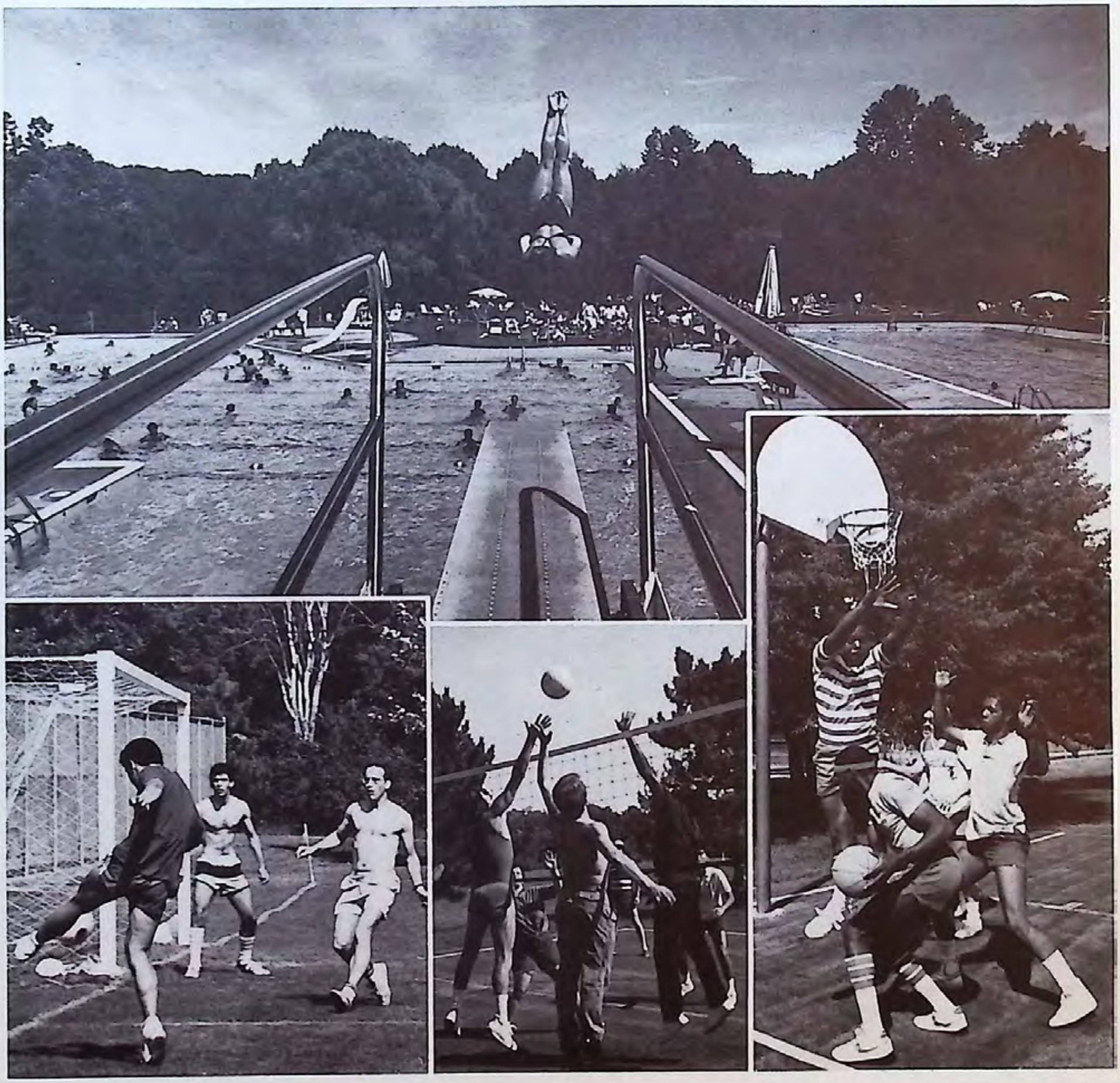
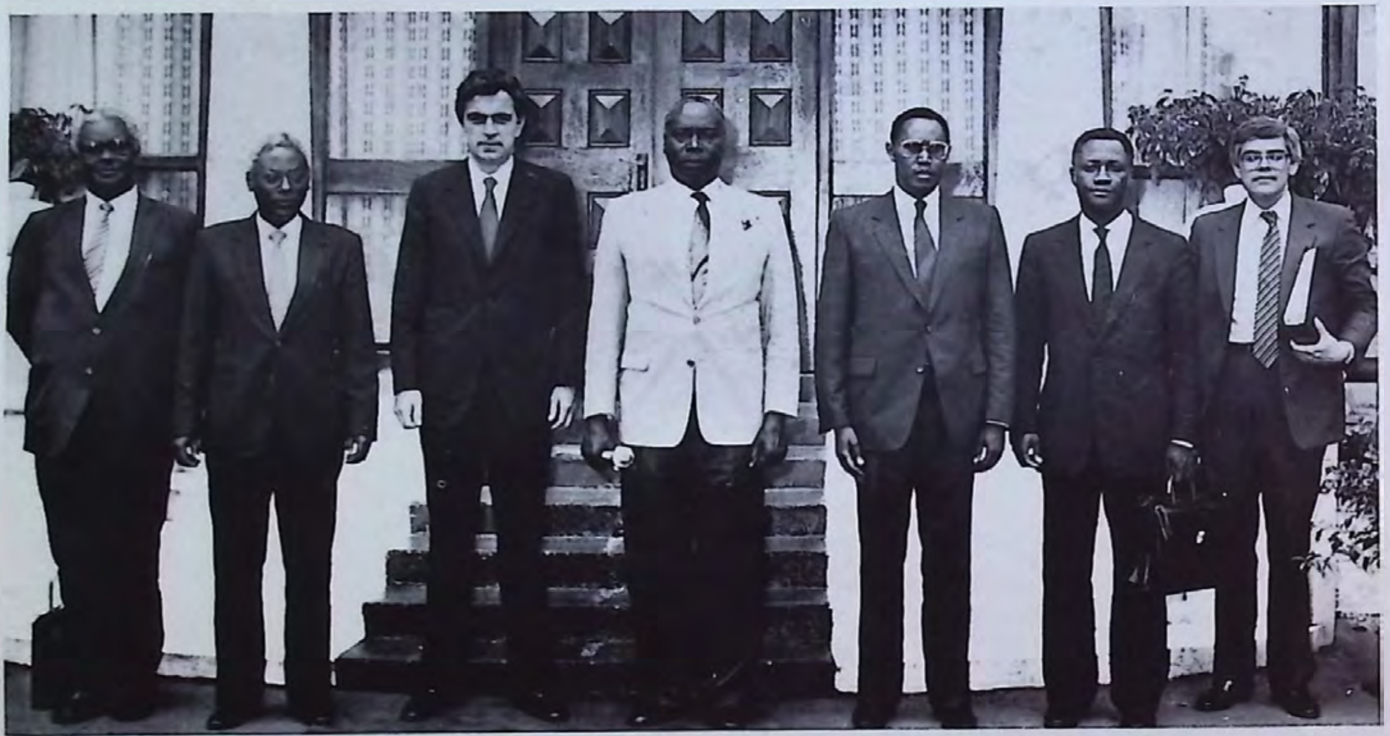
staff news

MAY-JUNE 1985



THE FUND PICNIC, held on June 25, went on without a hitch, as was to be expected; even the weather cooperated to make the annual gathering a resounding success. Staff members, their families, and guests enjoyed an afternoon of fun, food, and relaxation, sprinkled with a healthy dose of exercise. The photomontages above and on pages 6 and 7 were designed by Robert Frederick and Susan Harrison. They feature photos by Denio Zara.

"AFRICA AND THE IMF" was the subject of the latest in a series of Fund-sponsored seminars designed to familiarize selected groups with the Fund's role in the international monetary system and, more specifically, with how it helps members solve their balance of payments problems. These seminars are aimed primarily at academics, economic writers, bankers, labor union leaders, businessmen, and other nongovernmental groups interested in the work of the Fund. They have been held in various parts of the world, from Beijing, China, to Viña del Mar, Chile, and from Baden, Austria, to Dakar, Senegal, as well as in Paris, London, and Washington. The latest gathering, held in Nairobi, Kenya, in mid-May, was the 11th in the series of seminars for non-officials started in October 1981.


A number of symposium participants were invited to meet with Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi (center) at State House. Those present included, from left to right: Kenya's Finance Permanent Secretary, Mr. Mule; the Central Bank Governor, Mr. Ndegwa; Mr. Erb; the Minister for Finance, Mr. Saitoti; African Department Director Alassane Ouattara; and Julio Jiménez, Division Chief in the African Department.

While sharing a number of similarities with previous seminars, the Kenya meeting had a number of unusual features. First, it was a symposium rather than a seminar, and its purpose was an exchange of views with central bank governors in the region on Fund policy and programs. The meeting was held at the request of the Association of African Central Banks (AACB), a forum for all African central bank governors except South Africa, and the AACB was cosponsor. Second, with some 90 to 100 participants and observers attending, the symposium was much larger than the normal 30 to 40 attendees of previous seminars. Third, the keynote address was delivered by the Fund's Deputy Managing Director, who took the occasion to explain Fund policies in Africa.

Three Fund Executive Directors representing African countries attended the meeting: Abderrahmane Alfidja, E.I.M. Mtei, and Ghassem Salehkhou. Staff representatives were Alassane Ouattara (AFR), Azizali Mohammed (EXR), Eduard Brau (ETR), Julio Jiménez (AFR), and Ahmed Abushadi (EXR), along with Luis de Azcarate from the World Bank. Participants were invited to meet with the President of Kenya, who used the occasion to expound his view that the Fund needs to be more flexible when dealing with countries that have undertaken Fund-supported adjustment programs but whose economic performance has been weakened by unforeseen developments. The meeting with the President took place at State House in Nairobi, an impressive mansion with breathtaking gardens, where the President invited his guests to join him for tea and a group picture.

The opening session of the symposium was attended by about 300 diplomats, heads of financial institutions, and senior members of the Kenyan Civil Service, as well as by the press. The Governor of the Central Bank of Kenya delivered the opening statement, which was followed by short speeches by the Chairman of the AACB and by the Minister of Finance and Planning of Kenya. Fund Deputy Managing Director Richard Erb then delivered the keynote address.

The three-day symposium comprised five working sessions, each lasting about four hours. One of the sessions consisted of a panel discussion and one, the final session, included a summation of the proceedings by the moderator, Professor Gerald K. Helleiner of Toronto University. Of the six papers presented for discussion, two (sponsored by the AACB) dealt with the international monetary system and with the impact of Fund conditionality on program countries; two (by Messrs. Ouattara and Brau) reviewed the experience with Fund programs in Africa and debt management in the continent; one (by Mr. de Azcarate) examined the Bank's role in structural adjustment lending; and one (by Professor John Loxley of the University of Manitoba) explored the question of how Fund programs in Africa could be improved. Four non-officials (nicknamed "the four wisemen") were invited to share their views with the governors. The four were Roger Lawrence, UNCTAD Director of Money and Finance; Carlos Massad, a former Fund Executive Director and currently a Professor at the University of Santiago, who drew on the Latin American experience; M. Narasimham, formerly a Fund and Bank Executive Director and now the Director of the Indian Administrative Staff College; and John Williamson, a Senior Fellow at the Institute for International Economics in Washington.

While the climate of the discussions was good, it was intense and dealt frankly with various criticisms made about the Fund--with some of the most pointed remarks voiced by academic participants. The governors took keen interest in the discussions, participating actively in all sessions. The individual governors' points of view reflected their countries' recent experience with Fund programs and their statements were made in a constructive spirit, seeking greater effectiveness for Fund-supported adjustment efforts.

Indeed, the three-day symposium was described by some as a "family dialogue." According to Charles Nyirabu, Governor of the Bank of Tanzania and current Chairman of AACB, the governors "sincerely felt that the symposium had led to a better understanding on the part of the African countries of the approach of the Fund to the design and implementation of adjustment programs." At the same time, he suggested, the symposium may have helped Fund staff "to better appreciate the special difficulties, problems, and perspectives of the African countries."

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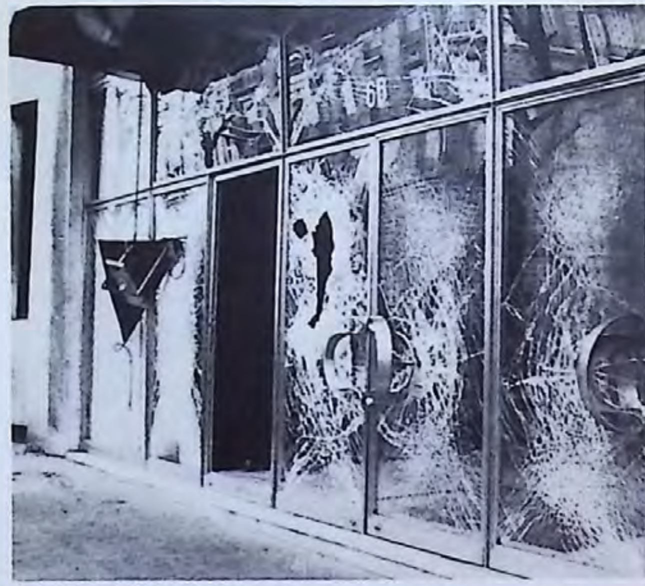
*"**THE WAVE OF TERRORISM** that has spread over many parts of the world in the past few years has unfortunately hit too close to home once again. This past April, for the second time in three years, the Fund Office in Europe was bombed. While no one was hurt, the damage to 64-66 Avenue d'Iena was extensive. The following article, by Michael Blackwell of the Paris Office, gives an account of the bombing and its aftermath.*

Sometime during the evening of Friday, April 26, an unknown driver parked a stolen red Renault R11 outside the front entrance of the Paris offices of the Fund and World Bank. Inside the car were several sticks of dynamite strapped to bottles of gas. The "bomb" was linked to an ignition mechanism that was triggered at about 3:30 the following morning, setting off an explosion that was heard for miles and that shattered windows up and down the street. The force of the explosion was such that the roof of the boobytrapped car was blown high in the air, clearing the seven-story building with ease and landing in the rear courtyard. The entrance doors to the building, which had been specially strengthened after the previous bomb attack in June 1982, survived the blast remarkably well. But some 120 of the building's windows--including the

The boobytrapped car stands in front of the Fund/Bank building following the blast.

bullet-proof ones on the ground floor--were completely destroyed by the explosion, which also caused a fire in the print shop.

The first Fund staff members to arrive on the scene were Assistant Director Grant Taplin and Administrative Officer Irène de Heurtaumont, both of whom had been awakened by phone at around 5:30 a.m. (Office Director Aldo Guetta, then in Washington, was apprised of the situation shortly before midnight and immediately called the Managing Director to inform him of the attack.) By the time Mr. Taplin and Ms. de Heurtaumont arrived at the Paris Office, firemen had extinguished the fire in the



Damage to the doors of the building, while extensive, was somewhat reduced by protective materials added after the previous attack.

print shop and the police had erected barricades all around the building. But the road was still in a state of chaos, with the flashing blue lights of the police cars shining upon the broken glass and smoldering debris.

The cleanup work was completed over the weekend: the gaping window frames were covered with plastic sheets, the debris was cleared away, and the toppled furniture and paintings were restored to their original positions. Staff members of the Paris offices of the Fund and Bank were back at their desks on Monday morning, and the only real inconvenience was to those whose offices face the street side of the building. They had to wear warm clothing to guard against the cold drafts that came in through the flimsy plastic and had to learn to lend a deaf ear to the street noises that could no longer be muffled by the once-standing double pane windows. The Office's annual reception, scheduled for that night, went on as planned. One guest compared the office to the well-known London night club that remained open throughout World War II and ended the war with the proud motto, "we never closed." The only problem was that a number of those who had sent their "regrets" decided to attend after all in a show of solidarity. This caused a lot of nail biting among the caterers who were not sure that their food supplies were sufficient for the additional number of guests.

A letter claiming responsibility for the attack arrived on Monday and, as expected, was signed by "Action Directe"--a shadowy organization on the far left of the political spectrum. As far as is known, Action Directe is composed of a number of small groups or "fighting units" that take on the name of a martyr to their revolutionary cause. The attack on the Fund, the letter said, was carried out by the Laouri "Fardi" Benchellal Fighting Unit.

The French police have stepped up security at the Fund building to deter any further terrorist attacks.

Accion Directe´s philosophy, in a nutshell, is that the "exploitative" forces of capitalism and imperialism have now assumed such power that the "working classes" can no longer expect to reform the system by following a graduaiistic approach. The time has come, they say, to take "direct action" against those organizations that the group believes are directly responsible for spreading nuclear terror, unemployment, and hunger among the masses. In pursuit of this philosophy, the group has recently planted bombs at a number of Paris locations such as the Atlantic Institute, the West European Union, various French ministries, and firms connected with the manufacture of armaments. Action Directe said that it had chosen the Fund and Bank as targets because it considers these institutions to be two of the

The force of the blast was such that it overturned furniture in the offices overlooking the street.

principal centers for planning and operations of the imperialist cause.

The French authorities have made significant efforts to arrest the suspected perpetrators of this latest attack. But the police have had only limited success so far. On the day before the bombing, one member of the

group carrying four sticks of dynamite--and presumably intent on planting them somewhere--was arrested at a Paris railway station on his arrival from Brussels. In addition, a case is now being prepared against three members of the group who allegedly shot two policemen in 1983.

The authorities have also taken a number of steps to increase security at the Fund and Bank building. The strips marking the parking bays in front of the building have already been removed, and metal barriers and "no parking" signs erected. Moreover, police have now been posted outside the entrance doors. Private security arrangements inside have been strengthened as well. Indeed, if visitors from headquarters want to avoid delays in entering the building, they must now make sure they have their ID cards with them.

Work at the Office has continued uninterrupted, but it is likely that several months will pass before all the windows are replaced and the building returns to its normal appearance. In the meantime, the building has become quite a tourist attraction. Tour buses regularly stop for a minute or two on their way between the Arc de Triomphe and the Eiffel Tower. This is definitely the type of notoriety that we feel we could well do without!

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THE ETHIOPIAN RELIEF EFFORTS of Fund staff members have been recognized in a certificate of appreciation from the District of Columbia Chapter of the American Red Cross. In a letter attached to the certificate, the Chairman of the International Disaster Committee noted that "the funds raised will save lives and help to relieve the tremendous amount of suffering presently existing in so many countries in Africa." Dawit Makonnen of the Central Banking Department received a separate certificate in recognition of his work as coordinator of "the most generous contribution" from those employees who participated.

The certificate to the "Employees of the IMF" was sent to the Managing Director on behalf of the 234 staff members who contributed a total of $13,744 to the Famine Fund. Of this, almost $3,000 was allocated to the Red Cross, with the rest of the money distributed among five other aid agencies. The charities, selected by the IMF Famine Fund because of their involvement in the Ethiopian relief cause, are Church World Service, Catholic Relief Services, UNICEF, Save the Children, and OXFAM-UK. Contributions were used to purchase food and medicines, as well as trucks to deliver the supplies to shelters.

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SUMMER IS THE PEAK SEASON for salary advance requests for educational purposes, with the number of such requests reaching its highest level in late July and August. The Staff Relations Unit points out that staff members can help minimize delays in receiving refunds by submitting their applications as soon as they know what the charges for tuition, room, and board will be and by making sure that the required documentation for the previous year's advance, if any, is in order. Staff members should, in any case, allow ten working days for the processing of applications and for checks to be issued.

THE STAFF HAS RECEIVED A SILVER AWARD for its contribution to the 1984 United Way Campaign. The award is "in recognition of outstanding employee support for United Way voluntary human care services in the National Capital Area." This is a first for the Fund, and reflects the fact that contributions jumped by almost 40 percent last year to $62,820. Much of the spectacular rise in contributions stems from changes in the way the campaign was run. An important new feature was the introduction of a raffle, with prizes donated by local firms.

The award to the Fund was presented at a luncheon held at the Washington Hilton earlier this year and attended by Brigitte Duces of the Joint Library. She accepted the award on behalf of Librarian Maureen Moore, who coordinated the campaign in the Fund and who herself received an award for her efforts. The national campaign for 1986 is scheduled to begin early this fall.

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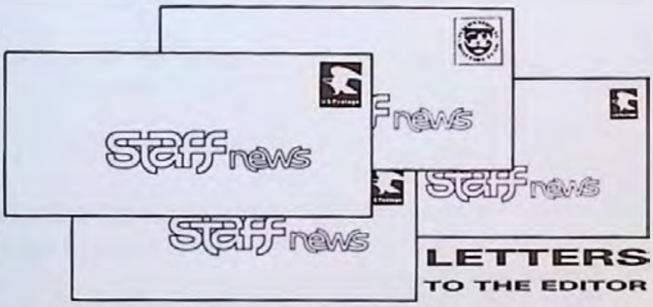

To the Editor:

Question: What goes round and round and takes half an hour to arrive at its destination, when five minutes should suffice?

Answer (pick one):

a. A tourist attempting to escape from the wrong lane of Dupont Circle.

b. A motorist seeking a legal parking space on G Street.

c. A diplomat making a direct argument.

d. A visitor to the Fund searching for an office in the new wing (phase 2a).

e. All of the above.

The correct response, of course, is "d," since the protagonists described in "a," "b," and "c" require an average of only 25 minutes to accomplish their goals, according to reliable local sources.

Why, oh why, gentle Editor, can a resourceful organization that prides itself on the wise guidance it provides to the economic authorities of the world not find it in its heart (and head) to administer equally adept assistance to a Stranger in Our Midst searching for a 500-series office? Two suggestions:

(1) Before dispatching a pilgrim from the Reception Desk, why not furnish him or her with a simple plan of the upper floors, showing both the 100/400 and the 200/300 routes to the 500 series from the 19th Street elevator bank?

(2) Why not revise the maps posted next to the elevators to show that the new wing indeed exists?

With such tiny bricks as these is the road to redemption (and good visitor relations) paved.

Name withheld by request

To the Editor:

The BWRC Board decision to ban dogs from the Center premises is unfair. It penalizes all rule-abiding dogs and owners just because of one or two incidents between pets and children caused perhaps by lack of proper supervision by both a small number of pet-owners and parents.

Would the Board care to consider some alternative suggestions?

- First, designate areas where dog owners´ cars can be parked. Such parking spaces could include the extreme rear-row in the parking lot near the Club House and similar places near the swimming pool, tennis courts, and so forth. Put up a sign reading "Pet Owners´ Parking Only--No Children Allowed to Play Here." In this manner, both pet owners and parents would be made responsible for supervising their own family members.
- Second, set up exercise areas for pets.

I have been bringing my dog Haru to the center from time to time and, with the golf professional´s permission, tying her beside the electric cartshed where electric wiring equipment (battery chargers) is installed and, of course, no children are allowed to come near. Down the slope there is a 9th-hole lake where it is extremely dangerous for children to play. While waiting for me, all Haru does is either take a nap or ponder philosophically as she quietly calculates how many golf balls sink to the bottom of the lake. So far, she has caused no problems except for the time she barked back at golf professional Jim Napier when he surprised her by barking at her for unknown reasons.

Seriously, I hope that the Board will rescind its decision to ban dogs from Bretton Woods so that Haru and other staff members´ pets may continue to enjoy their outings at the Center.

Tsunako Okumura

To the Editor:

The Board of Directors of the Bretton Woods Recreation Center recently adopted a new regulation prohibiting dogs from coming to BWRC. In my opinion, it is manifestly unjust to penalize those members who take care to restrain and supervise their well-behaved dogs just because of one or two isolated incidents allegedly provoked by pets. It is my impression that the real problem at Bretton Woods is that many children who are not accustomed to pets are often insufficiently restrained and supervised by their parents.

Many of us take great delight in going to Bretton Woods and being able to occasionally take our properly leashed and supervised dogs with us. I hope that the Board will reconsider its decision so that we can continue to enjoy the Center along with that important member of the family, man´s best friend.

Elizabeth Howe

To our readers:

If you have questions that you would like answered, or opinions that you feel may be shared by other staff members, please send them in to us and we will publish them in this column.

As a matter of editorial policy, we request that all letters be signed, so that we may verify their legitimacy. In those cases where the writer requests anonymity, we will not publish the writer´s name without permission. However, if we feel that the opinions expressed in the letter call for a signature, we will advise the writer and give him or her the final word on whether the letter will be published.

Liliana Fidel Hamilton
Editor, *Staff News*,
Room 10-548, Ext. 8589

VAN POOL DIRECTORY

Area Served	Arrival(a.m.)/Departure(p.m.)	Remarks/Contacts
Bethesda, Md. (Montgomery Mall)	8:25-5:10	Permanent seats now available. To sign up, call Mr. Rivera at Ext. 74546.
Reston, Va. (Hunter Woods)	8:45-5:35	Via Dulles Toll Rd. Spot seats available. Call Ms. Ferreira-Snowden, Ext. 75445.
Springfield, Va.	8:55-5:40	From Cardinal Plaza at 8:05 a.m. and Springfield Theatre at 8:15 a.m. Ms. Ospina, Ext. 61350.
Vienna, Va.	7:55-4:35	Wolf Trap Barn via Lewinsville Rd./Rte.7. Mr. McFayden, Ext. 60568.
White Oak/ Adelphi, Md.	8:50-5:40	Spot seats available. Ms. Harley, Ext. 74924.

Staff members who would like to try out van pooling but who do not want to lose their parking spaces should get in touch with the Service and Supply Section, Room 1-303, Ext. 7274. The parking office will permit such staff to suspend their parking temporarily until they decide if they want to remain in the van pool.

For questions related to van pooling, please call Jim Edmonds at the World Bank, Room A-120, Ext. 73411.

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THIRTY-YEAR STAFF. U Tun Wai of the IMF Institute commemorated thirty years of service in February.

TWENTY-YEAR STAFF. The following staff members commemorated twenty years of service with the Fund: in January, Gabrielle Palmer of the Bureau of Language Services; in February, Zoran Hodjera of the Western Hemisphere Department; and in May, Faye L. Olin of the Secretary´s Department.

RESIGNATIONS. The following staff members resigned from the Fund: In April, Janet Bulloch and Wang Chang Yao; in May, Tony R. Boote, David A. Brodsky, Nobumitsu Hayashi, Shigeo Kashiwagi, F. Sahika Kayir, Takashi Oyama, Valerie J. Tighe, and Alida H. Van Ee.

RETIREES. The following staff members retired from the Fund in May: Andrés Aviles Gómez, Francis D´A. Collings, Simone de la Renaudière, Joan Ireton,

New Members of the Fund Staff


Mayla Adly
OED - U.S.A.


Bo Tao
OED - China


Marie-Agnes Frambes
OED - France


Ines Marie Giro
WHD - Uruguay


James R. Hamilton
OMD - U.S.A.


Lucille Liccione
ADM - U.S.A.


Alice A. Lieberman
BUR - U.S.A.


Klaus P. Regling
ETR - Germany


Donald E. Salada
OED - U.S.A.


Miroslav Sarenac
OED - Yugoslavia


Toshihiko Sasaki
ETR - Japan


Julieta H. Severi
OED — Uruguay


Nicolaas Streefkerk
EUR - Netherlands


Bjorn Von Numers
TRE - Finland


Jeanette J. Grimes
BUR - Bolivia

Li-Ting Lee, Millicent McLaren, Slobodanka Micic, Margaret W. Miller, and Joan Pugh.

BIRTHS. A daughter, Meriem, was born on March 10 to Mr. and Mrs. Hassan Alaoui; a son, Edward John Richard, was born on June 6 to Mr. and Mrs. Max Watson; and a son, John Patrick Martin, was born on June 18 to Mr. and Mrs. Martin Fetherston.

staff news

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REMINDER. Staff members who wish to have birth and marriage announcements included in *Staff News* should send a short note to the Editor, Room 10-548. For birth announcements, please include the full name of the child and of the spouse, as well as the date of birth. For marriage announcements, please include the staff member's department, date of marriage, and name of spouse.

Photo credits: pp. 1, 6–7, Denio Zara; p. 2, Kenyan official photograph; p. 4–5, Grant Taplin, World Bank, Donald McAlister; p. 12, Robert Townsend.