



MOPANE

EL Torro

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Letter from the Chair

This year thus far can be summarised into one statement - #yearofthemops. From the amazing highs of falling out in the group stages of the first-year soccer tournament (come on Peps) to the lows of losing our beloved house parents, the first quarter had something of everything.

However, to give credit where credit is due, there is some work behind the scenes that need to be thanked and acknowledged in the open. I need to thank Oom Bongani for his help and work on El Torro. As a semi with little to no experience on how an El Torro should look and function, I looked to him for guidance and wisdom and helped me every step of the way. Thank you to the HC, our house parents and the Publications GC for all your hard work during the 1st quarter - we hope that through the El Torro, we can shine a light on all the accomplishments Mopane has achieved thus far.

Having the honour of representing Mopane on the marketing and publications stage is nothing short of a miracle. To help build the vision of a house filled with pride and excellence to the outside world and portraying the image of what we stand for to a crowd of people that want to see us fail is something I am enjoying more than I ever thought I would.

I leave you with this deep, philosophical question first posed by Howzit Nelis Daniels - Would you rather enter a boxing match with 20 schnauzer-sized Phapushas or one Phapusha-sized schnauzer?



Geolé

Semi Dirku

Letter from the Editor

It is life after the great apocalypse (... thank goodness my hands are sober when typing this) and the year is twenty takeover (#yearofthemops), and asking a man out on a date costs six hundred thousand seventy eleven million nine hundred and sixty nine (@Hanno please share the tips).

What a quarter! Our culture vultures have been doing the most bagged 1nSync (CONGRATULATIONS PEPS!) and Debating (Tsepo, Philip and Max we see you!!). On the flip side, the sportsmen have not disappointed either, we are all rallying behind you. A special shout to our very own academic weapon Jacobus, we are finally on the TuksRes map academically. Mopselief is baaack! Grateful to have witnessed the reunion of the men in blue and orange and the ladies in green and white (... beautiful wedding vows, hopefully, we become better husbands this time). Any roomies that are besties yet? The House is full once again after 3 years!

"Although we've come to the end of the road" (Boyz II Men playing in the background) I would love to take a moment to acknowledge and express our gratitude for the incredible work of our house parents who have been with us for the past 7 years. Their commitment, dedication, and passion for the House have been evident in the greatness, fun, tears, and joy they have brought into our lives. As our house parents, they have nurtured and cared for every Mopaan as if they were their own. They have been a constant source of support and guidance, offering a listening ear and a shoulder to cry on when needed. They have created a warm and welcoming environment that has made all Mopaane feel at home.

Prof Linda and Oom Paul, your contributions to the House Mopane community are immeasurable, and we cannot thank you enough for your tireless efforts. You have played a critical role in shaping the lives of fellow Mopaane and helping them to achieve their goals. We are truly grateful for the incredible 7 years you have given us. We wish you all the happiness and success in the world.

As we bid farewell to our house parents, we want to assure them that their legacy will live on in our hearts and in the memories of all Mopaane. We will miss them dearly (almost drowned my PC typing this)

On a lighter note, welcome to our home Peppies, you've joined a truly incredible group of gents. Our community is one of a kind, and I'm confident you'll find friends and experiences here that you'll cherish for years to come.

As we move forward into the rest of the semester, let's continue to build upon these successes and strive for even greater accomplishments. Whether it's on the field, in the classroom, or in the community, let's continue to make our mark and show the world what we're made of.

- *Dom Bongani*



What is a Mopane Gentleman?

A MOPANE GENTLEMEN, DOES NOT HESITATE. HE
ENGAGES.

A MOPANE GENTLEMEN, DOES NOT WAIT TO INTRODUCE
HIMSELF TO OTHERS

A MOPANE GENTLEMEN, PICKS UP TRASH WHEN HE SEES
IT LYING AROUND.

A MOPANE GENTLEMEN, IS ALWAYS FIVE MINUTES EARLY.

A MOPANE GENTLEMEN, PHONES A GIRL TO ASK HER ON
A DATE, HE DOES NOT TEXT HER.

A MOPANE GENTLEMEN, ALWAYS TELLS THE TRUTH, NO
MATTER THE COST

A MOPANE GENTLEMEN, DOES NOT START A FIGHT, BUT
NEVER WALKS AWAY FROM A FIGHT.

A MOPANE GENTLEMEN, PROTECTS THOSE AND STANDS
UP FOR THOSE, THAT CANNOT PROTECT THEMSELVES.

A MOPANE GENTLEMEN, VALUES COURAGE, CHIVALRY,
AMBITION, AND PRIDE

A MOPANE GENTLEMEN, NEVER PRETENDS TO BE
SOMETHING HE ISN'T.

A MOPANE GENTLEMEN, DOES NOT LET EGO GET IN THE
WAY.

A MOPANE GENTLEMEN KNOWS, THAT IT IS HIS CHOICES
AND NOT HIS ABILITIES, THAT SHOW WHO HE TRULY IS.

What the Peppie Cap Means

From Howzit André

Where do I begin? In my opinion, O-week already started the Thursday when we were supposed to go to the First Year Camp. Problem on problem arose on the day. We almost did not go to the camp, and when we went, we almost got stuck. Honestly, I thought this was a sign that the rest of O-week might be somewhat chaotic.

Nonetheless, the move-in day arrived and officially O-week had started. Seeing my peps for the first time is a moment that will be edged into my mind forever. Nothing compares to a Peppie's face when you greet him by name as he walks in. Emotions ranging from excitement for what the year entails to anxiety about what the seniors might do to my peps jumped through my mind.

To give you a comparison as to what O-week is... it is a week of countless questions from the peps, numerous phone calls from parents that are worried or that want to bring something for their poor boy, but most importantly, O-week is a week of immense fun.

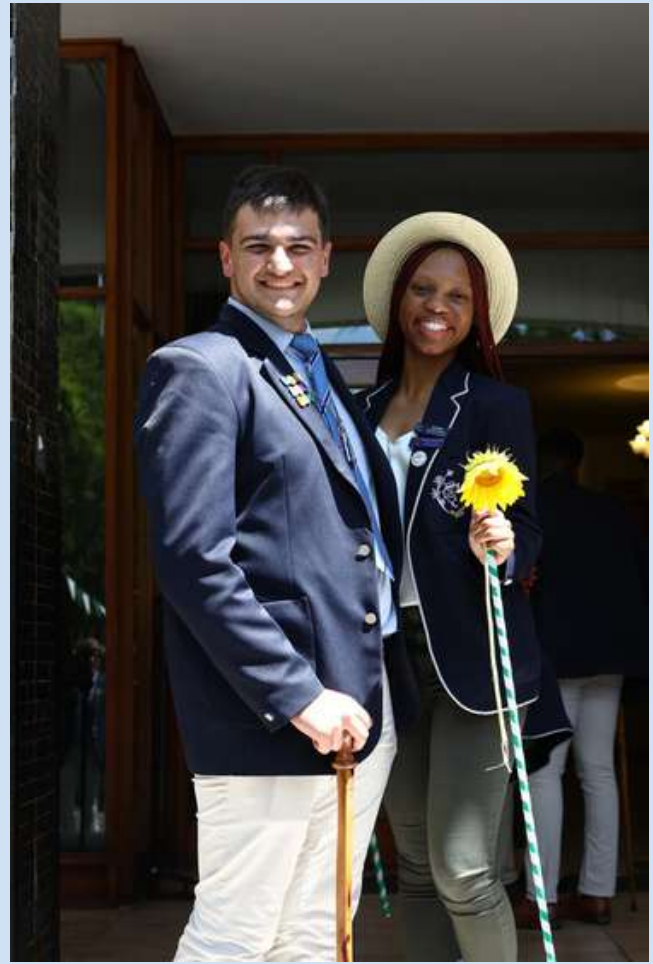
Yes, O-week was stressful, having to finally implement the program that I worked months on was a daunting task; making sure everyone was okay, and no one was left behind. It was a week full of entertainment where the peps met around 1500 plus girls. A week where we as an HC bonded with the peps and had the privilege to teach and bestow the traditions of Mopane upon these gents that would become the future of the House. The peps bonded as a unit. They started understanding each other and started to form the brotherhood that we all know and love.

The week had numerous ups and downs. One huge highlight of the week was the Peppie Cap ceremony on Sunday evening. You could see the appreciation on most, almost all, of the Peppies faces. They knew that they are part of something bigger than themselves. They knew that if they gave their all to Mopane, Mopane will, in due time, give its all for them. Another highlight is the inside jokes that the peps started to have that perhaps entailed one or two of the HC members, but I won't disclose all their secrets here.

'The other side is also true, we had a few minor downs, and we might have broken a certain bone from someone of a certain res (I can't give more details, yet I am sure that you probably already know, but let's just say he is certainly not towering over the mealies anymore). In the middle of the week, Monate blessed us with chicken that came with complementary rehydrate and stomach medicine, and we also had to have 6 disciplinaries for an incident at the mealies. I had to apologise to first-year girls about five times because the peps did not perform on par, and we even had to stop one pep from going in between the ladies with a song (at least he was one of the few who had passion!).

A noteworthy letdown was when I received a complaint from Nala for one of the peps not treating a girl as a Mopane gentleman should. But this all flew out of my mind each time when the peps sang Men in Orange.

Geolé



O-week was a great week and it ended off on the perfect high note when we brought the InSync title back where it belongs. The pride that I had and still have as the FYG of these Mopane Peppies is indescribable. I can't wait to see what the rest of the year entails with peps that have a burning passion for the house! Don't ever let that flame be distinguished peps! With such an amazing, successful start to the year, this can only mean one thing:

#YearoftheMops!

- Dan Roy

What the cap means to a Mopaaan...

Peppie Sandiso

O-week was full of surprises, I came here not knowing what I was getting myself into. I had an idea about the house from a YouTube video I had seen but that was just a tiny sliver of what I had seen. Meeting new people from all walks of life was interesting as I grew up in a small bubble most of my life. I've never spoken a lick of Afrikaans in my life so I was drowning in all the songs we practiced for the socials the moves were a little funny as well especially when we are supposed to be serenading the ladies of the female residences.

The most interesting thing for me were the socials. The first few were awkward when I was trying to talk to random girls that I had never seen before and most likely will never see again. It felt like an effort in futility. I had no intentions with them beyond that quick 10-minute conversation. It was not that these women were boring or anything like that, but I just wasn't feeling it. Although, there were some who spiked my interest.



From the eyes of a Peppie...

The social we had with House Mags would be my most memorable, there was this girl whom I had chilled with for most of the social. I had forgotten her name, we were having a conversation about the Peppie cap and I was explaining its importance so she had the clever idea to knock it off my head she did this twice but on the third time she tried to take it off my head but she ended up punching me on my forehead, I found the situation so funny that I decided to just continue talking to her, funny enough she was apologising for the remainder of the social.

The welcoming event that they held at L.C deVilliers was a highlight I could not forget walking in it sounded like a mad house and we sang at the top of our lungs, I even strained my vocal cords and had five missed calls from my mom. It was a generally fun experience except for the end, I'm not a fan of loud music or groove in general no matter the context or location so I found it pointless. I could say O-week was one of the most enjoyable weeks of my life getting to know new people and all the weirdness that was thrown at us daily I will remember it for a long time

What the cap means to a Mopaan...

Peppie Nelis

The first week of orientation was one of the hardest, yet most fun week of my life. The first day we walked into Mopane we were informed that O-week is the best week of your life that you never want to have over again. At first I did not understand what they meant, but a few days later I knew exactly what they meant. The second week of the Orientation Program was Academic orientation. We had a wonderful tour of campus with our HC members where they showed us around and made campus more familiar to us. They also made us aware of where our classes will be. After our tour of campus, we had small introduction lectures for each module to just get an overall understanding of what the subject is about and what we can expect.

Even though the second week of O-week 2 was about academics, Mopane still tried to make the week as enjoyable as possible by organising socials and fun activities with other female residences. I think I speak for all the Peppies when I say that the second week of O-week gave us all a sneak peak of what to expect when entering this new season of our lives. I am extremely grateful for the things that I have learned in these first two weeks of Orientation. Not only did we learn to be proper gentlemen that have pride and passion in everything that they do, but also that our studies are important and that they should be prioritised.



From the eyes of a Peppie...

Peppie Sandiso

The whole experience of orientation was a blast and a half. We were told on the first day of moving in that orientation will be a time of our lives that we will never forget and I could not agree more.

Orientation in my eyes is a huge necessity since it was the perfect time for the peppies to bond with one another and to understand the motto of the house.

The second week of orientation came upon us and our first Peppie cap incident as well as our initial mielies call test happened. The thrill of this being our first, especially after all of the stories from the HC about their Peppie cap incidents, lived up to the hype and build up. When a cap got stolen, it showed me what it meant to protect one other and to strive for unity. It is something incredible to witness and to be apart of. Week three in my eyes was the practical implementation of everything we learnt in the first two weeks.

We started learning and understanding the true passion of the rollerball, the heart of the Peppie cap and the power of unity. We faced many trials and tribulations for example, corridor introductions, and the one thing that made it easier was the fact that we all did it as a unit. I believe that most, if not all Peppies, did not understand the reasoning or meaning behind certain things, however, once we started going to campus and once we started putting everything we learnt into practice, it lit a fire in our group and a passion for the house started to build up. Orientation was not just a time for us to be introduced to how everything works, it was an introduction to a deeply rooted culture and a brotherhood no one can take away from us. Pride and passion are two things that are not just in the name of Mopane, pride and passion are two of many things that we have learnt about being a part of House Mopane entirely.



INSYNC

FROM THE CULTURE EXTERNAL HC

SENIOR DENYL:

When Dirku asked me to write this article, he asked me to reflect on my experience with InSync.

I remember Francois telling the HC, he's willing to do whatever it takes to be the best this year and that's the mentality I took approaching InSync.

Starting Monday, Tsepo and I knew the peps were tired from O-week, but we had our eyes set on doing this right. The first session went well but as the week went on sickness and fatigue started to set in. By Wednesday I knew something had to change, we needed someone to hype the peppies. Step in Megan (also known as Megan from STUKU). The peppies were more than eager to listen to her. That Thursday visit gave the peps the boost they needed. Come Friday we still had a lot of ground to cover, the house performance and the soundcheck.



Tsepo and I knew that both these events were going to break their spirit...Step in Morula, who had the brilliant idea of stealing a Peppie Cap before our Soundcheck, the peppies couldn't dance properly but they could tackle. I never thought I'd see Peppie Tambirai dip tackling an ienk at Artisans. After the soundcheck Tsepo and I used this incident to our advantage to motivate the Peps. This gave them that final push to get to Saturday. Having organised a few pep talks from Howzit André and Pierre, I thought the Peppies were ready. Come our Chair Francois who gave a speech better than Braveheart that put the Peppies over the edge to win it!

This win put Mopane back on the map culturally and what we learned from InSync to win Step-It-UP and Acapella.

I'd like to thank Jahnco Steyn and Dirku van Niekerk for their help with writing the script. Jacques van der Westhuizen and Paul du Plessis for maintaining discipline at practice. Marco van Wyk for working hands-on with the band. Lastly, I want to thank Tsepo Ponoane for helping come up with the choreography as well as just being there every step of the week.

#yearofthemops

Geolé

INSYNC

FROM THE BAND

PEPPIE BERNARD:

It is not often that one is thrown into a new environment, surrounded by people you do not know at all, with the expectation of creating something upon which an entire event depends. That was the case with the InSync band, and I still can't believe we managed it. I knew from the start of O-week that we would have a great band. The memory of jamming together with Peppie Ted on the guitar and Peppie Ona on the bass, with the rest of our corridor just vibing along and suggesting songs, is one I shall cherish for the rest of my life.

When the InSync band was announced we were joined by Peppie George, who together with me played the piano and Peppie Emmanuel who formed the backbone: supplying the rhythm with his drums. This would also become our impromptu name: The Backbone, seeing as all the dancing effort would come to nothing without a good band. Furthermore, we were joined by Peppie Daneel, who had an awesome guitar full of stickers but was unable to play due to his broken arm

(he did, however, supply the critical speaker we needed to practice). The sight of him sitting on the stage pretending to play was hilarious. Peppie Sandiso and Peppie Ntokozo lend their voices to the effort whenever they had a chance to help us with falling in at the right moments. The last and perhaps most crucial ingredient was the help of Senior Marco, who managed to guide us into becoming a band that supplied the perfect backtrack without overpowering the main event – the singing and dancing of our other brothers.

The competition itself presented a lot of challenges. We had to work out the music from scratch (Peppie Ona's brilliant musical hearing helped a lot in this regard.) Peppie George and I had to adapt everything we prepared onto a single piano – which in the end worked out better than I could ever have guessed. Peppie Ted also broke a string on Senior Denyl's guitar during rehearsal. But despite all these challenges, the hours and hours of practice paid off and we managed to win the best band, and the best overall performance as well. And I still smile every time I think about it.

INSYNC

FROM THE STAGE – PEPIE NTOKOZO

Throughout my years, I have experienced a variety of memories ranging from painful and sad to beautiful and happy, but it is only the most exquisite memories that are worth retelling and I think INSYNC is one I will cherish forever.

With only just two hours each day to practice, we knew our practices had to be more efficient and productive, we had to push ourselves beyond our limits and put in extra work by ourselves. Hearing “five six seven eight, start on the left, learn your words “ from Senior Denyl at every practice illustrated the passion and enthusiasm that this house stands for and this motivated us Peppies to practice harder. The practices were smooth and efficient, even though the back row still struggled with some of the moves till the last rehearsal and half of the boys still struggled with the lyrics (especially *Ngiyabawela*), it all came together at the end. The house performance was the most daunting experience. Screaming your lungs out, and dancing your butt off only to get no reaction from your seniors is one moment I never want to experience again, but I must mention that was a mediocre performance.

The Peppies knew they had to make a name for themselves, especially after that harsh eye-opening speech from the HC on the last day of o-week and that jarring reaction from the seniors. We were determined to prove to the house that we belong in the house and show them the spirit we were bringing into the house, the spirit of winning. On the day of the performance, I remember feeling a mixture of emotions. One moment I was nervous the next moment confident, but having all the boys around me made it worthwhile and led us to victory. Our seniors supporting us on the night made the performance much easier and less stressful.

While INSYNC is about winning, it is also a lot more than just winning. It is about forming bonds and creating a sense of unity, hearing the gentlemen teach each other songs in the corridor was one of my highlights, and seeing Peppie Hanros’s facial expressions throughout the performance depicted the embodiment of the passion we have in this house, and as Peppie Nikhil would say this experience was truly SENSATIONAL.

INSYNC

FROM THE HOUSE

InSync 2023 was an unforgettable event and a massive source of pride for Mopane. The atmosphere at the amphi was truly electric, as the anticipation for the Peppies' arrival built up throughout the night. As someone who was back in the house during O-Week, I witnessed first-hand the amount of hard work and dedication that the Peps put into their performance. Every night, they would come back to the corridor exhausted from practicing, but they never lost their passion and drive to give their best on stage.

The bond the Peps formed during the O-Weeks was amazing. They showed teamwork and companionship throughout the whole InSync training. As for the performance itself, it was great. The journey to campus was an adventure, with me having to dodge a few buses to pick up Peppie cap(s) that fell off the back of a bakkie en route to campus. Being backstage again, moving with the Peps and the rest of the Culture External EC was a nostalgic experience. Having experienced O-Week and InSync from different perspectives, including as a Peppie, a house member, an HC member, and a corridor advisor (personally the most gratifying one of the 4),

OOM JAHNCO:



I can say that there's nothing quite like the rush of adrenaline you get from being part of such an amazing event.

The Peps' hard work and dedication paid off in spades when they finally took to the stage. They gave it their all and left their lives on that stage, and we couldn't be prouder of them. It was a momentous occasion for the house, as it marked the first time since 2019 that Mops had won InSync. Congratulations to the Peps for a job well done!

Mops.Sport - showing the way of the Mops



From Semi Sipho's perspective

Over the last couple of years, House Mopane has been known for its excellence in all TuksRes-related activities, with Sports being one of the pursuits Mopane has excelled in. As the Sports House Committee member of 2023, my desire was to not only be involved in this glorious experience but to unite the House even more through winning everything possible. The journey so far has been an incredible roller-coaster ride and a long track lies ahead... With the Sports portfolio, there is a lot of administrative work. This includes attending sub-council meetings, communication from the sub-council to the House, signing up teams and players, getting the players to sign indemnity forms etc. Thus far I have been able to handle all of this with the help of my Executive Committee. I also must mention that the cooperation from the players in the house made things a bit easier for us. Early in my term, I realised that I just have to sign up these guys and they will do the rest by bringing their best performance... this is what makes the administrative work worth it! As the Sport HC, game days are nerve wrecking, but you try to go into their outcome independently. This is honestly an act of humility all in the respect of Sport, knowing that anything can happen.

Mopane athletes give it their all when they step on any field, court, or track. This really makes the experience fun for the House that backs their fellow Mopaans till the final whistle. After every point score, our famous Glory House Mopane chant assures the athletes that the House is backing them. They perform so well that they gain the respect of the opposition and the crowd by receiving humbling congratulations from the respective parties. This year has been nothing short of this wonderful experience. With the Sport calendar at early stages, this is what Mopane Sport has achieved so far:

- **Won the 1st year Valentines Basketball Tournament**
- **Won the Badminton League**
- **1st Place in the ongoing Basketball League**
- **1st Place in the ongoing U/20 Rugby League**
- **3rd Place in the ongoing 1st Team Rugby League**
- **Finished 6th in the first Squash Tournament**
- **Finished at the group stages in the 1st year Soccer Tournament**

• We also hosted our first Corridor Sports Day. As mentioned above, the Basketball and Rugby leagues are still in season. Other sporting events to come include the Hockey League, Soccer League, UPlympics, second Squash Tournament, Tennis, Swimming Gala, second Corridor Sports Day and Rag Netball where we play netball with our Rag Partners. It has been a stressful yet amazing first quarter as the Sport HC of House Mopane. A lot of work lies ahead, but with the enthusiastic athletes, I know it will be worth it and that Mopane will maintain its glorious form in Sport.

MopsBasketball

-Semi Thabiso

Courage amongst Storms.

Winners are ordinary people with extraordinary determination. No group illustrated this ideal better than the Mopane peppie basketball team, who even though some of them hadn't had prior knowledge of the sport overcame the odds and ultimately conquered.



This group of amateurs in every aspect stood up for the ethos of this house as they unleashed brutal retribution on the Sonnopers in the qualifying stages. Pushing that so-called sunrise into the sunset. Peppie Kgesi although he was a little dusty dribbled the living “excrement” out of the other teams and claimed the position of top scorer. Peppies Lenro, Hanro and Tristin formed an impenetrable wall at the back. Peppie Tambirai was the playmaker who controlled the tempo of the game and provided tactics mid-game. Many injuries happened (Kgesi ate the pole) throughout the qualifiers, but for the House, the boys persevered. Some difficulties were encountered against our “rivals” (not really they kinda suck) Marula-Legae as they were ahead of us in one game, but the boys pulled through and showed that Mopane gees as they trampled that asbestos with Tambirai scoring those crucial winning points. The final against TuksVillage (Yes, I was also surprised they participated in something and did well LMAO!) was hectic as we started poorly and conceded many points, but our ever-helpful and inspirational Chairman “cream of the crop” as Prof Linda likes to say, Francois and our sensational coach Theo (SOUL CENTRAL !!!!) spoke to the gents and lifted their spirits. This then changed the tide and gave the peppies the strength to fight back and Kgesi led the way as they won the game and the tournament, unbeaten. This group teaches something important; you don't need the skill to participate you only need heart. As the most successful sports team in Mopane (there's no debate) let's all get behind them the next time they play.

Mops Soccer

-Semi Victor

The peppies recently had their annual first year soccer tournament, this brought a lot excitement among the Peppies as it was a chance to show their unity and strength as a Peppie group. The Peppies did not get off to the best start as they drew their first game with Ekhaya but they still showed spirit as they dominated majority of game by shooting multiple times in the opposition box. Their second game was against The Tower and this is where their momentum really started to pick up because throughout the game they basically camped in the opposition box with a high press and did not allow a single shot on target from The Tower but unfortunately they did not manage to convert the numerous shots they had which also had this game end in a draw. During the Peppie's final match they were faced with their toughest opponents yet in Tirisano. This is where the peppies really had to band together as a group in order show that they are a formidable force against Tirisano. During this match it was evident that they had an amazing defence as they blocked numerous amount of Tirisano's shots but with this said they also lacked a bit of communication in the front while they attacked which ultimately ended up with Tirisano winning 2 – 0 and they also ended up winning the tournament.



This performance from the peppies showed us that they still have a bit to work on because we as Mopane know that we can achieve way more than these results, results similar to that of our RAG partners Madelief who managed to win their respective soccer tournament. The peppies performance also revealed that they have a massive amount of potential if they practice discipline, dedication and unity and with these objectives we will be able to reach the milestones needed to make this year #TheYearOfMops.

MopsRugby

-Peppie Murray



From a young age rugby was a part of my daily routine. I love sport and therefore rugby, as all other sports, was a way of taking a break from heaps of homework and devastating chores at home.

But little did I know that rugby can mean so much more...

So as all boys do, we started talking about rugby as soon as we were moving in and there and then I could feel the hype building up inside me. Hordes of peppies on bikes and on the back of bakkies racing to practise to be part of a team that draws parallel to a motto that defines Mopane so beautifully. But at the first practise I realised that this was NOT the usual schoolboy rugby.

“To achieve a goal, you need to work hard for it” and that saying was not taken lightly by Coach. We had this crazy ‘conditioning session’ as coach will call it, man I never felt more dead in my life after that so called 15minute prep session. But as they say sow the seeds of hard work and you will reap the fruits of success.

Chills through my spine as the big day arrived and it’s all but focusing on lectures. The adrenaline rush starting to kick in as the team started to warm up. The faithful supporters a mass of blue and orange like an ocean of terror stalking the field: only Peppie caps, Semi jackets , Howzits or girls just wearing mopane merch visible exclaiming the *GLORY HOUSE MOPANE* song and the chants can be heard echoing in your ears. Shaking as I pull the jersey of blue and orange over my head, and the realisation getting the better of you and letting you know this is it! No one can describe that energetic feeling of hunger as soon as one runs onto the pitch.

That unbreakable bond you share with your brothers, the atmosphere daunting on you and the joy of representing those that back you which makes them perish before a team with not only 15 men but a whole unity behind them. That’s what drove us to strengths we couldn’t even imagine we had. Blood sweat and pure passion being left on that pitch. A Champion’s heart filled with joy but humble for we are gentlemen like no other and only our presence will intimidate them after our sweet victory.

But our quest isn’t done yet and we would like to encourage our fellow mates to come support until Mopane lifts the varsity residence cup!

MopsBadminton

-Semi Christiaan

One of the most important features of a world class orchestra is the strings, where without the orchestra will be absolutely abysmal. The same can be said about Badminton, where if one attempted to play only with the frame of the racket it would be quite difficult. To be fair, peppie Hanro did make every effort to use the frame and not the strings provided on his badminton racket.



Mopane's badminton duos fought valiantly in the recent Res Badminton league. We saw a major upset in the first round where the Mopane first team (Peppie Rikus and Peppie Sous) was knocked out. The talented duo struggled quite a bit and numerous swear words emerged from Peppie Sous after another unforced error. One could see that the pressure was a bit too much to handle for the inexperienced first years, *jarre will be jarre hey*. The second all peppie team was represented by Peppie Hanro and Peppie Bennet. They had an incredible first round, winning in straight sets not dropping a single point. House Tau withdrew so they had a bye.... And yes, as you guessed it, they did lose their second-round match against someone with a broken leg in a moonboot. On to the senior teams. Mopane 3 was represented by a father and son duo of Senior Robert and Semi Luco.

This team saw Semi Luco strapping his father on his back and carrying him all the way to the semi-final, where a strong Blossoms Delight team ensured their exit out of the competition. The 3rd and 4th playoff game did not take place so Mopane 3 claims 3rd spot. On to the deadly duo of Semi Dirku and Semi Christiaan. These two were ruthless, winning all four of their games in straight sets, solidifying their number one spot in the world rankings. Armed with Semi Dirku's lethal smash and Semi Christiaan's lob that would scare Roger Federer, their opposition teams did not stand a chance. All in all Mopane's badminton campaign was a big success with a gold and bronze medal, and well.... Four Peppies trying to impress the house. It is safe to say that Mopane's badminton fueled

#yearofthemops.

Geolé

RAG WEEK 2023 – A YEAR OF MAKING HISTORY

-Semi Alvin

So, RAG Week 2023 is the first week of the academic year. To be honest, I cannot even begin to exaggerate how stressful it was planning RAG week. For me, as the RAG HC, planning RAG week began back late last year in November alongside the lovely Madelief RAG HC, Mia Bosman. We were on our phones communicating during the holidays every week finalising clothing designs, logos, the activities for RAG week etc, because we wanted to make sure that everything is properly planned for and ready for when the new year begins so it is easy to execute when the time comes but little did we know that the execution would be the hardest.

It started very calmly with the blad paintings going well with the help of the Peppies and the Dahlias, then came our biggest event of the year...MAN AUCTION. It was very stressful making sure that we have enough contestants as well as ladies in attendance, but everything did work out for the good, we made a record of R12220 from our lovely men in orange! My proudest moment as my goal was initially R10000. The second biggest event was braai day at LC which was also a success, enjoying some delicious meat and drinks as a house. Then Friday we had to shut it down with the first clubhouse of the year, the MOPSELIEF wedding clubhouse! Which was a success as we tied the knot with Madelief and made MOPSELIEF official baby! The next day was the hardest especially for my executive committee and the HC because they had to wake up at 6 am after a crazy night! I appreciate them coming through for me though!

All in all, RAG week was a success, but it was not easy, it took time, effort, sleepless nights, and critical thinking. I do not remember eating proper food that week, after each day I got to my room and passed out... but it could have been worse if I did not have a hard-working and supportive RAG executive committee and House Committee beside me! Shout out to you gentlemen for making it happen. I would also like to extend a special mention and thank you to every gent in the house who showed up, participated, and made it happen! Without the house, RAG week would have been a total flop. Last but not least, to our wonderful House Parents, Prof. Linda and Oom Paul, for showing their support before and during the week, thank you.

Just a reminder that RAG does not just start and end in RAG week, but it is throughout your whole life to reach out and give. Let us also not forget to reach in and give in our own house. Let us make a difference and be the change, starting here in our humble home!





RAG WEEK - MAN AUCTION

-Semi Teboho

A lot of people know me as low-key guy, however, this year I was prepared to explore and be more involved that included taking part in everything as fellow Mopaa's will say "It's for the House",

So I then decided to start the Semester with a bang, so I then signed up for the Man Auction which was a shock to many people because as I alluded I am a low-key guy and the Man Auction is considered a big deal (i.e it's for the extroverts).

But I found the courage to sign up and I also managed to convince my friend 'Semi Sheldon ' to sign up, it was an interesting adventure for us since we were out of our comfort zones.

The day of the Auction arrived and we then headed outside, dressed up and were ready to roll... Only to find out that most of the gents had already left, we were so disappointed and we started contemplating our next steps. We then decided to wait for the bus which we had thought would come around 18:00 but it came later than we thought.

This obviously meant we were late and we could have missed our performances... we still managed to find the courage to go and participate.

When we got there there was this massive crowd of ladies and everything was already set up ,the gents were performing and owning the runway.

We went inside, got the scope of how everything is going , and turned out after arriving late we still had the chance to participate. our nerves started skyrocketing but somehow I managed to run to the stage and do my thing, even though I was nervous I knew that I was not in this alone but with the House and my great friend.

I managed to conquer the fear and I just did my thing a few of the guys were even shocked when they saw me pacing on the stage this was a growing moment for me and I overcame nerves and self doubt knowing that 'We are in this together'.

RAG WEEK 2

-Semi Jacobus



This year's RAG week was one for the books. Firstly, we were reunited and remarried with Madelief to once again form the ultimate power couple Mopselief. I know that I was very relieved last year to find out that we got Madelief as RAG partners for 2023, and not some society or education residence. The success of the week re-emphasised that Mopane and Madelief will always have a deeper connection that stretches through time, other intermittent relationships and hardships. The week started off with the traditional Blad Painting. The paintings looked exquisite and establishes the beginning of our RAG year with Madelief. The Peps and Dalias produced two masterpieces worthy of Van Gogh. That night we went to the Varisty cup game as RAG partners, and even though Tuks lost (and still is on a losing streak) it was a blast of a time. It is always a blast with Mopselief.

From Tuesday to Friday, we made very quaint bracelets to sell on RAG of Hope Day. This was fun because you could be creative with the bracelets that you made and put a bit of yourself into them.

Furthermore, on Tuesday evening we had our annual Man Auction, which once again shows just how much demand there is for Mopane gents. You only need a basic understanding of economics to know that if someone is willing to pay upwards of R200 for a single date with a Mopaan that we are pristine. Anyway, the Man Auction was once again a great success. Moreover, there was a scavenger hunt on Wednesday which tested your knowledge of campus and your resilience. We ended the day with a bachelor and bachelorette party at Springbok in preparation for the Mopselief wedding where we wore Madelief's clothing and Madelief wore ours.

On Thursday the Lobola negotiations took place where a fair settlement of Peps was exchanged to finalise our marriage to Madelief. Lastly, we had a Braai at LC before the big wedding day.

On Friday our wedding finally took place, with a more formal twist which made the evening even more special. The gents and ladies looked stunning and the cake looked delicious, and of even higher importance: the afterparty was a blast. Finally, Mopselief was official again.

On Saturday we had our stall at the RAG farm where we sold all of our bracelets as husbands and wives.

We won the prize for the most money raised for charity this year – topping R30 000. This alone is evidence enough that the RAG week was the perfect culmination of glamour and success. And then to top this it was an excellent time as well. Mopselief is clearly a winning formula.

MOPANE SHOWING DEBATING PROWESS

-Peppie Max

What an experience, it's not even debatable!

As a guy that has not taken part in debating before it was daunting sitting in a hall full of other debaters and knowing we had to compete against them all. I still remember the first debate, I was a second speaker, and boy, my hands couldn't stop shaking, but little did I know that moment of sheer anxiety would kickstart my love for debating!

Without a doubt I feel debating is one of the best cultural activities by far, the critical thinking, adrenalin, nerves, point-blank speeches on the spot and overall, the challenge of general knowledge makes it so interesting. Throughout the competition I was able to compete and spectate true professionals at work, one of these was Senior Tsepo, his skill and flair is so inspiring, I learnt a lot that weekend, not just what a few big words mean, but rather what true passion for debating looks like and how to win an argument.

The team that I was a part of was one of a kind, the Roller Ballers! It truly was a Residence father-son team with some help from Peppie Bernard, Senior Tsepo and his son Peppie Ntokozo, my dad Semi Phillip and myself. I will never forget the scrambles we had in prep time and the great comradery we built over the weekend. I can't wait to see what future debates I take part in!

Geolé



DEBATE

-Peppie Ntokozo

"The motion is about to be released, prep time begins in, our burden of proof is, welcome speaker." These statements still ponder on my mind and give me sleepless nights. In the past weeks, our two debating teams competed in the Stuku Debating Competition that was held in the premise of the university. While this was exciting, it was also daunting for us new inexperienced and curious Peppies, because not only did we require critical thinking skills we needed persuasive skills too, which soon became up our ally after the first round.

We were quickly summoned by Senior Ashaan and Senior Tsepo to inform us about the logistics and details of the competition, this led us to jump straight into preparation because as we know 'he who fails to prepare, prepares to fail'. On the first practice we all got to show off our general knowledge skills, where Semi Jakobus educated us on the optics and mathematical ground of the development of the Pyramids in Egypt and Senior Tsepo who undoubtedly convinced us that Aliens were more intelligent than humans. This practice depicted truly what debating is all about, good liars and a lot of rational thinking. To further sharpen our skills, we had mock debates -where it quickly became evident that Peppie Murray was constantly worried about EFF as a political party and the state of the country under the ruling of the ANC. We thank you Peppie Murray for being a good concerned citizen, but how can we forget Peppie Dimpho's water breaks in between speeches was that actually dry mouth or just an action to waste time?

The first round of the tournament began on Friday night. We were filled with indefinable terror, never ending nerves ,and great thrill , even the Ice Spice music could not help, but this feeling soon became a memory because we came out victorious while the rest of the boys gained major confidence and learnt from their mistakes .The second day was the one I was dreading the most ; can you imagine a full day of debating as an inexperienced debater ? Feels like writing an accounting exam without being an accounting student. This day we witnessed Semi Phillip crushing and demolishing any of the opponents POIs, and Christopher critiquing the opponents speaking abilities instead of supporting his own arguments. The tournament concluded on Sunday afternoon where we competed against top speakers and despite the high competition we persevered to the top and achieved good results.

I would like to express my gratitude to Senior Tsepo, Senior Ashaan ,Semi Phillip and Semi Fred for being our greatest mentors and our number one supporters .We now clearly understand the meaning of unity .

Geolé

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE TO PROF AND OOM

DEAR PROF AND OOM, YES I SAID IT BEFORE, BUT I THINK IT IS NECESSARY TO SAY AGAIN. MOPANE WON'T BE THE PLACE IT IS TODAY WITHOUT YOU TWO AS OUR LEADERS. I CAN SAY THAT WITH 4 YEARS OF MOPANE EXPERIENCE AND AWESOME MEMORIES WHICH YOU HELPED CREATED. WITH ALL MY HEART, THANK YOU VERY MUCH AND MY THE LORD GUIDE YOU IN YOUR NEXT CHAPTER.

GEOLÉ
-HOWZIT ANDRÉ SNYMAN

I HAVE NEVER FELT SO AT EASE AND WELCOME TO A PLACE OTHER THAN MY HOME .THANK YOU FOR MAKING MOPANE A SECOND HOME FOR ME AND MANY OTHERS

-SEMI TRINITY

DEAR PROF LINDA AND OOM PAUL I AM SADDENED TO WRITE THIS TEXT BUT IT'S BASED ON YOUR GREAT WORK AT MOPANE, PROF LINDA I REMEMBER THE VERY FIRST TIME I CAME HERE TO PRETORIA,I WROTE YOU AN EMAIL ASKING TO MOVE-IN EARLY AND YOU REPLIED SPEEDILY AND KINDLY,I THEN MOVED IN I HAD ISSUES DURING THE YEAR WITH THE MONATE STAFF YOU WERE THERE FOR ME AND STOOD UP FOR ME, EVEN MANAGED TO GET ME A REFUND TWICE WHICH BARELY HAPPENED. BASED ON THIS FEW PAINFUL WEEKS I HAD ,YOU WERE THERE FOR ME FROM THE TIME I GOT INTO THE AMBULANCE,MY STARVING NIGHT WAITING FOR SURGERY YOU EVEN STOOD UP LATE WITH ME NOT ONLY THEN BUT EVEN WHEN I CAME BACK YOU WERE THERE TO HELP. I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR NOT ONLY BEING A HOUSE PARENT BY NAME BUT ACTUALLY LIVING UP TO THE TITLE AND HAVING OUR BACKS NOT ONLY THROUGH TOUGH TIMES BUT ALSO BEING THERE TO PREPARE US FOR OUR EXAMS WITH YOUR TIPS AND MOTIVATION. LASTLY OOM PAUL I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR BEING THERE FOR US AND INSTILLING THE LOVE FOR MOPANE IN US AND MOTIVATING US TO NOT ONLY BE A RESIDENCE BUT A RESIDENCE WITH PRIDE AND HONOUR. I WILL FOREVER BE GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT, EXPERIENCES YOU PROVIDED FOR US HERE. GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR ENDEAVOURS AND I HOPE THAT EVERYTHING WORKS OUT GREAT AND IN YOUR FAVOUR. I WILL MISS YOU.

-SEMI TEBOHO

IT WAS AN HONOUR TO BE PART OF YOUR MOPS JOURNEY PROF AND OOM. THE LESSONS THAT YOU TAUGHT ME AS PERSON ARE INVALUABLE AND FOR THAT I AM GRATEFUL. I WISH YOU THE MOST EXCITING TIMES IN YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE.

GEOLÉ
-HOWZIT ROPAFADZO BETA

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE TO PROF AND OOM

I CANNOT IMAGINE HOUSE MOPANE WITHOUT PROF AND OOM. I ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT WHEN I LEAVE I'LL ALWAYS LOOK BACK TO MOPANE AND THINK ONLY OF YOU AND OOM. BUT AFTER A BIT OF REFLECTION I'VE COME TO REALIZE THAT WE ALL ONLY LIVE ONE LIFE AND I'M SO HAPPY THAT YOU CHOSE TO CONTINUE YOUR LIFE'S JOURNEY; A DECISION THAT I BELIEVE MUST HAVE BEEN HARD. EVEN THOUGH WE'LL ALL MISS YOU, I KNOW YOU'LL CARRY MOPANE WITH YOU WHEREVER YOU GO.

GEOLÉ
-ANONYMOUS

I HAVE NEVER FELT SO AT EASE AND WELCOME TO A PLACE OTHER THAN MY HOME .THANK YOU FOR MAKING MOPANE A SECOND HOME FOR ME AND MANY OTHERS

-SEMI TRINITY

THANK YOU FOR BEING WONDERFUL HOUSE "PARENTS". THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT ALL RESIDENTS OF MOPANE NEED TO BE COMFORTABLE AND THRIVE IN THIS HOME AWAY FROM HOME. I HAVE ONLY KNOWN PROF AND OOM FOR TWO YEARS, THIS BEING MY THIRD AND I'M PRIVILEGED TO HAVE ARRIVED AT THE END OF THEIR TENURE. MOPANE BECAME HOME AND I HOPE IT REMAINS SO EVEN AFTER THEY TAKE THEIR LEAVE.

GEOLÉ
-SENIOR CHRISTIAN SHANDU

THANK YOU TO BOTH PROF LINDA AND OOM PAUL FOR ACCEPTING US INTO THE HOUSE WITH OPEN ARMS AND A WARM HEART. IT MAY HAVE NOT BEEN THAT LONG BUT I REALLY APPRECIATE ALL THAT THEY HAVE DONE FOR US AS A GROUP AND FOR ME AS WELL

GEOLÉ
-PEPPIE SANDISO

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE TO PROF AND OOM

DEAR PROF AND OOM - I'D LIKE TO START OFF BY SAYING, IT HAS BEEN AN HONOR. SERVING ON THE HC OF HOUSE MOPANE FOR THE PAST 2 YEARS UNDER YOUR LEADERSHIP HAS BEEN NOTHING SHORT OF GREAT. IMAGINING MOPANE WITHOUT THE TWO OF YOU IS QUITE THE TASK, BUT ALL GOOD THINGS DO COME TO AN END. I AM AT A LOSS FOR WORDS. THE IMPACT YOU HAVE HAD ON MANY OF THE LIVES OF GENTS WHO HAVE WALKED THROUGH THE CORRIDORS OF HOUSE MOPANE IS IMMENSE. OOM PAUL ALWAYS PUTTING SMILES ON THE GUYS' FACES WITH A JOKE OR TWO AND PROF LINDA, BEING OUR MOM AWAY FROM HOME. ONCE AGAIN, IT'S BEEN AN HONOR. THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING AND I WISH YOU TWO NOTHING BUT THE BEST ON YOUR FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

GEOLÉ  
-OOM SIBUSISO JACOB

DEAR PROF. LINDA AND OOM PAUL THANK YOU FOR THE BLOOD, SWEAT, AND TEARS YOU'VE PUT INTO MOPANE OVER THE PAST 7 YEARS. I'M GLAD TO HAVE BEEN PART OF 4 OF THOSE. THE IMPACT YOU'VE HAD ON THIS HOUSE IS UNDENIABLE, AND ONE WOULD BE DELUSIONAL TO OPPOSE THAT. THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR EFFORTS. TOGETHER WITH THE PREVIOUS AND CURRENT HC'S, WE'VE BEEN BUILDING GREAT BONDS WITH THE TWO OF YOU. THANK YOU FOR THE JOKES, ESPECIALLY THANK YOU TO OOM PAUL FOR MAKING ME (A.K.A. THE SECRETARY BUDGET) BROKE WITH ZOO COOKIES. YOU WILL ALWAYS BE REMEMBERED AS THE PIVOTAL HOUSE PARENTS IN MOPANE'S HISTORY.

GEOLÉ  
-OOM JAHNCO

El Torro awards

HOUDINI OF THE QUARTER

A Mopaan you never see. Why are you always in your room?!

Finalists

- Oom Anton
- Semi Gerdus
- Peppie Lefa

And the winner is...

Oom Anton

CHIMNEY OF THE QUARTER

A Mopaan who is truly the human embodiment of a chimney.
AKA the guy that smokes the most. (Get help).

Finalists

- Semi Herman
- Senior Jacques
- Senior Adriaan

And the winner is...

Semi Herman

AMNESIAC PEPPIE OF THE QUARTER

The Peppie that always struggles to remember the names of seniors and/or corridor greets. Good day semi uhhh

Finalists

- Peppie Carl
- Peppie Richard
- All of them

And the winner is...

All of them

PIG CORNER

The corridor that is so mind-numbingly dirty you have to walk through it with a Hazmat suit.

Finalists

- 3-2
- Legends (1-4)
- Soul Central

And the winner is...

3-2

HOUSTON OF THE QUARTER

The Mopaan who was the loudest this quarter. Are you okay? Do we need to purchase a Mopane loudspeaker for you?

Finalists

- Semi Hanno
- Senior Denyl
- Oom Christiaan

And the winner is...

Senior Denyl

ROOMMATES OF THE QUARTER

The two Mopane who spends the most time in each other's rooms

Finalists

- Semi Rudolph and Semi Hanno
- Semi Fred that's always in 3-3 for some reason
- Semi Thabiso and Semi Victor

And the winner is...

Semi Rudolph and Semi Hanno

Mops Look Alikes

Peppie Dillan



Jonah Hill



Peppie Rudolph



Senior Marco



Peppie Jordan



Roddy from flushed away



Mops Look Alikes

Semi Joshua



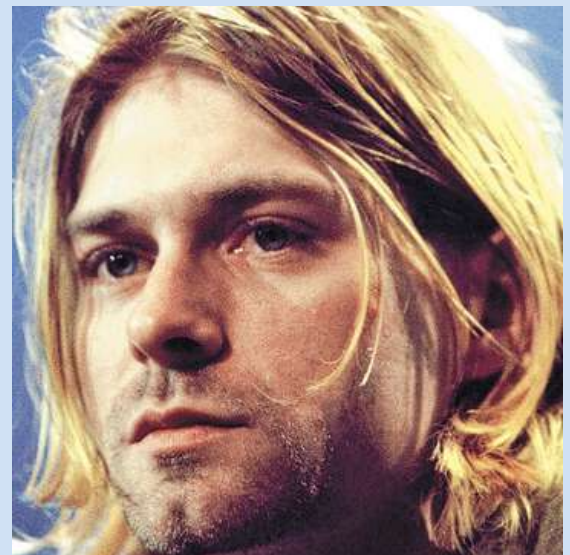
Peppie Dillan



Semi CJ



Kurt Cobain



Howzit Dumi



This guy



Mops Look Alikes

Young Semi Hugo



Semi Ruben



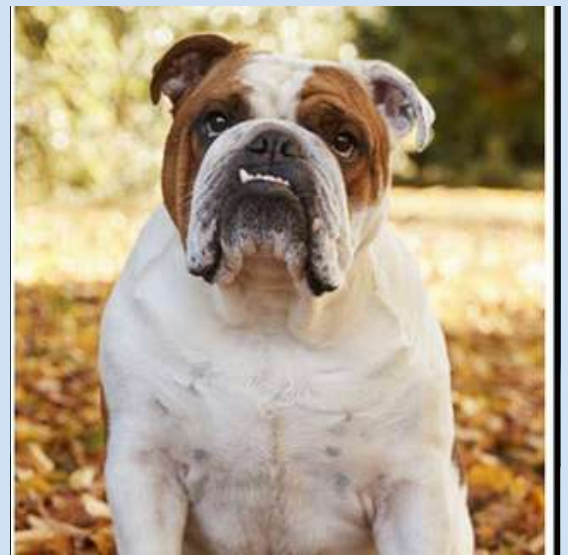
Semi Sovann



Moto Moto



A Bulldog



Grand M



Mops Look Alikes

Semi Hanno and Semi Rudolph



Senior Keegan



Semi Duncan



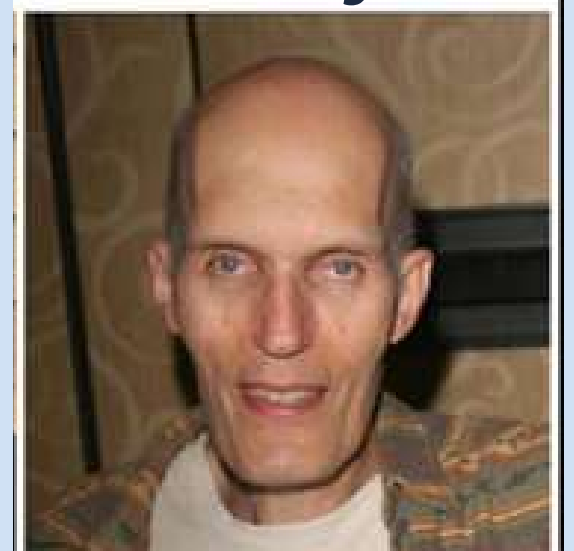
Astrix and Obelix



Brock Lesnar



Carel Struychen

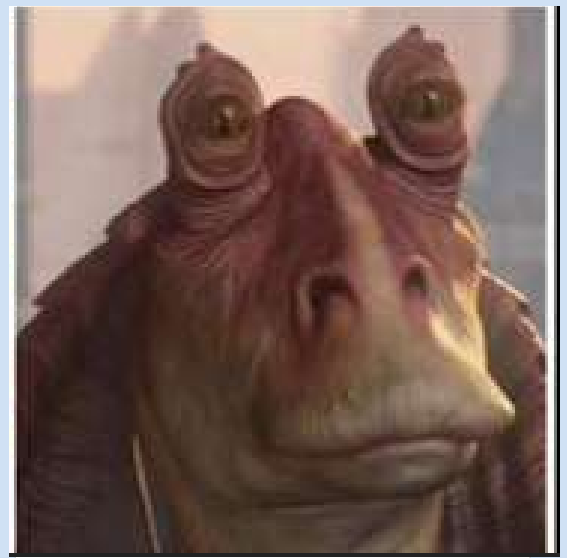


Mops Look Alikes

Senior Carvin



Jar Jar Binks



Semi Thabiso



Frozone



Senior Ashaan



Megamind



Mops Look Alikes

Peppie Dawid



Dopey



Senior Dario



Squishy



Semi Braam



Manny



Mops Look Alikes

Semi Zander



John Wayne Gacy



Semi Dirku



A wet owl

