

Full-frontal men around nearly every Stellenbosch corner

STELLENBOSCH residents – surprise, surprise – are taking the town's current spate of naked statuary in their urbane stride.

There is a full-frontal man around nearly every corner.

Instead of going into shock over the 35 sculptures that dot the streets and squares as part of the 20 Stellenbosch exhibition, locals are posing beside the nudes for photographs and playfully covering private parts with oak leaves, in the absence of nearby fig trees.

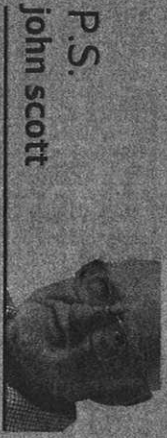
This will come as a pleasant change to Angus Taylor, who has two *kaldgat* figures standing side by side in Plain Street. It was he who created the 2.6m carbon steel statue of a naked black man that scandalised the residents of the Strand several years ago.

describing it as "terribly ugly, grotesque, and devoid of all beauty".

Not so, says Jungian analytical psychologist Ian McCallum. The figure's critics, he says, are confusing ferocity with barbarism. Perhaps they have trouble spotting the difference.

It certainly gives users of the adjacent J S Gerike library something to think about when entering and leaving it. Gerike himself, a former rector of the university and moderator of the NG Kerck would undoubtedly have warned against its satanic influence as vehemently as he once warned against the *swartgevaar*, *rooigevaar*, *Roonsevaar*, *Joaksevaar* en *geelgevaar* at a rally I attended. But that just shows how far Stellenbosch has come since then.

You don't hear too much these days



P.S. John Scott

Belgian architect Willie Woestyn erected it outside his seafront block of flats. "Sies!" said everyone, or words to that effect. A white statue exposing himself in this way would have been bad enough, but a black one titled "Positive" was more than a decent, respectable Strandie could endure.

Positive was as unpopular at the Strand as he had been in Potchefstroom, his previous home, and where students had painted the old South African flag on him and tied an apron round his

about Lewis's other controversial statue in Stellenbosch – a bending naked white man, also wearing goat horns and a mask, at the new entrance to the Botanical Garden. Christelle van der Merwe, spokeswoman for a local prayer group, said it personified a demon. She wouldn't like *Male Trans-figure II*, which is not even white.

She needn't feel too bad. Adam and Eve realised they didn't look their best when naked, and the Victoria and Albert Museum authorities kept a plaster figure of to protect Queen Victoria's sensibilities should she ever decide to view Michelangelo's *David*.

It's just that Stellenbosch as a whole seems relaxed about its new population of street statuary baring their all.

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impressive pelvic region.

In the end Woestyn was forced to remove Positive and re-erect him, if I may use that term, on his farm in the middle of the Karoo.

Taylor also sculpted a naked Voortrekker woman, though how you can tell someone is a Voortrekker woman if she doesn't have any clothes on is a mystery to me. In any case, she's not in Stellenbosch at the moment, either.

Only one of the sculptures in the exhibition seems to have upset people, and that is Dylan Lewis's *Male Trans-figure II*, on Rooiplein.

It is a sort of primeval goat-horned figure in a mask trying to tie his limbs into a knot. Which is also what some observers have got their knickers into,