

Give us a piece of

WINNING LETTER

The problem of suicide

More and more people are thinking about suicide and even taking their own lives. Even worse, there are rising numbers of suicidal people taking the lives of their loved ones as well! The National Injury Mortality Surveillance System (NIMSS) shows that for black people suicide is a major cause of violent death.

Before people moved to big cities, they enjoyed strong family structures. They had aunts, uncles, grandparents and cousins to support them. But now that extended family is a thing of the past.

Troubled people should speak to respected individuals about their problems; someone who could prevent and solve conflict among married couples.

People must talk about their problems and conflicts and make sure they resolve it instead of thinking about suicide.

- **Johanna Chaba, Elandskraal, Limpopo**

Johanna Chaba wins the Motorola C680 cellphone sponsored by:



Write to Vuk'uzenzele, Private Bag X745, Pretoria, 0001 or email: vukuzenzele@gcis.gov.za. If you don't want your name published, you may use a different name, but please include your real name and address.



The best letter wins a Motorola C680 cellphone!

More practical education

I am one of those who finished school in a township government school with great hopes of pursuing a tertiary education and getting a good job, but I was disappointed. All my friends who went to private schools are now working.

My concern is government schools don't teach us how to survive and job-search after matric. They teach us book education, while at private schools they learn practical education.

South Africa is full of bursaries and study loans, but they are not

in the spotlight for us township learners to access them.

It's easy to finish matric, but to get government assistance is difficult. Why can't government establish government study grants for the poor? - **Thokozani Petrus Sithebe Mhluzi Township, Mpumalanga**

Reply from the Department of Education:

Government established the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NS-FAS) through which students can access funds. For 2006, over R1,3 billion has been made available for loans and bursaries. Qualifying students can ap-

ply for these funds at the Student Financial Aid Office of the institution where they are registering, or call 021 793 3200; fax 021 797 8416 for more information. Regarding job opportunities, Higher Education South Africa and the Department of Education have jointly published a booklet for Grade 9 with information on careers after matric. Umsobomvu Youth Fund and the National Youth Commission can also be contacted about opportunities for young people. (Phone 1020 for details). Government is committed to improving schools in disadvantaged areas.

What a shame

Our government says: "embrace disability with dignity," but I found that there's nothing like that in our communities, in the streets, in our churches, schools and towns. "Nothing about us, without us" is the slogan of disabled people in South Africa and our government is very familiar with it. What a shame Stutterheim! In our streets there's nothing for people with disabilities, e.g. ramps and parking. Also our taxi rank, which is a public place, is not accessible. I am very worried about this. - **Mlungisi Diko, Stutterheim, Eastern Cape**

TV is a monster

I'm sorry to say this, but TV is a monster. It shows us exactly the way things are and then we don't have time or a chance to think about things with our own minds. But the worst part of it is that it attracts us so that we find ourselves keeping on postponing everything

letters to the editor

