



The Rotary Club of Wynberg

Wynpress



President Stephen Bredenkamp 0825704440
Secretary Rob Murphy 0837267060
Treasurer Mike Schreiber 0834140462
Editorial Board;
Barry Cleveland, Lina Howard, Hugh Maunder & String Smith

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Editorial

MISLEADING STATISTICS

by Lina Howard

I decided to look into this thorny subject of Statistics when I read that 30 000 children are trafficked from South Africa

As many as “30,000 kids trafficked in SA” read a headline in *The Times* in October 2013. A similar article appeared in the *Pretoria News*, suggesting that “at least 30,000 children” are trafficked and prostituted annually in South Africa and “50 per cent of them are under the age of 14”. The paper attributed the claim to Roxanne Rawlins of *Freedom Climb*, “a project that works with trafficked people around the globe”.

This number just seemed to be ridiculously high. The newspapers have not reported ONE child missing this month – and if you estimate the monthly number – it would be about 2500. This could then amount to about 30 a day if they are taken individually. Perhaps they take all the children in a village???

When some intrepid researcher looked into this matter, it was found that Rawlins was using data from a 2004 report done by a US company, and she goes on to say she has been ‘misquoted’.

Current Missing Children SA records do not support Stafford’s claims either. In 2012 the organisation reported that it had dealt with 304 missing children and 256 cases of

missing adults. Only 2% of these cases were as a result of human trafficking.

There you have it – numbers meant to cause alarm and dissent which are really only fabricated.

While statistics are extremely valuable, they are notorious for a means that people use to make false and misleading arguments.

Newspaper articles seem to carry more credence when they quote statistics – as they have an authority about them. (numbers!!!)

Saying “80% of high school students admit to cheating on tests” – just sounds more authoritative than “most high school students admit to cheating in tests”

Most often, statistics are obtained by taking a sample from a larger group and assuming the whole group has the same characteristics. For example, if we ask 100 people who they are going to vote for in the next election, and 55 of them say they will vote DA, we might assume that 55% of the country will vote for DA – but that is a simple exaggeration of small samples.

Even when statistics are technically accurate, they can be misleading. Like the statistic that “the rate of teenage pregnancy in conservative religious groups was higher than the national average”. It was only a higher percentage because many in the religious group were women who married in their teens.

Nevertheless, recognizing that statistics people present to us are frequently flawed doesn't imply that we can depend on anecdotes about individual cases or our own experiences. These are likely to be atypical of what happens in the world at large. Instead we should withhold judgment until we can get more reliable information about what is really going on.

80% of statistics are made up on the spot.

The remaining 20% are mathematically flawed



Duty Roster

	November			December
	19	26	3	10
Sergeant	Todd	Barnard		Cleveland
Wynpress Editorial	Schreiber	Smith		Todd
Minutes for Wynpress	Cleveland	Howard	No Meeting	Smith
Door Duty	Van Eeden	V Niekerk, S		Van Wyk
Grace	Jackson	James		Lidgley
Loyal Toast	Vivian	Lidgley		Barnard
International Toast	V Wyk	Vivian		Bird
Speaker Introduction	Murphy	Overbosch		N/A
Speaker Thanks	Dietrich	Gowdy		N/A

Minutes

12 November 2015

	Compiled by Hugh Maunder
Attendance	Total Attendance 70%
Visitors	Stephen welcomed all partners of members as well as our Rotaractors and their partners. He also welcomed guests:- Ryan, Jean and SanMari, Andre and Glennis, Alan and Christine. There were a total of 46 people for dinner.

Fellowship Announcements	<p>Members were delighted to congratulate Rob Murphy on reaching his 50th birthday.</p> <p>Bev Bird informed the meeting that her children had left for the USA and she requested three months leave of absence to go and help them settle in.</p>
Slots	<p>Slots</p> <p>Biffy reported that 90% of tickets for “Uncle Pauls” had already been sold.</p> <p>Keela distributed the pottery that had been made by members.</p> <p>Justin discussed the new designs of our banner, brochure and badge.</p> <p>Jackie has Christmas puddings from Kirstenbosch Rotary at R80 each.</p>
Guest Speaker	<p>Dr Philip Mills and the Banting Diet - Cardiologist (Low Carb High Fat - fact or fiction)</p> <p>Dr Mills gave a very thought provoking presentation, complete with graphs, and he left us in no doubt that carbohydrates are mainly responsible for 70% of South Africans having weight problems. He recommended a low carb. Mediterranean diet</p>
Swindle	<p>String's prediction that jackpot would not be won was again correct. How does he do it? Luckily he did not inform us before we participated.</p>
President's Quote	<p>My doctor told me to stop having intimate dinners for four. Unless there are three other people. - Orson Welles</p> <p>Every single diet I ever fell off was because of potatoes and gravy of some sort. -Dolly Parton</p> <p>Addition to last week's Wynpress:</p> <p>Regarding the item about allocations from Haugaland College to the schools, we need to emphasize that in addition to these amounts, each school will also be given the impressive amount of R70.000 from Oddemarka Junior School.</p>
Next Meeting	<p>Thursday, 19 November at Wynberg Girls High School tuck-shop.</p>



Going Forward

Dates To Diarise

Thur 19 Nov	Normal Meeting: Claudine Kagaba (Helping broken people find a role in Society NB VENUE – Wynberg Girls High School tuck-shop
Nov 25 – Dec 22	Uncle Pauls:- see Wynberg Rotaract for actual dates.
Thur Nov 26	Christoph Schmocker, VP Roger Federer Foundation: Education empowers children
Tues Dec 1	Uncle Pauls Charity evening
Thur Dec 3	No meeting
Thur Dec 10	Business Meeting - Election of Office Bearers
Thur Dec 17	End of year party: Venue to be confirmed.
Thur Jan 14	A new Year.... What are we going to do this year?



Be a gift to the world

SKIPPING CHURCH

Father Norton woke up Sunday morning and realising it was an exceptionally beautiful and sunny early spring day, decided he just had to play golf. So he told the Associate Pastor that he was feeling sick and persuaded him to say Mass for him that day.

As soon as the Associate Pastor left the room, Father Norton headed out of town to a golf course about forty miles away. This way he knew he wouldn't accidentally meet anyone he knew from his parish.

Setting up on the first tee, he was alone. After all, it was Sunday morning and everyone else was in church!

At about this time, St Peter leaned over to the Lord while looking down from the heavens and exclaimed, "You're not going to let him get away with this, are you?"

The Lord sighed, and said, "No, I guess not."

Just then Father Norton hit the ball and it shot straight towards the pin, dropping just short of it, rolled up and fell into the hole. IT WAS A 420 YARD HOLE IN ONE! St Peter was astonished.

He looked at the Lord and asked, "Why did you let him do that?"

The Lord smiled and replied, "Who's he going to tell?"

