

**NEWS** Black Coffee works his magic for charity **PAGE 3**



**NEWS** 'Guardian' comes to kids' rescue **PAGE 6**

# The Herald

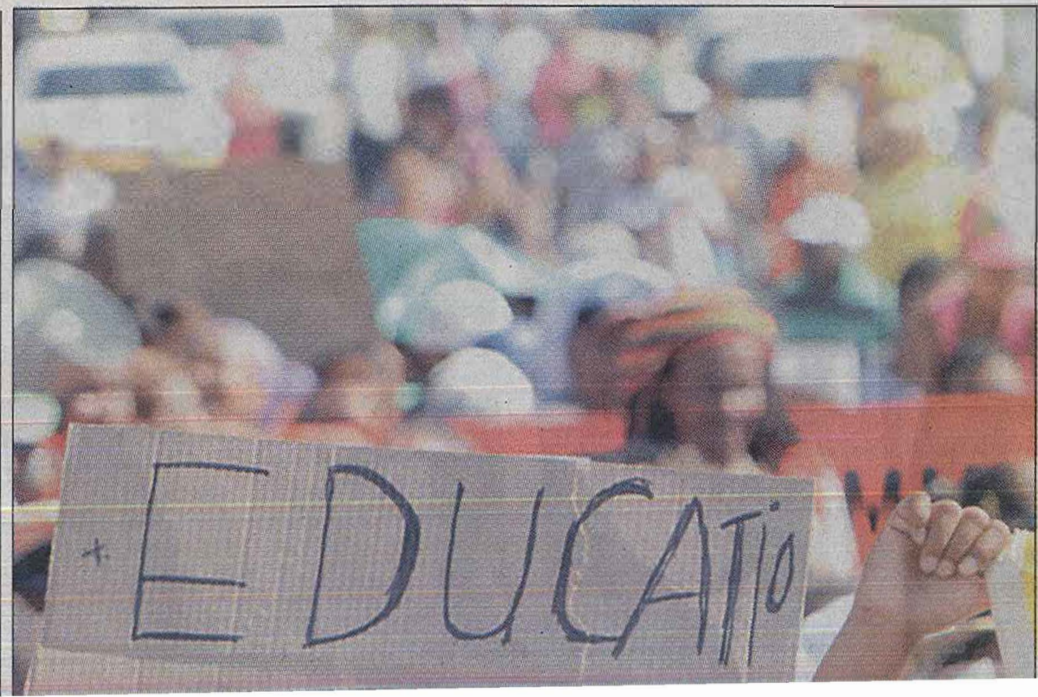
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MORNING FINAL

THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2013

SA's OLDEST NEWSPAPER ESTABLISHED IN PORT ELIZABETH

# Increase in police brutality



# Guardian comes to kids' rescue

## Ex-cop launches initiative to keep children safe

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**A**FTER receiving a warm response from audiences in Durban and Johannesburg, a child abuse investigator is visiting Eastern Cape schools to work hand-in-hand with them to reduce crimes against children.

Durban-based Marc Hardwick started an organisation called The Guardian in 2009 after working as a policeman for 13 years, with a vision to protect. He strongly believes every person has an obligation to assist children enjoy their right to safety.

"This obligation includes ensuring that, through education, pupils are protected from sexual assault, physical assault, substance abuse, neglect and harm and that their childhood can be filled with joyful memories and not nightmares," Hardwick said.

Hardwick, who has a counselling qualification from the University of South Africa (Unisa),

offers schools The Guardian Partnership Programme which includes age-appropriate training, educator training, parent training, electronic newsletters, a policy and procedure manual and case management.

"I want to change the crime stats in this part of the world and will need the help of schools and business," Hardwick said.

Westering Primary School and

**I want to change the crime stats in this part of the world**

Hill College are among the schools to see Hardwick on his first visit to Port Elizabeth and begin to take proactive steps to combat crimes against children.

Because of the lack of funding at schools, Hardwick plans to address 20 to 30 businesses in Nelson Mandela Bay to sponsor the schools.

The Guardian programme specialises in the protection of chil-

dren and teenagers against all forms of abuse [sexual, physical, emotional] as well as the investigation of cases of crimes against children and teenagers.

"Our areas of consulting include child trafficking, sexual assault, physical assault, social issues relating to learners and schools' legal responsibilities, issues relating to social media, consulting on safeguarding and assistance with troubled children and teens," he said.

Hardwick deals with crimes against the most vulnerable members of society, a task he considers a personal crusade.

"We do not only make children, parents and schools aware of the problem and promote policies to help, we also catch the perpetrators. We offer private investigation and an intervention plan specifically designed for troubled teens," he said.

Hardwick has an unwavering passion for fighting crimes against children and he says he also has a need to ensure prosecution of the culprits.

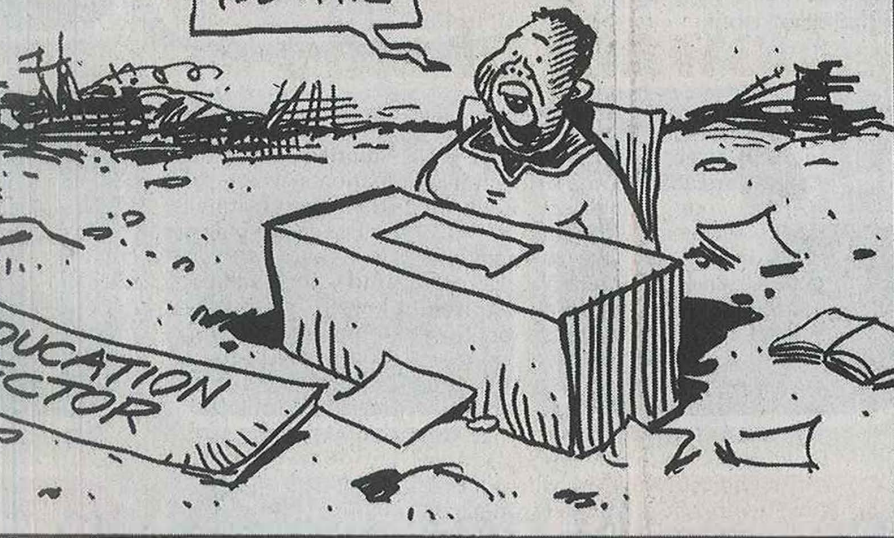


**END THE ABUSE:** Marc Hardwick is in Port Elizabeth to introduce The Guardian Partnership Programme to schools  
Picture: FREDLIN ADRIAN

RESIGN  
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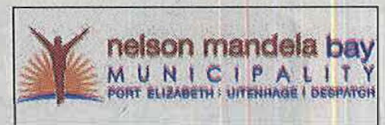
TOO LATE



MARC HARDWICK

## Hero of the day

SOMEONE who is doing, not just talking about doing. Well done. We hope your initiative will spare many children the horror of abuse – in whatever form.



NELSON MANDELA BAY  
MUNICIPALITY

## Hooligan of the day

EXCUSES, excuses. You say trading has been allowed in the Durban Road area since the 1980s, but the situation has deteriorated on your watch!