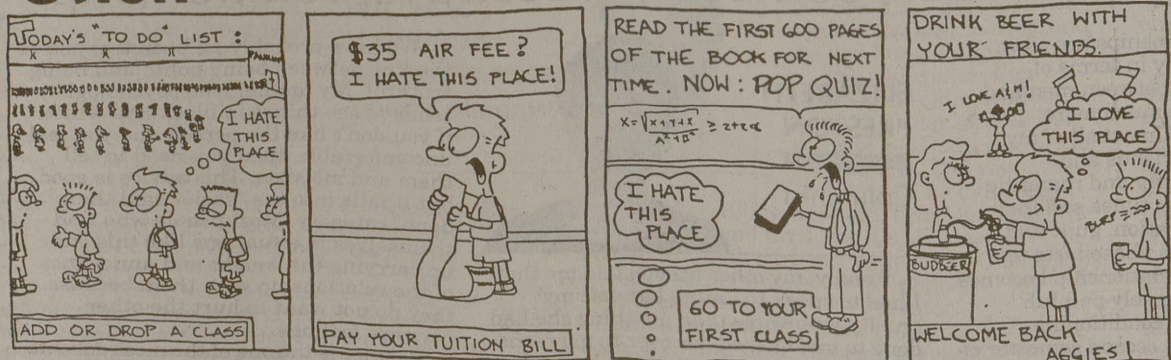


### Stick

By Alvaro



### THE INKWELL

By Brad



### Generation Y

By Quatro



## Colony of baboons live the good life in war-torn Rwandan safari lodge

AKAGERA, Rwanda (AP) — Visitors once called Hotel Akagera "a little corner of paradise." These days they break into your car, hurl champagne bottles to the floor and defecate atop dining tables.

A colony of Olive baboons has taken over this stunning, hilltop safari lodge within one of Africa's great wildlife parks, taking full advantage of Rwanda's bloody chaos and resultant tourist exodus.

Dozens of the baboons, often aggressive and growing up to 3 feet tall, are living in some of the 60 rooms and suites, and most spend part of the day lolling around the now-slimy swimming pool and poolside bar.

This week, as one baboon slid along the diving board on

his rump, flies buzzed around the bloated body of another floating face down in the murky water.

Only months ago, well-heeled guests from Europe and North America sipped martinis and Camparis here while admiring spectacular views of Lake Ihema and the broad savannah below.

Before the marauders and massacres and machetes, when Rwanda was still called "the Switzerland of Africa" and "The Land of 1,000 Hills," this 1,000-square-mile reserve was one of the country's top draws. Foreign tourists came to encounter a splendid array of wildlife, including the world's last mountain gorillas living among volcanic peaks and tribes of

Colobus monkeys in the Nyungwe rain forest.

Now the Hotel Akagera is a surreal, tragic symbol of what Rwanda was and the abyss into which it has plunged since April when Hutus went on an orgy of killing. Half a million or more people, mainly Tutsis, their tribal rivals, died in the slaughter.

A few decomposed corpses still sprawl along the road leading to the southern entrance of Akagera National Park, 75 miles east of Kigali, the capital. The village there, Nyagakonji, is deserted, its inhabitants dead or refugees in nearby Tanzania. Rumors abound that carnivorous animals, including the baboons, are gorging on the corpses.

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