

An epic journey back into SA's sordid past

Main political players of the 1990s subtly introduced with fictitious names

Forgotten Times by Keith Fisher
(Osborne Porter Library Services, R130)

ICAN do no better than to quote from retired brigadier general Dr Chris Wehrman's review of this amazing book.

He begins by stating that this is a great book. Anyone reading it will agree wholeheartedly with him.

Wehrman notes that it was thoroughly researched and reflects a unique insight into those times in South Africa leading to the 1990s. The author shows a unique skill for combining facts with fiction in leading the reader into the history of those "forgotten times", and to the present day.

The book presents key events of a past era to provide maximum entertainment as a work of fiction.

The two main characters in this well-told story are two cousins, Frensch de Wet and Arnie Bremer, from the Orange Free State, who were born into the conservative Boer tradition during the 1970s and 80s.

During their National Service they come to represent two dramatically opposing views of life, facing a future that culminates in bitter conflict and tragedy.

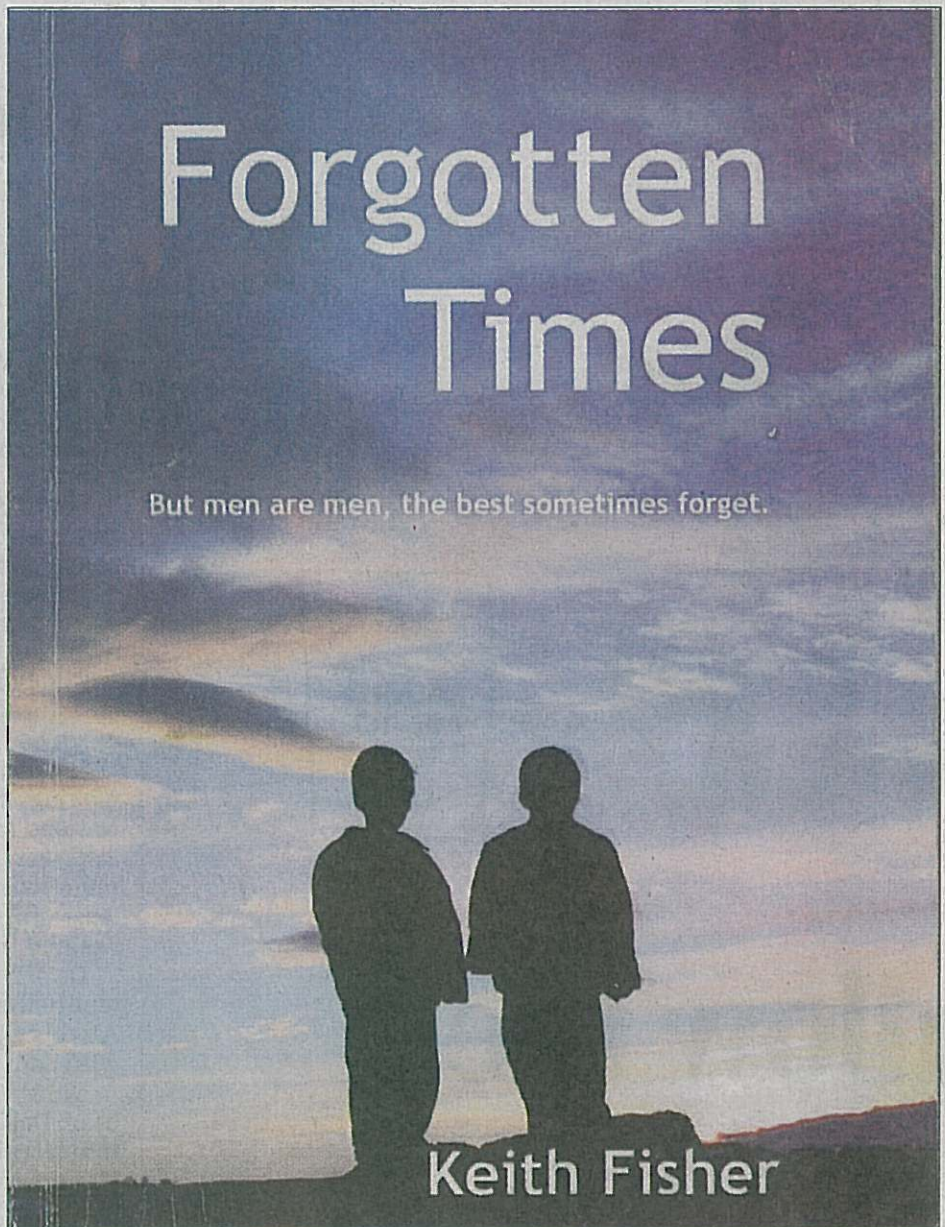
It was a time when they had among others, to face the liberation struggle and decide where their sympathies lay.

Although this is a work of fiction, it does in a clever and subtle way introduce facts and even characters that are well known to the reader, but under fictitious names such as State President Piet Lemmer (PW Botha), Raymond Moropa (Nelson Mandela), Defence Minister Charl Murray (Magnus Malan), State President-elect De Bruyn (FW de Klerk).

Fisher has produced a unique novel and style by mixing fact with fiction and should be considered a new discovery in South African literature.

Born and brought up in Cape Town and now living in Centurion, Fisher was recruited into the SADF in 1960 as an intelligence officer.

He also served as a member of the Steyn Commission of Enquiry into the



Media Reporting on Defence Matters. He resigned from the SADF in 1980 and returned to the private sector where he served as corporate communication executive of companies listed on the stock exchange. He retired in 2000 and still

undertakes consultancy work and devotes much of his time to research and writing.

He is a past chairman of the Pretoria Writers' Circle. - **Cyrus Smith**

*Book can be ordered from K Fisher (centric@icon.co.za).