

JANUARY 2011

Tues 4

Obituary J C Middleton 30 8 28 - 14 12 2011 born in the port city of Durban to an English speaking and a mum of German extraction. Educated at the cities ladies college and hence to Natal University where she gained an MA English.

Married and quickly divorced from fellow teacher H Stracham the white middle class life she led was impinged upon by the emerging fight for equal rights of the non white population. This was highlighted by the growing in strength of the African National Congress and the Communist Party.

A move to Johannesburg saw her join the Congress of Deputies, the white equivalent of the majority dominated ANC. In this role she attended 'tea parties' which were in reality covers for the meeting of the emerging elite of the liberationists. On one such occasion her flat was used as a meeting place attended by the growing in influence Nelson Mandela. As to her actions in fighting apartheid this came down to spray painting anti government slogans or distributing illegal leaflets.

By the time of the Rivoena trial she was well known to the police and detained at the end of the trial and was put on trial, as one of 14 defendants, for being a member of the banned Communist Party which was led by Bram Fischer. Detained, mainly in solitary, for 12 months, there was no informing on her colleagues despite the hardships endured.

Serving a three year jail term in Barbeton Prison on the Swazi border here treatment was no where as severe as was metered out to her black associates. Released from prison and having lost all family contact there was a period of house arrest as a banned person under the Suppression of Communism Act she relocated to Shoreditch in east London.

Once settled in a teaching job links were made with the Anti Apartheid Movement and as a retired person edited the movements journal. Upon the release of Nelson Mandela a return to the land of her birth was called for. Here she edited communist newspaper Unsebenzi. Worried by the post release violence, and plagued by the effects of a lifetime of smoking, and contracted emphysema, a return to London ensued. Here she still showed of her commitment to her ideology, firstly by editing the Morning Star and then upon her death leaving her home to the South African Communist Party.

Fri 7

According to the latest figures that notes projected average annual real growth in GDP, from the consultancy group PWC Model Estimates, in the year 2050 South Africa 's will show a 5% growth. Under the same conditions that for the UK will be 2.3%.

Using figures from the World Bank over the same time span the countries, as of now, \$508bn - which puts its purchasing power parity in 20th position - will fall from the present 20 out of 20th position off the scale.

The latest target, for the criminal minded in Johannesburg is the sim card found in the cities traffic lights. These electronic chips are then sold on to be utilised in mobile phones. Within the last eight weeks two thirds of the 600 hi tech devices have been put out of action.

Notwithstanding the traffic chaos caused the Johannesburg Road Traffic Agency indicates that the each repair costs £2, 095 / R 22, 000, a total of £857, 000.

Sun 9

The growth of the economy of Mozambique, from this date till 2015, is according to the International Monetary Fund to be 7 per cent.

Tues 18

Obituary I D Kitson 25 8 19 - 9 11 2010 while seemingly a mild mannered person who, although for 20 years was a prisoner of the apartheid regime, was of more importance that these authorities gave him credit for.* It would seem the high command of the African National Congress shunned him in later life.

In his former life he was a graduate of the now, Howard college of KwaZulu Natal University, specialising in mechanical engineering. Upon graduating in 1942 there was a position of a sapper in the South African army.

Post war activities centred around union work at the de Havilland factory in north London. With the help of Tass, the draughtman's union and as a secret member of the Communist Party he attended Ruskin College Oxford. Such union activity, when moved to the British Oxygen company, ended his employment rather than give up his union work.

The Communist Party edged into his married life when he married Norma Cranko a Jewish women of South African extraction, when with their son they returned to southern Africa in 1959. The decisive police action at the Sharpville location saw all thoughts of returning home banished.

Post Rivonia, when most leading Party members had fled the repressive apartheid regime, high command beckoned. Arrested eventually then held for 131 days before being sentenced to 20 years in jail on sabotage charges. While inside Pretoria Central Prison a degree in arts and science degree. He was also allowed to study Russian until the authorities stooped him.

The wife divorced him and then remarried him upon his release from prison on his arrival back in London only to step back into the political cauldron that was the fight against the Pretoria regime.

* for much of the life of David, while inside the apartheid state see this diarists writings for the year 1985.

Obituary Valente M Ngenya 6 6 36 - 5 1 2011 a leading contemporary artist who was well able to depict the life and times of the people of Mozambique as they came through the struggle of a civil war that divided the country for twenty years.

Even before independence art evening classes, 1958 Nucleo de Art, led in 1961 to his first solo exhibition. From this time his study of peoples life under colonial rule named the Juizo Final. Such depiction brought the notice of the German artist Up Beer in 1963. Soon after joining the Frelimo political party and in 1964 was detained by the Portuguese police, PIDE, and jailed for 18 months.

Granted a Gulbenkain Foundation grant in 1971 which meant working in Portugal for three years., returning home in 1975 to witness independence on 25/6. Named 'the Blue period' was the time of the civil war with the MNR. Throughout this period his works saw some powerful works completed all of which evoked the continuing struggle.

1997 names as a Unesco artist for peace.

Thurs 20

Police are hunting Agness and Phillippe Niere aged 60 and 55 respectively. Their crime, the killing of one police men and the wounding of another who were enforcing an eviction order brought by the land owner G du Plessis. It is disputed why they were being forced of the land, 170 miles north of Cape Town. One theory was unpaid rent was pitted against the farmers objections to the self proclaimed members of Ramthas School of Enlightenment.

In any event the two have evaded the police search, which has people, dogs and helicopters searching since the shootings occurred on 20/1.

The number of black graduates from the countries elite, white, universities has increased more than fourfold in the last 20 years according to research. A similar increase of awarding education degrees to Indians Colourds as well as the minority ethnic group is historic in origin. From 1959 black students were barred from university except with special permission.

Fri 21

Amid scenes reminiscent of a 'shoot out' in the Wild West the South African police were able to end their hunt for those that had fled from a fatal shooting of one of their colleges (qv 20/1).

The fugitives, who had been on the run, from their former home north of Cape Town, were cornered in a farmhouse outside the town of Sutherland in North West province which is 170 miles north east of the port city.

Sun 23

As the British husband, of Annie Dewani (qv 15/11) failed to attend the London court to fight his extradition back to South Africa, members of his family reveal that Shiren is diagnosed as suffering from post traumatic stress disorder by a psychiatrist. Despite

the family believe that there is no evidential link between those that carried out the killing and himself. On the other hand the Cape Town police say they have this linking evidence. However it was not revealed in the Westminster magistrates court on 20/1 as the care home owner did not attend the venue.

Recently unearthed has been the photographic work of E Cole, one who fled to New York, days after the 1967 book House of Bondage was published. Although acclaimed for its portrayal of life for the ethnic black under the apartheid regime the authorities were not so pleased. This son of a Jewish tailor and a washer woman, at the age of 26, became a banned person.

This new collection, Photographer, includes many new images from his time as a photographic assistant on Drum magazine (qv) and a number of unseen images unearthed in Sweden in 2006 by the renowned South African photographer David Goldblatt (qv).

Fri 28

At the age of ninety two former president Nelson Mandela, who originally went into hospital for tests - which would only require a one night stay - has had this extended to a second night. There are unconfirmed rumours that one of Madiba's lungs has collapsed.

Throughout the day the hospital, the NM Foundation and the members of his extended family have been assuring the nation that "he is alive and well" according to the country's deputy president K Motlanthe who was speaking after leaving Millpark hospital in Johannesburg.

Sat 29

Surrounded by much security Nelson Mandela was released from hospital (qv 208/1) and was described by surgeon general V Ramlakan as being "well and in high spirits." Rumours still abound as to the original nature of his hospitalisation.

With the coalition governments acquiescence the BBC have been forced to cut many foreign language broadcasts in order to finance aspects of the World Service. One consequence of this is the cessation of programmes, in the Portuguese language to the African continent. Thus the people of Angola and Mozambique will be seen, by nations living under a repressive regime as "a big blow to democracy, the right to information and freedom of the press" according to E Issac country director of the Open Society Institute Angola.

Mon 31

With the intention of keeping Xhosa youth, living in the Crossroads township outside Cape Town, away from a life of drugs and crime, the Zulu traditional pass time of 'stick fighting' has been reintroduced as a sport. A tribal method of settling disputes of the Eastern Cape its value has diminished as many of the province's youth migrated to the cities looking for work. For the past six months strictly monitored contests, of 15 minutes in length, can win participants £90 /R 1, 000 a contest.

Figures from the United States Energy Administration that South Africa, in the year 2009, caused 450m tonnes of Carbon Dioxide emissions placing it 12th from 217 nations - a fall of 6.7% on '08/'09. Similar emissions for Angola - 24m : 78th : % fall n/a. Botswana : 4.5m placing it 128th. Namibia : 4.1m 131st. Lesotho 0.27m 200th. Mozambique 2.3m. UK 520m : 10th : 7.8% . The World : emissions 30, 452m a fall on 2009 of 0.1%.

With the former president, not 72 hours out of his Johannesburg hospital (qv 29/1) a congregation of about 500 came together in the Regina Mundi church to pray for his health. More used to holding anti apartheid protests within its walls, this time prayers were offered as Nelson Mandela's doctors, having made one home visit, said they were satisfied with the progress their patient was making.

FEBRUARY 2011

Tues 1

The handling of the issue, of a nations concerns over the hospitalisation of Nelson Mandela, has brought other issues to light. It would seem that the aspects of the Nelson Mandela Foundation and the ANC / state concerns could become an issue when the inevitable happens and the countries first post apartheid leader's life ends.

This issue was brought to light in the editors column of the Sunday Independent when the editor - M Sefara - wrote that the Foundation's spokesman, S Hatang appeared to "mislead the nation" as to the health of the former president.

The journalist also claimed that by so doing he only intensified the media's determination to unearth the correct condition of Mr Mandela. In defence of itself the Foundation's chief executive revealed that communiqué wording was agreed with Zindzi Mandela.

Thurs 3

A much vaunted initiative, to test all those sexually active for the HIV virus, has been criticised by members of the National Teachers' Union. Those the authorities in Pretoria that will launch the country wide campaign are to be 13 year old school students.

Those opposed to this voluntary scheme, as voiced by A Thompson the deputy president of the NTU, notes that knowing how traumatic adults find dealing with the fact that they have a life threatening disease for a young person to discover their HIV status will be even more so.

Sat 5

this date 1976 - led by a former Parachute Regiment soldier, M Hall, 140 mercenaries evade the media scrum hunting then and leave London for the west African country of Angola. There they will do battle, against the new government of A Neto, as he fights off a challenge from the rebel FNLA movement.

Over 200 people have based their wedding celebrations on Robben Island in 10 years of Valentine Day mass weddings at this place that was Nelson Mandela's residence for so many years.

Wed 9

Following the BBC 2 television programme, The Chinese are Coming (qv notes : CD 8/2) it is noted that the Angolan off shore oil fields provide the country with 100bn barrels of oil as payment for the Chinese governments involvement in restructuring the country after the countries civil war. In fact the Luanda authorities are the chief supplier of this vital commodity to the Beijing authorities.

Other elements of this 'de facto colonisation' can be seen by the building in the capital, of what will be the largest retail complex on the African continent, by the Nanton Segin

Construction group. Here workers, who are paid twice what they would earn at home, commit themselves to two year contracts.

Further 'up country' the communist state railway company are updating the rail line from the Angolan capital to the city of Cubal a distance of 100 miles. In the city of Huambo private entrepreneur Yehing who left China in 2004 'to seek his fortune in Africa' has plans to revitalise the inner workings of the country people. On show were his cheap, but effective small motor bikes which will revolutionise how the people live.

In the case of Chinese poultry farmers there is resentment from the nations own chicken farmers. There is resentment here as it is seen that the birds the foreigners produce are bigger and have more meat on their bones. Therefore they sell more to the detriment of the local producers. It is thought that these birds have been injected with a growth stimulant to produce a larger fowl.

Thurs 10

With a long association established association between the port city of Durban and the city of Leeds, the first contact in 2004 (qv 1/12) musical youth from the city are flying to meet with their South African contemporaries.

In the near future eight students from Garforth Academy will meet up with students from Mzuvele High School. The purpose of the visit, which has been in existence since 2009, is to pass on surplus musical instruments collected in the city. Also the overseas students, the Garforth Jazz Rock Band will perform with their hosts some of the music that the two groups have collaborated on over the last two years.

Sat 12

As the country notes, that it is 21 years since Nelson Mandela was released from the apartheid states prison system and thus began the road to a free and democratic South Africa this elder statesman "was deemed very well" by his daughter Zinzi who was on a visit to the United States.

At the same time there was an upbeat assessment of the former presidents health from Jacob Zuma who was speaking at the opening of the current session of parliament. "We want to assure the nation that Madiba is receiving very good medical care and is comfortable."

The worlds largest producer, De Beers, made a net profit of ?374m / \$598m in 2010 after prices rose 27%.

Mon 14

Much as there was anger against Julias Malema among the white community during 3/10 for his singing of the perceived anti white song 'Shoot the Boer' so too anger against the Irish singer Bono and U2.

At a performance, in Johannesburg, white interest groups have labelled his rendition of IRA rebel songs as an endorsement of unspoken policy of killing white farmers as it is said the

words of the ANC's Youth League does. In his defence Bono likened the songs to folk music that was all over music scene when he was growing up in a divided Belfast in the 1960's.

Knowing that the drive for gold, as an investment or for the adornment of the body, has seen unscrupulous manufacturers force their workers to extract the gold ore in a dangerous manner a new standard has been introduced.

Ethical gold, has been certificated to come from mines where no child labour, poisonous chemicals and a clear line from extraction to the finished product has been established. One of the first jewellers to sign up to this 'fair trade' gold is S Webster, one of twenty from Britain to sign up to the Fairtrade and Fairminded scheme.

Such rigorous checks will see finished products sold at a 20%. The scheme hopes to have five per cent of manufacturers signed up by 2015.

Fri 18

With the imminent appearance of the two persons, co accused of the killing of the British woman in Guguletu township on 15/11, a lawyer acting for Mziwamadoda Qwabe aged 25 has said that his confession was extracted after an unnamed police officer used improper methods to get such a claim. Lawyer Thabo Nogemane, claims that his client was assaulted with a big torch, suffered numerous punches to the body and used a plastic bag to try and suffocate his client.

According to the South African Independent Complaints Directorate in 2009 - 10 almost 300 people 'died in police custody. There were seven tortured to death cases during this period.

Even the confession, and hurried sentencing, handed down to the taxi driver Zola Tonga, is being questioned by the lawyers who act for the dead woman's husband as he fights extradition to be returned to South Africa as a co accused in her murder.

Sun 20

Mimicking, what was a voluntary scheme - introduced by the then prime minister Brown in 2002 to have firms that take profits out of their African owned take less profit away from the African people - the French president wants the European Community to legislate to this aim. It is noted that the oil rich state of Equatorial Guinea, where the GDP is ?18, 450 / \$30, 000 per person the majority of this west African country live on less than a dollar a day.

One other country which would benefit is South Africa where the owners of the Western Deep Level gold mine, near the city of Carltonville, is owned by the London Stock Exchange listed Anglo American company.

With a deep passion for the world's poor the Irish rock star Bob Geldof is behind a Publish What You Pay Campaign and has recently been in Johannesburg and after a recent meeting with the Conservative Chancellor of the Exchequer has persuaded the European Commission to report by 9/11 on the way forward.

Leader Comment **A Fresh Chapter is Opening for Africa** now that the era of colonialisation is all but a distant memory the continent new concerns are coming to the fore. “The African story has changed new headlines 100 African companies have revenues greater than \$1bn. The combined GDP of the largest 11 countries will be greater than China or Russia by 2050. Africa has 60% of the world’s total amount of uncultivated agricultural land. The rate of return on foreign investments is greater than in any other developing region.”

Mon 21

As the London courts prepare to continue with the extradition hearing of Shiran Dewani, on 23/3, the words spoken by South Africa’s main prosecutor M Similane of the national prosecution authority has put doubt into the minds of those who claim his innocence of a charge of murder.

The director of the NPA was questioned on the SABTV 3 programme where he declared that “this was a pure criminal matter of somebody who murdered his wife whilst he should be celebrating his honeymoon. This is the second time that authorities in Pretoria have deemed him guilty with the past months. Earlier police commissioner, B Cele, dismissed the notion that the legal authorities were not capable of dealing in the proper manor in such a high profile criminal case.

Wed 23

With his two court dates set, 23/3 and the three day extradition beginning hearing on 3/5, Shiran Dewani spent a night in hospital. It would seem that his suffering of post traumatic stress, over the accusation that he was part of the murder plot became too much for him to cope with.

Denying a report that the Bristol based care home owner tried to kill himself it was said that the overnight stay in a Bristol hospital was so that medical authorities could monitor his ‘reaction to sleeping tablets.’

Thurs 24

A Wikileaks revelation - from a cable from the American ambassador in Harare - lets it be known that the British government had refused to back a company that wanted to do business with the Kingdom of Swaziland.

In 12/08 the firm, Unionlet which was part run by a former civil servant in the arms procurement department in London, wanted an export credit guarantee for armaments it wanted to sell to the Kingdom of Swaziland. The value of which was \$60m.

On the Kingdoms shopping list were 925 H&K assault rifles, five heavy machine guns one armoured personnel carrier and three Bell HU1 helicopters. According to the foreign minister these were needed to confront any internal challenges to the government. A second explanation was offered that the weapons would be used as the Kingdom joined the African Unions continent wide peace keeping force.

Such scenarios were not believed back in London. In the first instance it was noted that the minister had just returned from a visit from a visit to Iran and in the second no such peacekeeping role had been offered.

Fri 26

With feelings for the man's protection a lawyer, representing the South African authorities, has called for S Deweni to be held in prison for his own protection as the Bristol based home care owner is only just recovering after taken 40 tablets. The request, which failed, was made at Belmarsh magistrates court as an extradition hearing.

Mon 28

News item, as if the country did not have enough of a battle against fighting the HIV/Aids virus after the years of miss management by the Mbeki government there is a new problem. While there may be a plentiful supply of anti retroviral drugs criminal gangs have taken to targeting supplies.

Reports from Durban indicate that a named drug, *miss heard by this diarist*, when mixed with others and smoked gives of feelings of well being and therefore is much sought after to lesson the load of living in poverty.

Thurs 24

News report, with revolt in the on the northern coast of the African continent it seems that the Zimbabwean authorities will not tolerate such thoughts within its borders. As a broad spectrum of the population gathered Harare, with only the intention of discussing events - and viewing film of recent events in Libya, Tunisia and Egypt the police moved in.

As of now a large number of those attending have been in police custody for at least five days. They have been charged with treason and await their appearance in court. **Today : Radio 4 6.45 am**

MARCH 2011

Wed 2

As a consequence of the financial savings that the Conservative government are implementing it has been deemed right that the international development budget of ?8.4bn be rebalanced. Among the sixteen countries affected, by 2016, will be the kingdom of Lesotho which will cease to benefit in any way in this way from London.

The former British colony is ranked 28th on a World Bank list of the worlds poorest countries.

The parents of the murdered bride who died in Khayelitsha in 11/10 have followed the last steps of their daughter Annie Dewani. A Hindu pries accompanied the grieving parents from their home in Sweden and is expected to conduct a short service in the township. The trial of M Qwabe and X Mnengi, the co defendants of the jailed taxi driver Z Tongo who has already been convicted, was delayed after a brief appearance in court.

Mon 7

Much as the Cape Town area has been known, since 2003, for its biodiversity (qv 2/11) the slopes of Table Mountain and its surrounding areas the World Wildlife Fund has chosen this area for species protection. With the backing of the United Nations the area will become on of 28 such places that are in need of protection from the ravages of climate change and real estate damage.

The chosen location is on farmland owned by Koos Claasens on the Saldanha Peninsula 140km north of the city. The total finance needed, which comes from UNESCO, has been estimated at ?53m / R68bn.

This project has been greatly helped by the discover, in 1995, as a yet unnamed species of iris being discovered. Positive identification, as a new species, was made by the then Ph.D. student Amy Goldblatt. It is noted that the Western Cape region is one of six floral kingdoms that has 9, 000 species in the area. Of these 6, 200 grow in no other region. Table Mountain alone has 2, 200.

Such a prestigious find, and the offer of being able to give this newly found species a new name, has seen ken interest – worldwide – in an online auction that ends on 31/3. In the view of A Goldblatt a name linked to the coming royal wedding in London would be appropriate.

Mon 14

Already known that the African National Congress has moved into the world of fashion, with a collection first shown in 2010 (qv 25/1), the charitable foundation started by Nelson Mandela has decided to raise funds in a similar way.

In the words of the chief executive of the Nelson Mandela Foundation, Archmat Dangor, the target market for this range are the people who would attend events organised by them. With this in mind the clothes deemed the 'first global brand to come out of the country' is named the 4664 range after the prison number given to Madiba by the apartheid authorities during his long imprisonment.

Wed 16

Following the 26/2 overnight stay in hospital, for what is now assumed to have been a suicide attempt, the Pretoria authorities have insisted that Shiren Dewani (qv) be placed under some form of official observation. In the latest appearance of his on going extradition hearing the the magistrate decided he could remain on bail provided he went into hospital of his own accord.

The new government, in London, it would seem are in the process of lessening the effects of the changes in the Bribery Act by the Labour administration in 2010 (qv 18/4).

Since that date companies listed on the London Stock Exchange have been stopped from giving cash in return for contracts. This latest move would see an exemption made for any overseas company, who, although listed on the Stock Exchange, do little or any business in the United Kingdom.

Thurs 17

Long time home, in Britain, Angolon national J Mbenga, had been caught after overstaying his visa. In the past, *and reported in this diary in 2009*, a deportation was ordered. Unfortunately the private security firm chosen by the government to oversee this, G4S, overstepped their powers of restraint to the uncooperative victim. As a result of their actions Mbenga died of suffocation.

After a lengthy police investigation the police are considering a charge corporate manslaughter against those accompanying him back home. Also the company may be indicted on the same charge. Such charges have only been made possible after information was obtained from three whistle blowers from inside the world's largest security company.

Well known is the trip made by a young Nelson Mandela to Ethiopia in 1962, see Book 'Young Mandela', *in authors possession*. Just starting out on his military training the 'Lion of Judea' gifted a firearm to the soon to be jailed member of the African National Congress. Once back on the Rivoena Farm headquarters this weapon was buried six feet from the kitchen.

As of now the farm, as part of the Liliesleaf Trust, is a national site that attempts to preserve the historic element of the liberation times. In an attempt to bring the weapon 'back home' the site of its burial is now not on Trust owned land. It is in the possession of A Lenstra the adjacent land owner.

Attempts have been made to purchase the Makarov pistol, a present from emperor Haili Selassie, have failed. Various prices have been discussed. In 2003 a price of ?265, 000 / R3m at which the Trust chief executive, Nick Wolfe, accused Lenstra of “holding the trust to ransom.” Replying the landowner accused the Trust of 'hiding behind the façade of an emotional argument.

Wed 23

One who survived the events of 21 3. 1960, in the township of Sharpville – an event that could be said to have lit the litmus paper of the black majority population protest that eventually led to the countries first multi racial government in 1994 – has finally moved into her own home.

Ninety two year old Mamma Anna Maloso has now moved into her private dwelling on the outskirts of Vereening on the edge of the PWV triangle.

Thurs 31

As battle engulfs Libya actions by the international community have brought harsh criticisms from the likes of the African National Congress's YL leader. Julius Malema (qv), noted in the Star newspaper “the ANC of Nelson Mandela would voted for the killing of fellow Africans imposed by our former masters. How can they vote for the interests of the UN and the United States of America , a country that clearly wants control of the oil reserves?”

It was also noted, by T Wheeler, of the countries Institute of International Affairs, that any vote – by the UN et al – for the imposition of sanctions against Zimbabwe should then win the support of the authorities in Pretoria.

A Blue Bulls rugby union player based in Pretoria, Bees Roux, awaits trial over the alleged beating a black policeman to death. A former player, as yet unnamed, is accused of decapitating one and murdering two others. He will be identified when he comes before the court in Durban.

APRIL 2011

Wed 13

Mass police action, in the kingdom of Swaziland, has seen the security forces break up a workers protest meeting in the city of Mazini. In an attempt to lessen the effects of the protest, by 1.000 trainee teachers, from the Swaziland's National Association of teachers, 150 police were deployed around the city to prevent supporters from being bussed into the city.

In all seven union leaders and foreign journalists detained as the protest gathers momentum. A member of the United Democratic Front, a coalition fighting for a more democratic society and a protest at the lack of freedom in the last monarchical enclave on the African continent.

The time has come for Julius Malema, the chairman of the ANC's Youth League to defend his 2010 (qv 9/4) comments on the anti Afrikaner song lyrics ' Kill the Boer' who claim the utterances are “objectionable.

The legal action is being brought by a group named AfriForum which has the interests of the ethnic group as its core principal. The civil suit brought by the group is claiming £4, 500 /R 50, 000 in damages.

As Malema entered the court building he was embraced by Winnie Madikizela Mandela in a show of support.

Sun 17

As Winnie Mandela's life story has been detailed in 'Winnie : the Opera (qv 28/12) is within seven days of its world premier in the countries State Theatre the novelised story of the former first lady of South Africa is in the planning. There is also a film, starring the American Jennifer Hudson is in the offing.

Things I have learned

1[1] Shiran Deweni, accused by Cape Town police of having his new bride killed while both were on their honeymoon in the country, has been ordered into 'protective custody'. This move comes as he has already had one spell, on 26/2, under the care of psychiatrists in a local hospital.

[2] The African National Congress's Youth League chairman, J Malema (qv) defends his 'Kill the Boer' remarks not as his accusers say deem it as a invitation to kill former their white oppressors, rather the words praise the end of the apartheid system. The words are in reality a plea, to all races, to live in harmony together.

[3] *from a GDN graphic* , it would seem that South Africa has trillions of tons of shale bed rock that has trapped within it natural gas. As a growing economic power the country, as much as the rest of the world, needs to exploit the world's natural resources to its best advantages.

The extraction of this fuel is now becoming economically viable, however their dangers. Extraction operations, in the USA, have resulted in methane gas seeping to the surface and exploding. Also the areas water supply has become contaminated, as the chemicals used to help with the extraction of the fuel has seeped into the ground water.

Fri 29

At the world premier of Winnie the Opera (qv 17/4), at the State Theatre in Pretoria, the subject of the life, in song tale, came onto the stage and berated Tskane Masganyanyi, the show star, and made a limp joke about how slim she was in relation to the real Winnie.

There is talk of an international tour : but no dates have been announces so far.

Sat 30

A regional round up -

South Africa “Protests over poor delivery of electricity, water and other basic services have risen from two in 2006 to 105 in 2009 and 111 last year,, according to analysis by the City press newspaper. The death this month of demonstrator Andries Tatane, allegedly shot with rubber bullets and beaten by police, have been seen by many as a watershed. Political commentator M Mbeki predicts that 'Tunisia Day' will arrive in 2020.”

Swaziland “A planned uprising in April was extinguished by a brutal security crackdown, but trade unions plan to continue monthly peaceful protests. King Mswati III, who has 13 wives, has been criticised for extravagant displays of wealth. Some of the countries most militant activists say they want to abolish Africa's last absolute monarchy and are prepared to 'die for democracy.'

Mozambique led by President Amando Emilio Guebuza since 2005 “ A steep increase in the price of bread and other goods last year sparked off three days of protest, co – ordinated by text messages, resulting in riots that left 13 people dead. The government, which had called the rises 'irreversible' , was forced to back down. It is now planning another increase but it will subsidise food for 2 million poor people in an attempt to head off further civil strife”.

MAY 2011

Mon 2

With a government promise that one third of all white owned farmland will be transferred to black ownership by 2014 white farming organisations are on the look out for new opportunities elsewhere on the continent.

One of these organisations, Agri South Africa who in 2010 pointed out that the number of white farmers losing their lives in confrontations with black farmers (qv 11/4), have noted the willingness of neighbouring governments to offer land.

The first such agreement, with Congo Brazzaville, has seen 88, 000 hectares of land been granted to 70 farmers in recent times. In a deal closer to home, arranged by a close associate of president Zuma, C Senekal has brokered a 'land grab' for 800 farmers to reinvigorate 1 million acres of the south western province of KwaZulu-Natal. As in many of cases the land, at one time, were state farms which have now been abandoned.

In all Agri South Africa, which represents 700, 000 farmers has brokered agreements with twenty two African countries. While there are benefits, as the land is now back in production, it would seem that the new owners do not intend to produce crops for the local markets, rather they will be producing profitable tropical fruit for sale in European markets.

While these vast tracts of land are claimed to be empty, by the government, in fact local persons are working the land only to keep local communities viable.

Tues 3

Back in a London court, fighting extradition to a Cape Town Court, Shiran Deweni listened as the court was told by a member of the South African legal team seeking to return the then recently married Bristol based businessman for trial – that they had interviewed a potential witness that counters the husband's claim of innocence in his wife's death.

Wed 4

Human rights campaigners note that the murder of deemed of being gay or lesbian in sexual orientation has not diminished 2009 (qv 28/8). In the most recent case of 'corrective rape' the lesbian activist N Nogwaza aged 24 was gang raped in Kwa Thema outside Johannesburg in 4/11. No one has been detained by the police as yet.

Human Rights Watch said homophobic violence was continuing unchecked. Researcher D Nath said "The vicious nature of the attack is a potential reminder these attacks are premeditated, planned and often committed with impunity.

Thurs 5

The derelict office block, in the centre of Johannesburg – whose future was undecided in 2010 (qv 15/3) - that at was one time the base for the legal practice of Nelson Mandela and Oliver Tambo has been determined.

The cities mayor, A Masondo, has made a show of the forthcoming anti apartheid museum complex that will, at a cost of £460, 000 / R5m, that will occupy the office space that between 1952 and 1960 provided legal advice to those before the courts for calling for a non racial government.

To realise the mayors dream some 30 tonnes of debris had to be removed from the building.

Fri 6

As the South African police authorities continue to battle for the extradition of Shrien Deweni (qv 3/5) doubts about assurances given by the authorities have been put forward.

It is, the states claim, that such is the high profile of the British national that his very profile will protect him from any violent treatment whilst serving a jail term. Turning this stance 'on its head' Sasha Gear from Johannesburg's Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation says that the 'white collar' nature of the crime alongside his wealth and looks may count against him.

The hearing was adjourned until 7/11.

out of course note – such is the concern of the British authorities that the death of J Mbenga, an Angolon national that overstayed his visa who died at the hands of the G4 security firm (qv 17/3), that the case has been handed over to the United Nations for further considerations.

Tues 10

The recent 'corrective rape' and death of N Nogwaza (qv 4/5) may or may not have been counted among recent police announcement that they are to set up a special squad to investigate such killings.

It is the belief of Nudumie Funda founder of the Sizwe Project, a Cape Town based charity that supports survivors of corrective rape crimes, that the time for coordinated action to stop such happenings is now. One of the possibilities, with municipal elections in the offing, is a campaign of disruption.

There has been other victims, to add to the 31 acknowledged – Nokuthula Radebe aged 20, Soweto 3/11 : Sizakele Sigasa and partner Salome Masooma died 2007. In the case of Zoliswa Nkonyana, aged 19, who died in 2006 the courts have delayed proceedings over 30 times.

Fri 13

A thirteen nation scientific study, sponsored by the United Nations HIV/AIDS and the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases has possibly found the 'holy grail' that will stop the HIV virus in its tracks.

Well known is the use of the anti retro viral drugs for those infected with Aids. This joint study, well researched on the African continent and elsewhere, has found that if these drugs were given at an earlier in the infection cycle some 94% of infections would not take place.

In past times infected persons were not offered medicines till their CD4 count was below 350. It is now proposed that with a count above 550 patients would be eligible for treatment.

As is well known the Sans people of the Kalahari desert region have been native to the region for at least 8, 000 years after the discovery of a number of rock paintings in 2004 (qv 2/2). Now, with their numbers falling due to the effects of climate change are the remaining 2, 000 still leading a traditional hunter gatherer life.

Their plight has been documented in a series of photographs by Leo Hickman.

Sat 14

The writer believes that the ongoing campaign against lesbians which results in most cases their death after the 'corrective rape' process is simply a crime against women. Men who think that women should give sex to a man whenever it is demanded. Alternately the women is seeking more sex than is deemed appropriate by the male.

Such an attitude is surprising in a country that has the most liberal attitudes to the emancipation of women throughout Africa. In most other countries on the continent homophobia is not dealt with by a persons death. More likely the social exclusion, from family and friends occurs. - **M Gevisser : University of Pretoria**

Mon 16

a date – 19. 7. 1901 – in history 'Some people in a town still assert that the camp is a haven of bliss. Well, there are eyes and no eyes. I was at the camp today, and just in one little corner this is the sort of thing I found.

The nurse, underfed and overworked just sinking into her bed, barely able to hold herself up, after coping with 30 typhoid and other patients, with only the untrained help of two Boer girls.

Next I was able to see a women panting in the heat, just sickening for her confinement. Fortunately I had a nightdress in my bundle for her and two tiny baby gowns. Next tent, a six month's baby gasping for its life on its mother's knee. The doctor had given it powders in the morning, but it had had nothing since. Two or three others dropping and sick in that tent

Next, child recovering from measles, sent back from hospital before it could walk, stretched on the ground, white and wan; three or four others lying about in a state of collapse.

It's just exactly like faded flowers thrown away. And one has to stand and look on at such misery and be able to do almost nothing. - **Emily Hobhouse** -

Tues 17

News item, on the eve of municipal elections, despite some hard campaigning by the African National Congress, it is the opposition parties who are gaining much support of the voters in the townships. The Democratic Alliance are even using the tactics of the pre 1994 Congress to highlight the lack of basic services, running water and electricity supply to each home, after many years of ANC government.

Pertaining to the provision, or lack of, services in the black townships by the 17 year rule of the post 1994 government the battle of the open viewed toilets is a good or bad example.

As the main theme of the Democratic Alliance's attack during the imminent municipal elections their opponents, thought they had demolished the argument over toilet provision when a court fined Cape Town council for building 50 unenclosed toilets in Makhaza section of Khayelitsha.

Once journalists began making an issue of these 'loos with a view' it was soon discovered that the government itself had been censored in 2010 over much the same issue. This time there were 1, 600 units built which were exposed to the elements in the Free State town of Moqhaka.

Other election events include the death of a demonstrator, who was not carrying a weapon, at a 'service delivery protest.' Events such as this have staged throughout the country. Some would call the event as significant as the 1976 death of Hector Peterson in Soweto.

Again using signs of pre 1994 good governance, this time a statue of Henry Verwood, in Midvaal, the African National Congress castigate the DA for highlighting its alleged sharing apartheid sentiments and philosophies.

Those in the know predict the results will be 'same old, same old' with the government staying the dominant in most councils except in Cape Town where the Democratic Alliance is expected to remain in control.

A 'first' a member of the black majority, on a DA ticket, thirty year old Soweto born management graduate Mmusi Maimane is to challenge for the role of mayor in Johannesburg.

Fri 20

Chief executive of the company, Ivan Glansburg born in 1957 to a Lithuanian luggage importer and Blanche his South African mother. Family home was the Illovo suburb of Johannesburg. Then schooled in a adjacent suburb of Hyde Park. With the intention of representing his country in the Olympic Games at race walking dashed due to United Nations disapproval of apartheid became a citizen of Israel.

University education at Witwatersrand : accounting degree : then employment with N L Kerson auditors. Conscription followed, far away from any front line – the 'brain dead year' - as a clerk where he billeted with Tony Leao a former post 1995 leader of the Opposition in parliament and at this time ambassador to Argentina.

Military service over exit the country to Los Angeles to study for a masters degree in business administration. 1983. New job with Marc Rich & Co in Johannesburg. Here he was at the illegal supply of oil to the apartheid regime worth \$2bn. Not concerned by the illegality of the operation he moved on to Australia and then China.

Over extending the company, in its attempt to corner the market in trading in Zinc there was a management buyout still with this extremely publicity shy chief executive in charge as the company, with a 2010 revenue valued at \$145bn, is about to go public on the London Stock Exchange.

The government of president Hfikepunye Pohamba of Namibia it to take one of the worlds trading companies to court. It is alleged that Glencore that has been negotiating in bad faith when it agreed to supply the needs of the state oil company Namcor

Government lawyers will argue, in the Windhoek high court, that the price asked by the commodities trader was too high thus leading Namcor into a financial crisis and leaving the west African countries economy in danger of collapse.

To back up the governments claims evidence of a 2009 audit report will be introduced. Produced by Pricewaterhouse Cooper the report notes that dealings with Glencor “forces Namcor to continue to purchase from its current suppliers even though other suppliers may potentially offer lower prices.”

Tues 31

News item as decision day draws near, as to whether the American retail organisation Walmart is able to full fill its hopes of 2010 (qv 30/11) to expand its business here, an academic economist has his doubts.

Speaking from the centre of Johannesburg he noted that if such a move was allowed many of the street vendors and casual sellers would, in the end, loose their livelihoods.

this date 1902 the Boer War ended with the Peace of Vereeniging

1910 the colonies of the Cape of Good Hope, Natal, the Transvaaland the Orange River Colony united to form the Union of South Africa.

JUNE 2011

Wed 1

Warlmart has successfully made an entry into the expanding retail market that is Africa. It's first incursion, through the purchase of the Massmart retail outlet in the country.

The 51% purchase, for £1.5bn /\$2.4bn has come without conditions placed on the American management. The only objections have come from the trade union movement who forecast that employees wages, in the countries 288 stores, would be driven down. If this occurred "the mother of all boycotts" would happen as well as demonstrations.

Supporters of this merger says the deal proves that South Africa is 'open for business'.

Sun 5

Documented has been the fact, that when the nations economy suffers cross border nationals who have come to seek work in South Africa, have caused friction with their hosts, such is the position as of this time.

A recent case, in the town of Diepsloot, an attack on Zimbabwean national F Kujrichita aged 26 was caught on a mobile phone camera. His attackers. Men women and children thought wrongly that he was a criminal.

Tues 7

Obituary, Albertina Sisulu 21. 10. 18 – 3. 6. 2011 with the given name of Nontesikelelo Thethiwe in the rural village of Camama in the Transkie where, from the age of 11 when her dad passed away : pneumoconiosis : life as a miner and a mother always on the poorly side, took on the role of carer for herself and her three siblings.

Such were her difficulties that by the time her education ended at the Catholic mission school in 1939 two years of schooling was lost. With ambitions to become nun lost, because of domestic conditions, a career in nursing at Johannesburg's Non European hospital in 1940. One of her associates was the first wife of Nelson Mandela, Evely along with sister of Walter Sisulu who were married in 1944.

1945, only women at the formation meeting of the African National Congress's Youth League's founding.

1963, alone now, as husband Walter 'disappeared' six children were raised on her meagre nursing salary

Faced much harassment from the apartheid state, arrests under the Terrorism Act, the first in 1964 for attending a multiracial reception at the British embassy.

Three of her children, Max, Lindiwe and Zwelakha, also suffered for their involvement in the apartheid struggle.

1976, recruitment overlord for the ANC's military wing and sending them across the borders for military training

1986, elected as co chair of the United Democratic Front : although jailed, for four years, at the time and released after serving half that sentence. As the state tried to put her on trial for treason the internal and external protests saw the charges dropped.

1989, closeness with Winnie Mandela ripped asunder when the murder of Doctor Asvat, medic to the WMFC (qv) occurred. With the granting of her first passport travel to the USA and Britain where she was feasted by national leaders. Walter was released that October.

1997, Evidence to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission over the Winnie's activities associated with 'her' Football Club brought forward no criticism of the 'Mother of the Nation.'

Much travel since those times until 2003 when her husband dies

Mon 13

News report, a multi national fund to finance the availability of vaccines to reach children in deprived countries was launched in London today. Donations from governments, and the likes of Bill Gates, who has already given much of his fortune away to the deserving poor, was highlight with the work of the efforts Save the Children Fund were achieving in Mozambique.

Here many children, below the age of five, are dying from pneumonia because they have no access to the relevant vaccine. With the aid of this multi billion cash injection, where 80% will spent on the vaccine and the rest on moving it deep into the countryside, usually on a motor cycle, lives will be saved as well as ongoing benefits to the country at large.

Tues 14

A South African lesbian, Nxolo Nkosana aged 23, has become the latest victim to be attacked for what she is. A resident of Crossroads, outside Cape Town, and accompanied by partner an unknown male stabbed her four times from behind. At the same time abuse was uttered. As it happens her life was saved after surgery. The attacker remains at large.

Activists are demanding tougher action against homophobic violence in South Africa, including so called the corrective rape of lesbians. "We should not be ashamed or be afraid of the public."

this day 1964 Nelson Mandela was sentenced to life imprisonment and sent to Robben Island, seven miles off Cape Town.

Wed 15

Winnie Madikizela – Mandela, already having had her life turned into an opera (qv 28/12), has poured scorn on a film portrayal of her lifetime by the native born director Darrell Roodell.

The chief complaint of the former 'Mother of the Nation' is that she herself is still alive and that it was totally disrespectful to come to this country, make a movie about my struggle and call the result some transition of a romantic life.

The comments came after American actor Jennifer Hudson, who takes the Winnie role, deemed the movie “the ultimate women's movie ... an amazing story.”

Thurs 16

The former chairman of the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund, J Ractcliffe aged 74, has been found not guilty of receiving illegally mined diamonds from model N Campbell.

They were passed to him, in 2010 (qv 7/8) as a donation to the former president's charity after being given to her by the alleged war criminal, and head of state, Charles Taylor.

Sat 18

According to M Chase, the founder of the Elephants without Borders charity, the phenomenon that is Botswana's Okavango Delta and the animals that depend on it are in great danger.

Over the last four weeks a Cessna plane has flown over the delta at a height of 100 metres over this land mass which covers 16, 000 sq kilometres which make up the assumed 50, 000 islands. Two digital cameras, mounted each side of the plane, then photographed the landscape.

The study found that 11 species had declined in the Ngamiland district since the last survey was conducted in 1996. The most damages were the ostrich numbers : a 95% drop from 11, 893 to 497 in 2010. Wildebeest : down 90%. 84% antelope, 81% warthogs and kudu. Also gone from the location were the majority of giraffe. The population of hippos have increased 6%/ year and the the elephant herds, some 130, 000 strong seems to be stable.

An explanation : drought and bush fires, prevalent in the 1980 and 90's along with poaching and the onward march of the need for residential areas are the main cause of the decline.

An alternative view has been offered by R Fynn, of the Okovanga Research Institute at Botswana University. The scientist calls for caution as there has not been this depth of research in previous years.

Of grave concern is the use of fencing that keeps the wildlife away from farm animals. The use of fencing has a greater impact on antelope and zebra than other species. They block their trails to water sources and in drought years there is much suffering.

The Elephants Without Borders research was financed by the government. Mike Chase has already presented the findings to ministers and their scientists.

Fri 24

Obituary, Kader Asmal 8. 10. 34 – 22. 6. 11 born into an Indian shopkeeping family in Stanger, north east of Durban and educated to the extent that he beat all comers to become the cup holder for the Natal Islamic debating society. Terming himself as 'a lifelong Anglophile.'

A meeting with the first president of the African National Congress, Chief Luthuli, and having led an anti apartheid school boy protest in 1952, a 'stay away' from lessons by pupils, in his final year at school.

Leaving the country in 1959, after qualifying as a lawyer, he moved to London, then on to Dublin and the start of 27 years as a lecturer in law at Trinity College Dublin. He finally returned to South Africa when the ANC was unbanned in 1990.

During his academic career he was 'well active' in various anti apartheid movements. While in London he formed the Boycott Movement, then in 1960 helped found the Anti Apartheid Movement and its Irish counterpart in 1963 which he chaired from 1972 – 1991.

Apart from academic honours : BA correspondence course University of South Africa : LLB /LLM London School of Economics, MA Dublin University : qualified barrister Lincoln's Inn London and the South African Supreme Court other positions were held

Vice president of the International Defence Aid Fund 1966 – 81 : co founder / president Irish Council for Civil Liberties 1976 – 1990. Member of the International Commission of Inquiry of the Apartheid Regime in 1979.

With Nelson Mandela becoming president in 1994 the self nominated "little coolie from Stranger" took the offered position of minister of water affairs and forestry and then, under Thabo Mbeki's presidency, minister of education.

From the 1990 diagnosis of bone marrow cancer until he finally left parliament in 2004 there was never that closeness of relationship with Thabo that there was with Mandela and his disillusionment with the ANC and its young bloods, Julius Malema, and the way the party was changing was well noted.

Sat 25

As the Michelele Obana, the wife of the American president continues her as yet unreported travels – *by this diarist* – in southern Africa – the 'first lady has made an artistic declaration in the Boatswain capital of Gaborone

At the Baylor Children's Clinical Centre of Excellence in the capital, which provides care and treatment for more than 4, 000 HIV positive children and their families, she helped the children in painting a mural on the wall of a future facility for adolescents.

The South African national football team, nicknamed Bafana Bafana and its ruling association, have ended a long running legal dispute with the company that first registered the 'trade name.'

The settlement will see the management of the national team pay £450, 000 / Rm over the next twelve months to the Johannesburg based company Stanton Woodrush who registered the name more than 20 years ago.

Thurs 30

Obituary Arthur J Goldreich 25. 12. 24 – 25. 5. 11 born in Johannesburg, father a furniture maker then soon moved to the town of Pietersburg in the northern Transvaal. Educated at the Afrikaans school, in German : only showing determination to be taught in Hebrew, and on leaving school it was back to the capital to study to become an architect.

Into his studies, and side lined by the events in the new Israel, left to fight in the Zionist war. With the National Party now in power in the land of his birth a move to London, to study industrial design. Studies complete a return home happened where he married Hazel Berman, a member of the Young Communist League.

As the African National Congress were beginning their definitive 'actions' the couple, as members of the communist underground movement, were encouraged to rent out Lilesleaf Farm. *

Returning to the country, during the transition period, he settled in a remote location in the northern Cape and ran a motor repair shop.

* For the full and expressive occurrences intervening years see Young Mandela by D J Smith, published by Weindfeld & Nicolson – in the authors possession

JULY 2011

Wed 6

A new initiative, UN Women, in its first global report – World's Women : in Pursuit of Justice – notes the 'good practice' of the Thuthuzela rape crisis centres with their integrated medical treatment, counselling and court preparation. In one of the centres, in Soweto, conviction rates are 89% whereas in the rest of the country the national average is only 75%.

It also noted that of 2011 the percentage of women in parliament was 43%, a more than ten percent rise on the 2004 figure (qv 20/5). In Britain women holding a seat in parliament is 21%. This is a smaller rise than in South Africa.

Mon 11

As the date for the latest court appearance of the husband accused of killing Anni Dewani the Channel Four Dispatches programme, see DVD 14, gives a fresh insight into her relationship with her new husband.

Family memories, even before their marriage, tell of rows between the two. Even on the wedding night text messages were sent from the bridal hotel of not normal functions of the husband.

Investigations, by the programmes researchers claim that the Bristol businessman had had homosexual relationship with a German born national.

All sides, of Anni's family, demand that a voluntary return to South Africa would give the brides family peace of mind. In the end : in the eyes of British law the couple were not legally married as there was no civil ceremony to follow the Hindu marriage after the couples return to England before they embarked on honeymoon to Cape Town.

Thurs 14

A record high price for gold was reached : \$1, 587. 46/oz – a rise of 1.2% - as the European debt crisis reached new heights.

Supporting the UK Youth Climate Coalition, at the 11/11 delegation to the international gathering in South Africa, will be a student from Leeds University. K Diprose a PhD geography student who has already been to Bonn in a similar role, is now fund raising.

Fri 15

Obituary P Laurence 2. 4. 37. - 30. 6. 11. renown journalist, *and well known to this diarist as a main source of media information throughout the entire nationalists struggle from 1987 to the present date*, as a journalist on the Rand Daily Mail.

Born in Johannesburg and educated as a historian, gaining a masters degree at Natal University, specialising in the emergence of African nationalism in the kingdom of Lesotho. Then, in the early 1960's to teach history teaching history to secondary school students.

By the 1970's, the emergence of the anti apartheid protests, drew him into journalism on the Rand Daily Mail. Also his writings appeared in the Observer, also a media outlets read by those of a anti apartheid persuasion, the Economist : Irish Times and the Christian Science Monitor,

In the 1990's writing for the Star and Financial Mail, among others, he also wrote for Focus, the political magazine of the foundation set up to promote a liberal constitution the New South Africa.

Books authored : an exposure of the apartheid's regimes death squads, a political history of the Transkei. His two other works considered post apartheid policies.

Incidents *of note* 1973 attempting to interview the Pan African Congress leader Robert Sobukwe police arrested him.

1991 refusal to disclose his source for a story he had written about a key witness in the trial of Winnie Mandela. Arrest followed : colleagues protested : 'Free Laurence of Anzania' appeared on a blank wall : he was.

11. 11 2. 90? at Nelson Mandela's first press conference since release there was a personal greeting and a hug for this questioner as "he had been reading had been reading his articles for years".

Sat 16

At the behest of Leeds city council's international relations team the Museum has produced a film documentary of the events that the people in the city managed to show their solidarity with the anti apartheid struggle in South Africa.

Running alongside the film is an exhibition which documents activists memorabilia. This includes pamphlets. Pictures and letters of that era. Of particular note is a message from Lionel Bernstein who was jailed for his anti National Party activities in the mid 1960's.

Tues 19

According to Paul Cantrell a psychiatrist treating Shrien Dewani who is fighting extradition to South Africa, the murder suspect is suffering from post traumatic stress disorder. In his medical opinion there is a 'high risk' that the Bristol based businessman would try and kill himself if the London court grants Pretoria's request. The hearing continues.

As Nelson Mandela celebrates his 93rd birthday, among friends and relatives, in his home village of Qunu in the Eastern Cape, the rest of the nation celebrated Mandela

Day. The chief requirement of this was that a 'service to the nation' of sixty nine minutes : a minute for every year that the former president fought the system of apartheid.

Obituary General Magnus Malan 30. 1. 30 – 18. 7. 11 born in Pretoria where his father, A I de Merindol was a professor of biochemistry and later an member of parliament and mother Frederika Malan. Educated at an Afrikaans high school in the city. Later matriculated at the Dr Danie Craven Physical education Brigade, Kimberly in 1948.

1948 joined the countries first military degree course and gained his BSc at Pretoria University in 1953. A period as a marine in the navy before returning to the army as a lieutenant. After a spell of training in the USA then rose to become chief of the apartheid states army by 1973.

For much of his military career, during the fight for a multi racial government and its immediate aftermath, see this diarists notations.

Wed 27

De Beers reported a 55% jump in earnings for the six monthly period 1 – 6 /11. Sales of rough diamonds, by the Diamond Trading Company rose 33% to \$3.5bn., the highest ever sales figure recorded for the stated length of time.

Prices for diamonds are well above their 2008 pre crisis level, having been one of the best performing commodities in 2011. It was also noted, by the companies chief operating officer, B Cleaver, that the price of the polished stones was at the highest price they had been for the last 30 years.

AUGUST 2011

Wed 10

News report, in a fifty two page summing up the judge hearing the extradition plea from the South African police, to have the husband of Anni Dewani brought back to the country on a charge of being associated with her murder he says there is a case to answer.

The reasons given include, at the very least, the amount of interest the case has generated in both countries. As to his families fears, that he may suffer acts of violence or attempt suicide, it was felt that these concerns were outweighed by the public 's concerns. The final decision now rests with the home secretary

Thurs 11

At the conclusion of the extradition hearing of Shrien Deweni, for being a co accused in the murder of his wife Anni (qv 10/8) District court judge H Riddle, sitting with Belmarsh magistrate in Woolwich, considered new evidence.

This unnamed friend, although not giving evidence this time around, is willing to tell all if there is a court case in South Africa. His evidence concerns a conversation the two had seven months before the couple's wedding took place in India. Shiren indicated that while he was already engaged to Anni he no longer loved her. Culturally if he was to break of the engagement 'he would be disowned by the family.

Detained on accusation of 35 bank robberies Bongani Moyo and taken to the Pretoria court building by police. Under their care, inside the court house, the wanted man was somehow able to walk out of the building unchallenged as he mingled with members of the public.

Tues 16

A meeting of the Southern African Development Community, in the Angolan capital Luanda, has demanded a 'road map' and the agreed implementation of a timetable, commitment to human rights, rule of law and a new constitution before new free and fair democratic elections in Zimbabwe in 2012.

Thurs 18

At a conference, on the teaching of history in schools, taking place in Edinburgh and sponsored by the London Review of Books the coalition government minister M Graves will face R W Johnson who lives and writes in South Africa.

Speaking on the teaching of history, both before and after 1994, the sometimes Guardian contributor see **diary entry for 30. 6. 91** notes the following "History teaching before '94 was there to bolster up Afrikaner nationalism, and the black South Africans

were merely objects of history. Now under the ANC, that has completely reversed. The years 1652 – 1994 are simply called 'the oppression' and everything about that period has been lost”.

Under the new curriculum there is no mention of the country being involved in the world wars or in the Korean peninsula.

In the 20th century the role of the black majority in the struggle against apartheid is predominant. The whites are seen as bastards.

this day 1964 the country was banned from taking part in the Olympic Games because of its racial policies.

Sat 20

News report, once again the head of the African National Council's Youth League, Julius Malema has come under the scrutiny of the authorities in Pretoria. It is said that his activities, surrounding the awarding of contracts to firms, have caused concerns.

The Pretoria government has slapped down the intentions of its youth league as it prepared to mount support for those in neighbouring Botswana who wanted to overthrow 'the puppet regime of president Ian Khama'. This strategy, announced three weeks ago, by the movement's chairman has led president Zuma to call for Malema to be expelled from the African National Congress.

Following him being fined £840 / R 10, 000 for undermining the authority of president Zuma, which led to the call for him to be expelled from the party Malema was ordered to attend anger management classes. Recent actions have been said to have divided the party which, if happens again within the next two years, will lead to his expulsion.

The author of *An Inconvenient Youth : Julius Malema and the New ANC*, Fiona Forde notes “This is a 30 year old who has been redefining South African politics and is part of a 100 year old movement ... the ANC should have acted long ago but they stood by and did nothing. Now they are looking for a way to nail him.”

While the government is spending much time on certain of the misdeeds of the youth league chairman his counterpart in the Democratic Party, Makashule Gama, would rather there was a full investigation into the allegations of financial mismanagement to the tune of millions of Rand – *see above* -

Sun 21

As the plight of the white and black rhino still causes concern, as it did in 2010 (qv 17/11) their plight is no better. As of this date 265 rhinos have died at the hands of the poachers in 2011, whereas to total for the whole of 2010 was 333.

In a radical move B Bezuidenhout of the 6, 500 hectare Mauricedale Game Ranch, close to the town of Malelane, calls for the export of rhino horn - which the poachers

sell on mainly to China and Vietnam, where it is believed incorrectly is a cure for cancer – to be legalised.

Active at night the animals are shot and then de horned and the animal is left to bleed to death. By the end of its journey to the far east the purchaser will be willing to pay £35,000 / kilogram. In recent times three poachers have been shot dead by wardens on the reserve. At the airport in Johannesburg two persons from Vietnam were jailed for ten years as they tried to smuggle rhino horn out of the country.

Officials, from the South African National Parks organisation have made 131 arrests for poaching to date. They are of the belief that to come down hard on the criminal organisation, at all levels, is the way to stop the killings.

In the Kruger National Park 17 poachers were killed by rangers who were acting in self defence. They are assisted by members of the army after a request in 2010 (qv 17/11).

Tues 23

Despite reports of the well being of the wine exports to Britain, from 2009 (qv 24/7) employees are not fairing as well. In the 96 page report, Ripe With Abuse : Human Rights Conditions in South Africa's Fruit and Wine Industries, all is not well.

Based on two hundred and sixty interviews author, Daniel Bekele, notes that living conditions have not improved since the dark days of apartheid. In one case, an employee of an estate in the Western Cape, was said to be living in a converted pig sty building where he and his family lived without services – power or running water – for the last 10 years.

Employers practices were also criticised, the use of wine in lieu of payment was still rife. The ending of a persons employment saw a swift expulsion from the 'tied home' that was lost as the employment ended.

Responding to these points, Su Birch chief executive of Wines of South Africa, said that most of those interviewed were identified by unions or NGO's who took pleasure in portraying the worst case scenarios. The chief executive was quick to point out that employers were providing estate homes for 200, 000 workers. This meant investment of much money which has enabled them to go some way to right the wrongs of the past.

The country is the world 's seventh largest wine producer, filling the equivalent of 1.2bn bottles per year. The countries exchequer benefits to the tune of £2.2bn / R26.2bn according to a '09 report.

Highlighted in 2009, see above, was the emergence of the workers turned vineyard owners. As of this time one such, Sikhula Sonke a female run establishment, are paid £115. 82/ month whereas campaigners believe payment at the minimum wage level of R4, 000 should be the norm.

Despite the insensitivity of some wine producers there are some notable successes. -

M' hudi Wines, a recent start up producer, namely a couple from Soweto with no experience although their previous employment as a clinical psychologist and a university academic was no barrier to their produce being South Africa's emerging tourism award 2010.

Stellar Winery the country's largest producer of organic wines. Fairtrade accredited in 2004. Providing the UK with its most sold organic brand with a premium on each bottle sold paid into a community funded project.

Thandi Wine pioneered Fairtrade wine in 2003. Rooted, from 1995, as a black empowerment project and owned and run by a black collective from 2009.

Fri 26

A nominee, of President Zuma, for the vacant role of Chief Justice has angered a number of civil rights groups. According to his critics Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng his views on gender equality and marital rape “make a mockery” of the nation's constitution.

This is not the first time voices have been raised in question, when head of the constitutional court, his apparently socially conservative views came under scrutiny. His opponents say that other candidates, for the Chief Justice position, are better qualified than the president's surprise choice.

Sat 27

Just as the world of athletics was turned upside down, in 2009, when Caster Semenya burst onto the international scene at the International Amateur Athletics Federation championship in Berlin that year so another South African runner may do so in South Korea.

It is the aim of Oscar Pistorius, a double amputee – fitted with blades where his lower bones would be – to take part in the championships in the city of Daegu. Having just received clearance to run the first leg of the 4 x 400 metres heats and then hopefully the final the way may be clear for him to take to the track, in London in 2012's Olympic Games.

Just as there was controversy over Caster's ability to perform better than her competitors, now known to be diagnosed with hyperandrogenism that causes females to produce excess male hormones, male athletes are wary of the Pistorius's assumed advantage on the running track.

At the close of play, on the financial markets, in 26/8 the price of an ounce of gold was put at \$1, 780/ oz. However an ounce of gold, purchased in 1980 and adjusted to as of now prices, would be valued at \$2, 000.

Sun 28

As the colloquially named Blade Runner, or more reverentially named Oscar Pistorius, attempted to progress in the International Amateur Athletics Federation World Championships in South Korea (qv 27/8) it became known that he claimed third place in his heat.

Mon 29

The double amputee athlete O Pistorius (qv) failed in his attempt to progress to the to the final as he was well beaten by other competitors.

Tues 30

News report, as the judgement actions of Julius Malema head of the ANC 's Youth League (qv 20/8) is about to be given, concerns for the future prospects of the sitting president are much on the mind.

With the 2012 presidential on the horizon Jacob Zuma 's recent comments could come back to haunt him. It is the youth vote, galvanised by J Malema at the last presidential vote, that secured him the post.

News report, As Julius Malema appeared at the ANC's headquarters building in the centre of Johannesburg a crowd of supporters demonstrated their support for the movements Youth League leader.

The mood of the crowd, despite the threat of expulsion from the governing party after recent events (qv), was that he should become the next president of South Africa. There are fears, if this was to happen, Malema would run the country as Robert Mugabe runs Zimbabwe.

Wed 31

With the known crowd trouble, outside the African national Congress's building in Johannesburg (qv 30/8), the disciplinary hearing concerning Julius Melama and five other Youth League members has been moved outside the city.

Leader Comment **The ANC at a crossroads**, “Julius Mealem is everything an African leader should not be. Yet if Malema is removed the people for whom he speaks will remain. Disillusioned and potentially explosive, they are the ticking timebom beneath the Zuma government.” - **The View** -

SEPTEMBER 2011

Thurs 15

With the backing of Namibia, Botswana, Zambia, Mozambique, Madagascar, Kenya and Mauritius South Africa is in a straight fight with Australia to become the site of the worlds largest star gazing technology.

The Square Kilometre Array Telescope system, just as its existing prototype – KA 7 - is, will be sited one hours drive from the Northern Cape village of Carnaven into the Karoo desert.

It is envisaged that the SKA will cost the African participating governments £1.3bn. This would be of huge benefit to the under developed African continent as astronomers, African born, would not have to travel overseas to gain experience.

One such is Lindsay Magnus who, as project leader, would be located in the projects control room under Table Mountain in Cape Town. So powerful will be the array of telescopes that they will generate enough raw data to fill 15m 64 GB iPods every day.

If successful construction would begin in 2016 and take eight years to complete. Additional funding would come via a UK based business consortium made up of sixteen other countries

The beauty of this site, and the ones chosen by the Australian consortium, is that the site is far away from the electrical impulses of civilisation.

Fri 16

As the country awaits the ruling of the national executive committee of the ANC, over the behaviour of its Youth league leader, an American magazine has boosted the profile of Julius Malema twelve months before the country votes in a presidential election. Forbes Magazine, published for the international business community, says he is one of Africa's 10 most powerful men.

Often ridiculed in the press, with his propensity for spending time with celebrities and the mocking cartoons in the media, the residents of the townships are said to adore him. Despite this lifestyle, an ability to afford to demolish a £308, 000 /R 3.6m home and then rebuild R16m residence – with an underground bunker – in the Johannesburg suburb of Sanderton, there are ambitions still to be fulfilled. Hence the worry of sitting president Jacob Zuma.

According to a new book, An Inconvenient Youth: Julius Malema and the 'new ANC' by F Forde and A Mbembe, note that despite his shows of wealth and along with the township dwellers perceived broken promises of the post Mandela governments such is the possibility that he – even though aged only 30 – as president would bring better conditions into their every day lives.

Sun 18

With the ambition to 'break African stereotypes' Lesego Malatsi has emerged onto the stage at the beginning of London Fashion Week in London. Brought up in a tin shack in the slums of Soweto, by his mother, after his dad passed away and the use of a small pension he was able to attend school.

Always with an interest in clothes the trouble was no one would invest in this ambitious South African. Eventually he was recommended to approach the British entrepreneur Richard Branson. Through his business mentoring foundation, Malatsi was able to begin Mzansi Designers Emporium and to become an employer himself.

With a staff of seventeen those in the know believe this type of small business is the way forward to 'lift the country out of poverty'. The emerging talent now has a five year plan – to create 850 jobs and take African fashion global.

Thurs 22

The family of murdered bride Annie Dewani (qv) have petitioned the home secretary to ensure that the young woman's husband, Shiren, is extradited to South Africa. The British businessman is wanted in Cape Town on suspicion of ordering the killing on the couple's honeymoon.

Wed 28

As in 2009 (qv 24/3) the inner workings of the South African nation are being indirectly dictated by the Chinese government. Fearful, of a loss of investment from Beijing, Pretoria seems to deny the apartheid era cleric Desmond Tutu his choice of guests at his 80th birthday celebrations.

The Dalai Lama, seeks a visa for the period that covers the former Archbishop's celebrations on 6 – 8/10. During that time the former Buddhist leader in Tibet will not meet any government officials. He will, however give a lecture at Stellenbosch University entitled 'peace and compassion as catalyst for change'.

Despite a number of letters, officials working for the Desmond Tutu Peace Centre note that none of their pleas, first sent in 6/11, have been actioned. Calling for action to speed up the paperwork the official opposition, the Democratic Alliance, calls on the government to be concerned with "our own history" rather than the values of China.

Media comment, from an editorial in the Cape Times, "the government's squeamishness has nothing to do with him and everything to do with not wanting to annoy China."

Radio report, the home secretary, Theresa May, has signed the extradition that will see the husband of Annie Dewani sent back to South Africa. The authorities there accuse him of arranging the death of his new bride.

OCTOBER 2011

Wed 5

Hard on the heels of a candle lit demonstration, attended by 250 people in Cape Town, in support of the visa application from the Dalai Lama, the former spiritual leader of the Buddhists of Tibet, has decided not to attend the invite issued by Desmond Tutu (qv 20/9).

So aggrieved is the veteran campaigner during the National Party's apartheid rule that the former archbishop has declared "one day we will pray for the defeat of the ANC government.

A spokesman for the countries foreign ministry noted that the invited guest said 'we have not said no ... He's cancelled his trip and that's it. We've not refused him a visa; the visa was still being processed.'" The full paper work only arrived on 20/9.

Fri 7

Despite the absence of an invited guest (qv 28/9) former archbishop Tutu endeavoured to celebrate his 80th birthday. One of the main events was held in St Georges Cathedral Cape Town. Here the former prelate danced with the Soweto Gospel Choir. Also in attendance was the singer cum anti apartheid activist Bono.

Following a church service, within the next twenty four hours, in the building that was at the very heart of the 'struggle', it is still hoped that the Dalai Lama will give the Desmond Tutu international peace lecture via video link.

Sat 8

Within days of negotiating a loan of £1.6bn / \$2.5bn from the Chinese authorities the nations vice president, Kgalema Motlathe, was among the congregation of St Georges Cathedral Cape Town, who were celebrating the birthday of Desmond Tutu.

Noting the absence of the principal guest, the Dalai Lama, the former archbishop singled out South Africa's number two political figure. "Thank you for coming despite the hiccups we have had."

Sun 9

As the clerical celebrations, flow throughout Cape Town, others of the cloth are more concerned with those living in the adjacent townships. Recently Xola Shosana, a pastor of the Way of Life Church in Khayilitsha took part in a 'without food protest' during 9/11. The cleric was highlighting the fact that a township resident "would be making a bed in a five star hotel and then coming home and sleeping on the floor."

Feeling, throughout the majority population are that in real terms Cape Town is the most unequal society in South Africa.

Tues 11

The accused, C Mahlangu, and a sixteen year old youth, charged with the 2010 murder of Eugene Terreblanche (qv 5/4), go on trial in the town of Ventersdorp in the Transvaal.

The attorney Norman Arendse, for the black unnamed youth, said it was difficult to find witnesses for fear of intimidation from right wing supporters who even after 17 years of majority rule were able to mount a show of support outside the court house.

Well settled into the countries business environment Walmart (qv 1/6) – after its take over of the Massmart African empire - will once again face the anger of the unions and no less than three government ministers. The known anger of the shop workers union Saccawu, now with the backing of the Congress of South African Trade Unions, the American owned firm will face a challenge before competition tribunal. An announcement is expected before 31/10.

The unions main hope, although they do not expect to have the deal annulled, are concerned that “it is not in the best interest of South Africa for Walmart to be allowed into our country, but if they are it must be under conditions that protect workers, suppliers and the wider South African community.”

During 2012 Walmart has plans to expand the number of Massmart stores by 9%. This will mean 346 stores.

Fri 14

Long known as the home of early man researchers, from the University of Bergan have reported in the magazine Science, that the Blombos cave system on the Southern Cape near the Indian Ocean has house man as far back as 140, 000 years ago.

What has been found, in a cave whose entrance was sealed by sand 75, 000 years ago, indicated that Homo sapiens were using implements to facilitate cave paintings. Backing up their theory on show are tools for crushing and grinding as well as the vessel, shells of giant snails indigenous to the region, for mixing the finished product.

Tues 25

Most inappropriately businessman Kenny Kunene, at his 41st birthday party, chose one of north Africa' s leaders as the costume of choice for the celebration. Long known for his training, and financing of the anti apartheid struggle, Colonel Gaddafi of Libya was an unfortunate choice. As the birthday boy entered, surrounded by female body guards carrying fake AK rifles, the Libyan leader was days away from his death.

NOVEMBER 2011

Tues 1

Despite the 2010 water shortage problems Lesotho faces (qv 6/6) this landlocked kingdom is to embark on the continent's largest 'green energy' project. The Lesotho Highland Power Project, at a cost of \$15bn, will harness wind and water power to produce 6,000 and 4,000 megawatts of electricity respectively. This is equal to about 5% of the power that South Africa needs.

One of the advantages, for hydro and wind power, is the height of the kingdom's mountain range. Standing at 1,800 metres above sea level the Maluti range also has its disadvantages; the number of lightning strikes that occur.

Power generated will be used internally and exported to its encircling neighbour which constantly battles to keep up with its growing demands.

Financed with 80% of loans, from China there is hope for a boost to the economy where people survive on \$1.25 per day; has the third highest HIV infection rate in the world and a life expectancy of 45 years.

Hope is that 25,000 jobs will be created over the fifteen years the project will take to be completed.

Wed 2

Arriving from Angola, at the age of 10 Mauro Manuel living in the Dutch province of Limburg, has been ordered back home now that he has reached adult status. Previous attempts to allow him to stay permanently has been rejected by the country's parliament. One last attempt will be made, on 7/11, as parliament votes on whether a four-year visa stay would be allowed. There are 75 children fighting similar battles to be allowed to stay in the country.

The brewing company that was South African Breweries (qv) has taken the home brew 'choice of the masses' a step further. SAB's parent company, SABMiller is to produce a brew based on the Cassava plant.

The new larger beer, named Impala, will use 70% cassava and 30% barley. The 'test batch' will be produced in Mozambique and sold at three quarters of the price of other larger beers.

Company chief executive G McKay noted that much of the illicitly brewed lager was known to be a health risk. Purchase of the main crop would come from the same 1,500 farmers and the company would use 40,000 tonnes of raw cassava each year.

At the forthcoming G20 meeting the African continent's only representative will be South Africa. President Zuma's main priorities will be an expansion of the

International Monetary Fund. He will also focus more on forging trading links during his stay at the Cannes, France meeting.

Useful data; Unemployment rate 24.9% GDP /person US\$7. 101 compared with the United Kingdom 7.9% \$36, 398.

Thurs 3

In praise of Mac Maharji as the self penned autobiography of Nelson Mandela; The Long Walk to Freedom is rumoured to be turned into a biopic. Considering that much of the book was written on Robben Island and then smuggled out to the mainland with his organisational skill.

With the job now of being president Zuma's spokesman surely his finest achievement was enabling the Mandela message to break through.

Fri 4

Maybe, as a result of eighteen company gold miners; employed by the Anglo American conglomerate court actions in 2009 (qv18/11) the company now takes good care of those members who are suffering from debilitating medical conditions.

With more than 300, 000 fatalities in South Africa from the HIV virus the company now provides its employees, and families, access to anti retroviral drugs to lessen the impact of this fatal disease.

Since 2002 the company has offered free HIV tests for its workers; 94% took up the offer. The cost of such treatment is £79 /\$126 per Aids infected worker. Such company largess would seem to lower the per month / worker absenteeism rate by 1.9 days. Thus the overall costs of health care are lowered; saving Anglo American \$219 per patient/month. This equates to 174% of the cost of providing treatment.

Overall company treatment has seen a fall of 96% in the transmission of the HIV virus to a non infected partner.

Sat 5

As of this date the plight of the rhino is even more precarious than it was on 21/8 (qv). As of this date the number of poached animals, 1/11 – 10/11, has reached 341 animals. A number higher than for the whole of 2010.

In an effort to catch those responsible, authorities say they have detained more than 200 suspects between 4/10 and 3/11, new methods of detecting such crimes have been introduced. The use of DNA profiling of the rhino parts can prevent ivory sales that glean as much as £35, 000/kg of rhino horn for the criminals.

Anglo American spent £3.2bn to create an 85% stake in the De Beers diamond firm

Wed 9

Well known for funding the world's research into the eradication of the HIV virus the American secretary of state, H Clinton, has announced further help to the scientists intending to stamp it out. Much of the new money will go to sub Saharan countries where nationals are willing to tackle the three areas that will have the greatest effect of virus prevention; voluntary male circumcision – reduces female to male transmission by 60%, preventing babies being infected at birth and the use of anti retroviral drugs which reduces the risk of transmission by 98%

This new tranche of £31m/ \$50m would be added to the \$60m given to the Presidents Emergency Plan for Aids Relief. There was even a bold prediction, from the wife of the former president, that this disease may be 'a thing of the past' within a generation.

The plight of the white rhino is well known (qv 5/11) and the moves to prevent its poaching continue. One troubled animal, in the hills of the Eastern Cape, has been helicoptered 15 miles into a secure area.

Still awaiting the judgement of his peers in the African National Congress Julius Malema of the Youth League (qv) is pushing the idea that the incumbent deputy president, Kgalema Motlanthe, seek his masters job in 2012's presidential election.

If the Youth League's actions have not ripped apart the solidarity of the government the actions of South Africa's sports minister, Fikile Mabalula, will not have helped. The New Age newspaper has reported on a payout to a woman, in what was deemed an extra marital affair by the minister. In his own defence he says the revelations, by state security agents, was designed to deepen the divide within Congress.

The paper says the woman, who fell pregnant, was paid £11, 840 /R150, 000 which she herself denied.

Thurs 10

Within the next seven days a 110 carat diamond; the Sun Drop, goes on sale in Geneva. The stone, mined by the Cora International company as a 'fancy vivid yellow stone' or one that has been 'lying in the ground for millions of years. The expected selling price is £9m /\$15m.

Fri 11

The disciplinary committee, looking into the alleged miss behaviour of the African National Congress Youth League 's Julius Malema (qv) has delivered its verdict. In their opinion his 'crimes' of calling for the overthrow of the Botswana government et al are so serious that he must be thrown out of Congress for a period of five years. Others, arraigned with him could face similar censure. He will appeal the tribunals ruling.

Commenting on the outcome, political analyst, E McKaiser noted that this result was to show the nation that the ANC is “seen as an organisation that is bigger and stronger than any individual including him.

Fri 18

Swaziland, long ruled by Maswatti the Third, is well known to be troubled by the HIV virus. More than 25% of adult population is infected with the virus. Over time the International Monetary Funds funding to combat this scourge has not been used for its defined purpose.

It is noted that the government, of this former British colony, has failed to pay in excess of £6.3m / \$10m in grants to the kingdoms Aids orphans. Assistance; a \$340m bail out by neighbouring South Africa has been refused as Pretoria demanded political reforms as a condition of its help.

By 30/9 arrears in payments stood at \$184m, or 5.3 of GDP. The IMF now forecast a 2011 GDP growth at only 0.3%.

Sat 19

The vestiges of the 'old 'South Africa have reared their head as legal argument has prevented the telling of an alleged arms deal valued, at £19bn / R 30bn, that occurred in the mid 1990's.

In protest at the warning of prosecution of its journalists, by those acting for M Maharaj, the publishers of the Mail & Guardian, the papers front page appeared with columns blanked out; an every day possibility before the countries first multi national election in 1994. Failure to comply would see journalists face the possibility of 15 years in jail.

As the economy of Angola's former colonial masters suffers there are plans for its former colony to purchase much of the debt ridden countries industries. One such purchase will be the Banco Portuguese de Negocios for E 40m. This is less than one fifth of its original market value.

Much of this wealth comes from the sale of 1.8m barrels of oil per day piped from wells just off the countries coast. All in all the IMF forecast that Angola's economy will, in 2012, grow by 11%. In Lisbon the government can expect the economy to shrink 1.8% despite the £70bn /E80bn loan from the International Fund.

News report; The death of a 'notable' English cricketer Tales told of the life and times of Basil D' Olivera as he tried to adjust to the life in England after leaving his native South Africa in the 1960's.

Sun 20

As is well known the banning of Coloured cricket play B D' Olivera heralded the beginning of the international campaign to force the Pretoria government to end the system of apartheid.

Noted, as fact, was an English team was due to play a Test series in South Africa in 1968. As a regular team member; he scored 158 against the Australians at the Oval on 23/8, however was not picked to play in his homeland by the time the squad of 16 on 28/8. However because of a squad members playing injury the Cape coloured was included in the side.

Unbeknown to this author was the behind the scenes incidents that tried to alter the events of 24/8 when the tour was cancelled. Behind the scenes moves, by politician A D Hume on shuttle diplomacy, between London and Pretoria failed the change the mind of the apartheid states prime minister Vorster.

It was said that the cricketer had been offered £40, 000, by the South African authorities, to 'make himself unavailable' for the tour.

Mon 21

Noted is the furore caused by the inclusion of Basil D' Olivera in a 1968 English cricket tour of the apartheid state. The circumstances that led to this choice being able to be made are due to one man; John Arlott.

It was to Arlott, a cricket commentator, that the Coloured player wrote in the late 1950's. The missive was used a lobby material, by the BBC employee, to J Kay of the Evening News in Manchester. The reporter found him a seasons employment in one of the cities amateur teams.

It also, in the commentators words “might change the sporting and the political face of South Africa, which seem to me very worthwhile.” When omitted from the squad *this newspaper* intoned “Anyone who would swallow that would believe the moon was a currant bun.”

Tues 22

Mined full of the day in 1977, when the apartheid government banned two newspapers and number of anti apartheid organisations, the present regime is determined to once again stifle those who would in the eyes of present day Pretoria expose wrongdoings of members of the government and others.

Although a war of words has continues since its passage through parliament began in 2010 (qv15/8) the government is determined to push through the Protection of Information Act. The then enacted legislation will then have to proceed through the provinces assemblies before it becomes law.

However many opponents of the pre 1994 government have pledged to fight to have this 'secrecy bill' stopped in its tracks.

Nadine Gordimer, the Nobel literature prize winner says the ANC is taking the country back to the era of suppression.

Wed 23

Mindful of the African National Congress 's majority the contentious Protection of Information Act was approved after a vote in the Cape Town parliament building. Votes cast 229 : 107 and two abstentions.

This new piece of legislation, some say a harking back to the apartheid era, 'makes it a crime to leak, possess or publish information judged as classified by the government. Whistle blowers and journalists face up to 25 years in jail if found guilty of such actions.

Protests, involving a crowd of about 1, 000 people, rallied outside as inside the Democratic Alliance leader L Mazibuko, warned that of 'an unravelling of the constitution and criminalise the freedom' that past generations fought so bitterly for.

One such,, former Archbishop Desmond Tutu noted that the Bill said “its insulting .. to be asked to stomach legislation that makes the state answerable only to the state. Further was shown in the media, the Times of South Africa carried a headline “Not in our name” and a statement signed by fifteen national newspaper editors.

Thurs 24

The journalist who wrote the blacked out story, in the Mail & Guardian on 19/11, has been named as Stefaans Brumer known by the writer as the best investigative journalist this country has. As the alleged corruption was blacked out there was no chance of the 15 years in jail, that could befall him being imposed.

Other clauses, in the Protection and Information Act, also protects actions by state security officials from public investigation; which prevents the type of uncovering of the state sanctioned break in at the Watergate Building by American journalists that led to the resignation of a president. - **J Malala, founding editor ThisDay** -

As well his challenge for para Olympic gold Osacar Pistorus (qv) has accepted an ambassadors role as a front runner in a campaign London 2012 International Inspiration programme.

Sat 26

This diarist has finally obtained a guide to Robben Island, opened in 1997 and hoored by UNESCO as a World Heritage site in 1999,

Sun 27

If the intention of the Protection of Information Bill (qv 23/11) is 'to protect the state and its people' as noted by president Zuma who, asks Nardine Gordimer, 'threatens the safety of the state'?

A rhetorical question as South Africa has the largest military force on the continent. Is the country open to invasion; the Cubans to help the Communist Party gain power? On the international field the country is the newest member of an emerging trading block; Brazil, India Russia and China?

It is not only information management that will be stifled but also the works of the novelist whose works could be affected by the 'characteristics and actions' of our fictional writings.

The Nobel laureate offers a quote from Edward Said a literary theorist; who died in 2003 "Who is to uncover and elucidate the contests, challenge and hope to defeat the imposed silence and normalised quiet of power."

Leader Comment **A grave threat to free speech** as the well noted anti apartheid activist novelist and campaigner N Gordimer, "had three of her novels banned" she is well placed to condemn the Protection of Information Bill.

"The new law is only a symptom of what has been happening since Zuma came to power – that is, the increased influence of the 'securocrats' in South Africa's intelligence and security community over the presidents office."

"give space gain to the words that cannot be spoken and published by people in their own country."

Tues 29

The city of Durban is hosting the latest round of international talks that are supposed to formulate a plan to prevent, as some see it, the warming up of the earth because of the rise of Carbon Dioxide in the atmosphere.

If, as previously seen previously the industrialised countries gang up on the developing countries. then another climate debacle is likely unless the industrialised countries of northern hemisphere are prepared to take their share of CO2 emission cuts.

DECEMBER 2011

Fri 2

The supreme court has ruled that comments made by Menzi Simelane are of such a prejudicial nature that any forthcoming trial of S Dewani would be compromised. The then head of South Africa's national prosecution service made remarks to SAB3 in 2/11.

“This is a pure criminal matter of somebody who murdered his wife whilst he should be celebrating his honeymoon.”

The nine tonnes of carbon emissions, per person, that happens in the country is 4x's more than any other person on the continent. More than 2.5m have no electricity and 70% of rural homes still rely on wood for fuel. Plans to ameliorate this large CO2 emission will see the rapid growth of wind power in the St Helena' s Bay area of the Western Cape.

There are plans to have 10 3MW turbines on site within the next 20 years on four wind farms says N Turner director of the Just Energy company. Hopes are that 40% of the company will be owned by the local community and able to provide 20, 000 homes with power.

Looking fifty years ahead a Pretoria government report believes cases of malaria will double because of climate changes in the area and rainfall will decrease by ten percent within this time frame.

Sat 3

Radio report, as the world concentrates on the emission of harmful climate warming gasses at a conference in Durban efforts are being made to capture methane from the rubbish collected from the households of the port city of Durban.

Sun 4

There are people around that are only now being recognised, in public, as persons who brought the plight of the black majority in South Africa known to the international community. It has even been said, by the former wife of Nelson Mandela, that if there was not this outbreak of concern during the Rivoena trial of 1962 the likes of the leader of the African National Congress, Oliver Tambo et would have been hanged by the apartheid authorities of the time.

One such man was David Astor; editor of the Observer newspaper based in London. Not only did he make frequent journeys to the apartheid state in his capacity as a reporter their was also an undercover motive.

At the time of the increased overseas anti apartheid activities, fund raising and well as protesting about the regime, internal finance was needed. In the early times this was banned by the authorities in Pretoria. With his frequent trips Astor was able to be the conduit for these funds from the London bases Defence Aid Fund to those that needed funds to fight legal cases and produce posters ect.

Now a short film 'Nelson Mandela, David Astor and the Liberation of a Nation' charts the newspapers fight against apartheid throughout David Astor's editorship. Interviewed, throughout 2010, were relatives, colleagues and those involved in the liberation struggle; Richard Astor; son, Winnie Mandela, N Masamola; exile who worked on projects with the editor, S Johnson; former editor of Weekly Mail.

Tues 6

The plight of transgender men, black lesbians suffer in their places of work, schools and places of worship ways a report written by the charity Human Rights Watch. Titled 'We ll Show You You're a Women' was based on interviews with 121 lesbians, bisexual women and men who believed they were born into the wrong body.

Over a two year period the overall impression, gathered by charity, was that even though same sex marriage is legal cultural attitudes do not always match the constitution.

Sun 11

With Shiren Dewani (qv) continues to fight his extradition to Cape Town, in London's high court, South African police reveal that their case against the husband accused of being the 'brains' behind the death of his new bride; Anne is not complete.

British police have, as yet, not interviewed the two unnamed witnesses who (qv 11/8) said they were happy to give their evidence. The Hawks, the name given to the South African police high priority crime unit, have yet to take blood samples from M Qyabe aged 25 and X Mngeni aged 26, both accused of taking part in the crime that taxi driver, Zola Tonga, is serving 18 years in jail.

At the high court Dewani will not make his presence felt as he is hospitalised as he is receiving treatment for post traumatic stress disorder.

Mon 12

With the concentration of minds that can only come from, an overrun of the Durban climate change conference (qv 2/12), the countries foreign minister Maite Nokona – Mashabane and EU climate change commissioner Christine Figures 'forced a non legal binding agreement from world governments.

In essence, after an extra 60 hours of talks, the delegates from China, USA,India, Britain and other nations were ordered into a final huddle and after a short time; 20 minuetts, a consensus had been agreed.

By the time that the current deal has expired, in 2015, developed and under developed nations have stated they will cut their carbon emissions by 2020. This is something that both China and America had refused since 1997.

Wed 14

Knowing that Shirien Dewani suffers from post traumatic stress (qv 11/12) lawyers in the high court in London have begun their attempt to prevent his extradition to South Africa.

His legal team, led by Clare Montgomery QC, fear for his mental health and safety in a Cape Town jail if sent to stand trial for murder. Under the 2001 extradition treaty, used by the police, the sending back of an alleged criminal should not take place and 'humanitarian protection given if the person is "too ill to be extradited because of physical or mental illness."

It is the claim of the legal team that to send him back would be a breach of the Act even as the South Africans promise that he would be 'found a place in one of their safest institutions.'

Long known to have to struggle to keep to their nomadic way of life the Bushmen of the Kalahari have once again won a legal battle as the appeal court ruled that they should stay on their diamond rich traditional lands. Previous attempts, in 2002 and 2004 (qv 5/3) to force them out had been won and lost by both sides.

In early 2011 the countries appeal court found for the indigenous peoples of the region shall be allowed to use well drawn water from the diamond rich region. Even better more water wells will be sunk with the help of the South African company Vox United.

Diamond mining will commence in 2013 by the Gem Diamonds company after purchasing the rights from the De Beers company.

Noted, on 21/11, is efforts that cricket 'notable' John Arlott made in bringing sport in politics concerns to the wider public. Details have now emerged, to this diarist, of an Cambridge University student debate.

The motion; politics should not intrude on sporting contacts, was defended by the then minister of sport, D Howelll and supported by Ted Dexter a member of the English cricket team. Opposed by D' Olveria's supporter with words;

"It is political belief and political commitment that can make a man think that his opponent's view are so obnoxious that he will abstain from playing any game with him as a protest against what the other man believes. " - **F Keating** -

The motion was defeated 334 : 160 .

Fri 16

Two media organisations have been accused of breaching the long held taboo that African nations do not talk about the death of a person until it has actually happened. In this case the death that has not occurred is that of Nelson Mandela.

Police alleged that international news agencies have mounted hidden cameras round the ancestral home of the former president in the vicinity of his home in Qunu in the Eastern Cape.

The story first appeared in the Times of South Africa with the headline “Madiba spied on.” Current resident of the residence Chief N Balizulu indicated that he allowed Associated Press and Reuters to install at least three cameras. The chief declined to say if any payment had been offered.

Wed 21

Long has it been known that the African continent was a source of slaves for the plantations in the Caribbean and North America. However, after excavations on a former burial site in Rio de Janeiro, examination of the bones found showed that African born slaves were landed in South America.

Not only were the bones, of those buried between 1760 – 1830 deemed African in origin. Other forensic tests, of the teeth, indicated that they came from the coastal region of the continent from the lands that are now part of Mozambique.

Fri 23

As the Portuguese colonialists pulled out of Mozambique and Angola as both countries erupted into civil war. A time of economic hardship in Africa so a reverse is happening now due to the economic hardships felt in Europe.

It has been noted, in Maputo or Luanda that young, affluent and unemployed, nationals have arrived in Africa so as to be able to support themselves and their families. The countries Portuguese consul general, Graca, G Pereria, notes that in the last two years the number migrants from the 'old country' has increased 30% - 40%. Most of the young come on fixed contracts to work in the building and construction industries.

Of course there are those who are not of the right attitude or are unwilling to adapt to the ways of Africa, a throw back to the worst days of colonialism, who soon move away.

Fri 30

Opposition leader Helen Zille, a former mayor of Cape Town, defends the town after crossing 'Twitter' swords with model Lindie Suttle who disliked the MP's description of her as a 'professional black'; people who base their life and purpose around their colour. A similar white; self obsessed claims victimhood because they are white.

Sat 31

Within the next few days the African National Congress will remember its one hundred years of existence. The first act of this anniversary, which will be celebrated for the next 12 months at a cost of £7.9m / R100m, will see president Zuma and other heads of state back in the place the struggle for majority rule began.

It was to a small Wesleyan chapel in Bloemfontein that the founding fathers of the oldest liberation movement on the African continent gathered to strategise their plan that ended in 1994 with the election of Nelson Mandela as South Africa's first black president.

Times pass and now that Congress has ruled so long many are feeling that it is living on its past glories and has forgotten its core supporters; the people who are still living in much the same conditions as they were pre 1994.