

The HERALD

Late Spring-Early Summer 1993 — Number 9

A publication of Ethiopia & Eritrea RPCVs, an affiliate of the National Council of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers

A REPORT FROM THE ERITREAN REFERENDUM

by Cynthia Tse Kimberlin (1962-64)

The African American Institute organized a 14-member U.S. delegation to observe the April 23-25 Eritrean Referendum. Cynthia Tse Kimberlin was a member of that delegation. Other Americans went on behalf of other special interest organizations. The following is excerpted from her report.

The towns included Korora (3 polling places), Maihumet (4), Agra'a (2), Heshkeb (1), Himbol (1), Apollo (1), Kubkub (1) and Qogaye (1). Other towns we visited to obtain a general sense of the political, historical and cultural environments included Nacfa, Afabet and Karen.

The fact that the majority of Sahel's inhabitants are nomadic posed special concerns for the Referendum Commission. Notably, it was difficult informing people about the referendum and getting them to the registration and voting places.

In general, the two-year preparation time paid off. The operation went very smoothly, including the training of the people, the efficiency of administrative matters, the professional conduct and the voting itself. Although the idea of common people having options and choices is still problematic, the two-year preparation time and the citizen involvement in the voting process gave individuals the feeling of "active" participation and the power to help one's destiny.

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SIX OF US TRAVELED 1368 KILOmeters by Toyota Land Cruiser and 32 kilometer by foot. Our party included myself and another observer, an interpreter, a driver, an African American Institute Intern and a graduate student. We were joined by a guide for a portion of the trip.

There were a large number of international observers — between 500 and 800. I sensed that the majority would be based in the large cities like Asmara and would make day trips to nearby towns. Thus, our party decided to evaluate the smaller out-of-the-way locales, where few observers went to gather data on the referendum process and results. The towns and polling sites we visited and evaluated were in the Sahel Region, the most northern of Eritrea's nine regions.

RPCV '93

It's never too late to decide to come to RPCV '93 at Berkeley from July 1 to July 5.

Some of the highpoints:

Thursday, July 1 —

Registration starting at 2:00 pm.

Dinner at the Asmara Restaurant, 5022 Telegraph near 51st, Oakland, 6:00 pm for all Ethiopia and Eritrea RPCVs. To get a ride from the conference site in the car pool meet at the registration site at 5:45 pm.

Friday, July 2 —

8:30 am. — Volunteer Day — This activity will provide an opportunity to make a small contribution to the host community, flex those volunteer muscles and schmooz with old pals and new who served in Ethiopia and Eritrea.

The project our group is assigned to is a "fire hazard reduction" project. It will involve cutting and removing the root system of French Broom, an invasive species, from an area having a stand of native oak trees. The terrain is flat. The work could be fairly strenuous and will require some strength and teamwork.

If this project is not for you other projects include coastal cleanup, sorting food at a food bank, doing home-repair for the elderly (if you have home-maintenance skills you'll be greatly appreciated here) and going on an outing with urban youth.

Lunch is provided for conference registrants.

7:00 pm — Opening reception, New Peace Corps Director speaks (if there is one!), multimedia presentation, ethnic music and dancing.

ETHIOPIA I Reunion (8:00 pm) Please see page 12 for full information.

Saturday, July 3 —

Speakers, workshops, music, film festival (2 pm to midnight), dance (7:30 pm).

Grand Bazaar from 9 to 5 with international vendors, art exhibit, environmental exhibits and plenty of T-shirts having Peace Corps themes being sold as fundraisers by RPCV groups.

12 pm — *Lunch at the Grand Bazaar*

ETHIOPIA & ERITREA RPCVs business meeting/country update/social. 2 pm to 5 pm (Site on campus to be announced at the conference.) Speakers will include David Arnold (64-66) who recently returned from a short-term teaching stint in Addis Ababa and Wayne Kessler (64-66) who will show slides from his photo show "Eritrea: Then and Now." We will then adjourn to the bar of the Hotel Durant, adjacent to the campus for more socializing.

Sunday, July 4 —

7:00 am — Run/walk for Peace

9:00 am-5:00 pm speakers, Grand Bazaar

Career Fair

6:00 pm — *Dinner cookout of ethnic foods*

Closing ceremony with speakers, awards, music and more.

A special thank you to Jim Solomon (63-65) for all the work he did to organize these special events for E & E RPCVs.

Monday, July 5 —

Workshops

President Bill Clinton may speak on national service to conference attendees on a hookup from San Francisco. He will be enroute to Japan and his scheduling is far from firm at this point, but the White House has expressed that there is serious consideration being given to this possibility. Subbing for Clinton's hoped-for at-the-site speech will be Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Invited (but not confirmed) speakers at the conference include Carl Pope India 67-69), Executive Director of the Sierra Club, Steve Hellinger, founder of the Development Group for Alternative Policies and Mae Jemison (PC doctor Liberia & Sierra Leone 82-84), astronaut and first African-American woman on a NASA mission.

Please register for the conference.

Ethiopia & Eritrea RPCVs booth at the Grand Bazaar

We will have a booth at the Grand Bazaar on Saturday and Sunday which will provide us with a meeting place and message drop. We are sharing it with RPCV WRITERS & READERS, the newsletter John Coyne (62-64) has been publishing for five years.



See soccer & students

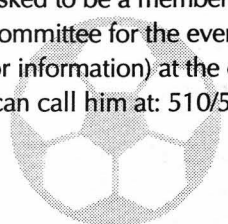
The San Francisco Walia Sports Club will be hosting the Ethiopian Soccer Federation of North America's 10th anniversary tournament during the same week the conference is being held. More than 24 teams from the U.S. and Canada are expected to draw more than 17,000 spectators to the event.

The matches will take place in Newark, California about 35 miles south of Berkeley. At the tournament site, a high school stadium, there will be a large number of events, including on the opening day a variety of dance and cultural events and band performances. Ongoing activities during the week include 15 Ethiopian restaurants serving food at the stadium, 40 concession stands (T-shirts, memorabilia, arts and crafts), day care (a "mini-Disneyland" will be set up), screening for AIDS and hypertension, and much, much more!

Some events connected with the tournament, including the closing ceremonies and celebration will be in Oakland. All RPCVs are invited to attend the matches and other gatherings. They are urged to wear their national dress to the closing ceremonies on July 4th which are scheduled to last until 3 am.

This event may offer a great opportunity to see old students or colleagues.

For more information see Jim Solomon (who was asked to be a member of the executive committee for the event when he called for information) at the conference. You can call him at: 510/538-9889.



WHO MIGHT BE THERE?

The following people may/will be at all/part of the conference/E&E RPCV presentation. Don't let indecision/cheapness keep you away!

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| Antonio Clementino (63-65) | Anne Kelley Poley (64-66) |
| Alan Cook (67-69) | Michael Rankin (72-73) |
| John Coyne (62-64) | Paul Reagan (62-64) |
| Susan Crane (66-68) | Michael Roddy (67-69) |
| John S. Cullison (68-70) | John Rude (62-64) |
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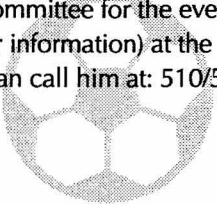
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Eritrean Referendum

Continued from page 1

There were two issues at stake for the referendum: (1) whether the people want Eritrea to be an independent country — which appears to be unanimous; and (2) whether the people support the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) political party. Some individuals expressed concern about the methods used by the EPLF in conducting rallies for the referendum and about the concentration of too much power within a single party. There is a general desire for multiple political parties in Eritrea but there is a question whether there will be freedom for all parties to speak out and debate freely. Intimidation was hard to discern although I strongly felt there was social pressure to conform to the majority EPLF line. This was evidenced by slogans, songs, dances, posters and conversations.

AFTER THE VOTING WAS completed, a concern of town officials was "now the work begins — where do we start rebuilding since there is so much to be done?" Individuals responded to that question with the following. "We want peace. We do not want any more war. We do not want any more fighting. We no longer want to continue killing our brothers. We want peace!"

Still, an enormous amount of work needs to be done. Some say the work is just beginning. A poignant example of just how much work needs to be done was revealed the day I returned to Mendefera (also known as Adi Ugri) to pay a visit to the town and school where I taught science, English and music. The school buildings were used as a prisoner-of-war camp in Mussolini's time during Italy's occupation. During Menghistu's reign, soldiers destroyed the school. When I taught there each room had desks for the students, a blackboard and one book for ever three

students. Today, there is nothing except bare rooms and rocks on the floor. The desks were burned for fire wood, the books were taken away, the modest science laboratory was destroyed and the equipment taken away, the tanks that formerly held water were riddled with bullet holes to prevent water storage, and the electrical generator was sabotaged. Even the metal entrance gates to the grounds were pulled up and destroyed — they were probably used to make weapons. Today the school operates with two shifts of students per day. The classrooms have rocks for chairs and laps for desks. Learning continues since students still study at night under the town street lamps — just as they did when I was there long ago.

ON APRIL 27TH I HEARD ISAIAS Afeworki speak on Eritrean radio. He stated:

Although liberated on May 24, 1991, the people of Eritrea decided to wait to acknowledge the legitimacy of their independence to the world by holding a referendum. 99.805% voted yes to have an independent Eritrea as reported by Dr. Amare Teclé, Head of the Referendum Commission. The referendum was free and fair as reported by UN observers. As of today, Eritrea is declared a free country with its own independence.

May 24, 1993 was the day when the proclamation of an independent Eritrea formally went into effect. I predict Eritrea will become the most stable country in Africa since it has political stability, an economic base and business acumen.

Cynthia Tse Kimberlin, an ethnomusicologist, is Co-Executive Director of the Music Research Institute. She was a member of one of the observer teams that monitored the elections in Ethiopia last year.

Women and drumming

From what I have read and in my experiences in North, East and West Africa, drumming in Africa is generally performed by men, particularly in the public domain. Some exceptions occur when women perform among themselves in the private domain. The fact that women in Ethiopia and Eritrea did not perform drumming in public was confirmed by some of my colleagues who lived in Ethiopia and Eritrea before 1974. I was astounded to see women playing the drums in public in Eritrea.

If drumming by women in the public arena was a common occurrence during this last trip to Eritrea, it may prove to be a major indicator of the improving living conditions, better social conditions and greater educational opportunities for women than they had before and that the future for women looks promising.

— Cynthia Tse Kimberlin
REFERENDUM REPORT

- ON JANUARY 4, 1993 STUDENTS at the University of Addis Ababa demonstrated against independence for Eritrea. The demonstration coincided with U.N. Secretary General Boutros-Boutros Ghali's visit to the city. The students had no permit to demonstrate. Police fired on the students killing at least one. Demonstrators claim that the protest was peaceful, that the police fired without warning, and that at least seven students were killed and over 100 wounded.

The government claims that the demonstrators fired on police, injuring three before the police opened fire. The government dismissed the chancellor and vice chancellor and closed the University on January 18th.

President Meles Zenawi of the Transitional Government (TGE) said that tear gas and less drastic riot control techniques were not used because the police have insufficient trained manpower and equipment. He also said that the referendum in Eritrea is the only option for solving the problem with Eritrea and that the referendum will not depend on the desires of some university students.

- THERE ARE AN ESTIMATED 25,000 to 100,000 Falash Mura in Ethiopia. These are descendants of Ethiopian Jews who converted to Christianity in the last century. Many Ethiopian Jews in Israel claim these non-Jews as brethren and insist that Israel receive them under Israel's "Law of Return" which gives every Jew the right of immigration.

A committee of Israeli cabinet ministers recommended in January of this year against offering automatic immigration rights to the Falash Mura. The Israeli government is attempting to compromise by assisting the immigration of Falash Mura who are close relatives of Jews already in Israel.

- IN HER BOOK, "A SONG OF LONGING" (February 1992 by the University of Illinois Press), Kay Kaufman Shelemay offers an alternative explanation for the origin of the Falasha. She suggests that their tradition originated in the early Judaized Christianity of the region and that Ethiopian Jews of today are descendants of those who refused to change their practices as mainstream Christianity in Ethiopia changed during the 14th and 15th centuries.

- WHEN ASKED WHAT WILL happen to Eritreans in Ethiopia if Eritrea chooses independence in the April referendum, Tamarat Layne, Prime Minister of the TGE has said they will have two choices: They may live in Ethiopia as expatriates like any other foreign nationals or they may choose Ethiopian citizenship.

- ISAIAS AFEWERKI, SECRETARY General of the Provisional Government of Eritrea was flown to Israel in January of this year for treatment for cerebral malaria. The treatment was successful and the Secretary returned to Asmara later in January. Some Arab governments, most especially Syria, criticized the trip to Israel.

- RESPONDING TO A QUESTION from an interviewer, Isaias Afewerki said that Eritrea will have three options for its currency when it is independent following the referendum. Eritrea will need to continue to use the Ethiopian Birr for a time, but then it could: (1) establish its own currency, (2) continue to use the Birr assuming the necessary agreements with the Ethiopian government that succeeds the TGE can be established), or (3) use a collective currency with Ethiopia or any other country in the region.

- SOMALIA MAY HAVE MORE homogeneity among its people than any other country in Africa. This contrasts

strongly with the multiethnic character of Eritrea, Ethiopia, and the Sudan. *BEYOND CONFLICT IN THE HORN* edited by Doornbos, Clifee, Ahmed, and Markakis (Red Sea Press, 15 Industry Court, Trenton, N.J. 08638; \$49.95 hb, \$16.95 pb) examines such opportunities and problems of the region and suggests courses of action

- ITEMS REPORTED IN THE Friends of Ethiopia February 1993 Newsletter:

The number of walia in Simien National Park has declined to 55. The condition of the park is very bad. One hundred fifty eight tourists visited there in the most recent budget year.

After 3 years, the Addis Ababa Battery Factory resumed production of automobile batteries last November. Production had been halted because of the shortage of hard currency for importing raw materials.

- ERITREANS AROUND THE world cast an overwhelming affirmative vote on a referendum to secede from Ethiopia. Voting took place in Eritrea April 23 to 25. Refugees living in other countries voted several weeks prior to that time.

- ETHIOPIA RECOGNIZED ERITREA as an independent and sovereign state according to a statement from the Foreign Affairs Ministry released May 3, 1993.

- ON MAY 28, 1993 ERITREA WAS admitted to the United Nations, raising membership to 183.

Tom Hankins 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

OUR OWN BIT OF INDECISIVENESS

Here it is, mid-June, and the post of Peace Corps Director has yet to be filled. There has been a *lot* of talk about the appointment. The last issue of *The Herald* listed the names of some RPCVs who — assuming that the assurance that an RPCV would get the post was accurate — had either an inside track or recommendations.

Reporter **AL KAMEN** (Dominican Republic 67-69), of *The Washington Post* has been doing a good job of documenting the drama in his columns, "The New Regime" and "In the Loop," which have provided a regular commentary on the talk of Washington regarding who is scratching-for/being-considered-for/being-pushed-by-whom for the plum political appointments in the Clinton administration.

Some excerpts from Al Kamen's columns:

1.27.93 Kathleen Kennedy Townsend has thrown in the towel on her effort to become Peace Corps Director, telling the powerful National Council of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers that the job, first held by her uncle, Sargent Shriver, has to go to a return PCV. . . . There are a number of candidates but the most visible of the pack appears to be **PATRICIA GARAMENDI** (66-68). . . . **CHARLES R. BAQUET III**, a former volunteer in Somalia who is ambassador to Djibouti, also is mentioned. Garamendi appears to have a geographic advantage over Baquet: she's told sources that she's staying over at the White House tonight as a guest of the First Couple.

2.10.93 "Heads have been rolling over at the troubled Peace Corps Acting Director Barbara Zartman, in charge since director Elaine Chao went to the

United Way, has been bounced after, among other things, getting on the bad side of House Foreign Relations Committee boss Lee H. Hamilton (D-Ind.). The tow disagreed over programs in the former Soviet Union. . . ."

3.15.93 There is a new candidate under consideration for Peace Corps director: **JUANA BORDAS**, who was a volunteer to Chile in the 1960s [64-66]. Bordas, who lives in Denver . . . was interviewed recently by White House personnel director Bruce Lindsey.

4.8.93 Nothing official yet, but the White House has been introducing **CHARLES R. BAQUET III**, a career Foreign Service officer, former Peace Corps volunteer in Somalia, now ambassador to Djibouti, to folks on the Hill as the next director of the Peace Corps.

4.21.93 Some Want 'Star' to Shine Over Peace Corps: Just when it seemed that the three-month-old Clinton administration had settled on **CHARLES R. BAQUET III** to head the Peace Corps — to the point of introducing him as such to folks on Capitol Hill recently — the process appears to have stalled. Baquet, a career Foreign Service officer and former volunteer in Somalia who is ambassador to Djibouti, may not be "charismatic" enough for some White House types, sources say. Some administration officials prefer someone with "star" quality or national name recognition for the job which would appear to rule out many of the former volunteers and would-be finalists.

One source, upset that former volunteer status is now not deemed enough to qualify for the job, said the scuttlebutt was that . . . **BILL MOYERS** . . . was being considered.

Not so, says Moyers. He says he's not interested and, besides, the next director should be a former volunteer.

5.24.93 Heeeeeeeeeeee's Johnnie: The search for a Peace Corps director goes on and on and on. The latest leading contender appears to be a former volunteer and now career foreign service officer named **JOHNNIE CARSON**. Sources say Carson, a volunteer in mid-1960s in Tanzania and now ambassador to Uganda, was at the White House last week being interviewed for the job. No word on how things went.

And from other sources:

2.15.93 *U.S. News & World Report* states in "Washington Whispers": "For the first time the job (of PC Director) will go to a former volunteer."

3.93 The March, 1993 *Peace Corps Monthly* announced that **JOHN P. HOGAN** (Venezuela 64-66) succeeded Barbara Zartman as Acting Director of the Peace Corps. He, thus, became the first RPCV to head the agency.

3.20.93 Barbara Zartman had a letter published in the *Washington Post* in which she denied all of Al Kamen's comments in her regard.

3.26.93 The *Times-Picayune* of New Orleans reported that Chuck Baquet (Somalia 66-68), a native of New Orleans and current Ambassador to Djibouti, was on the "short list" for the Directorship.

The *Sentinel* of Milwaukee reported that political friends were pushing the name of Rep. **JIM MOODY** (D-Wis.) (Pakistan 1961-63) for the job of PC Director.

6.11.93 **KAREN DEWITT** (66-68) reported in the *New York Times* that

News from the National Council of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers

The CONNECTICUT RPCVS are planning to host a regional RPCV conference in New Haven on the weekend of November 12-14, 1993. For more information contact: Shelley Cruz, PO Box 8614, New Haven CT 06531; phone: 203-397-1849 (evenings).



Peace Corps programs - what's hot, what's not

NEW AND RENEWED PROGRAMS: Trainees arrived in **CHINA** June 12—they will be English teacher trainers. • After a hiatus of 14 years Volunteers are returning to **EL SALVADOR** in September to work in the areas of natural resource management and small business development. • TEFL teacher trainers are due to arrive in **MADAGASCAR** in early September to begin training. • In December, 1992 Peace Corps signed an agreement that will lead to PCVs serving in **KAZAKHSTAN**, where they will work in small business development and TEFL teacher training. • The first 47 Small Business Volunteers to serve in **UKRAINE** were officially sworn-in on February 4 in Kiev. • In June, 1993 TEFL Volunteers will arrive in **MOLDOVA**. • 25 Volunteers will begin service in **TURKMENISTAN** in October.

SUSPENDED: For security reasons—**RWANDA** (2/22/93) and **EQUATORIAL GUINEA** (2/24/93)

CAROL BELLAMY (Guatemala 63-65) is President Clinton's choice to become Director of the Peace Corps. That article included this quote: "The agency needs someone who not only has the head but also the heart for the job," said **JOHN COYNE** [62-64], editor of [RPCV] Writers and Readers, an independent Peace Corps newsletter. "It remains to be seen, if, after a lifetime of politics in New York, she still has the heart of the volunteer."

Readers of *THE HERALD* may recall that **DONNA SHALALA** (62-64) was recommending Carol for the job early on, but she wasn't interested. Seems she had high hopes for to become state comptroller of New York. That didn't happen, so she became interested.

6.21.93 Word has it that momentarily **CAROL BELLAMY** will be announced as the next Peace Corps director. Stay tuned.

..... H E L P !

Current requests from PCVs for items to support their projects include:

- 30 boxes of crayons
- 15 life preservers
- Mac SE/30
- 10 sewing machines
- carpentry tools
- 20 basketballs
- 13 short-wave hand-held radios
- 10 typewriters
- No partridges in pear trees

If you can help, contact Taylor Houck, Gifts-in-Kind, at 800/424-8580 ext 2227.

On pages 8 and 9 are supplements prepared by the National Council of RPCVs which include news from the Washington office plus information from the Constituency for Sustainable Development, a broad-based National Council action group interested in supporting the advocacy of sustainable development for the Third World.

President Clinton may come to Berkeley

The White House has indicated that President Clinton may join us at the National Council's annual conference in Berkeley on Monday afternoon, July 5. We won't know for sure until shortly before the conference, but the

chances look very good that he will stop en route to Japan and address our conference on national service and other issues. Spread the word to others who are planning to attend the conference and stay through July 5.

NATIONAL COUNCIL NEWS FOR RETURNED PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS

A May-June supplement from the National Council of RPCVs

Delay for agency director

As of mid-May, the Clinton administration has not named a new Peace Corps director. But Charles F. Dambach, the director of the National Council of RPCVs, has been assured that the President still intends to appoint an RPCV.

While everyone in the Peace Corps family is anxious for an appointment, there is a positive element to the delay; It suggests that the administration is seriously trying to find the best candidate rather than settling for a politically expedient choice. Furthermore, a quick decision is not essential since acting director Jack Hogan (Venezuela, 1964-66, Colombia, 1966-68, Burkina Faso, 1979-82,) is doing an excellent job.

On the other hand, the delay makes it harder for the agency to effectively argue its case for budget support and several major policy and staff decisions have been postponed.

National service wants returned volunteers

Using the Peace Corps as a model, President Clinton recently announced his plans for a major national and community service program. The White House Office of National Service

has discussed the proposals with the director of the National Council of RPCVs, and wants RPCVs to help.

The first phase will be a special "Summer of Service" program for young volunteers to perform community service this summer. It will provide opportunities for young people to serve in their communities, and they would receive financial support for their education expenses.

Details will be provided to the groups in the areas chosen for funding this summer: Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Delaware (Ohio), Los Angeles, Newark, New Orleans, New York City, Oakland, Philadelphia, and rural Native American sites in Minnesota and Arizona.

Childhood immunization needs volunteer support

The Department of Health and Human Services and the Office of National Service have expressed interest in the potential role of RPCVs in the new childhood immunization program. Several RPCV groups have expressed interest in the program, and plans are being developed.

Any interested group should contact the National Council of RPCVs office.

Council reaches 10,000

Membership in the National Council of RPCVs as of May 1993 is 10,324. Much of the credit goes to a successful Fall 1992 membership drive which was conducted in cooperation with 48 affiliate groups. We'll be continuing throughout the summer to test methods for increasing our membership even more and will be conducting another big membership drive in the fall of 1993.

Recruit for careers

The National Conference Career Fair needs your help. Do you work in an organization that may want to recruit returned Peace Corps volunteers? Would you help advertise this need? Please contact Lenore Waters, 510 843 7761, or write to 1731 California St., No. 4, Berkeley, Calif., 94705.

Register for Berkeley

More than 2,000 returned Peace Corps volunteers are expected to attend the National Conference. There is still time to sign up. There will be more world-class entertainment, programs and workshops than ever. Forms are in the spring issue of *WorldView*, the National Council's advocacy newsletter, *Constituent*, and the ballot for by-laws changes.

RPCVs organize in Western Montana

Returned Peace Corps volunteers in Western Montana have formed a new group and have affiliated with the National Council. More than 100 groups are affiliated with the National Council of RPCVs.

RPCVs form group on world literacy

A new special-interest group is forming as part of the International Reading Association to focus on world literacy. All RPCVs who are members of the IRA should contact James Hoffman, Language and Literacy Studies, College of Education (EDB 406), the University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas, 78712.

Peace Corps budget in trouble

The Peace Corps requires a budget of \$254 million to assure quality programs and expand the number of volunteers to 8,000 in 1994. This represents only \$1 per U.S. citizen.

In spite of that, the Clinton Administration has proposed a Peace Corps budget of only \$219.7 million. That is less than one half of one percent more than FY 1993 and will support only 6,114 volunteers. Contrast this with increases of up to

\$20 million a year over the last five years and it seems a disappointing request.

But without your support, the Peace Corps may be lucky to get even \$219.7 million. The House and Senate Appropriations Committees are highly unlikely to recommend much more than the Clinton Administration has proposed, and they might reduce it.

But, there is another option. \$1.6 billion has been earmarked to aid countries of the former Soviet Union.

Of these funds, \$34.3 million could be transferred to support Peace Corps programs in those countries. This would free up funds from the \$219.7 million Peace Corps appropriation to support programs in traditional Peace Corps countries.

This transfer makes sense, because the Peace Corps has programs up and running in the former Soviet Union. The Peace Corps is prepared to respond quickly through proven programs requested by host countries. With Peace Corps programs, the U.S. taxpayer knows the assistance is going directly to the Russian people, helping them to help themselves.

Take action...

Ask these Congressional Leaders to support a budget of \$254 million for the Peace Corps in fiscal year 1994. This is \$34.3 million more than requested by the Clinton Administration. Suggest that the additional funds be transferred from the \$1.6 billion earmarked for the former Soviet Union to Peace Corps programs in those countries. Peace Corps volunteers are agents of sustainable development who can effectively use this support.

Senate

Sen. Patrick J. Leahy (VT); Chair Foreign Operations Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee
137 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Sen. Joseph R. Biden, Jr. (DE); Chair Subcommittee on European Affairs of the Foreign Relations Committee
446 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

House

Rep. David R. Obey (WI), Chair Foreign Operations Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Rep. Lee H. Hamilton (IN), Chair Foreign Affairs Committee & Subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East
2170 Rayburn Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

CONSTITUENT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

A May-June advocacy supplement from Constituency for Sustainable Development

Many neighbors, one earth

There is still time to write your senators and representatives requesting support for the Many Neighbors, One Earth resolution that calls for a new goal for the foreign assistance program: the elimination of poverty and hunger in an environmentally sustainable manner. The resolution was drafted by Bread for the World in collaboration with a coalition of development and environmental organizations.

During a series of recent Hill visits by National Council staff and other members of InterAction, members of Congress and their staffs repeatedly said that they never write them about foreign assistance, and that if they do, they oppose it. Let them know there is a constituency for development.

Write to lawmakers and send copies to Constituency for Sustainable Development. Questions? Call 202 462 5938.

I WILL ADVOCATE CHANGE

I want to make a difference in Washington and the developing world. Send me information about the Constituency for Sustainable Development.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Bus. tel. _____ Res. tel. _____ Fax _____

Mail to National Council of RPCVs, 2119 S St., Washington DC, 20008-4011

E & E RPCVS MAKES ITS FIRST DONATION

Ethiopia & Eritrea RPCVs has donated \$300 to "Books for Eritrea," a program organized by Wayne and Laurie Kessler (64-66) and co-sponsored by NORCAL, the RPCV group of Northern California.

The following are updates from Wayne on "Books for Eritrea":

4.19.93 "We have collected over 900 cubic feet of books, mostly in math, science and English; some are in San Francisco, some in Washington state and the majority in Redding [Ca.].

"The plan at present is to have Books for Africa (an organization whose headquarters is in Minneapolis) handle the shipping of a container 7'x7'x20 at a cost of about \$7200. So far, we have

collected \$2102. If need be, we can owe money to Books for Africa if we have not raised enough by shipping time in early June.

"The Eritrean Relief Committee and RPCVs will have a 'packing party' in the Bay Area May 29 and 30, following preliminary sorting and packing in Redding done by RPCVs on May 16.

"Since the school year begins in September, we believe that the June shipping date will allow the books to arrive in Eritrea by then and to be received and distributed by the office of the Hamasien Division of the Department of Education. We see these books

as being of greatest help to teachers as resource materials; we know that Eritrea is developing a new curriculum and plans to write and print textbooks for that curriculum."

6.3.93 They're on their way! On May 29 twenty or so Eritreans returned Peace Corps Volunteers packed about 18,000 textbooks into a twenty-foot shipping container. By mid-August they should be in the Department of Education in Asmara.

We have raised \$3000 of the \$7200 shipping bill. So, you can see that we welcome further donations, payable to "Books for Africa."

Some terse words from the Steering Committee Chairs

Tenystillin!

Indemin allu? Hopefully, we can find out in person when we meet at the RPCV '93 Conference at Berkeley on July 1 to 5. Make it a priority of your summer to come and investigate ecological harmony (the theme of the conference). My daughter, Renee, majoring in environmental science, thinks that should be my main motive in attending!

While you're packing, add some energy, inertia and ideas of what you'd like E & E RPCVs to do? . . . to accomplish? . . . to help rebuild the countries? I am more than annoyed that we have a steering Committee which represents all regions of the country and when we ask for ideas for projects, we get ZERO, i.e. ZIP, i.e. NO RESPONSE? anyone

LISTENING? Are we content to meld into a group who rests on past laurels and war stories? Are we willing to read the newsletter, put it down, and make no commitment? Connected only by a newsletter? I hope not!

E & E RPCVs could be a formidable group. We could lobby for and help rebuild Ethiopia and Eritrea. Our numbers are great. We, in conjunction with Ethiopians and Eritreans, could set some realistic goals and help refurbish the countries. Ethiopians and Eritreans in this country may welcome our help to get their countries moving again. In this newsletter Wayne Kessler (64-66) and David Arnold (64-66) have suggested concrete ways to help:

- Raise money for medical and food aid and educational supplies.

- Send new or used equipment such as computers, photo copiers and fax machines and books.
- Write to Peace Corps and U. S. government officials to encourage early cooperation with Eritrea.
- Urge short-term help in teacher training and curriculum development.
- Organize and participate in short-term in-country education projects.

Surely, we can come up with ideas for viable projects. We have the knowledge of the culture and the language. Let's put it to use!

Fran Fisher LaCroix (62-64)
Karen Blanchard (66-68)
Co-chairs, Ethiopia and Eritrea RPCVs

ETHIOPIA & ERITREA FINANCES

Please recommend worthy organizations working to help Ethiopia and Eritrea to which our group might make a donation. Send full information to the Steering Committee Chairs – their addresses are on page 19. Maybe ask them to set up some funding guidelines for our group, too.



What kinds of projects do other "country of service" groups do?

Friends of Colombia is developing a summer intern program for Colombian students which the group will administer in the Washington DC area. They will cover the students' travel costs, secure a host family for housing and pursue options to finance a monthly stipend. During the past year they also raised funds for Operation Smile and for shipping medical supplies to Colombia.

Friends of Morocco is compiling a source list of things Moroccan — restaurants, retailers of Moroccan goods, speakers from or about Morocco, exhibits of Moroccan art, sources for Moroccan musical recordings, cooking spices, books, tours, etc. to be a resource for members.

Cash Flow Report

	4/1/91-
<i>Category Description</i>	<i>6/17/93</i>
Income	
Dues rebated from the National Council (NC)	\$2,377.52
Dues-includes "Rebates to NC"	6,250.00
Rebates to NC	-2,155.00
Total Income	6,472.52
Expenses	
Affiliation fees to NC	332.00
Bank charges	16.60
Donations	300.00
Joint membership drive with NC	88.62
Memberships to other organizations	20.00
Photo copying	75.55
Postage	962.17
Publications: books	11.95
Subscriptions	107.95
THE HERALD:	
Labels	52.50
Photocopying	860.48
Return postage	143.46
Shipping	42.48
Total THE HERALD (excluding postage)	1,098.92
Total Expenses	3,013.76
Total on hand-6/17/93	\$3,458.76

SOME NOTES: Similar figures breaking down this information by year can be provided upon request.

I shall be glad to answer any questions regarding this information.

Costs for this issue of THE HERALD are not included.

Marian Haley Beil

Book Review

AN EVALUATION OF THE JUNE 21, 1992 ELECTIONS IN ETHIOPIA

Published by the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs of the African-American Institute, 1992. 159 pages; glossary, appendices

Reviewed by

Robert E. Hamilton, Ph.D. (65-67)

The African -American Institute, based in New York City, organized a 70-member delegation in 1991 and 1992 and collaborated with the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs to observe the preparations for as well as the elections held in Ethiopia on June 21, 1992. The NDI-AAI delegation joined 130 other observers from 23 countries to monitor the election at the invitation of the National Election Commission in Ethiopia. An Evaluation of the June 21, 1992 Elections in Ethiopia is the NDI-AAI report of the entire pre-election process and results.

With the military defeat of Mengistu Haile Mariam's government and his departure in May 1991, Ethiopia entered a transitional period which required the victors to address the issues of (1) ethnicity, or "national identities" and (2) class and gender. The election in June 1992 and the 1993 referendum in Eritrea, signalled that the Transitional Government of Ethiopia (TGE) was prepared to decentralize political authority and to share it in some way among various ethnic and regional governments. The TGE also wanted to reduce and minimize armed conflict within the new Ethiopia, replace the previous administrators, and demonstrate "the TGE's commitment to political pluralism." (p. 2) To-date, Ethiopian and Eritrean leadership have indicated that they intend to resolve the national identities issue first before

attempting to resolve gender- and wealth-related social issues.

This report is a tedious one, intended more for the academic and international development specialist than for the general public. The appendices account for about 50% of the entire text and include a mix of useful and handy tables and listings and others which will appeal to only a handful of scholars. The authors note that, "The June 21 elections did not achieve their proclaimed objectives" (p. 3) for four reasons: lack of real political competition, a seriously flawed electoral process, unresolved ethnic problems in the southern part of the country and the TGE did not adequately explain the concept of multiparty elections to Ethiopian voters. Because of these problems, the Oromo Liberation Front, representing the second largest group in the interim Council of Representatives, stymied the hopes of election officials and observers by withdrawing from the election. Thus, the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) continues to dominate a fragmented political system without a vision, plan or mission acceptable to all the "nationalities." This will make it even more difficult to fashion economic and political relations with Eritrea, which became an independent country on May 23.

Readers with a short attention span or tight schedule will benefit most from reading the Preface (5 pages), Chapter 1: Overview (7 pages), and Chapter 6: Reflections on the Ethiopian Transition (12 pages).

Robert Hamilton, Ph.D. is an educational and business consultant. His company, Classroom Africa, is headquartered in Portland, Oregon.

ETHIOPIA I REUNION AT BERKELEY

Mark Himelstein will host a reunion of Ethiopia I at his home in Berkeley on Friday, July 2 at 8:00 pm. There will be a charge of under \$20 per person (precise amount to be decided then) to cover costs.

To walk to Mark's from the conference site:

Take University Martin Luther King Avenue (also known as Old Grove).

Turn right (north) on Martin Luther King Avenue and go to Marin Avenue.

Turn left (west) on Marin Avenue, go one and a half blocks to Mark's home — 1809 Marin Avenue.

To call Mark — 510-526-9229.

To call Tom Gallagher if you have transportation needs or questions — 415-931-9604



You can have personalized license plate frames, too! The Northern California RPCVs are selling them for just \$12.00 as a fundraiser. They're available in a variety of colors.

They're great, we have six of them — and we only have two cars! For the full info, write:

NorCal RPCVs
PO Box 2547
San Francisco CA 94126

FYI...

- The John F. Kennedy Library in Boston maintains a repository of personal papers of RPCVs relating to their experiences in the field. The collection includes letters, diaries, manuscripts, books, photos, audio tapes, films, drawings and other items from both Volunteers and staff. If you would like to donate materials to the library, write for donation procedures to: Susan D'Entremont, Peace Corps Collection, J.F. Kennedy Library, Columbia Point, Boston MA 02125.
- An Ethiopian doctoral student, Haile Abebe, is publishing a new magazine, *Ethiopian Commentator*. The magazine is a memorial to his oldest brother who was killed in the war. Recent articles include an open letter to the transitional government of Ethiopia, an interview with the Ethiopian ambassador to the U.S. and views from Ethiopians at home and abroad. Editorials focus on protection of human rights and decentralizing the economy. *Ethiopian Commentator* has twenty Ph.D. writers on its staff. It is published quarterly in Portage, Michigan with subscription rates of \$12 a year plus postage. If interested, write: *Ethiopian Commentator*, PO Box 1655, Portage MI 49081. Or call: 616-373-1106. Haile was brought to the U.S. by RPCVs and is now trying to locate Bob and Linda Redwine who served in Ethiopia in 1970-71.
- *WHO'S WHO IN THE PEACE CORPS*, a reference sourcebook, lists current information on approximately 50,000 (of 150,000) returned Volunteers. It lists them alphabetically, by country of service and by current address. Paperback copies are \$40.00, hardbound, \$60.00. It was produced by an independent company that generates directo-

ries. To order your copy write: Reference Press International, PO Box 4126 Greenwich CT 06830-0126. Call 800-786-6777x130.

- The 342-page book, *THE COINAGE OF ETHIOPIA, ERITREA AND ITALIAN SOMALIA*, by Dennis Gill received the 1992 Book Prize from the International Association of Professional Numismatists. It is available for \$25.00 plus \$2.00 p & h from the author at PO Box 175, Garden City NY 11530.
- Do you know any students in grades 4 to 8 who you would like to learn more about the country where you served in the Peace Corps? *ETHIOPIA: THE ROOF OF AFRICA* by Jane Kurtz (Dillon Press) has history, ancient and recent, geography and information about daily

life, holidays and religions. With color photos, a several-page glossary of Amharic words and even a list of Embassies and Consulates in the U.S. and Canada, this book makes a very full presentation to acquaint the young reader with this special place.

Are you thinking of volunteering for the Peace Corps after you retire? Why don't you begin now to study a language that will help you? Spanish? French? Russian?

LOST & FOUND

- Alema Hailu would like to communicate with his Peace Corps teacher **SHARON CAMPBELL**. Write him at: Eritrea Relief and Rehabilitation Agency, c/o Tesfa A. Seyoum, PO Box 1098, Asmara, Eritrea.
- Ghirmsi Ghezai of the Itegue Menen Dresser School, Asmara, would like to contact **KATHLEEN ANN ?** and **REBECCA ?** (69). His phone number in Maryland is 301-341-0884.
- Girma Asfaw would like to contact **VERNON J. FULCHER**,

who taught geography at Prince Menelik Secondary School in Addis Ababa 1967-68. Girma remembers the Youth Club that Vernon founded and still has a photo of him. Girma is a Fellow at Boston University and can be reached at: 512 Beacon Street, Box 4013, Boston MA 02215; phone 617-352-7501.

- **BARBARA BENZAIA** (65-67) is trying to locate **SHERRIE FREEMAN** (65-67) of Ethiopia V Medical Unit. Please contact Barbara at: 122 Sheffield Lane, McMurray PA 15317; home, 412-942-3481, work, 412-745-3105.

F R I E N D S

• **ETHIOPIA V MEDICAL UNIT** (65-67) is planning a reunion in Milwaukee, Wisconsin October 21-24, 1993. For more information write: Barbara Bensaia, 122 Sheffield Lane, McMurray, Pennsylvania 15317.

• *This from the May, 1993 issue of ReConnections, the newsletter of the West Cascade RPCVs of Eugene, Oregon:*

"AMAZING, BUT TRUE!!

"**COURTNEY ARNOLD** (64-66) recently went to the airport in Washington, DC to pick up her husband, **DAVID** (64-66), who was coming back to the States from a temporary assignment teaching journalists in Ethiopia.

-*"As she was waiting, she struck up a casual conversation with a couple of little girls waiting with their father for their mother to come on a plane from Paris.*

"Come to find out, the mother, Debre Work Zewdie, was from Asbe Teferi, and happened to be in Courtney and David's 7th grade class back in 1964 while they were Peace Corps Volunteers in Ethiopia! The mother is an immunologist with a Ph.D. who had been working in Kenya. Courtney and David were the first Peace Corps teachers she had."

• **BILL BAGGS** (62-64) wrote wondering if I could get him a copy of the Ethi I "funny book." (I could.) Seems that several years ago stole it along with Bill's Ethiopia slides. *Kinda makes you wonder what the thief was up to. Was s/he planning to pass as an Ethi I?*

• The 2/1/93 Washington Post reported: "**LINDA A. BERGTHOLD** (62-64) has come to Washington to take her turn in one of the biggest policy games in town.

"For the next few months, Bergthold will help form health care policy positions for the Washington Business Group on Health, a national nonprofit group of 180 mostly large businesses. . . ."

• **SALLY COLLIER CAIOLA** (62-64) and her husband have moved to the bayou country of Monroe, Louisiana. She's hoping for an Ethi I reunion there — "there'd be *nothing* to do except look at the bayou and talk."

• Former Peace Corps Director and current head of United Way **ELAINE CHAO** married Senator Mitch McConnell (R.-Ky.)

• First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton's brother, **HUGH RODHAM, JR.**, served as a PCV in Colombia from 1972 to 73.

• According to the Rochester, N.Y. *Democrat & Chronicle*, Former Peace Corps Director and freshman U.S. Senator **PAUL COVERDELL** (R.-Ga.) had a Zöe Baird problem.

• **JOHN COYNE** (62-64) wrote a book review for the 2/4/93 *Washington Post* "Style" section.

• Did you know that the irreverent country/western singer/songwriter (*THEY AIN'T MAKING JEWS LIKE JESUS ANYMORE*) and mystery writer **KINKY FRIEDMAN** is an RPCV? He served in Borneo (67-69). He has a new video with Willie Nelson and you can get the full info on all his products by calling 1-800-52-KINKY.

• **JOHN** and **PATTI GARAMENDI** (66-68) took some heat in the December 22 issue of the *Washington Post* for their Christmas card showing a "family" photo which included Bill Clinton in the grouping. Said the *Post*: "Even in these days of the Great Suck-Up, this seemed a bit much."

• **DAVE GURR** (62-64) has been slowly recovering from a illness which has troubled him for a year and a half. Dave works for ACTION in Washington.

• **TAYLOR HACKFORD** (Bolivia 68-69), who directed *AN OFFICER AND A GENTLEMAN*, *AGAINST ALL ODDS* and *EVERYBODY'S ALL-AMERICAN* and produced *LA BAMBA* had a new movie released this spring — *BLOOD IN BLOOD OUT*.

• **REP. TONY P. HALL** (D-Ohio) (Thailand 66-68) went on a 22-day fast to refocus the attention of the government and the nation on hunger. Hall ended his water-only fast after the Agriculture Department announced it would hold a national hunger conference and a series of regional forums and the World Bank announced a similar summit.

• **NYLE KARDATZKE** (62-64) wrote on Eritrean Independence Day that he has moved to Wichita, Kansas. He won't be able to attend the conference/reunion in Berkeley but wants to keep in touch.

• When **WAYNE KESSLER** (64-66) returned from a visit to Eritrea last year, he carried with him a letter of request from Beraki Ghebreselassi, Head of Eritrea's Department of Education, for volunteer ESL (English as a second language) specialists to assist with teacher training and curriculum development. His wife, **LAURIE** (64-66), has accepted the invitation and will work with the Department in July and August. So will at least four other ESL volunteers recruited through Laurie's submission of a summary of Beraki's request to TESOL Matters, a bimonthly publication of Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages. The notice appeared in late

December, and by mid-April thirteen people had requested more information from the Kesslers. Inquiries arrived from Korea and Japan, as well as various parts of this country.

Laurie promises a report on the work of these volunteers for a future edition of THE HERALD.

- The Shasta County (California) Arts Council presented a show of photographs by **WAYNE KESSLER** this spring entitled *Eritrea: Then and Now, The story of a new country told in photographs*. A fund-raising event held as part of the opening for the show raised nearly \$300 for "Books for Eritrea."

- **JUDITH HODGES KIRIAZIS** (65-67) writes that "the Peace Corps is alive and well and living still in Paris." She reports that **SUSAN AND JOHN LAWSON** (62-64) are living in Versailles. Susan is "still volunteering" as well as working on a TESOL degree at the Women's Institute for Continuing Education in Paris. Judith and **PHIL LILIENTHAL** (65-67) recently had dinner and reminisced. Phil was recruiting for his boys camp in Maine — "in Paris, Nice, Monaco, Bordeaux and Madrid!"

- **LOIS MEIER** (62-64) writes from Fairbanks that she won't be able to attend the Berkeley conference and sends her best wishes.

- **JACK PREBIS** (62-64) carried the Ethiopian flag in the Peace Corps contingent that marched in the Inaugural Parade January 20th (you might have seen him on the CNN coverage). Others among the group, which numbered a whopping 250, were **COURTNEY** and **DAVID ARNOLD** (64-66), **MARIAN HALEY BEIL** (62-64), **JOYCE CAMPBELL** (62-64) and **CAROLYN MULFORD** (62-

64). The euphoria and anticipation of an exciting new era filled the city that day. It's astonishing how long ago that time seems!

- Talk about the one-two punch. **JOHN REX** (62-64) has just finished up a year-long ministry internship in Rochester, New York, now he's off to India. He'll be spending time in Bangalore, Calcutta and Madras. John is a student at the Star King Divinity School in Berkeley, California.

- *The National Council forwarded the following letter:*

This letter is in regards to my uncle, Peace Corps Volunteer **JAMES BURNS RYAN**. He died September 1st, 1972 while serving in Ethiopia. I would like to gain all the information possible on the school he started and the members of his team.

I would like to receive information on the other volunteers or P.C. leaders that he may have known. Also, if you could inform me of any other ways that I might gain information on the school and what has happened to it since he left. I would greatly appreciate it.

Sincerely,
Dana M. Thompson
125 S Crescent Drive #1
Beverly Hills CA 90212

- **PAUL TSONGAS** (62-64) was featured in an article in the June 4-6 issue of *USA Weekend* marking that Sunday as Cancer Survivors Day. In the article Paul shared his feelings as a cancer survivor, offering his philosophy of dealing with the trials of life and recognizing what is truly important.

- **BETTY ZAKARIAN** (62-64) won't be able to attend RPCV '93 at Berkeley — she'll be travelling in Ecuador.



Book notes

Carlson Publishing, Inc. has published *VOICE OF DISSENT: THEOPHILUS GOULD STEWARD (1843-1924) AND BLACK AMERICA* by William Seraile (63-65). According to Howard Dodson of the NY Public Library: "(This) well documented study of Steward is a major contribution to our understanding of a significant figure in African American history. Additionally, the portrait he presents of black life in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century will be essential reading for everyone interested in this crucial period in American history." Seraile is Professor of African American history in the Department of Black Studies, Lehman College of the City University of New York where he was Teacher of the year in 1991. The book is available from the publisher for \$25.00.

DESIGNS FOR A UTOPIAN ZOO: SELECTED POETRY OF DAVID WILEY (62-64), with drawings also by Dave, has recently been published. It is available from The Paper Plant, PO Box 543, Raleigh NC 27602 for \$6.00. Several of the poems are directly related to Ethiopia and a few others contain references to Ethiopia. See page 16 of this newsletter for "Rimbaud's House" from the collection.

South African report

17 March

First the good news. The cease-fire in Mozambique still hold and that poor country is quietly picking up the pieces and trying to rebuild its economy. The Mozambicans are good people and deserve whatever tranquility and assistance they can get.

The other major happy note is that the devastation drought has finally broken and agriculture throughout Southern Africa is reviving. Namibia has had particularly heavy rainfall, the most it has seen in many a year.

The rains have also restored some confidence in South Africa and the country is close to renewing the multiparty discussions for a new government. The bitter fighting for political turf and the best positioning for future negotiations is still causing too much death and destruction, however, and I still maintain my prediction that there are too many separate demands and aspirations to accommodate in just one country.

Other somber notes start with the renewed civil war in Angola. It would appear that the government, flush with election victory, did not feel obliged to yield much to the rebels. Accommodation does not seem to be a term in the lexicon of African political leaders.

Meanwhile Namibia is trying desperately to stay out of the renewed strife across its northern border with Angola. It refuses entry into the country to Angolan refugees from the fighting, quite a contrast to the open access given by Angola to Namibian rebels during its long struggle for independence. Namibia was embarrassed to find that mercenaries injured in Angola were being treated in Namibian medical facilities. A curious note here was that the mercenaries

appeared to be fighting for the government, and not the rebels.

While the rains have returned and agriculture looks good, little else seems to be going well in the South African economy. Unemployment is pervasive and is fueling widespread crime.

Widespread use of narcotics is also causing much crime. (One business associate tells me that almost all of the violence in Soweto is the result of narcotics, instead of politics.) The uncertain future is also blamed for an epidemic of "economic" crimes — fraud, embezzlement, misappropriation of funds, foreign exchange misdealing, and corruption, a situation best described by an old high school friend when he once told me, "there are only two kinds of people in the world, Leo, the caught and the un-caught."

What I still consider to be the biggest danger to this part of the world, AIDS, has taken an ominous new direction. Proliferating reports hold that the disease has become more easily transmitted with several speaking of being "air borne."

On the personal front, 1992 turned out to be a good year for my fledgling venture into business for myself. There were some mishaps. Liloy Aviation went down in flames but after I had stopped working for it. The investment I got authorized in Mozambique is up and running but still not turning a profit, mainly because the owners refuse to cut overhead costs. My major client in Johannesburg, NK Holdings, the black owned firm from which I take my group's name, is doing very well with its development of the first major shopping center in Soweto.

On another subject, I had a delightful stay with Bill and Maggie Donohoe (62-64) in New York after participating in the massive party held for Bill Clinton's

inauguration (who this southern boy prefers to call "Billy Bob"). While in new York I also had a chance to visit Jas Kobes (62-64) at her import/manufacturing/wholesale business. This latter visit yielded a possible new venture for me to supply Jas with baskets and other bits of "Africana." Isn't this where we came in, buying baskets in Africa?

Regards and still hope to see you and all the other Eritrean and Ethiopian PCVs in Berkeley.

Leo Cecchini (62-64)

c/c

February 7, 1993

Dear President Clinton:

In your inaugural address you spoke of the problems facing the nations of the world. You highlighted the need for everyone to work together towards solving these problems. I would like to suggest that members of your administration and Congress look toward creating a program that will use the skills of Americans and resident aliens to help other countries of the world. As a former Peace Corps Volunteer in Ethiopia, I am concerned about solving some of the specific problems such as providing health care, teaching new farming techniques, and working on the ecological and environmental issues facing every nation.

At a reunion of returned Peace Corps Volunteers from Ethiopia, there was a discussion about having former Volunteers return to their host country for another tour of duty. While I would welcome the chance to work in Ethiopia, there is also another reservoir of talent that perhaps could do the job better. That is the people from other nations living in America either as American citizens or resident aliens who have skills, knowledge and abilities

that could be used in their homeland. Most, if not all, have the necessary language skills to communicate in the local language and have knowledge of the culture, but there is no program to allow them to help their former country.

I have discussed this topic with several Ethiopian-Americans and others about how to restore and improve the conditions of the people of Ethiopia and other nations. Many of "our" Ethiopian students (i.e., those who were taught by Peace Corps Volunteers in Ethiopia in 1962-1964), have become American citizens. There are about 200 Ethiopian medical doctors living between Maine and Virginia. There are comparable numbers of Ethiopian nurses, engineers and bureaucrats. What is needed is a program that will allow the Ethiopians to return home to impart or make use of their skills, and then return to America. Those that could probably help most are Ethiopian-Americans. Many Ethiopians have lived here for more than 15 years. They, and their children, are now Americans. Many would be willing to return for a volunteer stint, but do not want to move back to the old country, lose their homes, or give up their American citizenship. What I envisage is a program that would support the return of ethnic citizens to their homeland to teach their skills or work on projects and then return to America without penalizing them through loss of their homes or being put at the mercy of bill collectors.

The program could apply to all countries, not only to Ethiopia, but Poland, Nicaragua, Somalia, Cambodia, as well. The program would pay the mortgage interest, credit card interest, health care, etc., and a small salary while the volunteer was away. The relatively small cost to support the program would be offset by the contributions of the participants. There would be no impact on the immigration status of the volunteer. The host nation would pay for air fare, local support and accommodations for the duration of the stay. There are

many local projects in which a short term service would be useful, such as in medical clinics, working on environmental problems, etc. There must be other technical projects of both a short and long duration that could benefit from such participation of former citizens. These would be projects which the host nation identifies as being necessary and a priority.

While it is a good idea to send former Volunteers or new Peace Corps Volunteers to foreign countries, it would be even better if we could use the skills of those who are already trained, speak the language and know about the culture. Please look into establishing such a program. I recognize the bureaucratic difficulties in establishing such a program, but feel confident that you can resolve the problems. I am also sending a copy of this letter to the heads of various government Departments and Congressmen that can assist you in discussing and developing this idea.

Sincerely,
Dennis L. Ekberg (62-64)

Dennis — lost and alone in DC

When E & E RPCVs sends THE HERALD to everyone in the database (about 1,500), we send it via bulk mail from Washington, D.C. Each time, Dennis Ekberg has graciously and generously consented to do the worst of all possible jobs — to take the bundled newsletters to the Post Office and deal with the most impossible of people and systems. Following his last such effort, I received this letter mailed from Washington —

This is just a short advisory to report to you that Dennis Ekberg, who currently is in our care, is recovering nicely and soon will be released from detention and his straight jacket. Mr. Ekberg, under the influence of drugs is sedated and happy. We hope to finish the cure with electro shock therapy in the next week or so, after which time he will again be allowed to have sharp objects like pens, pencils or a hair comb.

We are writing to you as the presumed next of kin. Mr. Ekberg was found wandering the streets of Washington, with a receipt from the Postal Service Bulk Mail Facility, and muttering your name. Mr. Ekberg, while not violent, certainly was not coherent. We figured he was nuts, because he said that he had visited the Bulk Mail Facility more than once. Clearly no one in their right mind would do such a thing. The signs on the wall of the Bulk Mail Facility state that the workers will not be subjected to discrimination or inhumane treatment, but that clearly does not apply to patrons.

Mr. Ekberg, who brought his wife and oldest son with him to the Post Office, appears to have been abandoned by his family. A note was pinned to his jacket indicating that you were the one to be called because they had (a) washed their hands of him, (b) were tired of waiting and watching dumbheads work, (c) figured he was nuts.

We will keep you informed of Mr. Ekberg's progress.

Sincerely,
I. M. Akook, Staff Doctor

Thank you, Dennis, for your help and your humor.

Needed: regional meetings

As far as specific suggestions for organizing to help Ethiopia & Eritrea — how about some decentralized meetings to make connections and set specific goals for those in a geographical area? We've not gone to any of the national conferences, which seem big and expensive, but would travel to, say, Cleveland or Detroit for a meeting with Ethiopia and Eritrea RPCVs that would focus on planning action to help those countries.

Best wishes,
Judy and Michael White (65-67)
Ashland, Ohio

Rimbaud's House

Covered with a thousand circus nights of words,
borne upon vapors of sound and vision,
arisen from endless rings of rhapsody and wonder,
I came to Harrar alone, thirsty and seeking.

In the Ras Hotel I waited for something,
perhaps a signal to start my quest.

An old Frenchman, grizzled by Africa,
offered to show me the sights of the city.
I said **yes**, and we went into the streets.

It was
a maze
of scarred
and
crumbled
walls,
deep
and
narrow
trenches
across the hills,
like tortuous relics
of a medieval World War I.

Rimbaud, are these the remnants of your heart?
Are these the last configurations of your mind?

He led me through the markets, past the mosques,
over the sites of a little-known history,
before the eyes of ancient colorful inhabitants
living by the nexus gates of caravans
from desert seas and far off mystic cities.

He took me to the tombs of unknown saints,
across the nameless graves of exotic voyagers,
into the tessellated shadows and light.

Rimbaud, is this your celestial miasma?
Is this your sacred confusion?

We walked outside the walls
on footpaths worn by countless baked feet,
known well to hyenas in the moonlit night.
We gazed across the rolling savannah
and beyond to the Danakil plains.

We gazed at the green phantasmagoric peaks
and the sun setting ferociously across the land.

He raised his arms to the earth and sky,
gestured vaguely to the town, and said,
"This is where the poet Rimbaud lived."

— from *DESIGNS FOR A UTOPIAN ZOO*, Selected Poetry of David Wiley

Our database policy

E & E RPCVs maintains a database of approximately 1,500 RPCVs who served in Ethiopia and Eritrea. Because the organization is an affiliate of the National Council of RPCVs, the information from the database is shared with that organization. In addition, information is also provided to RPCVs who served in Ethiopia and Eritrea planning group reunions and for purposes that would similarly benefit our membership.

Data is not shared with any other organization or business. When requests have been made by fund-raising and other organizations for listings and/or mailing labels, the database manager offers to affix labels to *totally* prepared mailings and deposit them in the mail. (Because of the nature of bulk mailing regulations, only first class mailings can be accepted for this service.)

On a different note: A unique file is kept for each person on the database, consequently when married couples have a single membership, one of them is credited and a single label is generated for membership mailings.



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

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