

The HERALD

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ETHIOPIAN DEMOCRACY HAS ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

by John Rude (1962-64)

Ah, democracy! (Note the lowercase "d," any resemblance between the topics covered in today's column and the Democratic Party or convention is purely coincidental.)

Ethiopia was scheduled to have its first experiment with democracy on June 21, 1992 and 200 international observers were invited to be present at its birth.

Most of those in the U.S. delegation (like me) had some previous experience with Ethiopian culture, and we were somewhat prepared for the quirks which I will politely call "variations on a theme" of democratic elections.

My interview at the first polling station gave me an idea of what was to come.

On the surface, everything looked orderly — possibly too orderly, considering the fact we were standing in a mud-and-manure hut, and everyone was chasing away flies, as well as curious children. But the faces of the young election officials looked eager; they had gathered 1,200 signatures for their registration book in only one week. To finish, they had only to screen out:

(a) former members of the Communist party; (b) former soldiers who had not attended re-education classes; or (c) anyone who could not prove they had lived in the precinct for two years.

The official spoke passable English, so I asked him how they would announce the results of the election after counting the ballots.

"We will agitate the people and show them that the true way of democracy has been delivered to them!"

Blink. Here I was, face to face with an election official steeped in Leninist rhetoric. What could he possibly know about elections? Next question: How, exactly, will the voting take place? "The people will hand their ballots to the candidates. Each party will have its symbol on its own ballot box, and the candidates will put the ballots in."

So much for secret ballots. A flood of questions came to me, but fortunately I asked the only one that mattered: how many parties are putting forth candidates? "Only one — the Ethiopian

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ETHIOPIAN DEMOCRACY

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People's Democratic Movement. The door has been open for other parties, but they have not walked in." The latter phrase was a "signature" of one-party states; it was repeated over and over in different precincts, clearly signaling the fact that at this early stage, at least, it was a rigged election.

To their credit, Ethiopia's National Election Commission tried (and succeeded in some parts of the country) to correct misconceptions such as the young official's. I believe they sincerely wanted to stage multi-party elections. But the legacy of 17 years of socialism was hard to overcome. One voter said, "We don't want secret ballots — we already have too many secrets here."

The analogy which came to my mind was the rape victim who found it difficult to ever trust men again. After Haile Selassie and the brutal Mengistu regime, Ethiopians naturally find it

difficult to trust government in any guise. They were voting because the transitional government (the people with guns) told them to.

The political issues are too complex to describe in even a dozen columns, so I won't try.

To give you an idea, the ethnic divisions and animosities in Ethiopia are on the same scale as Yugoslavia — only more intense. In some of the more populous parts of the country, opposition groups withdrew from the elections and sent armies into the field. The situation remains unresolved a month after the elections; civil war is still a very real possibility.

In the North, where I was observing, there was a semblance of free and fair elections, however. An opposition party fielded candidates (three days before the election) and garnered 25 to 30 percent of the vote.

Election procedures were primitive, but much closer to our methods than to the methods proposed by the young Leninist. The most amazing sights were the long lines of people on election day, some of whom waited five or six hours to vote. They were tasting freedom, and judging by their looks and comments, the taste was sweeter than anything they had known.

On election eve I sat on the floor counting ballots with a precinct committee. One ballot had a big X through it — should we count it? I argued that we should create a special category of "protest" ballots. "But he is an anarchist!" objected one of the officials. Then he thought for a moment, and observed: "We should count it, because this election is a contest between anarchy and democracy."

John Rude is a columnist for the Salem, Oregon Statesman-Journal which originally published this article in July, 1992.

Election report is available

The National Democratic Institute for International Affairs and the African American Institute have just published "An Evaluation of the June 21, 1992 Elections in Ethiopia."

In addition to John Rude, several other RPCVS were election observers. Among them was Cynthia Tse Kimberlin (62-64) who contributes a light moment to the reading of the report:

The only party evident in all the towns (Cynthia was an observer in Tigre Province) was the TPLF (Tigrean Liberation Front). EDU was overtly represented in Mekele and Maychew. Although there were independent candidates nominated, I doubt if they were truly independent candidates, as the majority of them were supported by TPLF. An interesting observation made was that it was relatively easy to spot TPLF leaders as they all wore "heavy metal" or "rock" music T-shirts. "Guns and Roses," "Metallica," "U-2," "Poison," "Alice Cooper," "Boss," "Iron Maiden," "Bon Jovi," "Dread," "Rolling Stones," and "Fido Dido Dancing" were represented.

You can obtain a copy of the report by sending \$9.95 to:

African American Institute
833 UN Plaza
New York NY 10017

Ethiopia & Eritrea RPCVs has ordered a copy of the report. If you would like to borrow it, write:

E & E RPCVS
c/o Marian Haley Beil
330 Brooklawn Drive
Rochester NY 14618-2925

Required reading

THE NEW YORKER has a very long article in its December 28, 1992/January 4, 1993 issue entitled *Annals of Political Terror: Burying the Martyrs* which tells of the experiences of the women of the Ethiopian royal family and the royal court starting with the disintegration of the reign of Haile Selassie and their imprisonment through the royal funeral in July, 1991 for their husbands and fathers who were executed in 1974. The article includes past history and current events with interviews of current leaders. *Don't miss it.*

- THE INTERNATIONAL UNION for the Conservation of Nature has three Ethiopian animals on its endangered species list. One of them, the Walia Ibex, is being depleted rapidly by farmers in North Gondar.

The surviving Walia are in the remote areas of the Semein escarpment; only about 55 remain there from a population of nearly 1000 in 1991. This is the only known home of the Walia Ibex.

- IN EARLY OCTOBER, THE TRANSITIONAL Government of Ethiopia (TGE) devalued the Birr from 2.07 to 5.00 to the dollar in an effort to make exports more competitive. At the same time, the TGE increased salaries for government employees. The new minimum salary for government workers is 110 Birr/month.

- In testimony to the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, a delegation from the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) explained why it had withdrawn from the Transitional Government and boycotted the June elections. Grievances they reported included:

- the filling of all key government positions with members of the Tigre Popular Liberation Front (TPLF),
- a shadow cabinet that became the real decision making body was also filled with TPLF members,
- the deployment of Ethiopian Peoples' Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) troops throughout the country and simultaneous efforts to disarm other forces,
- the instigation of ethnic conflicts to justify troop deployments, and
- many unlawful arrests, illegal detention, and selective assassinations.

- IN ADDITION TO THE OLF, THE All-Amhara People's Organization, the Islamic Front for the Liberation of Oromia, the Ethiopian Democratic

Alliance Group, and the Gedeo People's Democratic Organization also withdrew from the June election process.

- THE 1991 FOREIGN DEBT OF Ethiopia was reported at \$3.3 billion by the World Bank. The Government also owes \$8 billion to the states of the former Soviet Union. Only \$800 million of that debt was for economic development; the rest went to support the military. Many in Ethiopia, including the Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce, are suggesting the government default on the Soviet loans.

- THE UNIVERSITY OF ADDIS Ababa is operating autonomously for the first time in its history. Its new president, Dr. Alemayehu Teferra, was chosen not by the government or the ministry of education but by the University faculty.

The University now has 9 campuses, 5 of which are in Addis Ababa. The enrollment this academic year is 10,000 day students and 8,000 evening students in extension programs. The 2,600 graduates last July included recipients of master's degrees and medical doctorates.

- ERITREANS WILL VOTE IN A referendum the first week of April to decide whether or not to become an independent state. The process is being supervised by the United Nations. The major problem so far in preparing for the voting has been voter registration. The process is complicated because some half million Eritreans remain refugees in Sudan and 325,000 are in Ethiopia. These compare with the approximately two million residents of Eritrea.

- AN UNNAMED ERITREAN OFFICIAL has described the current state of affairs there as somewhere between the hell of war and the paradise of peace

(THE WASHINGTON POST, 13 Oct 92, p A16). Many leaders are working without salaries as they wait the official birth of an Eritrean government after the referendum. Only after the referendum is approved can a constituent assembly be formed to write a constitution, a process that may take a year or longer.

- ERITREA HAS FOUND IT SHARES many common conditions and concerns with Israel especially the desert environment and a long struggle for independence. Israel is now providing various types of technical development aid in Eritrea.

- ETHIOPIA OFFERS A MODEST success story in Africa's battle against AIDS. Sales of the Hiwot (Amharic for 'life') condom increased from 129,000 in June, 1991 to 647,000 a year later. Selling condoms at subsidized prices at pharmacies and dukas has proved more effective than free distribution at clinics. An advertising campaign that placed the Hiwot logo on plastic bags, umbrellas, bumper stickers, and even the warm-up suits of the St. George Football Club has supported the sales. Some bars in Addis Ababa have posted the message: "No condoms, no sex."

- IN EARLY JANUARY ETHIOPIAN students clashed with government security forces as they protested the travel of UN Secretary Boutros Boutros-Ghali to Eritrea following his stay in Addis Ababa to negotiate a Somali peace. Students saw the Boutros-Ghali trip as one which would endorse a vote for independence when the referendum is taken in April of this year. One student was said to be killed, 40 wounded, many by bayonet.

A special thanks to Tom Hankins for taking on the "News from the Horn." Tom is a professor of environmental studies and of information systems at the West Virginia Graduate College. He lives in Buffalo, West Virginia.

PEACE CORPS UPDATE

☎ 800/424-8580

African initiative

From an October 19, 1992 memo to Elaine Chao, Peace Corps Director at the time, from the PC Regional Director/Africa: U. S. Ambassador to Ethiopia Mara Boas expressed strong interest in and need for Peace Corps programs in Ethiopia and Eritrea.

The inside story

Lots of jockeying going on in the effort to have an RPCV appointed Director of the Peace Corps. **DONNA SHALALA** (Iran 62-64) is recommending **CAROL BELLAMY** (Guatemala 63-65). In the November issue of RPCV WRITERS & READERS, **JOHN COYNE** (62-64) endorsed **PRISCILLA WRUBEL** (Liberia 61-63), founder of The Nature Company and currently an activist with the Nature Conservancy, and **ALAN GUSKIN** (Thailand 62-64) President of Antioch College, who, with his wife, organized a petition endorsing the formation of the Peace Corps following JFK's address at the University of Michigan which influenced Kennedy to pursue the idea. **ROGER PARENT** (Thailand 61-63), former Mayor of South Bend, Indiana has been making calls soliciting support for the position. **PAUL TIERNEY, Jr.** (Chile 64-66), Wall Street wizard and chairman of Technoserve (a Third World economic development organization) is conducting an aggressive campaign with backing of friends from his alma mater, Notre Dame. The name of our own **PATTI GARAMENDI** (66-68) who lost a squeaker for a House seat has been mentioned. **CHUCK BAQUET** (Somalia 66-68), who is currently Ambassador to Djibouti, has some big time backing in the Senate and State Department. And last, but not least, **THE WASHINGTON POST** (January 5, 1993) reported that Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, eldest daughter of Robert F. Kennedy, is campaigning vigorously for

the post as well. It appears that she feels that her maiden name qualifies her to be Peace Corps Director. NOT

Peace Corps and the Transition Team

The Transition Team for the Clinton Administration for Economic/International Trade and Development has responsibility for the Peace Corps as well as for these organizations:

Department of Treasury
Department of Commerce
Small Business Administration
Minority Business Development Agency
Appalachian Regional Commission
Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation
U.S. Trade Representative
Export-Import Bank
International Development Cooperation Agency
Panama Canal Commission
Inter-American Foundation
International Monetary Fund
Inter-America Development Bank
World Bank
Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
International Boundary and Water Commission, US/Mexico
International Boundary Commission, US/Canada

1993 appropriation approved

The congress approved an appropriation for the Peace Corps of \$218,146,000 for 1993. This is the amount requested by the Peace Corps, but less than the National Council recommendation of \$253 million — one dollar for every U. S. citizen.

The 1993 appropriation, an increase of 10.7% over that of 1992, will enable the Peace Corps to expand to 7,000 Volunteers.

From the Peace Corps Monthly

New postings

- Volunteers have begun active service in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.
- An agreement has been signed with the government of Armenia to establish a Peace Corps program there. It was projected that 40 Volunteers would arrive there in December, 1992.
- The first Peace Corps Volunteers to serve in Russia arrived in Moscow on November 21, 1992.

Drought relief programs in southern Africa

Funds have been secured from USAID to be used for Peace Corps projects in drought relief in Lesotho and Namibia

Trade fair organized by Peace Corps/Bulgaria

"The Plovdiv International Trade Fair, organized largely by the Peace Corps/Bulgaria and several Peace Corps Volunteers, was a huge success, drawing many individuals and business from around the world interested in establishing enterprises in Bulgaria. The purpose of the conference was to highlight U. S. private sector technological expertise and U. S. export capabilities. Additionally, the event raised Bulgarian awareness of U. S. commercial support available both in-country and in the United States, including the U. S. foreign assistance program for Central and Eastern Europe."

National Council receives grant

(from the National Council Update)

The Ford Foundation has granted \$50,000 to the National Council to strengthen the organization and its membership. Three projects will be carried out over the next year with the grant:

1. Evaluation of the structure of the organization as it relates to its individual members and to the network of affiliates.
2. Drawing national and world leaders who share the Peace Corps experience into more active participation in the National Council.
3. Strengthening the advocacy efforts of the National Council and its members.

FROM AFFILIATE GROUPS — Boston RPCV group plans Peace Corps film festival

The Boston Area Returned Peace Corps Volunteer (BARPCV) group is developing plans for a Peace Corps Film Festival



I love a parade. . .

Watch for the Peace Corps contingent in the Inaugural Parade. There will be about 250 RPCVs marching — or at least sauntering. Members of the group will carry the flags of the 110 countries where Peace Corps Volunteers have served since its inception.

to be held in the fall of 1993 or spring of 1994. Suggestions are needed of films and film makers, funding sources, and people who would like to help.

BARPCV is collaborating with David Kleiler, artistic director of the Coolidge Corner Theater Foundation, located in Brookline, Massachusetts. The film festival would be held at the Somerville Theater, Somerville, MA.

For more information contact:

Doane Perry (Uganda 66-69)
1657 Cambridge St, #3
Cambridge MA 02138
home phone: 617-547-1413

Peace Corps Partners, Inc. seeks support

Peace Corps Partners, Inc., devoted to helping RPCVs obtain medical care and compensation they are entitled to for Peace Corps-related medical problems (including vocational rehabilitation and re-entry crisis counseling) is urgently seeking financial support in order to be able to continue its mission. All contributions are tax deductible. For more information contact: **ED GEORGE** (Costa Rica 66-68), PO Box 3512, Flagstaff AZ 86003. Phone: 1-800-925-RPCV.

Ed is a terrific person who has devoted great effort to helping RPCVs with medical problems stemming from their service. Call him if you need such support. He has helped 300 RPCVs so far.

Friends of Morocco is collecting old eyeglasses

To help finance a Habitat for Humanity program in Morocco, a group of Americans and Moroccans are requesting donations of used eyeglasses and sunglasses (which are sold in other countries for a nominal fee). Every 800 pair of glasses will provide enough funds for the construction of one house.

You can send used glasses to Dave Fredrick, 9610 Tinsmith Lane, Burke VA 22015.

Great colored post cards for sale

The National Council is selling sets of colorful postcard featuring photographs by PCVs. The full-color cards are available in sets of 10 for \$3.00.

Send your order with payment to:

Postcards
National Council of RPCVs
2119 S Street, NW
Washington DC 20008



Use Worldtek Travel — support National Council programs and get guaranteed lowest airfares

WorldTek Travel of New Haven, Connecticut has been a long-time supporter of the National Council through the RPCV Travel Program arranged by one of its agents, Shelley Horsley Cruz (Colombia 65-67). WorldTek shares a percentage of all its sales to RPCVs with the National Council, and also offers RPCVs the lowest airfares, flight insurance and 24-hour emergency travel service. During the first year of the RPCV Travel Program the National Council received nearly \$8,000 from WorldTek.

To benefit from the program on your next trip call:
**WorldTek Travel at 1-800-243-1723
and mention "RPCV Account #271."**

A FOLLOW-UP

This fall E & E RPCVs sent to all its members a copy of a letter it had received from Dr. Samuel Taddesse who is establishing the School for Educational Excellence (SEE) in Addis Ababa. SEE will offer high quality education opportunities to local and expatriate students from kindergarten through high school. In his letter, Dr. Samuel was seeking both applicants for positions at SEE as well as investors.

THE HERALD spoke with Dr. Samuel to learn of the progress of his project as well as the response he had received from the mailing.

SEE has received a permit to operate from the Ministry of Education, and is currently awaiting a license from the Ministry of Commerce. It is expected that the school will start-up in September, 1993 with a projected faculty/staff of 26, subsequently expanding to 45 by January, 1997. There was a very strong response by RPCVs interested in employment with the school. Currently, a decision is being made on the appointment of a General Manager/Principal with the two finalists both being RPCVs.

Because unemployment is high in Ethiopia at this time, the project has met some difficulty in obtaining government approval to employ ex-patriots, and SEE is currently exploring ways to deal with this situation.

The response to requests for investors was much less and Dr. Samuel continues to seek shareholders. For more information, write:

WorldClass Schools Inc.
PO Box 1176
Vienna VA 22183-1176



TODAY write to

George Ramstad,
RPCV 93 Registration
1026 Elsinore Avenue
Oakland CA 94602

to be placed on the mailing list for
the RPCV 93 Conference July 1-5
at Berkeley.

There will be a ceiling placed on the
number of registrants because of
space limitations.

FYI . . .

• This from the Chicago Area RPCV Newsletter, December, 1992:

The Ethiopian Community Association of Chicago seeks a high-powered go-getter to join our eight-person international staff as Job Developer. Responsibilities include:

- Network and maintain working relationships with employers to obtain job opportunities for refugees of various skill levels.
- Perform client assessment and help with job-readiness training.
- Match qualified clients with available jobs.
- Organize and maintain active job bank.

- Conduct follow-up activities.
- Maintain records.

We are a not-for profit agency aiding primarily refugees from Ethiopia, but also refugees from Somalia, Liberia, Sudan, Iraq, Afghanistan, etc. Applicants MUST have at least two years of job developing or related experience, and a B.A. in a related field. Salary range: \$22,000-\$24,000 plus benefits. Send resumes to:

Elizabeth Versten
Ethiopian Community Association
of Chicago
4750 North Sheridan, #249
Chicago IL 60640

- Work overseas

TransCentury Corporation, founded by Warren Wiggins, one of the creators of the Peace Corps, publishes an international job bulletin, runs international career round tables, provides individual career counseling in the field, and provides an executive search service. For more information call Geri Critchley (Senegal 71-72) or Dick Irish (Philippines 62-66) at the International Career Service (703) 351-5500.

RPCVs work to support reconstruction of the Eritrean educational system

Laurie and Wayne Kessler are conducting a tireless campaign to aid the education system in Eritrea

• In the December 1992/January 1993 issue of TESOL Matters, the newsletter of Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, Inc., the Kesslers were featured in an article which relayed the need expressed in a letter to them from Beraki Ghebreselassie, head of the Eritrean Department of Education. Beraki said that the government is looking for specialists in the English language who can assist for two to three months in the following areas:

- Preparation, expansion and supervision of curriculum.
- Teacher training.
- Teaching English to teachers.

For more information, or if you have suggestions for funding sources, write:

Laurie and Wayne Kessler
1291 Harpole Rd
Redding CA 96002

• NORCAL, the RPCV group of Northern California, is working with Wayne on his project: Books for Eritrea. With the support of the Shasta (CA) County Superintendent of Schools, Wayne has begun to gather surplus science, reading, math, English, world geography and reference books. Books for Eritrea is soliciting monetary donations to enable them to ship the books to Eritrea. If you would like to help, write:

Books for Eritrea
PO Box 492647
Redding CA 95049

"Thirst for Learning" Society organizes for education

John Rude (62-64) and Beany Kogen Wezelman (64-66) are serving on the Steering Committee of the "Thirst for Learning" Society which was formed last fall to support high schools in Eritrea. The leadership is largely Eritrean expatriates, but it is recognized that the dimensions of the tasks makes broader support a necessity. Special effort is being made to contact former students and teachers of Eritrean secondary schools.

The Society, which has Regional Chapters in five U. S. cities plus Canada and Europe, seeks funds for reconstruc-

tion of secondary schools, textbooks, supplies and operating expenses.

The "Thirst for Learning" Society is independently organized and is affiliated with and supports the Education Department of the Provisional government of Eritrea, the Eritrean Government's Mission to the United States and other countries, the Eritrean Relief Agency, and Eritreans for Peace and Democracy. For more information, contact:

Thirst for Learning Society
Tekeste Negus, Treasurer
1630 Centinela Avenue, Suite #7
Inglewood CA 90302

LOST & FOUND

• *I'm afraid I just found these queries which I had received some time ago from Lois Shoemaker (62-64):*

Lissane Yohannes, Mekelle, Tigre, is looking for his former Peace Corps teachers Barbara Lenkerd (64-65), Walter Rathkamp (64-65), Richard Perry (66-67) and Steve ? (67-68). Write:

Lissane Yohannes
PO Box 31268
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
☎ 510688.

Kidane Araya, a student at Colorado School of Mines, is looking for

PCVs who served in Adi Caeh 1967-68. Write:

Kidane Araya
914 19th, #20
Golden CO 80401
☎ 303-279-7224.

• Yacob Fisseha is trying to locate a PCV named Catherine who taught home economics 1970-71 in Alamaya. Do you have any clues? Contact:

Yacob Fisseha
African Studies Center
100 International Center
Michigan State University
East Lansing MI 48824
☎ 517-353-1700
fax 517-336-1209.

F R I E N D S

LINDA BERGTHOLD (62-64) was featured in the September/October issue of *M: THE EMPLOYEE MAGAZINE OF MARSH & MCLENNAN COMPANIES*. Linda was one of eight PCVs featured in the Norman Rockwell painting "JFK's Bold Legacy," one of the Rockwell paintings that Friends of Colombia and Horn of Africa Relief Committee have had reproduced for sale as a fund raiser. She traveled to Washington for a Congressional Reception for the unveiling of the prints where she presented a framed print to Jody Olsen (Tunisia 66-68), Peace Corps Chief of Staff. Linda is a principal in the Medical Audit Services unit at William M. Mercer in San Francisco.

JIM BRANNON (62-64) attended the RPCV conference in Fayetteville this past summer where he had an opportunity to visit with Ethi 1s **ESTHER CARROL GLOWA** and **JIM COOK**. There were other Ethiopia projects represented there but The Herald hasn't received any additional reports. (Now is a good time to put in a plug for the 1993 RPCV conference which will be held at UC/Berkeley July 1 to 5, 1993. These conferences offer a great opportunity to get together with dear friends.)

Earlier this year **MARK LEWIS BRECKER** (64-66) traveled to Addis and Asmara with his mother.

USA TODAY reported on October 27 that U. S. Representative **PAUL HENRY** (64-65) had a 3-inch cancerous brain tumor removed. He was in the midst of his GOP campaign for a 5th term in Congress representing Grand Rapids, Michigan. Henry won the election and on January 5TH he was able to take a break in his follow-up treatment and travel to Washington to participate in his swearing-in ceremony. He subsequently returned home to continue treatment, and is optimistic that he will be well enough to return to DC in

February when Congress gets down to work in earnest.

Did you see **MIKE McCASKEY** (65-67) on NBC's Today Show on November 13th? As part of a special series of shows on Africa, the brief coverage was given to Peace Corps presence on that continent since 1961. Mike was asked the usual superficial questions we have all be asked by people who barely listen to the answers. Astonishingly, earlier on the show one of the announcers was bemoaning the dearth of first hand knowledge of Africa by Americans — overlooking the fact that tens of thousands of Volunteers have served there, plus the fact that many have come back to the US and shared their knowledge and experience.

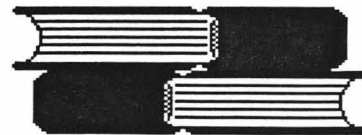
Also **MIKE McCASKEY** — he fired Mike Ditka.

JACK PREBIS (62-64) also attended the Congressional Reception for the unveiling of the Norman Rockwell prints. Jack had the honor of presenting a framed print of the Rockwell tribute to PCVs in Africa — a drawing of Marc Clausen (62-64) working with an Ethiopian farmer — to Ethiopian Ambassador Berhane Gebre Christos.

Following a year and a half of study at Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, California, **JOHN REX** (62-64) will begin a six-month internship at the First Universalist Church in Rochester, New York.

DONNA SHALALA (RPCV Iran 62-64) was nominated by President-elect Bill Clinton to be the next Secretary of Health and Human Services.

JOHN TRAMONTI (62-64) writes from Rhode Island that he is "on the mend now and feeling quite well" following cardiac bypass surgery.



Book notes

CAROLYN MULFORD (62-64) has made it possible for you to learn what Elizabeth Dole is really like. Her book *ELIZABETH DOLE: PUBLIC SERVANT* was recently published by Enslow Publishers, Box 777, Hillside, NJ 07205 (\$18.95 + \$2.00 s&h).

Iowa State University Press has just published *ANTHROPOLOGY AND THE PEACE CORPS: CASE STUDIES IN CAREER PREPARATION* edited by **BRIAN E. SCHWIMMER** (Ghana 64-66) and **D. MICHAEL WARREN** (Ghana 64-66) It details the effect of Peace Corps service on Volunteers who subsequently became anthropologists. Among the over twenty contributors — **CURTIS PETERSON** (1966-70) whose personal account is entitled "Time to Grow."

The book can be ordered for \$29.95, write:

Iowa State University Press
2121 South State Avenue
Ames IA 50010-8300

A reissue with an introduction by Bill Moyers and a new afterword by the author of *OF KENNEDYS AND KINGS: MAKING SENSE OF THE SIXTIES* by Harris Wofford (staff 62-64) is now available from University of Pittsburgh Press, \$29.95 cloth, \$16.95 pb. To order, call: 800-666-2211.

South African report

Thirty years ago we went to Ethiopia which was then ranked as the poorest country in the world. Now I see that the scene of my latest exploits, Mozambique, is ranked at the top, or is it the bottom, of the "International Suffering Index." Ethiopia advances while I stay put, or is it just my luck to wind up with the basket cases?

To fill in the gap, I retired from the Foreign Service in 1990 to begin a career in private business where I now specialize in launching new ventures in several countries. My first effort was to revive the foundering operation in Turkey of the PR giant Hill and Knowlton. In less than ninety days I took it from a money loser to the most profitable office in the entire company.

After my wife, Sandra, who is still in the Foreign Service, got assigned to our embassy in Windhoek, Namibia, I followed the family to Southern Africa. My initial undertaking here has been to successfully establish the first major export company owned by a black businessman in South Africa (exports steel to Europe). My next project was, and still is, establishing an American venture in Mozambique. This is only the second US investment in that country, with the first one having been one I also orchestrated in 1986. I guess I can claim the dubious distinction of being the most knowledgeable American on investing in Mozambique. In addition, I am also placing Namibian art work and crafts in the American market, brokering a joint venture between South African and Mozambican firms, and assisting another black owned firm in South Africa.

Given the currently predominant theory that trade and investment are more important than official aid for developing countries, I find myself at the cutting

edge of the newest direction in economic development. It is rough. Most of these countries still have illusions of investors with bags of gold in their hands travelling the world seeking ideal locations for their funds. And of course each country is convinced that its sun, surf and sand combined with low wages, tax incentives, "skilled" work force, and cheap beer makes it the true investor's paradise. Correcting these images is the major hurdle, followed by overcoming the confusion in the minds of recipient countries over the difference between an aid organization and a profit-making enterprise. Anyway, the basic prescription of trade, not aid, is taking root and the recipients are better tuned in to this new wave in economic development.

While not directly related to Ethiopia and Eritrea, there is some news from this part of the world that may be of interest to those keeping contact with Africa. Most important, in my book, I was in Mozambique when the cease-fire was signed between the government and the rebels. The most noticeable reaction was that most of the refugees camped around the major cities started packing their bags and moving back to their rural homes. It will be a bit rough but I predict this termination of hostilities will hold.

Meanwhile, South Africa stumbles along the road to a "New South Africa" or, as I suspect, "New South Africas." It looks like there are too many poised to take power to be accommodated in just one country. The fierce and costly struggle to fill a power vacuum, already seen too often in Africa, is in full swing here.

At the same time Southern Africa shares the major sorrows of the rest of the continent with its worse drought in over 50 years and AIDS making inroads everywhere.

I don't know if this is suitable grist for your "Herald" mill but would be happy to send more comments from this part of Africa if desired. In any case I look forward to seeing you and all the other Ethiopia and Eritrea Peace Corps Vets at the Berkeley conference.

Best Regards,
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Global networking

The following letter was forwarded to E & E RPCVs by the Peace Corps Office of Returned Volunteers. I have sent out copies to the 14 RPCVs I have on my database as having served in the towns mentioned. However, the list is far from exhaustive and I would appreciate your sharing the letter with friends who would be interested.

September 26, 1992
Head Office of USA Peace Corps
Washington DC, USA
Dear Sirs,

The Gamo-Goffa Workshop in Vienna wants to get in touch with those USA Peace Corps Volunteers who had served in Gamo/Goffa region. The Ethiopian Southern Province of Gamo/goffa has
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five districts and towns: Arba-Minch, Chench, Gidole, Goffa and Bilki.

Since the Peace Corps had served in these towns, we hope there is interest in the good work they have done for this region. After the impossible years of the past, we want to communicate with them.

We request your good office to pass our above address so that we can start to communicate with them. Members of the Workshop are Ethiopians who had the opportunity to benefit from the service of the Peace Corps in Gama-Goffa.

Sincerely yours,
Mr. Tsehay Sintayehu, Chairman
Ferrogasse 26/10
A-1180 Vienna AUSTRIA

E & E RPCVs has just received a letter from TED WELLS (68-71). A copy of the above letter had been sent to him and his wife HELEN (68-71) by an RPCV from the Gamo Goffa area who had received my mailing who lives in Kansas. Ted and Helen live in New Plymouth, New Zealand and were anxious to reconnect both with their fellow RPCVs but also with the Gamo Goffa organization in Vienna. Now that's global networking!

Whence goeth the "affiliation fee?"

Thanks for reminding me of my expired membership. Also, my gratitude, and amazement, at the work and results you and the others have had with THE HERALD.

I do, however, object to paying the National Council an "affiliation fee" — they also collect such a "fee" from my local North Carolina RPCV group. What do they do for these "fees?"

Leonard Orzech (62-64)

— and the Executive Director replies

THE HERALD shared Len's letter with the National Council and received the following statement from Executive Director Chic Dambach in response:

The National Council of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers — Your National Network

The National Council is the alumni association for everyone who has served the Peace Corps, including staff, Volunteers, family members and other supporters. The Council is the network that keeps the Peace Corps family connected. It also provides leadership for the fulfillment of the third goal of the Peace Corps — bringing the world back home. In order to achieve these objectives, the National Council maintains a database (currently about 50,000 names and addresses), publishes a magazine and newsletters, produces materials for public education about the developing world, and serves as a vigorous advocate for a strong Peace Corps and for humanitarian foreign assistance. The Council produces a major annual conference for RPCVs and former staff, and it helps plan and support several other national conferences and events regarding foreign aid policies and programs.

The Council is a membership organization with both individual and group members. The affiliate groups are primarily geographic or country of service based. A few are oriented to specific issues or services. Organizations pay a fee of \$1 for each of their members in order to be affiliated with the National Council. In return, they are connected into the 107 group network. Through this network, the leaders of each group (5 in each) receive the Group Leaders Digest with information about programs and projects of the other groups as well as pertinent national news. They also receive special reports on important topics of immediate interest. This material is reprinted

regularly in the newsletters of the affiliates.

In addition, the National Council provides, at no additional cost, essential materials for organization development such as the Speakers Bureau Kit, the Development Education Manual, the RPCV Groups Reference Manual, etc. The National Council also provides an organization "how-to" kit with sample by-laws, tax exempt status materials, etc. Member organizations also participate in special workshops and programs, and they nominate and help elect the board of the National Council.

The National Council also works with its affiliate organizations on special projects. For example, it has promoted the Friends of Colombia/Horn of Africa fund raising project, and the sales of the Wisconsin group's calendar.

The Council has provided over \$30,000 in grants plus substantial technical assistance to affiliate organizations for global education programs. The Council also provides a cash award to the Winner of the annual Loret Ruppe Award. (In 1992, this award to an outstanding RPCV group went to RAVN, the Seattle RPCV group for their "Voices of Peace," a series of brown bag presentations to the community on developing countries and issues.)

These direct measurable benefits to the member organizations are only a small part of the reason for affiliation. The primary reason to join is to participate in and support the RPCV movement to fulfill the Peace Corps mission to bring the world back home and to have an impact on national and international issues and programs. For example, the National Council is coordinating a campaign to urge President-elect Clinton to name an RPCV as the next Peace Corps Director. It will work with the new administration and the Congress to promote and protect the growth and the integrity and vitality of the

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Peace Corps. It is also emerging as an important leader in the development of community service initiatives.

As the crisis in Somalia intensified, the Council, in cooperation with RPCVs from the area, provided the national news media with the names, qualifications and contact information about RPCVs with special expertise, and they have been interviewed. The unique Peace Corps Volunteer perspective has become part of the national awareness of the Somalia tragedy. We have an obligation to help Americans understand the needs, problems and opportunities in the countries where we have served. This is a prime example of the essential role of the National Council.

The combined power of the affiliated groups and the National Council can mobilize the talents and commitment of the former Volunteer and staff community and make a meaningful difference in America and in the world.

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THE HERALD wishes to thank the contributors for their efforts. They are greatly appreciated.

Ethiopia & Eritrea RPCVs membership

Name _____

Address _____

City, state, zip, country _____

Name when in the Peace Corps if different from above _____

Home phone _____

Work phone _____

Dates of Peace Corps—Ethiopia or Eritrea service and city/town of service _____

Group # and type of project _____

Other Peace Corps service - as staff or Volunteer - and years _____

\$35 Annual Dues (which include \$20 National Council membership)

\$15 If you are already a member of the National Council

Make your check payable to:
Ethiopia & Eritrea RPCVs

I would like work on

_____ for Ethiopia & Eritrea RPCVs.

Please send to:

Ethiopia & Eritrea RPCVs
c/o Marian Haley Beil
330 Brooklawn Drive
Rochester, NY 14618

You are invited to a book signing party celebrating the publication of
Riding the Whirlwind
a spy novel set in Ethiopia at the time of Haile Selassie
by Bereket Habte Selassie
at the office of Martyr Ganzglass — Somalia 66-68
O'Donnell, Schwartz and Anderson, 1900 L Street NW, Suite 707
Washington, District of Columbia
Friday, February 19, 1993 from 5 to 7 p.m.

Ethiopia & Eritrea RPCVs

c/o Marian Haley Bell
330 Brooklawn Drive
Rochester NY 14618-2925

Address correction requested