

4 Glenariff,
96 Umbilo Road,
Durban - 4001,
South Africa.
TEL - 031 -213744

Saturday 5th July, 1997.

Nandha,

I dont know whether the Rothmans July Handicap had any meaning for you, if it did it is on today. It is holiday time for schools and so the streets are awash with kids and parents on holiday or shopping. Also since Durban is rated the warmest place in SA in Winter, everyone is bound for eThekweni. However the cold has hit Durban and we are all freezing - holiday makers and their children, squatters and street kids and comfortable residents are all freezing.

And you if one is to judge your weather by the Tennis at Wimbledon you are warm - hot? Not forgetting the unusual rain.

I am not sure that you are aware, since none of these items of news hit the headlines I thought I should tell you that your erstwhile colleagues at Natal University (Non-European section) M.J.Naidoo died on the 16/6 at 66 years.

He was not my friend and marrying MD made it worse. So I was not going to the funeral, but his son Jayandra kept phoning to tell me details of funeral arrangements that I felt I should go.

There is an awful hate campaign going on in the 'Indian' community - those marginalised in the present set-up or the rainbow nation -take your pick. The rationale being that we contributed to the struggle against apartheid and there should be a quid pro quo.

Did you know this ? We were to be paid for our part in the struggle ? Even those who made a packet from their anti-apartheid stance. How do you reward my two sons? What does the new democracy owe them ?

Anyway MJ's death was used to tell the ANC leadership how they marginalised MJ. Mac was at the funeral so too Jay Naidoo and a number of MP's all Indian - Zuma and Archie Gumede were speakers - Thumba Pillay was the MC and he told the story of MJ and I. You would think he was doing his own obituary.

Then Pat died on the 26/6 - Freedom Day that no one remembers today.

There were no speeches at his funeral but in the pouring rain thousands of teachers came to pay their respects to their erstwhile President, teacher, principal who suffered so much at the hands of this blasted govt.

His boozing days gave him sugar and even then he had problems keeping away from it. Remember the picnics on your farm - I have a picture of him climbing up the waterfalls. At the beach can you recall him kneeling and pleading with me not to empty the booze in the sink. He lost both his legs last year and it was horrendous seeing that handsome chap perched on a wheel chair coming to greet me.

I am 70 next birthday and the old engine is beginning to crank - High Blood pressure had taken prime position in my life. As soon as I got to grips with that than SUGAR reared its ugly head. I am doing battle with her/him. Health care I cannot afford so hopefully I will cop it soon.

How are Beverley, Pravin and Mala ?

My love to all of you,

Phyllis