

School of Education
Community Engagement

..... Presents

CREATIVE NETWORK
MAGAZINE

About This Volume

Students and Staff from ALL universities and members of the general public were invited to:
'Write about their current experiences in a creative way - a story, lyrics, poem, drawing etc...
including how learning can take place during this time".

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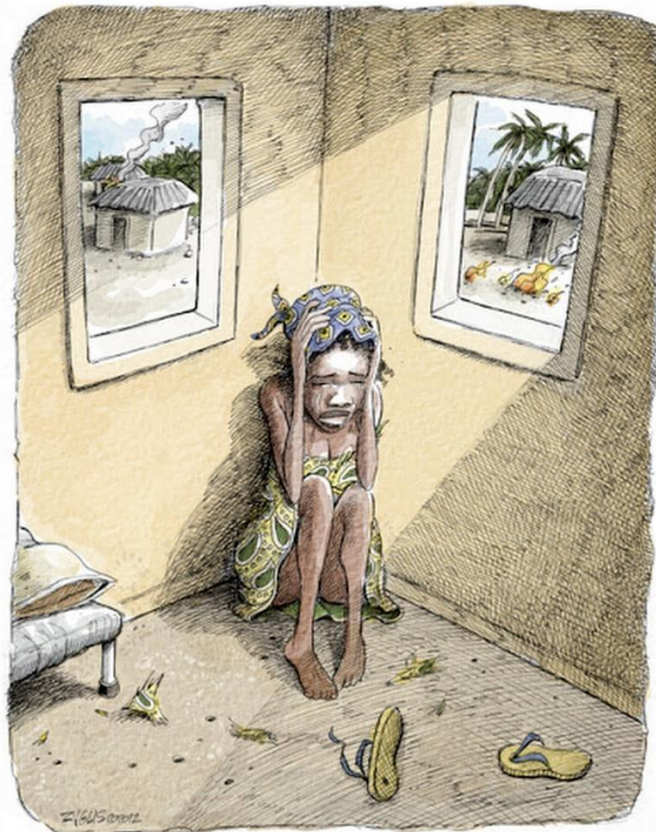
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BLEEDING SCAR

... And screams of anguish fill the wind,
As fire guts in the huts behind.
Friend, do you see the smoke?
Do you hear children choke?
Or is it only in my mind?

Yet slowly the years lull the place,
Plus lovely flowers fill the space.
Still -- I see rebels march,
For legs to spread they search --
He's on to me with shameless face!

In me, a time bomb ticks about,
My friend, to you I plead in shout,
Their voices haunt me till p.m.!
Don't leave me here with them,
Help me! Or my brain will blow out.

Qoheleth

**INTERESTED IN SUBMITTING
A CREATIVE PIECE**

**Submit your piece to any team
member by e-mail or
WhatsApp by Wednesday of
every week.**

**SUBMIT - PERMISSION IS
GRANTED TO THE EDITORS
TO PUBLISH MY CREATIVE
WORK IN THE MAGAZINE.**

The gift of life
by

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Life starts from a little seed,
Nurtured by the host,
With endless care and love,
Feelings grow,
Love develops,
And protection of the new life starts...
In a few, days or months, the product of life will appear...
Innocent and beautiful,
Just waiting to be revealed and loved...
Sometimes with hate,
And sometimes with love,
It depends what awaits on the other side...
Life is beautiful, but yet so cruel...
Be careful, be strong, but most of all,
Accept the gift of life, because life is a gift and valuable!

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"UNCATEGORIZE WHAT WE HAVE BEEN TAUGHT"

by

Shannon Berriman

(Home Schooling Mom and Amateur Photographer)

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From the time we are born, and even while we are still in our mother's womb, we are told and taught "this is and that is" We start getting taught the names of people, shapes, objects, sounds, colours and so much more.

This is how we learn. We also get taught about categories and later on, an emotion starts getting attached to that category, whether something is good or bad, pretty or ugly, nice or not.

We are taught all this new information, often by our parents, a sibling, a teacher or a significant other.

While we are young and learning, our brains are like sponges and we absorb everything taught to us. These teachings shape and mould our thinking and the way we categorize "things" in our lives. We are too young and inexperienced, to stop and think, "is this the teacher's opinion about this object?"

We start categorizing things into further categories of good and bad, positive and negative, healthy and unhealthy and more.

The way we think has made me question, to what level has our pre-conditioning influenced our lives and our thinking?

On a recent early morning walk, I noticed a beautiful, lilac flower in a field. The closer I got to the flower, I realised it was in fact a weed. My mind immediately wanted to default into the category of weeds, not a pretty flower, but a weed. I stopped to ponder how categories can truly influence us and our way of thinking.

Does the way we categorise an item stop us from giving that item much attention? A vase full of those lilac "weeds" would be beautiful, if we could change their category to "flowers".

What if we were to take off our "trained lens" that we see life through and put on a lens that has not been pre-conditioned? Do you think we would start enjoying some new experiences in life that we may never have given any attention to, before, as we would have put them into a negative category?

This pre-conditioning expands further to whether we are cautious or adventurous, positive or more of a glass half empty type of person.

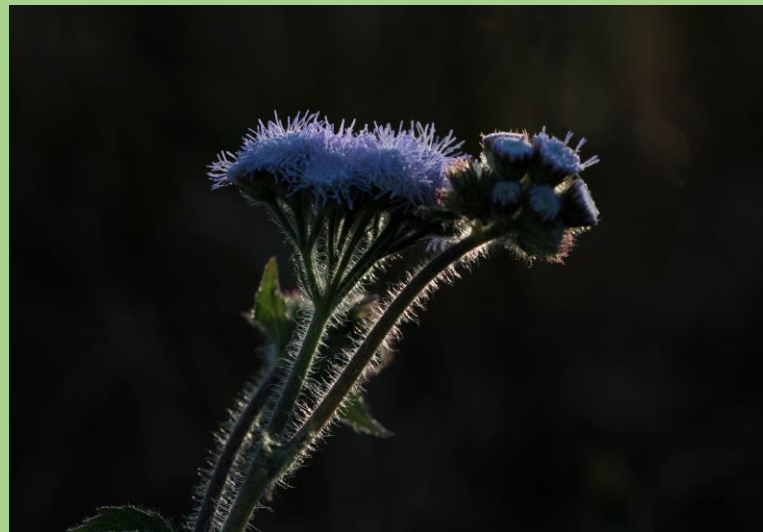
There are certain trains of thought or reactions I have that are done purely out of habit, out of how I have been taught and how my family may have taught me to react to these kinds of situations. I suppose, this topic could lead on to family traditions. We are taught to do a task a certain way because that is how our Granny, our Mom or our Aunt always did it!

There may be no right or wrong way of doing certain things, but you would definitely have a preferred way of doing it. When we start feeling that our way is the correct way or the only way to do something, we need to remind ourselves that there could be another way of doing the same thing and if we were open to learning another way, we may learn something new!

I challenge all of us, to remove our “categorized lens” and to look at objects in an uncategorized manner and to try and block out the pre-conditioning we have already been taught about that object and see whether we could possibly experience that object in a different way. Maybe instead of using our eyes so much, maybe we could try and use our ears, our touch or our sense of smell to enjoy different experiences about an object. What if we were to try to sit and do nothing, think nothing and purely look at items for what they are, putting no perceived ideas or habitual thought patterns in our minds. I have tried doing absolutely nothing – it certainly is easier said than done!

I look forward to challenging myself, as I am sure I will enjoy discovering new things, that I may have thought fell into a negative category, previously, and I am sure I will learn new things about categorized items that I may not have previously known.

Enjoy exploring new things!



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Home Brew
by
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(International Community person - Australia)
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Hey man,
If you must insist
Joko tea will do.
Not that stuff
You call Rooibos,
That's not a brew
For a bloke Like me.
But my missus is fancy like,
She's for Honey Bush
All the way.
Jeez, this isn't Joko
I say,
Accidentally sipping her cup.
And spluttering all over.
Land myself in serious shit
With my missus
Mad as hell.
Bugger me, I say

Better leave off
Drinking tea all together.
Home brew is the surest drink
For Mr Ramaphosa
And me.

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S`THANDOKUHLE CRECHE AND PRESCHOOL
An Early Childhood Development School

by

Eunice Ngubane and Nonku Ntuli

(Community persons)

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The crèche and pre-school was built in 1994 by the Valley Trust on behalf of the founder, Lillian Ngubane. She ran it for many years as the principal, together with various assistants.

When the effects of old age came on, this meant that Lillian was unable to carry out the physical demands of the position and her daughter Eunice Ngubane took over the day to day running of the school. The handover as principal from Lillian to Eunice was carried out over several years over the periods, 2009 to 2011. Eunice Ngubane is presently the principal, assisted by 6 teachers plus further ancillary staff.

In mid-2010, Viv and Jacky Stieger and Roy and Heather Johnston were recruited by Eunice to assist in upgrading the facilities at the school. These two couples found on site a well-constructed first aid clinic/community hall, closely adjacent to a very run down two-roomed crèche facility. The walls of the crèche were still in adequate condition, but the roof was full of holes, water was drawn from a standing tap inside the property, the sewage system was blocked and not working at all (long drop or open pit) toilets had been dug and were the only toilet system available). Also food to feed the children was scarce and teachers were demoralized as school fees were rapidly used up on essentials, leaving very little left over and they had to wait to get paid their monthly salaries, which was then R400 per month.

Viv Stieger managed to clear the sewage blockage and connected mains water to the toilets and to the kitchen. Some of the toilets were broken but at least some worked. He also re-positioned a large water tank that was donated to catch water off the roof of the clinic. This water was to be used to water the vegetable gardens.

Roy and Heather established contact with the Robin Hood Foundation. The personnel from this foundation proved to be extremely supportive and provided invaluable help, all at no cost. They donated huge amounts of clothing, curtaining, toys, cots and food. All these items made a tremendous difference to the staff and children at the school.

Through the Robin Hood Foundation, Roy and Heather were introduced to the Santa Shoebox Project, and through them to Bay Union Employee Benefit Consultants (Pty) Ltd. This company was very generous in their support of S'Thandokuhle. They donated food, toys and clothing during the course of 2011, as well as a Christmas party and also repaired the roof of the crèche.

Also in 2011, Nell Plumbers of Hillcrest Supplies fitted six new children's toilets free of charge, and ensured that the sewage system was functioning correctly.

In 2012, a team of learners from Hillcrest High School repainted the school. This was immediately followed by one of the learner's parents building two more classrooms, again at no charge.

Over the past few years, several other organisations have assisted. These have included various private sponsors, as well as the Hillcrest Methodist church and focus on iThemba.

Eunice was approached in October 2018 by Vodacom and as a result of their meeting, the company declared S'Thandokuhle to be the first ECD school in KwaZulu-Natal that they will support. An extensive refurbishment was begun at the end of November which will vastly improve the facility. Included in these improvements were a new roof, new carpeting, a revamped electrical system, including lighting and cooking facilities, repairs to the sewage system and full repaints of all surfaces.

The school has grown from just a few children in the early years, to 60 in 2011, 91 in 2018, 95 in 2019. In the year 2020 we opened with 70 children due to COVID-19. The crèche had to close from March 18 2020 and it re opened on September 01. This pandemic had a lot of effects on the centre because parents are afraid of sending their children to school. We opened with less children because of COVID-19, but numbers are expected to exceed 80+ this year.

THE ECONOMIST - THE WORLD IN 2021

Review 2

by

Dr. Betty Govinden

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The Special Issue, "The World in 2021", published in November 2020, considers the impact of COVID-19, and covers a wide spectrum of areas in our contemporary life - International News, Science and Technology, Culture, Business, Climate Change, Teaching and Learning, and a "post-crisis" world.

Excerpt: "After the Tech-celebration"

"Welcome to the future – not 2021, but 2025, or even 2030. The adoption of new technological behaviours in response to the pandemic, from video-conferencing to online shopping, means usage has already reached levels that were not expected for many years...In banking...cashless transactions worldwide have jumped to levels they had expected to see in two to five years' time...Online learning was slowly becoming more prevalent..."

"Welcome to the future – not 2021, but 2025, or even 2030. The adoption of new technological behaviours in response to the pandemic, from video-conferencing to online shopping, means usage has already reached levels that were not expected for many years...In banking...cashless transactions worldwide have jumped to levels they had expected to see in two to five years' time...Online learning was slowly becoming more prevalent..."

This sudden shift has been painful... The switch to online learning highlighted inequality in broadband access and computer ownership among students.

THE FUTURE IS NOW...Already companies big and small are devising fresh tools to improve the experience of working, collaboration and learning; to support new kinds of contactless and appointment-based retailing; and to provide new sorts of online social experiences from virtual conferences to virtual tourism. There is no going back to the past that existed before the pandemic. Instead, COVID-19 has propelled the world into a very different future..." [p.22. By Tom Standage, the Editor]

THE SILENT KILLER

by

Shannon Berriman

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I think the topic I am about to write about is more detrimental to ourselves than we realize, and we may all have suffered the fate of this "silent killer" somewhere along life's way, if not a lot of the time.

It is a crazy thing, as it is us, who most often subject ourselves to this "thing".

It can stifle us and hold us back from so much. So often "it" presents itself in thoughts and stories that we tell ourselves or lies that have been spoken over our lives, that we have believed, and we retell ourselves over and over again, until we start believing these lies.

I am sure you have guessed what I am writing about!

COMPARISON – the silent killer.

I call it the silent killer as so often, we don't verbalize what we are scared of, or what we feel is holding us back. It is more often than not, a conversation we have with ourselves, in our heads, that no-one else ever hears or is even aware of.

Maybe human beings are born to be naturally competitive, which would then encourage us to compare ourselves to others, to be faster, fitter, better, achiever higher marks etc.

Others may have a lower self-esteem and see themselves as not good enough or not fast enough, not fit enough etc.

Why are we so pre-conditioned to want to "fit in?"

I do not know too much about genetics and medical research, but what I do know is that we all have our very own unique DNA. We look different, we think differently, and we behave differently. Even identical twins have their own unique fingerprints. Not one human being is identical to another, on every genetic and medical level.

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Why then do we feel that we should be able to do things identically as someone else, when we are all so unique? We all have strengths and weaknesses, different talents, things we naturally find easy and others that we find more challenging. Everyone would be different in these areas.

Maybe having to be “moulded” into an education system that, historically, taught in a way that was more suited to children with good auditory skills and with good note taking skills.

Those children whose strengths were not suited to this system, soon started comparing themselves to those, whose strengths lie in this area. This is when comparison starts creeping in. It appears to be a natural process we all do.

After some time, negative self-worth starts setting in and often starts affecting children’s strengths because they stop believing in themselves.

We are all good at something. I so wish there were alternate options for children to prove their strengths and for them to be allowed to follow a path that is best suited to them, before they start feeling that they can’t do something and before they all had to fit into “the box”.

Maybe more time needs to be spent telling children what they can do, instead of what they can’t do.

Humans love to receive recognition. I mean, who doesn’t love a pat on the back and to hear the words “well done” being spoken to you.

Maybe you never received the recognition you deserved and never heard those words “well done” being spoken to you and this has caused you to have doubts about your abilities. We can also limit ourselves by worrying about what others will think or say about us.

I am hoping we can all run our own race and finish strongly. It doesn’t matter where we come, the main thing is that we finish.

Maybe we should take time out to be kinder to each other, to pay a compliment when it is due, offer a helping hand to someone in need, to say a word of encouragement when we are prompted to do so. We will never know when that gentle word of encouragement is the final nudge someone may have needed.

Why try to fit in when we were made to stand out?

This world needs more unique people, to break out of the mould, and to do things differently.

I really hope that we can think long and hard about who or what we compare ourselves to and to assess if we have placed this comparison on ourselves or if it is a lie we have believed?

We are all uniquely and specifically knitted together for the plans and purposes we were made to fulfil. Don’t try and run someone else’s race for them. Stay in your lane and run your own race.

May we learn from nature to bloom where we have been planted!

I hope to see you all at the finish line!



RESEARCH BYTES

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African Governments' responses to Covid-19

Governments across Africa took measures to combat the spread of COVID-19 and minimize its adverse and multifaceted impacts on its citizens and economy. Most of the decisions were introduced by proclamations, new legislative actions, and executive orders.

Reports revealed that governments in Africa struggled to strike a balance between the need to control the spread of the virus and the need to prevent the economic fallout exacerbating the current food security crisis.

The COVID-19 pandemic is here to stay longer than our earlier expectations. The stories from the ground depict the grave effect of the pandemic on all pillars of food security in Africa. There is a shortage of adequate supply of food; there is an immense difficulty accessing available food; small-scale farmers and the urban poor have significantly reduced their diet, and hunger is the only urgent and permanent reality.

Sekwanele

by

Dr. Thulebona Shawe

(University of the Free State; Qwaqwa Campus)


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Sizithobile salandela imigomo.
Sangabuza, sangaphikisana nezincithabuchopho
Zasitshela okumele sikwenze, sakwenza.
Kepha kubukeka kunhlanga zimuka nomoya!
Izihlobo, imindeni, abathandiweyo bethu, ozakwethu
Bashona ubuthaphuthaphu!
Sekwanele!

Abafundisi nofakazi bezinkolo ezahlukeni bakhulekile.
Abafundisi kuwo wonke amazinga ezemfundo,
Sibezwile besiqwashisa ngawe.
Abazempilo baphume imikhankaso
Bebamba iqhaza ekusiqwashiseni ngalolu bhuhane.
Kepha kubonakala sengathi kudla silaza kudle fumuka.
Sigcwele amanzi emadolweni,
Izinkophe zethu zigcwele izinyembezi,
Sithuka izanya.
Sekwanele!

Lezi zilonda, nemihuzuko kuyovalwa ngubani?
Lezi zintandane, abafelokazi bona?
Abazali abasele dengwane behanjelwe ngabantwana babo!
Kanti ngempela ungubani wena?
Uthunyelwe ngubani?
Ososayensi bakithi ababuke ngeso elibanzi nelijulile.
Osopolitiki kanye nabaholi bezwe siyabanxusa
Ukuba babuke ngeso elijulile.
Saphela isizwe sikaPhunga noMageba!
Sekwanele!

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Alex James
Alexjames251@gmail.com

Hey dudes, got these cool "ORBIT: THE PLANETS" prints done and they definitely do justice to the planets of the solar system. If you're interested in getting some space, hit me up in the DMs with your choice of any or all of the planets you would like to purchase. More details will follow after. Peace out and stay safe out there.

♂ ♀ ⊕ ♂ ♄ ♅ ♆ ♇

**MENZI MKHWANE CREATIONS
PRESENTS**



THOLUTHANDO
 Created by Menzi Mkhwane
 Starring
 Cue ngema & Sesethu magalela

Venue: Durban Music School

DATE: 25TH | TIME: 6:00PM FEB
DATE: 26TH | TIME: 6:00PM FEB
DATE: 27TH | TIME: 2:00PM & 6:00PM FEB
DATE: 28TH | TIME: 2:00PM FEB

TICKETS: R100 | COUPLE R160

**THE
ABANDONED
BICYCLE**



COMING SOON

By
 Jennifer Sheokarah

IMPORTANT NOTICES TO ALL AUTHORS

NOTICE 1

Dear Authors

Thank you so much to everyone who submitted their great creative piece(s) which were published in Volumes 1 - 40 and to those whose pieces are in the current publication, we are grateful for your amazing work.

Creative pieces in any language are welcome.

Kindly please note that we **ONLY** publish **8-10** “creative pieces” each week.

If your piece is not in the current publication, it will be published the following week.

Kind regards,
Creative Network Magazine Team

NOTICE 2

Dear Authors

Whenever you submit your creative piece to Dr. James, we kindly and warmly request you to please also send the following note with your submission:

I (Full name and Surname) hereby grant permission for the Creative Network Magazine to publish my submission (creative piece).