

# “Castellers” in Africa<sup>1</sup>

Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> October 2002

David Portabella,  
Artificial Intelligence Laboratory  
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology  
1015 Lausanne, Switzerland  
<http://david.portabella.name>  
[david@portabella.name](mailto:david@portabella.name)

October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2002

One Saturday, some of us went from Lausanne to Africa. The mission there was to build a “castell”<sup>2</sup>, that is, a human tower. This is an art in Catalonia, and we train often in order to build them. In this occasion, we tried the “4 de 8 amb agulla” construction. It was perfect, we did it, the “castell” was built. Next step is to desmount it. Unluckily, the “castell” was so tall, that a SwissAir plane flying nearby touched the “anxeneta” and destroyed the construction! Aerial space is overcrowded, and air controllers decided that planes has to fly closer to each other and lower. We didn't realize on time about these news.

So, what happened? Ivan was falling down! David saw this, so he jumped and caught him before reaching the floor. Yes, he did a great job! Ivan was going to die, instead, he only broke his nose. Well, now he has big nose!! What was next? David was so worried for Ivan, that he decided



to go to the hospital and ask them for advice. They provide him with a room, he was there for six days, talking with some doctors and nurses, and planning the best solution for his friend. To keep him awake, they provided him with lots of coffee with sugar, azucar, sucre and chocolate, why not?



He asked also to some people for more information. They took him specialized magazines to continue his job.



The goal was achieved. But this was not enough for David. He was still unhappy. He sworn to himself that this was not going to happen again. He would control the “Force”! After days of training, he was ready. Mustafad built a shield for him. Centre orthopedic also designed the last technological watch for David.



Now he is ready! He will be alert of any danger and protect his friends!

The six thinking days in the hospital were so exhausting, that he won't be able to work for two months. So, meanwhile Cleo, the famous dog, is taking care of him. They are going to see films and take coffees together.



So, remember, if you need help, call David!



<sup>1</sup> if something does not adjust to reality, most sure it was a mistake. forgive me.

<sup>2</sup> The original photo was taken from: Castellers de Vilafranca, <http://www.impacte.com/cdv/fotos.htm>