

[New] Ron Goldberg – my story since Northview Days

I live in Miami Florida, happily married (second wife), with three sons, and three grandchildren. I am an endocrinologist at the University of Miami, specialized mostly in the areas of diabetes and lipid disorders; I see patients, teach and do research.

We left SA in 1977 for Chicago where I did my specialty training and in 1980 settled in Miami. My 3 boys are married; Josh is a surgeon, Dan a bioethicist and Seth works for a security company. My brother Raoul is a GP in Cape Town, and my sisters Marcelle and Shelley (all went to Northview) are in Sydney - so we are spread around the world.

I became paraplegic in 1991 following complications of spinal surgery, but although I can't climb mountains of the physical kind that hasn't stopped me. Despite having left SA so long ago, my heart remains there, and we try to come back to the bushveld every few years (*O bring my terug na die ou Transvaal....*).



Ron with wife, Norma – North Carolina 2012

I have mixed feelings about my high school years. Wasn't the happiest time for me, although all the stories coming through the Internet have been fun to read. Varsity opened my doors!

Teachers who stand out in my memory?

Wilsenach: how much difficulty she had controlling the class – she simply asked to be “rorfed” (I haven't used that word in fifty years!); we managed to persuade her during introductions in our first class that one of us was named Elvis Presley and she bought it!

Eitzman: what a waste of time when there was so much knowledge and brainpower there.

Dromer: deeply depressing – he didn't belong in a classroom.

Kagan: good but could she get mad – and we loved to see her big blue eyes twinkle!

Venables: irritating because he was always so irritated! But I loved the way he would rip apart our bad South African history text book Van Jaarsveld.

Schwartz: - Venables' predecessor - who taught with some passion.

Cullen: an awful teacher who sexually harassed the girls and glared at me for 5 years after I did an end of year skit on him in Form 1 (fool that I was).

Harrison: inspired respect; I had him as a principal for 12 years and in all that time he hardly spoke a word to me. I was pleased to see him years later attending a rally for Robert Kennedy on the Wits campus.

Lorna Gordon: moved me - caught up with her afterwards in the UK. When she laughed the sun shone.

Lynsky: inspired me – left me with a feeling for Afrikaans literature believe it or not
[The last two were the only 2 teachers who turned me on]



The Ron Goldberg boys –
Seth, Josh and Dan - 2011

I still can't really come to terms with the passing of so many of our classmates – those that I knew, like Kate, Derek and Leslie still remain full of life to me. I have to send special good wishes to Brian, Dennis, Basil, Martin, Seymour and Joel.

So here's wishing you all the very best, health and happiness and lives well lived.

Ron (*Ronald* got left behind in SA) Goldberg.

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