

"All the Bullshit  
That's Fit to print"

# The Cattle Times

## Forecast

**Today:** Hot sales in the morning, high pressures of reading in the afternoon. Scattered amusement by evening. **Tomorrow:** Pockets of outrage at low intellectual altitudes. Umbrage umbrellas recommended.

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## ZULU TO BE RITUALLY KILLED BY BULLS

"This is not the way humans should be treated"

By DAVID BENATAR

The annual Bull ritual of killing a young Zulu man is back in the news. The rite, which forms part of the First Grass Festival in the KwaNkomo-Natal province, gives thanks to the god Taurus, and marks the blossoming bullishness of male calves - a test of their testosterone. The young bulls first gore the Zulu warrior before trampling him to death as a sign of their own strength. Never mind Pamplona. This is Pampoensburg, where the bulls take on a man, in contrast to the effeminate Spanish version, where the men flee from a bull.

Human Rights advocates are outraged. They label the ritual a cruel violation of the rights of humans. They describe the horror of the young man, and the painful death he experiences at the horns and hooves of the bullies. These activists are not impressed by claims that the man feels no pain because he is given some "grass" before the ritual begins. Whether or not he is high, he is laid low. "This is not the way humans should be treated in the 21st Century", said a spokesbeing for PeTH (People for the Ethical Treatment of Humans).

Traditional leaders in the Bovine community respond that the rite is an ancient part of cattle culture and every ungulate has the right to practise his culture. Chief Sitting Bull remarked that his followers would not be spanned into the sentimentality of the human rights advocates. "We don't mind antioxidants and even anti-oxidants, but we shall not tolerate anti-oxenism", he said. "Nor shall we accept the yoke of human rights oppression,



**Culture Wars:** To gore or not to gore? That is the question.

added fellow traditional leader, Chief Running Bull.

Human Rights activist, Libby Rall, responded: "We have a distinct sense of *déjà moo* - that uncanny feeling that one has heard this bullshit before". Her colleague, Dr Phil Anthrope, speaking at a press conference, noted that while he had the greatest respect for Bullish culture, oxen needed to steer clear of unethical practices that violated human anti-cruelty laws.

Asked whether they would seek a court interdict to prevent the ritual, spokesswuss for the SPCH (Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Humans), Tom Uncle, said that his organization would be working closely with the Bovine community to ensure that the human would be killed in the most humane way possible.

Human rights activists think that this is a lot of bullocks. They maintain that the SPCH should go further, and take the Bulls by the horns, demanding an end to the ritual. The SPCH thinks that this

tactic would be counter-productive a veritable red rag to the Bulls. "We cannot trample in like a bull in a china shop", argued SPCH inspector and estranged cousin of Dr Phil, Miss Anthrope, moments before realising how offensive that idiom is. Instead, the SPCH is working with the Papal Bull to issue guidelines governing the performance of the ritual. The Papal Bull will also grant absolution to the SPCH.

In an interview with the *Cattle Times*, herd leader Bullthelezi remarked: "Bovines may be brutes, but they are not brutal". "I'm not so sure", replied young Gedleyihlekisa Zuma, the young man destined to be trampled. "Mshini Wami!"\*

**THE WATERING  
HOLE**  
**DJ TAURUS  
DJ HOOVER**  
**FREE ENTRY EVERY THURSDAY!**

\* No humans or animals were hurt in the writing of this article.