



IN MEMORIAM

David J van der Merwe (29/09/1956 - 30/04/2007)



My goeie vriend David van der Merwe is op 4 April na 'n paar dae in 'n hoërsorgeenheid aan oorweldigende breinbloeding oorlede. Sels hier het sy puik sin vir die ironie hom laat geld: ook in sy sterwensuur was hy 'n bekwame neurochirurg, 'n ware vriend, 'n lojale kollega, 'n seun, 'n pa.

Ek onthou hom met die selfsugtige hartseer wat afsterwe kenmerk, en met die soet herinnering van meer as 20 jaar se vriendskap. David is in Graaff-Reinet gebore, het matriek aan die Hoërskool Goudveld in Welkom geskryf, en het sy voor- en nagraadse studies aan die destydse UOVS in Bloemfontein voltooi – sy neurochirurgie-spesialisasie in Junie 1992. Daarna het hy 'n akademiese loopbaan gevolg (Departement Neurochirurgie, Akademiese Hospitaalkompleks, Bloemfontein), en was ook lang tye 'n privaatpraktisyn in onder meer die hospitale Rosepark in Bloemfontein, Wilgeheuwel in Roodepoort, en Netcare Privaat in Bloemfontein.

Sy lewe was een van paradokse: ten spyte van beduidende hoogtevrees – 'n diploma in lugvaartgeneeskunde (1985), en ten spyte van die minagting waarmee hy moderne kapitalisme en die dodelike jaag na finansiële meerderwaardigheid bejeën het – ook 'n diploma in ekonomiese bestuur (1993). Hy word ook in die neurochirurgie-wêreld onthou vir sy en Mauritz van den Heever se opsienbare artikel oor ingedrewe skedelfrakture (Van den Heever CM, Van der Merwe DJ. Management of depressed skull fractures: Selective conservative management of nonmissile injuries. *J Neurosurg* 1989; 71(2): 186-190).

David van der Merwe was 'n komplekse man wat vanweë sy onverbiddelike eerlikheid 'n stroom goeie vriende en ook duidelik geaffronteerde mense in sy lewe agtergelaat het. Hy

het 'n groot en sagte hart gehad, soos duisende dankbare pasiënte kan getuig. Sy kollegas en vriende was altyd deur verseker van byna bomenslike lojaliteit, 'n goed ontwikkelde sin vir humor, 'n oog vir die vreemde, 'n oor vir die eklektiese, en 'n deurtastende soeke na Waarheid.

Ek groet hom, namens sy pa en sy ma, afgetree op Jeffreysbaai; sy vyfjarige seun, Alexander; ons, sy mense; en wens hom 'n voorspoedige reis toe.

Met beste wense.

Gilbert Gibson
Bloemfontein

Leon Arnold Weintrob (15/05/1932 - 16/02/2007)

Leon Weintrob died on 16 February 2007 after a short illness that he bore with amazing bravery and stoicism.

Leon was born on 15 May 1932 and went to school in Wellington in the Boland and then to UCT where he studied medicine. He graduated in 1956 and did his internship at King Edward VIII Hospital in Durban, followed by various residencies at Edendale Hospital in Pietermaritzburg. After a further 8 months of medicine in Cincinnati, USA, he returned to South Africa and went into general practice in Stellenbosch. After a short stint in general practice he embarked on his postgraduate career in diagnostic radiology by obtaining the DMRD in Durban and the MMed in Cape Town. Thereafter, in 1972, he ultimately joined Dr Donald Brink and partners in private radiological practice in Durban.

Leon was a brilliant radiologist and a conscientious doctor with an enormous appetite for hard work. He was wonderful to work with. He was humble, unpretentious and unassuming, was always jovial and good natured, with a lovely sense of humour which endeared him to his colleagues, patients, and everyone he encountered.

What made Leon exceptional was the fact that he was a perfect gentleman in the truest sense of the word. He was gentle, kind, compassionate and caring. He loved people and I cannot remember ever hearing an unkind or acrimonious word cross his lips to or about anyone.

His hobby was the stock exchange which he followed with incredible vigour and mixed success. Although extremely knowledgeable about the markets he remained consistently reluctant to pass on advice that he thought might be the source of some regret later.

Leon loved card games. He had the reputation of having been a fine *klawerjas* player at university, a formidable poker player, and an astute bridge player. One of his final wishes during his last dark days was to continue playing bridge, which he managed to do right up until a few days before his death.



He was worldly and extremely wise, innovative and level headed, and had the ability to focus on any given problem. His wisdom was invaluable to the partnership and with his astute and prudent financial brain he conscientiously managed the finances of the practice for many years. His partners will never forget his little black pocket diary that served as his laptop.

Leon was a family man of the highest order. He married Colleen in 1968 and was a most caring husband and proud father – his three children brought him so much joy.

Leon had a brilliant sporting career at school and university, having played for the 1st teams in both cricket and rugby until

his sporting career was cut short by a knee injury. He resumed his love of sport with and through his children. He encouraged, coached and cajoled them throughout their school careers.

He will be sadly missed by his wife Colleen, daughter Janyce, sons David and Richard, daughters-in-law and grandson, all who meant so very much to him, as well as all his friends and those many privileged partners whose lives he enriched.

Walter Lake