

Winning letter

### Green soldiering

The green soldiering idea has brought with it many exciting developments in the environmental field. Environmental protection is the highest task of man. I believe that without performing this task diligently and failing to act decisively and in a responsible way, we will put great stress on the life-support system of planet earth. Our children will ultimately live in a bleak and impoverished world.

I also support the notion that the ultimate responsibility for the health of the earth rests with the individual. Every one of us can make a difference by the way we live our lives and the way we consume resources. Think for a moment about an act of disposing waste carelessly. This is likely to result in water pollution, which will harm the planetary oxygen factory - the oceans. The far-reaching effects of individual action also apply to the consumption of electricity. When one switches on an electric light bulb, the heat comes from a coal-fired power station. The process of burning million tons of coal for electricity will result in acid rain, which will cause severe environmental damage. Really, planet earth is at risk!

We need to support the DOD in environmental protection so as to achieve economic growth and development, particularly the core business of the DOD which it to produce operationally ready soldiers. We need to involve ourselves. We need the sort of commitment that is normally only awakened in nations threatened by war. Maybe we are at war, in a battle for the health of our planet. We need to mobilise all the forces of human knowledge and fight with every weapon in our arsenal. We need to use consumable resources wisely, reduce waste and save energy. After all Mother Earth deserves love, care and respect - Pte M.J. Kgoele, 2 SAI Bn, Mmabatho. 

### Bafana-Bafana visited Burundi

The committee that was appointed to make arrangements for the arrival of *Bafana-Bafana* in Burundi would like to extend special thanks to the Force Commander, Maj Gen Binda, and the former Contingent Commander, Col X. Mankaye, for giving the soldiers an opportunity to support and receive the SA National Team in such numbers. The players and SAFA delegation headed by their Chief Director, Mr Barney Kujane, and Head Coach, Mr Ephraim "Shakes" Mashaba, were impressed and expressed their sincere pride in the SANDF.

The players could not stop appreciating the immense support and safety that they were given. They acknowledged the fact that it was the first time in many games that they had played in Africa that they could express themselves freely and to the best of their ability. They also appreciated the assurance of their safety from day one of their arrival until the day of their departure.

The media, which comprised *Super*

*Sport* and *E-TV*, headed by the SABC crew, were very positive and happy about the events. The committee believes that the SANDF has set higher standards back home in South Africa. The encouraging and positive announcements by Mr Mike "Sparo" Mangena and Mr Robert Marawa on the soccer zone show, which was watched by millions of viewers screened on SABC 2 on 7 July 2003 at 21:00, has put the SANDF a step higher on the map.

The soldiers were equally jubilant and excited about recent soccer games, which were sealed by a wonderful victory by *Bafana-Bafana* over Burundi. Despite the struggle and the deliberate delay in getting tickets from the relevant Burundian Football Association, the committee believes that the SANDF has accomplished its mission in the light of the immense support that it gave *Bafana-Bafana*. It is indeed true that a prize can never be won without an effort - Maj M.S. Ngeleza, Burundi. 

### Guns of life

Can't you hear the saying?  
Can't you see the events?  
Don't you know about the bad and the good?

Trust someone and never trust everybody  
Believe in yourself and never let your life be ruined by anything.

Don't you know about crying and madness?  
Don't you know happiness and sadness?  
Mind them, they are part and parcel of our daily guns of life  
So wake up, don't let anyone cut your love life.

For AIDS will take you to pieces, six feet underground  
Safe sex will provide you with a life lived long.  
Stop the crying, stop the guns of life  
Stop unsafe sex - F Sgt Mxolisi Botya, Hoedspruit AFB. 

### 3 SA Infantry Battalion

Collision of bodies and minds  
Bonds for eternity  
Founded on common struggle  
And mutual respect

Abilities stretched to the limit  
Blood and sweat are orders of the day  
Bodies moulded to perfection  
Mindsets are altered

A place for heroes  
It is where survivors gather  
Never a place for failures  
But always room for improvement

Who I was, I am no longer  
Life as I know it, Ceases to exist  
My reincarnation began at this place

An illusion it is not  
For I have found such a place  
And there is no-where  
I would rather be than  
3 SAI Battalion - Wendal Moodley, Lyttelton. 