'Most-misquoted' man misquotes me

ANTHONY Brink, the crackpot who denies that HIV causes Aids and that Aids exists and who agitates against condom use, has now blatantly misquoted me in the Sunday Times letters page.

Brink's letter read: "[Roberts] believes Western claims that impoverished black South Africans, not whites, are riddled with HIV/Aids; and the reason he gives for this in *Fit to Govern* is that, in his opinion 'poorer Africans have failed to cut back on sex'. They have too much of it."

I challenge Brink to name the page number of *Fit to Govern* from which that supposed quotation is taken – a rather unfortunate, telling lapse from a man who levels quotation-based "plagiarism" allegations.

Meanwhile, Brink unambiguously and demonstrably lied when he claimed that he "edited" my Gordimer book. He dishonestly upgrades his own claim — at page 31 of his own manuscript — that he merely "proofread" that same book. Actually, he did neither. The acknowledgments show that Craig Higginson edited it and Syd Gosher proofread it. Brink, my self-styled "chum", goes wholly unmentioned.

The analysis of Aids and colonialism is indeed in my Gordimer book, drawing (as most people do) on Susan Sontag's classic essay *Aids and its Metaphors*, which she wrote in Gordimer's house in France (see pages 589 to 615, especially 598, of *No Cold Kitchen*).

Brink knows what plagiarism is and understands that I have done none. That's why he sexed up his initial allegations while inducing The Citizen to break his phony story two weeks ago: "Brink said he had been extensively quoted in early drafts of Roberts's book, but that in the final manuscript Roberts removed the quote marks, and so passed off Brink's work as his own." That indeed would be plagiarism.

Unfortunately, nowhere in Brink's 376 pages is there a single such example. Instead, Brink now claims that The Citizen misquoted him.

Moreover, Brink now accuses The Weekender of misquoting him. Brink has briskly become the most "misquoted" man in South Africa, with his kite-flying lies and chaotic backtracking. — **Ronald Suresh Roberts, Cape Town**