

VIVA! VIVA!

by DAVID BASCKIN

NUTSHELL

TO PUT it in a nutshell, once the ANC has refused to repay foreign loans and skimmed one third off the top of every-body's savings, they are going to reintroduce the Monarchy. Now this has nothing to do with Namibia's current love affair with Queen Elizabeth and everything to do with some wooing going on between the ANC and the curiously named Congress of Traditional Leaders of South Africa. Apart from anything else, one can only be grateful for the ANC's flexibility of vision, of which the recognition of the rights of hereditary chiefs is the most unusual example.

Paradoxically the first and greatest beneficiary of this new plank in the ANC platform will be King Goodwill Zwelethini of the Zulus. As king, he can expect a reversion to all the rights, powers, benefits and glories that Shepstone, craven, lying, imperialist lackey of the colonialists, robbed from his ancestors. Amongst others, this will mean the immediate cessation of Natal Parks Board control of Hluhluwe and Umfolozi game reserves, both of which will revert to their former role as exclusive hunting grounds for the king.

For the Dunn Clan of Mangete, whose ancestor John Dunn was the original Zulu Blanc, preempting Johnny Clegg by 120 years, powerful possibilities await them. Especially when one considers that after the Anglo-Zulu war John Dunn was declared the senior of 13 kinglets that rules the dismembered Zulu state.

And Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, hereditary and actual vizier to the Zulu Royal Family? What will the ANC's new vision of chiefs and chieftainship do to their less than amiable relationship with him?

GONE WITH THE WIND

LITTERATEURS are buzzing with dispute over the latest Nobel Prize to come this way. While there's a pleasing feeling of appropriateness that a gift from the inventor of

dynamite should arrive in Jo'burg, there are some who do not feel that the sour vapourings of a Houghton housewife deserve a million US dollar prize. What about JM Coetzee? they say. What about Breyten Breytenbach?

What indeed. If the criteria for this year's Nobel are a) hostility to apartheid, and b) the production of great art, surely both these writers eclipse the melancholic, over-written, obsessive, uterine extravaganzas of the winner.

But one person we know is very pleased indeed about the Gordimer Floating Trophy. For some years now, he has been quietly buying up Gordimer first editions, on the canny and pragmatic insight that come the Revolution, this lady would scoop a Nobel. She did. He's got six First Editions, most in good, and three in fine condition. These include *A World of Strangers*, 2 copies, both with dustjackets, one inscribed "To Peter, with love from Ruth Xmas 1958", *Friday's Footprints* with "Wish you were here, love Eric" written in ballpoint on the flyleaf, *Burger's Daughter*, with a recipe for coq au vin written in pencil on the inside back cover. *The Conservationist* with pages 102-107 irreversibly stuck together with what seems to be condensed milk and *A Sport of Nature*, in perfect, unread, condition. Bids in sealed envelopes (sorry, only convertible currencies) may be sent to this writer for conveyance to the collector.

THE TRUTH OF THE MACHINE

HAVING just proof-read the Nobel Prize story, let me share with you the alternatives my computer spelling checker suggested. For Houghton, read Houston. For Burger's, read Burglars, Burners, Pursers, Bugbears, Bourgeois, Buggers, Bugles or Burble. For Breyten choose from Breathe, Brethren, Preyed, Breve or Pretzel. While for Gordimer, select either Gourd or Goodie. I certify that this is the complete and utter truth. My computer is too dumb to lie.

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