

# THE CITIZEN

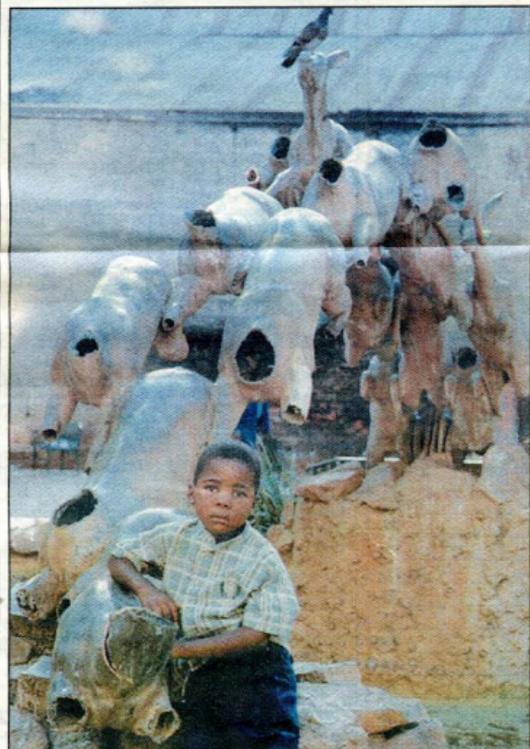
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VISITORS to the Oppenheimer Gardens in central Johannesburg got a shock when they found the metal heads and legs of a dozen or so leaping springboks had been sawn off. NTSHAVHENI NELWAMONDO, 6, of Hillbrow, a regular visitor to the park, wonders what happened to the springboks, a city landmark.

Picture by Annalien van Zyl

## Deputy Tanzania police chief robbed

By Eleanor  
Mombberg

THE Assistant Commissioner of the Tanzanian Police, Mr Dominic William Hayuna, was held up and robbed of several thousand rands in cash and clothes at the Holiday Inn in Beatrix Street, Pretoria, on Sunday night.

Police spokesman Captain Morne van Wyk said a suspect walked into the hotel at about 8.15pm and fired a shot at the security guard at the reception desk.

The shot missed the guard and a struggle ensued. An accomplice then joined the suspect and robbed Mr Hayuna, who is apparently holidaying in South Africa, of his briefcase containing 1 000 Tanzanian shillings (\$200) and clothes.

## Jhb sculpture destroyed

By Rodney Victor

METAL thieves destroyed what was probably Johannesburg's most famous public sculpture at the weekend - the "Leaping Springboks" sculpture donated to the city by business tycoon

Mr Harry Oppenheimer.

The thieves sawed off the heads and feet of virtually all the springboks in the sculpture, leaving only the forlorn-looking bodies of the animals behind.

The sculpture has long graced the city's Oppenheimer Gardens off Jou-

bert Street in the central business district.

Mr Oppenheimer's spokesman, Mr Clifford Elphick, reacted with anger yesterday on being told what had happened to the sculpture.

"This is more than one can bloody stomach," he

said.

He said Mr Oppenheimer had wanted to move the sculpture to a new site next to his Anglo American headquarters at 44 Main Street in central Johannesburg "so it could

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# Jo'burg's favourite sculpture destroyed

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be properly cared for”.

“The whole area around the Oppenheimer Gardens has deteriorated very badly, and the display has been very shoddily treated.

“We wanted to bring it closer to home, but obviously this will force us to rethink the matter,” he said.

The director of Johannesburg's Everard Read Gallery, Mr Mark Read,

said the news of what had happened was “absolutely shocking”.

“That sculpture brought so much pleasure to so many people. This was obviously a premeditated thing – it wasn't like someone scribbling a piece of graffiti on a wall on the spur of a moment,” Mr Read said.

He immediately contacted Mrs Bridgette Oppenheimer, and later he reported to The Citizen that Mrs Oppenheimer was

“most upset” at the news.

“She told me they had applied in writing to the council on a number of occasions to have the sculpture moved to a safe place near 44 Main Street, but the council never once replied to their appeals,” Mr Read said.

The Oppenheimer Gardens was once an oasis of beauty in the city, but has now become a haunt of tramps. At night it becomes a storage place for hawkers' trolleys.