

Chad is Rad

Interview with Tommy Rimbach, Sojo

We at Sojo chatted up Chad Fleck, a friendly guy who is the new Associate Peace Corps Director for Peace Corps/Swaziland. Having just arrived in-country on April 22, he's fresh off the jet and just in time for Group 3's COS conference and Group 5's arrival in June. He grew up in central Ohio (Midwesterner!), but spent the last 10 years in Washington, DC. After studying zoology at Miami University of Ohio, he served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Nepal as a teacher trainer. He then received a master's in sociology at American Univer-

sity. He arrives in Swaziland with his wife, Betsy Kummer, who works in international development and organizational capacity building with NGOs, and his daughter Molly, who is 1-and-a-half years old.



Tell us about yourself.

I'm a fan of international football (soccer). I have news snippets about Swazi teams, I want to get involved in supporting them. I'm also a big fan of travel. It's nice to be in a new region of the world. I've never been to Africa.

Favorite country?

I think it varies by season and it varies by what I'm interested in. For hiking, Nepal and Peru are top notch. For good pubs, I think England and Ireland are hard to beat. For good beaches, New Zealand was kind of cool.

What was Nepal like?

I served from 1994 to 1996 and this was the time period that the Maoist revolution really upset the country. We were just beginning to see the grassroots nature of this sort of uprising springing up in different parts of the rural areas. But in terms of my experience, the project, we were invited by the country to be teacher trainers. The program staff recognized that to do that well, we would need to first learn what it's like to be a teacher in Nepal. For

our first year, we were assigned a school and we taught in that school. I had a 6th grade English class with 110 students in it and a 7th grade science class with 65 students, for example. The schools were poor, like in many places. Some kids didn't have pens or books to bring to school. The teachers' only resource was some chalkboard and some chalk and whatever you could bring from home – bottle caps and bamboo. It taught you to be resourceful. Then in our 2nd year when we did go into the teacher trainer centers to do TOTs, we were much better equipped to work with the teachers and give them ideas on how to teach science in resource-poor schools.

What is your work experience?

After graduate school I went to work for the World Bank doing social research on youth in Trinidad and Tobago. While that was a worthwhile experience, it also taught me that really my heart is with grassroots development, versus trying to influence policy-level change. So when that project was complete I joined an NGO in Washington, DC called the Quality Education for Minorities Network. We started a project that was sponsored by the National Science Foundation to work with parents from low-income communities to help them become stronger advocates for their children's education... One of the project's goals was to try to work with parents who have been "short-changed" by the educational system that they were a part of, to help them to understand good home practices for helping your kids to be successful in school. I worked in five communities in the eastern U.S.: Norfolk, VA, Atlanta, GA, Tallahassee, FL, Florence, SC, and Londes County, AL. I did that work up until 2001 when I joined PC Headquarters in the staging unit as a training specialist. In 2005 I was hired as the manager for the training unit. So whatever everyone remembers from staging is what our team did. Our unit did 110 groups per year.

What do you think is your role as the new Swaziland APCD?

Before I get to my role I have a lot I need to learn. I need to take the time to integrate.

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MOLLY DA HAIKU MASTER

The Swazi Sojournal news

Director's Chat w/Pattie Austin, CD



Hi to all PCVs! There are several staff changes as well as new staff joining the Peace Corps office so let me start my "Chatti with Patti" with staff announcements:

Congratulations go to Nwando Diallo for her selection by HQ as the next Peace Corps Country Director for Swaziland!! I am so excited that Nwando will assume the leadership responsibilities of the Swaziland program; I know she'll be a great CD! I am also pleased to announce the arrival of Swaziland's new APCD, Chad Fleck. Chad and his wife Betsy with baby Molly arrived Sunday night April 22. Group 3 will meet Chad at the COS Conference while Group 4 can say hello on Sunday the 13th of May before the Grief and Loss workshop. There are two other staff appointments to tell you about: Mr Toddy Gamedze was recently hired to serve as Language and Cross Cultural Coordinator for PST and Mr Frelimo Dlamini will start on May 14th as the new Motor Pool Coordinator.

I hope that you all have received notification that Grifters is closing May 3. This will force both staff and PCVs to evaluate trips to Mbabane that require overnights. Your VAC representatives have agreed to survey PCVs to establish the reasons Volunteers come to the capitol with the hope that some PC activities can be decentralized to save you the trip. In the meantime a list has been prepared with other available lodging

in the area; you will find it in this issue of the So-Jo. The office is also considering changes that may help make your trips here more efficient too. In addition though, may I suggest always calling ahead to confirm that the person you need to see will be in the office the day you arrive.

Now for a PST update: Our new trainees arrive in Johannesburg on Friday June 15. Like last year they will overnight in Johannesburg and travel by bus to Emafini arriving around lunch on Saturday. Muza, Chad and PSN president Chris Young will meet the new volunteers. The trainees will spend Sunday at Emafini and depart for Nhlngano on Monday June 18. Muza is currently putting together the Calendar of Training Events and we will be contacting many of you to "team teach" at PST.

Lastly, Mfanafuthi is contacting those Volunteers who will be interviewed by the Office Of Inspector General staff who arrive in Swaziland May 13. The two week visit will consist of staff interviews, Volunteer interviews and document review which will allow the OIG Inspectors to fully assess the effectiveness of our Safety and Security program. A letter from the OIG will be distributed to all PCVs either at the COS conference or the G/L Workshop. Please give the inspectors your full cooperation!



Safety and Security w/Mfanafuthi Vilakati, S&S

Sanibonani nonkhe ma PCVs in Swaziland! A big thumbs up for maintaining vigilance and playing your part in ensuring your safety in your communities.

I wish to reiterate the fact that PCVs are safest in their communities. The numerous media reports of traffic accidents with countless fatalities really suggest PCVs have to minimize their travel around the country. This would really go a long way to reduce the risk of having PCVs involved in traffic accidents.

The post will be having visitors from the Inspector General's Office in Washington who will arrive in the country on May 13th, to conduct a study or inspection of the Safety and Security program in the Swaziland post. As part of the inspection, the inspectors have selected a group of 20 PCVs that they will visit at their sites to interview. The selected group of PCVs has already been informed. I wish to appeal for total cooperation with the post and the inspectors in making sure that the interviews are successful. In some instances, PCVs have been requested to arrange for their counterparts to be available for interviewing as well.

Swaziland written media has published numerous cases of rape in recent weeks, on daily bases. I wish to appeal to all PCVs to maintain vigilance and to avoid being naive. Trust your instinct and make an effort to always err on the side of caution. Also, PCVs are to avoid attending night vigils if they will not be in the company of their family members **who are most likely to be able to defend them** should the need arise. Please make sure to be indoors after dark and lock your rooms with all available gadgets. Buckets have always been handy in answering the call of nature at night. *Continued on page 3...*

In Brief

Going Postal?

This is to let you know that although it is very nice to get a package from home, relatives and friends, the handling charges at the Post office has increased from E20.75 to E21.55 for a big package. For the small one the handling charges were increased sometime last year from E6.00 to E6.25.

Sorry for all this but life has to continue.

Thank you, Make Thandi

Free Weekends

This is just to remind all PCVs that in order to get a free-weekend out of the country, you need to take not less than 12 consecutive leave days. If you take less than 12 days, you are not entitled to get a free-weekend out of the country.

Please also note, the Leave Request Form has been modified. It is mandatory to fill #2 where it says write the day you will leave your site when going on vacation and day you return to your site.

Thank you, Make Thandi

Cry Me a River

-Molly needs her Harry fix - please return her Order of the Phoenix to her.

-Derek is looking for his 5-in-1 DVD w/ King Kong, Narnia, Walk the Line, etc.

-Mar is missing her hiking boots - last seen at Grifters.

Velezizweni Kids' Camp

Let Jenny (6316081) know if you would like to help and she will cook you something nice! The camp is May 7-10.

Donate your SIM card

For those of you Group 3s that are looking for a home for your old SIM cards (South Africa, Mozambique, etc.), turn in cards, including number, PIN number, and any other pertinent information to Sandra. She will start a pool of used SIM cards so that traveling volunteers can "sign out" a card when going to other countries without having to buy a new one. all donations are voluntary and you won't receive a refund. Be kind - Let's Share!

Musa Malaza at the Training Desk

Sanibonani bahlobo. The Training Unit would like give an update on this years' PST. As you may well understand that these updates are necessary because information keeps changing as the preparations progress as well.

Training Site

This year Peace Corps will be using the Nhlanguano Farmers' Training Centre (NFTC) as the main centre for the training. The PC satellite office will be set up at this centre. We have reached an amicable understanding with the NFTC management. Trainees will spend their orientation week at this site before meeting their host families and moving in with them later in the first week of PST. Peace Corps will assist the Centre with the necessary upgrades that will see it rising to an acceptable level of hosting training.

Hosting villages and families

All three hosting villages will be new this year. We have moved from Nkoneni, Lebovu and Makhosini to new villages. Sikhotseni is a village sharing boundaries with Mahlalini. Makhonza, the second village is right across the river from Nkoneni. The Volunteers who stayed at Nkoneni will recall a braii/party they attended in this village at the areas Member of Parliament's house (Magwagwa Mdluli). The last village is just across Makhosini and it is called Dlovunga. In all these villages the training team is still involved in meetings with the local traditional authorities and interested families. We hope to have concluded all the meetings and agreed on the infrastructure they are offering to PC by mid April. The families are both excited and quite curious about the program and Trainees. Trainers will also be hosted in the same villages as well. This information may change depending on the assessments made by the training team, Medical and Safety and Security. As stated earlier, information MAY change!

Language Trainers

All but one of the Language Trainers who taught Language in PST 2006 have shown interest in being Language facilitators even for PST 2007. The TM will be meeting with them early April to confirm their commitments. We are excited!

Language and Cross Culture Coordinator

It is with great enthusiasm that the Training Team welcomes the new Language and Cross Culture Coordinator, Toddy Gamedze, who will be joining us in April. Toddy will have an assistant at PST. Her name is Nomfundo and will join PC in May.

Close of Service announcement for Group 3

Group 3 Volunteers are encouraged to prepare for their final siSwati Proficiency Interviews with the Training Manager. These interviews will be conducted during the COS conference after the main sessions of the day. Language is an integral part of Peace Corps Volunteer Program. It has to be measured at the beginning and at the end of service. We request your understanding on this regard and expect nothing less that patriotic commitment!

Volunteers' involvement at PST

Volunteers are encouraged to volunteer to help at PST. Please show your interest by sending in a note to the TrainingTeam (Musa, Mahlubi, and Toddy). Please specify the sector you would like to assist, (Language and Culture, Technical and Programming, etc). The sector head will eventually select you based on the sessions that they will present this year. Please be mindful of the reality that not every one who has indicated interest may be selected. We none the less make every effort to accommodate all who showed interest.

Important Dates in PST 2007

May 28 – June 09	LTOT and GTOT
June 16	Trainees arrive in Swaziland
June 18	PST begins
August 16	PST ends

News & Notes

U.S. House passes war bill

The U.S. House passed a \$124 billion war spending bill April 25 that would require American troops to begin withdrawing from Iraq by Oct.1.

This sets the stage for "the first veto fight between President Bush and majority Democrats," according to the *New York Times*.

The House voted 218 to 208 to pass the measure which sought the removal of most combat forces by next spring. Bush has said repeatedly he will veto it.

Shooting at Virginia Tech

On April 16, a student at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA, killed 33 people, including himself, in what is the worst massacre of its kind, according to news reports. Cho Seung-hui shot students in a dorm before firing 170 rounds in Norris Hall during a 9-minute rampage.

The shooting victims included 18 undergraduates, 9 graduate students, and 5 professors. Among the 32 victims were natives of Peru, India, Egypt, Vietnam, and Indonesia.

Cho's family immigrated from South Korea when he was 8-years-old to Chantilly, VA, a suburb of DC.

South Africa vs. Itself

South Africa is racing to renovate airports, build a high-speed rail link from the Johannesburg airport to the suburbs, and erect or renovate stadiums here and in eight other cities to prepare for the 2010 World Cup for soccer.

The Johannesburg Journal reports, "South Africa is cutting is perilously close." Analysts say building a modern transportation system from scratch is difficult. High crime rates and the fact that noone knows how many beds exist in B&Bs exasperate the hurdles.

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PCVs are reminded to make time to revise the EAP booklet whenever possible so that we're always ready for any eventualities. I wish to also remind PCVs of the fact that they need to familiarize themselves with transportation policies of countries with PC programs that they intend to visit. It is also very important to declare your arrival in the country of destination with the Peace Corps office there, preferably with the SSC.

As Group 3 COSs, I wish to thank them for their good practices on the safety and security front. I wish to appeal for further maintaining of vigilance in the remaining few weeks. Statistics show that the COS period is one period that crime against PCVs rise. The reasons vary from complacency to general ***I don't care anymore*** attitudes on the part of PCVs. On the part of perpetrators, the mere knowledge that a PCV may not stay long enough to see a court case against him/her through, may be enough motivation to commit a crime.

Lastly, I wish to invite PCVs who are interested in participating in safety and security sessions at 2007 PST to contact me before May 16th. I will be away for the All Africa SSC Conference in Kenya from 1st May to 9th May 07. AO Nwando will be handling my phone in my absence and has done a good job in following up incidents in the past. Until next month, ASIPHEPHE! LETS BE SAFE!



Keeping you Updated and Healthy w/Daynese Santos, PCMO

of host family members and friends, environmental destruction, human rights violations, poverty, the ravages of AIDS and the early termination of fellow volunteers. For awhile memories may remain stark, harsh, almost neon. You were here and part of you will always be here. Your words, your concern, your compassion, your willingness, indelible in the hearts of those who crossed your path. Congratulations for completing what you started, for honoring your commitment and making a difference. Thank you Group Three, job well done. We'll miss you.

DIPANYONE?

Your mosquito nets should be washed and dipped in Peripel solution periodically to provide continuous protection from mosquitos, ticks, bedbugs and lice. Peripel is now available in the med unit. If you have never done so, it's definitely time for a dip!

FOOD POLICE REPORTS

Several very concerned ma-ke's out there have reported to staff that their volunteers rarely cook if at all. The bomake are baffled and have asked how volunteers survive without preparing meals. (Obviously bomake are not aware of the peanut butter and jelly diet). By way of reminder, poor nutrition may result in weight loss, muscle wasting, thinning hair, brittle nails, poor skin tone, vitamin and mineral deficiencies, hormonal imbalances, demineralization of bone, slowed wound healing, poor concentration and menstrual irregularities. Our expectation is that all volunteers will make the effort to purchase and prepare a variety of foods ensuring adequate nutrition. Alternatively, volunteers may opt to eat with their host families. That's ok provided host families are in agreement and volunteers regularly contribute funds towards the purchase of food for the family.

GRIEF and LOSS WORKSHOP

For the benefit of Group Four, this year's G&L Workshop starts on Sunday, May 13th at 4 p.m. and runs thru May 15th after lunch at Emafini. The object of the workshop is to provide volunteers with tools helpful in managing grief associated with exposure to high incidence of HIV/AIDS as well as personal losses. As in the past, the workshop will be co-facilitated by Group Three PSN representatives and the PCMO. If you plan to attend and haven't already done so, contact Nelsiwe in the med unit.

Hi PCVs,

In anticipation for closure of Grifters on May 3, we have investigated alternative accommodations on which you can choose from. See the list below.

Hoping this will be of great help, Make Thandi

Accommodation and Rates 2007

Bed and Breakfasts:

Fairlady Cottage: 608- 7613

Single: E200 BB

Sharing: E275 BB

Kent Rock: 404- 4826

E350, PCVs 25% discount

Mabhuda Farm: 343- 4124

Single: E200

Self Satering: E175

Nisela Safaris: 303- 0318

Single: E245

Double: E375

Veki Guesthouse: 404- 8485/ 603- 6396

Single: E230

Sharing: E250

PCVs: E80

Willows Lodge: 602- 1284

Single: E340

Double: E260

Lodges and Guesthouses

Bethel Courts: 416- 1977/2378

Single: E395

Double: E495

Brackenhill Lodge

Single: E350

Double: E590

10% discount if cash

Cathmar Cottages: 404- 2575

Single: E250

Double: E325

Ekulindzeni Leisure Homes: 404- 2575

Single: E220

Sharing: E420

Global Village: 505- 2226

Single: E350

Sharing: E420

Manzini Lodge: 505- 5382

Single: E300

Double: E300

Mvubu Falls Hotel: 409- 0078

Single: E350

Double: E440

Penguin Guesthouse: 404- 3045

Sundowner's B&B: 604- 3616

Nokerm Guesthouse

Self Catering: E350

Jacana Lodge: 405- 0671

Single: E350

Double: E450

Self Catering

Elite Guest House: 416- 1553

Single: E350

Double: E450

Family: E680

Lidwala Lodge: 550- 4951

Double: E190

Dorms: E80

Eden's Guesthouse: 404- 6317

Single: E390

Double: E650

Crisovik Guesthouse: 404- 9883

Single: E250

Shared: E250

Double: E300

Suite: E350

Nini Guesthouse: 404- 1879/1880

Single: E150

Double: E250

Green Valley Guesthouse

Single: E250

Double: E350

Abacus Backpacking Lodge:

404- 7854

Single: E90

Double: E200

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Dr. Dybul said he saw little need for that because he felt that the foreign doctors' complaints were outdated. The F.D.A. has recently approved more low-priced generic drugs, including three-in-one antiretroviral cocktails.

He also disagreed that the program should pay for clean needle programs, saying it paid for methadone for infected addicts.

"Needle exchange just continues the condition," Dr. Dybul said. "If other countries want to fund it, that's fine with us."

At its halfway point, the program is not halfway toward meeting its goals, which included treatment for 2 million people, caring for 10 million and preventing 7 million new cases of AIDS by 2010.

As of September, the program was underwriting treatment for 822,000 people.

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I want to learn from the staff here, the volunteers in the sites and the communities, and learn from host-country counterparts and community members. But once I've got my foot in, I think my role will be to support volunteer programming, to strengthen the connection between programming and training, and to, if possible, build the capacity of my counterparts in our local partner organizations and ministries.

Do you have fresh ideas planned?

One of the things coming around the bend is the current project plan, which is sort of a road map for helping program and training staff prepare volunteers for service and a guide to help volunteers understand their role in the field. The current project plan which was written when the post opened will expire in October 2007. What that means is at least one immediate goal is to work with Stella and Mahlubi on revising the plan and also to work with Musa and the training team to make sure that we take the best of the old plan and incorporate the best of what volunteers are doing... We want a strong plan that speaks to volunteers' work and the needs of the government of Swaziland.

Tell us a secret.

I met my wife at staging, but then it took me staging plus seven years to convince her to marry me.

Barack or Hilary in '08?

Undecided but definitely one of those two.

What can you cook?

I can cook Nepali dal, which is lentils, spanikopita, and I can whip up a mean scrambled egg for my daughter.

If you had to choose one fruit to describe yourself, what would it be?

The tomato, because it's a fruit that likes to think of itself as a vegetable.

What are your thoughts on the 2000 presidential elections, with the hanging chads and all?

My name became a funny joke for about two weeks, but now an interesting spin-off from that is when I told people at the Peace Corps African headquarters I named my daughter Molly, they got a laugh out of it, because of the two African countries, Chad and Mali.

Bush's Global AIDS Effort Limited by Restrictions

By Donald G. McNeil Jr., *NYT*, 3/31/07

President Bush's \$15 billion plan to fight AIDS globally is seriously hampered by restrictions imposed by Congress and the administration, a panel of medical experts said yesterday.

The country's most prestigious medical advisory panel, the Institute of Medicine, was asked by Congress to assess the five-year plan at midway. The 13 members of the panel praised the efforts, saying the plan had "demonstrated what many doubted could be done." But it needs to move from an emergency response to a long-term battle plan, the panel said, and its members listed these three restrictions that they felt were the most hindering:

The requirement that 33 percent of all money for prevention be spent teaching chastity and fidelity, even in countries where most cases are spread by drug injection.

The need for separate Food and Drug Administration approval of AIDS drugs that the World Health Organization has already approved.

Laws forbidding the use of taxpayer money to give clean needles to drug addicts.

Ruth Macklin, a bioethicist at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx and a panel member, called the restrictions "hamstrings or shackles," though Dr. Macklin said the report diplomatically referred to them as "earmarks or budget allocations."

"There's a feeling that when reporting to Congress you have to pussyfoot around a bit and show respect for the legislation," she said.

Dr. Mark R. Dybul, the global AIDS coordinator who oversees the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, known as PEPFAR, said he welcomed the report as "quite an endorsement of our program," but disagreed with the panelists on some aspects.

"I don't think we're hampered too much by the restrictions," Dr. Dybul said.

The \$15 billion that Mr. Bush promised in his State of the Union address in 2003 is far more than any other country has spent fighting AIDS outside its borders and far more than any previous administration spent. Though the ambitious plan has not yet helped as many people as its original goals envisioned, the panel endorsed financing it beyond its 2009 expiration date.

"Over all, PEPFAR is doing quite well, has made a good start, but it needs to transition

from emergency mode to a sustainable effort," said Dr. Jaime Sepulveda, director of the National Institutes of Public Health in Mexico and the panel chairman.

With its limited money, the program has to focus much more on prevention than treatment. "Otherwise," Dr. Sepulveda said, "the epidemic will never end."

He added that the plan needed more freedom to tailor its responses to each of its 15 "focus countries," Guyana, Haiti, Vietnam and 12 African countries.

Congress requires that 55 percent of the budget be spent on treatment, 15 percent on care for the dying and 10 percent on children and orphans. Of the 20 percent left for prevention, a third must be spent on promoting abstinence until marriage.

The law against using taxpayer dollars for needle swaps predates PEPFAR.

Critics have said that under pressure from those directives and conservative Christians, the plan tends to give condoms to prostitutes and truckers but only abstinence advice to young people and counseling rather than clean needles to drug addicts, and does too little for women and girls likely to be infected by rape or by their husbands.

The rules forbid using the money to distribute condoms in schools, the panel said, and "returning to abstinence" is a primary message for youths having sex.

"Given the reported early average age of sexual debut (and sometimes marriage) in many countries, PEPFAR may wish to re-examine its exclusive AB focus for younger adolescents," the report said.

AB is short for "abstinence/be faithful."

Dr. Dybul has often rejected such criticisms, saying that young children should be given abstinence messages and that his agency can still tailor its approach because the mandates apply to overall expenditures.

"A lot of what they suggest is exactly what we're trying to do," he said. "I'd be worried, for instance, if we didn't have a mandate that we spend 10 percent on orphans, because without it we wouldn't have made such progress there."

When the panel visited AIDS treatment programs in Africa, Dr. Charles C. J. Carpenter, head of AIDS research at the Brown University medical school and a panel member, said doctors complained that they could buy three times as much medicine if the program accepted W.H.O. approvals.

Dr. Dybul should assess the W.H.O. approval process, Dr. Carpenter said, and, "if it's equally good, we think we should accept it."

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Nighttime Companions

by Tommy Rimbach, Sojo



I haven't read magazines regularly back home since my grandmother bought me a subscription to *National Geographic* when I was 9, but needless to say, things have changed since moving to Swaziland ten months ago. I've long since traded in my favorite hobbies (shopping for jeans and sharing \$16 pitchers of margaritas in the afternoon in Chapel Hill) for more earthy endeavors (watching geckos mate on my walls).

By far, though, nothing beats curling up with a magazine when the sun goes down at six in the evening and rabid dogs force me to stay in my house. *Newsweek* and *Jane* have thus become effective replacements for nightlife, friends, dating, roommates, roommates' boyfriends and reality TV last year, with the drama and politics to match. Here is a guide to my fave and not-so-fave periodicals, mailed from home and procured from other PCVs:

The New Yorker: I always thought my friend Daniel, who mailed me a few copies, was more of a *GQ*-reading fellow. At first I was hesitant, having never read *The New Yorker* before and noticing in its pages an inordinate amount of essays and drawings, but offering very little in terms of Burberry photo spreads. However, I can say that a great dearth of knowledge in my brain has been rectified and I probably now know more than you regarding preeclampsia among pregnant women and the modern Bible-publishing industry.

BusinessWeek: Tell your investment banker friend to leave this one at home.

Jane: My favorite feature is their attempt to get Sarah, a 29-year-old virgin, to lose her virginity before her 30th birthday through reader submissions of potential mates over their website. However, the last issue I have is from December, so if anyone knows what happens, can you, like, let me know?

Bitch: Feminist magazine which denigrates *Jane* magazine in almost every issue ("*Jane* writer goes semi-undercover and discovers that people are sometimes treated differently than other people!"). Angry women (rightly so!) tell you why they're angry: "I must be one of those stereotypical feminists without a sense of humor, because I don't think 'Does date rape mean I also get dinner?' is funny." I think of myself as a feminist, but there are many categories to choose from: "radical feminism," "antiporn feminism," etc. There is also "third-world feminism" – is that me because the sun scorched the maize on my homestead?

The Economist: I thought I had gotten away from it all but *The Economist* has me fretting about everything from whether Barack Obama is electable in 2008 to Iran's supposed uranium-enrichment and plutonium work.

Us Weekly: This one holds a special place in my heart. Nothing has given me more fulfillment than *Us Weekly*'s documentation of Britney "Bone Dome" Spears' demise over the past few months. Thanks to Britney and Paris Hilton, I now have a Halloween costume for this October, so be on the lookout for Huber and me to replicate the disaster that was their single pair of fishnet stockings shared between them. I also hear Asian boys are the latest haute couture celebrity accessory.

What's an "Earthlike" Planet?

(from slate.com)

On Tuesday, astronomers announced the discovery of Gliese 581 C, an "Earthlike" planet 20 light-years outside our solar system. The *New York Times*, among other news organizations, repeated the word Earthlike in headlines. What does it mean to say that a planet is "Earthlike"?

It's small, rocky, not too hot, not too cold, and it might be able to support life. In general, an Earthlike planet should be no more than 10 times as massive as the Earth, but big enough that its atmosphere doesn't drift off. (The newly discovered planet is roughly five Earth masses.) For comparison, Jupiter is 100 times Earth's mass. The planet also needs to have a rocky core. Big balls of gas like Jupiter aren't likely to be conducive to living organisms. But most importantly, to be capable of supporting life a planet must have a surface temperature that can sustain water in liquid form. (We can't know for sure, but it's safe to assume that alien life-forms would need water to survive.)



A planet's temperature is determined by a planet's distance from the star around which it orbits: It should be close enough that water doesn't freeze, but far enough away that it doesn't boil off. (The star in question, Gliese 581, is dim compared to our sun, but the planet orbits close enough to it that water can probably maintain liquid form.) Planets such as Neptune, a giant ball of ice and rock surrounded by a thick envelope of gas, could never support life, since so little heat penetrates its atmosphere. In the case of Gliese 581 C, scientists have a good idea of the planet's temperature and mass but can only speculate about its composition.

So, how do they know if a planet fits these guidelines? Scientists first determined the mass of Gliese 581 C by observing the light emitted by its star. As the planet spins around, it tugs the star in different directions, creating a subtle variation in its wavelength, or color. (This is referred to as the star's "wobble.") The exact pattern of changes depends on the mass of the planet.

Once the astronomers had figured out the mass of Gliese 581 C, they then used one of Kepler's laws to figure out its distance from the star. That gave them a rough estimate of the planet's temperature—anywhere from 0 to 40 degrees Celsius. Where the true temperature lies along that spectrum depends on how much light the planet reflects, which in turn depends on its composition. But you can't tell what a planet's made of unless you know how dense it is. To get the density, you have to figure out the volume, which usually requires watching the planet "transit" across its star—a partial eclipse that lets you measure its size. Astronomers can then compare the measured density to the known values for substances like rock, iron, and hydrogen. A good sense of the planet's composition helps them make a better guess about its temperature, and the likelihood that it can support life. However, it's very unlikely that we'll ever see Gliese 581 C transiting across its star, so scientists may not be able to determine its composition

Estonia Removes Soviet Memorial

(From BBC News)

The Estonian authorities have removed a contentious Red Army war memorial in the capital, Tallinn, despite overnight protests that left one person dead.

Russia says the memorial should not be removed, but many Estonians see it as a reminder of decades of Soviet rule. Russia condemned the move and was planning a response, an official said. The memorial, a bronze statue of a Soviet soldier, was erected in 1947. The remains of Soviet soldiers are thought to be buried nearby. Estonian officials said it had to be moved to a cemetery because the site attracted both Russian and Estonian nationalists.

By Thursday evening, around 1,000 demonstrators gathered as police sealed off the site ahead of the removal. Crowds gathered to protest against the removal of the statue. There were reports of looting and vandalism, and police used tear gas and water cannon when a group tried to break through a cordon around the monument. Several police were among the injured, reports said. The statue was now at an undisclosed location, government spokesman Martin Jasko said.

"The aim of the government move was to prevent further similar gross violations of public order, which pose a real threat to citizens' health and property," a government statement said. Ethnic Russians, who make up about a third of Estonia's 1.3 million population, say that the statue commemorates Red Army soldiers who died fighting Nazi Germany. "The actions of the Estonian authorities are disappointing and cannot be justified", RIA Novosti news agency quoted Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Mikhail Kamynin as saying. "International organisations should examine [the events in Tallinn] in all seriousness and take any necessary steps to cool the ardour of the Estonian authorities," he said. But on Thursday, Estonian Prime Minister Andrus Ansip said the relocation of the memorial was a matter for Estonia alone.

"We don't consider it necessary to hold deep discussions with the Russian authorities over the internal affairs of Estonia," he said.

Dear Swaz Crew,

Greetings and salutations from the Namib Desert! its hot here ... kind of like a desert. wanted to send a note to wish you all the best as well as tell you once again that your hard work, dedication, and great attitudes towards educating the people of Swaziland is very much appreciated. was watching Villareal put the whoop down on barcelona a couple nights ago and we got to talking to some locals and travellers about unicef (on the barcelona jerseys). its amazing how so many people have an opinion , but really have no clue on the real life implications of the HIV pandemic. I don't profess that we in Swaziland have a deeper understanding of the problem, but I have no doubt each of you will have a special and unique insight from the heart of the problem with the ability to shed some serious light on the way it is from the heart of Swaz. I wish you all the best and if there is anything i can do to help out, please let me know. Whether you need a place to crash, professional assistance, or 89 cents for a krispy kreme doughnut an coffee combo - give me a shout! as for me, i really miss Swaziland and i'm enjoying meeting new friends and travellers. checking out Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, and Zambia. been on a regular running schedule with some first class \$10 usd trainers (a slight upgrade from wrapping your feet in toilet paper) and just finished a wicked session of sandboarding. alright guys and gals - keep up the excellent work, all thebest, and safe travels always. keep in touch. best regards, sachin

From the Depths of Wandile's ipod...

Seeing as I don't know any Pat Benatar, I respectfully submit for your consideration as our theme song the following **DOPE TRACK**.

"King Back" by T.I.

And the prophecy read that

One day like the phoenix rose from the ashes

That a boy will be born unto a family in the slums

This boy will go on and use the knowledge that he gains

While fighting for survival in the streets

To become a great leader

And in time that boy will grow to become King!!!!

V1: Time to ride J (Just Blaze!!)

I welcome you and get acquainted with the youngest in charge

Respected from East to West like he was running the mob

Dictating, ain't taking orders from no one but God

I know you J is broke 'cause I know what you charge

Them J wishing for a Phantom it's one in my garage

It's black as bulgari right next to the black Ferrari

You J ain't getting money off of rapping I'm sorry

Athe rep went and spent 60 large on a Harley

Does where he stay 10,000 square feet not hardly

Now you see that we ain't able to compete, now arewe?

And pardon me I'm giving you the Westside story

Of the A, where I stay and J stay down for me

You want to play, have you J lay down for me

And get a order for killers to spray rounds for me

Competition, you ain't considered; you rapping, you bore me

You reppin the A horribly

Must I say more importantly

Continued on page 8...

SUBMIT!

SUBMIT!

SUBMIT!

We'll take anything you got, folks: articles on events and happenings at your site, journal entries, comics, editorials, recipes, craft ideas and projects, hard-corps/soft-corps, diy, gossip, photos, poetry, and any kind of poetically prosaic etceteras your minds can produce.

Love, k & t.



Book Review: Out of My League

by Virginia Gervin

Marilyn says diamonds are a girl's best friend, but this girl prefers the kind of diamond in Fenway Park to anything Harry Winston can offer.

This is a wondrous time of year, the time when hope abounds, when anything can happen, when every team is tabula rasa, when the goat-cursed Cubs and champion Cardinals stand an equal chance of making it to October. In honor of the opening of baseball season, I am reviewing *Out Of My League*, an account of the author George Plimpton pitching at Yankee Stadium during an All-Star Game.

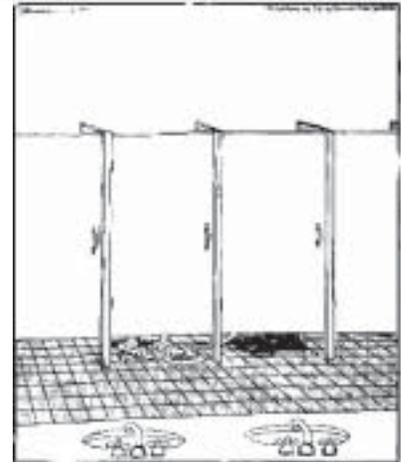
The book is slender, a mere 150 pages, and describes the harrowing, humiliating, and often hilarious ordeal of an Average Joe playing in the majors for one afternoon as a stunt for *Sports Illustrated*. However, Plimpton happened not to be as average as most people, as he stood 6'2" and had played baseball throughout his youth. He was also a graduate of Exeter and Harvard, where he was the editor of the *Harvard Lampoon*, and later became the first editor of the *Paris Review*. Yet he is most known for his "participatory journalism," which began with *Out Of My League*. He went on to write books about his experiences in professional hockey, golf, tennis, and, most famously, football, in the book *Paper Lions*.

Being Plimpton's first effort of playing

with the professionals, *Out Of My League* is fresh with emotions, since he was not, at this point, inured to the embarrassment of being an amateur in the Big Leagues. Plimpton begins the book as a cocky guy, feeling certain he can pitch competently (if not well) against such players as Whitey Ford, Billy Martin, Willie Mays, and Mickey Mantle. He intends to pitch against the entire National League and American League All-Star Lineup (an intention that is never fulfilled). He barely even practices before the game, and shows up at the stadium without a proper glove.

Once on the mound, things fall apart for Plimpton. He tires quickly, even as he becomes aware that he is a joke in the stadium. He begins to talk to himself (for some reason, his inner voice is a yokel), barely holding it together. Yet at the end of his brief stint in the majors, much less than an hour, he still retains the love for the game, not at all hardened by his terrible outing as a pitcher. The love for the game, the feeling of being there, in the stadium, surrounded by crowds with their peanuts and Crackerjacks, is the point of the book. The love can withstand the humiliation.

While not the best baseball book ever, the book does help fill the hole left by the lack of ESPN in my life. It may be a bit high falutin' for some tastes, as Plimpton is quite the intellectual, and it is also filled with references to players long forgotten. Overall, however, I enjoyed the book, but it is intended for hardcore lovers of the sport. Anyone else will not be interested in reflections on spikes, curve balls, Ralph Branca, and, of course, baseball diamonds.



It was an innocent mistake, but nevertheless, a moment later Maurice found himself receiving the full wrath of the Mummy.

...Continued from page 7

The king back!
Ay, man y'all J got me way too A up, you understand that?
What you need to do is homeboy
You need to go back and grab I'm Serious you know, You need to get familiar with Dope Boys and see where all these J got they style
See where that trap S came from
Then you need to graduate to mother A In Da Streets Vol.1-3
Then you need to go to Trap Muzik, I got locked up for a second
Then grab Urban Legend and now to bring you up to speed
Nably now know more than you regarding preeclampsia among pregnant women and the modern Bible-publishing industry.

CHILLI to Cope with the Swazi Cold

By Hanna Lee, Mahlalini

Brrr! It's cold in here, there must be some chilli in the atmosphere! I said "Brrr! It's cold in here, there must be some chilli in the atmosphere!" Yes I took that chant from the movie, *Bring It On*, but this moment ain't about cheerleading bombshells, it's about chilli sauces being so hot that it give you chills! Ok I'll stop now. Well I've got 3 new sauces for you all this month. I apologize that it's been a while since I've given you an update, but I figure, if I taste too many sauces, then I'll run out before I end my service in Swaziland! So, this month I tasted three peri peri sauces from *Nando's*: medium peri peri (2/4 stars), wild herb peri peri (0.5/4 stars), and garlic peri peri (2.5/4 stars). And sigh, it was an unsuccessful quest. Peri peri has made me weary weary. I didn't have much favor for any of them really because they were all sauces with the underlying peri peri flavor, but none actually impressed my taste buds. Because they all taste similar, they actually seem bland to me. I like a kick, but a boring kick is almost worse. So my word of advice to you, if you're in desperate need of a tasty explosion, don't spend your E12 on any of these sauces, spend the E9 on my standard choice: Cross & Blackwell Chilli garlic sauce. And thus I continue my search for new realms of spice and tears near and far around Swaziland. 'Til next month, keep chilli close to keep you warm!



JJ's Chicken Tortilla Soup

5 cloves garlic, chopped
 2 onions, chopped
 1-2 bell peppers, chopped (optional)
 1 can black beans, rinsed
 1 can creamed corn
 3-4 cups chicken stock
 5-7 T chili powder
 2-4 T cumin
 1-2 tsp cayenne pepper (hot! be careful)
 4 cooked shredded chicken breasts
 salt & pepper
 -o-
 Saute first 3 ingredients (& jalapenos if you have them). Season with salt & pepper. When onions translucent add black beans, corn and spices. Add chicken stock until normal soup consistency. Cook for a while. Season with salt & pepper. Add cooked chicken last and cook for at least 30 minutes more. I really have no idea about the spice amounts, so just season to taste (the proportions should be close to right). If you have it, serve with fried tortilla strips (fritos are a good substitute), cheddar, chives, and avocado. It is good plain as well.

Jester Hanna

What stands back of you, runs with you, dances with you, sits with you, but isn't part of you? Your Bhuti.

HAiku's by Molly

do you like to eat
 piles of lipalishi?
 come to swaziland
 -o-
 pay for me my school fees
 i'm asking for your trousers
 borrow me your bike
 -o-
 alix once told me
 "i'd rather be unconscious"
 i know what she means
 -o-
 hey umlungu
 will you be my second wife?
 throw up on his shoes
 -o-
 f%*k you rooster
 i hate you with a passion
 cockadoodle YOU

You know you're HARD CORPS when...

- you scarf McDonalds right before going on a 7k run
- you sleep with your door open and face the intruding cobras with your bare hands
- you cram into the coffee nook and watch Grey's Anatomy on the floor
- you tape bugs from your hut on paper in order to show your friends the fascinating specimens
- you rub your face in a fellow PCV's armhair, cause it feels nice
- you don't wash your hair for two weeks
- you wait 4 hours in the rain for transport to the King's Bday



You know you're Soft Corps when...

- you fall in completely love with two Germans on vacay named Sebastian and 'The Hoff'
- you sit in your hut watching Friends all day because you don't have any
- you take the train to Stellenbosch and hire a security team
- you abhor khumbis, so you've taken four trips by air, 3 by rented car, and one by private taxi to Joburg
- you have a little kitty
- you hire a small boy to carry your bag for you back to your homestead



Top Onion Headlines:



- Middle East Conflict Intensifies As Blah Blah Blah Etc.Etc. Etc.
- Cheney Celebrates Earth Day By Breathing Oxygen
- "Bill Of Rights" Pared Down To A Manageable Six
- Republicans' 'Diversity Through Imported Africans' Plan Criticized
- Bush Calls On Business Leaders To Create 500,000 S*!##y Jobs By 2003
- Treasury Department Badly Needs Ones And Fives
- 'Peeing Calvin' Decals Now Recognized As Vital Channel Of National Discourse
- Spaghetti-Os Discontinued As Franco-American Relations Break Down
- Vladimir Putin Begins Second Term As Whatever He Is
- Milosevic Dreams He's Slaughtering Ethnic Albanians In His Underwear
- 70 Percent Of World's Population Could Use All-Star Benefit Concert
- Chanel Develops Durable, Low-Cost Perfume For Third World
- Israel Bombs Anti-Semitism Out Of Lebanon
- Eminem Releases Single About Hugging Elton John At Grammys Then Ripping His D@#\$ Off With Pliers
- Girl Moved To Tears By Of Mice And Men Cliffs Notes
- Parents Of Nasal Learners Demand Odor-Based Curriculum
- Web-Browser History A Chronicle Of Couple's Unspoken Desires
- Chicago Rolls Out Cold-Weather Prostitutes

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Swazi Labor Day Office CLOSED	2	3	4	5 Cinco De Mayo
6	7	8	9	10 Kim's bday	11	12
13 Mar's bday	14	15	16	17 Molly's bday	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 Tommy's bday	26
27 Karen Peeble's bday	28 Memorial Day Office CLOSED	29	30	31		

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