

From page 2

On each of the two or three occasions that I have spoken with Ms Bergmann, I have tried my utmost to explain in great detail that Monarc Developments will do what it can to minimise the disruption to all concerned, and that there is nothing abnormal about what we are doing or the manner in which it is being done.

Construction of any sort is a disruptive process and we apologise for the occasional inconvenience that our development is causing Ms Bergmann.

### Donate wisely

Liz Williamson, chairperson  
Rondebosch Community  
Police Forum

The Rondebosch community has earned a reputation of being generous to the poor.

Even in these tough financial times, when many people are confronting tighter household budgets and are suffering from donor fatigue, our community is still giving generously in our streets, at our robots and to the caller at the front door.

Such generosity is to be applauded; nonetheless there are some unfortunate side effects that have become more commonplace in recent months and need to be recognised and addressed.

The first is that the volume of vagrants and homeless living in Rondebosch has substantially increased.

Our magnet of generosity is attracting more of these unfortunate people into our streets and open spaces. With them come the problems associated with sleeping rough, such as lack of toilet facilities and uncollected garbage.

The second is that the volume of vehicle break-ins and theft of valuables, food and fuel from these vehicles has increased. This is not the result of organised crime, it is opportunistic crime driven by need.

The third is the number of threats and assaults that have occurred in public spaces as a result of drunken incidents perpetrated by the homeless who use the money, generously given by residents, to purchase liquor. This often leads to noisy confrontations and injuries.

The way we give to the poor and homeless needs to change in order to address the increase in crime in our area.

We should not think to reduce our giving, but to modify how donations are channelled in the future.

Giving to the poor via churches, mosques and NGOs is to be encouraged while the handing-out of cash at robots or in the streets must be discouraged.

We recommend asking the NGOs what they advise; U-Turn, for example, have suggested that the public buy some U-Turn meal vouchers and keep these in their cars or on their persons, handing them out in lieu of money. The added advantage of such an action is that when a recipient goes to U-Turn to claim the meal, the NGO engages with the per-

son, captures their details and tries to assist them.

This urgent appeal from the Community Police Forum is communicated in the hope that misplaced giving will cease, thus reducing much anti-social behaviour in Rondebosch, but that the public's donations will continue through more formal channels.

### Road rules

Robin Bond, Rondebosch

Something really needs to be done about the enforcement of road rules. Something that improves people's patience would also be good. I refer to two incidents, one in the day and one at night.

Some months ago, I was crossing Rosendale Road quite a way down the road. I noted a car coming from the Wynberg side of Main Road, but noted that the car still had a way to go before it reached the robots, which were going red anyway. The car came to a stop two centimetres away from me, my hands on the car's front, me staring at the driver.

I walked to the driver's window. "The sun was in my eyes", the woman said to me. Now, I am normally very quick to give people the benefit of whatever doubt there might be, but the truth was that she wanted to get to the shop one minute quicker – not a problem unless you're putting the safety of others at risk.

Last night, Tuesday at about 9.45pm, I was walking home from

ballroom dancing. Coming to the pedestrian robot opposite Stardust, I noted two cars, one coming from the Wynberg side and one coming from the Cape Town side, both approaching the robot.

I pushed the button for pedestrians and the robot went red. Both cars were a way off and had plenty of time to stop, but I was vigilant enough to be circumspect. The car on my side of the road (the mountain side) ran through the red robot, after which I proceeded to cross with caution, watching the oncoming car from the left.

The car did not slow down and swerved around me to get through the red robot. The car then pulled off onto the parking area opposite Stardust and the driver got out and looked at me. I had already had a bad experience up at the university, so I didn't want to engage in any interaction.

The advent of the flashing red light (proceed with caution) also causes some problems. I was crossing the road at the Stardust robots two weeks back, and the flashing red started when I was halfway across the road. I was encountered with hooting and a car trying to run me off the road.

Now, this is all unacceptable behaviour, but even if that were excused, can someone justify wasting 10 years in jail for vehicular homicide, above wasting 40 seconds waiting for a robot to go green?

Maybe the traffic department would be interested in making some money from fines by setting up a post at this hot spot.

Can the Tatler please find out

from the traffic department what can be done for safety of citizens. Is there maybe some way to improve safety, like removing flashing red light which obviously causes confusion?

### ● Councillor Brett Herron (Ward 57), responds

The City of Cape Town has noted the complaints and will monitor the situation and conduct enforcement operations in the area.

In terms of the traffic signal the flashing red man pedestrian signal is a vital part of the message that the City needs to convey to both pedestrians and motorists. The assertion that motorists do not respect its meaning may be result of ignorance of the basic traffic laws, rather than the system being confusing.

The pedestrian signal system consists of three signal indications, namely the steady red man, steady green man and flashing red man. The steady red man is well understood to mean that pedestrians may not begin to cross the road. The steady green man indicates to pedestrians that they may begin to cross the road.

Pedestrians should not begin to cross after the end of the green man signal as they may not have sufficient time to complete the crossing before the start of the steady red man.

The flashing red man indicates to a pedestrian that has begun to cross on the green man that they should complete their crossing with due despatch.

Continued on page 1