

to do DNA test in serial killings trial

Yesterday Judge Moshidi asked lead investigating officer Superintendent Piet Byleveld why he was certain that the boy was Dlongolo, as police had not conducted DNA tests.

Dlongolo (13) disappeared from his home in Regents Park, Johannesburg, in April 2003 after he was sent to a shop. A body was found 12 days later.

"On what basis are you certain it is his (Dlongolo's) body?" asked the judge.

"It was the clothing (identified by Dlongolo's parents) found on the scene," said Byleveld. "It was also due to what the accused told me as well as the version of the father (Moses Dlongolo) that he was phoned by a man named Siphon (that he had killed Thabo)".

He also said Thabo's injuries were consistent with Dube's description of them.

Judge Moshidi said a DNA test could still be done to reach

closure in the matter.

Byleveld agreed that the police should do so soon.

Earlier, Byleveld told the court that Dube admitted to him that he had sold his victims' body parts to sangomas – his mother Mavis Dube and a friend of hers.

This surprised Byleveld, who said he found no evidence of this when he questioned the two.

The investigator told the court that police were following

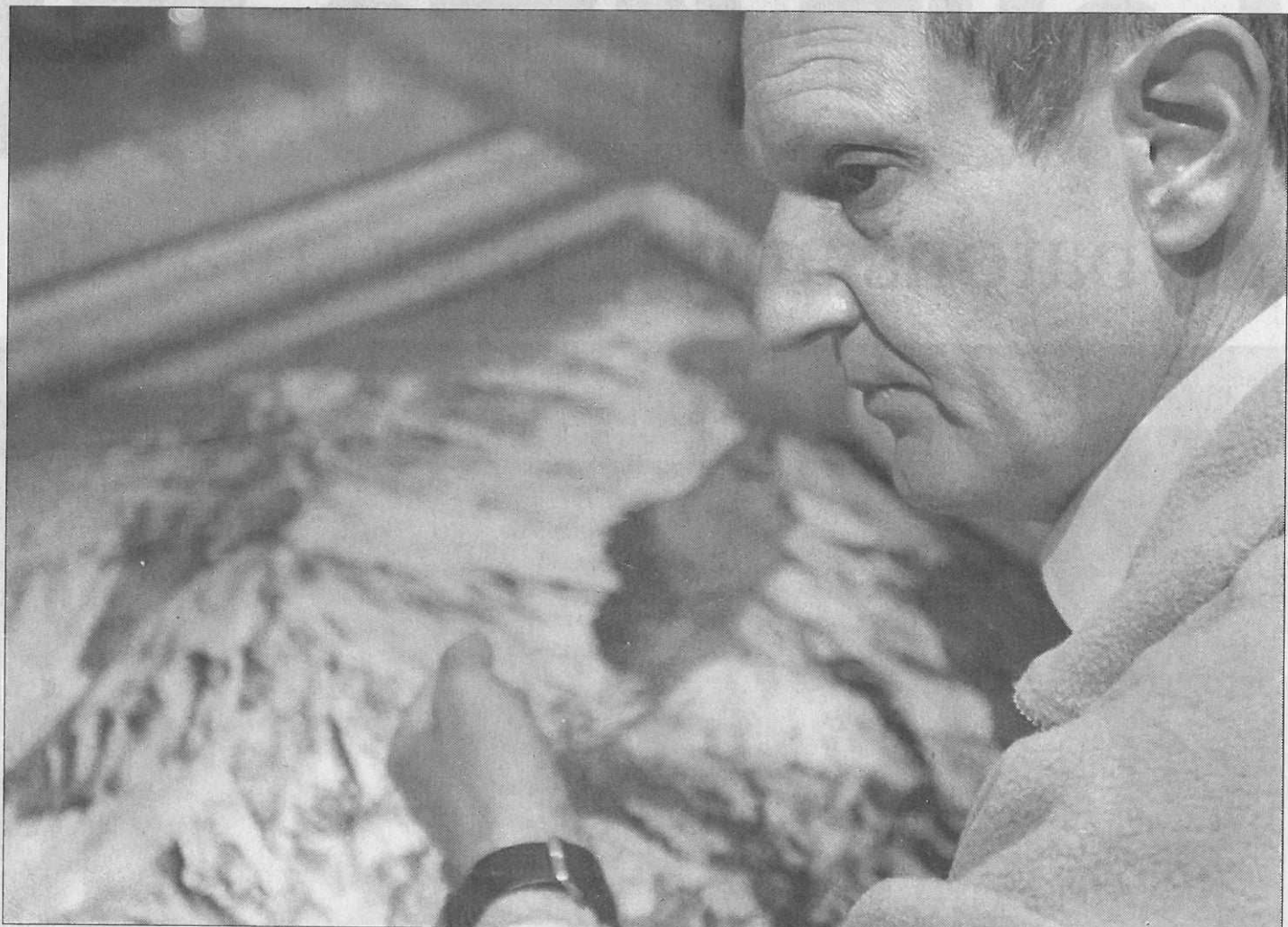
several leads in the search for cousins Siyabonga (12) and Anele Mbuku (9), who disappeared in September 2003 after Dube allegedly kidnapped them.

At a previous hearing, the court heard that Dube admitted to the police that he strangled the boys near a dam and that a sangoma and her assistant took away their bodies.

He said the sangoma paid him R100 for the job.

Dube had blamed his crimes on his parents, "who did not show me the right way in life".

The trial continues.



CHALLENGE REVISITED: René Hochreiter explains how he tackled the mountain before he had to give up his attempt and come back for treatment for frostbite and bronchitis.

PICTURE: BONGIWE MCHUNU

SA team have that top-of-the-world feeling ...

BY SHAUN SMILLIE

Two South Africans on Mount Everest were due to begin their summit attempt on the world's highest mountain today.

But a lot depended on the weather and the advice given by their "forecaster", René Hochreiter, from his house in Bramley, Johannesburg.

Sean Disney and Vaughan de la Harpe were planning to start out for the summit from Camp 4 tonight, and if they are successful, they will become the seventh and eighth South Africans to reach the summit.

Initially four South Africans were hoping to conquer Ever-

est this year, but two had to turn back.

Hochreiter, who is 48, was one of them. He was supposed to summit with Disney (34) and De la Harpe (49), but he returned to South Africa with a frostbitten toe. He is, however, still a part of the team and has been watching weather forecasts on the Internet and updating the team via satellite phone.

It was he who spotted the "weather window".

"The forecast says there will be a 10 to 20km/h wind, which will make it OK to climb."

Disney, a professional guide, has challenged the mountain

twice before. He was apart of the Discovery team that climbed the peak in 2003.

"The problem then was that they did it too early in the climbing season," Hochreiter explained. "Sean had to turn back at 8 400 metres because of high winds."

He was less than 400 metres in altitude from the summit.

The South African team, which now comprises two climbers and their Sherpa guides, is likely to be one of the last teams to summit this year, before the start of the monsoons.

Hochreiter said Disney and De la Harpe had been carbo-

loading and trying to get as much sleep as possible at Camp 4, which is 7 950 metres above sea level. They have been breathing pure oxygen.

"You lose your appetite at that altitude, but you have to force something down. They said they plan to do a little exercise today, a 45-minute walk to the site of an earlier camp," said Hochreiter.

The plan is for Disney and De la Harpe to start climbing at 9pm (Everest time). If all goes well they will reach the summit about sunrise.

"I have given them my flag and told them to take lots of photographs," Hochreiter said.