

# D.A.M.N.

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If you have an article, reference or any newsworthy exposé please forward to Nelly Musirinofa ([Musirinofa@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:Musirinofa@ukzn.ac.za))

## EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!

### *A personal view*

By Chris Rout

Apropos Welsch's theory<sup>1</sup> that reality is no longer a found object but a synthetic construct, recent months have seen South African media take a significant step towards affirming the concept. Over a period during which Europe has come the closest to World War III than at any time in the past 50 years, a demented Ugandan president has enacted laws savaging the human rights of homosexuals (supported by other national leaders), the approaching opportunity to re-elect an organisation that seemingly in a mere 20 years has achieved a remarkable transformation from a criminal organisation to an organisation of criminals, and the global economy dithers over the possibility of another dive, what has taken primacy of position on the front pages of South Africa's daily press but a bad taste episode of "Days of Our Lives"?

Not that I begrudge the opportunity afforded to those with such impoverished existence as to live vicariously through the lives of others, but it begs the questions "Who manipulates this synthetic reality?", and "From what true reality is this opiate a diversion?" Lest I be accused of embracing some global conspiracy theory, the answer to the first question is (or should be) "We do". For those of us who still read for leisure our choice of newspaper is influenced more by confirmation bias than any other printed tract we read; we choose the vehicle that most closely reflects our own views. Deeper reflection however would question the origin of those views as not truly original to self but the product of a wider social construct of what we are taught and what we experience, which leaves a lot of scope for tweaking or outright distortion of the truth.

The process of reality manipulation has become so entrenched in society (the advertising industry is based on it) it tends to pass unnoticed and it would be naïve to expect that it could be excised, but we must be aware of it

and we should fear it when politicians and governments become players. Examples of the latter can be seen as far back as the Bronze Age (Stele of Hammurabi) and relatively recently in the activities of Joseph Goebbels and Sergei Eisenstein. Our modern, sophisticated view of these efforts is that they were crude and so obvious as to be beyond belief; the truth is, however, that at the time they were not only believed but also swayed populations. Modern techniques are much more subtle. The recent change of ownership of the Independent News and Media Group to Iqbal Survé's Skunjalo Consortium, accompanied by the mushroom-like appearance of the "Movement for Transformation in Media in SA", bears close watching.

From whom should "Independent News" (now an oxymoron in South Africa – read Christi van der Westhuizen<sup>2</sup>) be independent? The Media can never be truly independent – they survive on the vested commercial interests of ownership and advertising. However what passes for independence (that is content written for the readership, rather than the owner of the vehicle) traditionally rests on editorial independence. To paraphrase the words of a retired editor with whom I am acquainted, when faced with attempted interference it is the editor's job to tell the owner to "Go to Hell" and the owner's job to book the trip. The domino-like fall of editors and journalists via resignation, retirement and constructive dismissal from INM since Sekunjalo's ownership has been disturbing, and probably reflects interference by the new ownership. Some of you (particularly those in the Government Employees' Pension Fund) might be interested to know the new owners of INM (a snip of a buy at R 2 billion). They are:

25% GEPF  
75% The Consortium  
63% Lead shareholders:  
Dr Survé's company (Sekunjalo)  
3 Trade Unions (Cosatu, Sactwu and Fawu)  
Staff shareholding of 10% (7.5% of the company)  
37% "broad-based and smaller shareholders", including:  
Black Business Chamber  
Sekunjalo Digital Media

Mandla Mandela's Mvezo Development Trust  
Umkhonto we Sizwe Military Association  
Western cape Development Trust  
"some prominent individuals".

Also, somewhere in this mix is "a Chinese consortium", with an option to acquire an additional 20% "to fund a growth strategy". This brings us to the second question, the pursuit of which may lead to conspiracy theory, as it has no answer. It hinges on the concept of "true reality", which in journalistic terms doesn't exist. This is not solipsism, but a recognition of multiple realities as created through different world experiences. Even in the scientific arena only one research paradigm (Positivism) pursues an objective, true reality that is governed by unchangeable natural cause-effect laws.

The others (Interpretivist/Constructivist, Transformative, Critical theory) all acknowledge the plural nature of reality, the latter two cheerfully accepting the need to bend it. Before we congratulate ourselves as dedicated to unveiling the truths of the universe through the purity of positivist methods, letting the numbers speak for themselves through statistically tested evidence, let us not forget that this too is vulnerable to distortion (if not blatant perversion). Yoshitaka Fujii, Joachim Boldt, and Scott Reuben (all associated with anaesthesia or allied disciplines) are but a few names associated with scientific misconduct (read fraud). Naïve pursuit of truth makes positivism particularly vulnerable to manipulation. What we produce is evidence, not truth. The danger lies in our acceptance of evidence (ignoring the surrounding uncertainty), particularly that which confirms our perception of reality. Not quite the same as the above discussion? Or part of the same spectrum? Think about it.

In answer to the inevitable question "Has Rout gone over to the dark side?", the answer is "No, but it might well be my final destination".

1. Welsch W. Aestheticisation Processes. Phenomena, Distinctions and Prospects. Theory Culture and Society

(Sage, London, Thousand Oaks and New Delhi) 1996. Vol 13(1):1-24.

2. <http://www.indexoncensorship.org/2014/02/independent-news-becomes-an-oxymoron-in-south-africa/>
3. Anton Harber:  
<http://www.theharbinger.co.za/wordpress/2013/06/20/sekunjalo-consortium-details-announced-some-preliminary-thoughts-on-a-chinese-puzzle/>

## EDITORIAL

In the light of the accompanying article you might be forgiven for thinking that I believe that currently there is no tract worth reading. Nothing could be further from the truth. I can thoroughly recommend Meditations by Marcus Aurelius – don't try to read it all at once, just keep it handy for the occasional break. As to recent literature, there is one article which we should all read, and should be compulsory for all registrars. The current issue of SAJAA contains a review by Prof Biccard and Dr Rodseth that outlines the steps that should be taken in developing a research idea through to a successful protocol. I have read it through twice already and plan to read it again. I have never seen such a straightforward, clear summary encapsulating the process of formulating a research plan from scratch. The authors are to be congratulated, and we should rejoice that we have them in our department. (Biccard BM, Rodseth RN. Taking an idea to a research protocol. SAJAA 2014;20(1):14-18)

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## DEGREE COMPLETE

**Congratulations to Dr Justin Reddy** on completing his Mmed degree for the study on: *The effect of the Undergraduate curriculum and intern rotation in Anaesthesiology in making a career choice in Interns at King Edward VIII Hospital, Durban in 2009.*

## PART I MOCK EXAM

To all registrars who wrote the mock exam, please collect scripts from Natasha [nzama@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:nzama@ukzn.ac.za), Medical School.



The Department welcomes **Edward Pinder**, an elective student from UK, who joined the department on 24 March and will be with us for a month.



**Congratulations to: Dale Simmers** and his wife on the birth of their twin boys and **Petrus Slabber** and his wife on the birth of their baby boy.

## VACANCY

**Job Title: Medical Specialist Grade 1/2/3/**

**Component:** Anaesthetics

**Institution:** Ladysmith Hospital

**Ref No:** SPEC 01/2014

**Salary:**

R747564.00 - R793434.00p.a. Grade 1

R 854751.00- R 907203.00.a. Grade 2

R991974.00-R1240191.00p.a Grade 3

**Enquiries:** Dr B.A. Mabaso

**Closing date:** 11 April 2014

All Applications should be forwarded to: **The Hospital Manager, Ladysmith Hospital, Private Bag X9928, Ladysmith, 3370.** Attention: Human Resources Department

## DURBAN CHILDREN'S HOME GOLF DAY

The Durban Children's home is organizing a Golf Day which is going to be held as follows:

**Date:** Friday, 23 May 2014

**Venue:** Royal Durban Golf Course

**Entry fee:** entry for a four ball team is R2,500 per team. (This is inclusive of green fees, goodie bag, competition fees as well as dinner.) The format will be a Four Ball Alliance - 2 scores to count. For more information contact Thina Hlopho - [thina@dch.org.za](mailto:thina@dch.org.za) - 031 201 1301.

## IRMA -2014 PUBLICATION

All publication authors are requested to upload their publications on the IRMA website. The link for IRMA is:  
<https://irmanet.ukzn.ac.za/content/ASP/ANUlogin.asp>

## 2014 MACAINE SPEAKER TOUR

**Consultants:** Adcock Ingram cordially invites you to the Macaine Speaker Tour 2014.

**Date:** Thurs, 3 April 2014

**Time:** 18H30 for 19H00

**Venue:** The Oyster Box, Umhlanga,

**Chairperson:** Dr D Gopalan

**Presenters:** Dr S Chetty &

Dr R Samuel

**RSVP by:** 26 March 2014

**Enquiries:** Samira Badat  
082 738 4066

Select region and RSVP as soon as possible to avoid disappointment

**RSVP online:**

<http://massondesign.co.za/forms/adcock-ingram/invitation/macaine-speaker-tour-2014.html>

## FMM AND COMBINED ACADEMIC MEETING

The department would like to inform everyone that as from Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2014, both the FMM and the Combined Academic meetings will alternate every Friday. Please check the departmental website for the updated schedule. Dept website <http://anaesthetics.ukzn.ac.za/Homepage.aspx>

Enquiries: [musirinofa@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:musirinofa@ukzn.ac.za)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### SMART CENTRE

**Date:** 01 APRIL 2014

**Time:** 15h00

**Venue:** IALCH (Seminar room)

### CONSULTANT MEETING

**Date:** 01 APRIL 2014

**Time:** 16h30

**Venue:** IALCH (Seminar room)

### COMBINED ACADEMIC

**Date:** 25 APRIL 2014

**Time:** 07h30

**Venue:** L5 Lecture Theatre, MS

### ● Research Meeting

Registrar: Pillay L

Registrar: Sikhakhane S

### ● Clinical Forum

Topic: General

Consultant: Ramsamy T

Topic: Pain Clinic

Consultant: Bechan S

### ● Registrar Meeting

# CROSSWORD

## Across

4. Be open handed, or use one's fists?(4,3)
8. Dashes off to fulfil a secret engagement (6)
9. The last one can do (7)
10. It provides hot water naturally (6)
11. A need to include fifty covered in oil (6)
12. Strange patterns in church (8)
18. Abandon royal dignity (8)
20. Here you have to acknowledge defeat (4,2)
21. Sleeps soundly? (6)
22. Able to come back after a stretch (7)
23. He supplies tea –with or without sugar! (6)
24. Evidence of a leak? Tell the attendant (7)

## Down

1. Matters of some gravity (7)
2. A struggle to maintain faith (4,3)
3. People mending pipes (6)
5. Shaken and upset (8)
6. A little lower (6)
7. He takes more interest than you would wish!(6)
13. Passing pleasing , perhaps (8)
14. Express disapproval in the soldier's quarters (7)
15. I object to a certain action (7)
16. Something fishy that is of help to the sportsman (6)
17. Eases off the download pressure? (4,2)
19. Give a slight cut (6)

# WHAT TO WATCH



## 12 YEARS A SLAVE



**Running Time:** 1hr 34 mins

**Director:** Steve McQueen

**Starring:** Brad Pitt, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Micheal Fassbender

**Genre:** Drama

**Age Restriction:** 15

**Synopsis:** 1841 Black man Solomon Northup lives as a free man in Saratoga, New York with his wife and two children, he earning a living as a violinist. On what he believes will be an out of town music gig, he is instead drugged and sold into slavery in the deep south under the name

Platt as that is for who the slave trader has papers. Initially incredulous to his plight, he decides that cooperation is the best way to survive. He sees few others in the same situation as him, but slowly he is separated from those with who he has built support. This process continues over his life as a slave, as he is at the mercy of whomever his master at the time and his master's associates who work on their own priorities. He finds that cooperation generally gets one nowhere and sometimes can get one into further trouble due to jealousy. At times, he cannot take the emotional abuse, his actions which lead to physical abuse. There are also times where he thinks he can trust someone to get himself out of his plight only to be turned upon instead. But as bad as his situation is, he finds that others are in much more dire straits, they who will do anything to get themselves out of a life they feel is not worth living. In the twelfth year of his unforgettable odyssey, Solomon's chance meeting with a Canadian abolitionist (**Brad Pitt**) will forever alter his life.

# LAUGHING GAS

A Sunday school teacher is concerned that his students might be a little confused about Jesus, so he asks his class, "Where is Jesus today?" Steven raises his hand and says, "He's in Heaven."

Mary answers, "He's in my heart." Little Johnny waves his hand furiously and blurts out, "He's in our bathroom!" The surprised teacher asks Little Johnny how he knows this. "Well," Little Johnny says, "every morning, my father gets up, bangs on the bathroom door and yells 'Jesus Christ, are you still in there?!'"

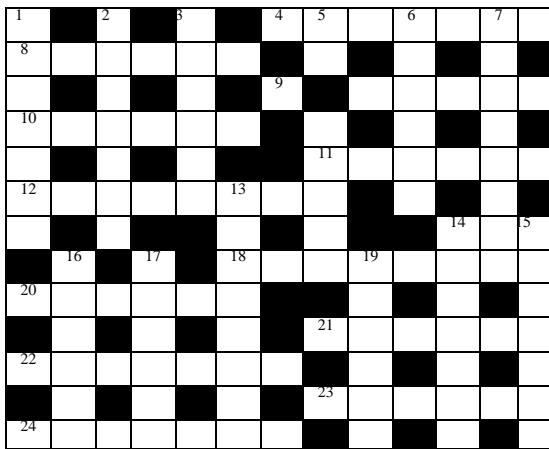
\*\*\*\*\*

Little Johnny was in the garden filling in a hole when his neighbor peered over the fence. Interested in what the cheeky-faced youngster was up to, he politely asked, "What are you up to there, Little Johnny?" "My goldfish died," replied Little Johnny tearfully, without looking up, "and I've just buried him. "The neighbor was concerned, "That's an awfully big hole for a goldfish, isn't it?" As Little Johnny patted down the last heap of earth he then replied, "That's because he's inside your cat."

\*\*\*\*\*

A woman invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to their six-year old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?" she said. "I wouldn't know what to say," the girl replied. "Just say what you hear mommy say," the woman answered. The daughter bowed her head and said, "Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

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# Entertainment

## Reviews:

### Album Review:



## Christina Aguilera – "Say something"

A Great Big World's "Say Something" is a breakup song with a twist. Instead of being filled with anger and desperation, it is a song expressing a powerful combination of humility, sadness and regret. It is underlined by a piano and string arrangement that adds to the emotion without sounding maudlin. At a time in which pop music is lacking in emotional ballads, "Say Something" sounds just right. Lyrically, "Say Something" is masterful. The chorus "Say something, I'm giving up on you" is brilliantly evocative of the emotion felt when choosing to leave a failed relationship even though love still remains.

# CODEWORD

T	I	O
C	Y	R
D	E	R

How many words of four letters or more can you make from the letters shown here? In making a word, each letter may be used once only. Each word must contain the centre letter, and there must be at least one nine-letter word in the list. No plurals or verb forms ending in "s", no words with initial capital, no hyphenated words.

### Target:

Good-12, Very Good 18; Excellent 24 (or more)  
(Answers on next page)

## COLLEGES OF MEDICINE EXAM DATES

**DA (SA) Oral:** 1&2 April  
**FCA (SA) II Oral:** 5 - 8 May

## REGISTRAR LEAVE July – December 2014

The Registrar leave booking for the next half of the year i.e. (1 July 2014 – 31 December 2014) opened on the 11 March 2014. Please contact Hannah for leave bookings by telephone on 0312601762.

## CODEWORD

City cider decoy decry deity dicey  
DIRECTORY dirty dory drey dryer dyer  
rectory retry terry tidy toyed toyer troy  
troy tyre tyro yeti yore

## CROSSWORD

**Across:** 4 Lash out; 8 Elopes; 9 Minimum; 10 Geyser; 11 Aneled; 12 Transept; 18 Abdicate; 20 Give up; 21 Snores; 22 Elastic; 23 Grocer; 24 Seepage.

**Down:** 1 Weights; 2 Holy war; 3 Sewers; 5 Agitated; 6 Heifer; 7 Usurer; 13 Elapsing; 14 Barrack; 15 Measure; 16 Gillie; 17 Lets up; 19 Ignore.

## NEXT SUPER DAMN Fri, 25 APRIL 2014

Contributions to:

Ayanda: [Mthethwaa@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:Mthethwaa@ukzn.ac.za)

Natashia: [Nzamah@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:Nzamah@ukzn.ac.za)

Nelly: [Musirinofa@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:Musirinofa@ukzn.ac.za)



Next generation.

## 7:15 FRIDAY MORNING MEETINGS – L5 LECTURE THEATRE, MEDICAL SCHOOL

DATE	TOPIC	SPEAKER	MODERATOR
28 Mar	Perceptions of medical students about Anaesthesia	L Gqiba	C Evans
04 April	Hyperoxia	J Invernizzi	L Pillay
11 Apr	Simulation in Anaesthesia	G Horsten	H Stoltenkamp
18 Apr	Public Holiday		

<b>MON</b> 31 March	15h00	<b>FCA PART II TUTORIALS:</b> GIT 1  <i>R von Rahden</i>  <b>CLINICALS</b>  <i>von Rahden /Bechan</i>	IALCH
<b>TUE</b> 01 April	11h00	<b>PMMH INTENSIVIST TEACHING WARD ROUNDS</b> To be announced	PMMH
<b>WED</b> 02 April	07h00 07h00 07h00 14h30	<b>M &amp; M MEETING: KEH</b>  <b>M &amp; M MEETING: IALCH</b>  <b>M &amp; M MEETING: PMMH</b>  <b>FCA PART I TUTORIALS</b> Vascular Physiology Endothelium Hypertension and Antihypertensive <i>C Alphonsus</i>	KEH IALCH PMMH IALCH
<b>THUR</b> 03 April	07h15 07h15 07h30 16h00	<b>M &amp; M MEETING: RKK</b>  <b>OBSTETRIC ANAESTHESIA</b> Analgesia considerations in IV drug abuser for C/S and labour <i>A Ramkission</i>  <b>KEH ICU M &amp; M MEETING</b>  <b>FCA PART II TUTORIALS:</b> Neuro <i>S Ramsamy</i>	RKK IALCH KEH IALCH
<b>FRI</b> 04 April	07h15	<b>FRIDAY MORNING MEETING:</b> Hyperoxia  <i>J Invernizzi</i>	L5, MS

## 2014 DIARY

**LOCAL CLINICAL COURSE**  
IALCH, 09-11 April 2014

**CLINICAL COURSE: DURBAN**  
IALCH 15 – 19 September 2014

## DEPT WEBSITE

<http://anaesthetics.ukzn.ac.za/Homepage.aspx>

## BIRTHDAYS

Wednesday, 02 April 2014  
Nishen Gokal

Friday, 04 March 2014  
Stefne Verwey



## Thought for the Day!

“Moving on doesn’t mean you forget about things, it just means you have to accept what happened and continue living”

Anonymous