

MZANZI

Journal





On tour at Keystone Productions



Checking out the sound studio where some of SA's greats have laid down their tracks.



Working and chilling at Hartebeespoort Dam.



Interviewing the Global Girls



Our youngest contributor gets comfortable in front of the camera



Last minute touch-ups before the studio shoot



Ask an expert!



Kamogelo gets the perfect shot



Warren Liss explains 'green screens'



Ice-breaker activity at De Rust



"Researching" the Social Networking story



The Port Elizabeth crew brainstorms

Ed's letter

Mzansi Journal has come about through a desire to retain and strengthen the bonds which were formed between the students who have had the privilege of attending some of the programs offered by the US Mission in South Africa – particularly the English Access Microscholarship.



As a former Access teacher, I was only too happy – in fact honoured – to take on this project and spend more time with these gifted young people.

The articles in this publication were all written by the students. Many of the images were taken by these students too. Through workshops with top professionals in the media, students were taught skills in subjects such as journalism, editing, photography, design and language. Our team gave guidance, oversaw the project and took control of the layout and other logistical issues.

The brief to the students was to write about whatever was on their minds and whatever they thought the world should know about their world. We did not want to set parameters and thereby stifle their creativity. The result is a window into their minds and a snapshot of their worlds which we believe will be of interest to anyone who is associated with South Africa or the ongoing projects in the country which are sponsored by the United States.

My sincere thanks go to the gifted and hard-working students who shared their talent and energy with us and made it possible.

The publishers and students would like to extend their sincere gratitude to the State Alumni Office for the grant which has enabled us to produce this journal. Not only did this money enable us to create what you see before you, but also to open the eyes and minds of many young people. Because of this project, there are students who are seriously considering careers in media, there are students who have awakened their love of creative writing and there are students who have realised their talents and gained confidence because of it.

The value of a project such as this goes far beyond the here and now. The students will continue to reap the rewards for many years.

Samantha Gibb
Editor/Project Manager



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Life in Soweto

Story by Mantobazane Khumalo

Soweto is a hugely popular urban area with a population of a million people. It is a place steeped in history; the place where the 1976 student uprising began - the beginning of the revolution which ended apartheid. Many things have changed, but people still have the idea that Soweto is a ghetto and a dangerous place.

Have you ever been to Soweto to discover all the adventures that await you there? Has it ever crossed your mind that Soweto can be an exciting destination? Well! Soweto has some great restaurants, tours, historical sights and hotels. It may take some getting used to if you're from the suburbs, but it is a 'vibey' place with friendly, interesting people who are waiting to welcome you.

We all have expectations when we travel to different places. We believe what we have heard. I remember the first time I went to Kwa-Zulu Natal there are girls [izintombi nto] walking around with their breasts exposed and when the guys [inzizwa] feel that they love you they can take you to their homes whether you like it or not and send your parents cows for

[lobolo]. Weird hey! But that's the kind of new thing you experience when you travel.

Soweto will give you more new experiences than you ever dreamed possible. It is like no other place on earth. Where else can you visit the homes of two Nobel Peace Prize winners in one street? Where else can you bungee jump from a cooling tower or have a barbeque at the car wash?

'The people of Soweto have soul. Mother Teresa said, 'Love begins at home, and it is not how much we do... but how much love we put into that action'. We are united, we put other people's needs first. We always apply the Ubuntu spirit [Umntu ngumuntu ngabantu - we are people because we are around people]. That is who we really are we are like sisters and brothers.

We have great restaurants like Kwa Thabeng, Nambitha and Ekasi Kitchen where you get the best Indian food, traditional food and what we call bring and braai. We call it 'tshisa nyama' it is where we get red meet and then it is 'braaied'.

(barbequed) Soweto is the place to be.

Everyone goes to Soweto, but you can't talk about Soweto without mentioning Morris Isaacson High School, Dorothy Nyembe Park, Regina Mundi Church and the Hector Pieterse Museum. Morris



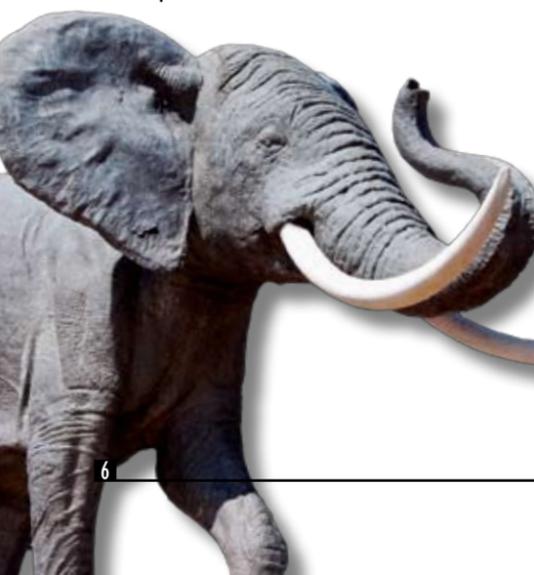
Isaacson High School (my alma mater) is where the 1976 uprising started, with the brave students who fought for our freedom to even call Soweto our home, Tsietsi Mashinini is a hero.

Talking about heroes in fight against Bantu Education, we lost Hector Pieterse who is now one of the reasons why we have Hector Pieterse Museum to remember the people who fought for our freedom. It is not only kindness that we have, that makes us so proud, it is also the blood shed to free us.

Soweto has its share of local celebrities who are making it big in the television and radio industries - guys like Zola 7 who have their shows broadcast on SABC. Simphiwe Tshabalala who grew up in Phiri is a well known soccer star who managed to score a goal against Mexico in the opening game of the 2010 FIFA World Cup. We bring out the best because we know that it takes a village to raise a child.

As a community that cares about its people we have shelters that help people regardless of who you are. We know that giving is the essence of living that's why we have shelters such as Othandweni Homeless centre, Disability centre, old age centre and South African National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence. We would like to bring out the best in Soweto kids.

We believe in the beauty of our nation and in the beauty of the mindset of everyone to bring out the best in Soweto. Watch out! Soweto will soon be one of the top tourist attractions in the world!



A baby plays next to where his mother sells her goods.



Sculpture of various taxi signs



A restaurant in the famous Vilakazi Street



Horses and carts are still used to transport goods locally.



Nelson Mandela's humble pre-prison home.



The old cooling towers, now a major landmark and great place for bungee jumping.



Bara taxi rank - one of the biggest taxi ranks in the world.

Baking Babies

Story by Musa Amy Ginyigazi

Every day we face challenges and for the youth, these challenges are so much more intense.

In South Africa, we are still fighting the scourge of teenage pregnancy and there is no end in sight as numbers are still on the increase. But a new challenge has reared its ugly head...

Teenagers are falling pregnant, carrying the baby for nine months and then – after all the agony of birth – they dump their babies!

This is an innocent soul who did not ask to be born, now killed by its parent! The question is WHY?

When we interviewed some of the teenage 'ex-mothers', their answers varied. One of the girls said, "It's not like we are

doing this for fun, it's because when you become a mother (as a teenager) it is not easy."

She continued, "You start feeling that your friends and family are treating you differently now that you are a mother. You can't go out with friends because you need to stay home and look after the baby and breastfeed. This is why we intend to "bake" our babies; because we want to be accepted again!"

Those were the words we were told which left us unsatisfied and utterly shocked at the use of the word 'bake'. Our source claimed to be speaking from experience. We believe this is a shame.

Onele is another teenage girl who said, "It's because when the baby is born, the father rejects the baby and I see no use

in keeping the baby while the father has rejected us."

This is a problem for teenage boys and girls because the father needs to contribute and care too. In our research, we discovered that girls are lying to their partners about being on contraception! Why lie? Why not just take the pill and prevent this mess?

Lies, misery and scandals are happening behind the scenes of teens' lives. The problem gets bigger every day. Many young people believe in total abstinence and for good reason.

What these girls fail to realise is that they are committing murder! Where is our humanity?



Pay Money or Don't Apply!

Story by Mantombazane Khumalo

Some matriculants are heading for their worst nightmare. When they should be setting out into the big, wide world, they are given no choice but to stay at home and do nothing. This is because whatever career they had hoped to follow, doors are closing. To follow your dreams, you have to pay! Money talks.

When you want to apply to a particular university, you have to pay money for the application and for the registration. The average application fee is R280! Imagine if you wanted to apply to ten different universities. Then what? You would need 10 times R280 – a whole month's salary for some lucky earners! That's insane! No wonder so many school leavers are sitting at home unemployed. And when that happens, some of them are pushed into prostitution or crime.

This situation seems very unfair. Our constitution says that there shall be free education for all South Africans. So why has tertiary education become so unattainable? No one has a right to take education away from anyone. We understand that universities need to charge fees, but surely they should not try and stop you before you even

begin. They should spare a thought for those of us who are suffering and are determined to better ourselves.

Bursaries are available to those who deserve them but there are Grade 12s who are doing their best but cannot afford to pay the application fee of R280. It is too much. They come from families who wonder every day where their next meal will come from. With education, that child could help her family out of poverty.

It is a tragedy that 80% of school leavers in our community stay at home doing nothing. In part, this is because they are given no choice. Fair enough, some of them do badly in their final examinations but I am sure out of that 80% at least 60% could have made it to university.

This 21st century generation is suffering. This is a wake-up call: Do something with your life! A university may be a private institution but it's time our government had a talk with them. We have a high rate of unemployment because of this and we need to appeal to the government for help. Universities need to become more accessible!



The changing climate

Story and images By Annah Tseko

On 16th December 2010, the residents of Orlando, Soweto experienced devastating floods which destroyed homes and belongings...

Due to climate change, South Africa is faced with unusual temperatures and weather conditions. Gauteng Province has experienced unusually high temperatures and heavy rainfall.

The increase in temperature is caused by greenhouse gas emissions. In South Africa, our emissions are due – in part – to our reliance on coal for electricity. Also, as the country becomes over-populated, there is more demand for electricity and other resources – resulting in more coal being used to generate electricity. This contribution (among others) to the environment has caused global warming and extreme events such as these Soweto floods.

In Orlando – and also other parts of Soweto such as Klipspruit – rivers' and dams' capacities became exceeded due to the heavy and prolonged rainfall. The water rose and was soon running in the streets, damaging houses and infrastructure. In some places the water was a metre high!

The Orlando residents are worried that this heavy summer rainfall is going to happen again and even get worse. This flooding destroyed people's electrical appliances and other valuable, essential household items as the water reached half the height of their houses. Residents were in shock

and are now afraid to leave their children at home as their fear is that it will happen again.

"This festive season does not favour us," said a resident who wished to remain anonymous, "We have a lot of work to do to restore our homes and belongings."

It is important to realise that these physical phenomena will result in habitat loss, life loss and infrastructure destruction. Many South African children do not know how to swim and this will exacerbate the danger.

It was reported that a taxi sank in the Orlando Dam and another car had to be dragged out of the same dam by the municipality! "My car was parked in my yard and does not move anymore as the water reached halfway up it!" said the anonymous resident.

The residents are disappointed with the government's contribution to this area. There are insufficient stormwater drains to handle the rainwater and many people have built their informal homes on flood plains. These issues need to be addressed immediately.

Research shows that the eastern side of the country is becoming wetter and after prolonged rainfall, the land can no longer absorb the water. Removal of vegetation further aggravates this by contributing to the surface run-off.

Along with heavy rainfall, we are seeing increased lightning. Research has shown that over 200 people are killed by lightning each year in South Africa!

Tornadoes are another danger of this climate change. A tornado is simply an extraordinarily strong whirlwind; it has the appearance of a dark, funnel-shaped cloud hanging beneath a cumulonimbus cloud. It develops during the day when the earth's surface is heated and is more common during the transition between dry and wet seasons.

If a tornado moves over a closed building, the building can explode and the windows and doors are thrown outwards as equalisation of the atmospheric pressure inside the building and outer air takes place. Tornadoes are the most violent windstorms. They occur on all the large continents where hot conditions prevail. The most famous tornado in South African history occurred in Roodepoort (Gauteng) on 26th November 1948 when four people were killed and over 70 were seriously injured!

The world needs to take climate change more seriously. We have to stop removing trees and other natural vegetation. We also need to start using renewable energy resources. Solar thermal power

plants could cover everyone's electricity needs in a carbon-free manner. Our government should take on mitigation commitments made at Copenhagen to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and play their part in saving this planet!

Why is it that in a country like ours – where we have more than 300 days of sunshine per year – we are not using more solar power?

We should make an effort to use more renewable energy resources like solar, wind, waves, and biofuels which substitute for fossil fuels and greatly reduce

or even eliminate carbon dioxide emissions.

Government also needs to consider sequestration of carbon dioxide as an intermediate solution. This is the long-term trapping of the gas before it enters the atmosphere by pumping it underground or into the ocean. It can also be sequestered by plants.

We need to get out of the mind set which says that one person cannot make a difference. Every effort does make a difference and a combined effort can stop global warming in its tracks!





There are many ways in which South Africa can work towards lowering our carbon dioxide emissions, including:

Using renewable power resources or hydro-electric power and geothermal energy

Driving less

Insulating our houses

Buying organic food or growing your own

Eating less meat

Buying fuel-efficient appliances and vehicles

Planting deciduous trees to shade west-facing windows in summer

Using energy-efficient lighting such as compact-fluorescent or LED lighting

Turning off lights when you leave the room and turning off electrical equipment when it is not in use

Installing solar panels on the roof

Changing our voting priorities: vote for political parties who are committed to real change and who have an economic plan for encouraging conservation and renewables!



**GLOBAL
WARMING**

Social Networking

Story by Kutlwano Smith

Social networking has become one of the easiest and most accessible ways of interacting with people across the globe. The main attraction is the quick or even immediate response. Networking is a way of communicating in a more advanced way and it is expanding rapidly. There is a choice of sites where people chat – Mxit, Facebook, Twitter, Myspace and many more.

People network for various reasons – business, fun and some even do it simply because it is the ‘in’ thing. Why do you social network?

Though social networking has many pros and cons, overall, it is a nice and easy way to make and keep in touch with friends.

What is amazing to note is how many introverts have loads of friends on these sites. They seem to come out of their shells in cyberspace! Maybe being behind the screen, they find a sense of belonging that they lack in the real world.

One of the biggest dangers of social networking is that there are many unsavoury characters and perverts. These people use the Internet as a hunting ground to find victims while hiding behind their internet personas.

Meeting your web pals can be risky because you do not know what kind of person you will be meeting. It is always wise to meet new friends in a public place to minimize the danger. We have all read horror stories of kidnappings and murders under these circumstances.



Young children with access to the internet need to be monitored as it is very easy for them to see things that children should not that can affect their state of mind, for example pornography.

Social networking is a great way of exchanging information and learning new things about people, their culture and our world.

When you are networking, it is like you are entering another world, but there is a danger that it can become addictive and end up interfering with your daily activities! You can end up wasting hours on the sites!

Mzansi Star in the making

Story by Kamogelo Phala



Ivana Morailane is a name known by many teens across the country. You may know her as the vibrant Yo-TV presenter but there's way more to this young starlet than just her on-screen personality. I recently got to hang out with this dynamic young lady to talk about her life in showbiz and future plans.

How have the past 3 years of your life been - being on TV and in the public eye?

The Shield Teens and Yo-TV Presenter Search has changed my life completely! The past 3 years have been amazing, challenging and a huge blessing from God. Not only have I learnt more about the tough industry I work in but I have also learnt more about myself in the process.

Would you advise any teens out there to enter the entertainment world at a young age like you did?

There are pros and cons but if you have a passion for this industry, then why not? The entertainment world is very demanding and it's difficult to retain your position since there's ALWAYS someone better than you. You're also exposed to a working environment at a young age so you 'grow faster' because you have more responsibilities than your peers. Parents must ensure that they provide their children with a great support system. Though besides that, presenting/acting at a young age is pretty awesome. By the time you're older, you will have gained much experience and be established in the 'game'.



How do you balance life between school and work?

I treat my presenting job as an extramural activity. When my classmates are playing netball and soccer, I'm at the studio rehearsing. When they get home, I'm on their TV screens. At first, it was challenging because I sometimes had to leave school early, get home late and even work on weekends. But it's all really about prioritizing and tapping into your responsibility. I work hard to assure that my grades aren't affected.

What do you enjoy most about presenting?

The thrill of being live on air and knowing that thousands of people are watching you. Another thing is meeting your favourite celebrities - any teen would love that.

I love having people approach me and tell me that they love my work or that I inspire them. That makes it all worthwhile.

Any regrets about entering the entertainment world?

NONE AT ALL! I believe that God makes everything happen for a reason. This industry has made me much stronger, appreciate my family more, and know who my true friends are. One thing I'm grateful for is how my job has made me much more confident.

What would you say has been the highlight of your career thus far?

I have a number of moments: Winning the Shield Teens Presenter Search and having one of my greatest dreams fulfilled is a huge highlight, being nominated as one of

the three finalists of "The Next Big Thing" for the Seventeen Magazine Top Achiever Awards and reaching the pivotal moment where I'm starting to find myself, my hopes and dreams. I've grown to accept who Ivana Katleho Morailane is, flaws and all.

Where do you see yourself in the next 5 years?

I would love to pursue a career in acting, especially theatrical acting - one of my greatest passions. I hope to establish my own charity organisation and hold workshops to uplift and motivate young girls. I would also love to get into journalism and work for an inspiring magazine for young women. More than anything, I just want to continue living, pleasing Jehovah God and just being content with life!

What Access has meant to us...



Tebogo Tsofetsi

“I never dreamed that an ordinary girl like me would have opportunities like travelling to the USA and being part of a program like this”

Anelisa Tuswa

“It has given me confidence. It has also given me the opportunity to travel around our beautiful country!”

Annah Tseko

“It has brought a smile to my face and my heart beats with joy...and empowered me with knowledge. It has opened doors for me... Today I stand tall!”

Lesego Letsile

“Access has given me the confidence to speak in front of people as well as various opportunities I never thought a person like me could have. I have also met many great people because of it.”

Kamogelo Phala

“I will be forever grateful that Access allowed me to meet new people and see new places.”

Modjadjii Maleka

“I become speechless when I think about everything Access has done for me. Access – you have written your name in our hearts!”

Mantombazane Khumalo

“I thank Access for giving me this lifetime opportunity. Being part of Access has been a stepping stone to further opportunities...”

Kutlwano Smith

“This program has helped me develop my English skills and to become more comfortable with American culture, being part of this program was a blessing and gave me the opportunity to broaden my horizons by travelling abroad.”

Ofentse Mokau

“We all know how important education is and have learnt how learning can be fun if you are willing to make it work and work hard.”

Musa Amy Ginyigazi

“I have learnt drama, poetry, writing and above all, confidence are what I have discovered, as well as the real me! Thank you for the motivation. Now it's my time to shine!”

Kamogelo Mabizela

“I grabbed the opportunity with both hands! Access has given me the edge and the curiosity to know more about the world. It also proved to me that learning can be fun!”

Traditional Healing

Story and images by Modjadi Maleka

Traditional healers used to heal people with 'muti'. People didn't have to go to doctors to be cured or healed. Things started to change once medical doctors were introduced to the townships and members of the community started to forget about their culture and where they come from.

We were lucky enough to attend a ceremony in White City Jabavu (Soweto). The ceremony was held to bring a sangoma back to her birthplace so she could be welcomed there. Family members catered for a feast and traditional beer (inqomboti) was drunk to welcome the ancestors. Other traditional leaders were present to accompany their colleague home.

We interviewed the sangoma to gain more insight.

MM: Do you treat traditional healing as a career?

S: No, because if it is a career, it means you get paid. This is a calling from the ancestors.

MM: What makes this special to you?

S: It makes me feel special because I shouldn't forget where I come from nor should I forget my ancestors.

MM: How do people react to you when you wear your traditional clothing?

S: They are used to me and they respect me. Also, I have that dignity around my community and my family members who are not afraid of me.

MM: Are values and customs part of traditional healing?

S: Certainly! There are rules and regulations which need to be followed to show respect to the ancestors.

MM: Are you permitted to work in hospitals with patients who require traditional herbs?

S: Yes! I have a certificate from a workshop I attended which allows me to work at government hospitals when there are patients who need or choose traditional healing over "western" medicine.

MM: How old were you when you were called by the ancestors?

S: I was twenty years old and I was still at school. At the time I was matriculating and I could not write my exams because that's where my spiritual calling started.

MM: How did it all begin?

S: My grandparents were traditional healers and my father followed in their footsteps. It seems I got my stronger genes from my father's side and I too became a healer.

MM: Are there ceremonies which need to be done regularly?

S: Yes, to show that I care, respect and remember the ancestors, I need to perform a ceremony every three months.



Rural people still believe in sangomas because they say it reminds them of their loved ones who have passed on and should not be forgotten because they are not dead; they are simply asleep.

South Africans seem to have forgotten about their ancestors; they don't even perform the small ceremonies required to show that they remember the ancestors.

Bones are used to instruct a sangoma or to tell her what is going to happen in the future. People used to trust the bones and now that has changed because people have put their belief in medical doctors.

When the bones have spoken, nothing should be negotiated or discussed about what they have said. Rural people still believe in what the bones say and don't question them because that implies that

you are questioning your ancestors. It is also as if you are discouraging your ancestors from communicating with you because that is their only way.

Things have changed; people hardly even visit their loved ones' graves to talk, clean or even introduce their children to these ancestors who are not dead but merely asleep. Maybe it's time we rethink this and return to our cultural roots...

THE REPTILEZ



Story and images by Kutlwano Smith

South African Hip Hop has evolved throughout the last decade. Hip Hop has many facets from rap to dancing, etc. We had the pleasure of meeting one of SA's top Hip Hop dance crews - The Reptilez.

These young, vibrant, passionate, enthusiastic entertainers grew up in Soweto and today they are one of the top dance crews in South Africa. They were recently recognised by international artist Keri Hilson when they performed and finished in the top 4 at her International Dance Competition!

Let's have a chat with them and get to know them better...

"OUR LIVES HAVE CHANGED IN A POSITIVE WAY."

Who are The Reptilez and why the name Reptilez?

SPARKZ: Reptilez is a family in the dancing industry. Tshepo Mokone founded the Reptilez on 26 August 2007. We chose the name Reptilez because you will never know when a Reptile will strike and we are like that; we are unpredictable.

What type of Hip Hop dancing do you do and why that genre?

MINI: We practise all genres like technical dancing, flowing, locking, ticking, etc, to show our versatility.

How many members does The Reptilez have and who are they?

The Reptilez have ten members namely: Tshepo, Sparkz, Pops, Bee, Mini, Linda, Tisetso, Siyabonga, Mandla and our 1st lady Ntswaki.

What influences your dancing and inspires you to dance?

BEE: My crew plays a part because I look up to them oh... and Chris Brown (he laughs)

SPARKZ: Beats, feeling the music, Timbaland makes me dance. Shane Sparkz is the best choreographer and I look up to him.

TSHEPO: RnB music. I remember the first time I saw and heard Omarion he inspires me to this day. My crew also inspires me to pursue what I want.

POPS: Movies influence my dancing. My favourite artist is Nayo, but the crew teaches me a lot too.

MINI: Concerts, imitation, choreographer Dave Scott inspires me.

What impact does dancing have on your life and how do you benefit from it?

SPARKZ: Our lives have changed in a positive way.

MINI: The community does not treat us the same way as they did before. Obviously, we have people who hate and love us; we do what we are best at and haters just make us stronger!



What is the South African Hip Hop scene like?

SPARKZ: South Africa's flavour is big and has a unique style though sometimes our downfall is that we have the same concepts as the U.S.A. Reptilez is different and we hold our ground!

Why is the Reptilez affiliated to the Junior Reptilez?

BEE: we have expanded our crew because we are growing and we want the Reptilez to live forever.

SPARKZ: Many people want to be part of the Repz but it is hard to find people who meet the criteria. We affiliated to Jnr Repz because we realized that there are people who would love to be part of this family.

MINI: we want to see the way we perform through them and to be proud and leave a legacy.

POPS: There is a lot of work and sometimes things tend to be hectic and we cannot make it to events or meetings so by expanding our crew we can lobby and share the responsibilities.

What was the first hip-hop dance competition the crew entered and how was the experience?

TSHEPO: It was the IDCC, International Dance Championship Competition late in 2007. It was nerve wracking but we were all ecstatic about it and we had a lot of fun.

What has been the highlight for the crew so far?

TSHEPO: Being part of the Keri Hilson ultimate dance competition and being in the top four crews!

SPARKZ: When we came 2nd at the Masters of Rhythm.

BEE: Finally, yet importantly, when Club 9 was interested in us. People started to recognize the Repz!

What obstacles have the crew faced?

SPARKZ: we do not get paid, empty promises. FUNDS... we also get tired from performing without being paid. We grow and we want to support our families. People just do not want to pay.

How do you handle fame?

BEE: We treat everyone the same, we are not big headed (he laughs).

SPARKZ: We are not doing it for fame but for passion and we just do not entertain things that come along with fame.

MINI: If dancing did not go along with fame, we would still be dancing.

What is your long-term goal?

We want to start Reptilez as a brand. We want to invest, grow and cater as a modeling agency, setting events for people. We come from Soweto and 'Bujwa' dancing does not get as much exposure as we do so we would love to be their helping hand.

The Reptilez auditioned for the "Keri Hilson Ultimate dance Competition", how was the experience?

Yeah that was the best experience so far...it was one of the most difficult dance competitions we have ever entered. We enjoyed ourselves and we are proud of how far we went!

Did you think that you would go that far, I mean you guys were in the top four crews?

SPARKZ: Honestly... I did not!

BEE: We believed in ourselves (he laughs).

What is it that your fans do not know about you that you would like them to know?

SPARKZ: People think that we are from the suburbs and we are from SOWETO!

MINI: We dance Hip Hop, We live Hip Hop - WE ARE GHETTO WISE!

TSHEPO: We are crazy! Not mentally though! (laughing)

Reptilez are literally moving and shaking South African stages; so let's keep supporting them and WATCH THIS SPACE!



Transfer Immediately!

Story by Modjaji Maleka

Imagine starting your Grade 11 year with the news that you are to be transferred to a new school and that you have no say in the matter! That is exactly what happened to the Sepedi speakers attending Lobone High School in Soweto at the start of 2010.

"I was forced to leave all my friends behind and start afresh," said one of the affected learners. "I now have to walk for more than half an hour each way every day as this school is in a different part of Soweto (Mofolo)."



Why has this happened? According to the school, the demand for Sepedi has decreased to the extent that they cannot warrant offering the language – which is one of South Africa's eleven official languages – as a subject for Matric.

"Our parents were not happy at all because they knew that we would have to get used to the teachers and the new school. Also, they want to know and communicate with our teachers," said one affected student.

Why are the Sepedi becoming extinct? Let's join hands together and stand up for our culture.

Lobone Secondary School is a government institution therefore the government is responsible for the education we should receive. When they removed us because of the Sepedi 'problem', it showed how ignorant the government is regarding our cultures. Our constitution says that all eleven official languages have equal status, however, in practice, this is not happening. It's clear that certain languages are taking precedence over others!

First Aid to the Rescue

Story by Anelisa Tuswa

Whether you're going to be a nurse, an accountant or even an actor, First Aid is important knowledge. These past three days of the September holidays for the Port Elizabeth group wasn't just another holiday to relax, and let their minds escape from school work, but it was an experience of a life time with a red ribbon "certificate" in Level 1 First Aiders.

This training consisted of things like what is First Aid, First Aid Kit and First Aid guides to different things like fainting, injuries, diabetes, pain and wounds etc. These things happen in our everyday lives and in most cases they happen right in front of us. Right now the Access students consider themselves as valuable assets to the school and the community at large. "Now that I'm a qualified first aider, I can assist here at school, where help is needed. In cases like fainting, which happens regularly" explained Nobathembu Zide, a second year student in the programme. The school is faced with great challenge of students fainting, especially in summer when it is hot.

One thing that the students agreed on, was that the three days of hard work and intensive training was worthwhile. This was not only about training but the unity, commitment and self-confidence built into the course. "Impressive!", that's the only thing that the facilitator had to say when she was asked to define the three days she spent with us. The dedication of the group was amazing and they are still committed to making other's lives better.

Thanks to the US Embassy, the Port Elizabeth group will continue being good Samaritans. The Access group is a valuable asset to the community because of the skills that we now have. And for those who plan to studying nursing, Good Luck! First aid is not child's play. It's practical, practical, practical!

Training was provided by St. Johns Ambulance – First Aid Level 1



Do What You Love - and Love What You Do!



Story by Amy Ginyigazi

Everyone has a talent. Many people are so obviously gifted in so many ways while others have to search to find their talents. A group of teenagers at Walmer High School have found their groove through poetry and self-expression.

Sometimes we are shy or feel ashamed to stand up for ourselves. I believe that there's no point in being afraid of who you are and what you can do best.

Music, dance, writing, debating and poetry - these are all talents this group has and some members of the group have them all. Poetry is now very popular at Walmer High School. This, I believe, is also happening in other schools.

We can all create with our talents. Like if a group of people get together and pool their talents, that could help those who are afraid to stand up and be themselves. "Point 8" is the name of a popular group of poets at Walmer High. It is wonderful to see that they are very confident and proud of themselves. They love what they do!

We interviewed some of the members who said, "We are a group of friends united by a bond so strong and that bond is poetry. We believe that doing what you love and loving what you do is the key to our future." They say that life is better spent with friends who believe in you and who will help you shine your talent through good and bad times.

Making it in the New Year

Story by Kamogelo Phala

Each New Year brings new challenges in each of our lives, and as teenagers we have to organise our lives in order to deal with these new problems. Teens often complain about not having enough time to themselves which leads to stress because they lose focus and spend time on unimportant things instead of concentrating on themselves and their health.

So as a teen that has been through all this and has survived the pressures that each year poses, I have come up with a list of things that can be done to make sure that you are better organised and ready to face a new year.

Always have a diary.

A diary acts as your 'Personal Life Manager' so make sure you note any important dates and appointments down, in order to never forget anything important.

Make time for yourself.

Schedule some time every day which you can spend doing something you enjoy, like reading a book, surfing the net or exercising.

Eat a balanced diet.

Food is mostly never taken into consideration and what one must remember is that we get all our energy from what we eat. The correct combination of fats, proteins and carbohydrates can do wonders to not only keep your body in shape but also give you enough energy for all the new responsibilities and work that you will have to tackle.

Get enough sleep.

Sleep for at least 7 hours a day because that allows your body and muscles to rest, giving you more strength and endurance to be able to do everything you will need to do for the forthcoming day.

Enjoy yourself.

Fun and laughter are what make life worth living so never neglect letting your hair down (in a responsible way) once in a while to enjoy life's little pleasures.

GLOBAL GIRL MEDIA

Story by Tebogo Tsotetsi and Mantombazane Khumalo



June 2010 was South Africa's best month as the whole African continent celebrated with South Africans as we hosted the 2010 FIFA World Cup. In the meantime, there were Americans who were making South African parents proud as they came to our country and lent a helping hand. These people belong to an organisation called Global Girl Media. They came to our country and changed our lives!

It is not chance but choice that determines our destiny. It is therefore essential that we create life-changing opportunities for our youth. Global Girl Media (GGM), founded in the USA by Amie Williams and Meena Nanji, is an organisation doing just that. GGM is a non-governmental organisation which grooms young girls in the field of broadcast journalism.

GGM sent a team of media trainers who

selected 21 young women between the ages of 15 and 20 from Gauteng and the Eastern Cape and provided hands-on training in broadcast journalism.

The girls and their trainers tackled real issues such as the World Cup, teen pregnancy, apartheid era Soweto riots and a whole lot more. The Global Girls were taught how to use a camera and listen to sound and even how to conduct an interview. These girls – who used to think they were ordinary – are now junior graduates in media training!

One of the girls – Tebogo Tsotetsi – was chosen to narrate a documentary about which was aired on Al Jazeera! The documentary was about the challenges that this typical Sowetan girl faces - losing her parents and brother at a very young age, dealing with the teenage issues of today and not having her parents around to guide her through life.

Global Girl Media has a website where their stories and video interviews are posted: www.globalgirlmedia.org

Global Girl really did take centre stage during June and July 2010 because they were all over – working with the American Embassy, South African Broadcasting Corporation and ESPN!

Kamogelo Mabizela and Lesego Letsile are two of the young ladies who were chosen to attend this amazing programme. We asked them about the experience...

What is Global Girl Media to you?

Lesego: For me, Global Girl Media is an organisation that helps girls stay off the streets!

When did the programme start and what did it entail?

Lesego: It started on the 7th of June 2010 to coincide with the FIFA World Cup with an intensive month-long holiday

programme of lectures, demonstrations then interviews and all-round introduction to the fascinating world of broadcast journalism and continued until the end of 2010.

How did you get involved?

Kamogelo: We were chosen through the English Access Micro Scholarship programme sponsored by the US Embassy.

How have the stories you produced changed your life?

Lesego: The stories were heart-warming. I have learnt to be comfortable with who I am and I have learnt patience and perseverance.

Kamogelo: It has been incredible! We were encouraged to think of different content every day. We did a story on cyber language which was aired on the BBC and impacted on me.

How has the experience been?

Lesego: Great! We got the opportunity to meet amazing people like local comedian Trevor Noah and Global Girls' local spokesperson Carol Manana.

Kamogelo: It was a great learning curve for me. Experiencing a girls-only environment was really special as there was so much emotion, and a lot of tears!



Grooming Tomorrow's Business Women

In the past, a woman's work took place mainly in the kitchen and was confined to the home looking after children and making the home. This was frustrating for many women who felt useless and worthless.

South African women changed this by joining forces and making sure that never again should a woman live in oppression and be made to feel that her place is in the kitchen.

A group called Business Women's Association (BWA) was formed by previously disadvantaged women as an NGO with the aim of empowering women and showing them that they have the potential to start their own businesses and be independent. The BWA also helps women to get scholarships and paid internships.

In December 2010, the BWA hosted 100 girls on a 5 day conference focussing on women's issues and the Johannesburg Global Girls were lucky enough to be included. The camp coincided with South Africa's 16 Days of Activism against Women and Child Abuse and paid tribute to that initiative.

The conference gave the young women some excellent information about being a business woman and highlighted the importance of women in society which is (among other things) their ability to bear children and demonstrate love warmth and intelligence!

The workshops were informative and guest speakers spoke about becoming entrepreneurs and taking care of themselves as women. Motivational speakers touched on subjects as diverse as grooming, nutrition, fitness, careers and finances.

This association has really made a difference in the lives of many women in South Africa – just as Global Girl Media has done and continues to do!

Sugar Daddies!

Story and poem by Kutiwano Smith, images by Kamogelo Phala

Fact Blog

Sex is a sin, kissing is a shame
Guys have all the fun,
while girls get the blame

One night of pleasure,
Nine months of pain,
Three days in hospital
With a baby to name

Boys say you're cute,
Boys say you're fine,
but when you have their baby
they say "it's not mine"

You might think I'm crazy
But take my advice
Don't be a mother
Before you be a wife

Teenagers often commit themselves to things that won't benefit them in the long run. Why does a minor have to date an older man so that she can benefit materially? I have realised that teenagers are very materialistic and they want things quickly. This leads them to being dependant and not knowing how to support themselves.

There are many ways teen girls make a sugar daddy stick around. Some go as far as having unprotected sex with the intention of falling pregnant so that they receive money from them and support grants from the government. They forget that the money given to them is for the child and not for themselves. Why does one have to make an innocent soul live a life of pain? Their "fun" teenage years result in a child's suffering.

What happened to 'Ubuntu' and girls having pride in themselves? What happened to having dignity and morality? How can our nation have lost our positive attitude? Do teenagers of today want to see themselves walking down memory lane one day and seeing only faded images on their wall unframed, unnumbered and unorganised?

Why do these girls cheapen themselves? Beauty fades, character doesn't, so be wise and transform yourself to a better person. How long do you think these sugar daddies will be around for? Is degrading yourself by sleeping around with these old (often married) men worth it? Teenage girls should stop being the cause of families breaking up, they should stop being cash suckers and start playing their role and acting their age.

Most teenagers face peer pressure, but why succumb to it? Why not stand out rather than blend in? Confidence is a huge contributor and if you have confidence, you can stand your ground and say "no". We all face obstacles but it is how you react to them that proves your character.

It would be wonderful to see the teenage pregnancy and HIV infection rates re-

duced. We can overcome these obstacles and improve conditions in this country.

We are like architects: we plan and draw our lives and with a positive attitude we will be able to see a life of opportunity. I regard us as a "lucky generation" because everything is out there for us, it is just waiting for us to reach for it.

Our society has come to a point where seeing a girl with a sugar daddy is acceptable but what are we doing about this? Do you want to be another statistic of unemployment and teenage pregnancy, not to mention HIV and AIDS?

We should be disappointed in ourselves and this disappointment should encourage us to transform into a better society.

Family also contributes to the epidemic of young females having sugar daddies. For instance, a family which is financially unsta-

ble depends on government social grants for their survival and perhaps they have a young girl, who they will convince to date older men - men who will be able to offer some financial support to the young girl's family. The family see this as a benefit and are not aware of the danger that they are putting their child in - the child may pick up any infection, be abused or land up with HIV or AIDS - not to mention the moral issues.

Young girls should stand up for themselves and have pride. Being someone's trophy is no better than being someone's toy. Come to think of it, these sugar daddies probably have several girlfriends. So think about it: how many girls sit on the front seat next to that man you are sitting with? Is that the kind of life you want for yourself? Is that the kind of story you want to tell your children and the kind of legacy you want to leave behind?



The woman inside me

Story by Anelisa Tuswa

The gay community has been excluded and isolated for years in our environment. A few years back, the government gave this community rights, including the right to marry a same-sex partner. Many were critical of the decision and yet we call ourselves a democratic country!

For the gay community, it was a symbol of acceptance and freedom. Some compared it with the excitement that black people felt when Nelson Mandela was released from prison!

This is a story about a teenage boy named Thabo – or Thabisa because that’s what he calls himself. He was born in New Brighton, Port Elizabeth, and raised by his father who is a man of God. Last year, Thabo took us through his journey of a life of being trapped inside a body that does not feel like his own.

Thabo tells his story: “For years of my life I was hiding in shadows with a sense of not belonging. While boys my age were playing with wire cars, I was playing with dolls. While we were playing happy home, I would play the mother or the daughter.

I remember one Sunday, my dad wasn’t feeling well so he told me we weren’t going to church. I was so happy and relieved because going to church was torture – seeing all the young girls my age wearing their beautiful white dresses. Deep inside I was dying to wear those things.

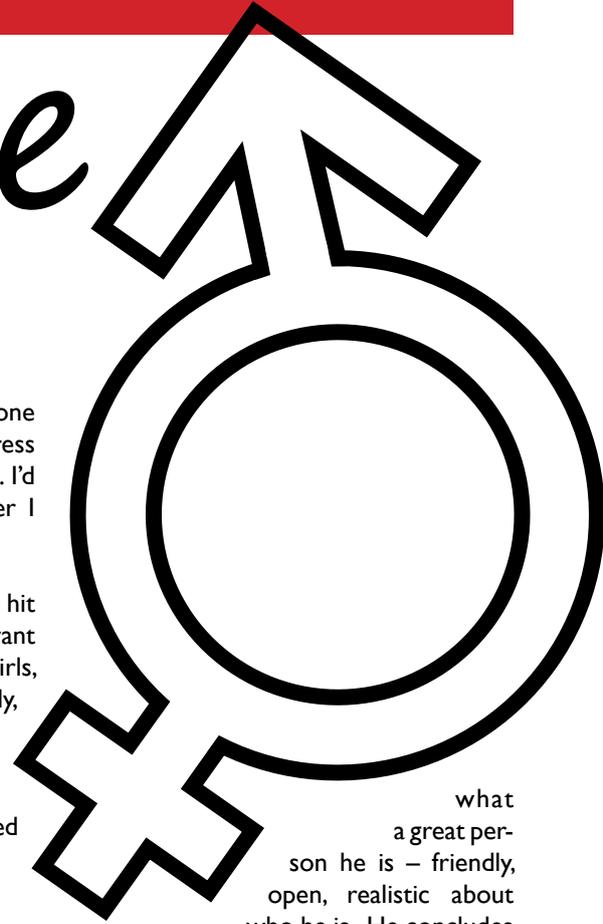
My cousin Andisiwe came to visit one summer and accidentally left her dress at our house. That was my first dress. I’d close my door and wear it whenever I was home alone!

Then I went to high school. Bang! It hit me. I wasn’t like other boys; I didn’t want to play soccer. I wasn’t interested in girls, except to hang out with them. Luckily, there were other guys like me, so I associated myself with them.

When I was in Grade 9, my dad asked me to invite my friends over for dinner. In the middle of the dinner, one of my friends said something to me and ended the sentence with ‘peto’ (the Xhosa equivalent of ‘darling’)! My dad was really angry; I could see the fury in his eyes. He had noticed the way we spoke, walked and behaved. Before the evening ended, we had become like demons to him. He knew who I was but found it hard to accept.

Three months ago, he got sick and called me into his room and told me to start thinking about initiation school (a rite of passage from boyhood to manhood where young Xhosa boys are taken into the bush and are taught to be men and are also circumcised). I was like “Hello! Have you seen a woman camping in the bushes for a month?”

As I am sitting in front of Thabo, I realise



what a great person he is – friendly, open, realistic about who he is. He concludes his story by saying that while he was growing up, he felt like he was enclosed in a small box; he couldn’t breathe. “I am a woman trapped inside a male structure. I feel I am one person inside and another one outside,” he says.

In a country like South Africa, which has been through so much, why do we still find it hard to accept those with alternative sexual orientation? We say Umuntu Ngumuntu Ngabantu (You are a person while people are around you) but we still find it hard to give a small gift to those who seem just a little different from us.

Xenophobia came and went; same applies with the apartheid system. Those were really hard times but we were united. Can’t we do it now?

MOVIES & BOOKS

Reviewers: Kutlwano Smith, Kamogelo Phala, Musa Amy Ginyigazi, Anelisa Tuswa



Movie: Spud
Theme: Independence and survival
Main Characters: Troy Sivan (Spud Milton), John Cleese (Mr Edly – The Guv)



Spud Milton, a smart young boy, different to his peers, is sent by his parents to a private boys boarding school in Kwa-Zulu Natal. Spud faces obstacles as he is new at the school and has difficulties trying to survive and to adjust to the new environment. During his academic year he learns a lot about choice and about the different personalities people have. He also learns to be independent. He tries very hard to please everyone and blend in with the rest of the boys at school. Spud becomes close with one of his

roommates “Gecko” (Henry Barker) they then have a weird friendship and would often go to Hell’s View together. Outside of school, Spud’s parents, particularly his dad, have difficulties trying to adjust to the new democratic South Africa until a certain event changes that.

Spud finds it hard to survive after an incident involving Gecko but pulls through and survives every obstacles that he faces. Sivan gives a brilliant breakthrough performance and Cleese is hilarious as always.

Movie: Narnia
Theme: Fantasy
Main Characters: Skandar Keynes, Georgie Henley, Ben Barnes



This is the third film in the franchise based on the CS Lewis books, and it doesn’t quite reach the high standard set by the previous two!

As far as stories go, there’s nothing particularly special about this one. The two younger Pevensie kids, Edmund and Lucy are back (with their older siblings relegated to cameos), as well as Prince (now King) Caspian from the previous film. The three kids are once again transported to the magical

world of Narnia, aboard Caspian’s ship, the Dawn Treader. There are villains and there are missing people, desert islands, dragons, sea monsters and glowing swords and that God-like lion, Aslan.

The special effects were incredible, but special effects are never enough to carry a movie. Dawn Treader never felt like it really got off the ground. It’s not exactly boring but the excitement factor isn’t particularly high either.



BOOK: The Monk who sold his Ferrari
Author: Robin Sharma



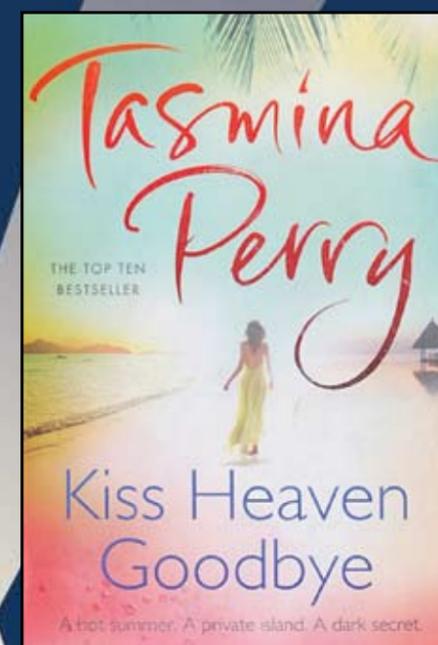
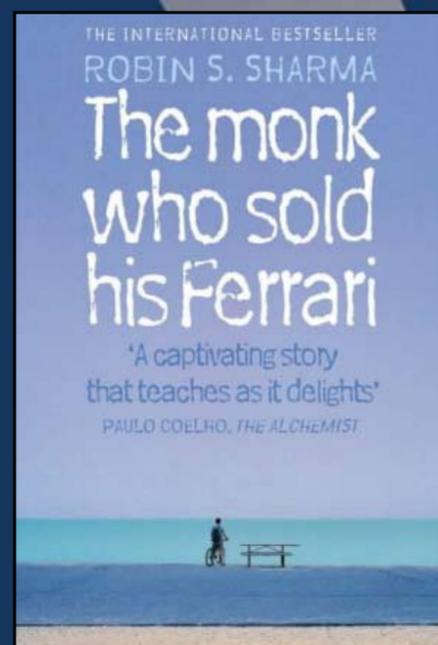
Ever wonder how you can live the life of your dreams or have everything you desire? If your answer to this question is yes, then The Monk Who Sold His Ferrari by Robin Sharma is the book to read!

The brilliance of this book comes from the way in which it is written. Based on the true story of how Julian Mantle - a workaholic lawyer who decided to change the way in which he lived his life after a heart attack which nearly cost him his life – Robin tells the story of Julian’s spiritual journey through India which helped him attain “Inner Peace”.

The book is written from a first person perspective which gives the reader a sense of being part of the story on “Enlightened Living”. To summarise this book, it basically gives you different ways and methods that you could use in order to achieve the life you dream of.

What I enjoyed most about this book is that Robin Sharma gives a step by step guide for practicing each technique mentioned, making it easy for readers to try them out. If you have read ‘The Secret’ and never understood its teachings then this book is highly recommended.

Intellectual teens and adults are the target market of this book. A must read New York Times best seller!



BOOK: Kiss Heaven Goodbye
Author: Tasmina Perry



A group of students were gathered on a private island in the Bahamas in 1990 for a holiday of indulgence. Four friends found themselves on the beach on the final dark night. In front of them was a body, but they took the decision to let someone else make the discovery rather than getting involved. When they searched the beach the next day the body had gone – and they had no idea how.

The story takes us through the next 20 years in the lives of these four individuals. Sasha tried to make a living as a model, then as a stylist. Miles seemed self-assured but there’s a lot of doubt and confusion

hidden beneath the surface. He was never going to be short of money but with issues of his own and trying to follow in the footsteps of a famous and successful father, life was never going to be easy.

Alex was a talented musician who loses his way after the island incident but eventually finds fame. Grace (Miles’ sister) leads an interesting life which takes her all over the world.

The book follows the four until the summer of 2010, when Miles wants to sell the island, but a survey reveals a buried body and it looks as though the four will need to go back to the island.

If it’s escapism you’re after, then this is the book for you! It has everything in it: love, betrayal, murder, wealth, heartbreak...

Whoonga!

Story and images by Kamogelo Mabizela

Two of the biggest issues facing South African teens have joined forces! A new, deadly and highly addictive drug called whoonga is taking hold of South Africa's townships, with authorities warning that its users have increased by thousands. The drug is a concoction of the antiretroviral stocrin, dagga (marijuana) or heroin and several other substances, including chemicals found in detergents and even rat poison!

Addicts who are smoking this poison have now resorted to mugging HIV positive patients outside clinics where they receive their ARVs from the government. The drug's origins were unknown, but it was probably discovered by experimentation.

A 15-year-old addict said most of the crimes they committed were motivated by the need to get a fix. "We break into houses and cars, and we steal clothes from washing lines. When we don't smoke we get sick with severe stomach pains. We know that the drug is dangerous, but once you start it's hard to stop."

Side-effects of the drug include loss of appetite, excessive sweating and bleeding when urinating. Obviously, the mix is highly addictive and thousands of young people are falling victim to it.

The use of this concoction has increased dramatically in a short time. Many people say that it is the availability of drugs in townships which has caused the youth to start experimenting with drugs and becoming creative – inventing new drugs such as TIK and WHOONGA which are unique to South Africa.

It is tragic that this generation of youngsters is being referred to as the 'lost generation' when we were supposed to be the first 'free generation'! Why is the youth being held back by drug use? Is it due to home factors such as alcohol abuse? Is it because teens have no outlets for self-expression? Is it because of the shortage of jobs and opportunities to further education due to poverty? Whatever it is, something has to be done!

African culture is centred around UBUNTU which is our values and humanity. African children are brought up to live by this. When these values are ignored, it is a tragedy for the whole community. It is up to each individual how you want to live your life, so we should never allow ourselves to be led astray by people who don't want what is best for us.

While the individual needs to take responsibility for himself, it is also crucial that the government steps in and starts focussing on the problems of drug and alcohol abuse.

The Pregnant Teen Trend

Story by Mantombazane Khumalo

It is hard to believe that one of the hardest journeys of life is treated as a fashion parade by some people! A long time ago, when our parents were growing up, young girls and older women who are able to bear children would do just that and stay at home to take care of that child, but now it has all changed.

Teenagers, who we all regard as children, between the ages of 12 and 19 years, have started to take this burden on for themselves. Some of my friends always say, "We should all have babies before the end of 2010 or we won't have any babies the next year." We all know it is not true but it all has been put in our heads and now it all seems like a fashion parade.

Pregnancy is now something competitive like "Cynthia will not have more babies than me". Fashion, fashion, fashion!

I remember listening to Jozi FM radio station and hearing of a woman aged 28 who had eight children! That is absurd! We as teenagers should know that a child is a flower that will never move away from you until death takes its course – or so my mother says.

We all like to feel loved but somewhere, somehow there should be boundaries. Yes, love is a thing between two people that includes communication, trust and care. It doesn't hurt to love yourself first, set

your goals for life, achieve them and then later become a baby maker so you are able to look after your babies.

We should remember that we are our parents' burdens, so how can we bring more burdens into their lives? If things are tough already, how can we take care of another human being?

Wanting and having a baby are two different situations. First you want one because everyone else is having one and then you're having one because you don't have a choice. It is easy to want a child in theory, but in practice, it is very difficult - even for adults who are established with jobs, money, homes, and all you need for this huge undertaking.

Teens who know what they want in life strive to work hard and have it all but a teenager whose life is not planned ends up in the streets of Jozi. Teenagers tend to let life rule them. You may hear a teenager saying, "At home things aren't really good and sometimes I go to school hungry." Well, let me give you a word of advice, I am also growing up in a family where you wake up in the morning wondering what you are going to eat that day, but with that in mind it pushes me to do more. Success is not measured by all what we have but by what we achieve.

Don't be rough, be tough and say no to sex until you are ready. Keep this in mind, if you are a teenager having a child: who will you be when you are thirty years old? We are supposed to be the teenagers of today and the parents of tomorrow but we are racing ahead and are already the parents of today! So what about tomorrow?

We Cypher!

That's our Sunday dish in Walmer!

Story and images by Annelisa Tuswa

Every Sunday, a small community of musicians and poets gather at one place, a platform where artists meet, spreading their knowledge through expression of their amazing talent.

"Cypher is a platform for artists to articulate their arts." Said Thabane – a poet and writer – in our interview one Sunday after his incredible performance.

This platform is described in many ways but all at once, it's a platform for expression, a place to relax and express your mind freely. Every Sunday, you find people gathered in one place to perform and most importantly to support the talent. The youngsters who perform are as young as ten years old!

These artists have established a non-profit organization called F.A.M. (Forward Arts Movement). "FAM is more like a home for all types of performing arts," explained Zukele "DJ Shane" Mangqangaza, an organizer for FAM. "We meet once a week to prepare for our Sunday Dish," he said.

The recognition for the performing artists is amazing. You meet children all over the township singing the songs of these artists!

"It's sad because we hear these artists in taverns instead of on the radio. With all this talent, these artists could go places," said a fan who wishes to remain anonymous, complaining that "Cypher is like a studio for FAM musicians and others. For those who have realized the potential and those who have yet to do so."



Teen Genii

Story by Lesego Letsile

Teen Genii
By Lesego Letsile

Teens think they know everything that is to know about the world, unfortunately we make bad decisions according based on our limited world knowledge.

Everyone knows that teens know better than their parents, it's a fact right? We make better choices like getting a tattoo on our arms that is going to be visible when we become professionals and dating older guys that will help us gain a good reputation with our communities. We sometimes make these decisions just to spite our parents; we think we are proving a point to them that we are capable of living our own lives. Instead we are just ruining our lives because of the 'good' decisions we make. After all the stress we put ourselves through, we go running back to the very same people whom we profess to know better than.

Teens are genii when it comes to relationships; we have degrees in the subject! We are so good that we invest more time in them than school. Who needs a degree in finance when you can have masters in relationships? If only we could sing the same tune several years down the line when we are penniless and the beauty has disappeared, we're working long hours in dead-end jobs that pay peanuts and having umpteen kids. We never think of the consequences; we live for today and that is enough for us. But will it be enough when we cannot feed our loved ones? Will it be enough when we when we cannot afford to fix a patch on the roof? And will it be enough when we cannot afford to go to work?

Whether our psyches are messed up or our hormone imbalances are to blame for the decisions we make, we cannot deny the fact that we still have a lot to learn about the world. Having a limited number of role models is no excuse, rebelling against our parents won't get us anywhere except into trouble. The results of all of this behaviour are often bitter and hard to reverse.



Missing you, missing me, missing us

As I walked away from you
Listening to your footsteps fading away
I believed in you

Missing you , missing me, missing us!

Our bodies may be apart,
But our souls will be near,
Time isn't what makes us alive
It's love and devotion that keeps
The tie between the souls

Missing you, missing me, missing us!

True companions never part
Maybe in distance
But not in heart.
Don't cry...

Keep the smile
Leave the tear
Think of joy
Forget the fear
Be joyous
Till I see you again

Missing you, missing me, missing us!

- Kutlwano Thuto Smith

Dedicated to all the students I have met
during 2008 & 2009 when I was part of
the micro scholarship – South Africa

A DREAM

I dream of a place
I dream of a palace
I dream of a paradise
I dream of heaven
I dream of a place where angels and icons are
I dream of a place where I am free to spread my wings and fly
A place where the sky is not a limit
A place where I cannot feel angry
A place where conflict does not exist
A place where temptations and jealousy don't exist
A place where lying is not real
A place where a man is not measured by how much money he earns
but how wise he is
A place where no human shall be pointed right or wrong
A place where no one has the right to be judgemental

- Ofentse Mokau

My Free Mind

Let my mind flow and be set free
My soul to be buried upon thee
Imagine as it is peppered with joy
And the air pumps to deliver,
Happiness, happiness to conquer
Love to the person I am meant to be
Let there be inspiration to maintain the
standard
Of this free mind.

- Musa Amy Ginyigazi

Where did we go wrong?
Children give birth to children
We as blacks killing our own families
A mother aborting an unborn child
A father raping his own daughter
My society, my community and to
my fellow Africans
I wonder, where did we go wrong?

- Anelisa Tuswa

Poem: I am an African

I am an African
I take pride in my blackness and my fineness
I take pride in myself and rise above men
I free my skin from nylon and cotton cloth

I am an African
Out of the night that covered me with love
As from heart to heart
I thank whatever that God may be for his loving soul

My heart is for joy
My heart is for hope
My heart is for peace
So are my soul health and wealth

I AM AN AFRICAN!

- Kutlwano Thuto Smith

The Ten Commandments of Love

I was lost and you took me as I am
With no doubt - and respected me.
I wondered if I deserved you
And stopped for a moment
And looked at myself
And I saw no criticism.
Made so many mistakes,
But you never shouted at me
Instead you comforted me,
Because you appreciate my efforts.
I make promises which I eventually fulfil.
How amazing is your patience!
You say words which make birds sing
And my heart breaks free with joy.
When we're not together, remember that laughter
We used to cherish life with.

- Ofentse Mokau

A-Z 2009 to 2010 Of Access

By: Ofentse Mokagu

A
Ayoba America
for Access

B
Brain teasers,
books and a
brighter future

C
Gold Reef City,
general knowledge,
guest speakers

H
Helping others,
hard work

C
Creative challenges,
confidence,
computers

D
Debates
and
drama

E
English booster,
education and essays

F
FUN with FLYA,
Freedom Park

M
THE MONIES
Movies

N
Newsletters,
new words

I
Internet and
information

J
Journalism
and jokes

K
Ke nako!

L
Library, leadership
and Loftus Stadium

S
Social skills

T
Team work, t-shirts
and THANK YOU!!

O
Ofentse - that's me!

P
Prize-giving, puppet
shows, presentations

Q
Quizzes

R
Reading:
UNLOCKING
YOUR MIND

I
Ikeboyes
to growing

Z
Zakumi
magical crosswords

U
Ubuntu spirit, USA
football team visit

V
LONGMAN
Dictionary of
English Language
and Vocabulary
for visitors

W
Waka waka,
workshops

X
X-tra
ordinary
experiences