



MOPANE

# EL Torro

Quarter 2 2023

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## Letter from the Chair

I know this should be a summary of Q2 and everything we have accomplished, but jho, am I excited about Q3! The race for a place in res is done, and it's downhill from here.

However, there were some highlights last quarter. The Step-it-UP was back in full flow, and after a down year, it's safe to say the gents performed and put up a great show. We once again dominated the UPLympics, where the highlight has to be the HC relay (Alvin, you legend). Debate secured another podium, El Tjorro is back and academically... well, stuff happened (I suppose).

Thinking back, Q2 had a lot to brag about in our pursuit of #yearofthemops, and Q3 will be even better!

Most of the sport will come to conclusions, and the Acapella still have the opportunity to bring back another trophy to Mops. It's House Week, Seniority Weeks and a lot of partying - what a time to be alive!

I leave you with the words of an old editor of this very publication, C.N. Mbhalati, "And with that, See You Cowgirl, Someday, Somewhere."



**Geolé**

*Semi Dirku*

# Letter from the Editor

Greetings, Mopane Men and all the lovely ladies who add spice to our lives! Your friendly neighborhood editor here, and boy, do I have some tales to share with you. As the exam season draws to a close, I can't help but feel a sense of accomplishment, not just for the exceptional academic performance but also for surviving the wrath of the Mopane spirit. And let me tell you, it's been a wild ride!

Now, let's start with the star of the show, Ashaan. This fella has been an elusive exam ninja, hiding from test papers like a pro. But this semester, he finally faced his fears, squared his shoulders, and took on those exams like a champ! Way to go, Ashaan! You know what they say, better late than never!

Speaking of firsts, guess what? It's snowing in Johannesburg! And you know what that means—it's snowman-building time! Yours truly successfully crafted the most dapper snowman in the history of snowmen. If there was a snowman beauty pageant, he'd be crowned Mr. Frosty Universe. I even caught him practicing his winning wave.

But enough about my chilly escapades. Let's talk about the Mopane domination! We've been on fire this semester, excelling in everything from debates (we can argue better than a cat and dog fighting over a sunny spot) to stepping it up with some killer dance moves. And don't even get me started on how we aced rugby, UPLYmpics, and netball! The Mopane name echoes through the campus like a catchy tune you can't stop humming.

Let's take a moment to appreciate the External Culture HC Denyl and their genius idea of dressing the boys in military clothing. It's like we were ready to take on any academic challenge, marching to the exam halls with unwavering determination. But, let's not go too far; we might end up calling our res a boot camp. Although, after three weeks of rest, you'll be marching back in, far away from family, and sadly, no girlfriend sleepovers allowed. Sorry, folks, res life comes with some unique restrictions.

Now, let's shift gears to something truly legendary—the one and only El Torro! Our residence car mascot has been revving its engine, symbolizing the beating heart of Mopane. It's true, rumors have it that ladies swoon over gents with a Mercedes-Benz. So, if you have one, flaunt it like you're the star of a fancy car commercial. Just be ready to sign some autographs, you celebrity, you!

As we gear up for the new semester, let's remember that a Mopane Gent never gives up. You might have stumbled in the past, but you've learned from those mielies you harvested. It's time to plant new ones and grow stronger than ever. Embrace your mistakes, devise a plan, and show the world that Mopane Gents are winners in every field!

And before I wrap this up, Peppies (and any Senior that needs to hear this), remember to return with a burst of energy to secure a date for the Peppie or Senior Dine. Trust me; you want a hot date beside you, not playing third wheel to someone else's romance drama. And if you suspect a girl is shady, consider a backup plan, but don't get entangled with an Asterhof. We all know what happened there!

Let's embrace this new semester with enthusiasm, camaraderie, and lots of laughter. Remember, "I am nothing, Mopane is everything." Together, we can conquer the world, one exam, and one snowman at a time! Let's make this year a true #YearOfTheMops!

Stay frosty, Mopane Men!

— *Don Bongani*



# *Still Higher - Motivation for Semester 2*

*Dear Mgoaan*

I would like to share a message of encouragement, resilience, and some words to motivate those who had academic setbacks during the year. I would like to congratulate you for making it this far. The first semester was challenging and the fact that you've made it this far shows how much potential you have towards achieving academic success. Some of us may have gotten results that were below our expectations and struggled to get through the first semester. Having switched; as many people do during their university experience, I found it hard to adjust to the new material but through focus and effort I was able to make it through.

Please remember that you are not defined by a single semester or a series of disappointing results. I want you to know that you are much more than those grades and you possess immense strength and potential to push beyond the boundaries of academics at a university level. Allow yourself to make mistakes and grow from them. Embrace the process of learning to truly discover your potential and let past failures fuel your determination to succeed in life. Lastly remind yourself to celebrate your progress, no matter how small it may seem. Embrace your unique talents, your passions, and the qualities that make you who you are.

Going forward I want every single one of you to continue this journey with determination and ability to overcome every adversity thrown your way. Believe in your own potential and embrace every challenge as an opportunity to grow and succeed.

May these words resonate with most of you and fuel your drive and determination to be the best version of yourself. May the academic year be filled with triumph, growth, and endless possibilities.

*Senior Ashaan*

# What the Peppie Cap Means

## From Howzit André

So simple, yet so special. The bright and blue Peppie Cap.

The question is, why all the fuss about a plain blue piece of material ?

Logically, this won't make sense to anyone who has not experienced Mopane. Therefore forgive them who don't understand, they also never will.

Imagine being a Peppie Cap, of a Peppie in Mopane. Think of all the stories you would experience, all the friends and people you would meet. Think of all the adventures you would go through on this Peppie's head. You would barely miss a moment of Mopane. Then, only when you are dirty, old and with a lot of character, you would be accepted as a true Peppie Cap.

Let's be honest, if a cap is bright and blue after 3 months of being a Peppie, something is wrong and you know it.

A Peppie cap needs to experience harsh environments, it needs to see the sunrise after a morning session mealie watch. It needs to gain dirt from wearing it everywhere, EVERYWHERE

It needs to fold and crumble as you sometimes forget to take it off when you go to bed. It needs to have some scars or marks because of ladies who couldn't resist it. Sometimes even torn in half, and stapled back together. A Peppie Cap must lose it's colour from hash sunlight, and have sweat stains from Step it Up Practice.

All of the above, contributes to the character of the Peppie Cap.

Why all this ??

What counts for a Peppie Cap, is the same for a Peppie or any other Mopaan.

You only become a true Mopaan once you have character. Character is the one thing that you need to have in Mopane. This is also the way to contribute to Mopane, by being your own character.

You will get some harsh environments in Res Life, things that will challenge you to your inner soul. You will get dirty from the clubhouse, tired from a mealie watch, but still move forward. Sometimes you would fold and crumble under the pressure of academics and yes, girls may scar your (if not, then you are one of a few lucky ones remaining). Sometimes torn apart by friends, people or circumstances. Obviously there are a lot more challenges, and different challenges to different people.

But all of this, forms part of your character. It needs to happen, it needs to be part of you. This is the only way to become who you are meant to be, the only way to be formed into a true Mopaan. Into your own character. Take these tough times, and work through them, as you would always come out stronger, with more character.

*Geolé*



If you don't push through and keep going, and let these times shape your character. You will be a like bright blue Peppie Cap in the month of May.

A Peppie Cap is only a Peppie Cap when it has character.

A Mopaan is only a Mopaan when he has character.

*Howzit André*

# What the cap means to a Mopaan...

## Peppie Sandiso

The Peppie cap is not just a cap to us, it holds a lot of pride. It started off as a rite of passage and as time went by, it grew into something that represents everything that we stand for as a group and as Mopane. Everything that we have all gone through to protect our Peppie caps is just a testament to what the Peppie cap means to us and it's just a reflection of how much passion we have for the house.

To me, the Peppie cap is something sacred. It's not to be taken lightly and to be protected at all costs. In the beginning of the year we heard stories but now that we've lived six months as Peppies and have stories of our own, it makes the Peppie cap even more incredible





# What the cap means to a Mopaan...

## Peppie Nelis

The Peppie cap means more to me than just a cap. The peppie cap is a symbol of brotherhood and unity that cannot be described. From the first day I walked into the house on open day I could sense the importance of that blue cap. On the night we received our peppie caps we all felt united like never before, as if we were brothers. We all heard the news of peppie caps being stolen but none of thought it was such a big deal.

When the first cap was stolen, we all fought for it as if it was a part of us. A saying commonly used in the house " Alles vir die huis " which translates to everything for the house , represents exactly what that blue cap means to each one of us.

# STEPPED UP!

## "BRINGING BACK MOPANE CULTURE"

### SEMI JACOBUS:

It was quite the experience at Step-It-UP this year. Tsepo and Denyl put a masterpiece together, and our delivery of it was faultless. And all of this in much less time than what we usually have to practice. Most of all, I believe the experience for all who participated will be everlasting. I, for one, still laugh when I think about Fred's "inside information," and I still get chills when I hear music from our score.



Our theme, Training Camp, was immaculate, and our costumes in white and green supported this theme perfectly. At the same time, as Oom Paul promised, they made the ladies in the audience cheer ludicrously. I do not think that there is another residence that could have portrayed Army gents better than Mopane. On another note, I just want to mention how funny the number of residences that went with the Airport-type theme is. So original. And how abysmal it is that one of them won.



# STEPPED UP!

## "BRINGING BACK MOPANE CULTURE"



On the other hand, our enthusiasm was top-notch. I can still remember the energy and hype we all had after we drank some OBS, and Francois gave the most heart-riveting speech that I have ever heard.

The atmosphere was indescribable. And this atmosphere persisted throughout all our practices. We had fun, but we also knew when to focus and when to bring our A-game.

Then our performance in the Amphitheatre was the winner. And when it went dark with "All of the Lights" and the purple illumination took my breath away. I almost just stopped playing the piano.

I still firmly believe that there were some dishonest concoctions taking place because 5th place seems very low for what was absolutely perfect.

But anyway, the experience was still amazing, and I believe everyone would choose to do all of that again.

*Geolé*



# MopsSport - setting the example



## *From the Sport HC:*

The year 2023 has been an amazing year and there are high levels of participation from the members of the House. As Sport HC, it brings you so much joy to hear someone from the House saying they are representing Mopane in one of the many sporting codes available at Mopane. You share in their excitement as they look forward to an upcoming fixture or commencement of a season.

Sport has had a good impact on our fellow Mopane. It serves as an escape from academic pressures and helps with the persons wellbeing. Some of our athletes make good health choices to give their best performance: *"I won't be drinking at tonight's clubhouse because I have a game tomorrow"* - Afika. I always encourage gents in the House to participate in some sport for these reasons.

The gents have been showing great commitment on the training grounds and we have high hopes for our teams to do well in their respective tournaments. We will work till the very last whistle, and we will remain humble champions on and off the field.

My time as the Sport HC of House Mopane is almost up. I am excited to know that another person will have this honour to oversee the high performing Sport of Mopane. It was a hectic journey in terms of the administrative side of things, there was of course a lot of growth which is what I was looking for and I am grateful that I managed to achieve that. To the incoming Sport HC, it's going to be a good one looking at the number of players that are interested in being at Mopane next year. Do your part and the athletes will do their part.

It has been a good one. Thank you Mops

*Semi Siphho*

# MopsSport - setting the example



**It is halfway through the academic year and there is still a lot of sports to be played! This is the update on the Sports:**

- Our Basketball team topped their group and are through to the playoffs of the league.
- Our U/20 rugby team are currently 1st on the U/20 Rugby League.
  - Our 1st rugby team are currently 4th on the 1st Team Rugby League.
- Our Mopselief Netball team are currently 5th on the Mixed Netball League.

## **Upcoming Sports:**

- Hockey Internal League- 24 July
- Soccer Internal League- 29 July
- Tennis Tournament- 12 August
- Cricket Internal League- 8 September
- Swimming Gala- 27 September
- Badminton Tournament- TBC
- Squash Tournament- TBC

# MopsBasketball

## -Semi Victor

The Mopane Basketball Team has proven that success in sports is not always a straight path; it is filled with twists, turns, and valuable lessons. As they completed their first week of games, the team experienced a rollercoaster of emotions with moments of triumph and challenges that tested their mettle.

On the opening day of the tournament, Mopane found themselves pitted against a worthy adversary. The opposition gave them a run for their money during the first half of the game.

However, true to the Mopane spirit, the team showed determination, grit and played with all their might, ultimately securing a comfortable win. This victory marked a great start to their season, leaving them with a record of 1-0.

As match 2 dawned Mopane managed to secure another comfortable victory leading to the team having a sense of overconfidence after their impressive performance in the initial games. The previous wins had allowed them to relax, but little did they know that they were in for a fierce battle. In an intense matchup against The Tower, the game was neck-and-neck, eventually leading to overtime. Despite their best efforts, fate was not on their side, and they suffered a heartbreaking loss by a mere three points. This humbling experience brought their overall record to 2-1, teaching them the value of humility and the need to stay focused.



# MopsBasketball

However, the Mopane Basketball Team is a group of resilient athletes who refuse to be discouraged by setbacks. As the second week of games began, they harnessed their disappointment and turned it into a driving force for redemption. With an unwavering determination, they took to the court with a mindset of retribution. The team left nothing to chance and played each game with unyielding passion fully displaying what it means to be a Mopane.

Throughout the week, they faced four formidable opponents and emerged victorious in each game, showcasing their potential and teamwork. Notably, they secured an impressive win against a talented Morula team, further solidifying their place as a dominant force in the tournament and on The Hillcrest Campus. Their impressive winning streak elevated their record to a staggering 6-1, making them the frontrunners in their pool.



The credit for the team's success undoubtedly goes to their exceptional captain, Boitumelo Motloun, who leads by example both on and off the court. Boitumelo's dedication and leadership has been instrumental in motivating the team to push beyond their limits and strive for excellence. Under his guidance, the players have grown both individually and collectively, becoming a force to be reckoned with.

With the first phase of the tournament now behind them, the Mopane Basketball Team is setting their sights on the highly anticipated semi-finals in August. We hope to see them continue to dominate and continue the momentum we have in



*#yearoftheMops*

# MopsNetball

## -Peppie Ntokozo

One of the greatest things about TuksRes and its mission of creating a home away from home is the ability to participate in many different disciplines while prioritising academics. This quarter we found our ball-catching skills, jumping ability and shooting skills being tested when some of the boys participated in the residence's internal mixed netball league, and oh boy was it exciting!

The games were very interesting, although the rules were confusing. We couldn't run with the ball, nor tackle the gents as Peppie Ben would like. The hoops were much smaller than the basketball hoops and the umpires did not stop blowing the whistle, but all this confusion came to an end when our RAG wives, Madelief talked us through all the rules.

We only had three losses out of the many games we played in quarter two and despite these obstacles, we as Mopselief are determined to get back this quarter and finish what we started.





# MopsRugby

## -Peppie Murray



Mopane's rugby this first semester was all but a dull event for Mopane oaks. Supporters not holding back and the men in blue giving their all on and around the field! This obviously lead to breathtaking games that kept us on our toes for the entirety of the game. With excellent support and the unstoppable 15 on the field, WE BROUGHT BACK THE RESULTS!!!

**Talk about results let me give you a brief overview of how Mopane is ABSOLUTELY DOMINATING rugby this year.**

Hard work clearly paid off with both our u/20s and 1st team already qualifying for the semi-finals despite games still outstanding.

The one fixture outstanding for the 1st team is against Sonop on 02 August which can be the decider for Mopane to climb the table and therefore be able to get a better semi-final fixture.

On the other hand, the u/20 team still has 2 games left against College and a daring Drageana team that will be hungry to take away Mopane's top spot on the log.

As you can see Mopane still has a lot of exciting rugby in store and support will be needed for important games in the upcoming weeks!



# MopsUPLympics

## -Semi Thabiso

*We will be humble  
champions*

Yes, we are humble, but we are certainly still champions.

With a flash of blue and orange we once again left everyone in the dust as we retained our title as the number one structure at this year's UPLympics. We have proved once again that we are the most dominant residence in sports



Congratulations to peppie Carl for being the male track Victor Ludorum, Peppie Simeon and Philip for placing first and third respectively for Tour de Tukkies, peppie Asive for placing third for skipping, the Greeff brothers for coming in clutch for chess and of course winning 4x100m relay with our rag partners Madelief but winning isn't everything. It's all about having fun. I know it sounds cringey and trust me I'm the last person to talk about cringey topics, but it's true. When you're old and greying and your balls are sagging to your knees and you're dying from all those vapes, these are the times that you'll remember and cherish. So, thank you to every one that wore the house logo with pride and showed passion for the house, but most importantly, had fun. Thank you to everyone came out to show support and showed that true Mops spirit, Eskom envies the energy that you guys gave that day. Lastly let me leave you with a quote that shows the immense power of sports.

“A virgin”- Peter Crouch, when asked what he would be if he wasn't a professional soccer player 😊



# THE RETURN OF A LEGEND

EL TJORRO IS UP AND RUNNING

*- From the Internal Projects HC :*

**Rolling down the street, whistling through the leaves, shining like a diamond!**

As time went on and no feedback was given it seemed like EL Tjorro would never return.

We as house Mopane welcomed back our own EL Tjorro in Q2.

Until one unexpected message stating "Good day House Mopane, how does this week fit you? The car is ready to return to its HOME".

EL Tjorro was a donation from a few members of the house in 1990. It was used for convoys for rugby matches.

And so, the preparation started to welcome back our beloved car. And on the 14th of June its pistons started moving again and petrol flowing like a river. It was Oom Francois Swart accompanied by his son Gogga who drove the car and welcomed by members of the house. Truly a historical day! And it is all thanks to the hard work of Oom Francois and his team.

In 2022 it was taken away by the help of Gogga (Senior Johan) and his farther oom Francois Swart to be given another opportunity to rev its engine. Everybody was very excited to see the old machine work again, but nobody knew how long it would take.

# EL TJORRO RETURNS

To give you more insight on what had to be done to bring EL Tjorro back to life we start with the paintjob. All the old paint was chipped off to allow the team to fix all the dents on the body and get rid of any rust. What really stood out about the body was that there was almost no floor. Your feet could almost touch the ground! That meant that Oom Francois had to design a whole new floor for the car. EL Tjorro also had a few missing parts including mirrors, wheel covers, light covers and some of the chrome trim. All these parts had to where luckily found in the great valley of Limpopo. What a province!



Furthermore, the petrol tank was completely eaten away by all the old petrol and liquids that rest in its belly for all those years, what led to the fuel tank to be replaced and moved to the back of the car. The engine was also replaced with a Nissan 1400 engine which originally would have been a Lexus V6 engine...now imagine that drag race!! The gearshift lever was relocated to the centre of the car instead of next to the steering wheel where it usually was.

The whole restoration was topped off with a custom build Mopane roller ball that is now on the front of the car to show our pride and passion. And again, this is all made possible by Oom Francois and his team and we are forever grateful for it!



# NO DEBATE FOR DEBATING SUPREMACY

-Peppie Max

**Wow, I can't believe we did it again. Another debating competition, another podium.**

Over the week of the 16th to the 20th of May Mopane competed in the TuksRes debating competition, the two teams that competed were the Roller Ballers and the Meaty Mielies, and boy, what a performance it was from both teams. In the end, the Roller Ballers came out third overall, and the Meaty Mielies made Quarterfinals, extremely good for the only residence that submitted two teams. Without a shadow of a doubt, this competition was a good exercise to further my debating skills, being in the Roller Ballers I was surrounded by topclass debaters and really motivated me to better myself in every debate.

Tsepo was a rock-solid speaker and really silenced the opposition when he delivered his arguments, Bernard provided a flare to the arguments and with the help of subliminal jokes he was a great debater. Philip was a cowboy the way he rounded up the arguments and delivered reviews about the whole debate and submitted the final whiplash to the opposition. With the help of Anathi Nkomonye we had a lot of experience in the team, and his oversight and tips really sharpened our arguments substantially.

I really felt like I grew over this competition, before I was a scared debater but after this competition my confidence has increased and subsequently I am more keen to "argue" It was a good challenge and a great chance to bond with fellow Mopane and debate alongside them. I am very excited to see what future debates we compete in!



# NOTHING-BUT-VERNAC

## -Semi Teboho (Ace)

What is 'NBV'? I'm sure most of you confused it with 'GBV' - well, it's not. Simply put, Nothing But Vernac is an artistic event showcasing one's artistic talents.

Well, this year, we had the one and only Andile Xaba representing the House, and he never ceases to make us proud. He came back with gold (as always), and he was crowned as champion in the Dramatic Category. Well, since he could do it twice (2022 & 2023), I bet he has a few tricks up his sleeve.

Now you know whom to take under your wing, I must say that we are proud as a House to have him on our side.

*Geolé*



# El Torro Awards

## HOUDINI OF THE QUARTER

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

### Finalists

- Oom Anton (again, shooting for 2 in a row)
- Pawnstars Seniors
- 3-3 Semi's

And the winner is...

**3-3 Semi's**

## 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 (Going for a double)
- Senior Jacques (Ready to defend the 3-2 name)
- Peppie Richard and Peppie Manson

And the winner is...

**Senior Jacques**

## 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 Jarrie uhhh Murray
- 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
- Farmers Lane (3-4) (New entry)
- 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
- Semi Herrie (going for 2 awards)
- Peppie Ben

And the winner is...

**Semi Hanno (and that's a hat-trick for 3-2)**

## ROOMMATES OF THE QUARTER

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

### Finalists

- Semi Rudolph and Semi Hanno
- Semi Ruben and Semi Braam
- Peppie Robert and Peppie Bennet

And the winner is...

**Semi Ruben and Semi Braam**



# Mops Look Alikes

**Peppie Dillan**



**Jonah Hill**



**Peppie Jordan**



**Simon**



# Mops Look Alikes

Peppie Arnand



Semi Alvin



Oom Christiaan



Quentin Tarantino



Brett Gray



Human Shrek



# Mops Look Alikes

Senior Mashaba



Eric Bailly



Semi Nicolaas



A rock



Senior Avi



Sideshow Bob



# Mops Look Alikes

Senior Jacques



This girl



Oom Phapusha



Rafael



# Mops Look Alikes

**Peppie Sipho**



**8 Ball**



**Peppie Corné**



**Vienna**



**Peppie Niel**



**Jeffrey Dahmer**

