

MADIBAZNews

News for the students, by the students

#MADIBAZ YOUTH LAB IMBADU SERIES: PART 3

By Shitshembiso Mahlathi

This Imbadu commemorated Africa Day. The theme of the Imbadu was Reflections on the Philosophy, Values and Praxis of Julius Mwalimu Nyerere: How far have we come in creating an education system for Africa's Renewal? The facilitator of the Imbadu was Mr Karabo Maiyane, a lecturer at Nelson Mandela University's Philosophy department. The panellists for the Imbadu were Ms Lihle Ngcobozi Lecturer at Witwatersrand University School of Governance and Mr Lukhona Mnguni Policy and Research Director at the Rivonia Circle.

Mr Mnguni emphasized more on Julius Nyerere's work and how his philosophy emphasizes that the solution in Africa is in communities and communal efforts as the base of renewal, rather than in the education system. Mnguni discussed Nyerere's socialist ideology of Ujamaa. Ujamaa refers to the family hood and how returning to our communities might be a way to renew this in line with the value of Ubuntu. Ms Ngcobozi discussed how South Africa's educational system favours capitalism, and that profit becomes more important to the institution rather than the sort of intelligence needed to bring an African rebirth and improve South Africa's socio-economic situation.

Various questions were posed in the

session, however, what stood as key questions were how might Africans reinvent institutions for them to be fertile grounds for African renewal and whether graduates should return to their communities as educated graduates from the school or forsake them. The panellists were also asked about the initiatives that should be presented to students who are interested in bringing renewal.

Ms Ngcobozi stated that the student protests, were an attempt to create fertile ground for African renewal and that student movements would have been great initiatives for bringing renewal to Africa, but movements have shrunk as a result of the State's authoritarian responses to students. Furthermore, Mr Mnguni stated that the education system cannot be abandoned; instead, an environment must be established that profoundly changes how education is seen.

The Imbadu highlighted that anti-intellectual behaviour has damaged our country, the Dean of Students Mr Luthando Jack encouraged students to strive for intellectual discussions and debates this will change the nature of our society. Furthermore, students were urged to challenge systems in existence rather than accept them as they are.

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome back to another roaring edition of MadibazNews, filled with articles that satisfy almost every craving! We are currently halfway through the year and halfway through our editions as well. Time certainly does fly. We are also, unfortunately, entering the chilly season where most of us have the luxury of warming up with warm clothing items, heaters and blankets. But not everyone is as privileged. Please do make sure to share your warmth (and love) with those not fortunate enough to access utilities as you can.

Otherwise, we hope that you are warmed up, ready with a cup of coffee (preferably to be professional) or anything other warm beverage to encounter the amazing works of the sixth edition that our journalists have put together! From campus news, to advice, personally opinionated pieces and great breakthroughs in the science and technology world, we have it all!

On a (very important) side note, we wish all students the best with their mid-year examinations. We know that everyone will do their best, but sometimes that takes a lot from someone, so do remember to rest, and if necessary, most importantly, seek help. In a world of students, you will find someone who has a similar story, that can maybe be shared over a mutual meeting of a reading of Madibaz News!

Please do enjoy this edition. A lot of warmth and hard work was poured into it, and sometimes that is all someone needs!

Do not forget to keep up with us via social media so you can see when new editions are released, and participate in amazing competitions.



Photo: IOL.com

AGEISM IN THE WORKPLACE

By Somila Tiwani

The Constitution of South Africa forbids discrimination on the basis of a variety of factors, including age. Ageism is the practice of stereotyping or discriminating against people or groups based on their age. To ensure that there is no discrimination in the private and public sectors, age as a condition for work opportunities should be addressed. It is reported that Members of the Forgotten Nation of South Africa movement, led by Mmatlou Tsipa, rallied in Pretoria, in April 2022, claiming this.

They sent a letter to the Department of Employment and Labour, expressing their discontent with the way the ageism problem was handled. According to Tsipa, the march was organized to speak for and reflect the interests and goals of persons over 35. They demand Labour and Employment Minister, Thulas Nxesi, to remove the age requirement policy since it excludes this age group from internships as well as other opportunities.

Because this is not an official policy, it is not declared anywhere in the country under any administration. It is being used to tackle young unemployment while ignoring the fact that there are unemployed people in this nation above the age of 36. He used the example of a 35-year-old university graduate who would no longer be eligible for internships due to such age requirement, but then who needs internships to obtain work experience.

Students between the ages of 18 and 35 should only be hired for internships and entry-level positions, according to Keanu Langford (24), a student. The elderly should teach them. "People over 35 should also be employed for experience so that the youth may benefit from them," he said.

The Supreme Court of Appeal ruling emphasises that it is acceptable for an employer to have age criteria in place when employing certain individuals for a specific job, as long as the age requirements are enforced for grounds that can withstand the constitutional standard of unfair discrimination.



Photo: businesstech.co.za

FUEL AND INFLATION: DRIVING US CRAZY

By Samantha van Jaarsveld

It is no lie that inflation has become a much-dreaded term by almost everyone, yet it continues to make its presence known worldwide. This is due to many factors, like frequent exchange rate fluctuations, expanding economies and government regulations. Since the ongoing Russian-Ukrainian War has worsened, so have inflation rates. As a result, prices of certain commodities and necessities have increased significantly due to sanctions placed on Russia by the UK and the USA.

But how does this affect the South African economy and her students? Russia is known for being one of the top distributors of oil and petroleum products internationally, our country being one of those to whom these necessities are exported, to produce fuel. The price of fuel is known to consistently fluctuate, owing to inflation, however, since Russia's invasion of Ukraine began, the increased price of fuel has sent shock waves through everyone in South Africa, more specifically her students.

Some students study full time and thus, do not have the time to work and earn extra money, therefore, the small amount that many may have coming in, as a result of bursaries or sponsors, they attempt to spend wisely on fuel, either for their own vehicles or for public transport, to be able to attend lectures. However, because of the constant and developing increase in fuel prices, students are finding it increasingly difficult to get from one location to the next, as they can no longer afford the profound impact that the ongoing Russian-Ukrainian war has had on fuel prices.

Those who are fortunate enough to work part-time, find that they must work extra hours just to wet their tanks. With regards to public transport, students who do not own vehicles and are reliant on buses and trains, may start to feel the negative impact on the prices of public transport, due to the price of fuel, which will affect the fixed budgets of some financially struggling students.

As prices have increased, so have food and paraffin. This continues to have an immense impact on students, and does not seem to be improving anytime soon.



Photo: Freepik.com

SECURING THE BAG

By Lelodwa Ngamlana

Let us be honest, do you really believe that there is a company out there holding a job for you right after you graduate? Is your plan a solid one?

It has been reported so many times on social media platforms that students don't plan on securing their future during undergrad. They focus on making fun-reckless memories that won't even matter when they are 27 years old, let alone 30.

It is evident as some of us may have friends who have recently graduated but remain home because they have not tried to secure themselves during their undergrad years. Meaning they do not have any job or volunteering experiences. Because they might have never made the time to take a short course or a volunteering opportunity to help aid their chances of securing a job/career after graduation and therefore have a lacking curriculum vitae (CV).

Please note that by volunteering, I do not mean at an old age home only – volunteering can be done in certain formal companies and organisations. I know you are probably saying, 'why should I get a job or do a short course when I am currently studying [insert qualification]?'. Well, ask yourself, what happens if you don't get a job right after you graduate?

Zuha Salman from Curious Desire published an article on why experience is important when entering the workplace. She highlighted that amongst other things, experience makes you more marketable. As much as employees want your degree affirmed, they also want to see if you can handle other things that may pose a challenge at work – and they will see that through your CV.

So, we should start now and take the necessary steps to secure our future and secure the bag.



Photo: Unsplash.com

PRINTED BOOKS REMAIN ON THE TOP SHELF!

By Akahlulwa Radana

New data has emerged that might burst the bubble of e-books. There has been a recent decline in e-book sales, whereas printed book sales have remained stable if not slightly increasing.

The rise of low-cost book printing could be the reason for this recent trend. Further encouraging a lot of authors to revert to traditional print publishing over e-books. But ultimately, printed books are the way to go. For starters, they are easier on the eyes, while e-books on the other hand cause eye strain.

E-books require power, we live in South Africa, so I highly doubt that there is any more that needs to be said in this matter other than printed books don't need power. Printed books are said to be better for learning and comprehension. Young adults were interviewed in a study and the young adults claimed that they recalled more information while reading printed versions of a book than the digital form. It was also said that they can interact better with the book than with gadgets because they can underline, make notes easily, and do not have to worry about their batteries running out.

One would like to believe that printed books are virtually immortal. Yes, printed books may be damaged by water – in the possibility of flooding, fires, and tearing. But how many reading gadgets despite how well cared for they are, last for more than five years, let alone ten? Once a printed book is purchased you gain ownership of it for a longer period - you can buy a printed book in 2022 and read it in the year 2042. When it comes to gadgets, we need to ask ourselves if the gadgets of 2042 will be compatible with the format of your e-book today. Electrical gadgets are more valuable and therefore are in increased jeopardy of being stolen than their printed books.

Printed books reign supreme even in 2022 because of their overall practicality; their provision of better learning and comprehension and not requiring electricity, among other things. Therefore printed books will continue to thrive even in the digital age.

ENERGY DRINKS: ARE YOU ADDICTED?

By Zoleka Makhathini

The energy drink crisis has been addressed many times, but most students turn a deaf ear due to their heavy workloads and academic pressure, despite the fact that they are aware of the risks at hand.

Addiction is defined as when you are doing something detrimental to you and your surroundings, but you are unable to stop. Excessive energy drink usage is one of these detriments, as one can be labelled an addict.

"It all started last year, when I was flooded with assignments and tests, so I began to have at least one every day, but I eventually increased to three or four per day to keep up with my assignments and examinations." said second year Bachelor of Art student, Ayabonga Mtyato from Nelson Mandela University.

Sugar and caffeine are two key ingredients in the energy drinks that changed people's feelings. Some of the ingredients may have an influence, but these are the main ingredients responsible for the cravings for energy drinks. Both ingredients will give you boost, a sort of 'high'. They will stimulate the brain to release a feel-good hormone, dopamine.

People will want to become 'high' again when they return to their more normal condition, especially if they hate how they feel in their normal state. Their bodies will become more tolerant of sugar and caffeine, demanding more, to have the same effect, creating a vicious cycle. As a result, health risks like heart problems, kidney disorder, gastrointestinal problems, type two diabetes, and high blood pressure arise.

According to the researchers, students who

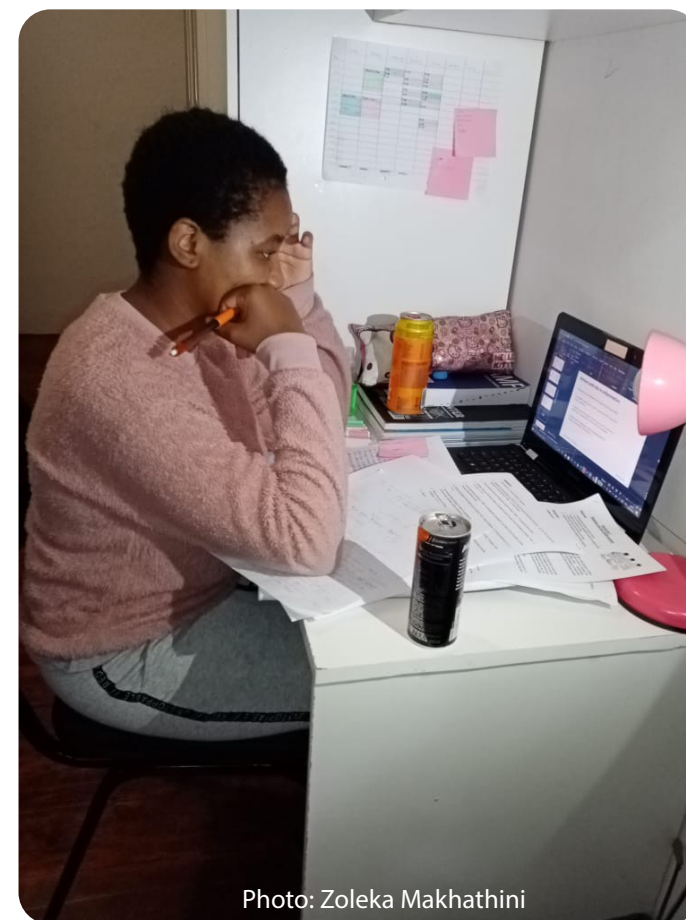


Photo: Zoleka Makhathini

drink a lot of energy drinks over a long period of time are more likely to take cocaine or non-medical prescription stimulants and have a higher risk of alcohol abuse after the age of 25, because they want to replace their energy drink addiction.

Addiction is beatable. The only thing people need to do is to slowly reduce their consumption to energy drinks until they quit for good. If they are struggling, they can seek professional help from university counsellors/therapists or elsewhere.



By Siziwe Ntyinkala

It has become a common occurrence that when faced with the pressures of elections, student organizations tend to make tremendous promises to gain votes, which may result in a negative reputation among voters when these promises are not fulfilled on time.

This leads to some voters assuming candidates will go to any lengths and say just about anything to secure elections. Nelson Mandela University students wonder if this is the case with the leading student organization.

This comes after the Economic Freedom Fighters Student Command (EFFSC) promised to launch a 'one student, one licence' program that could allow students to obtain a driver's license, with the condition that if they won the elections for the Student Representative Council (SRC) in 2021, of which they emerged victoriously.

Pontsho Hlongwane, president of the Student Representative Council (SRC), stated that "from our side, we have finalised everything. We are just waiting for the university's management to give a final go-ahead. However, as you know, every program starts with the pilot project. It's practically impossible to start the program by rolling it out to all NMU [sic] 30 000 students it also has financial implications so the number that you choose must be the one that you will be able to ensure that is sustainable". further, "We also intend to have a crowdfunding that is going to assist us in sustaining this program" before declining to comment any further due to unknown reasons.

However, students have started to lose patience and continue to express their dissatisfaction with the above-mentioned promise. "I don't think this will happen because it has been months since the elections, and there has been no update from the EFFSC. If you ask me, this was just a strategy to get votes," said Lamla Welem, a student at Nelson Mandela University.

It is advisable that to prevent a negative reputation, student political organizations should operate within a predetermined period and continuously inform voters on developments within that promised program. The ruling party seemingly has only a few remaining months left of its term to undo the damage or otherwise lose governance.



FUN WAYS TO GET TO KNOW PEOPLE

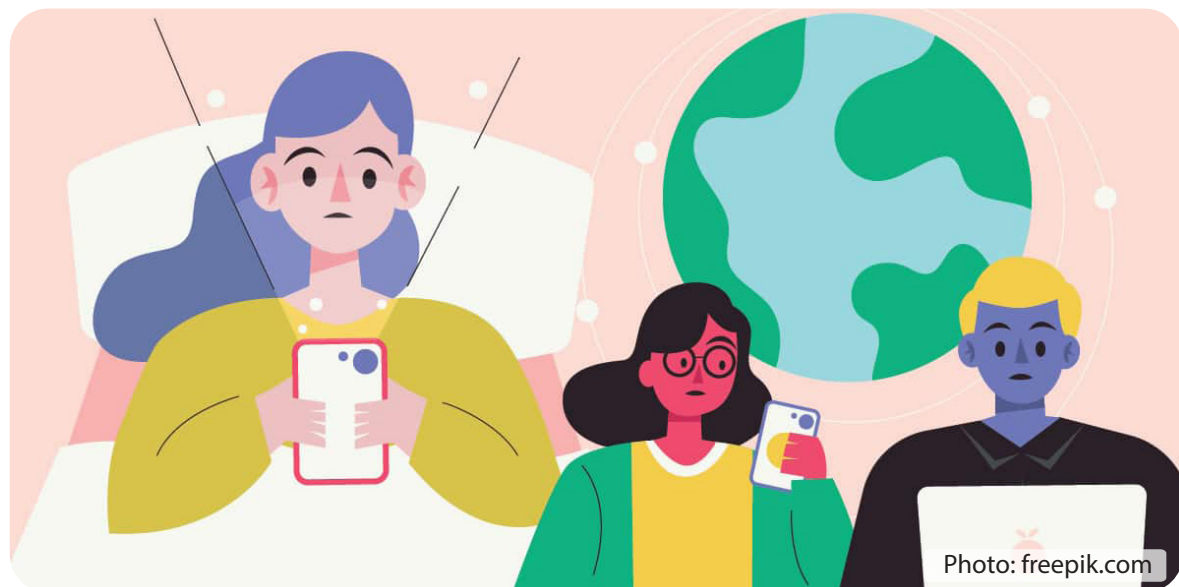
By Khanimamba Khoza

Going on that first date with a potential romantic partner is often an exciting thing. However, it can also be overwhelming when you are thinking of that date idea that will make a great first impression on this person you are trying to date. Many people find the traditional restaurant, across-the-table date a bit boring. It often feels like an interview, and you are always thinking about how to answer certain questions in a manner that makes you look good. To avoid this, here are some activity date ideas, that will ensure that you are comfortable and having fun while getting to know this person next to you.

Find a Paint and Sip near you: this date allows the both of you to express your creative sides in an environment that is comfortable and fun, and the great thing about this idea is that it doesn't have to be at a professional art studio – you can just get these art supplies at shops like Crazy Store and take it to the park or to the beach, and use the surrounding nature as inspiration.

Maybe making art isn't your thing. In that case you can find an art gallery near you and appreciate the art with this person. And for those that like learning stuff, going to a museum can be a fun and exciting way of doing just that with someone else.

It doesn't get any simpler and more fun, than going to the arcade and just trying out every single game you can while you are there. This is great date idea for those competitive people. While you are still at the arcade, maybe there's a cinema there; pop in and enjoy a movie! You can tell a lot about a person based on their choice of movie, so hey, you will have fun and get to know them just a little more. Perhaps you are someone that likes doing something good in your spare time – you can go volunteer with your potential person and get to know their good side while you are at it.



HOW SOCIAL MEDIA AFFECTS OUR BRAINS

By Laiken Faiers

Research by Global WebIndex, in 2022, shows that 58,4% of the world's population uses social media and the average person spends 2 hours and 27 minutes per day on social media. Considering that there are studies which show that physiological changes take place in the brain when an individual spends repeated amounts of time doing anything, it makes one wonder how social media might be affecting the brain.

1. Changes in attention and cognitive ability

Research has shown that heavy social media users face adverse effects such as performing worse in cognitive tests – specifically on the section which tests attention and ability to multitask. It is hypothesised that the reason behind this poor performance is because social media provides users with an unlimited amount of new content. The accessibility of new content competes for users' attention and lowers their ability to ignore general distractions. This actually shrinks the section of your brain responsible to maintaining attention and lowers the brain's neuroplasticity ability.

2. Changes in rewards pathways

It's no secret that social media is addictive – it has been designed to be this way. Every time a notification pops up you receive an immediate dopamine release which is the ultimate reward for your brain. Brain scans of heavy social media users have been compared to drug or gambling addicts. These scans show that, worryingly, there is little different between the two.

3. Changes in memory

Memory deficits have been linked to heavy use of social media – particularly transactive memory. Fotuhi, 2020, defines transactive memory as the kind of memory involved in “deciding what information is important enough to store in the brain and what information can be outsourced.” In one study by Tamir et al. in 2018, it was found that media usage diminishes memory for experiences. Ironically, the study showed that individuals who recorded and shared an event remembered less than those who didn't record it.

Knowledge is power. Cutting all ties with social media is nearly impossible in this day and age. However, we can monitor and reduce our time spent on social media and use it constructively!



BECOME A POLYGLOT!

By Robert Hill

We live in a country with not just one, or two, or even three official languages. As most of us probably know, we have 11 official languages in South Africa. This is a lot! The question is – how often do we make the most of all that this has to offer?

Now – you may have read the title of this article and are wondering: what in the world is a polyglot? Simply put, a polyglot is someone who can speak many different languages. Being a South African, for most of us, probably means speaking more than one language already. Perhaps you went to school in isiXhosa, but have learnt a lot of Afrikaans from your friends, and are fluent in English as well. And that's only 3 of the 11 languages!

Did you know that Nelson Mandela University has 3 official languages? Despite English being the preferred language for internal communication and teaching and learning, isiXhosa and Afrikaans are official university languages.

Besides those that have official status in South Africa, many people speak languages that fall outside of this range – perhaps your family comes from a neighbouring country, or from further afield, such as South America or Europe.

In any case, it is never a bad idea to learn a new language, or to brush up on a language that you've gotten a bit rusty in. Being able to speak a person's mother tongue is a surefire way to connect with them easier – you may not get everything right, but it shows that you value their culture and language.

So, how can you go about learning a new language? The first step is to do a course – this is easier nowadays with the internet. If your goal is to learn an international language such as French, a good recommendation is the app Duolingo. However, for now, this app is not available for any of our local languages. However, the best way is to immerse yourself in the language. This should not be too difficult in our multicultural university – make a friend who speaks the language you want to learn!



By Robert Hill

After being closed for what seemed like forever, the Boardwalk Mall, situated on Marine Drive across from Shark Rock Pier, has sprung back to life. Gone is the well-known fountain with the spectacular lights at night, and the fairytale Victorian look to the mall.

If, by this time, you haven't had a chance to check out the new mall, do yourself a favour and do so when you need a break from your studies. While the area is still very much a construction site – with the second phase only opening in September this year, there are already many shops that are open and ready to visit. Officially the first phase of the mall opened towards the end of March, although new shops are still opening as they move in and get ready.

So, what can you expect from this upgraded mall? If entertainment is your thing, two old favourites that remain (although in different spots) is the arcade and the Nu Metro cinema. The cinema is kitted out in the latest décor – nothing old-school about it! And then there are the places to eat – the new mall offers take-aways, including in the form of Paco Taco, selling delicious tacos, as well as sit-down options. This includes a "Hello! It's Me" café and several coffee shops, overlooking the beachfront.

Besides these shops, there are also clothing shops, including Ripcurl and Billabong. And anyone who enjoys milkshakes (or ice cream) must be sure to stop by Friesland Dairy and grab a deliciously sweet milkshake – you won't regret it! Or if sweets are more your kind of treat, there are two great sweet shops that are sure to satisfy anyone with a sweet tooth.

For now, there is no supermarket at the mall, but this will come in phase 2, in September. This will then truly be a one-stop mall for all your needs. For now, though, this mall is definitely worth a visit, and will not disappoint – it is also wheel-chair friendly, so all can enjoy what this mall has to offer. See you there!



THE POWER OF CREATIVITY

By Laiken Faiers

Often when we picture a creative, our mind goes to great icons like Van Gogh or Sylvia Plath. Both are renowned for their creative abilities within their respective spheres. However, they are also known for suffering with mental health issues. This connotation between creativity and psychopathology is something that remains ingrained within our culture. Yet, studies have identified a link between creativity and improved mental health.

The Journal of Positive Psychology states that "spending time on creative goals during the day is associated with higher activated positive affect." In laymen's terms, this means that people who engage in creative activities experience more positive moods such as joy or optimism. Research also shows that creativity is not only linked to an increase in positive mood, but also a reduction in depressive symptoms, reduced stress and anxiety, and improved functioning of the immune system.

Creativity is able to achieve these benefits because of the mental state it places the individual in – the flow state. In an article by Bonaiuto et al, (2016) it states that the flow state "depicts the psychological mental state of a person who is immersed in an activity with energised concentration, optimal enjoyment, full involvement, and intrinsic interests, and who is usually focused, motivated, positive, energized, and aligned with the task at hand."

Creativity can be performed in numerous ways including painting, writing, dancing, or singing. Thankfully, one does not have to be a professional to reap the benefits of these activities. Whether you are a professional or simply a novice, aim to schedule time in the day to spend on any creative pursuits you have. Because of how diverse creativity is, anyone can find an activity that suits or interests them the most.

Participating in a creative activity is a simple and effective way of improving overall health. Take the time to take care of yourself and don't overthink it. To quote Sylvia Plath: "The worst enemy to creativity is self-doubt."



THRIFT: JUST A PEEK

By Mncedisi Stampu

Some say the varsity life is easy; maybe it's because we are mostly sitting down when we work. But it's a phase where you transition from sitting down for fun to sitting down to make your life's possibilities progress. And no transition is a joyride – the struggle of being an accountant on payday is one of the responsibilities we learn, quite brutally. Sometimes entering a clothing store can leave us in frustration because when the price tags are put against a list of groceries and essentials, it would be suicide by starvation to even consider leaving the store with a jacket you like.

A new form of consumerism is on the horizon - thrift shops. Some may have the time to dig through piles of clothes to find what they like, but it may be far easier if you swipe over to Instagram for neatly curated fits. Here are some interesting accounts to check out.

@archivegallery_za

These guys specialise mostly in vintage clothing. They offer respected brands like Tommy Hilfiger, POLO, Lacoste, some vintage Nike, Levi's, Burberry and more.

So, if you want to take a shopping stroll back to the 90's, look no further. You can tap on their 'Outfit Inspo' Highlight on their page to get an idea of how to style the vintage pieces.

@siyabulela_kweleta

Curated by @bhumba_mzion, this is one for the hypebeasts. Brands range from Stussy, North Face, Carhart and a Golf le Fleur collection by Tyler The Creator – there is really no limit to their offerings.

@silk_slack_store

Based in Jo'burg, they buy, sell, and trade rare items. They offer anything from vintage F1 jackets to high fashion like Burberry, Calvin Klein, BAPE and vintage sportswear like Nike, Adidas, FILA and more.

All these stores usually work in drops – they release a batch of items at a certain time, and they also do occasional sale promotions. So, you may be lucky to be on the right account at the right time and pick up a great piece at a reasonable price. Less need to eat 2-minute noodles during the last days of the month.



HIP HOP SOCIETY DRIVES MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

By Zoleka Makhathini

After the lockdown levels madness, the Braveyard Hip-Hop Society, in collaboration with 'Eclipsed', hosted their first 'Mental Health Awareness Drive' on 6 May, 2022. This event was held in one of Nelson Mandela University's Residences, Premier Student Accommodation (PSA) in Korsten.

These events were common before the inception of the pandemic, and its main aim was to bring entertainment to the students and offer a platform to showcase their art. Although this time they decided to do it differently by being inclusive of mental health awareness. This issue hits close to home, especially with university students.

PSA is one of the residences that have lost many due to mental health issues. Due to this, they created the campaign to show their residents and other students that they care.

"We're trying to cut down a stigma behind mental health by sharing personal experiences, so that it can be easy for anyone who is currently dealing or will deal with a mental health crisis to speak freely about it. Rather than bottle it up and seek another solution, such as consuming a lot of alcohol or committing suicide" said Zizipo Mbadamana, the chairperson of the Braveyard Hip Hop Society.

After years of experience, the residence manager, Mr Luzuko Sam stated that alcohol was used as a coping mechanism. "Mental health is a war that should be dealt with immediately, not to wait for it to pile up, because once it piles up you will not be able to handle it again" - Mr. Sam "We must be able to put ourselves in their shoes, no matter how big/small to show compassion for one another. Because if we are unable to show compassion to one another, we will suffer"

By this Mental Health Awareness Drive, they are hoping that students who face any, will be able to express themselves freely without resorting to alcohol or drugs. If you find yourself in this situation, you can seek professional help at Emthonjeni Students Wellness at 086 132 2322 or email them at counselling.south@mandela.ac.za, substitute 'South' with the name of your campus.



A BATTLE OF THE RICHES

By Tsireledzo Musecho

Who would have thought that Southern Africa – as of the 30th April – has become home to two billionaires according to the Forbes Billionaires list as noted by an online article by The Citizen?

It was announced that business tycoon, Patrice Motsepe, has been dethroned by Zimbabwean businessman Strive Masiyiwa, with Masiyiwa ranking at 586 and Motsepe at 998 on the Forbes Billionaires list. This has come after Motsepe has been the richest man in South Africa since 2008. The battle of the billionaires has now commenced between the two business tycoons.

As of January 2022, businessman Strive Masiyiwa, 61 years of age, has increased his net worth to approximately R27 billion. He has since gone into retirement as chairman of one of his many business ventures, Eco net Wireless Zimbabwe Limited as of February 2022. However, although retired, the business tycoon still has his fingers in many pies, including in the company Sasai Fentech, amongst many others.

When mentioning riches, it is however mandatory to mention the South African-born richest Man in the world, Elon Musk, with a net worth of R3,8 trillion. Musk has announced his interest in buying Twitter, which as of April 2022 has become not only a rumour but a fact.

Southern Africa has not only got these 3 wealthy men: adding onto the list of billionaires is Johann Rupert who is the richest man in the country with an estimated net worth of R140 billion.

South Africa as of 2022 is not only a tourist attraction, or a historical place, but a home to billionaires as well.

THE JOURNEY OF DR SUNSHINE

By Bantu Ndiki

Born and bred in the Eastern Cape countryside, Dr Yolisa Sunshine Neka-Mbewana is now living her dream of becoming a professional medical practitioner and has extended that passion into new heights in the medical field.

As an ambitious girl who grew up in Transkei, she always wanted to change the situation she grew up in.

“When I was about six years old, my grandmother would take me with her to visit her doctor during monthly check-ups. We would stay there the whole day as it was always full. I wanted to relieve the long queues and help more people in less time,” said Yolisa.

A passion and interest for medicine came to her from a very young age because of the experiences she went through with her grandmother. After matriculation she was admitted to the University of Western Cape for a B.Sc. During her studies her father passed away, and all she focused on, was to succeed and support her mother and siblings.

Yolisa later embarked on a journey to Cuba to pursue her studies. This was sad for her as she was leaving her family behind who were still grieving, for a very long time. In Cuba she encountered several obstacles, including having to study in Spanish, which she had to learn. However, with grit and determination, she succeeded.

According to Yoliswa, aesthetic medicine is not only about altering appearances through the treatment of conditions, including scars, wrinkles, skin laxity and excess fat – it is all about enhancing the inner and outer beauty of women



and men in her community, to boost their self-confidence and accept who they are. Opening and running her own private practice came in handy to East Londoners as they were very excited now that they have a nearby aesthetic clinic to go to instead of travelling down to Cape Town or Johannesburg.

PHARM(FUN)A-CY?

By Zoleka Makhathini

Most people fail to understand the field of pharmacy due to lack of knowledge and are unaware to how vast and vital it is in society.

Pharmacists are one of the most important people in the medical field. Despite the fact that they are undermined and reduced to “dispensing drugs at Clicks and Dischem”, they are extremely vital. Pharmacists investigate new pharmaceuticals and drugs for public use, teach and train future generations of pharmacists and scientists and educate; train; assess and develop students and so forth.

“If the pharmacist suspects that there is an error in a prescription written to a patient by a doctor, the pharmacist has the authority to ask if the doctor is sure about the medication, she/he ordered make suggestions if necessary” said Nosiphiwo Mkhize, a second year Pharmacy student from NMU.

“BPharm is a 4-year degree offered on South campus full-time, to be admitted at Nelson Mandela University for Bachelor of Pharmacy, an applicant with NSC grade 12 mathematics must have a minimum Applicant Score of 440, with at least 65% in mathematics and Physical Science. Since the competition is too high, I would advice applicants to shoot for the stars” added Nosiphiwo.

After obtaining a BPharm degree, students must complete a one-year internship and one year of mandatory community service to register as a pharmacist with the South African Pharmacy Council. The internship can be completed in hospitals, community (retails) pharmacies, the pharmaceutical manufacturing industry, or academia.



Photo: Zoleka Makhathini

“What I’ve noticed is that in this field you must always be consistent, focused and always prepared especially for the practicals because if you don’t, your marks will reflect it and there will be no one to blame but yourself” concluded Nosiphiwo.

BPharm is an interesting but a demanding course. You have to be committed to your task, eager to put in all your effort.

"OLOTHANDO, AN INSPIRATION"



Photo: Olothando Photo

By Bantu Ndiki

Known as a star risen to fame, Olothando Ndamase is no stranger to the local music scene. Well known for his hit song ‘Ukuthand’ Umntu’ featuring Eastern Boys, a hit around six years ago, the musician has been rising from strength to strength.

Born in the quaint Mount Ayliff in the heart of the Eastern Cape, Olothando swears that he always knew that he wanted to do arts and end up in the entertainment industry. Unfortunately, as most relatable youth, he found himself studying Computer Studies at University of Johannesburg after matriculating. Thereafter, he transitioned into working for one of South Africa’s biggest commercial banks, but ultimately found himself rubbing shoulders with local music producers.

Not only credited as musician, but also producer, Olothando mentions that one of the things that really inspired his path was his father’s cassette collection, which featured the likes of Brenda Fassie, Lundi and Ringo. He lost his father later in life, and his world changed drastically. As a matter of curbing his emotions,

he started writing poetry to deal with his trauma, which later got published.

He started singing professionally with the group Sons of Xoul. This is where his big break came though, as they shared stage with legends like Jaziel Brothers, Seleolo and Ringo Madlingozi. In 2017 more achievements came in his favour when he released his album ‘Mpumelelo Ndibize’ which was well received by South Africans.

“My music is soul music, its Afro Soul. Even in my collaborations with house deejays, I always infuse the soul element to create classics over hits” said Olothando.

He is currently working on an afro soul album that will be released soon, and this is produced by his own recording label Olothando Music.

We cannot wait to hear more of Olothando’s music in future as the nation recognizes him for his great work and his talent in the music industry.

A VERY SOMIZI YEAR

By Tsireledzo Musecho

The year 2022 seems to be a blossoming year for the South African media personality and entertainer, Somizi Mhlongo. Since the beginning of the year, it has been announcement after announcement of brand-new shows airing on television, new business ventures, and rumours of an engagement.

Following allegations of abuse and his split from his now ex-husband, Mohale Motaung, in 2021, Somizi took a step back from the entertainment industry. With a lesser social media presence, it seemed as though he had gone quiet. But as they say: some flowers bloom in the toughest of lands. Upon his comeback to the entertainment scene, the all-round media personality announced that he would be coming back as the host of the South African Idols Competition. This after taking a step back in the 17th season of the show due to his personal battles. He further announced a brand-new show, Downtown with Somizi, another called Lovey Dovey, and the long-awaited comeback of his reality show, Living with Somizi, in which he will address all the rumours – including that of his recent alleged engagement to a particular businessman. However, it doesn't stop there for the superstar. He went on to announce on his Instagram page that he will be releasing a children's clothing line – to be announced in full detail as the year goes on.

On the 1st of May, Savanna News online blog released an article with claims that the entertainer is two times richer than the South African darling Bonang Matheba, with an estimated net worth of R160 million as of April 2022. "Two times richer than last year", the blog reported. The star seems to be living it up, with posts of luxury, photos showing him glowing of happiness and bookings of gig after gig on his Instagram page. However, all will be revealed on his show, Living with Somizi which airs from the 4th of May on Showmax.



With all that he has been through in the past year, we can only wish him happiness and success – and follow his show to see what is really going on in his life!



THE FUTURE IS GENE THERAPY

By Amahle Pendu

Do you have a rare disorder? Then gene therapy revolution is here to offer you the potential for a longer and happier life.

Gene therapy is a treatment for diseases caused by a faulty or absent gene. It works by introducing or modifying genetic material into an individual. The main aim of gene therapy is to replace genes that are non-functional or defective with new genes that are fully functional, to return the level of genetic expression to normal.

Being able to make site specific modifications to the human genome has been an objective in medicine since the recognition of the gene as the basic unit for heredity. The ambition of the gene therapy is to restore normal function of cells, with the potential for enabling a patient to manage their disease without having to go for the never-ending treatments. That is, we are reaching a stage where it is going to give freedom to those that have rare disorders, they will be able to do everyday things like other people without stressing about pain and anxiety.

The number of conditions that could not be treated and are now being treated is increasing, most genetics are going to be cured. The latest breakthrough in the field is its potential application in the treatment of a wide range of ophthalmic conditions.

We are now officially in the era of genetic medicine; many exciting new developments are in sight and with no doubts they are going to sharpen the gene therapy toolkits and bring even more innovative therapies to the market in the near future.



Photo: Pexels.com

TECHNOLOGY PREVENTED PANDEMICS

By Hlengiwe Phiri

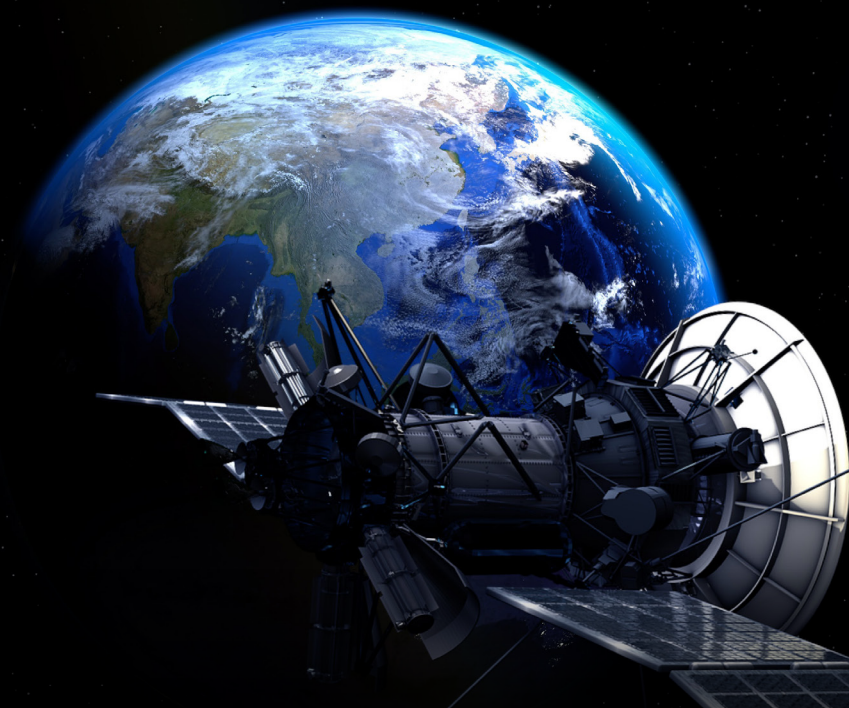
The Corona Virus spread like a wildfire in 2020, forcing people to educate themselves about an unknown disease in a short time period. Given the massive progress mankind has made from the last H1N1 Swine Flu, experienced in 2009, it came as a surprise that modern technology could not detect nor prevent such mayhem from happening.

The Fourth Industrial Revolution brings forth an easier and safer way to prevent pandemics from occurring through a technological chip. Inspired by the success of the lung on a chip, a Universal Serial Bus (USB) memory stick, sized device made from engineered lung tissues and microfluidics, used to detect microbial pathogens that cause respiratory diseases and are used to screen for new effective medication to treat diseases. Scientists are now working on a chip that can detect pathogenic viruses with similar characteristics to the SARS-CoV-2 virus and others, to curb future pandemics.

This chip will be able to detect any pathogenic virus as it tries to slip through the body's immune system, and through this, scientists will be able to study the virus and the potential harm it may cause, and create medications and effective vaccines before the virus causes an outbreak.

Rapid diagnosis of contagious viral diseases enables health care to cure and prevent the spread of diseases, and understand the characteristics of the virus before becoming an outbreak. This enables scientists to provide adequate information to the public, minimizing the spread of incorrect or false information, and maintain order.

Using a chip as a preventative measure for future pandemics is a modern way for mankind to take a step closer to living a longer and pandemic free life.



SATELLITE POLLUTION: NOWHERE TO HIDE

By Sonia Van Der Linde

Look up. If you think those tiny lights are all faraway stars, then you're wrong. There is no longer a single location on Earth where a satellite cannot be spotted in low-Earth orbit. It sounds terrifying, being unable to escape technology. However, it would be even more terrifying if those satellites were not up there, looking out for us. Satellites have become a vital part of our survival, whether it's natural disaster detection, communication, global warming tracking, etc.

Now that's enough of the positives, let's focus on the negatives, we're good at that. Earlier this year SpaceX announced that they will launch an estimated 42,000 satellites over the next few years. This along with the existing SpaceX Starlink satellites and thousands of others from various organizations will join what is now known as the satellite "mega-constellations". This poses a serious threat from an astronomical point of view. Astronomical observations has been one of the most important parts in understanding and discovering our universe and alteration and obstruction of the night sky by these satellites is one of the major challenges faced in this field. Some efforts have been made to find solutions to this problem, such as shielding and darkening the new satellites and launching them higher up into space, where detection will be minimal. Another problem we're facing is serious damage to the ozone layer. As decommissioned satellites re-enter the atmosphere, they burn up and release harmful chemicals such as aluminium. These chemicals interact with the molecules within the ozone layer, a problem that we have faced and solved before through the ban of commercially sold chlorofluorocarbons. This could lead to what is described as "ozone hole 2.0".

Conflict between environmentalists and firms looking to provide fast internet for everyone has caused the topic of satellite pollution to become a heated one. As it is unlikely that the new satellites will stay ground-bound, our only hope is finding an amicable solution that solves all of our problems. Should be easy.



Photo: pixabay.com

DINOSAUR WIPE-OUT – NEW EVIDENCE UNCOVERED.

By Sonia Van Der Linde

Earlier this month archaeologists in Tanis, an excavation site in North Dakota, discovered what they believe to be the remains of a *Thescelosaurus* that died 66 million years ago, possibly due to the impact of the asteroid behind the extinction of the dinosaurs.

The theory as to why these ancient creatures only left fragments of their stories behind for us to dig up, was the unwelcome arrival of a 12 km wide asteroid at the Gulf of Mexico. This asteroid brought on a wave of disasters such as devastating tsunamis, sandstorms and raging fires. The animals that survived the impact and the secondary effects, however, did not survive the aftermath. Debris and soot covered most of the vegetation and water bodies, leading to the extinction of 75% of all earth-bound animals.

Archaeologists at the Tanis site believe that the death of the *Thescelosaurus* was directly caused by the impact of the asteroid, as its well-preserved remains were found to have extra-terrestrial debris lodged within it. Radiometric dating also estimated the death of the dinosaur to have been approximately 66 million years ago, during the same time the asteroid hurtled into Earth.

However, many skeptics remain apprehensive about this evidence as there are a lot of theories to contradict it. If this evidence were to be peer-reviewed and accepted, it could provide insight on the events that transpired all those millions of years ago. Understanding the environment that existed before the asteroid could help us predict how the Earth might behave and change if such an event occurred again, even what the conditions might be like in the aftermath.



Photo:Unsplash.com

MODERN CRUSADERS OF THE FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH

By Derick Hill

Do you really want to live forever? This is not only a catchy lyric from Alphaville's hit song "Forever Young", but also a profound concept to ponder. Some may say no for a variety of different reasons, others, like the Coalition for Radical Life Extension, would give their answer as a big, resounding, YES!

The Coalition, a non-profit organisation based in Arizona in the USA, believes that death, or 'The End', as they call it, should become optional. The non-profit was started in 2016 by a property investor named James Strole. Strole, currently 73-years old, fervently hopes that science and medicine advance rapidly enough to provide him with a few extra decades to wait out the unveiling of the eventual cure to aging and death itself.

In top health for his age, here are a few things Strole does every day to ward off wrinkles:

- dairy and bread are avoided but
- over 70 different pills and supplements are ingested instead.
- He takes an early-morning swim in his pool to 'shock his immune system' and
- At some point in the day he lies on an electromagnetic mat to 'open up' his veins.
- Finally, he partakes in regimented breathing to 'balance' his hormones.

Although all these practices are not unique to Strole, the list is far from exhaustive when it comes to strategies taken by life-extensionists to attain longevity. Some follow strict diets and fast, some pay for pricy stem cell replacement surgeries, and most amusingly, some read the newspaper upside down. The latter practice is taken up by Marios Kyriazis, a gerontology (the scientific study of old age) expert who will even read his inverted paper reflected in a mirror as well to keep his mind active.

As of the current state of science and medicine, death is an often unfortunate but nevertheless inevitable reality for us all. It is only natural to fear it and try to stave it off, no matter how wacky some of these methods may sound.



AUGMENTED AND VIRTUAL FUTURE LAY NEAR

By Phuthego Precious Nthoke

Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality are fairly new concepts in South Africa, so it's normal for us not to be that knowledgeable about it. Every year these concepts gain more momentum as people venture into the industry.

Virtual reality is the experience of a simulated environment with the aid of computer technology, and can be explored in 360 degrees. Augmented reality is the adding of visual elements, sound and other sensory stimuli to a modified real-life environment. The difference between the two is that virtual reality is... virtual, while augmented reality makes use of a real-life setting.

Virtual Reality is controlled systematically, and requires a headset device while Augmented reality is accessible with just a smartphone. Most companies use Augmented Reality to enhance the experience their customers have with certain promoted products or services, and use it during launches for Novel Marketing, to collect specific data from the users.

Virtual Reality reigns in various industries like automotive, health-care, retail, real-estate and even gambling. More medical institutes are adapting VR to their procedures as well. Researchers have studied the effects of VR on adult and minor patients, and stated that it can be a distraction for children during medical procedures, but a control for pain experienced by adults. It also eases the pain caused by many medical conditions when paired with the correct medication. There has been a lot of progress as there are now psychiatrists who specialize in therapeutic Virtual Reality, known as 'Virtualists'. The market for Virtual Reality has a high value (\$24 million in 2018, expected to reach \$195 million by 2023), and increases annually.

Both Virtual and Augmented Reality have a bright future in South Africa, and with evolving technology, maybe we will make more use of it daily too!



THE BLOOD TYPE DIET: WHAT THE SCIENCE SAYS

By Derick Hill

All five litres of your blood perform absolutely essential functions in your body, and it is no secret that without it you would be dead, so it is perfectly reasonable to think that your blood type should dictate your lifestyle choices. The Blood Type Diet was founded on this principle. Peter D'Adamo, a naturopathic physician, authored a book called "Eat Right for Your Type" stating that people with blood type A, B and O should follow totally different eating plans.

According to D'Adamo, type O's should follow diets high in meat intake and avoid grains, as this blood type supposedly evolved first.

Type A's should be vegetarians, B's should avoid chicken, peanuts, corn, and a plethora of other foods, and AB's should focus on eating tofu, dairy, and seafood.

Eating according to your blood type is supposed to provide you with weight loss and higher energy levels, while also allowing you to avoid blood-agglutinating lectins. That latter mouthful is supposed to be proteins that cause red blood cells to clump up and cause blockages, and there are supposedly specific lectins for every blood type.

That last claim is not totally false – there are type-specific lectins. However, they are (as far as we know) only found in some legumes, and they lose all their potency when these legumes are cooked.

Studies have found that type A individuals benefitted from following their prescribed diet – but so did all the other blood types following the same diet. Since these diets are so restrictive and avoid processed sugars, anyone following any of the types' diets will see benefits over following a diet rich in processed foods and lacking thought.

Health and nutrition should be near the top of our priority lists, but the Blood Type Diet has no scientific grounds that should convince you to follow it.



Photo: Pexels.com

THE FUTURE OF ALS: THROUGH THE MIND

By Phuthego Precious Nthoke

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), sometimes better known as Lou Gehrig's disease, is one that breaks down nerve cells, reducing the muscle's ability to function properly. The cause thereof, is unknown, and currently has no cure but medication and physical therapy do help ease the discomfort.

ALS is more common in South Africa than most think. A study was conducted to determine the rate and presentation of ALS amongst the diverse regions in South Africa, and concluded that the Western Province has a higher rate thereof than most Asian countries, but lower than Western Countries and North Africa.

There are over 140 000 cases reported worldwide annually, with 384 new cases daily according to the International Alliance of ALS/MND associations. Some of the early symptoms of the disease include slurred speech, difficulty swallowing, hand weakness, motion difficulties and muscle cramps.

In 2011, a drug "Riluzole" was approved by the World Health Organization, and is used as treatment for the disease. Studies have been conducted since, and experiments were approved. Two brain chips were implanted into a 34-year old German patient, and two days post-surgery, they were able to form coherent sentences. The brain implant makes use of impulses, a huge breakthrough for the medical industry.

10 per cent of ALS cases are hereditary – usually one parent carries the gene which is passed to the children. Once properly diagnosed, the average survival rate is between two to five years, but with decent care, medication and therapy, this can be lengthened.

ALS can be used to educate others, but it does not have to hinder one's life. Stephen Hawking is a prime example, he was diagnosed with ALS at age twenty one, and was able to survive for more than fifty years after diagnosis.

People with ALS can do great things, but we hope that the brain chip and further experimentation does make life easier on them.



Photo: Pexels.com

GUNS, JOYSTICKS, AND THE GAMIFICATION OF WAR TO HIDE

By Derick Hill

Small, high-resolution cameras, facial recognition capabilities, wireless communication – these are all so commonplace that many people carry this technology around in their pockets in the form of a smartphone

With that in mind, it is no wonder that remote-controlled drones have become extensively used weapons of reconnaissance and destruction in the war between Russia and Ukraine.

Ukraine's military is already in possession of over 1000 drones – many of which can be bought by laypeople easily from Takealot.com. This number is growing too, as many US drone makers are donating dozens of their products. These cyber servants are mainly used for surveillance of Russian troops but have also been used to detect mines, deliver medicine, and even drop explosives. Although the numbers are not certain, Russia has their own drones too, with 26 that have already been downed or captured by adversaries.

According to military researcher John Parachini, drones may have overtaken the tank as the more decisive weapons system in war.

One might expect that in this modern war the more useful soldier might be a skilled gamer or techie who can easily manoeuvre and repair these remote-controlled robots. This would be incorrect, as all eligible men are still simply given firearms regardless of their proficiency in IT. In fact, Ukraine has no official drone unit despite the clear advantages that focusing drones could bring.

The truth is that the 'gamification' of war only leads to more war. Turning war into a videogame also has the added disadvantage of trivialising killing. No one thinks twice about the bots they kill on Call of Duty. Emulating this, but with real people, simply makes completely destroying your enemy too easy.

Drones provide an undeniable advantage in battle and protect living, breathing humans from death. In the long run, however, the lack of casualties may be replaced with a lack of desire for peace.



TRUST IN COMPUTERS TRUMPS ALL IN TRADING

By Derick Hill

The idea that robots and computers will replace common labourers has progressed from far-fetched sci-fi to stark reality. In 1936 young boys started losing their jobs as 'pinsetters' with the arrival of automated ten-pin bowling lanes, in 1957 postal workers sorting through mail were replaced with faster, cheaper sorting machines, and today the world of human-centred advisory finance is being brought to its knees by computer programmes well versed in algorithmic trading.

Algorithmic trading is the automated exchange of financial securities (like shares in a company) based on pre-programmed instructions. This means a computer is fed various rules and formulae that determine when it should buy or sell specific stocks whereafter it executes its programming indefinitely. The traders behind these platforms often make use of high-frequency trading technology, which allows tens of thousands of trades to be made every second. This quite obviously outperforms any human financial manager in terms of speed.

Investment analysts, men and women who pore over charts and graphs of different aspects of the financial world, used to be the go-to people when it came to gaining advice on where and when to invest. Experts in 'technical analysis', an extremely complicated methodology for evaluating investments, these analysts would strive to make accurate predictions to make their clients money and to win over those not making use of their services yet.

The age of belief in biological beings seems to be at an end, though, as a survey conducted by Kaiju Capital Management reveals that over 76% of investors would rather trust a computer to handle all their hard-earned cash than another human being. That number jumped to 96% when told that the computer algorithm in question has a six-year track record of positive predictions.

For the moment, analysts are still needed to programme and tweak these trading bots, but the rise of artificial intelligence may soon make the study of technical analysis obsolete.



LEAD POISONING: A CENTURIES LONG "SILENT PANDEMIC"

By Sonia Van Der Linde

Lead poisoning has been a part of our history since 2000 BC, and is still a problem that we just can't seem to shake. The toxic effects of lead have been known for thousands of years. The everyday use of lead, however, remained, as it used to be a key ingredient in paint, make up and many more just a hundred years ago. It has caused the death of thousands and is still causing the deaths of those who are unknowingly exposed to it. Although the use of lead-based products has been banned, lead is still a naturally occurring -and essential- element that we will never be rid of.

Recent statistics show that about 800 000 people die annually due to overexposure to lead and the overwhelming majority of these cases are found in developing countries, due to activities such as mining and the unfortunate reality of water conditions within such countries. The demographic most vulnerable to this occurrence is young children who suffer from malnutrition as their bodies absorb ingested material 5 times faster than adults, especially lead if their systems are lacking other nutrients such as Iron and Calcium. As even the smallest amounts of lead can affect human health and development, scientists believe that it has caused underdevelopment in many of our organs and our brains and may be the underlying cause of many diseases and disorders experienced by our race.

As a statistically significant portion of the Earth's crust consists of lead and ongoing pollution exacerbates the spread of lead-based objects, it is unlikely that we will ever escape this now termed "silent pandemic". Although lead-poisoning cannot be reversed, exposure can be prevented by decreasing the amount of manufactured lead-based products and as always, decreasing pollution.



ANTIOXIDANTS: WHY YOU SHOULD EAT YOUR VEGGIES!

By Akahlulwa Radana

Free radicals are a consequence of the body converting food into energy. In high doses, these may become radioactive and damage the cellular DNA in the human body which is where antioxidants come in.

Now, what are antioxidants? Antioxidants are compounds that help prevent or reduce the damage caused by free radicals. They counter by delivering numerous electrons to free radicals without developing into electron-scavenging compounds. Antioxidants also play a huge role in systems that repair DNA and keep the cells healthy, which in turn, makes them less susceptible to diseases like cancer.

Antioxidants can be found in foods like carrots, tomatoes, spinach and broccoli, Spinach, as a matter of fact, contains up to 0.9mmol of antioxidants at only one hundred grams, along with broccoli, it is high in lutein and zeaxanthin both of which may help protect your eyes from harmful UV and prevent damage to the eye cause by free radicals.

Antioxidants are also found in supplements in variants like powders and capsules, however it is not advised that they be used in the prevention of cancer, for research has shown that antioxidant supplements can in fact increase tumour growth – and we don't want that. So maybe we do need to keep things natural, and take some of our vegetables like spinach and broccoli, quite literally, with a pinch of salt, because we need them more than we think!

Antioxidants are not proven to prevent cancer but they do have great qualities. Therefore, eat your veggies and bulk up on those antioxidants!



WHY THE BUYOUT MARA!

By Phuthego Nthoke

This was supposed to be the breakthrough project for the South African technology and economic industry. It raised more question and disappointment than resolutions and progress. A project worth R1.5 billion turned out to become a huge failure despite the buzz surrounding its release.

In 2019, Standard Bank and the Industrial Development Corporation invested the mentioned money that was to be used to build a smartphone assembly plant, somewhere near Durban. The smartphone, 'Mara', is the first ever South-African smartphone brand.

Initially, the brand estimated that they would have 1.2 million smartphones ready for market entrance, as they had 200 employees upon opening. The plant was launched in October 2019, with bold claims about the impact of their products, affordability and range, housing 'Mara S', 'Mara Z' and 'Mara X'. The 'Z' and 'X' versions were valued between R3000 and R4000 upon launching. What seemed bright, turned sour in just two years.

The South African brainchild failed dismally due to speculations like the marketing strategy, or the phone's designs, but one thing we can ascertain is that they failed to acquire market shares, and South Africans preferred their cheaper alternatives.

Mara failed to sell enough products to pay their debts. In 2020, they were given a tax break and opportunity to gain government contracts. Their contract stipulated that the government would buy the smartphones, but they did not respond to the offer. They received a tax break worth R100 million, but at present, the factory is being auctioned by the owners. The reason for the auction has yet to be disclosed, as has everything else.



Photo: Pexels.com

OMNICON, DELTA, DELTACRON, WHAT'S NEXT?

By Zoleka Makhathini

We have lived with the Corona Virus pandemic for over two years, and it just does not seem to be going anywhere, even going as far as producing new variants – 'Delta' and 'Omicron', and now 'Deltacron'. Should we expect more variants?

On 7 January 2022, scientists led by Dr Leondio Kostriks in Cyprus, Middle East, discovered a new variant. A few cases were discovered in France, Netherlands and Denmark, none were found in Africa, but scientists believe that the fifth wave in South Africa is to be driven by this variant.

They named it 'Deltacron' as it is believed to be a combination of the Delta and Omnicron, which led to many arguments with other scientists as they believe it is a lab error. According to those who discovered Deltacron, the backbone is derived from Delta, its spine. The part of the virus that attaches itself to human cells is derived from Omnicron. Recombinant viruses like Deltacron can occur when multiple variants of a virus infect the same person at the same time and interact due to replication within the same cell.

The World Health Organization (WHO) reported that Deltacron is being monitored.

"It is a "variant being monitored", this means it has genetic changes that are suspected to affect its characteristics, with some evidence that it may pose a future risk. However, evidence for this is currently lacking, it will be monitored and reassessed in the pending new data" added the WHO.

Scientists reported that, Deltacron will probably spread, but there is no reason to be concerned for now. Both these variants have been known for some time and do not appear to be growing exponentially.

Unfortunately, we are in the dark about future variants, but as we always have, we should follow all COVID-19 protocols – washing and sanitizing our hands, limiting unnecessary interaction and wearing masks when necessary.

MADIBAZ'S CHESS PRODIGY GUNNING FOR INTERNATIONAL GLORY

By Siyolise Gqongwana

On 13 May, the Madibaz Chess Club attended a University Sports South Africa chess tournament in Potchefstroom. The University was represented by Calvin Mahlangu, Kaneesha de Kock and Gerald Wagner, accompanied by Coach Tinus Goosen.

"Each player did very well in their individual rounds and represented the University and the Madibaz Chess Club in a manner we can all be proud of," said Madibaz' Sports Assistant, Hildah Dikhudu.

Wagner, a third year Mechatronics student, did exceptionally well, leaving Potchefstroom undefeated with 4 wins and 3 draws, finishing with a final score of 5.5 out of 7. These results were enough to earn him a spot in the South African Student Team set to represent the country at the World Student Mind Games hosted in Belgium later this year.

This will be the first time out of the country for Gerald and he has not only expressed his excitement for the competition, but also for the prospect of learning about a different culture.

What is not his first time, however, is the privilege of representing South Africa at the Sport. Gerald also represented the country back in 2014 at the World Youth Chess Championships and again two years later, at the 2016 African Youth Chess Championship.

Goosen was quick to heap praise on his student's success: "Gerald's achievement makes us extremely proud. He showed from the day he joined the club that he has the willingness to learn and the work ethic to put in the necessary time required to improve his game. I have no doubt he will achieve the goals he has set for himself,"



Photo: Madibaz Sport

In the meantime, one of those goals for Gerald is acquiring sponsors that can help with the funding of his trip to Europe in September.

It will be interesting to see how far the young prodigy can go in Belgium, but with the recurring pattern of success in his chess career, it would be preposterous to bet against him.



Photo: Dexerto

EA SPORTS SET TO KICK OFF NEW ERA WITHOUT FIFA

By Siyolise Gqongwana

EA Sports is set to undergo a major rebranding after parting ways with FIFA. After almost 30 years, the partnership that has revolutionized the way we have come to know the game, is coming to an end.

EA Sports has been in partnership with the football organization for the right to use the 'FIFA' name since 1993, until recently, after the two sides failed to reach an agreement on extending their business.

According to The Times, tension had been building up for months, with the major point of contention being FIFA's demand to double their licensing fee of \$150 million a year. It seems like EA (Electronic Arts) clearly thought FIFA was overestimating their role in the success of the popular video game series and has instead opted for a future without the FIFA name.

After the current deal ends next summer, the company will rebrand its product as "EA Sports FC." The new game will not feature any FIFA controlled tournaments, including the World Cup. Other than that, every other previously available feature is returning, the company confirmed.

It is reported that FIFA has been pushing EA Sports to develop its game into a broader digital world, but EA executives did not like the idea of keeping the name if they were to take their innovation onwards. Perhaps feeling like they have built enough of a reputation over the years to continue their dominance in the industry – independent of the FIFA moniker.

EA has left a hole in FIFA's revenue. To try and replenish it, the organization is already working with third party developers to produce their own video game.

It is interesting to see how FIFA plans to compete with EA given the company's advanced technology and exclusive rights to the top football leagues in the world.

But before they can officially become competitors, they must combine once more to deliver their last version of the series together [FIFA 23], set to be released later this year around October.