

Anecdotes and Memories.

These snippets were extracted from the many emails that were exchanged by many of us over the last year. We tried hard, but we can't promise that we have all the attributions correct, or that we captured all of the interesting exchanges. We did some light editing of the snippets, and roughly grouped them, but tried to not change the style or content too much. Please excuse all errors of omission, commission, and just general mess-ups.

Martin and Brian

1 Random Memories of Classmates

Hi Joey Gruslawsky from 2nd Avenue!!! I remember your dad had the Tower Garage in Louis Botha Avenue, which marked the end of the JHB municipal boundary - it has expanded slightly since then. I also remember vividly when you got to drive your dad's semi-automatic black 1948 Dodge to gatecrash parties in Emmerentia - regarded as across the border- and I being my normal 5 foot 4 inches tall could stand up in the back of the car and my head did not touch the roof, and we could fit about 8 people comfortably in that limo!!!!lol - – *Rob Bluen*



Hi Robbie, I remember you lived down the road from me close to Fairmount school and I think met you future wife at Fairmount ? I remember Louis Kaye and Melvin Jaye. – *Joseph Gruss*

Remember when they called the register and we had Louis Kaye and Melvyn Jaye and they would call "K" present, "J" present, always wondered if the next person went to L - anyone remember Louis and Melvyn? Louis was a red hot Zionist and the day he finished school immigrated to Israel. Anyone ever

heard from him??? He was a powerful rugby player as well. – *Rob Bluen*

[Ed – through the diligent joint efforts of some class mates we HAVE been able to track Louis, now living in Israel under the name of Eliezer Kaynan]

I remember this shy Italian immigrant who arrived in about Std 8/9 could hardly *speak-a-da-english* but made us all look rather stupid in Latin and he was so smart he even matriculated with Afrikaans as a subject. Giovanni Coci, you deserve Plett and all the accolades and success you have made in SA but having said that a matric class of about 15 boys produced about 7 doctors, lawyers, dentists, advocates and accountants was a special class to begin with. – *Rob Bluen*

Hey, don't forget the scientists – the nerds really did win – *Martin Griss*

And what about the Engineers!!! – *Brian Eisenberg*

Remember Brian Marks doing a judo throw on the King David Player and almost killing him, and getting sent off? I remember the Bramleys who had metal studs on their shoes which was great as it gave one enough time to get out of their way. Remember those porno pics circulating at school, involving xxxxx - their identities have never been revealed but we had a strong suspicion of the parties involved. – *Rob Bluen*

[Ed – names removed for obvious reasons. Those that know, know - others can just guess and wonder!]

I think we really did have some great fun at school - Mr Harrison stood up in assembly soon after matric prelims and said that there is a student who did so badly in prelims that he would never pass (I did pass 1 subject in prelims) and glared at me. – *Rob Bluen*

Who remembers "renoster" - Mr. Retief (I think)? – *Basil Rosenblatt*

Smile - good comment Stan and I loved your one about the SA Government being the best money can buy!!! I get some good mileage out of that. – *Brian Eisenberg*

You asked me why I wasn't in the group photo... Well , it must have been taken on a Monday!! (my mother always encouraged me to stay at home - to recover from the weekend, I think) on a Monday. I often borrowed Arnold Watkins' notes.... They were so comprehensive!!! - *Lorraine Besserabie*

Sorry ladies but I did not follow all of your career paths so forgive the apparent bias but I am so proud to have been a part of that group of talented and gifted scholars - – *Rob Bluen*

I kept detailed diaries whilst at school and on 6th November 1962 I wrote that Leonard Morein had had a fit and Stanley Klaff had fainted that day. Do either of you recall this event. Obviously something happened or else I would not have put it down in my diary! We were writing our matric exams at the time....probably all stress related! - *Elaine Jay*

Clearly! I saw Len have the fit but I fainted at the break after that class whilst we were discussing it – it was the moment when I decided not be a doctor! Also got a big bump on the head AND came around to feel people trying to shove rulers in my mouth.... They thought I also had a fit... thankfully not. Not sure why I fainted and still don't know as its never happened since. I hope you don't have any more embarrassing notes in your diary!!! On the other hand I'd like to read it!!!!!! - *Stan Klaff*

Does everyone know that Stan and I are now "family". Stan's cousin is my daughter in law's mother. – *Merle Gordon Waksman*

Just some random thoughts from Denver Colorado where it is a whopping 9 degrees Fahrenheit without the wind chill and there is snow on the ground. It is so cold that when you go out your nose hairs stand up. But we do love it here. – *Rob Gleser*

2 Northview Changed So Much!

We were in prefabs for the first year while the school was being built - *Dennis Goldman*

And I think our portables in the first year at Northview were made out of asbestos. Go figure. – *Basil Rosenblatt*

The one thing I could not get used to, was in more recent time, seeing the "black" pupils in school uniform walking down Atholl Street smoking after school, but then I got to thinking: hey the guy is probably 23 years old in Std 8, so how



could you stop him smoking in uniform?" Stan would say that is racist. – *Rob Bluen*

In 2010 NO students passed matric at Northview -
<http://www.sowetanlive.co.za/news/2011/01/06/schools-of-shame-are-named> - *Martin Griss*

While the school was being built, the huge heaps of sand provided wonderful hiding places. On one occasion a few girls decided to bunk Afrikaans - 7 of us altogether. Unfortunately about the same number of boys had the same desire to escape Afrikaans (who was the teacher who gave us tikkies = good and kruisies = bad?) – *Merle Gordon Waksman*

The class was somewhat depleted and a posse of teachers was sent to find us. Did we get punishment homework from that teacher? – *Merle Gordon Waksman*

Racist? Were you referring to the smoking – *Stan Klaff*

And Porteus Fish used to pick me up and deposit me in the dustbin because he liked me . – *Rob Bluen*

3 Caning – A Heart Warming Experience? Or Lower

I remember getting caned a number of times by Mr Harrison. I remember you had to bend down facing the fireplace and he never told you how many you were getting. I remember hearing the whoosh of the cane first before feeling the pain and then you had to pull your pants down in the cloakroom at break so everyone could examine the welts on your butt. – *Joseph Gruss*



I don't think I have ever been such a hero amongst my class-mates other than the day I was caned and all the boys rushed off to the lavatories to check out the welts! Caning today is another thing which does not happen anymore. Marj - how does one discipline kids these days? – *Brian Eisenberg*

4 Pranks and Parties

How about the army ants we used to collect on pieces of grass and the awful initiation ceremony and the crazy dudes from Bramley primary who were zoned for Northview and the fights with the Highlands boys who came to chaff our chicks and which teachers car did we put on the 3rd floor when school broke up?? - – *Rob Bluen*

The car episode must have been either Mrs Corbett - Maths or Tom Langley - Geography both had little bubble cars - Gogo mobiles - *Ros Hakim*

I remember one evening with Derek Roux, and several others, going "skinny dipping" in someone's pool. We jumped over the fence, then someone in house turned on a light – so we "flew" back over the fence. Not fun climbing a fence, "kaal gat." – *Martin Griss*

I recall one evening we all lay on the grass at Kate O'Meara's house, some holding hands, staring at the stars, perhaps last night of high school? – *Martin Griss*

I remember one night when we were all invited to Dr Coci's (Yes, Sheila, John!) beautiful home where his mother made the most delicious pizza - I took the recipe from her and used it for years - maybe John, your wife uses it? Unfortunately, in all the moves I've made over the years, it somehow got lost! – *Chava Tuchzinsky*

And how about the “slow dances” we used to enjoy at various houses. Those were the days, no? – *Martin Griss*

Oh those days of no wine and no roses just plain old dagga and brandy..... – *Rob Bluen*

5 Speaking Afrikaans

I speak Afrikaans to my SA friends here in London so my wife does not understand me! (She's English – but knows the words – *lappie*, *skrik* and '*gaan kak in die mielies*'!) – *Brian Eisenberg*

I use my poor quality of Afrikaans quite frequently – trips to Holland, showing off to friends from Holland or Belgium, my cousin in Israel writes poetry in Afrikaans, which she sends me. I can't speak Afrikaans to Pnina, but we use Hebrew (in which I am fluent) to say things in front of kids – they understand some, and my son-in-law is fairly fluent (though he speaks Brazilian Portuguese) – I still remember some of the Esperanto we tried to learn -- so we have become quite polyglot. – Who would have thought!! I was a language dunce in Afrikaans and I had to have extra lessons, went to Ermelo - *Martin Griss*

There was an advert in our local paper a few years ago advertising an Afrikaans teacher's post in Perth. So many Coloured SA artisans had emigrated there that they were prepared to have an Afrikaans class for them. – *Merle Gordon Waksman*

Most of my former pupils speak Afrikaans so their kids won't be able to understand what they are saying. – *Merle Gordon Waksman*

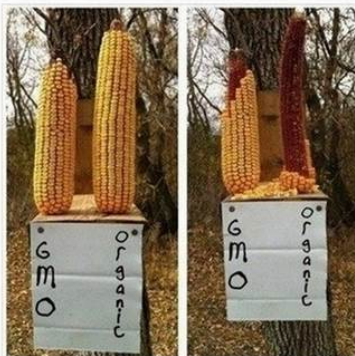


Howz-it Merle, do you remember giving extra Afrikaans lessons to my daughters. It has proved useful as they can now converse with most of the immigrants here in Perth - ha ha ha - seriously I am in business here and do talk Afrikaans to at least 2 new customers a week we do have quite a "lag" - – *Rob Bluen*

To Robbie: Of course I remember your daughters. I believe you are all in Oz which is wonderful. Please send Lynne and the girls my regards. . – *Merle Gordon Waksman*

Many years after school (approx. 1980) I ran into Mrs. Hammond, also an Afrikaans teacher. I greeted her & reminded her who I was. Her response was “Weg is jy, ek ken jou nie” The moral of the story is: I never greeted another teacher again. – *Max Salminis*

24. This groundbreaking development in squirreling education:



Even the squirrels know. Via @progressiveparent

6 Gaan Kak in Die Mielies

Gaan kak in die mielies seems to be an ex-pat favorite saying. Even my Chicago

grandchildren know how to say that. We speak “kitchen” Afrikaans to each other so others can’t understand us, and if we don’t know a word we just put a “ge-“ in front of it to make it unintelligible!! Probably everything we say is unintelligible to anyone else!! - *Helena (Natas) Levy*

Here are some mielies – the organic ones rely on the ‘kak’ - *Stan Klaff*.....

7 Retirement Age



When you reach 65 in SA it seems that you suddenly lose all your mental abilities and you're put out to pasture. I was fortunate enough to take up a new position as the chief engineer of a listed property company. I had to sign a 2 year contract because I am too old to employ on a permanent basis. I told them they'd have to renew it 15 times if I managed to follow in my late dad's footsteps. He died two years ago at 99. - *Dennis Goldman*

When I joined my present organization (United Jewish Appeal) about 11 years ago, I had to sign an agreement acknowledging that

retirement would be enforced at 65. Fortunately, our province subsequently changed the laws to prohibit mandatory retirement. – *Basil Rosenblatt*

At CMU there is no mandatory retirement age, but in the US social security and Medicare (can) kick in at 65 or 66, though if you delay retirement, the monthly social security amount grows. At 70-and-a-half, you are required to begin drawing money from your accumulated retirements funds (so that you can pay taxes on them -;) - thus my plan to start the wind down to retirement in 2014. – *Martin Griss*

8 Playing Around

I have the photo of the Hamlet cast list. - *Brian Eisenberg*



What happened to Paul Ferriera? As I remember it he was Hamlet. Was that another year or what? – *Heather Luke Holmes*

I believe Paul became a very successful Barrister as they call them here in Oz. – *Rob Bluen*

I think that John caused a riot (!) among the teaching staff when he tried to dye his hair blonde for his part as the Danish Hamlet, and arrived at school with bright orange

hair??? Does anyone remember who played the King? I remember at one of our rehearsals, when tables were arranged in tiers to represent stairs, and we made a grand entry, he stood on the train of my dress and I landed up (or maybe down(?) between the tables, feet up - a really grand entrance that was! – *Chava Tuchzinsky*

I think the King (Claudius) was Jasper Stepart. - *Brian Eisenberg*

That's right, Brian! Stan Koonin was Laetius (Have I got that right?) When he told me about the death of Ophelia, and saw tears in my eyes, (I was actually trying not to sneeze!) he was so startled at the sudden "reality" of the tragedy, that he developed tears too! The audience was moved by our amazing (!!!) performance - we had a good laugh afterwards, ourselves! - *Chava Tucazinsky*

I recently found out that Ophelia (my stage daughter – I was Polonius) was Sandra Levy, and the King (Claudius) was indeed Jasper Stupart - *Brian Eisenberg*