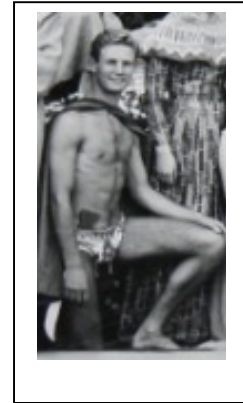


**Derek Hilton Roux (RIP)** b. 7 November 1944 d. 7 June 2008

*by Yvonne (Kolbe) Droste, Dennis Goldman, Martin Griss*

The main thing about Derek that I shall always remember was his enthusiasm for any new adventure or undertaking. He seemed to have so much confidence and vision as to what he wanted to achieve. His command of the English language was amazing and often left me feeling inadequate. He introduced me to literature that I would never have experienced had he not pointed out to me the magic of the combination of words used by the authors. He was always going to write a book. Sadly he never got round to it.



Derek loved music and was an eager participant in the musical evenings we enjoyed while in Matric. Beethoven's Fifth Symphony was his favourite.

He was passionate about sport and was very talented. He obviously inherited his genes from his cricketering uncles, Athol and Eric Rowan. Another uncle was Professor Roux of the Botany Department at Wits. Another illustrious ancestor was William John Burchell, the British explorer and naturalist after whom the Burchell's Zebra and Burchell's Cougar were named.

Derek was Head Boy in our Matric Year and often planned schemes and events that turned out to be great fun. Who can forget waltzing to 'Estudiantina' on Kate 'O Meara's front lawn when we finished writing our exams. I also remember being a part of an advertising shoot in the middle of winter. There we were in a marquee, draped in sheets while it snowed all around. Another time Derek and his mates decided to visit teachers Peter Lynski (English) and Alan Walpole (Biology) at their flat in Hillbrow one night. I never heard the whole story but any mention of the episode was greeted with profuse giggles.

At Wits a group of us would meet up at the library lawns every lunch time. It was Derek that got me to pass first year Maths as he insisted we practise hundreds of examples until there was not a problem the lecturers could give us that we would not recognise.

I lost touch with him for many years and it was good to see he had not lost his enthusiasm for life when we met up again at our 25<sup>th</sup> Matric reunion. He had his own business and told me he would never have children because he travelled so extensively.

Derek loved people and animals. He showed compassion to those less fortunate than himself. It was so sad to hear of his murder in his new home he built in Honeydew.

My life is certainly richer for having known him.

*Yvonne*

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I bumped into Derek Roux in about 1986 and we set up a weekly squash game although there was nothing weak about it. Derek was a fierce competitor and didn't like losing. He was always great sportsman.

He developed a successful warehousing and stock control software package which had managed to export to a number of countries.

He married and subsequently divorced Pam, a former Wits Rag queen. She was a Jungian psychologist who used to travel to the Jung Institute in Zurich for 3 months at a time. They didn't have any children. (I tried to Google her surname to track her down, but true to today's social mores, Google kept asking me if I meant drag queens!)

We lost touch after about 6 years and subsequently heard that he had been murdered on the eve of his second marriage.

*Dennis*

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Derek and I lived near each other in Sandringham, and we used to spend quite a lot of time at each other's houses – I often liked going to Derek's house because of their swimming pool. We went to Fairmount Primary and then Sandringham Primary before we went to Northview. We would often bike to school together. Derek had a large block of steel that he would lift to strengthen his muscles – I could barely lift it, while he would lift it many times.

Derek and I got up to many escapades. I will relate just one of them – When we were studying together for matric, we decided to go camping, borrowed a tent, and set ourselves up near a rock pool in the mountain (I don't recall exactly where). We would swim and sunbathe in the raw, and would read and discuss our books and notes. We ate large amounts of bully beef and tinned green peas. While swimming one afternoon, some cows came down to our tent to lick the salt; they tore holes in the tent and ate our socks. It brought our study trip to an abrupt end! And we had to pay for the borrowed tent. Fortunately, we both did well in the exams.

After I moved to Israel and then the USA, I lost touch with Derek. Sadly, I had just found a contact for him a few days before he was tragically murdered.

I will miss him, he was one of my closest friends in my youth.

*Martin*

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**Press Report Regarding Derek Roux's Murder** (from report in IOL publication)

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/south-africa/wedding-dreams-shattered-by-bullets-1.404357#.UsAd9fRdXw->

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# Wedding dreams shattered by bullets

June 13 2008 at 09:33am

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By Alex Eliseev

Prominent businessman Derek Roux, due to be married on Wednesday, was shot dead the night before he could take his vows.

Roux, who spent his life building companies before retiring two years ago, had climbed to the top of one of the world's biggest - Barloworld.

After several years of working in Dubai, and becoming a world-renowned consultant, Roux returned to SA to build himself a house in Joburg's horse country: Chartwell North. He managed the project himself, and moved in last month.

But hours before he was to marry his fiancée, Wendy Tee, a gang of robbers destroyed his dream by breaking into his home on Tuesday night.

The intruders burst in at around 9pm. The details of how Roux and Tee confronted the gang are unclear. Roux was shot in the head and Tee in the shoulder.

The robbers fled, and Tee called for help.

Paramedics from Netcare 911 stabilised Tee, rushing her off to hospital. But Roux was declared dead.

Roux's close friend and business associate for 20 years, Richard Forrest, said the timing of the attack had been devastating.

Roux had started up a consulting company in the early 1980s to help companies to deal with inventories and working capital, he said.

Together with Forrest he had started another company, which was sold to Barloworld in 2001.

Roux was the chief executive officer of Barloworld's Optimus International, until Forrest took over in 2005.

"He spoke all over the world and was extremely passionate and incredibly optimistic," Forrest said.

"He lived in a world of great dreams. If one fell over, he'd get another one in place."

By 2000, the company Roux started in 1983 had more than 300 high-profile clients in SA, Britain, Europe, Australia, Canada and the US, an online profile reveals.

Back in SA, Roux "spent his time building his house", Forrest told The Star from the UK.

"He was passionate about sport and he loved cars."

Roux's sister, Gail Howes, confirmed the couple were due to have an intimate wedding ceremony on Wednesday, which would have been followed by a big bash at the house later.

"He was such a gentle person," she said. "It's such a waste of a life."