

Zimbabweans Add to Community

By Sharon Frain
Campus Life Editor

Going away to college is a big test of one's independence and maturity level, especially if one goes to school half a world away. Along with the usual registration jitters, adjusting to a new culture takes a while and this is exactly the students from Zimbabwe have been doing well for the last several years. The Zimbabwean students are: Robyn Went, Garreth Griffith, Adam Whitehead, Kevin Finch, and Anton Whiley.

Many people are unaware of exactly where Zimbabwe is. They know that it is somewhere in Africa yet many incorrectly assume that the country is in South Africa and therefore the Zims are racist. This could be the farthest from reality for Zimbabwe has a black socialist government. True, Zimbabwe is in southern Africa but not in the nation of South Africa. The false stereotype has been a big hurdle to overcome but people are starting to learn what a few lessons of geography could teach anyone.

For a little background information, Zimbabwe is approximately the size of France or California. The climate is dry with a mild winter and hot summer. The Black Socialist government came to power ten years ago, taking control out of the hands of the whites. The whites that were racist then moved to South Africa and now if one speaks out as racist they will be put in prison.

Many foreigners imagine America as full of the glitter and glamour as so often depicted in Hollywood movies. This, too, was the case with the Zims. They all had been to the typical tourist spots and had not experienced rural America until arriving in Laurinburg. Kevin Finch had heard stories about Laurinburg so his arrival was sort of anti-climatic for he expected some ruralness around St. Andrews. Garreth Griffith saw a totally different side of America then he had seen in Florida and California. Garreth was shocked by the road from the Fayetteville airport because of the rural scenes of cows grazing near the highway. Adam

Whitehead had never seen pictures of the college so on his first trip from the Fayetteville airport the more and more rural it was getting the more and more worried Adam was becoming. He did admit that the area has since grown tremendously.

There is a belief that people are the same wherever one might go. This could be true individually but on the whole whatever type of government that one grows up under nurtures or hampers the thinking process. Zims are typically narrow minded while Americans are well-spoken. However, Adam couldn't believe how conservative the townspeople of Laurinburg were.

When Anton Whiley came to America four years ago the differences between the cultures was a bit of a shock. The key differences lay between the formality of the societies. "My first day in classes I realized how the classroom structure was different. For one thing, in Zim the teacher teaches with no interaction and here there is a high level of involvement." Asked if any embarrassing things happened to him the first day of classes, Anton recalled, "I was brought up in schools where you stand-up when the professor enters the room. Well, in my first class I sat front and center in the classroom and when the teacher walked in I stood up. Luckily for me nobody really noticed so I just acted like I was standing up to tie my shoes."

Kevin Finch was initially taken aback in his first class when the professor walked in with sandals on her feet, a cup of coffee, and sat on the table to teach. Kevin remembers, "The professor moved the chairs around making class more social than what I was used to." One difference the Zims have noticed, and not only in the classroom, was the contrasts of the Zimbabwean woman and the American woman.

American women are more independent and they stand up for their beliefs. While the Zimbabwean woman might have had just as good an education as an American, the Zim female

won't stand-up and defend her opinion. The liberation of the woman in America is something that the St. Andrews' Zims all respect.

Robyn Went shined light on the social life in Zimbabwe. "The women in Zimbabwe use a different language than here for a girl would just not swear and would never be caught with a beer," revealed Robyn. Adam thought that one thing he admired about the women here is their openness and that they consequently don't play as many "head" games, women are thus more honest with others. Another social aspect that surprised Adam was the habit of chewing tobacco. Adam thought that chewing tobacco was something only cowboys did in movies and was stunned when he saw a person dipping for in Zimbabwe that simply is not done.

The biggest problem of the Zims fitting in at St. Andrews was that when people hung-out or partied the topic of conversation usually centered around some American celebrity, such as Johnny Carson or a professional ball-player. Thus, they really could not fit in or contribute to any conversations for they had no idea what was being

talked about.

The question still remains as to why the Zimbabweans decided to go to college thousands of miles from their homes. One big reason for them was that in Zimbabwe the university is so big that they wanted something smaller. Also, many of them wanted to get their education in America because of the quality of learning.

Why did the Zims choose this college in particular? For Robyn the friendliness and closeness she saw at St. Andrews last year was something she had been looking for but just could not be found at her previous school, Santa Rosa Junior College, primarily because it was a commuter college. Garreth was looking at going to USA International University in San Diego, San Diego State University, Arizona State University, and Menlo College in Arizona. However, the Zimbabwean bank has to allow only a certain amount of money to be carried out of the country because of lack of foreign currency and two weeks before leaving for school Garreth was given some bad news. The bank would not allow him to take out as much as needed for tuition at his top choices so he started to look for a less expensive



Robyn Went, Adam Whitehead, Garreth Griffith, Anton Whiley, and Kevin Finch gather together for a photo opportunity. (Photo by Sharon Frain)

Zimbabwe



American school. He then decided to go here mainly because Kevin, Anton, and Steve Reed, who graduated last year, went here. Anton's reason for attending a school in the states is his father's head office is in Richmond, VA and therefore Anton wanted to go to school somewhere in Virginia or North Carolina. He chose St. Andrews and then found out that his old mate Steve Read attended the school.

With diversity being a key word at St. Andrews, the Zimbabweans sure have contributed their part to the SA community. Their adding to the pot of cultural diversity has helped in the educational experience both in and out of the classroom as can be seen in their positions of leadership academically and socially.

Candi Cann Reflects Term in Korea



Candi Cann is pictured with two of her friends who are also exchange students at Han Nam University in Korea.

(Editor's Note: Candi Cann is a sophomore from St. Andrews who is studying abroad this term in Korea. The following is her story of what life has been in Korea.)

I have been at Han Nam University since August. I am the first person from St. Andrews to travel to Korea in the second year of the Korean Studies program here. I got off to a good start in mid-August and am now busy in the final weeks of term papers and last minute excursions.

Han Nam's campus is large, though not as forboding as I expected, considering Han Nam's population of 10,000 students. The University is divided into

different colleges, and there is a small quiet lotus pond, as well as a campus town with which to diverge one's attentions. There are no air-conditioning or heat facilities in the classrooms, so, needless to say, in the summer, class was fairly hot, and, now, we come to class wearing several layers of clothing. It is not as bad as it sounds, and a room quickly warms when a few friends have gathered.

The faculty here is fairly helpful, and all the students are eager to improve their English conversation skills. This makes it difficult to learn Korean, but I am learning, though slowly. There are two other exchange students here -

one is a Korean-American, and the other is a professor from the Phillipines. We take six classes together - two language classes, one language lab, East Asian History, Korean Sociology, and Korean Politics and Administration. On the weekends, we have made several excursions - mountain climbing to see a sunrise, going to museums, visiting temples and palaces, and the like.

The social life is very different from that of St. Andrews. Here, one goes to coffee shops for socializing. There are many coffee shops all over the town, and they are decorated in a quiet manner, dimly lit, music playing in the background, and are quite intimate. Often, I go to coffee shops with my friends and talk for several hours. Sometimes, we go with our professors. They are very pleasant. It is too bad that America does not have these sort of establishments.

The closest event to a party is a Korean festival, in which there is some drinking (usually men only), and lots of traditional music, dance, and games. Outside appearances make Korea seem much more conservative than America, and it is interesting to observe these differences.

I live with a Korean host family and

must commute to school, as the majority of the students do. We have a Western-style home, so I am not altogether removed from Western comforts. We eat Korean food every meal, and I have come to like even those foods which I hated when I came.

The last thing I must remark upon is the campus demonstrations. Students here are so concerned about their government, and their country's search for democracy, that I am put to shame by some of the petty concerns I have in comparison. Last week, the South Korean government was angry at the University for possessing a North Korean

video, and there was a fairly violent demonstration as the riot police marched on campus to take it away. There were fire bombs thrown, much tear gas, as well as fire guns which caught the bushes on fire. Although this is somewhat unremarkable to the Korean students, it has sobered me to the realization of the importance of the concerns that many people have.

I hope Uni is doing well and enjoying her stay at St. Andrews, as I know I am doing at Han Nam. I look forward to my return to St. Andrews, and I hope that other students will be interested in

LUNG WAH
Chinese Restaurant 龍

10% Off 華

FOR ALL STUDENTS !!!!
COME IN AND TRY
OUR LUNCH OR DINNER BUFFET

RECEIVE A 10 % DISCOUNT
WITH YOUR STUDENT I.D.

TEL: 277 - 7734
SCOTLAND CROSSING SHOPPING CENTER

Hours: Tues. - Sun. 11:30 - 10:00