



RadioToday

Radio Times

Vol 8 April 2026

The long line to freedom

Looking back at the 1994 elections

Local is lekker

South African music at its best

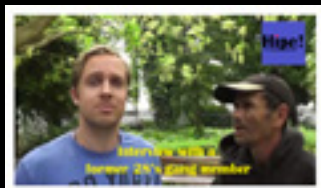
Presenter profile

The mad Irishman in the mornings

Keeping it Real



Click on any video below to view



How much do you know about movie theme songs? Take our quiz and find out.



The old South African Defence Force used a mixture of English, Afrikaans, slang and techno-speak that few outside the military could hope to understand. Some of the terms were humorous, some were clever, while others were downright crude.



Hipe's Wouter de Goede interviews former 28's gang boss David Williams.



Part of Hipe's "On the couch" series, this is an interview with one of author Herman Charles Bosman's most famous characters, Oom Schalk Lourens.



A taxi driver was shot dead in an ongoing war between rival taxi organisations.



Hipe spent time in Hanover Park, an area plagued with gang violence, to view first-hand how Project Ceasefire is dealing with the situation.

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Hipe TV brings you videos ranging from actuality to humour and everything in between. Interviews, mini-documentaries and much more.

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From the editor's desk

April is one of those months where the country seems to switch off. Probably because of all the long weekends.

First of all, a Happy Easter to all our Christian readers and a Happy Pesach to our Jewish readers. To the rest of you, how you doing.

I can't believe that this month I celebrate the fact that I've been on air with Radio Today for a year. And I do mean celebrate. I must confess that I consider it both a pleasure and a privilege to be a part of the station.

I'm both pleased and surprised at how many people are reading Radio Times each both. I just hope that they're listening to the station as well.

Until next month, stay safe and stay healthy.

Matt



PUBLISHER

Hipe Media

MANAGING EDITOR

Mike de Bruyn

EDITOR

Matt Tennyson

Assistant Editor

Michelle Human

CONTRIBUTORS

Janine Cassidy, Mike de Bruyn, Raymond Fletcher, Michelle Human Ryan Murphy, Matt O'Brien, Stix Mkhize, Ajith Subramoney, Matt Tennyson

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email
editor@hipe.co.za

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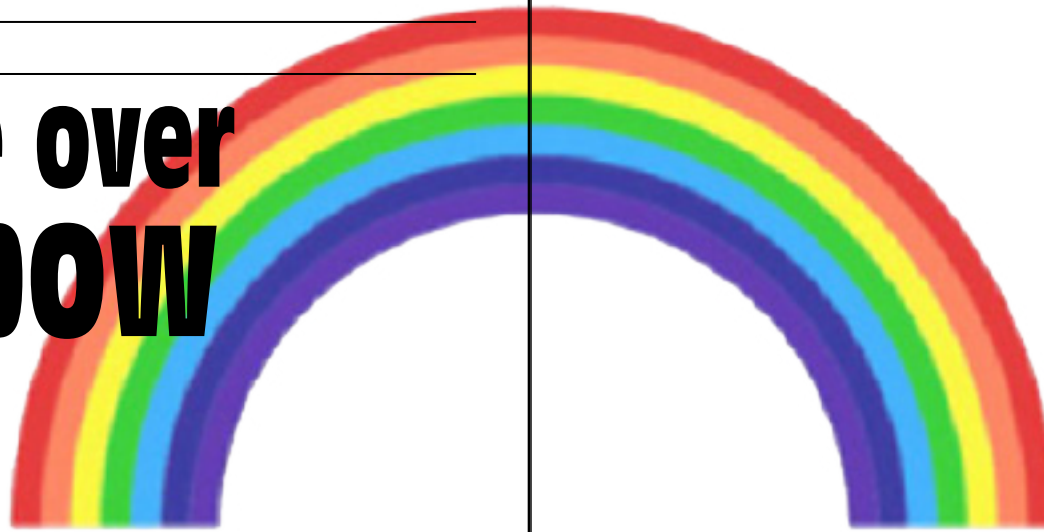
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Memorable Moments

Radio Today sports editor Stix Mkhize recalls his most memorable moments in sport since South Africa became a democracy in 1994.

Somewhere over the Rainbow Nation



Gwyneth Bowman is proudly South African. At least she likes to think she is.

South Africa, it has been said, is not a country. It's a geographical expression. While this may sound a little cynical, there is some truth to the statement. After all, what exactly is a South African?

It's no wonder they call South Africa the "Rainbow Nation". You're looking at a country that has an amazing diversity of cultures. After all, South Africa must be the only country in the world that has eleven official languages. Afrikaans, English, isiNdebele, isiXhosa, isiZulu, Sepedi, Sesotho, Setswana, siSwati, Tshivenda, and Xitsonga are all official languages.

But that's not all. There's more. The Constitution of South Africa also mentions Khoi, the Nama and San languages, sign language, Arabic, German, Greek, Gujarati, Hebrew, Hindi, Portuguese, Sanskrit, Tamil, Telegu and Urdu.

English is generally accepted as the lingua franca of the country. Yet it only comes in joint fifth as a home language.

South African's are not afraid of a little mixing and matching when it comes to language. So you will often hear one language that is peppered with words from another language.

Then you also have to take into consideration that South Africa has also become a refuge for many people fleeing the troubles of other African countries.

So it is not uncommon to hear French, Swahili, and a host of other indigenous African languages being spoken.

isiZulu, SiSwati, and isiXhosa are known as the Nguni languages and they share many similarities in syntax and grammar. The Sotho languages - Setswana, Sepedi and Sesotho - also have much in common.

Afrikaans

South Africa is home to the youngest language in the world - Afrikaans.

Afrikaans has its roots in 17th century Dutch, with influences from English, Malay, German, Portuguese, French and some African languages. One of the first works of written Afrikaans was *Bayaan-uddjyn*, an Islamic tract written in Arabic script by Abu Bakr.

Initially known as Cape Dutch, Afrikaans was largely a spoken language for people living in the Cape, with proper Dutch the formal, written language.

Afrikaans came into its own with the growth of Afrikaner identity, being declared an official language - with English - of the Union of South Africa in 1925.

The language was promoted alongside Afrikaner nationalism after 1948 and played an important role in minority white rule in apartheid South Africa. The 1976 schoolchildren's uprising was sparked by the proposed imposition of Afrikaans in township schools.

Afrikaans is spoken mainly by white Afrikaners, coloured South Africans and sections of the black population. Although the language has European roots, today the majority of Afrikaans-speakers are not white.

- Home language to: 13.3% of the population.
- Family: Indo-European.
- Varieties: Eastern Cape Afrikaans (Oosgrensafrikaans, which became Standard Afrikaans), Cape Afrikaans (Kaapse Afrikaans) and Orange River Afrikaans (Oranjerivier-afrikaans).

English

English was declared the official language of the Cape Colony in 1822 (replacing Dutch), and the stated language policy of the government of the time was one of Anglicization.

On the formation of the Union of South Africa in 1910, which united the former Boer republics of the Transvaal and Orange Free State with the Cape and Natal colonies, English was made the official language together with Dutch, which was replaced by Afrikaans in 1925.

Today English is the country's lingua franca, and the primary language of government, business, and commerce. It is a compulsory subject in all schools, and the medium of instruction in most schools and tertiary institutions.

As a home language, English is spoken by 10% of the population - one in

three of which are not white. South Africa's Asian people, most of whom are Indian in origin, are largely English-speaking, although many also retain their languages of origin.

There is also a significant group of Chinese South Africans, also largely English-speaking but who also retain their languages of origin as well.

South African English is an established and unique dialect, with strong influences from Afrikaans and the country's many African languages.

- Home language to: 8.2% of the population.
- Family: Indo-European.
- Varieties: Black South African English (BSAE), Indian English, Coloured English, Afrikaans English.

isiNdebele

isiNdebele, the language of the Ndebele people, is one of South Africa's four Nguni languages. The Ndebele were originally an offshoot of the Nguni people of KwaZulu-Natal, while the languages amaNala and amaNzunza are



related to those of Zimbabwe's amaNdebele people.

isiNdebele is mainly spoken in the provinces of Limpopo, Mpumalanga and Gauteng, around the towns of Mookopane, Polokwane, Pretoria, Bronkhorstspuit, Middelburg, Witbank, Delmas, Standerton, Marble Hall, Groblersdal, Hendrina, Belfast and Bethal.

To tourists, the Ndebele people are best known for the vibrant geometric patterns with which they decorate their houses, the colourful traditional dress, and their intricate and skilful beadwork.

Like the country's other African languages, isiNdebele is a tonal language, governed by the noun, which dominates the sentence.

- Home language to: 1.6% of the population.
- Family: Bantu. Language Family.
- Varieties: Manala and Ndzundza (or Nzunza).

isiXhosa

South Africa's secondlargest language, isiXhosa is also known as the Southern or Cape Nguni, and is closely related to isiZulu, the most common home language in the country.

It is spoken mainly in the former Transkei, Ciskei and Eastern Cape regions. isiXhosa is one of the country's four Nguni languages.

It too is a tonal language,

governed by the noun, which dominates the sentence.

- Home language to: 17.6% of the population.
- Family: Bantu Language Family.
- Varieties: The most distinct variety is isiMpondo (isiNdrondroza). Other dialects include Thembu, Bomvana, Mpondimise, Rharhabe, Gcaleka, Xesibe, Bhaca, Cele, Hlubi, Ntlangwini, Ngqika, and Mfengu.

isiZulu

isiZulu is also an Nguni language and is the most widely spoken language in South Africa.

While it is common to KwaZulu-Natal, you will hear Zulu being spoken throughout the country.

The founder of the Zulu nation was King Shaka, from whom they took their name. Zulu means "people of heaven".

The writing of Zulu was begun by missionaries in the 19th century and the Bible was first translated into Zulu in 1883.

Zimbabwe's Matabele nation are an off-shoot of the Zulu nation and the two languages, Zulu and Matabele, are almost identical.

- Home language to: 23.8% of the population.
- Family: Bantu Language Family.
- Varieties: The central KwaZulu variety, the KwaZulu coast variety,



the Natal coast variety, the lower Natal coast variety, the south west Natal variety, the northern Natal variety, the northern-Swati border variety, the Natal-Eastern Cape border variety and some urban varieties.

Sepedi

Also known as Northern Sotho or Sesotho sa Leboa, Sepedi is mostly spoken in the Limpopo province, as well as in Gauteng and Mpumalanga. It is one of South Africa's three Sotho languages.

- Home language to: 9.4% of the population.
- Family: Bantu Language Family.
- Varieties: South Central (Kopa,

Ndebele Sotho), Central (Pedi, Tau, Kone), North Western (Tlokwa, Hananwa, Matlala, Moletši, Mamabolo), North Eastern (Lobedu, Phalaborwa, Kgaga, Dzwabo) Eastern (Pai), and East Central (Pulana, Kutswe).

Sesotho

Sesotho, also known as Southern Sotho, is the main language of Lesotho, a country entirely surrounded by South

- Family: Bantu Language Family.
- Varieties: Sekgolokwe; Setlokwa; Sekwena; Serotse (Selozi).

Setswana

Botswana is a country on South Africa's northwestern border. The language spoken in Botswana is Setswana, and it is also spoken in the Northern Cape province, as well as in the central and western Free State, and the North West province.

Africa. It is also spoken in the Free State province as well as in southern Gauteng.

Sesotho, along with Setswana and isiZulu, was one of the first African languages to be rendered in written form. Two French missionaries, Arbousset and Casalis, were responsible for this.

- Home language to: 7.9% of the population.

Setswana was the first Sotho language to be rendered in written form. Dr Robert Moffat of the London Missionary Society arrived in Botswana (then known as Bechuanaland) in 1818. He was responsible for building Botswana's first school. In 1825 he began translating the Bible into Setswana, completing his work in 1857.

One of the most famous Setswana

speakers must be Sol T. Plaatje, an intellectual, journalist, writer, politician, translator, and linguist.

He was also one of the founder members of the African National Congress.

Not only was Plaatje fluent in at least seven languages, he also translated the works of Shakespeare into Setswana.

- Home language to: 8.2% of the population.
- Family: Bantu Language Family.
- Varieties: Related varieties include

Natal, migrating from there to Swaziland. Their country was under British control from 1903 to 1968.

SiSwati is one of South Africa's four Nguni languages, and is closely related to isiZulu. However, much has been done in the last few decades to enforce the differences between the languages for the purpose of standardising siSwati.

- Home language to: 2.7% of the population.
- Family: Bantu Language Family.



Sekgalagadi in Botswana and Shi-
lozi in Namibia and Zambia.

- Varieties: Thithiza and Yeyeza.

SiSwati

SiSwati, the language of the Swazi nation, is spoken mainly in eastern Mpumalanga, an area that borders the country of Swaziland.

The Swazi people originated from the Pongola River valley in KwaZulu-

Tshivenda

Tshivenda is generally regarded as a language isolate. It is the language of the Venda people, who are culturally closer to the Shona people of Zimbabwe than to any other South African group.

Spoken mainly in northern Limpopo, an area bordering the country of Zim-

babwe, Tshivenda shares features with Shona and Sepedi, with some influence from Nguni languages.

The Tshipani variety of Tshivenda is used as the standard.

The language requires a number of additional characters or diacritical signs not found on standard keyboards.

For this reason Translate.org.za, an NGO promoting open-source software in indigenous languages, has produced a special program to enable Tshivenda speakers to easily type their language.

The Venda people first settled in the Soutpansberg Mountains region, where the ruins of their first capital, Dzata's, can still be found.

- Home language to: 2.3% of the population.
- Family: Bantu Language Family.
- Varieties: Tshiilafuri (Western Ven-

da; has traces of Sotho); Tshimanda (Central Venda; commonly used by the Luonde and Lwamondo); Venda proper (found in Tshivhase and Mp-haphuli's areas); Tshimbedzi (Eastern Venda); Tshilembethu (North-Easter Venda) and Extreme Eastern Venda (influenced by Karanga from Zimbabwe); as well as Tshironga (Southern Venda) and South-Eastern Venda (shows influence of Tonga and Sotho).

Xitsonga

The Tsonga people came to South Africa long after most other African

people, settling in the Limpopo River valley. Their language, Xitsonga, is spoken in eastern Limpopo and Muzumalanga, areas near the border of the country of Mozambique, as well as in southern Mozambique and southeastern Zimbabwe.

Xitsonga is similar to Xishangana, the language of the Shangaan people, and also has some Nguni influences.

- Home language to: 4.4% of the population.
- Family: Bantu Language Family.
- Varieties: A number of varieties including Xinhlanganu and Xinkuna.

South Africans are resourceful people. In many of the major urban areas and industrial sectors, they have come up with new languages, a type of pidgin that can be used and understood by nearly everyone. These include Tsotsi Taal and Fanagalo.

Tsotsi Taal

Tsotsi taal, an amalgam of Afrikaans, English and a number of African languages, is widely spoken in urban areas, mainly by males. The word tsotsi means "gangster" or "hoodlum" - given the association with urban criminality - while taal is Afrikaans for "language".

Otherwise known as Iscamtho, tsotsi taal developed in cities and townships to facilitate communication between the different language groups. It is a dynamic language, with new words and phrases being regularly introduced.

Fanagalo

Fanagalo is a pidgin that grew up mainly on South Africa's gold mines, to allow communication between white supervisors and African labourers during the colonial and apartheid era and it is still used to this day.

It is essentially a simplified version of isiZulu and isiXhosa - about 70% of the lexicon is from isiZulu - and incorporates elements from English, Dutch, Afrikaans and Portuguese.

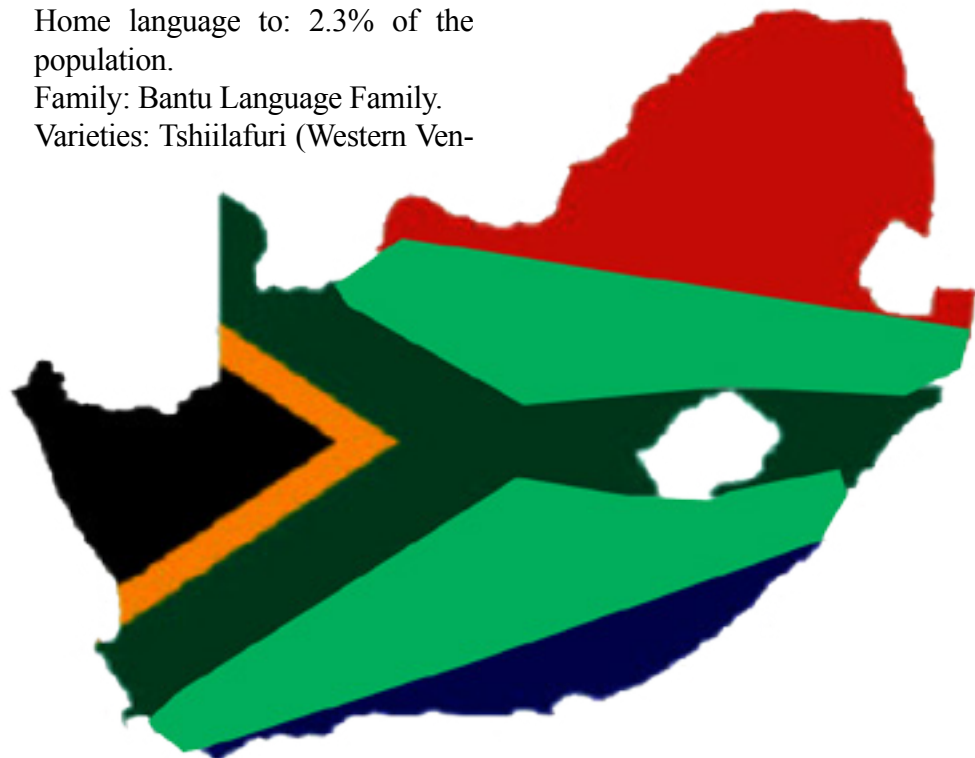
It does not have the range of Zulu inflections, and tends to follow English word order. Similar pidgins are Cika-banga in Zambia and Chilapalapa in Zimbabwe.

Fanagalo is a rare example of a pidgin based on an indigenous language rather than on the language of a colonising or trading power.

Provincial variations

The languages you will hear most frequently spoken in South Africa depend on where in the country you are.

IsiXhosa, for instance, is spoken by more than 80% of South Africans in the Eastern Cape, while almost 80% of people in KwaZulu-Natal speak isiZulu. IsiZulu is also the most frequently spoken home language in Gauteng, but at a much smaller percentage. In Cape Town and its surrounds, Afrikaans comes into its own.



The long line to Freedom

On Wednesday April 27 we celebrate Freedom Day in South Africa. For many people, Freedom Day is just another public holiday and, even better, a long weekend.

Yet stop for just a second and think about what Freedom Day is really all about. It was eighteen years ago on April 27, 1994 that all South Africans were able to vote for the first time. Be-

fore that, due to the apartheid system, only whites had been able to vote.

Few, if any, people at school today were even born before 1994. So they have grown up in a democratic South Africa where everyone has equal rights.

As a journalist I was able to cover the 1994 elections and play my very small part in history. I spoke to others that also played their part.

Cedric Ndlovu is now 45 years old and works for a bank in Johannesburg. In 1994 Cedric had just celebrated his 18th birthday.

“In February 1994 I was in matric and I turned 18,” Cedric recalls. “I was so excited because it meant that I could vote in the upcoming elections.

“My excitement was tinged with just a bit of sadness though. My father had passed away two years before and my grandfather seven years before that. I knew that they both would have been just as excited as I was to vote for the first time.

“My great-grandfather was still alive and living with my mom and I. He was 91 at the time and he was determined that he was going to cast his vote. There was a voting station at the pri-

mary school in our area and that was where we would be going to vote.

“On the morning of April 27 my great-grandfather woke me up at 5.00 am. He was dressed in his best suit and was even wearing a hat. He told me that I must get ready because he wanted to leave to go and vote. I told him that the voting would only open at 9.00 am but he told me that we must get there early.

“My mom made us a quick breakfast and by 6.00 am we were ready to leave. There was one small problem. My great-grandfather could not walk more than a few steps at a time. We didn’t have a wheelchair for him, so I got the next best thing - a wheelbarrow.

“We arrived at the school at 6.30

April 27 is Freedom Day in South Africa. For many it’s just another public holiday. But for those that voted in 1994 it is much more than that.

BY MATT TENNYSON

and I could believe what I saw. The line of people waiting to vote went around the school, zigzagged across the playing field out of the gate and about half a kilometre down the road. And this was two and a half hours before voting even opened.

“We only got to vote at about 1.00 p.m. that afternoon. But it was worth the wait. My great-grandfather had tears streaming down his face when he voted. I had just turned 18 and was able to vote. It had been 73 years since he turned 18, but this was the first time he had ever had the right to vote. He passed away the following year, but I know that he died a happy man.”

Yolandi Marais had turned 18 in December 1993 and she would also be voting for the first time.

“I grew up in a very conservative Afrikaans household. My parents were both very staunch National Party supporters and my dad was convinced that the elections would be the beginning of the end,” says Yolandi. “He said that after the elections nothing would work anymore. There would be no electricity, no food in the shops and no law and order. I remember that he and my mom bought hundreds of candles and stocked up on tinned food, ready for the chaos after the elections.

“On April, 27 I went and voted and was impressed at how peaceful everything went and how happy everyone seemed to be. Of course the chaos that some people predicted nev-

er happened.

“A couple of weeks ago my two young boys, my husband and I went for a braai at my parents house. Also at the braai was my dad’s business partner and best friend with his wife and three children. And his business partner and best friend is black. Just goes to show how things can change. I often tease my dad and ask him if he still has tinned food left from 1994.”

Regular Hipe contributor Matt O’Brien would also be voting for the first time.

“I took South African citizenship when I moved to South Africa in 1986. But I had never voted,” Matt says. “I wasn’t interested in voting unless everyone was able to vote.

“In April 1994 I was working out of Auckland Park in Johannesburg. The SABC had set up an International Broadcasting Centre and there were thousands of journalists working out of there. I think that just about every newspaper, magazine, radio and television channel had sent someone to cover the elections. It was the story of the decade.

“Many of the journalist were not convinced that the elections would even take place. I think that many more were expecting a civil war and it was interesting to see how many of the regular conflict journalists were hanging around waiting for it to happen.

“Ever since Nelson Mandela had been released from prison on Febru-



ary 11, 1990, after serving 27 years behind bars, there had been a lot of unrest in the country.

“In 1992 the townships around Johannesburg were like a civil war. There was vicious fighting between the ANC and Inkatha and places such as Thokoza and Katlehong were like war zones. Some of the right-wing groups were also stirring the pot and there was talk of a mysterious ‘third force’ instigating violence.

“Even just before the elections things were tense. Inkatha had at first refused to take part in the elections. This could have caused huge problems. It was only on April 19 that they eventually confirmed that they would take part in the elections as the Inkatha Freedom Party. A week or so before the elections there were

a number of bomb explosions, including one at Johannesburg International Airport (now OR Tambo International Airport).

“For the three days of the elections I drove around with senior journalist Derek Kean and photojournalist Steve Hornby interviewing people and taking photographs. We went to Sandton, Soweto and of course Thokoza and Katlehong where we had all spent plenty of time in 1992. The feelings of excitement and joy was incredible. And everything was so peaceful.

“With only a few hours left before voting closed I suddenly realised that I had not yet voted. I made it just in time.”

Easter Funny Bunny

So what's the deal with the Easter bunny, Easter eggs and hot cross buns? Janine Cassidy finds out more.

Easter is basically a Christian celebration that commemorates the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. Christians remember that Jesus, after dying on the cross, rose from the dead. This miracle showed that life could win over death.

What I've never really understood was where the Easter Bunny, Easter eggs and hot cross buns fit into all of this. So like any good young budding journalist I decided to do a little investigation. And I was surprised at what I discovered.

Since ancient times the arrival of spring has always been cause for a celebration. It meant that you had sur-

vived the long, often harsh, winter and that everything seemed to be coming back to life again. Rabbits were seen as a symbol of fertility and the rebirth of nature following winter.

It is believed that the symbol of the Anglo-Saxon Goddess of Spring, Eostre, was the hare. As rabbits are similar to hares and are very common everywhere, Christians changed the symbol to the Easter bunny. It's also not difficult to see where the name 'Easter' comes from – Eostre. So the modern symbol of the Easter bunny

comes from pagan times.

Okay, so I now know where the Easter bunny comes from. But what about Easter eggs? Perhaps they should have gone for an Easter chicken. Once again, however, there is a logical explanation to it.

For Christians the egg is a symbol of Jesus' resurrection, as when they are cracked open they stand for the empty tomb. No-one is really sure when eggs were first used as symbols during festival times but it was long before Jesus' time. Eggs were always



thought to be special because although they do not seem alive, there is life inside them – especially at springtime when the chicks hatch out.

Long ago people would give gifts of eggs carved from wood or precious stones. Then it became common practice to give edible eggs made from sugar or marzipan. Since then chocolate eggs have become popular and these are given on Easter Sunday.

In many countries parents tell their children that the Easter bunny has hidden chocolate eggs and they race around the house or garden trying to find them. Children in some countries decorate hard-boiled eggs at Easter time by painting them or dyeing them.

Naturally the companies that produce sweets and chocolates are left with a smile on their faces during Easter. In the United States alone 54 million kilograms of candy are bought each year. This includes 90 million chocolate bunnies and 91.5 billion chocolate Easter eggs. An interesting statistic is that approximately 76% of people eat the ears of a chocolate bunny first.

Lastly, let's look at the hot cross bun. In many historically Christian countries, buns are traditionally eaten hot or toasted during Lent, beginning with the evening of Mardi Gras (the evening before Ash Wednesday) through Good Friday, with the cross standing as a symbol of the Crucifixion. They are believed by some to pre-date Christianity, although the

first recorded use of the term “hot cross bun” was not until 1733.

It is believed that buns marked with a cross were eaten by Saxons in honour of the goddess Eostre (the cross is thought to have symbolised the four quarters of the moon. Others claim that the Greeks marked cakes with a cross, much earlier

English folklore includes many superstitions surrounding hot cross buns. One of them says that buns baked and served on Good Friday will not spoil or mold during the subsequent year. Another encourages keeping such a bun for medicinal purposes. A piece of it given to someone who is ill is said to help them recover.

Sharing a hot cross bun with another is supposed to ensure friendship throughout the coming year, particularly if “Half for you and half for me, Between us two shall goodwill be” is said at the time. Because there is a cross on the buns, some say they should be kissed before being eaten. If taken on a sea voyage, hot cross buns are said to protect against shipwreck. If hung in the kitchen, they are said to protect against fires and ensure that all breads turn out perfectly. The hanging bun is replaced each year.

So hopefully you know a little bit more about Easter and how everything fits in. Now all that's left to do is enjoy those Easter eggs and hot cross buns. Happy Easter.



While South Africans do speak English, that doesn't mean you'll always understand us. Our robots are nothing like R2D2, just now doesn't mean immediately, and babbelas is not a shampoo.

- **ag (agh)** - Generally used at the beginning of a sentence, to express resignation or irritation, as in: “Ag no man! What did you do that for?”
- **babbelas (bub-buh-luss)** - A hangover.
- **eish (aysh)** - Used to express surprise, wonder, frustration or outrage: “Eish! That cut was eina!”
- **howzit** - A traditional South African greeting that translates roughly as “How are you?”, “How are things?” or simply “Hello”.
- **ja (yaa)** - Yes.
- **jol (jawl)** - A versatile word with many meanings, including party, disco, having fun.
- **just now** - Ask when the next bus is arriving or any question relating to time and the answer will often

be “just now”. This could mean five minutes, five hours or five days.

- **kwaai (ka-why)** - Angry. From the Afrikaans. Can also be used to denote something that is cool. As in: “I listened to this really kwaai song on the radio.”
- **lekker (lekk-irr with a rolling r)** - Nice, good, great, cool or tasty.
- **lift** - An elevator is known in South Africa as a lift.
- **pavement** - South Africans walk on pavements and drive cars on the road (at least that's the idea). The pavement is the sidewalk.
- **robots** - Traffic lights.
- **shame** - Broadly denotes sympathetic feeling. Someone admiring a baby, kitten or puppy might say: “Ag shame!” to emphasise its cuteness.
- **takkies** - Running shoes or sneakers. Fat takkies are extra-wide tyres on a vehicle.
- **vrot (frot)** - Rotten or smelly. ■



Murphy's Law

Not everything should be taken at face value, says Murphy. Things are not always what they seem and people are not always who they say they are.

By all accounts I had a most enjoyable St. Patrick's Day last month. At least this is what my friends tell me. My own recollections of the day are pretty hazy at best. It was only on the 21st of March that I could even remember my own name. Hey, it's the one day of the year that I let my hair down.

Talking about Saint Paddy, you'd be surprised to discover how many Saint Patrick's there are on Facebook. And here I thought he died in 460 AD. But no, it appears he's alive and well and living in cyberspace.

Now call me cynical, but I somehow doubt whether any of these people actually are the real St. Patrick.

Which is probably one of the reasons why I still don't have a Facebook account. People always tell me that I just have to have a Facebook account so that I can find all my friends.

The fact is not only do I know who my friends are, I know where they are. I don't need Facebook for this information. I also don't have the time nor the inclination to write on my wall,

poke someone, put up hundreds of dumb photographs, or anything else on Facebook or any social media site.

But I'm digressing from the topic here. What I want to talk about is how people are not always who they claim to be and how things may not what they at first seem.

I don't know how many e-mails I get a month that claim to be from my bank. They say that someone has tried to access my account and that I should click on the link provided so that they can sort the problem out.

Now as you've probably guessed these e-mails are not from my bank. They are from scam artists trying to steal my bank details. Do they really think I am going to respond to an e-mail that has a return address like iwanttostealyourmoney@ripoff.com?

It's almost like the text messages you get informing you that you've won R160,000 and all you need to do is phone the number provided to claim your prize.

Sorry, but you're not going to get your 'prize money'. All that is going

to happen is that you're going to end up paying them money without ever getting anything in return.

But it's not only on-line scam artists that try to deceive you. Legitimate businesses and organisations often do the same thing.

Don't you love businesses that offer some form of service, such as banks, insurance companies, cellphone networks and so on. They're always on about how you are the most important thing and how they do everything in their power to give you the best possible deal. I sometimes wonder how honest they are when they make statements such as this.

And don't you love how they always seem to have small print at the bottom of any contract or document. And when they say small print, they mean it. Sometimes you don't just need a magnifying glass to read it, you need a bloody microscope.

Let's face it, the main objective of a business should be to spend the least amount of money to make the most amount of money with the least amount of cost and effort. In essence I don't have a problem with this. After all the more profit they make the better it is for them. That's why they went into business in the first place.

While I have no problem with this, at least be honest about it. Don't make promises that you have no intention of keeping.

Other businesses will use clever wording in their contracts or service

conditions. I recently bought a PC game for my computer. I paid cash for it and was made to sign the bottom of my cash sale till slip.

My signature was to show that I accepted and agreed with their return policy. It stated that they would gladly refund or exchange any purchase within 14 days on condition that I showed them this invoice and that the item was returned in its original sealed packaging.

At the bottom (just before my signature) it says, "I hereby confirm receipt of the above in good order." Say what?

How am I supposed to check if it's in good order because if I removed the plastic wrapping around the game box then it is not longer in its original sealed packaging, thereby giving them an excuse not to refund or exchange the purchase.

I won't know if there is a problem or fault with the game until I load it onto my computer and try and play it. But by doing this I've broken the terms of their return policy, which I had to sign, and they can now refuse to refund me. Talk about your classic Catch 22 situation or what.

It seems like the deck of cards is always stacked in favour of the big companies and the little guy in the street - you and me - always ends up with a losing hand. And they say that I'm important to them? Go on, pull the other leg, it's got bells on it.

Radio Today's guide to

Rainbow



Cuisine

South Africa is a melting pot of cultural influences and the local cuisine is a perfect example of this.

While some dishes are unique to South Africa, many of them emerged from several waves of colonialisation and immigration. These influences would include Dutch, German, French, British, Asian, Indian, Asian-Indonesian and those from Portugues Mozambique.

Add to this the influences of Afrikaans, indigenous African cooking and the so-called Cape Malay people and you begin to get an idea of the diverse variety of cuisine.

Let's check out some South African favourites.

AMASI is the Zulu and Xhosa name for fermented milk. It tastes like cottage cheese or plain yoghurt and is poured over porridge or drunk straight.

BILTONG is a salty dried meat (similar to jerky). It is made from beef, ostrich or game such as kudu, springbok or other venison.

BIRYANI a spicy rice dish that includes spices such as cloves, cardamom, bay leaves and numerous other spices. The non-vegetarian version will include beef, chicken, goat, lamb or fish.

BOBOTIE is from Malay descent and is a type of meatloaf with raisins and a baked egg custard topping. Often flavoured with apricot jam and served with yellow rice and chutney.

BOEREWORS, a traditional Afrikaans sausage that is usually cooked on the braai (barbecue).

BUNNY CHOW originated in Durban and is a hollowed-out quarter, half or full loaf of bread that is stuffed with curry.

CHAKALAKA is a spicy relish served alongside a main course and consists of grated carrots, green peppers, sliced onion, vinegar, chilli and that secret ingredient that will distinguish it from anyone else's.

CHILI BITES are snacks normally made with chick-pea flour and water. The flour is mixed with chili, spinach, onion and then deep fried.

CHUTNEY, called blatjang in Afrikaans, is a thick sauce made from fruit that is used to flavour meat, curry or stews.

DHALTJIES are a Cape version of chili bites.

FRIKKADELLE are an Afrikaans version of meatballs. Made from minced meat and onion they are usually served on rice or mash potato with a rich gravy.

The **GATSBY** is a Cape treat consisting of a french loaf filled with anything ranging from polony to chicken, fish or steak and hot chips (fries).

GESMOORDE VIS is salted cod with potatoes and tomatoes and sometimes served with apricot jam.

HOENDERPASTEI is a traditional Afrikaans chicken pie.

ISIDUDU is a pap (porridge) that is made from pumpkin rather than maize.

KOEKSISTERS come in two forms and are a sweet delicacy. Afrikaans koeksisters are twisted pastries, deep fried and heavily sweetened. Koeksisters found on the Cape Flats are sweet and spicy, shaped like large eggs, and deep-fried.

MAGEU is a drink made from fermented mealie pap. It is often home-made but is also sold commercially in various flavours.

MALA MOGODU is a local version of tripe. The locals usually enjoy mala mogodu with hot pap and spinach



MALVA PUDDING is from Dutch origin and is a sweet, spongy apricot pudding. It is often served with custard.

MASHONZHA is made from the mopane worm and is a lot more tasty than it sounds.

MELKTERT (milk tart) is a favourite Afrikaans desert. It is a pastry crust filled with a milk-based custard.

MELKKOS (milk food) is basically melktert filling served without the pastry.

MEALIE-BREAD is made from creamed sweetcorn.

MIELIE-MEAL, one of the staple foods, often used in baking but predominantly cooked into pap or phutu.



Melkert

MOROGO is a type of wild spinach.

OSTRICH is an increasingly popular protein source as it has a low cholesterol content. It is often used in stews but ostrich is now available as steaks, sausage, mince and even hamburger patties.

PAMPOENKOEKIES (pumpkin fritters) consist of a mixture of flour and mashed pumpkin with an egg to bind it. It is then fried until golden brown.

POTBROOD (pot bread) is a savoury break that is baked in a round, cast-iron pot and cooked over the coals.

POTJIEKOS is a traditional Afrikaans stew made with meat and vegetables and cooked over coals in cast-iron pots. People take their potjiekos very seriously and many have recipes that are closely guarded secrets. Potjiekos competitions are also very popular.

RUSKS, a rectangular, hard, dry biscuit eaten after being dunked in tea or coffee; they are either home-baked or shop-bought.

SAMOSAS or **SAMOOSAS** are triangle-shaped Indian pastries that are fried. There are usually stuffed with curry or spicy fillings that could include beef

mince, chicken, fish, potato or various other fillings.

SKILPADJIES are lamb's liver wrapped in netvet and braai'd over hot coals.

SMAGWINYA are dough balls that are deep fried.

A **SMILEY** is a sheep's head that is cooked over the coals. Once it is done it is split open and eaten.

Smoked or braai'ed **SNOEK** is very popular in the Western Cape. Snoek is a regional game fish. Many people will go and buy snoek direct from the boats as they arrive in the harbour or buy it from fishermen.

A **SOSATIE** is a marinated kebab that

is done on a skewer and then cooked over the coals.

TOMATO BREDIE is a lamb and tomato stew. Traditionally an Afrikaans dish, it is enjoyed by most South Africans.

TROTTERS AND BEANS are a favourite in the Western Cape. Made from boiled pig's or sheep's trotters and onions and beans.

UMNGQUSHO is a dish made from white maize and sugar beans, a staple food for the Xhosa people.

UMPHOKOQO is an African salad made of maize meal.



Bunny Chow

UMQOMBOTHI is a type of beer made from fermented maize and sorghum.

UMVUBO is sour milk mixed with dry pap, commonly eaten by the Xhosa.

VETKOEK (fat cake), deep-fried dough balls, typically stuffed with meat or served with curried mince, cheese, fish or jam.

WALKIE TALKIES are grilled or deep-fried chicken heads and feet, most popular in townships and sold by street vendors, sometimes in industrial areas with high concentrations of workers.

WATERBLOMMETJIE BREDIE (water flower stew), meat stewed with the flower of the Cape Pondweed.

No matter what your taste, South African cuisine has something that will appeal to most palates. So why not be a bit daring at taste something new from our rainbow menu? Who knows, you may even get to like it.



Pap

Embracing New Beginnings

Michelle Human tells us more about the Joy of Fresh Starts

There's something truly invigorating and terrifying, and edgy, about starting something new.

Taking up a hobby, reconnecting with an old friend, or simply trying to master a new gadget, these moments remind us that life is full of opportunities — no matter our age. While the idea of change can sometimes feel like a big effort, approaching it with humour and a positive attitude can make all the difference. In fact, every day offers us a fresh chance to learn, grow, and enjoy life's surprises.

So, I thought I'd share some fun stories and practical tips. Helping me remember: it's never too late to begin again, and a good laugh makes the journey even more worthwhile.

Turning those "big efforts" into enjoyable adventures - with a touch of humour and a lot of heart.

The Lighter Side of Starting Something New

1. The Gardening "Adventure"

I've tried to create a beautiful garden. I started as anyone would (I think), by planting what I believed were "easy-to-grow" flowers, only to find myself surrounded by a jungle of weeds I get lost in! I even bought a

fancy watering system that was more complicated than assembling furniture - and ended up flooding the patio instead of watering the plants. I'm trying to find the positive... Ok, every sprout or weed is proof that I'm trying, and that's what really matters.

2. Reconnecting with Old Friends

Deciding to give an old friend a ring can lead to some hilarious moments. You might forget their name halfway through, or accidentally dial the wrong number — awkward! It's like trying to remember a dance move you haven't done since the days of disco - uncomfortable, funny, but ultimately rewarding. Once,

I managed to reconnect with a childhood friend from primary school, and when we met, it was as if no time had passed. We laughed about the old days, swapped stories, and reminisced about that time when... with a load of laughs. That meeting reignited a friendship I thought was long gone, proving that it's never too late to pick up where you left off.

3. Mastering New Technology

Learning to operate a new device can feel like trying to decipher an ancient language. You press a button to

send a message, only to end up with a selfie that looks like you've seen a ghost. Or you ask your voice assistant to "call the grandkids," and she responds with, "Calling... the pizza place." One day, I asked my phone to set an alarm, and it started playing a song I hadn't heard since my youth - and I found myself singing along, loud, in company..

Once I figured out how to use the camera, I took a selfie, only to realize I'd accidentally taken a video of my nose. But once you get the hang of it, you'll be boasting about being "tech-savvy," even if you're still in pyjamas and your hair's in a messy bun.

How to Overcome the Effort of Change

Let's be honest: change takes effort - it can be exhausting!

But here's the secret: approaching change with humour and patience, can turn that effort into a positive experience.

1. Break It Into Manageable Steps

Big goals often feel overwhelming when viewed all at once. Instead, break them down into smaller, more manageable pieces. Want to learn to cook a new dish? Start with a simple recipe. Want to get moving? Aim for a quick walk around the block.

Each small achievement is a reason to celebrate -

2. Embrace the Clumsiness

Remember when you first learned

to dance at a wedding? You probably stepped on toes or looked more like you were doing the moonwalk in the wrong direction. That's perfectly normal! Being comfortable with a bit of wobbling and stumbling makes the process more enjoyable. I once tried to do a new dance move, and I failed, again and again - but I laughed so hard I nearly cried.

3. Turn It Into a Game

Make your challenge fun. Challenge yourself to learn three new words in another language or try a dance move that might look more like swatting flies than moonwalking.

Reward yourself afterward - turning effort into play and prizes keeps our motivation high.

4. Involve Friends or Pets

Nothing beats having a friend or even a pet to join you. Your dog or cat might be your best cheerleader - they're experts at watching you try and offering moral support with a wagging tail or a purr.

Why Laughter Is the Best Medicine in Change

Approaching new challenges with humour isn't just entertaining - it's a powerful way to stay motivated. When you giggle at your own mistakes, the effort feels lighter, and the journey becomes more fun.

Some of the funniest moments come from trying to do what used to be easy - but now feels like trying to teach a chicken to fly.



For example:

- Accidentally turning yourself into a floating head on a Zoom call.
- Sending a text that auto-corrects into something hilarious.
- Touching my toes!

These moments become stories you'll cherish and laugh about long after.

They remind us that imperfection is part of the process, and that's where the fun begins ;)

Building a Supportive Community

Many groups and communities around the world are full of people just like you and me - eager to learn, laugh, and share stories. A WhatsApp group, a virtual dance class, or a book club, there's a welcoming space waiting for you. Reach out.

And remember - even those who seem "tech-savvy" started by pressing a wrong button more than once!

Tips for Making Change Easy and Enjoyable

- Start Small: A little step is better than no step at all. Spend five min-

utes trying something new - that's progress!

- Laugh Often: The more you giggle, the less effort it feels.
- Celebrate Every Win: Watered the garden? Excellent! Managed to do a video call without asking, "What's that thing you're holding?" Brilliant! Every achievement counts.
- Practice Patience: Rome wasn't built in a day, and neither is a new skill.
- Enjoy each moment - with lots of laughs along the way.

Your Next Exciting Chapter

Every new day is an opportunity to learn, grow, and have fun. Remember, it's not about rushing to the finish line - it's about enjoying the journey, complete with its funny moments and unexpected surprises. Our life experiences are the greatest treasures we carry, making every new step more meaningful, than the effort it takes to try something new.

Final Words:

So, go ahead and embrace every new beginning with enthusiasm, humour, and a big heart.

Because, in the end, the most valuable thing we carry is not how many new things we try, but the wisdom, laughter, and stories we gather along the way.

And those are things no effort can ever take away from us.

Hollywood Hogwash

Guns that never need to be reloaded; bulletproof vests that will stop anything; bullets that cause everything to explode. Ajith Subramoney looks at just how wrong the movies can be.

The production costs of some movies are scary. They spend millions of dollars in an attempt to make the movie as realistic and true to life as possible. Then they go and ruin it by making stupid mistakes. Mistakes that with just a bit of research could be avoided.

Nearly every action or war movie will involve firearms of some kind. And this is where they often get it wrong. Here are some classic blunders that Hollywood gets wrong more often than not.

The exploding bullet theory

The villain in the movie is busy escaping in a car. No problem. The hero takes out his pistol, takes careful aim at the speeding car, and fires a shot into the petrol tank. The car explodes in a ball of flame and the villain is burnt to a crisp.

A good ending to an exciting movie. With one small problem - it will never happen.

If cars exploded because something ruptured the fuel tank car manufacturers would be up to their ears in lawsuits. In most accidents it would mean that the cars would explode. Not a good selling point.

The bulletproof vest

The hero in the movie is ambushed and the villain empties an entire magazine of bullets from an AK-47 into his chest before running away.

Seconds later the hero gets to his feet and opens his shirt to reveal a bulletproof vest that now has 30 7,62 mm bullets stuck into it. It's not going to happen





in real life.

The type of protection that is worn under clothing is a vest made from a material called Kevlar. It will stop a knife or small pieces of shrapnel penetrating, but will not stop most handguns from close range.

In order to stop a handgun trauma plates, usually made from ceramic material, have to be inserted into the front and back of the vest. This makes it bulky and it has to be worn over the clothing. It also makes it heavy (about 15 kg).

Many soldiers wear full military body armour, which has a higher chance of stopping a rifle bullet.

One shot - kill anything

Armed only with a pistol, our hero is being chased through the desert by an army of villains.

Using just his pistol, he's already killed half of them. But now they have a helicopter after him. Down to his last bullet, our hero takes aim, fires and by some miracle he hits the helicopter in just the right spot to destroy the engine or the rotor. The helicopter crashes in a ball of fire and our hero makes his escape.

I was once lucky enough to speak to

a pilot that actually flew helicopters in the South African Border War. He told me that on more than one occasion his helicopter had been hit numerous times by ground fire and never once did it cause his helicopter to crash.

The silent silencer

The hero is sneaking into the enemies building. To succeed he has to enter without making a sound. Suddenly he is confronted by an armed guard.

Before the guard can shout our hero fires two shots from his 9 mm pistol fitted with a silencer. The pistol makes two soft *phut* sounds and the guard falls down dead.

Sounds great except for one small problem - it doesn't work that way. Exploding gunpowder is loud. Very loud in fact. An unsilenced gunshot is around 140 to 160 decibels - that's in the range where hearing it once can permanently damage your ears. A silencer will reduce that to around 120 or 130 decibels.

So what's the point of using a silencer in the first place? Well in an outdoor or noisy environment a silencer makes it difficult to tell where the shot is coming from or how far away it is.

Time travel

I once saw a movie that was set during World War Two. The Germans were attacking an American position with tanks.

The problem was that the Germans

were using American M60 Patton tanks. And this wasn't even the biggest fault. The M60 Patton tank was only developed in 1960 - 15 years after World War Two ended.

The magic gun

Our hero is trapped. 150 armed villains are coming for him, all of them armed to the teeth.

Our hero is armed only with a 9 mm HK MP5 sub-machine gun. Firing on full automatic he begins to take down the enemy with accurate bursts that decimate their number. Yet even though the MP5 holds only 30 bullets, he never has to reload once.

You see it in so many movies. The cowboy that fires 25 shots from a six-shooter revolver. The cop who fires 30 bullets from a pistol that only holds 15 rounds.

The MP5, for example, has a rate of fire of 800 rounds per minute. This means that on full automatic fire the 30-round magazine would be empty in just under three seconds.

Most soldiers carry an assault rifle into battle. They also carry about 210 rounds of ammunition. Assault rifles have a rate of fire of about 700 rounds per minute. So on full automatic they would have used their rounds

up in about four seconds. Which is why soldiers will hardly ever fire on full automatic.

The other type of magic gun in the movies is those with absolutely no recoil. I've seen more than one movie where the hero has a M60 machine gun tucked under each arm and is busy cutting down the enemy.

First of all the M60 is a crew-served weapon that is operated with either two or three people. It weighs 10.5 kg and has a fierce recoil. It takes a large, powerful individual to control the weapon while firing in a standing position.

Even better was the movie where the hero was running with an M2 Browning and firing it from the hip. This weapon is known as a heavy machine gun. It fires 12.7 mm rounds and the gun weighs 38 kg. Try firing it from the hip and you're going to go flying. It is normally mounted on a tripod.

I love action movies, but I wish they would get it right every now and again. After all it's not that difficult to do a bit of research. ■



Living Our Best Years

This month we take a closer look at the mad Irishman **Matt Tennyson**, presenter of *Living Our Best Years* and *Fall In/Tree Aan*.

According to Matt Tennyson his 'happy place' is behind a microphone. Which is probably not a bad thing seeing as how he spends six days of the week behind a microphone.

Matt was born and raised in the village of Gary Owen, County Limerick in the Republic of Ireland. When he was 13 his family had moved to South Africa where he completed his last two years of schooling.

After finishing his matric he received his call-up papers instructing him to report for compulsory military training. Shortly after he had completed his basic training he ended up joining the permanent force, becoming a full-time soldier.

"I didn't understand Afrikaans that well," says Matt. "I thought I was signing on to go on an officer's course, and not signing on to become a full-time member of the Defence Force."

He would go on to spend eight years as a soldier before deciding that he wanted to do something else with his life.

From an early age Matt had developed a love for reading and writing. He interviewed for a position as a journalist with a well-known newspaper and

was surprised to get the job. He soon discovered that he disliked the job. "It was all about reporting on news," says Matt. "I'm not a reporter, I'm more of a story teller."

He then joined a magazine where he would spend the next three years, going on to become the editor.

Matt then made the decision to become a freelance journalist. He moved to Europe and soon found himself being drawn into conflict journalism.

"There were always wars and conflicts going on somewhere. Most avoided going to these places in order to get a story," says Matt. "So we would get well paid to do it for them."

For the next three decades Matt would travel from story to story. Between conflict assignments Matt would often cover other stories. These included major sporting events, travel stories, and interviews with a wide range of people ranging from politicians to celebrities, musicians to less savoury characters.

"People would always tell me how lucky I was to travel all over the world," says Matt. "But most of the places I went to were not tourist attractions. Over the years I was shot twice, stabbed once, burnt with napalm, and

ended with so much shrapnel in my body that I would set off the metal detectors at airports. I've been locked up in 27 countries, deported from 18 and declared a prohibited immigrant in three. Remind me again how lucky I was."

Matt's involvement with radio came about by accident. When visiting Ireland he heard that a local radio station was looking for someone to write news for them.

"I reported to the studio on a Saturday and at 11.45 learnt, for the first time, that I had been hired to do the show from 12.00 to 15.00. I had no idea what I was doing."

Matt fell in love with radio and over the years he would work for a number of radio stations. In mid April 2025 he joined Radio Today. Currently he presents "Living Our Best Years", also known as LOBY from Monday to Friday between 10.30 and 12.00.

On Monday's, Thursday's and Friday's he is joined by Michelle Human. The show focuses on Safety and Security on a Monday, Health and Wellness on a Wednesday, and Estate Living on a Thursday. Friday's are known as "Anything goes Friday's" and will often have a theme.

"The music we play on the show has one criteria," says Matt. "It must be 50 years or older."

According to Matt the best thing about the show is the interaction with the listeners.

"We have a dedicated phone num-



WHY DO I DO THIS TO MYSELF: A pensive Matt sits on a sailing dhow off the coast of Somalia, wondering (not for the first time) about his life choices.

ber for the show. Listeners can send a WhatsApp to 076 292 3971 and request a song or send a dedication to someone."

In late 2025 Matt had an idea for another show. Many will remember the radio shows that were aimed at troops serving in the old South African Defence Force. Patt Kerr did 'Forces Favourites' on the SABC English Service. Esmé Euvrard presented 'Springbok Rendezvous' on Springbok Radio, and Marie van Zyl 'Stand at ease/Op die plek rus' on Radio Five. All of these shows had one thing in common - they were aimed at people serving in the SADF. Members serving in uniform could send a letter through to one of these shows with a dedication (usually to their sweetheart) and a request for a song to be played. Likewise, parents or girlfriends could send a letter

sending a dedication through to their boyfriend/husband/son/brother.

Matt realised that there was potential to revive a show based on these lines. Something that would bring back memories for those once did time in uniform.

Fall In/Tree Aan was started every Saturday from 12.00 to 14.00. It would be hosted by Matt, along with fellow military veteran Jeff Marcus.

“We had no idea of how popular the show would become, nor how quickly,” says Matt. “We play music ranging from 1968 to 1992. This was the era when military service was compulsory in South Africa. Most of the music we play are requests sent in by the listeners.”

Currently the show has listeners in South Africa, the UK, the USA, Canada, Australia, Germany, Ireland, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, and Israel. Matt and Jeff have been invited to do a live broadcast of the show at events in Pretoria and Oudtshoorn later in the year.

The Saturday show is recorded and rebroadcast on a Wednesday evening between 19.00 and 21.00.

Matt has some very strong ideas of how he would like to see both shows progress.

“My main aim is to grow the listenership. Not only for LOBY and Fall In/Tree Aan, but for Radio Today,” says Matt. “We want people to listen to our shows, but we want to keep them tuned to Radio Today afterwards



THE SHOW LOGO: The logo for Fall In/Tree Aan consists of the title of the show. In the centre is a microphone covered with an old SADF bush hat. To the left is the Radio Today logo, while the old SADF logo sits to the right. The Radio Today website address, rt1485.com, is also displayed.

as well. To do this we need to ensure that the program content, including the music, is what listeners want to hear. Interaction with the listeners is vital and having a dedicated WhatsApp number really helps. We also want to attract sponsors for the shows.”

Matt is married to Karen and they have been together for 25 years. They live in the south of Cape Town.

According to Matt he has three main passions - music, reading, and history, especially military history. He has filmed, produced and edited a number of documentaries and he is the author of seven books.

As he says, “With Radio Today I really am living my best years.”



GETTING TO KNOW YOU: When Dee, a regular listener from the UK, was on holiday in Cape Town, the LOBY team treated her to lunch. From left to right: Matt Tennyson, Dee, and Michelle Human.



LIVE FROM THE LEGION: In late November the SA Signals Association hosted their annual Christmas lunch at the SA Legion. Matt and Jeff were guests and here Matt interviews Brig Gen (Ret) Ian Fordred.



LIVING OUR BEST YEARS: In September ‘Living Our Best Years’ did their first Outside Broadcast from Fish Hoek beach. Here Matt and Michelle prepare to go live on air.

Local is Lekker

Over the years South African artists and bands have produced some great music. Here is a little taste of our local legends.

This month let's take a brief look at some local music that you may or may not remember.

Who better to start off with than a legend. A man who was a singer, song writer, music producer, radio presenter, and the man that started Radio Today. None other than Peter Lotis.

He born in the Vredendorp suburb of Johannesburg in 1931. In the mid 50's he went to England with his eldest brother, Dennis, and got experience working with the Ted Heath Orchestra.

When Peter returned to South Africa, he heard that Springbok Radio was looking for presenters. He auditioned on a whim and landed the job.

He would work in radio and later television for the rest of his life doing shows such as 'Juke Box Jury' and 'The Money Or The Box'.

As a singer he had hits with **Walking In The Sunshine, Honey, Sunday Girl, and Heidi**. He also produced songs for Fuzz, Neville Whitmill, Alan Garrity and The Dealians.

The Dealians took their name from the East London Deal's Hotel where they performed. They enjoyed a number of hits in the late 60s and early 70s. These included **Look**

Out Here Comes Tomorrow, When Love Comes Knockin and Time.

With Glenys Lynne as lead vocalist, the Four Jacks and a Jill had a hit with **Timothy** in the mid 60s.

In 1968 they went to #1 in

South Africa, Australia and New Zealand with **Master Jack**. The song also made it to #18 in the USA.

Alan Garrity had a number of hits in South Africa and Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe). He had his first hit in 1971 with **Put Your Hand in the Hand**. Some of his other hits include **I Need Someone, Home Isn't Home Anymore** and **Santa Maria**.

Bobby Angel, real name Robert Engelsman, had eight songs that charted on the official South African Top Twenty. These included two duets with Barbara Ray. His 1975 hit **You Asked Me To** made it to #1.

Formed in Johannesburg in 1977, Clout was originally an all-girl band. In 1978 and 1979 they had four songs that made it onto the South African Top Twenty. These included their big hits **Substitute** and **Save Me**.

During the 1970's John Edmond had no fewer than seven songs that made the Top Twenty. The first, **Fairy Tales**, was in 1970, while **Goodbye Is The Saddest Song** made the charts in 1975.

William Charles Boardman is not a name that most readers will be familiar with. Yet between 1969 and 1983 he had 13 songs that made it to the Top Twenty and spent a total of 95 weeks on the charts. This made him the most successful local artist.

He had hits under the names Dennis, William E and Quentin E Klopjaeger. Yet most of us will remember him as Billy Forrest. Yet for all his success,

he never had a song that made it to #1 on the charts.

In the 1970's Lionel Petersen had seven songs that made it to the Top Twenty. His most successful song, **Try A Little Love**, was released in 1974 and made it to #3 on the charts.

The local artist that spent the most time on the South African Top Twenty was Barbara Ray. Between 1970 and 1983 she had 12 songs enter the charts, where they spent 128 weeks on the charts. She was the only local artist to spend more than 100 weeks on the Top Twenty.

One of her hits was a duet with 5th Association, another with Lance James, and two with Bobby Angel. Yet only one her songs, the 1973 hit **I Don't Wanna Play House**, made it to #1.

Richard Jon Smith managed to get seven songs onto the Top Twenty. Only is 1976 cover version of **Michael Row The Boat Ashore** made it to the top of the charts.

Popular in both South Africa and the then Rhodesia, Jody Wayne had seven Top Twenty hit singles. His first hit, **The Wedding**, was the only one to get to the top of the charts. Two of his songs, **Everything Is Beautiful** and **Louanne**, only managed to spend one week on the charts, reaching #20 and #19 respectively.

The song that spent the longest time on the charts was local group The Staccatos. In 1969 their song **Cry To Me** would spend 38 weeks on the charts.



Did you know?

This month Radio Times brings you some facts and trivia about South Africa.

South Africa

- The Kruger National Park nature reserve supports the greatest variety of wildlife species on the African continent.
- South African grasslands have 30 species per square kilometre, greater than the biodiversity of rainforests.
- There are 18 000 indigenous vascular plant species in South Africa of which 80% are uniquely South African.
- South Africa has mines deeper than any other country in the world, at depths of almost four kilometres at the Western Deep Levels Mine.
- The only street in the world to house two Nobel Peace prize winners is in Soweto. Nelson Mandela and Archbishop Desmond Tutu both had houses in Vilakazi Street in Soweto.
- The world's first heart transplant was done in Cape Town, South Africa in 1967 by South African Dr Chris Barnard.
- The world's biggest hospital, Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital, is in Soweto.
- There are only 12 countries in the world that supply tap water that is fit to drink, and South Africa is one of them. Our tap water quality is third best overall in the world.
- South Africa has hosted the World Rugby Cup (1995), the World Cricket Cup (2003) and the World Soccer Cup (2010).
- South Africa is the second largest exporter of fruit in the world.
- South Africa has 11 official languages, from A-Z: Afrikaans, English, Ndebele, Pedi, Sotho, Swazi, Tsonga, Tswana, Venda, Xhosa and Zulu.
- The Tugela Falls is the second highest waterfall in the world, where the water tumbles down 850 metres. [First place goes to the Angel Falls in Venezuela at 979 metres].

- When Graça Machel married Nelson Mandela on 18 July 1998, she became the first woman in the world to have married the heads of state of two different countries. She was previously married to Samora Machel, the first president of Mozambique who was killed in a plane crash in 1986.
- More than 50% of the Paragliding world records have been set in South Africa.
- The world's largest diamond was the Cullinan, found in South Africa in 1905. It weighed 3,106.75 carats uncut. It was cut into the Great Star of Africa, weighing 530.2 carats, the Lesser Star of Africa, which weighs 317.40 carats, and 104 other diamonds of nearly flawless colour and clarity. They now form part of the British crown jewels.
- South Africa has the longest wine route in the world, the R62 wine route.
- No other country eats as much kingklip as South Africans do (also known as Congrio, Ling and Rockling in other parts of the southern hemisphere).
- The Springboks, the South African national rugby team, are the only country to have won the Rugby World Cup four times. They lifted the title in 1995, 2007, 2019 and again in 2023. Australia has won it twice and New Zealand



have won it three times. England has won it once.

- South Africa is the only country in the world where you can order something called monkey gland steak at a restaurant without the risk of a real internal organ being placed before you. It was invented many decades ago by overseas chefs as a pointed insult, aimed at the brash inhabitants of Johannesburg who poured Worcestershire and tomato sauce over everything.
- Kimberley's 'Big Hole' is deeper than Table Mountain is high. Plus Kimberley has the only drive-in pub in the world.
- South Africa is the world's largest producer of macadamia nuts and the nuts and oils are exported to countries across the world. ■

Please don't breathe out

Nothing can ruin an intimate moment more than bad breath. Fiona Taylor gives some advice on how to get your breath smelling sweet.

Not that long ago I was attending a function when my eyes fell upon a hunk of a man. To say that he was good looking would be like saying that World War II was “a slight argument where a few people were

hurt.” This guy was stunning.

He was your classic “tall, dark and handsome” type of a man. The type that I am an absolute sucker for. I moved in closer and, like any good journalist, began to eavesdrop on his conversation.

Mr. Hunk had a lovely voice, spoke with intelligence and confidence. And he was well dressed. I decided that it was time to make my move. As soon as he had finished his conversation, I sidled up next to him and introduced myself.

He didn't vomit or haul out a gun and try to shoot me, screaming “back you vile creature.” I always take this as a good sign.

Pretty soon we were deep in conversation. Then he lent towards me, perhaps to whisper something meaningful.

I almost fell to the floor gasping.

His breath smelt like Satan's bottom. It could have killed an elephant. The last time I smelt something that bad, it had been dead for two weeks.

No matter how good looking he was, there was no way I was going to let that mouth anywhere near me. The very thought of

him kissing me was enough to send me into convulsions.

Nothing can ruin an intimate moment like bad breath. Here's a few tips on how to keep your breath as fresh as possible.

Keep your mouth clean

That means brushing your teeth twice a day. It also means flossing regularly. Food and bacteria trapped between your teeth and at the gum line can only be removed with floss. If it's left to linger, it's going to rot and smell bad.

Clean your tongue, too

Bacteria left on your tongue can certainly contribute to less-than-fresh breath, so be sure to brush your tongue after you've polished your ivories. You don't want so much fur on your tongue that you can brush it or style it.

Wet your whistle

A dry mouth can equal smelly breath. Saliva helps clean your mouth. It also has natural antibacterial qualities and it washes away food particles. It's the reduced saliva flow at night that explains morning breath.

Try chewing sugarless gum or sucking on sugarless mints to stimulate saliva production.

Rinse

If nothing else, at least rinse your mouth with plain water. Swishing the water around in your mouth may help to remove some of the food particles left in the mouth after a meal.



Munch on parsley That green sprig of parsley that came with your meal can do more than just decorate your plate. While munching on parsley or spearmint won't cure bad breath, the scent of the herb itself can temporarily cover up offending oral odour.

Eat to smell sweet

Foods that help fight plaque may also help fight mouth odour. Opt for celery, carrots, peanuts, or a bit of low-fat cheese if you want something to snack on. A healthy diet will help your teeth as well. There you have it.

Follow these tips and they should help with bad breath. Check your breath on a regular basis, especially when you know you will be up close to people. When you meet the guy or girl of your dreams just remember, you want to knock them over with your charm and good looks, not your breath. ■



Memorable Moments

Radio Today sports editor Stix Mkhize recalls his most memorable moments in sport since South Africa became a democracy in 1994.

This month I was asked to write an article about the five most memorable sporting moments since South Africa became a democracy in 1994.

The task was not as easy as I thought it would be. Since 1994 we've shone on the sport fields in both team and individual sports. Yet in the end my top five involved rugby, cricket and soccer. And I was lucky enough to attend all of them.



1995 Rugby World Cup

It had only been a year since the 1994 elections and South Africa's re-admission to international sport. And we were hosting the Rugby World Cup.

The Springboks, under coach Kitch Christie and captain François Pienaar, would be taking part in the tournament for the very first time.

There was a lot of optimism about our chances of winning the cup, but I don't think anyone gave us that much chance.

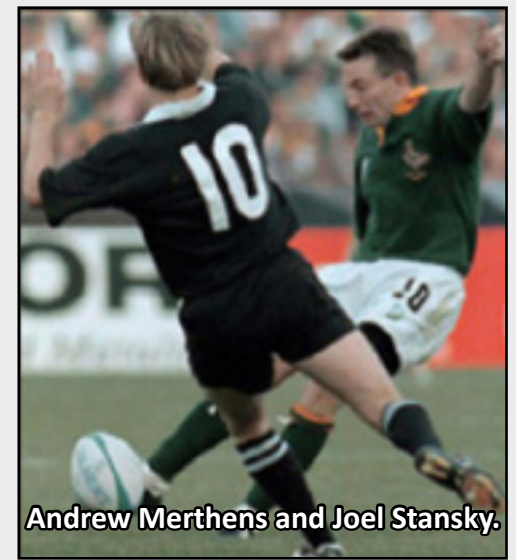
The opening match of the tournament was the pool game held at Newlands in Cape Town that featured world champions Australia against South Africa.

The country went mad when the Springboks won the game 27-18 and suddenly there was this belief that we could go all the way.

After wins against Romania (21-8) and Canada (20-0), South Africa were in the quarter finals against Western Samoa. They won that game 42-14 and would have to meet France in the semi-final in Durban.

It was a game that nearly didn't happen. Torrential rain had left the field flooded and the match was delayed for over an hour while the ground staff tried to dry the field.

It was a tense game and it went right down to the wire. France were denied a try in the final seconds of the game and South Africa held on to win the match 19-15.



Andrew Merthens and Joel Stansky.

Now they would have to meet the mighty All Blacks in the final. And it was an All Black team that contained one of the deadliest players in the world at the time - Jonah Lomu.

The final was an epic battle held in Johannesburg on June 24. The penalties by All Black Andrew Mehrtens and two penalties and a drop goal by Joel Stransky saw the 'Boks leading by 9-6 at half time. Another Mehrtens' penalty in the second half saw the scores tied at 9-9 at full time.

They two traded penalties in extra time to level the scores at 12-12. Then, with seven minutes to go, Stransky hit a 30-metre drop goal to win the game 15-12.

A short while later President Nelson Mandela, wearing a Springbok rugby shirt and cricket cap, presented the William Webb Ellis Cup to South African captain François Pienaar to the delight of the capacity crowd.



Neil Tovey and Nelson Mandela.

1996 Africa Cup of Nations

The following year saw South Africa host the Africa Cup of Nations. It was a talented Bafana Bafana under coach Clive Barker and captain Neil Tovey.

The side included stars such as Andre Arendse, Mark Fish, Sizwe Motaung, Lucas Radebe, Doctor Khumalo, Augustine Makalalane, Eric Tinkler, Shaun Bartlett, Philemon Masinga and Mark Williams.

The South African's finished first in their pool after winning three of their games, drawing two and losing one.

This saw them up against Algeria in the quarter finals. It was a hard-fought match that Bafana Bafana won 2-1.

Against Ghana in the semi-finals the team was in top form and it saw them emerge as 3-0 winners.

The final, played at Soccer City in Johannesburg on February 3, was against Tunisia. In the 73rd minute Mark Williams blasted in a goal and followed it two minutes later with a second. South Africa were 2-0 winners and the champions of Africa.

2003 Cricket World Cup

Okay, so we didn't win the 2003 Cricket World Cup. In fact we didn't even qualify for the knock out stage. But it was the first time the tournament was held in South Africa.

Over the years the Cricket World Cup has provided some memorable moments for me and some records for the Proteas.

Lance Klusener was the 1996 Player of the Tournament. Gary Kirsten holds the record for the highest individual score (188 not out), Mark Boucher hold the record for the second fastest 50 (off 21 balls), AB De Villiers 2011 holds the record for the most consecutive centuries (two) and Graeme Smith holds the record for the most consecutive fifties (four).

And who can forget Herschelle Gibbs in 2007 becoming the only player to score six consecutive sixes off a six-ball over at a World Cup.



Lance "Zulu" Klusener.

2007 Rugby World Cup

After disappointments in 1999 and 2003, the Springboks were looking at getting their hands on the William Webb Ellis Trophy once again.

Under coach Jake White and captain John Smit, the Springboks finished top of their log in the pool stages with wins over England, Tonga, Samoa, and the United States.

In the quarter-final they overcame a very determined Fiji by 37-20. Then it was Argentina in the semi-finals. It was a game they won 37-13.

On Saturday, 20 October 2007 at the Stade de France in Paris the Springboks faced old foe and 2003 world champions England. England's Johnny Wilkinson scored two penalties but it was no match for the four penalties of Percy Montgomery and a long-range effort by Frans Steyn.

The Springboks won the finals 15-6 and became only the second team at the time to win the tournament twice.



Springbok captain John Smit.



Bafana Bafana vs Mexico.

2010 FIFA World Cup

It's the most watched television event in sport. It was shown in every single country and territory on Earth, including Antarctica and the Arctic Circle, generating record-breaking viewing figures in many TV markets around the world. The in-home television coverage of the competition reached over 3.2 billion people around the world, or 46.4% of the global population, based on viewers watching a minimum of over one minute of coverage. And it was taking place in South Africa.

At 125-1 odds, no-one was expecting Bafana Bafana to win the tournament. But the fact that we were taking part was enough. In the opening game of the tournament Siphiwe Tshabalala scored the opening goal against Mexico in a 1-1 draw.

The team lost the next match 3-0 to Uruguay but then beat France in their last game by 2-1. Although we had not qualified for the knock-out stages, we ended our tournament on a high note as the host nation. ■

Riding Old Sparky

After witnessing an execution crime reporter Garth Atherton is determined to use all of his power as a journalist to bring an end to the death penalty. And he is prepared to go to any lengths to achieve his goal.

BY MATT TENNYSON

There was nothing special about the room. Four grey walls, a concrete floor and a darker grey ceiling. Set in one of the walls was a thick glass window that was covered from the other side by a dark blue curtain. Two benches, one of them slightly raised, faced the window.

Garth Atherton took a seat on the front bench. He was one of eleven people that filed into the small room. Along with him were seven other men and four women.

Although Garth kept to himself the others in the room chatted quietly. Yet it was a nervous chatter and you could feel the tension in the room.

The chatter died instantly as the door through which they had entered the room opened once again. The man who entered was dressed in a dark blue uniform.

“Good morning,” the man addressed them. “My name is Richard Kelly and I’m the chief warden of Kentucky State Penitentiary. You are here to witness the execution of Billy Buckner. Now before we proceed there are a few rules

that I want you to take note of. First of all I ask that you remain silent throughout the proceedings. And secondly, under no circumstances are you to try and communicate with the condemned. Thank you.”

The warden stood to one side and the



curtain that covered the window was pulled open. It gave Garth and the other witnesses their first look at the execution chamber.

The room on the other side of the window was brightly lit. The colour scheme matched the room that they were in and there was a door set in the wall opposite. Another door, with a glass window, stood to the left of the room. Two wardens and a man in civilian clothing were standing in the room. The dominant feature in the room, however, was a wooden chair with a high back and leather straps. It was better known as an electric chair.

Garth was still trying to take everything in when the door in the opposite wall opened and Billy Buckner was led into the room by two wardens. They were followed by a priest.

Buckner was dressed in a bright orange prison overall and his head had been shaved bald. Garth could see the sheer fear and confusion in the man’s face. He was stiff with terror and the two wardens were almost dragging him along.

Buckner was placed in the chair and the two wardens attached leather straps across his chest, stomach, forearms, wrists and lower shins. Then the two of them left the room through the door that they had entered.

One of the wardens that remained in the room then took a wet sponge and placed it on Buckner’s head. Then he placed a metal device that looked like a bowl on top of the sponge and secured

it with a leather strap under Buckner’s chin. There were two wires attached to the metal device.

William James Buckner, known to all as Billy, was 23 years old. He was an odd looking young man with buck teeth and very large ears. He was exceptionally strong and some folk said he had the strength of an ox. Unfortunately he also had the mental capacity of an ox as well.

All of the other young men in the small town where he lived would always make fun of him. One day three of them had been teasing him and pushing him around when Billy had lost his temper and struck out. The result of his outburst had left two of them dead and the other paralysed from the neck down.

It hadn’t taken a jury long to return a guilty verdict and Billy had been sentenced to death. He had spent seven months on death row at Kentucky State Penitentiary in Eddyville, Kentucky. Two appeals to commute his sentence to life in prison had been turned down by the state governor.

“William James Buckner you have been found guilty of the murders of Samuel Carter and Ray Clarkson. In accordance you have been sentenced to death by electrocution on this the third day of September 1973. Do you have anything you wish to say before sentence is carried out.

“Please God I don’t want to die. Mommy help me,” Buckner began to wail. “I didn’t mean to hurt nobody. I’m

sorry. Please mommy help me, I'll be good."

Buckner began to sob and mutter prayers. There was a speaker attached to the wall where the witnesses were seated and they could hear every word. Garth felt sick to the pit of his stomach. It just felt so wrong that any human should be treated like this. No matter what he had done.

The warden that had made the announcement nodded his head and the other warden took a wide leather strap and attached it across Buckner's face. It covered his eyes, mouth and entire face with just a hole cut for the nose.

Once he had finished the warden then went through the other door and took up his position next to a fairly large lever.

"Ready to roll," he announced.

The warden still in the room nodded his head and the other one pulled the lever down.

Buckner's entire body went stiff as 2000 volts of electricity surged through his body. It was continued for 60 seconds before the warden threw the lever back into the up position and Buckner's body slumped.

Garth had been unable to take his eyes off the scene. It may have just been his imagination, but he could have sworn he saw smoke rising from Buckner's head.

The man in the civilian clothes stepped forward and placed a stethoscope to Buckner's chest. He was a doctor and he pronounced Buckner dead.

Afterwards Garth had approached

the warden that had pulled the switch. His name was Jethro Turner and he was the official Kentucky State executioner.

"How could you do something like that," Garth said, the disgust obvious in his tone. "You just killed someone who had the mind of a small child and probably didn't even know he had done something wrong. How can you live with yourself?"

"I live with myself very easily Mr. Atherton," Turner said with a slight smile. "I'm not the judge or the jury. I'm just the executioner."

When Garth arrived back at his office at the daily newspaper where he worked, he immediately began doing some research into the electric chair and the death penalty.

The first electric chair was produced by Harold P. Brown and Arthur Kennelly. Brown worked as an employee of Thomas Edison. It was developed to find a new, more humane method of execution to replace hanging. The pair began work in 1881 and over the next few years it was developed and tested on animals.

In 1889 the electric chair as a means of execution was adopted by the state of New York. It would be known as electrical execution and it led to a new word being introduced into the dictionary - electrocution.

The first person to be executed by the electric chair was William Kemmler in New York's Auburn Prison on August 6, 1890. It didn't go according to plan and Kemmler was only rendered

unconscious. The generator used to produce the electricity had to recharge before Kemmler was shocked a second and fatal time.

It wasn't long before 20 other states had introduced the electric chair as the preferred method of execution. Garth's home state, Kentucky, had used the chair often since it was first introduced. On July 13, 1928, Kentucky set a record by electrocuting eight men in its chair, each immediately after the other.

The electric chair had been given a number of nicknames that included Yellow Mama, Old Smokey and Gruesome Gertie. But the most popular nickname, especially among those on death row, was Old Sparky.

Garth's story was published three days later and it caused a huge public reaction. Some readers slammed his story and called him a 'bleeding-heart liberal', saying that anyone sentenced to the electric chair deserved it. The majority of the readers, however, sided with Garth. Many felt that no-one had the right to take another human life and that the death penalty was nothing more than a state-sanctioned murder.

When Garth arrived at work two days after his story had been published there was a message on his desk that his editor wanted to see him.

"Morning Garth, please take a seat," David Seales, his editor, told him. "That was a great piece you wrote. And I must say that I'm one hundred percent in agreement with you. I also think that it's high time the death penalty was

abolished. Now tell me Garth, how far would you be willing to go to get a really good story on this."

"As far as it takes," replied Garth. "What I saw will remain burned into my memory until the day I die."

"Great," said Seales, "because I have a proposal for you."

Seales went on to explain that he was not only good friends with Richard Kelly, the chief warden at Kentucky State Penitentiary, but that Kelly was also strongly opposed to the death penalty.

Seales and Kelly had come up with a plan to have Garth put on death row, awaiting execution. Only the two of them would know that it was not real and everyone else, including the other inmates on death row and the wardens, would think that Garth was a convicted killer sentenced to death.

Garth would spend a week on death row before being released. This would then allow him to write a very personal account of what it was like to be on death row and knowing that the next time you left the prison would be in a coffin.

Garth had readily agreed to do the story. In fact he was excited about it. He would be able to get enough information to write a story like none other.

Two days later Garth was delivered to Kentucky State Penitentiary where he was processed, issued with his orange overall, and taken straight to death row.

Death row consisted of a passage

with ten cells. Five on either side of the passage. While they were not numbered everyone knew that the cell on the right hand side nearest to the door was cell one. The person in cell one was the next due to be executed. Once this had happened everyone moved up a cell.

There were seven condemned men on death row and Garth became number eight. He was put in the fourth cell on the left of the passage.

Garth flinched as the cell door slammed behind him. He looked around him and took in the single bed with a metal frame, a stainless steel toilet without a lid, and a stainless steel basin and taps. The floor was bare concrete and the walls and ceiling were grey. It was depressing. He sat on the bed and began to wonder how many other men had occupied this cell. He was deep in thought when a voice snapped him back to reality.

“Well look at who we have here,” someone laughed.

Garth looked up at the source of the laugh and straight into the face of Jethro Turner.

“Mr. Atherton, let me be the first to welcome you to death row,” Turner said with a smile that did not reach his eyes. “I must say I really liked your story that you wrote on the execution of Billy Buckner. Especially the part where you described me as a sadist who obviously takes great pleasure in his work. And now mister big-shot journalist goes and murders his girlfriend.”

“Listen Turner, it was nothing per-

sonal against you,” Garth tried to explain but he was cut short.

“Well I took it very personally,” Turner said, the smile disappearing from his face. “And when you get to ride Old Sparky I’m going to take personal satisfaction and pleasure from pulling the switch.”

As Turner walked away Garth found that his hands were shaking with fear. That his heart was pounding in his chest and his mouth was dry. Then he remembered that he wasn’t really going to be executed and that in a week he would be a free man again.

The next two days went very slowly for Garth. There was nothing to do except sleep and eat the three meals a day that were provided. Although there was no physical contact, Garth got to know the other seven men on death row. They would shout out to each other through the bars of the cell.

On the morning of the third day Garth was surprised when Turner and another warden arrived and unlocked his cell door. Surely it was still too early for his release.

“Come on Atherton,” Turner said. “Time for a change of scenery.”

Garth was still confused until he was taken out of his cell and led up the passage to the first cell on the right.

“You and Murphy are changing cells,” Turner said.

Sean ‘Mad Dog’ Murphy had been convicted of killing nine people during a three month murder spree. He was scheduled for execution in two days

time. Now he was removed from his cell and taken to the one that Garth had just vacated.

“I decided to move you up the list,” Turner said. “You were looking a bit bored so we decided not to keep you waiting around. In two days time you’re going to ride Old Sparky.”

“Listen,” Garth shouted in a combination of fear and anger, “it’s all a mistake. I didn’t murder anyone. I’ve been here undercover for a story. Please call Richard Kelly and ask him to come here immediately. He knows all about it.”

“Well now that could be a bit of a problem you see,” Turner said, shaking his head. “Mr. Kelly went out with a Mr. Seales, who I’m led to believe is your editor, last night for supper. On the way back they were involved in a car accident and I’m afraid that they were both killed. So it’s going to be a bit difficult talking to Mr. Kelly, isn’t it.”

Garth collapsed onto the bed, shaking with fear. This couldn’t be happening. Nobody but Seales and Kelly could verify for him. No-one else knew the truth and with them dead there was no way he could convince anyone that his presence on death row had been nothing more than an assignment.

“I’m innocent!” screamed Garth, rattling the bars to his cell door.

“We all are,” said the man in the cell next to him. “Now shut up, I’m trying to get some sleep.”

Two days later two wardens and a priest had arrived to lead Garth to the execution chamber. His head had been

shaved the night before. He was taken in and strapped down to the chair and the metal bowl and sponge was placed on his head. Turner was standing there with a sly smile on his face.

Garth was not asked if he had any final words and Turner placed the strap over Garth’s face. Garth heard the door open and Turner shout, “Ready to roll.”

“Now if this had been for real 2000 volts would have surged through your body and you would be dead,” said the voice of Richard Kelly.

“Sorry that we had to play this elaborate hoax on you Garth,” said the voice of David Seales. “But I think you’ll agree that now you can write a brilliant story. I won’t be surprised if you win a Pulitzer with this one.”

“And I must also ask your forgiveness,” said the voice of Jethro Turner as he began removed the metal bowl and sponge from Garth’s head.

“Since I became state executioner I’ve electrocuted six people and it’s made me change my mind about the death penalty. I want to see it abolished just as much as anyone else. I was in on the hoax right from the start. I just hope you can forgive me.”

He removed the leather strap from Garth’s face. Garth sat there with his mouth open and his eyes wide, staring into space.

Garth had not heard a word any of them had said. The last words he heard were “ready to roll” before a heart attack had killed him instantly. ■



Program Schedule

Mondays

00.00-08.00: BBC World Service
 08.00-10.00: Breakfast with Errol Ballantine
 10.00-10.30: Pages unbound Glenda Slade
 10.30-12.00: Living Our Best Years
 12.00-13.00: BBC World Midday news
 13.00-15.00: After lunch
 15.00-17.55: Afternoon on Radio Today
 17.55-18.00: News Scoops
 18.00-19.00: Nature Journal
 19.00-22.00: Stormy Monday
 22.00-00.00: BBC World Service

Tuesdays

00.00-08.00: BBC World Service
 08.00-10.00: Breakfast with Errol Ballantine
 10.00-10.30: Pages unbound Glenda Slade
 10.30-11.00: Living Our Best Years
 11.00-12.00: Reading Matters with Sue Grant Marshall
 12.00-13.00: BBC World Midday news
 13.00-15.00: After lunch
 15.00-17.55: Afternoon on Radio Today
 17.55-18.00: News Scoops
 18.00-19.00: Motoring Today with Roger McCleery
 19.00-22.00: Your Classical Radio
 22.00-00.00: BBC World Service

Wednesdays

00.00-08.00: BBC World Service
 08.00-10.00: Breakfast with Errol Ballantine
 10.00-10.30: Pages unbound Glenda Slade
 10.30-12.00: Living Our Best Years
 12.00-13.00: BBC World Midday news
 13.00-15.00: After lunch
 15.00-17.55: Afternoon on Radio Today
 17.55-18.00: News Scoops
 18.00-19.00: Risky Business
 19.00-21.00: Fall In/Tree Aan
 21.00 - 22.00: Easy Listening
 22.00-00.00: BBC World Service

Thursdays

00.00-08.00: BBC World Service
 08.00-10.00: Breakfast with Errol Ballantine
 10.00-10.30: Pages unbound Glenda Slade
 10.30-12.00: Living Our Best Years
 12.00-13.00: BBC World Midday news
 13.00-15.00: After lunch
 15.00-17.55: Afternoon on Radio Today
 17.55-18.00: News Scoops
 18.00-19.00: Deep in Durban
 19.00-22.00: Your Classical Radio
 22.00-00.00: BBC World Service



Tuesday 18.00-19.00: Motoring Today with Roger McCleery

Fridays

00.00-08.00: BBC World Service
 08.00-10.00: Breakfast with Errol Ballantine
 10.00-10.30: Pages unbound Glenda Slade
 10.30-12.00: Living Our Best Years
 12.00-13.00: BBC World Midday news
 13.00-15.00: After lunch
 15.00-17.55: Afternoon on Radio Today
 17.55-18.00: News Scoops
 18.00-19.00: The Human Touch
 19.00-22.00: The Mix Bag of Rock 'n Roll
 22.00-00.00: BBC World Service

Saturday

00.00-07.00: BBC World Service
 07.00-10.00: From Coppers Farm
 10.00-12.00: Fishing Tales with Peter Jensen
 12.00-14.00: Fall In/Tree Aan
 14.00-16.00: The Braaifest with Mike Stroud

16.00-17.00: Bally On Air
 17.00-19.00: The 5 o'Clock Blues
 19.00-20.00: Keeping It Real
 20.00-22.00: The Bandstand Easy Listening
 22.00-00.00: BBC World Service

Sunday

00.00-07.45: BBC World Service
 07.45-08.00: Nature Journal Express
 08.00-09.00: Nature Journal
 09.00-11.00: From Coppers Farm
 11.00-12.00: Reading Matters
 12.00-14.00: Softly on Sundays
 14.00-15.00: Anything Goes
 15.00-16.00: Softly on Sundays
 16.00-17.00: Bally On Air Irish Music
 17.00-18.00: Softly on Sundays
 18.00-19.00: I've Got My Standards
 19.00-21.00: The Bandstand Easy Listening
 21.00-22.00: Keeping It Real
 22.00-00.00: BBC World Service



Fridays 19.00-22.00: The Mix Bag of Rock 'n Roll

Hipe!

media

E-mail
editor@hipe.co.za



Online Magazines

Flip book magazines with pages that can be turned.



E-Books

Produced in any electronic format required.



2D & 3D Animation

Produced in any video format.



Video Production

Scripting, storyboard, filming and editing done to any video format required. We also do aerial and underwater video and stills.



Still Photography



If you're thinking digital media then think Hipe Media.