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Tools

## THE INSIDER: When two plus two equals a variable result

SCIENCE and Technology Minister Naledi Pandor brought several of her trusted advisers over from the education department when she switched portfolios last year.

Published: 2010/09/15 07:29:39 AM

SCIENCE and Technology Minister [Naledi Pandor](#) brought several of her trusted advisers over from the education department when she switched portfolios last year. Perhaps she should have brought along a few readin', writin' and 'rithmetic teachers too.

Or even a trusty subeditor.

A press release issued by her staff last week to highlight the latest annual survey of research and development said the real growth in research and development spending climbed 2,2% between 2007-08 and 2008-09, to reach R21,04bn. But that figure is at odds with her preface to the report, which her staff no doubt wrote on her behalf, which says it grew 1,9%.

And what do the boffins from the Human Sciences Research Council, who conducted the survey, say in the report itself? Why, something else entirely — 1,3%. All in all, things simply don't add up.

### Running under the influensh

AT ABOUT this time every year a group of hardened athletes gear up for what must surely be one of the toughest sporting events in the world.

This unique group of athletes have a passion for two things — running and wine, though not necessarily in that order.

The so-called Marathon du Medoc in the Bordeaux region of France, which took place at the weekend, draws a unique field of athletes: some are devoted marathon runners and some are devoted quaffers of the fine vin ous offerings of the region.

The athletes cunningly combine the pain of a 42km marathon with a fair number of wine tastings at various chateaux along the route.

Now the Insider is no serious athlete, but he has never managed to understand how anyone can seriously try and run 42km while going on a booze bender. His correspondence with one of the participants left him all the more confused. Not only does said participant chug down generous helpings of Bordeaux's finest, he scoffs oysters, cheese and entrecôte steak along the way! By his own admission, "the last stretch is usually a struggle".

### Was it good for you too?

BEELD reports that a young South African couple living in Christchurch, New Zealand, had a particularly harrowing experience with the birth of their first child when the infant made its appearance just as the powerful earthquake hit recently.

New father Evert Barnard, who emigrated with his wife four years ago, said he and the nursing staff had to hang on to the bed because "everything was jumping around; the lights kept going on and off, and all the water splashed out of the birthing pool, wetting the ceiling".

The Insider sympathises, but is confused. Isn't the earth supposed to move at the other end of the human gestation period?

### CSI New York vs The Insider

DESPITE being a studious and hard- working type, the Insider recently went on to the Nu Metro website to see if there was a movie worth skiving off work for. Accidentally, he went to numetro.com, rather than numetro.co.za — and got into the New York public records website. If you want to check up on Donald Trump's criminal records, or the whole city's court records, now you know where to go!

### Wise words

"STRESS is nothing more than a socially acceptable form of mental illness." Richard Carlson, self-help author and motivational speaker (1961-2006)

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EUR/USD CALC	0.7696	0.13%
GBP/USD	0.6434	0.05%

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### Management Tip

**“** An open market for ideas: Create a dynamic internal market for ideas within the organization. **”** - Gary

Hamel



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