Aids virus will be severely limited; the circumcision of the man, which is being tested both inside and outside southern Africa, has already been introduced in the kingdom off Swaziland.

As a typical male, student S Shabange aged 22 who lives in the capital Mbabane, has one or two options. To have the 60 minuet procedure performed at a government clinic there will be a wait about 6 months; whereas to go to a clinic run by a medical charity the time delay is 2 - 3 weeks. As with all things 'private the cost is heavy . At the Family Life Association of Swaziland clinic the cost was £380.

The medical reasoning behind the success of this procedure, some 250 men have been circumcised up to this moment in time, are not fully understood at the moment. One explanation is that the soft tissue of the foreskin is vulnerable to tearing and bleeding, so this can facilitate the spread of the virus. A second opinion would say that the foreskin contains a higher density of Langrhan cells which are thought the way that the HIV virus enters the body.

Fri 25

According to the American based Population Reference Bureau the Angolan women, during her child bearing years, can be expected to give birth to 6.8 children. In comparison women in the north African country of Niger give birth to 8. 0 children. In Sierra Leone the birth rate is 6.5.

Sat 26

Gauging the reaction of the administration, in Pretoria on the Global Fund for Aids Conference (qv), the authorities are not impressed. Predisposed to the Mbeki theory that the HIV virus can be contained through diet South Africa's minister of health, Dr M T Msimang, has dismissed the claims of a study that to rely on the properties of the South African potato will reduce the harmful effects of the virus.

A study by the University of Stellenbosch has shown that an extract of the potato plant, when fed to HIV positive patients, caused a severe drop in the CD4 cell count; a depletion of which increases the spread of the virus - and was halted after eight weeks.

The health ministers reaction, to this revelation, was to call on the scientists to go back to basics or listen to those infected who, according to the minister, had felt better even though it had not been scientifically proved of benefit.

Mon 28

Relevant to a 1989 incident (qv 9/6) in which it was claimed, and subsequently granted amnesty for, a Christ like act of apology has recently cured. In the days gone past Adriaan Vlok, a former minister in the National Party government of the time washed the feet of Mr F Chikane.

At the time in question the then Reverend Chikane, one of the most prominent critics of apartheid had said that while he was in the United States agents of the Pretoria regime had impregnated items of his clothing with poisons which had made him very ill.

SEPTEMBER 2006

Mon 4

Of the 150 delegates, who were attending conference in the Canadian city of Toronto (qv 18/8) and not returned to their home countries, were HIV positive South African citizens. Those that were prepared to speak said that their decision to claim refugee status was linked to the perceived notion to be infected with the Aids virus attached a sense of discrimination and stigma to their lives back home. The Canadian authorities indicated that such claims, for refugee status, took at least 12 months to investigate.

Government figures show that more than 140, 000 virus infected people are receiving anti retroviral drugs at no cost . A further 80, 000 nationals are able to pay the £150 cost for a 12 month supply. This still needs 700, 000 in urgent need of these medicines. It is reported that at least 947 deaths a day are Aids related

In his first public engagement, since his acquittal of rape, Jacob Zuma made a critical speech of the presidents Aids treatment policy. He was speaking to delegates of the countries largest teachers union. A second strand of criticism of Mbeki has come in the form of condemnation of the purchase of a new home. This was highlighted when a delegation from the Democratic Alliance along with an accompanying press pack at the family's new residence. Located in the upmarket Johannesburg suburb of Houghton the president had built at a cost of R22m/£1.6m.

Tues 5

Leader Comment, **The drugs do work**, to see a “temporary moratorium on the endless self indulgent proliferation of meetings, seminars, round tables and task forces” over the issues of the Aids virus and treat it at a country level was what the UN 's spokesman at the Toronto conference (qv) indicated should happen.

Even with the announcement that the Pretoria authorities, in recent weeks, have \$5m funding for “female condoms in an effort to empower women, ” there is much still to be overcome. With a popular Jacob Zuma now with only one legal obstacle, a trial on corruption charges to overcome, there is every possibility that South Africa could be led by a person who “had minimised the risk of infection from unprotected sex by showering”.... “Mr Mbeki should think twice before he condemns the asylum seekers in Toronto.”

A second member of the Bernstein family has made moves to aid the needy in South Africa. Daughter Frances, an equal opportunities officer for Leeds City Council, is to raise funds for the Masakhani Education Centre in the township of Khayelitsha The centre is run by local a women Gloria who has embarked on an Early Child Development course. At this present time, housed in a shack in the township, the women care for 63 children of an age range 4 months to 6 years. It is hoped that, with sufficient funds, Gloria and here team will work in a brick built structure 20 jobs will be created and 200 nursery laces provided. Then, it is said, the authorities in Pretoria will pay staff wages.

To this end, in some small way, Frances Bernstein will endure ‘open house’ on 23/8 for a period of two hours thirty minuets from 10 30 am at 25 Fearnville Avenue 2659185.

Wed 6

Harvard University medical scientists, working on a research project, in Kwa Zulu Natal, to define the benefit of existing drugs to fight Tuberculosis, have encountered a strain of the disease that will have far reaching effects on the future treatment of the HIV virus. Those people infected with Extreme Drug Resistant TB it is feared, will have no resistance, and being HIV positive even if they are part of the anti retroviral drug programme will die.

In the Kwa Zulu Natal region the medical scientists ran their tests of 544 rural living people and found 221 had TB strains that were not effected by the taking of the 2 drug regime. Further tests showed that 53 people were XRD TB infected. Of these 52 died in an average of 25 days.

So worried is the World Health Organisation that within the next 48 hours disease experts and other interested parties will meet in Johannesburg to form an action plan that could wipe out all the previous good works done in combating the Aids virus throughout the world.

Thurs 7

The continued belief, that there is a dietary way to overcome the scourge of the Aids virus, held by the minister of health has led members of the scientific community to put pen to paper and call on president Mbeki to remove her from the government.

The call, by 81 of the worlds leading experts in the treatment of the HIV virus, made their plea after Dr M Tshabalala Msimang, speaking in Toronto, reiterated her belief that the virus could be treated by those suffering from the disease by eating garlic, beetroot and African potatoes.

In their letter to the president, signed by among others R Gallo the co discoverer of the virus and the Nobel laureate biologist D Baltimore, the 81 that to keep this minister of health in her cabinet position would be “an embarrassment to the South African government.”

As the ashes of the American rap artist Tupac Shakur were laid up in an American cemetery 10 years after his death, a victim of the ‘rap wars’ that were prevalent in 1996, his wish to be buried in the “birthplace of the South African struggle for democracy and against apartheid.” With the cooperation of the Johannesburg city council a five acre site of scrub land in Soweto has been made available for this purpose.

As well as the final resting place for one of Americas ‘greats’ the land will house an amphitheatre and a building to house a museum dedicated to native South African music and arts. The coming event will be hosted by both the dead singers mother and Zola, one of the nations best singers and actors who was born in the township.

Wed 13

As has been noted the treatment of the HIV positive, in the Natal region of South Africa, with anti retroviral drugs (qv 6/9) was having the effects desired by those nationals with Aids until the appearance of Extreme Drug Resistance - TB.

First noted, by the chief medical officer of the Church of Scotland Hospital Tugela Ferry at the heart of the Zulu kingdom at least 18 months ago, it is only know that Doctor T Moll is receiving the international medical help that this condition needs if all the previous good works, by the anti retroviral drug regime has done for those suffering from HIV, is negated by this virulent killer

disease.

First noted among a group of Aids patients a number of them; 10 showed signs of this fatal lung disease and died of this strain of TB. With the World Health Organisation's Johannesburg conference (qv) in association with disease experts and members of the American Centre for Disease Control in attendance calls were made for urgent action were made.

Back in KwaZulu Natal's Church of Scotland, Tugela Ferry Hospital, there was 63 patients with XDR TB, 60 of who have died. In other words this, as yet untreatable, disease has a mortality rate of 98%. Extrapolate this number of deaths from this one hospital - with a catchment area of 250, 000 patients over an area of 650 square miles - to the 28 other hospitals in the province and alone South Africa's Aids treatment plan could be severely disrupted.

As to the nation, and the continent of Africa, the monetary cost of treatment TB : £20, XDR TB £18, 500. At this time the wrangle over costs involves regional and government bodies. However with the controversy over the minister of health's belief in the 'vegetable approach' for the treatment the HIV virus (qv 7/9) the situation is confused.

Kwanda Mbeki, a disappeared son; from 1981 is believed to have been abducted by the ruling apartheid regime, is to be the subject of an investigation by the National Prosecution Authority. Kwanda, along with other opponents, went missing when he was trying to join his exiled father.

Thurs 14

The apartheid era operative dubbed Dr Death for his alleged role in plots to murder black activists is still on the South African military payroll, officials confirmed. Wouter Basson received a monthly salary of 50, 000 rand (£3, 600) from the South African National Defence Force even though he was suspended in 1999.

"It's a very complex labour issue that will be dealt with sooner rather than later," the defence secretary January Masilela, said. Mr Basson was acquitted in 2002 -see SA Diary page 12 - of multiple murders, drug trafficking, fraud and theft. He was accused of leading a number of poisoning plots. - *Reuters* -

Within South Africa the multi faceted British AeroSpace Company has \$1.4bn's worth of defence contracts overseen by 500 employees.

Mon 18

Letters [1] **Jas Ellis London School of Economics**, as was highlighted in covering the XDR - TB/Aids issue (qv 13/9) generally the 1: 10 relationship between people and the HIV virus infection is correct. Specifically however one third of S African women aged 25 - 29 carry the virus. In KwaZulu Natal 40% of pregnant women are infected. HIV prevalence among whites is 0. 6%.

[2] **Bill Liton London**, With the already crippling small health budgets African countries have at their disposal, for fighting the Aids virus, and the limits to the Global Fund to fight Aids TB and Malaria funds the prosperous countries must do more. It is not as though they - Britain - cannot afford it.

Obituary Hilda Bernstein 15. 5. 15 - 9. 9. 06 in Cape Town, wife of Lionel and as closely

associated with the anti apartheid campaign as the Rivoenist was.

1909 born to Jewish parents in London's East End and went with her mum to Johannesburg - her dad had deserted them by then - in **1932**. Eight years later joined the Communist Party and under their banner claimed a seat on the city council, in **1943**, for Hilbrow suburb.

1941 married architect Rusty **1946** conviction for aiding and abetting striking black mineworkers. **1956** founder member of the Federation of South African Women, a non racial organisation. As such she was at the heart of the 20, 000 strong females who marched on the Pretoria state buildings to protest at the pass laws.

1960 detained under State of Emergency regulations. **1964** flee, in secret as the security forces closed in, through British Bechuanaland to England.

Continuing from their London home working for the ANC, producing posters and greeting cards and writings - *The World That Was Ours* [1967]. *Their Triumph and their Tears* [1978]. Perhaps her - to this diarist - her most notable was *Death is Part of the Process* [1983] which inspired a television adaptation *see SA Tape 4* - and for the BBC the Sinclair prize.

1968 left the Communist Party after the Russian invasion of Czechoslovakia

1981 a move away from London to Hertfordshire. 1994 a return to an 'independent' South Africa where the now widowed Bernstein returned to in 2003 to live in the suburb of Sea Point.

Wed 20

Embittered native Bushmen of the Kalahari, forced of their ancestral lands after they were found to be rich in diamond deposits, have enlisted the help of the motion picture personality Lionel de Caprio to highlight their plight as it is announced that a Hollywood studio is on the verge of releasing *Blood Diamond*, a film portrayal of the search by South African mercenary, portrayed by the named actor, who goes in search of a pink diamond.

So worried is the countries leading mining, manufacturing and seller of these precious stones, De Beers, that an £8m publicity campaign is to be launched by the company before the films release. The chief aim of the campaign will be to show that as of this present time the diamonds that are for sale are not mined and sold as a result of illegal actions by the various warring parties that have been active throughout Africa in the past.

The city council of Cape Town and its environs, up to now the only city council not ruled by the government party, is to loose its mayor. Working mayor Helen Zille, a supporter of the Democratic Alliance, has promised to challenge the ruling in court if needs be.

For its part the ruling ANC says that to make such a move was an effect to create stable government and represent most of the electorate. This stability was, the government said, especially needed now and in the run up to the cities hosting of the 2010 World Cup. In the future the role of the mayor would be purely ceremonial.

Thurs 21

After a legal ruling, from Mr Justice H Msimang, in the case of the state v Zuma, on alleged corruption charges, the way is now clear for a 2009 challenge to become the countries head of

state as the top man in the African National Congress. This assumes this recent cleared twice trialist (qv) is appointed to this position in 2007.

In his dismissing of this outstanding charge of corruption, involving a French weapons company, the judge refused to give the prosecution more time to prepare its case saying that the states case had “limped from one disaster to another.”

The judicial decision was welcomed by his ever growing band of supporters who from inside the court, when referring to him did so as ‘Mr President.’ Those outside the building, carried makeshift coffins adorned with pictures of Mbeki. At another venue, the annual gathering of the Confederation of South African Trade Union’s delegates, on hearing of the acquittal, clearly demonstrated their support for him. They even broke into a rendition Zuma’s trademark song, Bring me my machine gun; Awwuleth’ umshini wami.

In South Africa there is now the facility for those devout Christians, with a mobile phone and the inclination to spend R40/ £2.90 to download the entire Bible onto their phone. This service is provided by the non denominational International Bible Society for the King James bible or a more up to date translation’s in Zulu or Xhosa as well as in English and Afrikaans.

Sat 23

Before the death of H Verwoerd, by the hand of the assassin Tsvandera in 1966, a previous attempt had failed. It took place at the Rand Agricultural Show, in 4/60, and was witnessed by R Pilkngton a secretary to one of the shows judges.

Installed in a box, behind the presidents box, it was observed that there was a man who walked up and called out the presidents name. Dr Verwoed was then shot in the head twice. The would be killer, a farmer, was arrested and declared insane and later committed suicide.

Sun 24

Not only have Botswana’s Bushmen of the Kalahari (qv 20/9) enlisted film personalities to help their cause, in that they were evicted from their land for the sake of finding diamond deposits on their land, a court case; instigated in 2002 (qv 20/4) is nearing its end in a London courtroom.

It is expected that the Survival International/Sans v the Botswana government will end on 13/12 with a ruling that is sympathetic to their cause.

Sat 30

OCTOBER 2006

Mon 2

With the latest delegation from Leeds City Council and business people from the city, to Durban and its environs, a number of joint projects between the 'twinned' cities are expected to come about.

One specifically, is a joint venture between Leeds Metropolitan University and Durban's Children Society, which will see the university cover the running costs of a new foster home for Aids orphans from the city. A second education establishment, the sports facility Carnegie College will offer assistance to the eThekweni Sports Development Centre to initiate a sports programme for Durban's 5 - 18 year olds.

The Leeds business community will also join with their South African counterparts to develop initiatives that will be beneficial to both communities.

Sat 7

As the Homeless World Cup commences in South Africa there has been words of encouragement from a former member of the Leeds United team. Lee Sharpe, who now runs a Football Academy, with the ambition of setting up an academy in each of the countries 10 provinces gave words of encouragement to the team.

As to the contest itself, it would seem that the U K team were in the running for the second division trophy, having beaten Chile 7 goals to 2 and Afghanistan on penalties to win their group.

Tues 10

Located in the mountain kingdom of Lesotho, from a mine owned by the South African Diamond Corporation, is the largest diamond found in 13 years. Named the Lesotho Promise and sold for a value - even in its uncut state - of £6.5m/\$12m at an auction in the world's premier stone cutting centre of Antwerp.

This 603 carat / 120g diamond is expected to be broken down into a large heart shaped diamond and several smaller stones. The cumulative value of which would make this uncut precious stone's value in excess of \$20m.

Sat 14

From one who should know, H Mankell author and director, a proposition that would see the 'first world' targeting the controversial ideology of African trained medical staff; nurses leaving for a 'better life' in the West.

Long has it been accepted that the continents nurses have travelled to the west to earn more pay when they are really needed to stay to treat the scourge of the HIV virus within their own community. A well reasoned argument to pay African trained nurses to stay within their countries national boundaries is made.

Tues 17

Obituary Mazisi Kunene 12. 5. 30 - 11. 8. 08 as a relative of the Swazi monarchy, his father was from the Royal clan and his mother a gospel singer, he spent his early life around the port city of Durban and its environs.

At the age of 11 he was noted for his words of Zulu poetry, having examples published in various newspapers and periodicals. After secondary school there were years at Maphumola Teacher Training College, this was at the time that the apartheid government was making itself felt upon the black majority, and there was rebellion in the air.

1959 Masters degree awarded after a dissertation on Zulu poetry. Discovered himself to be a Zulu nationalist, joined the military wing of the African National Congress and left the country. In Lesotho there was a short stint in the kingdoms National University as a lecturer.

1960 Now relocated to London to study for his Ph.D. at the University of London, then abandons his plans as he is drawn more and more into the apartheid struggle.

1962 Appointed, by O Tambo (qv), as the ANC 's London representative.

1972 Position as the movements director of finance and instigated the South African Exhibition Appeal, to raise much needed funds for the struggling anti apartheid movement. With support from such notable artists as Picasso and Chagal the 'money came rolling in.'

1975 A second teaching post, number one was at the University of Iowa and Stanford University, at UCLA in Los Angeles as lecturer in African Literature and Zulu.

1993 returned to the land of his birth and recognised, by Unesco, as Africa's poet laureate. He had to wait till 2005 to be appointed to the same position in South Africa.

Published Works; Emperor Shaka the Great : A Zulu Epic [1979] Anthem of the Decade [1981] The Ancestors and the Sacred Mountain [1982]

Thurs 19

In so far that allegations of bribery scandals secured the Hawk jets from South Africa for BritishAreo Space police in Britain have raided the home and offices of one of Britain's largest exporter of weapons.

Members of the Serious Fraud Office took away computers and files from the residence and offices of J Bredencamp, the companies agent for southern Africa. It has become clear that multi passport owner; British, Zimbabwean South African and Dutch who once lived in South Africa has a fortune worth £700m denies any involvement.

After BAE 's 2005 announcements (qv 19/11) that it would pay commission totalling 12%, almost £200m the commission was cut to 7% after the Department of Trade's Export Credit Agency refused to cover such large payments.

Thurs 26

Long is the hope that the so called African tyrannical leaders - Mugabe is a good example - were

gone from the scene of political power, well that time may be at hand. If a scheme, backed by Clinton Blair and Mandela, uses the funds of a foundation started by a Sudanese telecom tycoon M Ibrahim comes to fruition those desperate to cling to power, and wealth, may not need to.

With his amassed fortune, estimated at £340m from the launching of Centel; Africa 's only mobile phone company, there are proposals to settle annual bursaries on those that cling to power. It is proposed that the governing board of the foundation; led by Mary Robinson the former Irish president, will allot \$5m/£2.6m over a period of 10 years. Thereafter a yearly \$200, 000 pension will be given. There will also be a similar amount, \$200, 000, given away to good causes.

Sat 28

The culmination, over recent weeks, of talks with those organisations that are working with HIV and Aids infected people, has seen the government stance, and their conviction that anti retroviral drugs are the only solution to the growing crisis, Pretoria has announced a change in its long held policy on the treatment of Aids.

Ever since the 'vegetables are best' announcement by the minister of health, in 2003, concerned groups have faced an upward spiral of numbers infected or confirmed cases of Aids. This announcement, from vice president P M Ngkuka spelling out need for anti retroviral 's will come as a welcome relief in a country in which an estimated 5.4m out of a population of 47m are infected with HIV.

Sun 29

As is acknowledged by the World Health Organisation the global market for medicinal plants is worth in excess of £31bn/\$60bn a year the prevalence of such plants on the continent of Africa is worth further study. Located at the University of Pretoria Professor K Eloff and his team are set to examine the medicinal properties of the 3, 400 species that are found in Africa.

Under special study will be *Sutherlandia frutescens*; Cancer Bush, which in times passed has been used as a pick me up. A modern hope is that it can be utilised in the treatment of Aids, cancer and tuberculosis.

Cyclopia; Honey Bush, which in times past has been used in the treatment for the menopause. A modern hope is that it can be utilised in the treatment of sinus relief and diabetes.

Aloe ferox; Lily of the Desert. A modern hope is that it can be utilised as an antiseptic and in moisturiser.

Harpagophytum procumbens; which in times past has been used as a painkiller. A modern hope is that it can be utilised in the treatment of muscular back and rheumatic disorders.

Siphonchilis aethiopicus; which in times past has been a mainstay of the Zulu's well being. A modern hope that it can be utilised to combat asthma and colds.

Mon 30

South African Nobel laureate Nardine Gordimer was assaulted at her Johannesburg home by three men who locked her in a store room and robbed her of cash and jewellery, police said. She suffered minor injuries during the incident on 26/10 in the city suburb of Parktown.

Ms Gordimer aged 83, the acclaimed author, who received her medal in 1991, spoke of this latest incident “Unfortunately it is true but ... I don’t want to talk about it. Police said that three men entered her home through the kitchen door and demanded access to the safe.

Leader Comment, **At last, a glimmer of hope**, for the 5.4m HIV infected South Africans. However “delivery is the test, but from a low base things can only get better. Fresh targets are to be set out in a five - year plan on December 1. This is all happening very late, but it could yet save a new generation of South Africans from this terrible global scourge.”

Tues 31

NOVEMBER 2006

Wed 1

One time scourge of the terrorist organisation the African National Congress, and other black led movements, who fought for the end of the apartheid system has passed away peacefully in his sleep at his retirement home on South Africa's Cape coast. Pieter Williem Botha aged 90 and living in the village of Wilderness in the Western Cape was discovered dead by his second wife Barbara just after 8pm.

In a statement from the present government, which is still led by an ANC majority, it is stated the the movement "extends its sympathies and condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of former president P W Botha, who passed away this evening. The ANC wishes his family strength and comfort at this difficult time."

Thurs 2

Obituary, P W Botha 1. 12. 1916 - 31. 10. 2006 born in the town of Bethlehem in the Orange Free State to horse farmer father - one of the 'bitter enders' who fought the British in the last Boer war - and a mother who, as a child, was interned in one of the concentration camps that the British set up during the war.

As to his political career; 1939 as a fervent Afrikaner PW joined the pro Nazi Ossewabrandwag, only to leave after twenty four months in order to avoid internment during WW2.

1948 Afrikaner National Party MP for the George constituency of Cape Province. 1958 deputy minister. 1961 Minister for Community Affairs. 1966, Minister of Defence. 1978. Prime Minister. 1984 State President.

This diarist is of the opinion that most, if not all, of the 'Old Crocodile's' lasting achievements have been noted in the SA Diary of the relevant periods.

Fri 3

Notwithstanding the recent break in at the Johannesburg home of Nardine Gordimer (qv 30/10) there was no show of anger against the four blacks that broke in. Taking the view, that for someone who had her most treasured possession; her wedding ring ripped from her fingers was a lenient one commented on the nature of those that committed the offences.

"Shouldn't there be a better use for these hands, this arm, that robbed an old women? What a waste of four young men. They should have had jobs. The robbers are a product of society grappling with the past. I know that South Africa has a terrible problem with crime, violent crime. But I don't think the answer is more police."

Here answer to this problem was for society to look at the reason why crimes are committed. Are people still living in poverty and are they without opportunities to escape from said poverty.

In praise of Nardine Gordimer; an 83 year old women who all her life has had a lifetime of resistance. Firstly as a white women who refused to flee when the life for the minority

population was tough, Then as a member of parliament, opposed - in a lone stance - to the excesses of the various National Party governments at the height of the apartheid era. Then her writings were attacked - even in a 'free and democratic South Africa' as the book July's People was branded racist, sexist patronising and out of date for the school child.

Sat 3

In a move to establish itself as a 'player on the African continent' the emerging power of China has invited 40 heads of state, eight political leaders and accompanying business leaders to a three day summit in the capital Beijing.

On offer are improvements on the already one deals that have secured China a foothold on the African continent. In already agreed deals Mozambique has \$2.6bn for a hydroelectric dam and Angola has a \$3bn line of credit from China. On the other hand Pretoria has a series of agreements to export its citrus fruit to China.

Overall the percentage of exports to China, from this diarists countries of interest are Angola 36.9%, Namibia 2.84%, Botswana 0.10%, Zimbabwe 7.9%, Mozambique 1.93% and **South Africa** 6.23%. The total exports from the African continent to China are valued at £50bn.

Leader Comment, **Scrambling to Beijing**, the economic power house that is, or soon will become, China is doing trade with many countries that are an anathema to the western democracies. With there well documented abuses of human rights Beijing still feels able to trade with the Mugabe regime, as well as other African nations that have a poor record on such issues.

"In countries where it now has the ability to make a difference, China should think twice about offering its help with no string attached.

Mon 6

At the end of the three day summit, involving 48 - not 40 (qv 3/11) African notables and the great and the good from China, it can be seen that Beijing has the intention to double the aid it gives to the continent by 2009.

The Chinese want their \$40bn annual trade with Africa to grow to \$100bn by 2020.

Tues 7

Twenty four hours before the launch of International Finance Facility for Immunisation [IFFIM], in London, details have been given. With financing from government of an initial £1.38bn and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation of \$1.5bn it is hoped that other monies can be found with the sale of financial bonds to the public.

With this large reservoir of cash, hoped to be £2.1bn/\$4bn, the vaccination of those vulnerable to the likes of malaria and other viral diseases can go some way to eradicate them. Eventually it is hoped that even the scourge of the HIV/Aids virus will be tamed.

As a first move chancellor Brown will offer the first five bonds, sold to the public in denominations of E1,000, will go to the leaders, or their representatives, of the world's leading religions. When the bonds go on sale to the public the investment bank Goldman Sachs and Deuche Bank will oversee the transactions.

Thurs 9

According to the Office of National Statistics the number of Britain 's who travelled to South Africa during 2005 was 449, 000. In the scheme of things British tourism to the African continent increased to 692, 000, a rise of 17. 1% on the previous year. Overall British trips overseas, business or pleasure numbered 66. 4m.

The body of P W Botha (qv 2/110) was laid to rest in his home town of George in the Western Cape in front of 400 mourners. One time notable opponents, Thabo Mbeki and Nelson Mandela were given honoured positions. The president likened Botha with his chief adversary Oliver Tambo when he called them “partners in the creation of peace of the brave, that is our blessing.”

Voices of dissent, at the grave side, came from representatives of the countries largest trade union movement. The Cosatu mourner said of the former president, “his hands were stained with the blood of hundreds who were murdered during the struggle for democracy and liberation under his presidency.”

Fri 10

It would appear that the president of Equatorial Guinea T N Obiang has failed in his attempt to sue one of the ‘principals’ involved in the 3/04 coup attempt which was led by Simon Mann. In a recent decision the appeal court, in London, dismissed the case against Mark Thatcher brought by the leader of this oil rich west African state.

Using 2001 figures, from the Office of Water Regulation it can be said that the amount of water used by a Mozambique national is 10 litres per day. By comparison a person from Britain uses 150 litres. In the USA their citizens use 600 litres.

Sat 11

Despite the words of encouragement from the professional footballer, Le Sharpe (qv 7/10) the team sent from England to the Homeless World Cup managed only 13th place in the ranking.

Wed 15

South Africa’s national assembly passed legislation recognising gay marriage yesterday in an unexpected move on a continent where homosexuality is a taboo. African National Congress veterans heralded the civil union bill and equated it to liberation from apartheid. The bills supporters had to overcome criticism from traditionalists and warnings that the legislation could be unconstitutional.

A Christian parliamentarian, K Meshoe, said it was the “saddest day in our 12 years of democracy and warned that South Africa was “provoking God’s anger.

As of this time there are 1,243 members of the South African Defence Force serving as part of the joint EU/United Nations peacekeeping force of 16, 802 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Thurs 16

Obituary, Jabu Khanyile 28. 2. 57 - 12. 11. 06 after being diagnosed with cancer and diabetes. Born into the club life of Soweto, where he started his musical life as the drummer in the township group Bayete, which produced the hit 'Mbomele' which was a standard of Miriam Makebea (qv).

Moving on to his own formed band; 'Bayete and JabuKhanyile' and was signed to the Chris Blackwell's Mango record label. With a mix of ballad and African anthem the groups musical aims were to mix township style and soul.

With the coming of the end of the apartheid era, perhaps his greatest appearance was in London, at the Royal Albert Hall, where he appeared on stage with some of the 'so many great South African musicians' who had chosen to flee - and those who endured - the country years earlier. In front of Nelson Mandela; jiving in the royal box and the Queen so not perhaps his greatest achievement on the international stage.

With very little musical recognition, in the west, he - like so many home grown bands - has had very little influence overseas, tended to stay within the African continent and promote pan African music.

Fri 17

As if the country does not produce enough gold, the 12th largest producer in the world, abandoned mines are now becoming the home for the 'illegals.' Known as Zam Zam boys or the 'lets try our look boys' are behind trade that police estimate is worth £371m /\$700m per year.

The life of these would be smugglers is hard. Up to 12 months underground, where temperatures can range from 30C to 50C depending on the mine 's depth. This criminal operation is mainly based in the abandoned mines of the Orange Free and Gauteng provinces, where in recent months there has been 6 police operations to apprehend members of the Zam Zam gangs.

The arrest of Glen Agliotti for the alleged murder of Brett Kebble, a former director of three mining firms, who was shot in 9/04, could lead to South Africa's chief of police and chairman of Interpol to resign. Newspapers claim that police chief J Selebi and the detained were friends. It is also claimed that there was, at one time, a corrupt payment of £3, 650/R50, 000 made from one to the other.

Tues 21

Considering that A Mathe, a prisoner held in C Max, a 'prison within a prison' at the centre of Pretoria Central Prison, was shackled and handcuffed and still managed to escape through an eight inch square cell window, his escape was remarkable.

Covered in petroleum jelly, from head to foot, his ability to exit such a secure holding pen was, police and prison officials aided from the inside. Charged with 51 counts of murder and rape the former Mozambican soldier left 'Fuck you' message to his captors.

Sun 26

With Morgan Freeman, the actor chosen to portray a former president of South Africa now on African soil his thoughts are "I want people to think that I am him."

Mon 27

Whilst the elite of the countries police force, the Scorpions, continue to detain Glen Agliotti (qv 17/11) for the alleged organising the killing of the Mafioso style criminal Brett Kebble the links between head of the police force, Jackie Selebie, are more of an interest.

The police have now uncovered evidence; written in a diary belonging to the detained crime boss of a long standing relationship between the two. In fact it was to Selebi that the now detained Agliotti made a phone call after discovering the body of the South African mining magnate.

This high profile, and now out in the public domain, investigation has been ongoing for months following information from a British/Irish national Paul O' Sullivan. Dissatisfied at the apparent slowness of the investigation this former British intelligence officer went to the Johannesburg Sunday Times.

Resident in the country for 16 years and, apparently retired from an overseas security service, he had gained employment as the head of security at the countries airports. In 2003, it has been said, that police chief, and Interpol chairman, Selebie caused the sacking of Sullivan. This move was in reprisal for the then head of airport security cancelling the contract with local security firm Khuselani because of him finding out that the local firm was acting in a corrupt manor. Further, on taking his evidence to his bosses and the office of the police commissioner, he was told to ignore it. Not satisfied with this he took his evidence to the Scorpion investigation team.

In a attempt to rubbish the claims police commissioner Selebie called a press conference to refute a claim that he was paid a £3, 600 /R50, 000 from a company that steam cleaned the vehicle that B Kebble was killed in, 2004, before it was handed over to the police.

Despite calls from T Leon, the leader of the opposition in parliament, for an inquiry because of the "thickening cloud of suspicion" the safety and security minister, C Nqakula, said that there were no plans to take action - suspension - until there is "any concrete evidence that we will do anything .. there would be no witch hunt."

Wed 29

Continuing the long running project, photographic and written, of the Aids pandemic sweeping the country renowned photo journalist Gideon Mendel has submitted his latest works.

In this latest offering there is detailed evidence that the children of parents, who are infected with the HIV virus, have collected memories from that parent in a 'memory box.' Within this collection are the thoughts of the details of his or her life, hopes and aspirations for the child they leave behind.

Thurs 30

Controversy has surrounded the works of Johannesburg based 'Mamma' Jacki Maarohanye who, through her Ithuteng Trust, was able to solicit large financial donations after the telling of the children's traumatic life in the townships at the height of the apartheid struggle. Such were the stories related, at the United Nations general assembly meeting that the USA media person Oprah Winfrey wrote a cheque for \$1m after hearing the tales.

Now it has come to light, through the investigative television programme Carte Blanche, that a number of the claims made at the time of the international concern of the effects of apartheid on the nations children, were false.

The programme claims, after showing the testimony of some of the 45 pupils who went on the trip to America in 2001, that many of the claims of pupils were false. Harsh criticism of Mama Jacki came as some of the pupils said that the head of the trust had told them to 'cry seriously' ... "you better cry more than the other days you have been crying." Other students told tales of the death of one, or both of their parents in front of them.

In here defence Ms Maarohanye made little comment of the facts that pupils had claimed that parents were dead when they were very much alive. What was evident, she said, was that she had "never told a child to repeat false stories." Other claims of non action were never to have, in effect, done the brutal things that the apartheid state did during the armed struggle.

DECEMBER 2006

Fri 1

As forecast, the end of government support for the natural diet to combat the HIV virus (qv 28/10), the authorities in Pretoria have introduced radical changes. Stripped of her responsibilities, for the care of hospitalised HIV positive patients has been the health minister M T Msimang. This responsibility is now placed under the control of deputy president Ngkuka, along with the deputy health minister N M Routledge. Thus the ever so strong supporter of the sitting president has been well and truly sidelined.

These initial moves, very much welcomed by the leaders of the pressure group Treatment Action Concern, are not the end of the matter. Over the coming weeks a new government strategy is to be worked out. Pretoria will now accept that there is a need to set out targets, now that it has agreed that HIV causes Aids and that anti retroviral drugs will prolong life, if they are to meet the 2010 deadline for all those infected having access to the medicine.

An Australian biotech company, Virax, is to test its new vaccine on HIV infected South African miners with the help of large companies, Rio Tinto and BHP Billington as a non profit making organisation. The industry will contribute between \$5m and \$6m. The vaccine, if proved successful, is expected to suppress HIV levels in the body and therefore delay the need of early stage anti retroviral drugs.

Sat 2

South Africa used World Health Day yesterday to launch a five year plan to combat the disease that will focus on cutting the number of new infections by 50% and getting drugs to eighty percent of those in need by 2011. Particular attention will be paid to educating young people on how to avoid infection. About 5.5m South Africans, 1: 11 of the population, are infected with HIV.

The announcement was made by the deputy president P M Ncuka as her first official comment on being appointed in overall charge of the crisis that has been exacerbated by the doctrine of the health minister M T Msinang (qv 1/12).

Tues 5

After thirteen days on the run, and despite a number of near misses; by the police, the most wanted of the 'wanted' escapees from the South African prison service, is back behind bars. This, the capture of A Mathe who escaped from the C Max prison of Pretoria (qv 21/11), was due to the efforts of a private security firm and not the police.

According to the owner of the tracking company, A Netstar, the 'lifer' who had earlier evaded police capture and had stabbed a pursuer, had been monitored as he made his escape via a stolen vehicle which was fitted with a tracking device. As he fled on foot he was shot twice and held by employees of the firm.

The prisoner is now back in the prison from which he had escaped from. According to the

prisons minister, N Balfour, there are still investigations to me made about how this former soldier was able to escape his cell and out of 'a prison within a prison' that is C Max.

Sat 9

The belief, that the remains of ape man 'Little Foot', found in a cave in the Serkfontein region of South Africa, were somehow a link between the end of the ape era and the beginning of humankind, have been disproved by researchers at Leeds and Liverpool University.

Doctors Walker and Cliff from Leeds, and their colleagues from Lancashire, have disproved the theory set by the South African team in 1997, that the remains of Little Foot; Australopithecus were 400, 000 years too young to be members of the human family tree.

Thurs 14

A conductive scientific research anti Aids infection trial, running at the same time as one in the kingdom Swaziland (qv 23/8), has been halted months before they were expected to. This has been due to the success rate in cutting the number of men who have become HIV infected after they were circumcised.

This duel centred, Kenya and Uganda based trial; funded by the American National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Diseases, has been hailed by the head of the World Health Organisations HIV/Aids department as a 'breakthrough. It would, K de Cock said cut the numbers of infected men "by many tens of thousands, many hundreds of thousands and maybe millions over the coming years.

The American scientists have come to the same conclusion, as the Swazi doctors, as to why the removal of the foreskin of the penis prevented transmission of the virus.

A long running legal battle, between the Bushmen of the Kalahari and the diamond mining firms, which has led the Botswana government defend its decision to expel tribal members from diamond rich lands has ended in the countries high court.

Watched from inside and outside the court building up to 50 members of those expelled heard the chief judge Ms Unity Dow, the first women judge in the high court of Botswana, found for the disposed on all counts.