

**TEXT 1****Editorial: We tried. We really, really did.**

By Daily Maverick editorial team, 11 January 2016

- 1 Back when the Daily Maverick was a sketch on the back of a cocktail napkin, we hoped to build an e-polis of ideas. We wanted to create a website where a bunch of talented journalists, high-profile columnists and regular folk thwacked around the issues of the day. We hoped that our comments section would play a central role in fostering healthy, robust, sharp-edged debate – a town hall in which all were welcome, regardless of the usual caveats. We felt that South Africa could be a lodestar for this sort of thing: our differences would melt away in the fire of intellectual engagement, and we'd forge a new, coherent identity because we were all so damned smart. It hasn't quite turned out that way.
- 2 Like most news and opinion websites the world over, we've had to contend with the fact that a small but significant percentage of our commentators troll our site in order to fling filth at our writers, our opinionistas, and at other contributors and commentators who happen to disagree with their finely tuned *Weltschmerz*.<sup>1</sup> We've been slow to act because we truly believed that we'd arrive at a solution that would somehow cut down on or eliminate entirely the flood of hateful words that had become a mainstay on a venue that hundreds of thousands of readers rely on for their daily information.
- 3 Over the past six years, we have worked painstakingly hard to build a legacy brand of which we could be proud. Unfortunately, our comments section is tarnishing that brand. As of today, we are suspending our comments section until such time as we can either moderate away those who feel entitled to spew hate speech on our property, or come up with some other solution that fosters genuine engagement rather than reductive trolling.
- 4 Some of our readers will be confused into thinking that this serves as a curtailment of their right to free speech. But there is nothing in the unwritten, unsigned contract between a website and its readership that remotely implies a 'right' to comment. One of the joys of the Internet is that it provides near endless venues for the posting of marginalised opinions, and we urge those who feel slighted by our new policy to investigate options such as Twitter, Facebook, and other sites which have so successfully offered voices to the voiceless.
- 5 But in the meantime, remember this: no one is entitled to post whatever comes into their head underneath a story on a website they do not own and do not pay for. No one is entitled to insult writers or fellow readers because of some misguided understanding of freedom of speech. And no one is entitled to be offensive just because they feel like it. Not in Daily Maverick, at least.
- 6 And sure, under the current legal framework, it may be your 'right' to say what you want. But it's our right not to want to host it.
- 7 We discussed at length how best to address this massively increasing problem. Proper comment management requires full-time staff. As we're not financed by governments and multinational corporations, we'd rather spend our precious resources for journalism than for policing the hatred.
- 8 Finally, we should note that we're not suspending the comments section because of some strain of political correctness, or because we're afraid of the 'Truth'. Mostly, we're suspending this service because we no longer want to read racist invective on a site that is the result of a six-year labour of love. We're pulling our comments section not because we don't respect our readers – *au contraire!* – but because a narrow band of our readers refuse to respect us. It's horribly disappointing.

- 9 We will be setting up an old school Letters to the Editor column shortly, in which we will curate and publish the most coherent and cogently argued thoughts emailed to the editors by our readers. It will be published on our home page daily. We will continue to rigorously offer the right of reply to those who feel slighted by a particular story, and we also remind our readers that we read every single submission that is mailed to our editorial desk, regardless of the sender.
- 10 To the people who offered constructive comments and contributed great ideas, thank you very much for your contribution to making Daily Maverick South Africa's premier daily news and opinion brand. Please keep talking to us. To the trolls: Goodbye. **DM**

[Source: <[http://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2016-01-11-editorial-we-tried.-we-really-really-did./#.VpQem\\_195D8](http://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2016-01-11-editorial-we-tried.-we-really-really-did./#.VpQem_195D8)>]

### Glossary:

<sup>1</sup>Weltschmerz – (from the German, meaning world-pain) The term refers to a feeling of pessimism and sorrow about how the world keeps falling short of expectations.

## TEXT 2A

### Call for more local music on South African radio (2014)

More than 1 000 artists signed a petition delivered to the Independent Communications Authority of SA, which regulates local content airtime. The petition proposes that the current minimum local content airtime percentage be upped from 40% to 80% on a public radio station's playlist, and from 25% to 75% for a private station's playlist.

Founding owner of Native Rhythms Productions, Sipho Sithole, said music contributes R2,2 billion towards the South African economy, which means that the proposed new percentages would benefit musicians as well as the entire country.

'It's about time South African artists get a fair share of airplay. Maybe then we will be able to raise excitement for our own shows instead of supporting overseas artists more than our own.'

[Adapted from: <<http://www.bdlive.co.za/life/entertainment/2014/10/15/call-for-more-local-music-on-south-african-radio>>]

## TEXT 2B

### Zola takes shots at music industry (2016)



*We do all the  
campaigns and Jay Z  
is the one that gets  
all the money*

'Sometimes when you invade a country, you just need Lil Wayne. Send him with Birdman and Drake and you can change a country completely, mentally. That's why those artists look richer than us, and get more airplay than us and they are more South African than us ... because we simply lack patriotism.'


Zola says local artists cannot claim to dominate the local music scene until we change the way local TV and radio works. The lack of love for local music by SA radio stations is a story as old as time, but musicians are determined to make a change.

[Adapted from: <<http://www.channel24.co.za/The-Juice/zola-takes-shots-at-music-industry-we-simply-lack-patriotism-20160215>>]

## TEXT 2C

**Musicians wage war on SA radio (2016)**

Local rapper, Cassper Nyovest, made headlines late 2015 when he called on radio to give local musicians more appreciation. The industry was rocked this past week when jazz veteran, Don Laka, took to Facebook to address the crisis he says has meant the loss of 15 000 direct jobs in the music industry. Don says that SA radio has made a decision to reduce the amount of local music it plays and that artists' royalties are drying up as a result of the decision.




**New Album in stores** 

@CassperNyovest

 Follow

The other thing is us as musicians. There's no unity so we can't fight 4 anything. When one speaks, he speaks alone.

12:28 PM – 20 Feb 2016




  51  92**New Album in stores** 

@CassperNyovest

 Follow

We really need to stop fighting each other and start fighting for each other!!!

12:35 PM – 20 Feb 2016

  598  515

[Adapted from: <<http://www.channel24.co.za/The-Juice/musicians-wage-war-on-sa-radio-20160222>>]

**TEXT 3**



[Adapted from: <<http://www.toxel.com/wp-content/uploads/2008/10/2008vote5.jpg>>]

**TEXT 4**

## Make them wear your shoes.

Ask the politicians to take a few laps in your shoes. They don't understand what it's like to be a woman on your own trying to stretch a shrinking paycheck over skyrocketing health care costs. They don't understand that when you're a single woman and you lose your job, no one is going to step up to pay the rent or your college loan.

It's time to elect people who do understand, who will protect your rights and take on the high cost of health care, protect jobs and paychecks, improve our schools and make it easier to get the education and skills you need to get ahead and secure your future.

22 million unmarried women didn't vote in the 2000 election, according to the US Census. Vote this year and you can determine who wins and set our nation on a different course.

## Vote.

22 million women  
on their own  
can change the country.

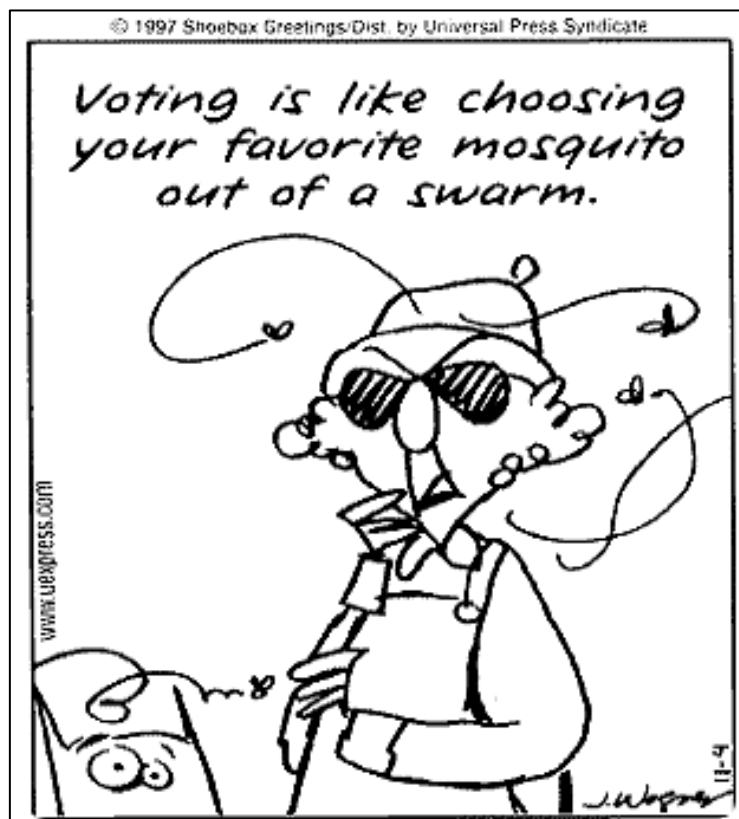


Women's Voices.

**Women Vote**

[Source: <<http://www.voterparticipation.org/news-and-media/advertisements/>>]



**TEXT 5**

[Source: <<https://s-media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com/236x/de/55/13/de5513a08fbfcfa07a3dc76613759ff0.jpg>>]

**TEXT 6**

[Source: <<https://s-media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com/236x/f8/87/3f/f8873ffd07f0e28be71def2b82254118.jpg>>]

**TEXT 7**



[Source: <<http://digitalinkcs.deviantart.com/art/Frank-Serafini>>]

**TEXT 8**



[Source: <<http://favim.com/orig/201106/01/black-protest-red-sign-war-Favim.com-63082.jpg>>]