

## What Madiba was to us after democracy, Zapiro is now

Your cartoonist Jonathan Shapiro (Zapiro) is a brilliant national institution. *The Star* is lucky to have such a craftsman.

His craft is not just parody, but top-class journalism. The master can convey an event or shameful exposé in a few

brilliant pictures, which a top journalist might portray in a rambling 1 000 words.

He has no fear or favour. He will shame the sloth or incompetence of politicians or captains of industry. Christian fundamentalists voice enthusiastic approval when

he highlights the aversion of Muslims to criticism, but cry bigot when Zapiro points at the despicable criminal militarism by Bush and "mini me" Blair.

Just as Madiba was the perfect president after 1994, so is Zapiro just what we need

today, with the debate on the SABC's partiality, and a growing aversion in fragmented and sensitive communities to any introspection or debate.

He kowtows to no political master or ideology, but merely follows a calling of seeking the truth and expos-

ing bigotry and injustice.

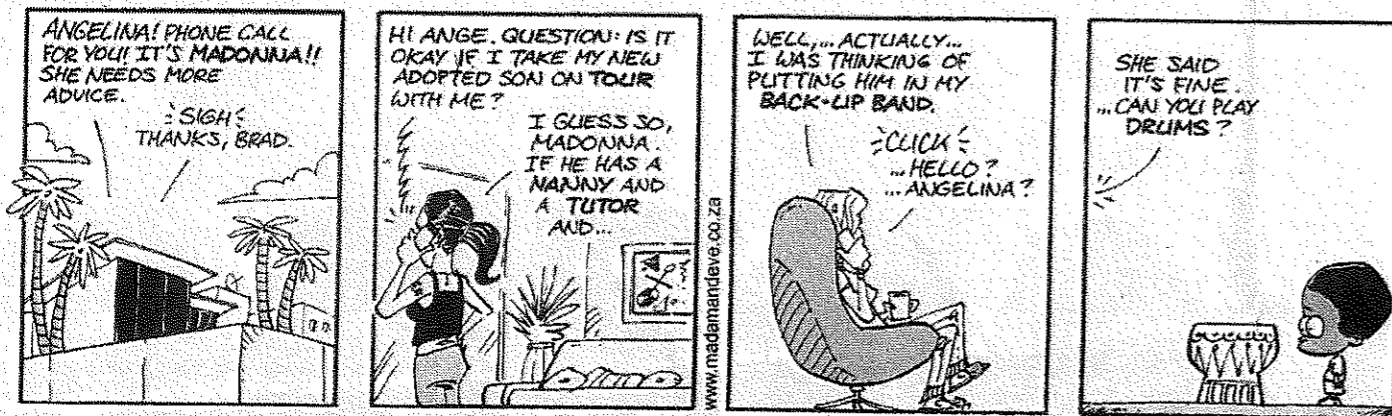
The sooner society gets closer to these lofty norms, the sooner we will be a more just and normal nation.

In the meantime thanks for the laughs, Zapiro.

**Clive Swann**  
Bonaero Park, Kempton Park

## MADAM & EVE

BY STEPHEN FRANCIS & RICO



## WRITE TO US

Write to Letters Editor  
Sol Makgabutlane at  
Box 61682  
Marshalltown 2107  
Fax: 011-838-2212  
E-mail:  
starletters@inl.co.za  
(No attachments)  
■ Pseudonyms are not acceptable  
■ Include full address and daytime phone number  
■ The letters editor reserves the right to edit or reject letters

## Du Preez argues for only one group: the Afrikaners

Perhaps to put the matter of name-changing and its relevance to reconciliation and nation-building, we need to look at similar developments in other parts of the world.

Analysts and commentators all hailed the recent visit of the new prime minister of Japan, Shinzo Abe, to Beijing, China as an important breakthrough in Sino-Japanese relations after the chilly climate that had characterised the premiership of his predecessor.

The nations of East Asia had responded very negatively to the previous premier's visits to a shrine dedicated to the Japanese war dead, including those condemned as war criminals by the War Crimes Tribunal at the end of World War 2.

The response of the Asian nations which had fallen victim to Japanese imperialism was well understood by all.

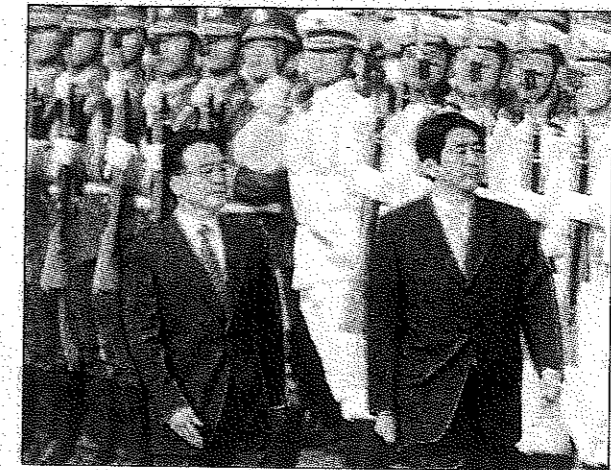
The Taiwanese had lost their sovereignty to Japan in the 1890s and their island had even been renamed "Formosa" for good measure by their conquerors.

"Riding roughshod over minorities" is how the editors of *The Star* chose to headline an opinion piece by Max du Preez (*The Star*, October 19 2006), reinforcing his baseless charge that in renaming places under their jurisdiction local municipalities have no regard for the sensibilities of the minorities.

There are minorities of European descent, who call themselves whites; minorities of Asian descent, the majority of whom are Indian; as well as those of mixed descent, known as Coloureds.

Given the headline, one would have thought Du Preez was taking up the cudgels on behalf of all these.

Reading his article though, one soon realises that he is concerned solely with one minority, the Afrikaans-speaking whites,



**HEALING RIFTS:** Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was in China recently. Abe's predecessor occasionally visited a shrine honouring the Japanese war dead, an act that offended China.  
**PICTURE: ITSUO INOUE / AP**

whose history and heroes he claims are being relegated.

So the headline should have read "Riding roughshod over the Afrikaner minority", because that, after all, is what the piece is about.

Du Preez would have done better to have read President Thabo Mbeki's response to Pieter Mulder last week a bit more closely.

In addition to what Du Preez remembers, Mbeki said: "Perhaps it's because my hero is your villain, and vice versa".

The response of the east Asian nations to a Japanese premier honouring the war dead is informed precisely by such sentiments.

In Europe it would be equivalent to a German chancellor visiting SS graves!

The events the East Asians took exception to are more than 60 years in the past.

Yet no sensible person questioned the Chinese or Korean sense of grievance or their view of the Japanese imperial army and its commanders as villains.

Here we are, a mere 12 years away from the end of apartheid, no war crimes tribunals; no examination of the actual record of apartheid and colonialist atrocities against the African

majority: PW Botha brazenly defying the TRC; apartheid's paid murderers and hired hit-men walking about free and yet Du Preez has the temerity to accuse the Tshwane Metro council of "steam-rolling" the name change of Pretoria, and the Ekurhuleni metro of "arrogance" and acting in a "high-handed fashion" in changing the name of Johannesburg International Airport to OR Tambo.

Perhaps Du Preez should enlighten us.

Who are these Afrikaner heroes who deserve recognition but are being diminished by "arrogant" local authorities?

Perhaps he had in mind the officer who gave the order to fire on March 21 1960. Or was it the intrepid commander who ordered the police to open fire on teenage school children in 1976?

Was he perhaps thinking of such paragons of courage as the men who beat a handcuffed Black Consciousness Movement leader Steve Biko to death while he was in their custody?

Was it the heroes who threw Ahmed Timol from the 10th floor window at John Vorster Square after ripping out his fingernails?

**Sandile Memela**  
Spokesperson for the Ministry of Arts and Culture

## NOTICE OF TRANSFER OF INSURANCE BUSINESS

Notice is hereby given in terms of section 38(1)(a)(ii) of the Long-term Insurance Act 52 of 1998 that it is the intention of Metropolitan Odyssey Limited ("Metropolitan Odyssey") to transfer the long-term insurance business which Metropolitan Odyssey carries on in the Republic of South Africa to Metropolitan Life Limited ("Metropolitan Life").

Metropolitan Odyssey and Metropolitan Life are registered long-term insurance companies incorporated under the laws of the Republic of South Africa. The transfer has been proposed as both insurance companies are wholly-owned subsidiaries of Metropolitan Holdings Limited and, at an operational level, their individual long-term insurance business is already managed as one business unit in the Metropolitan group. The transfer should therefore result in more effective capital management and a simplified tax and compliance environment.

If the proposed transfer is confirmed, Metropolitan Life will be responsible for the fulfilment of all the obligations of Metropolitan Odyssey that relate to the aforesaid long-term insurance business.

Details of the proposed transfer are contained in an agreement dated 20 October 2006. A copy of the agreement, together with copies of all other documents that form part of the application for the transfer of the business, are available for inspection during normal business hours from Friday 27 October 2006

## Apartheid-era council was not corrupt

I was shocked to hear on SABC News on October 25 that corruption is no worse now than it was under the apartheid government.

cover minor expenses, and served largely in an honorary capacity. Officials - highly trained and

whom departmental heads were responsible.

Most works were by the pri-