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Quotes of the week

"Oh no, it's a white judge." -
Heard from the public gallery as
Judge Goldstein took the Bench
at Jacob Zuma's trial.



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this happen?

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Lightning hits teen on bike

19/02/2006 22:28 - (SA)

Lindsay Barnes, The Witness

Pietermaritzburg - An Epworth schoolgirl who was struck by lightning while mountain biking in Underberg was rushed by helicopter to St Anne's Hospital here where she is being treated in an intensive-care unit.

Victoria Phillips, 15, and her father, Kim, a building contractor, were out mountain biking on a downhill course.

Victoria's grandfather, Peter Barnard, an Umgungundlovu district councillor for the Democratic Alliance, said an electrical storm was brewing at the time.

She had just finished a downhill run and returned to the top to try it again.

Barnard said her father, an accomplished veteran mountain biker, was near her when the lightning bolt struck. He was concussed and had a burn across his chest.

Victoria was far more seriously injured.

She had a burn mark down her chest and was in severe pain when she arrived at the hospital.

Her helmet was cracked and burnt on the inside, said Barnard. She is being treated by a neurosurgeon.

"We are hoping that the heart enzymes, which get overproduced in a situation like this, will return to normal. We are just waiting now," said the doctor.

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